

The
G7 Research Group
at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at Trinity College
in the University of Toronto presents the

2019 G7 Biarritz Summit Final Compliance Report

27 August 2019 — 1 November 2020

Prepared by
Meagan Byrd
and the G7 Research Group

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www.g7.utoronto.ca
g7@utoronto.ca
[@g7_rg](https://twitter.com/g7_rg)

“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme,
in G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit



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Introduction

In a year that has seen many plans disrupted, this report marks two unusual events in the history of the G7. First, as a result of the rapid global spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, G7 leaders planned to meet by videoconference on the dates they had been scheduled to meet in person at Camp David under the U.S. presidency on 10-12 June 2020. Then, on 30 May, just before the virtual summit was to take place, it was postponed indefinitely. President Donald Trump as host subsequently suggested that it might be held after the presidential election on 3 November.

This provided the G7 Research Group the opportunity to produce two interim compliance reports, the first as usual midway between the Biarritz Summit in August 2019 and the Camp David Summit scheduled for June 2020, and the second assessing compliance up to 3 June. This third and final report assesses compliance up to 1 November 2020, on the eve of the end of the U.S. 2020 presidency. A separate report, assessing compliance with the commitments made at the G7 leaders' emergency summit, held by videoconference on 16 March 2020 to respond to COVID-19, is being prepared for release before the 2021 summit, to be hosted by the United Kingdom.

Both the interim reports and this final report on the 2019 Biarritz Summit, as well as all previous compliance reports, are available at the G7 Information Centre website at <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance>.

The timing of the 2019 compliance reports on the priority commitments of the Biarritz Summit reflects key moments in an extraordinary year. The first report, released on 15 March 2020, covered G7 members' implementing actions up to 20 December 2019, just before the SARS-CoV-2 virus began to spread internationally and the United States assumed the G7 presidency on 1 January 2020. The second report extended the assessment period to 3 June 2020, and reflected the impacts of the first wave of the global pandemic. This final report allows a view of the effects of the sustained response and preparations for the recovery on G7 members' compliance with their 2019 commitments, up to 1 November — just before the first vaccines were approved for general use and just before the U.S. election. It thus covers most of Donald Trump's year as G7 host.

For these assessments, G7 Research Group researchers selected 21 priority commitments from the total of 71 commitments made at the Biarritz Summit, hosted by France on 24-26 August 2019. As always, researchers rely on publicly available information, documentation and media reports of actions taken between the day after the summit and a specific end date, in the case of the final report soon before the next summit.

The G7 Research Group has been producing these annual compliance reports since 1996. It began publishing interim reports in 2002 to assess progress at the time of the transition from the outgoing G7 presidency to the incoming presidency each 1 January. These reports are always available to the general public and to policy makers, academics, civil society, the media and interested citizens to make the work of the G7 more transparent and accessible, and to provide scientific data to enable meaningful analysis of the impact of this unique informal international institution.

Based at the University of Toronto and founded in 1987, the G7 Research Group strives to be the leading independent source of information and analysis on the institutions, performance, issues and participants of the G7 summit and system of global governance. It is a global network of scholars, students and professionals. The group oversees the G7 Information Centre, which publishes freely available research on the G7 as well as official documents issued by the G7.

This report is produced entirely on a voluntary basis. It receives no direct financial support from any source. It comes from a process entirely insulated from the other major activities of the G7 Research Group, such as pre-summit conferences sponsored by various institutions or the "background books" produced GT Media.

To ensure the accuracy, comprehensiveness and integrity of these reports, comments and suggestions are always welcome. Indeed, this is a living document, and the scores can be recalibrated if new material becomes

available. All feedback remains anonymous and is never attributed. Responsibility for this report's contents lies exclusively with the report's authors and the analysts of the G7 Research Group.

The work of the G7 Research Group would not be possible without the steadfast dedication of many people around the world. This report is the product of a team of energetic and hard-working analysts led by Meagan Byrd, chair of summit studies, and her team of compliance directors, lead analysts and analysts. It would also not be possible without the efforts of Brittaney Warren, director of compliance, Dr. Ella Kokotsis, director of accountability, and Madeline Koch, executive director, and Professor John Kirton, director of the G7 Research Group.

We are also indebted to the many people who provide feedback on our drafts, whose comments are always carefully considered in the published report.

Research Team

Professor John Kirton, Director
Madeline Koch, Executive Director
Brittaney Warren, Director of Compliance
Meagan Byrd, Chair, Summit Studies

Compliance Directors

Sonja Dobson	Laila Kanji	Drishti Thakkar
Clara Geddes	David Manocchio	Phil Schwarz
Tacye Hong	Christopher Sims	Joe Wu
Joanna Ilunga-Kapinga	Ian Stansbury	

Lead Analysts

Ally Johnston	Emily Eng	Kaylin Dawe
Amanda Burns	Emma Davy	Lilin Tong
Anahid Najafizadeh	Feaven Abidta	Nicole Vucemilo
Apanuba Mahmood	Foti Vito	Ninar Fawal
Bianca Meta	Isabel Davis	Priscilla Layarda
Bogdan Stovba	Jae Yoon Mary Noh	Vibhor Rohatgi
Collin Xia	Jessica Rapson	Zhenglin Liu

Analysts

Omar Abdellatif	Mostafa El Sharkawy	Benjamin Liu
Tigran Abelyan	Alex Erickson	You Xinhua (Daisy) Liu
Adarsh Addepalli	Pavlina Faltynek	William Lloyd
Aryan Agarwal	Gongjun (Katie) Gao	Nicholas Lovrics
Adebisi Akande	Wayne George	Cindy Lui
Aiman Akmal	Jessi Gilchrist	Henry Luo
Janine Amer Alhadidi	Raluca Gondor	Jacky Luo
Kiayla Amos-Flom	Gantavya Gupta	Areej Malik
Suthandira Arulkumar	Mavis Han	Shamshir Malik
Arshdeep Aulakh	Aliya Hemani	Sterling Mancuso
Sheeriza Azeez	Roha Hena	Danielle Maragh
Jonathan Banfield	Amira Higazy	Daniella Marciano
Ayaka Behro	Sarah Howe	Luc Maschino
Alexis Beynon	Paul Pawel Huang	Alexandra McLean
Dorota Borovskiy	Lisa Huh	Shauna McLean
Sam Bowers	Lauren Hung	Jijun (Amber) Meng
Devon Brenner	Hoore Jannat	Alexandra Miller
Isabelle Buchanan	Paras Kapoor	Malhaar Moharir
Geoffrey Burrows	Qaasim Karim	Nora Moidu
Faadil Butt	Jaivika Kataria	Ruohan (April) Mu
Ziyan (Angela) Cai	Eisha Khan	Kathryn Mullins
Yousef Choudhri	Matthew Kieffer	Jessie Choden Namgyal
Tanveer Chowdhury	Tenzing Gaphel Kongtsa	Aline Nayir
Margaret De Leon	Mascha Kopytina	Veronika Zabelle Nayir
Mingyang (Charles) Deng	Nadiya Kovalenko	Minh-Anh (Mia) Nguyen
Maryanna Sierra C. Diab	Tiffany Kwok	Justin O'Brien
Annie Ding	Sinnie Lao	Chen Ou Yang
Sophia DiNicolo	Madison Leisk	Micaela (Mica) Pacheco
Mark Edwards	Michael Levinson	Cecilia Pang

Zihan (Alison) Pang
Rhoda Akuol Philip
Katherine Power
Mary Qiu
Maryam Rehman
Nivaal Rehman
Matthew Remedios
Shreyashi Saha
Jessica Saini
Tirtha Shah
Shaina Sharma
Sofia Shatrova

Nicole Shi
Sophie Sondhelm
Hillary (Hyunji) Song
Maria Anna Staszkievicz
Minghan Sun
Jieyi Tang
Wing Ka Tsang
Sanjna Ullal
Victoria Vale
Sebastian Vecerina
Hongyu Xiao
Maggie Xiao

Tony Xun
Brandon Yih
Eunice Yong
Marjila Yousof
Emily Yu
Rachel Zack
Tomer Zaidman
Angelina Zhang
Rose Zhang
Qiyu Zhou
Kevin Zuo

Summary

The University of Toronto G7 Research Group's Final Compliance Report on the 2019 Biarritz Summit assesses the compliance of the G7 members with 21 priority commitments selected from the total of 71 made at their summit on 24-26 August in France (see Table A). It is based on members' implementing actions taken between 27 August 2019 and 1 November 2020, building on the first and second interim compliance reports. This selection of commitments reflects the breadth and focus of the summit agenda, including the host's priorities and the built-in issues. This analysis was intended to present the final findings for the period leading up to the G7 2020 summit under the U.S. presidency, originally scheduled to be hosted by President Donald Trump at Camp David on 10–12 June 2020. Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the summit was first reorganized to be held virtually. Then, after President Trump announced his intention to return to an in-person summit, it was postponed indefinitely, with a suggestion it would be held after the presidential election on 3 November. This report thus assesses G7 members' actions to fulfill their Biarritz commitments up to 1 November, and is released just as the G7 presidency transfers from the United States to the United Kingdom for 2021.

The first and second interim compliance reports are available at <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance>.

The Final Compliance Score

Compliance is measured on a three-point scientific scale. A score of +1 (100%) indicates full compliance with a commitment, a score of 0 (50%) indicates partial compliance or a work in progress, and a score of -1 (0%) indicates non-compliance or a failure to comply or action taken that is counter to the commitment.

As indicated in Table B, for the period of 27 August 2019 to 1 November 2020, average compliance for the 21 commitments assessed is +0.59 (79%). This is a moderate increase from the second interim score of +0.50 (75%), which measured compliance between 28 August 2019 and 3 June 2020, and was a more significant rise from the first interim score of +0.24 (62%) up to 20 December 2019.

Although compliance rose over the course of 2020, the final score for the Biarritz Summit is nonetheless a little lower than the final scores for the three previous summits. Table C contains the compliance scores from previous years.

Compliance by Member

For the full compliance period from the 2019 Biarritz Summit up to 1 November 2020, the highest complier was Germany at +0.86 (93%), followed by the United Kingdom at +0.81 (90%) and the European Union at +0.71 (86%). These same three G7 members were in the top three spots for both interim reports, but in a different order for each one. France, host of the 2019 summit, maintained its fourth-place ranking at +0.67 (84%). Italy's compliance, in last spot, rose to +0.19 (60%). Table C contains the scores by member.

Compliance by Commitment

As with the second interim compliance report, three commitments had compliance of +1.00 (100%): one on digital democracy, one on artificial intelligence and one on universal health coverage. They were followed now by four commitments at +0.88 (94%): one on gender equality, one on the Sustainable Development Goals, one on biodiversity, and one on security and development in the Sahel. The commitment on primary health care remained ranked lowest, but rose to -0.13 (44%). Table D contains all the scores by commitment.

The Compliance Gap Between Members

Although the individual scores for both countries and commitments changed and overall compliance did rise significantly over the whole assessment period, the gap between the highest and lowest compliance by member remained unchanged from the second interim compliance report, at 0.67, although smaller than the gap of 0.81 from the first report.

Future Research and Reports

The information contained within this report provides G7 members and other stakeholders with an indication of the G7 members' compliance with 21 commitments for the period beginning immediately after the Biarritz Summit in August 2019 until 1 November 2020. As with previous compliance reports, this report has been produced as an invitation for others to provide additional or more complete information on G7 members' compliance. Comments are always welcomed and would be considered as part of an analytical reassessment. Please send your feedback to g7@utoronto.ca.

Table A: 2019 Priority Commitments Selected for Assessment*

	Commitment
1	“Enabling the necessary digital infrastructure in order to reduce the digital gap and inequality, including in isolated countries and regions that are excluded or underserved.” (2019-37)
2	“We are determined to work collaboratively to reinforce our democracies against illicit and malign behavior and foreign hostile interference by state and non-state actors.” (2019-67)
3	“We will continue to explore ways to advance our work on AI [artificial intelligence] to understand and share on a regular basis, multidisciplinary research results on artificial intelligence issues and best practices, as well as bringing together international artificial intelligence initiatives.” (2019-71)
4	“Aside from our domestic commitments, we stand ready to support interested countries through our different expertise and development mechanisms to adopt, implement and monitor laws that remedy this and advance gender equality.” (2019-54)
5	“We support the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) initiative including through the Women Entrepreneurs-Finance Initiative (We-Fi).” (2019-30)
6	“We will continue to support women’s entrepreneurship in Africa, including by supporting the removal of legal, social and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women’s full and free economic participation and empowerment.” (2019-35)
7	“[We] ... endeavor to work together with developing countries to promote inclusion, equity and access of girls and women to quality education, including access to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).” (2019-60)
8	“[We share an objective] to foster peace and stability in the region.” (2019-7)
9	“We [support the efforts of countries in the region, notably those in the G5, in coming together to address these security and development challenges and] remain committed to working with them to improve and better coordinate efforts to enhance their defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.” (2019-12)
10	“As the G7, we will work with the United Nations and INTERPOL in order to provide appropriate support to G5 countries in building more efficient G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities.” (2019-16)
11	“We support facilitating increased access of G5 countries to all available public and private finance.” (2019-18)
12	“We are determined to work together to address global challenges, in line with Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda and taking into account the African Union Agenda 2063.” (2019-29)
13	“We reiterate our willingness to continue to develop entrepreneurship and private sector youth employment in Africa through multilateral initiatives, such as the G20 Compact with Africa and other bilateral initiatives supported by individual G7 members.” (2019-28)
14	“[Therefore, the G7 wishes to overhaul the WTO [World Trade Organization] to improve effectiveness with regard to eliminate unfair trade practices.” (2019-4)
15	“The G7 commits to reaching in 2020 an agreement to simplify regulatory barriers and modernize international taxation within the framework of the OECD [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development].” (2019-5)
16	“We commit to pursuing our efforts to strengthen quality primary health care in Sahel countries, with a specific focus on gender equality and women’s empowerment.” (2019-23)
17	“We recall our commitment to moving towards achieving universal health coverage according to national contexts and priorities, building resilient and sustainable health systems, in order to be able to reach the most affected communities.” (2019-25)
18	“We will continue to support efforts to promptly respond to ongoing cases of victims’ specific medical, psychological and social needs while making those responsible accountable.” (2019-56)
19	“Leaders endorsed the G7 Metz Charter on Biodiversity and committed to take swift action on biodiversity, either individually or jointly, in the run up to COP15 [15th Conference of the Parties] of the Convention on Biological Diversity.” (2019-61)

20	“We support enhancing public procurement transparency and standards, in order to improve the business and investment climate, transparency, accountability and debt sustainability through the constructive involvement of governments, businesses and civil society organization, thus contributing to the fight against corruption.” (2019-33)
21	“[We will encourage partner countries’ governments and other donors to join a collective effort in strengthening education systems, thus increasing our coordination and our political and financial support to education, including basic education.” (2019-22)

*For the full list of commitments, please contact the G7 Research Group at g7@utoronto.ca.

Table B: 2019 G7 Biarritz Final Compliance Scores

		Canada	France	Germany	Italy	Japan	United Kingdom	United States	European Union	Average	
1	Digital economy: Digital infrastructure	+1	0	+1	0	0	+1	0	+1	+0.50	75%
2	Digital economy: Digital democracy	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
3	Digital economy: Artificial intelligence	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
4	Gender: Gender equality	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+0.88	94%
5	Gender: Affirmative finance action for women in Africa	+1	0	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	0	+0.63	81%
6	Gender: Women's entrepreneurship in Africa	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	0	0	+0.63	81%
7	Gender: STEM education	+1	+1	+1	-1	-1	0	0	0	+0.13	56%
8	Regional security: Iran	0	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+0.75	88%
9	Regional security: G5 Sahel security and development	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.88	94%
10	Regional security: G5 Sahel police	0	0	+1	0	+1	0	0	+1	+0.38	69%
11	Development: G5 Sahel	0	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	0	0	+0.50	75%
12	Development: Sustainable Development Goals	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+0.88	94%
13	Development: Entrepreneurship in Africa	+1	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	0	+1	+0.63	81%
14	Trade: World Trade Organization reform	0	0	0	-1	+1	+1	0	+1	+0.25	63%
15	Trade: Tax policy	+1	0	+1	0	0	+1	-1	0	+0.25	63%
16	Health: Primary health care	+1	-1	+1	-1	-1	0	0	0	-0.13	44%
17	Health: Universal health coverage	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
18	Health: Mental health	-1	+1	+1	-1	-1	+1	0	+1	+0.13	56%
19	Environment: Biodiversity	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+0.88	94%
20	Crime and corruption: Procurement	-1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+0.63	81%
21	Education: G5 Sahel	+1	+1	0	0	0	0	0	+1	+0.38	69%
	2019 final compliance average	+0.62	+0.67	+0.86	+0.19	+0.48	+0.81	+0.29	+0.71	+0.58	79%
		81%	83%	93%	60%	74%	90%	64%	86%		

Table C: 2019 G7 Biarritz Final Compliance Scores by Member

	2019						2018				2017				2016			
	Final		2nd interim		1st interim		Final		Interim		Final		Interim		Final		Interim	
United Kingdom	+0.86	93%	+0.76	88%	+0.43	72%	+0.85	93%	+0.70	85%	+0.84	92%	+0.56	78%	+0.53	77%	+0.64	82%
Germany	+0.81	90%	+0.76	88%	+0.48	74%	+0.50	75%	+0.40	70%	+0.63	82%	+0.44	72%	+0.67	84%	+0.55	78%
European Union	+0.71	86%	+0.67	83%	+0.52	76%	+0.90	95%	+0.85	93%	+0.95	98%	+0.94	97%	+0.67	84%	+0.91	96%
France	+0.67	83%	+0.67	83%	+0.33	67%	+0.65	83%	+0.45	73%	+0.68	84%	+0.50	75%	+0.26	63%	+0.27	64%
Canada	+0.62	81%	+0.48	74%	+0.05	53%	+0.80	90%	+0.70	85%	+0.68	84%	+0.44	72%	+0.58	79%	+0.55	78%
Japan	+0.48	74%	+0.38	69%	+0.38	69%	+0.68	84%	+0.58	79%	+0.47	74%	+0.25	63%	+0.28	64%	+0.18	59%
United States	+0.29	64%	+0.19	60%	+0.05	53%	+0.47	74%	+0.24	62%	+0.17	59%	+0.13	57%	+0.63	82%	+0.82	91%
Italy	+0.19	60%	+0.10	55%	-0.29	39%	+0.50	75%	+0.15	58%	+0.37	69%	+0.31	66%	+0.21	61%	+0.18	59%
Average	+0.58	79%	+0.50	75%	+0.24	62%	+0.66	83%	+0.51	76%	+0.59	80%	+0.44	72%	+0.49	75%	+0.51	76%
Spread	0.67		0.67		0.81		0.45		0.70		0.78		0.81		0.46		0.73	

Table D: 2019 G7 Biarritz Final Compliance Scores by Commitment

1	Digital economy: Artificial intelligence	+1.00	100%
	Digital economy: Digital democracy		
	Health: Universal health coverage		
4	Development: Sustainable Development Goals	+0.88	94%
	Environment: Biodiversity		
	Gender: Gender equality		
	Regional security: G5 Sahel security and development		
8	Regional security: Iran	+0.75	88%
9	Crime and corruption: Procurement	+0.63	81%
	Development: Entrepreneurship in Africa		
	Gender: Affirmative finance action for women in Africa		
	Gender: Women's entrepreneurship in Africa		
13	Development: G5 Sahel	+0.50	75%
	Digital economy: Digital infrastructure		
15	Education: G5 Sahel	+0.38	69%
	Regional security: G5 Sahel police		
17	Trade: Tax policy	+0.25	63%
	Trade: World Trade Organization reform		
19	Gender: STEM education	+0.13	56%
	Health: Mental health		
21	Health: Primary health care	-0.13	44%

1. Digital Economy: Digital Infrastructure

“Enabling the necessary digital infrastructure in order to reduce the digital gap and inequality, including in isolated countries and regions that are excluded or underserved.”

Biarritz Declaration for the G7 and Africa Partnership: Annex II Digital Transformation in Africa

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France		0	
Germany			+1
Italy		0	
Japan		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average	+0.50 (75%)		

Background

At the 2000 Okinawa Summit, the leaders agreed to the *Okinawa Charter on Global Information Society* which recognized the need to seize opportunities created from Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).¹ The leaders recognised the need to “bridge the digital divide” by providing universal and “affordable” internet access for underserved and “under-privileged” populations.² The Okinawa Summit marked the first time digital infrastructure, and addressing the digital gap was in the G7 agenda.

At the 2011 Deauville Summit, the leaders recognized the internet as unique information resource for education, to conduct commerce, drive innovation and to improve efficiency.³ The leaders recognized the internet as a multi-stakeholder issue and noted broadband internet access as an “essential infrastructure” to enable participation in the digital economy.⁴ The leaders also acknowledged the importance of “enhanced access to the Internet” for developing countries to ensure equal opportunities for all.⁵

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 leaders agreed to the *G7 Principles and Actions on Cyber* that promoted the importance of digital innovations to maximize economic growth in the 21st century.⁶ The leaders recognized the potential of digital technology to improve quality of life, enable innovation and achieve progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.⁷ The G7 leaders

¹ G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G7 Research Group (Toronto), 23 July 2000. Access Date: 5 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>

² Okinawa Charter on Global Information Society, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 22 July 2000. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/gis.htm>

³ G8 Declaration: Renewed Commitment for Freedom and Democracy, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2011.

Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-declaration-en.html#internet>

⁴ G8 Declaration: Renewed Commitment for Freedom and Democracy, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2011.

Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-declaration-en.html#internet>

⁵ G8 Declaration: Renewed Commitment for Freedom and Democracy, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2011.

Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-declaration-en.html#internet>

⁶ G7 Principles and Actions on Cyber, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 5 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/cyber.html>

⁷ G7 Principles and Actions on Cyber, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 5 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/cyber.html>

committed to supporting measures against the malicious use of cyberspace to protecting privacy and data protection, promoting digital innovation through enabling transparent policy and legal frameworks through ICT standards and to bridge digital divides through ensuring universal and high quality access to ICT.⁸ Also, the leaders acknowledged the *Charter of the Digitally Connected World*, which emphasized the role of ICT to enable connectivity and to become a driver of social activities and source of economic growth.⁹

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, G7 leaders recognized the opportunity posed by the Next Production Revolution to improving competitiveness and boosting economic growth through innovation development.¹⁰ The leaders noted the importance of reshaping existing production systems to allow people from all sectors to reap the benefits from innovation and digitalization and to enhance opportunities for all, including women to pursue STEM careers.¹¹

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, G7 leaders recognized the threats posed by digital technologies through malicious misuse of information.¹² The leaders recognized the importance to directly engage with internet service providers and social media platforms to improving transparency to prevent illegal use of personal data and breaches of privacy.¹³

At the 2019 Biarritz Summit, G7 leaders recognized the *G7 and Africa Partnership*. This partnership which committed strong support to reduce the digital divide.¹⁴ The leaders recognized the role for digital transformation to “boost economic growth and industrialization, alleviate poverty and improve lives.”¹⁵ The *Digital Transformation in Africa* declaration recognized the role of digital technology to drive innovation, economic growth and job creation in different sectors of the economy.¹⁶ G7 leaders recognized the underlying role of digitalization to maximize the work done in other sectors including in health, energy, transport, agriculture, education in line with good governance and development policies and programs. To that end, G7 leaders recognized the importance of “accessible, secure and reliable internet” to reducing digital gaps and reducing inequalities.¹⁷ The leaders also noted that women and girls especially in rural communities are most likely to be affected by the digital divide and underlined the need to address specific situations in fragile regions of the Sahel, Horn of Africa and Lake Chad regions.¹⁸

⁸ G7 Principles and Actions on Cyber, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 5 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/cyber.html>

⁹ Charter for the Digitally Connected World, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 30 April 2016. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/ict/2016-ict-charter.html>

¹⁰ G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 5 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>

¹¹ G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 5 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>

¹² Charlevoix Commitment on Defending Democracy from Foreign Threats, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/democracy-commitment.html>

¹³ Charlevoix Commitment on Defending Democracy from Foreign Threats, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/democracy-commitment.html>

¹⁴ Biarritz Declaration for a G7 & Africa Partnership, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/biarritz-declaration-africa-partnership.html>

¹⁵ Digital Transformation in Africa, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 Oct. 19. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/digital-transformation.html>

¹⁶ Digital Transformation in Africa, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 Oct. 19. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/digital-transformation.html>

¹⁷ Digital Transformation in Africa, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 Oct. 19. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/digital-transformation.html>

¹⁸ Digital Transformation in Africa, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 Oct. 19. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/digital-transformation.html>

Commitment Features

Within this framework of digital infrastructure and reducing digital divides, “enabling” is understood as supporting and providing support to make the necessary steps required to build and run digital infrastructure. This support can be in various forms such as through financial, technical or other measures of support. “Digital infrastructure” is understood as the basic physical and organizational structures and facilities needed for the operation of the internet. This includes all forms of digital infrastructure supported or developed by G7 members that support the access of digital information or the functions of the internet. Examples of supporting digital infrastructure can include financing installation of fixed and mobile infrastructure, fiber optic cables, mobile broadcasting stations, cell towers and terminal facilities used for interconnections.

The terms digital inequality, digital gap and digital divide are used interchangeably. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development’s glossary of statistical terms defines the “digital divide” as “the gap between individuals, households, businesses and geographic areas at different socio-economic levels with regard to both their opportunities to access information and communication technologies (ICTs) and to their use of the Internet for a wide variety of activities.”¹⁹ Moreover, digital divides can reflect various differences both among and within countries with regard to access to digital resources.²⁰ Examples of initiatives to reduce the digital divide include the financing or provision of subsidies, gifts or grants that use digital infrastructure to support the learning or reduction of digital gaps.

“Underserved” refers to groups that have been inadequately provided with a service of a facility. In this context, it refers to sub-Saharan African countries. Lack of access to digital infrastructure for individuals in these countries and regions can be due to a wide range of barriers including financial or physical accessibility, educational accessibility or other forms of barriers, all contributing to widen the digital divide. As this commitment was made in the Biarritz Declaration for the G7 and Africa Partnership: Annex II Digital Transformation in Africa this report analysis G7 efforts to enable digital infrastructure in Africa’s isolated and underserved countries and regions. “Isolated” refers to countries that are geographically, or infrastructurally separate. For compliance, isolated countries will be those within regions of the Sahel, Sahara, Savanna, Ethiopian Highlands and Swahili Coast. Isolated countries for compliance include Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Cote d’Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Sahel region countries include, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan. Sahara region countries include Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Sudan and Tunisia. Savanna region countries include Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Ethiopian Highland countries include Eritrea and Ethiopia. Countries in the Swahili Coast region include Comoros, Kenya, Mozambique, Somalia and Tanzania.

To achieve full compliance, G7 members must: 1. take steps to enable digital infrastructure in an African Region, and 2. take steps to enable digital infrastructure in an excluded or underserved African region or country. Actions must be taken in multiple countries in the African regions to achieve a score of full compliance and must be inclusive of at least two separate actions.

¹⁹Glossary of Statistical Terms - Digital Divide, OECD (Paris), 5 August 2002. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=4719>

²⁰Glossary of Statistical Terms - Digital Divide, OECD (Paris), 5 August 2002. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=4719>

If a G7 member takes action to: 1. take steps to enable digital infrastructure in an African Region, or 2. take steps to enable digital infrastructure in an excluded or underserved African region or country, a score of 0 or partial compliance will be assigned.

A score of no compliance will also be awarded if a G7 member takes no action to either of the two thresholds of the commitment.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G7 Member does NOT take steps to enable digital infrastructure in an African Region NOR takes steps to enable digital infrastructure in an excluded or underserved African region or country.
0	G7 Member takes steps to enable digital infrastructure in an African Region OR takes steps to enable digital infrastructure in an excluded or underserved African region or country.
+1	G7 Member takes steps to enable digital infrastructure in an African Region AND takes steps to enable digital infrastructure in an excluded or underserved African region or country.

*Compliance Director: Joe Wu
Lead Analyst: Priscilla Layarda*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to enable digital infrastructure by enabling digital infrastructure in an African region and in one isolated/excluded/underserved country.

On 27 August 2019, a funding partnership of CAD6.7 million was signed by Sustainable Development Technology Canada owned by the Canadian Federal government and Ecopia Tech to digitally map the Sub-Saharan African Region.²¹ The project intends to promote data-driven decisions in African countries in areas including the environment, economy, health care and vaccination, and infrastructure.²² The project expects a total of 38 million kilometres of roads, 342 million buildings and 582 million hectares of forest to be included in the digital map.²³

On 10 February 2020, the Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced during his visit to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia that Canada will support the growth of small and medium-sized businesses and entrepreneurs particularly those owned by youth and women in Ethiopia.²⁴ Canada will provide CAD12.9 million to the Digital Opportunity Trust and CAD8.5 million to RENEW (an impact investment firm), to support Ethiopian Youth with digital solutions and technology.²⁵

²¹ Sub-Saharan Africa: Canada funds first digital map for renewables, Smart Energy International (Rondebosch) 27 August 2019. Access Date: 09 December 2019. <https://www.smart-energy.com/industry-sectors/business-finance-regulation/sub-saharan-africa-canada-funds-first-digital-map-for-renewables/>

²² Sub-Saharan Africa: Canada funds first digital map for renewables, Smart Energy International (Rondebosch) 27 August 2019. Access Date: 09 December 2019. <https://www.smart-energy.com/industry-sectors/business-finance-regulation/sub-saharan-africa-canada-funds-first-digital-map-for-renewables/>

²³ Sustainable Development Technology Canada Funds Ecopia Tech Corporation to Map All of Sub-Saharan Africa, Financial Post (Toronto): 22 August 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2020. <https://business.financialpost.com/pmn/press-releases-pmn/business-wire-news-releases-pmn/sustainable-development-technology-canada-funds-ecopia-tech-corporation-to-map-all-of-sub-saharan-africa>

²⁴ Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities, Prime Minister of Canada (Addis Ababa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 09 March 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>

²⁵ Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities, Prime Minister of Canada (Addis Ababa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 09 March 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>

Canada has taken actions to enable the development digital infrastructure in one African region and an action enabling digital infrastructure in one isolated/excluded/underserved country.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Omar Abdellatif

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to enable digital infrastructure, by enabling digital infrastructure in an African region but not in an isolated/excluded/underserved country.

On 9 December 2019, France announced that it had created a EUR15 million seed fund to expand Africa's "digital ecosystem."²⁶ This fund seek to help small and medium enterprises in 45 African countries which lacks funding.²⁷ The Agence Française de Développement (AFD) will be running this initiative.²⁸ Each emerging start-up can receive a maximum of EUR300,000 via "AFD's local partners."²⁹

France has taken an action to foster digital infrastructure in an African region but has not taken specific actions to enable digital infrastructure in an isolated/excluded/underserved country.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Mark Edwards

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to enable digital infrastructure, by enabling digital infrastructure in an African region and in multiple isolated/excluded/underserved countries.

On 30 October 2019, Germany held the 6th German-African Healthcare Forum, sponsored by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), where a "recurring theme" was "the need for support with IT-infrastructure."³⁰

On 18 November 2019, Germany announced the launch of seven flagship digital projects in Africa.³¹ The BMZ announced an investment of EUR270 Million in over 200 digital projects across Africa.³²

²⁶ AFD Group: Driver For African Start-Ups, Agence française de développement (AFD) (Paris). 09 December 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.afd.fr/en/afd-group-driver-african-start-ups>

²⁷ AFD Group: Driver For African Start-Ups, Agence française de développement (AFD) (Paris). 09 December 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.afd.fr/en/afd-group-driver-african-start-ups>

²⁸ AFD: Towards A World In Common, Agence française de développement (AFD) (Paris). Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.afd.fr/en>

²⁹ AFD Group: Driver For African Start-Ups, Agence française de développement (AFD) (Paris). 09 December 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.afd.fr/en/afd-group-driver-african-start-ups>

³⁰ African ministers meet German innovators and investors, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. 30 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019.

http://health.bmz.de/events/Events_2019/african_ministers_meet_german_innovators_investors/index.html

³¹ Minister Muller announces launch of Africa Cloud initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. 18 November 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019.

http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118_pm_065_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html

³² Minister Muller announces launch of Africa Cloud initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. 18 November 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019.

http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118_pm_065_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html

Development Minister Gerd Müller announced the launch of the Africa Cloud Initiative that will provide “e-learning opportunities to young people in remote and rural areas of Africa.”³³ Other projects include the Digital Africa Initiative, with EUR150 million distributed between over 50 project to “strengthen good governance using internet-based public participation methods,”³⁴ the Make-IT Initiative that focuses on “supporting the digital start-up scene” in countries such as Kenya, Rwanda, Nigeria Ghana and Tunisia,³⁵ and Digital Centres to provide technical expertise, information technology theory and digital entrepreneurship “under one roof.”³⁶ To date, Digital Centres have been built in Tunisia, Senegal, Kenya, Ghana and Rwanda with the aim of enabling a “pan-African network.”³⁷

On 26 November 2019, Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel spoke about the necessity of “improv[ing] internet access and equal participation in the digital transformation.”³⁸

Germany has taken actions to enable digital infrastructure in the Africa region and in multiple isolated/excluded/underserved countries.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Mark Edwards

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to enable digital infrastructure in the Africa region and enable digital infrastructure in one isolated/ excluded/underserved country.

On 13 December 2019, Italy’s Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Emanuela Del Re, hosted an inaugural meeting of the South Africa–Italy Bilateral Consultations with the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, Alvin Botes.³⁹

³³ Minister Muller announces launch of Africa Cloud initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. 18 November 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019.

http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118_pm_065_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html

³⁴ Minister Muller announces launch of Africa Cloud initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. 18 November 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019.

http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118_pm_065_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html

³⁵ Minister Muller announces launch of Africa Cloud initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. 18 November 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019.

http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118_pm_065_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html

³⁶ Minister Muller announces launch of Africa Cloud initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. 18 November 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019.

http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118_pm_065_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html

³⁷ Minister Muller announces launch of Africa Cloud initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. 18 November 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019.

http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118_pm_065_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html

³⁸ Speech by Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel opening the 14th Annual Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum in Berlin on 26 November 2019, Federal Ministry on Economic Cooperation and Development. 26 November 2019. Access Date: 26 November 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/speech-by-federal-chancellor-dr-angela-merkel-opening-the-14th-annual-meeting-of-the-internet-governance-forum-in-berlin-on-26-november-2019-1701494>

³⁹ Deputy Minister Botes to host Bilateral Consultations with his Italian counterpart, Department of Foreign Affairs (Pretoria). 30 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2019/media1212.htm>

Minister Del Re-emphasized Italy's wish to enhance their relationship through investments and technologies.⁴⁰

On 13 February 2020, Italy's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Emanuela Del Re, attended a meeting regarding Africa and Cooperation with Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.⁴¹ The meeting focused on digital technologies, Africa's "green transition," and growth and employment.⁴² Deputy Minister Del Re expressed Italy's desire for supporting Africa through these transitions.⁴³

Italy has taken action in enabling digital infrastructure in an isolated/excluded/underserved country, but has not taken a concrete action towards enabling digital infrastructure in another African country or region.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Sophie Sondhelm and Priscilla Layarda

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to enable digital infrastructure, by enabling digital infrastructure in the Africa region, but not in an isolated/excluded/underserved country.

From 28 August to 30 August 2019, Japan co-hosted the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) with the United Nations, United Nations Development Programme, World Bank, and African Union (AU) Commission.⁴⁴ The conference was attended by "42 African leaders from 53 African countries, 52 development partner countries, 108 heads of international and regional organizations, and representatives of civil society and the private sector."⁴⁵ Japan pledged to assist the development of digital infrastructure in Africa through "develop[ing] 5,000 highly skilled people for Science Technology and Innovation (STI) [including artificial intelligence] at Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST) and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)."⁴⁶ E-JUST received 150 African students to develop their

⁴⁰Del Re Attends Italy-South Africa Bilateral Political Consultations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome). 13 December 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2019/12/del-re-a-consultazioni-politiche-bilaterali-italia-sudafrica.html

⁴¹Del Re in Brussels, meeting on Africa and Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome). 13 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/02/del-re-a-bruxelles-riunione-su-africa-e-cooperazione.html

⁴²Del Re in Brussels, meeting on Africa and Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome). 13 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/02/del-re-a-bruxelles-riunione-su-africa-e-cooperazione.html

⁴³Del Re in Brussels, meeting on Africa and Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome). 13 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/02/del-re-a-bruxelles-riunione-su-africa-e-cooperazione.html

⁴⁴ The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) (Yokohama, 28th - 30th August, 2019), Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af2/page25e_000274.html

⁴⁵ The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) (Yokohama, 28th - 30th August, 2019), Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af2/page25e_000274.html

⁴⁶ Summary of results, Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000521256.pdf>

“information and communications technology (ICT) talents.”⁴⁷ Other areas of cooperation include developing ICT talents through “supporting the development, operation and utilization of small satellites, including small satellites deployment from the Japanese Experiment module “kibo” of International Space Station and satellite data to solve social issues.”⁴⁸

Between 28 August and 31 August 2019, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe “held 47 meetings with leaders from 42 countries and the chair of the AU Commission, 3 heads of international organizations and 1 private invitee,” while Foreign Minister Kono Taro “held 25 bilateral meetings with ministers of African countries and heads of international organizations.” In one of the meetings on 29 August 2019 between Mr. Kono Taro and H. Dr. Unity Dow, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Botswana,⁴⁹ Japan expressed its support for Botswana “in expanding the use of the Japanese system of the digital terrestrial broadcasting that Botswana has adopted.”⁵⁰

On 27 September 2019, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, delivered a speech at the Europa Connectivity Forum which re-emphasized Japan’s commitment to “from now choose ten priority countries in Africa each year for the next three years, for a gross total of thirty countries, and provide their officials with training in sovereign debt and risk management.”⁵¹

On 27 September 2019, during the official announcement of EU-Japan Connectivity Partnership, the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, and the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, promised Africa to be the “geographical spaces of special concern for the new partnership.”⁵²

Japan has taken actions to enable the development of digital infrastructure in the Africa region, but has not taken specific actions to address digital infrastructure development in isolated/excluded/underserved countries.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Lauren Hung

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to enable digital infrastructure, by enabling digital infrastructure in the African region and in multiple isolated/excluded/underserved countries.

On 6 May 2019, Secretary of Britain’s Department of International Development urged “basic connectivity of underserved communities, digital skills and investment in EdTech solutions, support in digital ID [identification] deployment, partnerships on digital financial services, and the promotion

⁴⁷ Summary of results, Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000521256.pdf>

⁴⁸ Summary of results, Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000521256.pdf>

⁴⁹ Japan-Botswana Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/afr/af2/bw/page3e_001073.html

⁵⁰ Japan-Botswana Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/afr/af2/bw/page3e_001073.html

⁵¹ “Japan and the EU: The Strong and Steady Pillars Supporting Many Bridges”– Keynote Speech by the Prime Minister at the Europa Connectivity Forum, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2020. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/statement/201909/_00003.html

⁵² Discours d’ouverture du Président Jean-Claude Juncker au Europa Connectivity Forum, European Commission (Brussels) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/fr/SPEECH_19_5909

of digital ecosystems and entrepreneurship.”⁵³ The secretary, however, did not elaborate on the specific plans to improve such conditions.

On 14 October 2019, United Kingdom’s Minister for Africa, Andrew Stephenson, announced the UK-Africa Investment Summit which will take place on 20 January 2020. The summit aims to “mobilise new and substantial investment to create jobs and boost mutual prosperity”⁵⁴ through commercial partnerships in building technological infrastructure.⁵⁵ Additionally, it was announced that an Infrastructure Commission was established to secure sustainable development and technological innovation in Africa.⁵⁶

On 20 January 2020, the UK held the UK-Africa Investment Summit in London with 21 African countries represented.⁵⁷ The Department for International Development (DFID) funded GBP45 million to the “Digital Access Program” to increase connectivity, digital skills of marginalized community, build cybersecurity capacity and establish local Tech Hubs to grow local digital economies and empower startups with technical skills⁵⁸ The Digital Access programs will be implemented across Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa.⁵⁹ The UK Development Financial Institution, the CDC group also plans to invest up to GBP2 billion in Africa over the next two years.⁶⁰⁶¹

United Kingdom has taken actions to enabled digital infrastructure in the Africa region and in multiple isolated/excluded/underserved countries.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.⁶²

Analyst: Michael Levinson

⁵³ Achieving Africa’s Digital Transformation is an Ambition that Requires Game-changing cooperation, World Bank (Washington DC) May 6, 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2019/05/06/achieving-africas-digital-transformation-is-an-ambition-that-requires-game-changing-cooperation>.

⁵⁴ UK-Africa Investment Summit 2020, Government of the United Kingdom (London) N.D. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/uk-africa-investment-summit-2020/about>.

⁵⁵ FT Africa Summit 2019: Minister for Africa’s speech, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/speech-by-andrew-stephenson-minister-for-africa-to-ft-africa-summit-october-2019>.

⁵⁶ FT Africa Summit 2019: Minister for Africa’s speech, Government of the United Kingdom(London)14 October 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/speech-by-andrew-stephenson-minister-for-africa-to-ft-africa-summit-october-2019>.

⁵⁷ UK Government Statement UK-Africa Investment Summit 2020, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/859314/2020_01_20_AIS_-_UK_Government_Statement_-_Final_Version.pdf

⁵⁸ UK Government Statement UK-Africa Investment Summit 2020, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/859314/2020_01_20_AIS_-_UK_Government_Statement_-_Final_Version.pdf

⁵⁹ UK Government Statement UK-Africa Investment Summit 2020, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/859314/2020_01_20_AIS_-_UK_Government_Statement_-_Final_Version.pdf

⁶⁰ UK Government Statement UK-Africa Investment Summit 2020, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/859314/2020_01_20_AIS_-_UK_Government_Statement_-_Final_Version.pdf

⁶¹ UK aims to be Africa’s partner of choice for trade and investment, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aims-to-be-africas-partner-of-choice-for-trade-and-investment>

⁶² This non-compliance was determined after a deep search of the following websites: www.gov.uk, www.worldbank.org, www.bbc.com, www.economist.com, www.ft.com.

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to enable digital infrastructure in the Africa region and enable digital infrastructure in one isolated/excluded/underserved country.

On 30 September 2019, the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) in partnership with Atlas Mara announced an agreement to provide USD200 million in financing for the Union Bank of Nigeria to support inclusive lending across Nigeria.⁶³ The loan will enable investments in digitization, lending to Small and Medium Enterprises and funding for women-led businesses as part of the 2X Women's Initiative.⁶⁴

On 12 November 2019, at the Africa Investment Forum in Johannesburg, South Africa, Adam Boehler, Chief Executive Officer of the DFC announced at the first disbursement of a USD40 Million loan to Tetra4 Proprietary Ltd. to support the development of critical gas infrastructure and advance energy security in South Africa.⁶⁵ The project will introduce new technology to South Africa with important applications in telecommunications and other sectors.⁶⁶

On 17 March 2020, US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, touted potential investment opportunities in Africa as an alternative to the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative.⁶⁷

On 5 March 2020, the US announced a commitment to invest USD5 billion in Ethiopia through the International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) to support the nation's private sector.⁶⁸

On July 15 2020, US Trade and Development Agency awarded a grant as part of its Access Africa initiative to Backbone Connectivity Network, a Nigerian company. USTDA's Acting Director, Thomas R. Hardy claims the grant is directed towards the "development of transformative infrastructure in top emerging markets like Nigeria."⁶⁹

The United States has taken action to enable digital infrastructure in an isolated/excluded/underserved country, but has not taken a concrete action to enable digital infrastructure in another African country or region.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Michael Levinson

⁶³ Atlas Mara, OPIC and UBN Partner to Fund \$200 Million for Inclusive Lending in Nigeria, US International Development Finance Corporation (Washington). 30 September 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://www.dfc.gov/media/opic-press-releases/atlas-mara-opic-and-ubn-partner-fund-200-million-inclusive-lending>

⁶⁴ Atlas Mara, OPIC and UBN Partner to Fund \$200 Million for Inclusive Lending in Nigeria, US International Development Finance Corporation (Washington,DC). 30 September 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://www.dfc.gov/media/opic-press-releases/atlas-mara-opic-and-ubn-partner-fund-200-million-inclusive-lending>

⁶⁵ U.S. Provides Financing to Tetra4 to Develop Energy Infrastructure in South Africa, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (Washington, DC) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. <https://www.dfc.gov/media/press-releases/us-provides-financing-tetra4-develop-energy-infrastructure-south-africa>

⁶⁶ Information Summary for the Public, OPIC (United States) N.D. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://www.opic.gov/sites/default/files/files/9000083060.pdf>.

⁶⁷ Pompeo touts US investment as alternative to Chinese loans on Africa trip, France 24 (Paris) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200217-pompeo-touts-us-investment-as-alternative-to-chinese-loans-on-africa-trip>.

⁶⁸ US ready to back Ethiopian reform with \$5bn investment, Financial Times (London) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/b0c2963c-5e1a-11ea-8033-fa40a0d65a98>.

⁶⁹ USTDA Supports internet Connectivity in Nigeria, U.S. Trade and Development Agency (Arlington) 15 July 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://ustda.gov/ustda-supports-internet-connectivity-in-nigeria/>.

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to enable digital infrastructure in the African region and in multiple isolated/excluded/underserved countries.

On 27 September 2019, during the official announcement of EU-Japan Connectivity Partnership, the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, and the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, promised Africa to be the “geographical spaces of special concern for the new partnership.”⁷⁰

On 15 October 2019, the official launch of the “Digital Explorers” programme financed by the European Commission Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs took place in the Lithuanian capital.⁷¹ The programme aims to enhance the EU-African cooperation in information and communication technologies (ICT).⁷² Lithuanian experts will engage with Nigerian ICT specialists in efforts to digitalize public services, secure critical cyber infrastructures, and develop mobile products or e-commerce platforms in Africa and Nigeria.⁷³ Elijus Šivilis, the Vice Minister of Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania stated: “the programme brings together public, non-profit and private organizations from EU, Lithuania and Nigeria and looks for innovative ways for exploiting the potential of digitalization.”⁷⁴

On 12 November 2019, simultaneously in Luxembourg at the European Investment Bank (EIB) headquarters and at the Africa Investment Forum in Johannesburg, South Africa, the EIB launched the SheInvest initiative mobilising EUR1 billion for women across Africa.⁷⁵ Guided by the 2X Challenge Criteria, the EIB aims to invest in projects, sectors and markets that have “transformative effects on gender equality and can increase the capacity of women and girls to participate in the economy and labour market.”⁷⁶ The initiative will provide technical assistance in providing capacity building and mentoring to women entrepreneurs to “better access finance” and to design “financial products tailored to their needs.”⁷⁷ The initiative will focus on investment in “innovative digital

⁷⁰ Discours d'ouverture du Président Jean-Claude Juncker au Europa Connectivity Forum, European Commission (Brussels) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/fr/SPEECH_19_5909

⁷¹ “Digital Explorers” at the Forefront of EU - Africa Digital Partnership, Enterprise Lithuania (Vilnius) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.enterpriselithuania.com/en/news/digital-explorers-forefront-eu-africa-digital-partnership/>

⁷² “Digital Explorers” at the Forefront of EU - Africa Digital Partnership, Enterprise Lithuania (Vilnius) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.enterpriselithuania.com/en/news/digital-explorers-forefront-eu-africa-digital-partnership/>

⁷³ “Digital Explorers” at the Forefront of EU - Africa Digital Partnership, Enterprise Lithuania (Vilnius) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.enterpriselithuania.com/en/news/digital-explorers-forefront-eu-africa-digital-partnership/>

⁷⁴ “Digital Explorers” at the Forefront of EU - Africa Digital Partnership, Enterprise Lithuania (Vilnius) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.enterpriselithuania.com/en/news/digital-explorers-forefront-eu-africa-digital-partnership/>

⁷⁵ SheInvest-New Initiative to mobilise EUR 1 billion for women across Africa, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019 <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-306-sheinvest-new-initiative-to-mobilise-eur-1-billion-for-women-across-africa>

⁷⁶ SheInvest-New Initiative to mobilise EUR 1 billion for women across Africa, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019 <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-306-sheinvest-new-initiative-to-mobilise-eur-1-billion-for-women-across-africa>

⁷⁷ SheInvest-New Initiative to mobilise EUR 1 billion for women across Africa, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019 <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-306-sheinvest-new-initiative-to-mobilise-eur-1-billion-for-women-across-africa>

solutions and financial products” to reach women and girls often excluded from such services to “increase the economic opportunities and social inclusion.”⁷⁸

On 18 December 2019, the European Union granted the “Africa Connect” project, EUR30 million to fund the implementation of the third phase of the project, connecting 800 academic institutions across the African continent with high-speed internet capacity and affordable connectivity.⁷⁹ The fund will be distributed to three research and academic networks, each covering a different region: UbuntuNet Alliance (Eastern and Southern Africa), WACREN (Western and Central Africa), and ASREN (Northern Africa and Middle East). The European Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen stated: “affordable high-speed broadband connectivity enables African youths, students, and researchers to boost collaborative scientific research with their peers around the world to help them tackle challenges in Africa. This is an important step towards tackling the digital divide.”⁸⁰

On 27 January 2020, the European Investment Bank (EIB) signed a partnership with the UNICEF to help equip children in South and West Africa, Central Asia and Europe with the digital, entrepreneurial and business skills demanded by the labour market, through equitable education.⁸¹ European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, Nicolas Schmit stated: “The social agenda of this European Commission aims for a more certain future for our children and young people.⁸² We want to protect them from poverty and make sure they have access to the skills and training they need to navigate the green and digital transitions.”⁸³

On 27 February 2020, the President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), Werner Hoyer announced at the EIB-UN Habitat Africa Day 2020 conference in Dakar, a total of EUR63 million new financing by the EIB to promote access to digital finance, banking skills development, new job opportunities and the stimulation of infrastructure development in Senegal and Africa.⁸⁴

On 27 February 2020, the European Union Commission and the African Union Commission agreed during the 10th AUC-EC Commission-to-Commission (C2C) meeting in Addis Ababa to stimulate digital infrastructure and establish a single secured digital market in Africa by 2030.⁸⁵ The EU and

⁷⁸ SheInvest-New Initiative to mobilise EUR 1 billion for women across Africa, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019 <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-306-sheinvest-new-initiative-to-mobilise-eur-1-billion-for-women-across-africa>

⁷⁹ Africa-Europe Alliance: EU boosts pan-African Internet connectivity with €30 million, European Commission (Brussels) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/africa-europe-alliance-eu-boosts-pan-african-internet-connectivity-eu30-million_en

⁸⁰ Africa-Europe Alliance: EU boosts pan-African Internet connectivity with €30 million, European Commission (Brussels) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/africa-europe-alliance-eu-boosts-pan-african-internet-connectivity-eu30-million_en

⁸¹ European Investment Bank and UNICEF partner to help improve access to quality education and protect children from climate change, UNICEF (New York) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2020. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/european-investment-bank-and-unicef-partner-help-improve-access-quality-education>

⁸² European Investment Bank and UNICEF partner to help improve access to quality education and protect children from climate change, UNICEF (New York) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2020. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/european-investment-bank-and-unicef-partner-help-improve-access-quality-education>

⁸³ European Investment Bank and UNICEF partner to help improve access to quality education and protect children from climate change, UNICEF (New York) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2020. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/european-investment-bank-and-unicef-partner-help-improve-access-quality-education>

⁸⁴ President Macky Sall and EIB President welcome EUR 63 million of new deals to support business growth and banking skills in Senegal and across Africa, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 27 February 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020 <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-071-president-macky-sall-and-eib-president-welcome-eur-63-million-of-new-deals-to-support-business-growth-and-banking-skills-in-senegal-and-across-africa>

⁸⁵ 10th African Union Commission-European Commission Meeting-Joint Communiqué, European Commission (Brussels) 29 February 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_20_365

AU also agreed on promoting digital entrepreneurship and innovation in addition to the skill development of youth to meet with the demands of digital economy and ICT markets.⁸⁶

On 9 March 2020, The European Commission and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy published the initiative “Towards a comprehensive Strategy with Africa.”⁸⁷ The strategy sets out a roadmap to promote joint cooperation and partnerships between the European Union and the African Union in five key sectors including digital transformation.⁸⁸ The strategy proposes boosting Africa’s digital transformation through actions such as investing in digital infrastructure, expanding digital access, promotion of E-governance and digital financial services, in addition to the digitalization of public administration.⁸⁹

On 16 July 2020, the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education, and Youth, Mariya Gabriel, and the African Union Commissioner for Human Resources, Science, and Technology, Sarah Agbor, hosted the first research and innovation ministers’ meeting between the European Union and African Union. The discussion about innovation and technology centers around the recent initiatives, including AffricaConnect.⁹⁰

The European Union has taken actions to enable digital infrastructure in multiple African regions and multiple isolated/excluded/underserved countries.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.⁹¹

Analyst: Omar Abdellatif

⁸⁶ 10th African Union Commission-European Commission Meeting-Joint Communiqué, European Commission (Brussels) 29 February 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_20_365

⁸⁷ Joint communication to the European Parliament and the Council: Towards a comprehensive Strategy with Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 30 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/communication-eu-africa-strategy-join-2020-4-final_en.pdf

⁸⁸ Joint communication to the European Parliament and the Council: Towards a comprehensive Strategy with Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 30 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/communication-eu-africa-strategy-join-2020-4-final_en.pdf

⁸⁹ Joint communication to the European Parliament and the Council: Towards a comprehensive Strategy with Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 30 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/communication-eu-africa-strategy-join-2020-4-final_en.pdf

⁹⁰ European Union and African Union research and innovation ministers meet for the first time, European Commission (Brussels) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/european-union-and-african-union-research-and-innovation-ministers-meet-first-time-2020-jul-16_en.

2. Digital Economy: Digital Democracy

“We are determined to work collaboratively to reinforce our democracies against illicit and malign behavior and foreign hostile interference by state and non-state actors.”

Biarritz Strategy for an Open, Free and Secure Digital Transformation

Assessment

	Lack of 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		+1.00 (100%)	

Background

The relatively recent introduction of digital issues into the G7 agenda began with a variety of commitments that sought to harness the power of the digital transformation to improve governance and accountability, most notably in the *G8 Open Data Charter* adopted at the 2013 Lough Erne summit.⁹²

The first discussion of the problems that the digital transformation posed for democratic institutions was introduced with the *G7 Principles and Actions on Cyber* adopted the 2016 Ise-Shima summit, which included a pledge to “take decisive and robust measures in close cooperation against malicious use of cyberspace both by states and non-state actors, including terrorists.”⁹³ Further commitments include both national and international cooperation to maintain the security and resilience of cyberspace.⁹⁴

At the 2017 Taormina summit, the G7 committed to combatting the “misuse of the Internet by terrorists” in the *G7 Taormina Statement on the Fight Against Terrorism and Violent Extremism*.⁹⁵ Part of this commitment emphasized increased engagement with civil society, youth and others at risk of radicalization.⁹⁶

The 2018 Charlevoix summit addressed the issues of this commitment feature in its *Charlevoix Commitment on Defending Democracy from Foreign Threats*, which committed to “strengthen G7 cooperation to prevent, thwart and respond to malign interference by foreign actors aimed at

⁹² G8 Open Data Charter, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 18 June 2013. Access Date: 12 October 2019.

<http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2013lougherne/lough-erne-open-data.html>.

⁹³ G7 Principles and Actions on Cyber, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 12 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/cyber.html>.

⁹⁴ G7 Principles and Actions on Cyber, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 12 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/cyber.html>.

⁹⁵ G7 Taormina Statement on the Fight Against Terrorism and Violent Extremism, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 May 2017. Access Date: 12 October 2019. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/statement-on-terrorism-and-extremism.html>.

⁹⁶ G7 Taormina Statement on the Fight Against Terrorism and Violent Extremism, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 May 2017. Access Date: 12 October 2019. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/statement-on-terrorism-and-extremism.html>.

undermining the democratic processes and the national interests of a G7 state.⁹⁷ A key commitment in that document was the establishment of a G7 Rapid Response Mechanism to increase international coordination in the face of threats to democracy.⁹⁸

The 2019 Biarritz summit outlined its commitments on digital democracy in the wide-ranging *Biarritz Strategy for an Open, Free and Secure Digital Transformation*.⁹⁹ The commitments in that document include upholding freedom of opinion and expression, the privacy and data protection issues raised by the digital transformation, and the potential of AI to generate innovation and growth.¹⁰⁰ The document also takes note of the work done by the G7 Rapid Response Mechanism established at the 2018 Charlevoix summit.¹⁰¹

Commitment Features

At the 2019 Biarritz summit the G7 members committed to “work collaboratively to reinforce our democracies against illicit and malign behavior and foreign hostile interference by state and non-state actors.” This commitment should be interpreted as having two dimensions required for compliance: domestic vs. international actions, and reinforcing against hostile interference by state versus non-state actors.

A domestic action is an action that a G7 member undertakes to reinforce their own institutions against illicit and malign behavior and foreign hostile interference while respecting the rights of freedom of opinion and expression. Relevant actions can include the promotion of positive narratives surrounding institutions and democracy. An international action is an action that a G7 member undertakes to reinforce global institutions or the institutions of their global partners against illicit and malign behavior and foreign hostile interference while respecting relevant international law and the laws of other jurisdictions.

Reinforcing against hostile interference by state actors involves the use of diplomacy, stronger security measures, and potentially sanctions against other states whose actions are undermining democratic institutions. Such actions could include the deliberate spread of misinformation, the infiltration of political institutions (including political parties), and attempts to use state resources to influence the outcomes of decision-making processes. Reinforcing against hostile interference by non-state actors includes the strengthening of anti-terrorism measures, the promotion of positive narratives surrounding democratic institutions, and cooperation with other states who are facing threats from similar or identical non-state actors.

As examples, an action taken by a country to regulate political advertising on social media during election campaigns would count as a domestic action that reinforces against non-state actors, whereas an action taken to create a multilateral protocol to respond to attempted state-based interference in democratic institutions would count as an international action that reinforces against state actors.

⁹⁷ Charlevoix Commitment on Defending Democracy from Foreign Threats, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 12 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/democracy-commitment.html>.

⁹⁸ Charlevoix Commitment on Defending Democracy from Foreign Threats, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 12 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/democracy-commitment.html>.

⁹⁹ Biarritz Strategy for an Open, Free and Secure Digital Transformation, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 12 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/biarritz-strategy-for-digital-transformation.html>.

¹⁰⁰ Biarritz Strategy for an Open, Free and Secure Digital Transformation, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 12 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/biarritz-strategy-for-digital-transformation.html>.

¹⁰¹ Biarritz Strategy for an Open, Free and Secure Digital Transformation, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 12 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/biarritz-strategy-for-digital-transformation.html>.

Thus, to receive a score of full compliance, G7 members must take substantial action in three or four dimensions, including multiple actions in at least two dimensions to reinforce democracies against illicit and malign behaviour, as well as foreign hostile interference by state and non-state actors.

If action is only taken in two dimensions to reinforce our democracies against illicit and malign behaviour, as well as foreign and hostile interferences by state and non-state actors, a score of partial compliance, or 0 will be assigned.

A score of -1, or no compliance, will be assigned if the G7 member exemplifies demonstrable action in one or fewer dimensions to reinforce our democracies against illicit and malign behaviour, and foreign hostile interference by state and non-state actors.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	Members take action in ONE or fewer dimensions to reinforce our democracies against illicit and malign behavior, and foreign hostile interference by state and non-state actors.
0	Members take action in at least TWO dimensions to reinforce our democracies against illicit and malign behavior, and foreign hostile interference by state and non-state actors.
+1	Members take substantial action in THREE OR FOUR dimensions, including multiple action in at least two dimensions to reinforce our democracies against illicit and malign behavior, and foreign hostile interference by state and non-state actors.

*Compliance Director: Christopher Sims
Lead Analyst: Emily Eng*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to “work collaboratively to reinforce our democracies against illicit and malign behaviour and foreign hostile interference by state and non-state actors.”

Throughout September 2019, the Government of Canada launched programs as part of Canadian Heritage’s Digital Citizen Initiative.¹⁰² The Government of Canada has invested almost CAD7 million in programs teaching citizens to think critically and recognize fake news.¹⁰³ This initiative protects citizens from being susceptible to disinformation.¹⁰⁴

On 26 September 2019, the Government of Canada announced the Joint Initiative for Digital Citizen Research.¹⁰⁵ Canadian Heritage will partner with and provide funding to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, with the goal of better understanding the effects of online

¹⁰² Backgrounder – Helping Citizens Critically Assess and Become Resilient Against Harmful Online Disinformation, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 August 2019. Access Date: 4 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/news/2019/07/backgrounder--helping-citizens-critically-assess-and-become-resilient-against-harmful-online-disinformation.html>.

¹⁰³ Backgrounder – Helping Citizens Critically Assess and Become Resilient Against Harmful Online Disinformation, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 August 2019. Access Date: 4 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/news/2019/07/backgrounder--helping-citizens-critically-assess-and-become-resilient-against-harmful-online-disinformation.html>.

¹⁰⁴ Backgrounder – Helping Citizens Critically Assess and Become Resilient Against Harmful Online Disinformation, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 August 2019. Access Date: 4 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/news/2019/07/backgrounder--helping-citizens-critically-assess-and-become-resilient-against-harmful-online-disinformation.html>.

¹⁰⁵ Joint Initiative for Digital Citizen Research, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 26 September 2019. Access Date: 4 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/online-disinformation/joint-initiative-digital-citizen-research.html>.

disinformation and finding the most effective programs and policies to counter online disinformation.¹⁰⁶

From 6 November to 9 November 2019, Canadian law makers represented Canada at the third meeting of the International Grand Committee on Disinformation and “Fake News” in Dublin, Ireland.¹⁰⁷ The goal of this meeting was to discuss how to collaboratively regulate the spread of disinformation on social media platforms.¹⁰⁸

On 12 March 2020, the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians (NSICP) Annual Report 2019 was tabled.¹⁰⁹ This report examined threats posed by state and non-state actors against Canada’s democracy, and proposed recommendations to reduce threats.¹¹⁰ These recommendations included “develop[ing] practical, whole-of-government operational and policy mechanisms to identify and respond to the activities of hostile states” and “updat[ing] existing legislation, such as the Security of Information Act or the Canadian Security Intelligence Service Act.”¹¹¹ The NSICP suggested using a sustained central leadership and coordination to implement these changes.¹¹²

Canada has taken both domestic and international actions towards reinforcing democratic institutions. Canada has acted to reinforce democratic institutions against state and non-state actors. These actions fulfil all four components of the commitment.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Isabelle Buchanan

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to “work collaboratively to reinforce our democracies against illicit and malign behaviour and foreign hostile interference by state and non-state actors.” It has exemplified progress in three of the four dimensions, only failing to act in a multilateral fashion against state actors specifically.

¹⁰⁶ Joint Initiative for Digital Citizen Research, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 26 September 2019. Access Date: 4 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/online-disinformation/joint-initiative-digital-citizen-research.html>.

¹⁰⁷ Update: International Grand Committee on Disinformation and ‘Fake News’ Dublin, Ireland – Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 November 2019, Houses of the Oireachtas (Dublin) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/press-centre/press-releases/20191106-update-international-grand-committee-on-disinformation-and-fake-news-dublin-ireland-wednesday-6-and-thursday-7-november-2019/>.

¹⁰⁸ Update: International Grand Committee on Disinformation and ‘Fake News’ Dublin, Ireland – Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 November 2019, Houses of the Oireachtas (Dublin) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/press-centre/press-releases/20191106-update-international-grand-committee-on-disinformation-and-fake-news-dublin-ireland-wednesday-6-and-thursday-7-november-2019/>.

¹⁰⁹ National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians Annual Report 2019, National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians (Ottawa) 12 March 2010. Access Date: 5 April 2020. https://www.nsicop-cpsnr.ca/reports/rp-2020-03-12-ar/annual_report_2019_public_en.pdf.

¹¹⁰ National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians Annual Report 2019, National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians (Ottawa) 12 March 2010. Access Date: 5 April 2020. https://www.nsicop-cpsnr.ca/reports/rp-2020-03-12-ar/annual_report_2019_public_en.pdf.

¹¹¹ National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians Annual Report 2019, National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians (Ottawa) 12 March 2010. Access Date: 5 April 2020. https://www.nsicop-cpsnr.ca/reports/rp-2020-03-12-ar/annual_report_2019_public_en.pdf.

¹¹² National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians Annual Report 2019, National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians (Ottawa) 12 March 2010. Access Date: 5 April 2020. https://www.nsicop-cpsnr.ca/reports/rp-2020-03-12-ar/annual_report_2019_public_en.pdf.

On 31 August 2019, the Government of France officially accepted French translations of terms such as “data privacy” and “cyber espionage” for use in government and legislative contexts.¹¹³

On 28 November 2019, President Emmanuel Macron, speaking alongside NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, said he “requested [France’s government] services to work on [cybersecurity]” though never pointing out a particular operator or a particular actor to defend against.¹¹⁴

On 3 December 2019, the Government of France put out a news release regarding President Emmanuel Macron’s agenda at the NATO summit.¹¹⁵ Within the second priority issue, regarding a “common enemy,” France called on members to address “new security challenges, such as cybersecurity.”¹¹⁶

On 22 January 2020, the French Government’s Agence Nationale de la Sécurité des Systèmes d’Information (ANSSI) published its strategic direction “manifesto” for the next ten years, which places emphasis on national cybersecurity partnerships as well as strengthening its European commitments.¹¹⁷

On 29 January 2020, France developed a “5G Toolbox” following discussions with the European Commission and the European Agency for Cybersecurity. A “5G Toolbox” identifies strategic measures to enhance cybersecurity including by diversifying network supply needs across multiple providers, and conducting risk assessments of such suppliers.¹¹⁸

On 29 January 2020, the ANSSI published a report on the subject of ransomware, which consists of malware attacks in which files or system access can be held hostage by an intervening third party.¹¹⁹ Ransomware is considered “the most serious current IT threat for businesses and institutions.”¹²⁰ The report examined techniques of the perpetrators alongside costs of the victims, to provide more information about the threat and prevention efforts.¹²¹

¹¹³ Vocabulaire du droit (liste de termes, expressions et définitions adoptés), Government of France (Paris) 31 August 2019. Access date: 16 December 2019.

<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000039002295&categorieLien=id>.

¹¹⁴ Joint press point with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and the President of France Emmanuel Macron, NATO (Paris) 28 November 2019. Access date: 14 December 2019. https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/opinions_170790.htm?selectedLocale=en.

¹¹⁵ NATO Summit, Government of France (Paris) 3 December 2019. Access date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/nato-summit>.

¹¹⁶ NATO Summit, Government of France (Paris) 3 December 2019. Access date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/nato-summit>.

¹¹⁷ l’ANSSI Dévoile ses Nouvelles Orientations Stratégiques pour les Années à Venir, Agence Nationale de la Sécurité des systèmes d’information (Paris) 22 January 2020. Access date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.ssi.gouv.fr/actualite/lanssi-devoile-ses-nouvelles-orientations-strategiques-pour-les-annees-a-venir/>.

¹¹⁸ La France Accueille Favorablement La Publication de la « Boîte à outils 5G », Agence Nationale de la Sécurité des Systèmes d’Information (Paris) 29 January 2020. Access date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.ssi.gouv.fr/actualite/la-france-accueille-favorablement-la-publication-de-la-boite-a-outils-5g/>.

¹¹⁹ Rançongiciels - L’ANSSI Livre Son Analyse de la Menace pour les Entreprises et les Institutions, Agence Nationale de la Sécurité des Systèmes d’Information (Paris) 29 January 2020. Access date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.ssi.gouv.fr/actualite/rancongiels-lanssi-livre-son-analyse-de-la-menace-pour-les-entreprises-et-les-institutions/>.

¹²⁰ Rançongiciels - L’ANSSI Livre Son Analyse de la Menace pour les Entreprises et les Institutions, Agence Nationale de la Sécurité des Systèmes d’Information (Paris) 29 January 2020. Access date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.ssi.gouv.fr/actualite/rancongiels-lanssi-livre-son-analyse-de-la-menace-pour-les-entreprises-et-les-institutions/>.

¹²¹ Rançongiciels - L’ANSSI Livre Son Analyse de la Menace pour les Entreprises et les Institutions, Agence Nationale de la Sécurité des Systèmes d’Information (Paris) 29 January 2020. Access date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.ssi.gouv.fr/actualite/rancongiels-lanssi-livre-son-analyse-de-la-menace-pour-les-entreprises-et-les-institutions/>.

On 29 January 2020, ANSSI participated in the 12th Forum International de la Cybersécurité (FIC).¹²² It used such a forum to call on the European Union (EU) to develop sovereignty in matters of “autonomy and leadership in cybersecurity” and to support European citizens and institutions in threat prevention.¹²³ For ANSSI, this “European sovereignty” will require “renewed efforts in terms of capacity developments, regulations, industrial policy, as well as governance adapted to the challenges.”¹²⁴ At the FIC, ANSSI expressed its interest in “cooperation with its European partners” and wants to “make this common set of rules operational” throughout the EU.¹²⁵

France has taken both domestic and international actions towards reinforcing democratic institutions. France has acted to reinforce democratic institutions against non-state actors. These actions fulfil three of the four components of the commitment.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alex Erickson

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to “work collaboratively to reinforce our democracies against illicit and malign behaviour and foreign hostile interference by state and non-state actors.”

On 12 September 2019, German lawmakers introduced a new cloud-computing project, Gaia-X.¹²⁶ The cloud-computing platform was designed for European companies to store, process, exchange data, and cooperate on developing products.¹²⁷ The idea of the project came over fears of heavy reliance of foreign-owned cloud platforms which have been known for data interference practices.¹²⁸ German lawmakers claim that Gaia-X will not cut the country off from the global-supply chain or end divisions of labour, but instead will enable Germany’s “digital infrastructures to run independently if they were ever to be cut off from foreign cloud providers.”¹²⁹

On 18 November 2019, the Bundestag Budget Committee approved 67 new posts to the Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom Information.¹³⁰ The federal body plans to push General

¹²² FIC 2020: L’ANSSI Plaide pour une Souveraineté Européenne en Matière de Cybersécurité, Agence Nationale de la Sécurité des systèmes d’information, (Paris) 29 January 2020. Access date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.ssi.gouv.fr/actualite/fic-2020-lanssi-plaide-pour-une-souverainete-europeenne-en-matiere-de-cybersecurite/>.

¹²³ FIC 2020: L’ANSSI Plaide pour une Souveraineté Européenne en Matière de Cybersécurité, Agence Nationale de la Sécurité des systèmes d’information, (Paris) 29 January 2020. Access date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.ssi.gouv.fr/actualite/fic-2020-lanssi-plaide-pour-une-souverainete-europeenne-en-matiere-de-cybersecurite/>.

¹²⁴ FIC 2020: L’ANSSI Plaide pour une Souveraineté Européenne en Matière de Cybersécurité, Agence Nationale de la Sécurité des systèmes d’information, (Paris) 29 January 2020. Access date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.ssi.gouv.fr/actualite/fic-2020-lanssi-plaide-pour-une-souverainete-europeenne-en-matiere-de-cybersecurite/>.

¹²⁵ FIC 2020: L’ANSSI Plaide pour une Souveraineté Européenne en Matière de Cybersécurité, Agence Nationale de la Sécurité des systèmes d’information, (Paris) 29 January 2020. Access date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.ssi.gouv.fr/actualite/fic-2020-lanssi-plaide-pour-une-souverainete-europeenne-en-matiere-de-cybersecurite/>.

¹²⁶ Germany’s Plan to Control its own Data, Politico (Berlin) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.politico.eu/article/germanys-plan-to-control-its-own-data-digital-infrastructure/>.

¹²⁷ Germany’s Plan to Control its own Data, Politico (Berlin) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.politico.eu/article/germanys-plan-to-control-its-own-data-digital-infrastructure/>.

¹²⁸ Germany’s Plan to Control its own Data, Politico (Berlin) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.politico.eu/article/germanys-plan-to-control-its-own-data-digital-infrastructure/>.

¹²⁹ Germany’s Plan to Control its own Data, Politico (Berlin) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.politico.eu/article/germanys-plan-to-control-its-own-data-digital-infrastructure/>.

¹³⁰ The Bundestag strengthens the data protection supervisory authority, Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information (Berlin) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. https://www.bfdi.bund.de/EN/Home/Press_Release/2019/28_Budget-BfDI.html.

Data Protection Regulation under the EU by imposing new regulations which will limit and block tracking across all devices and platforms, and curtailing insufficient technical protection of data.¹³¹

On 8 November 2019, German Data Protection Authorities released new guidelines for fining companies violating the regulations set out by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).¹³² The fines are classified as minor, moderate, severe, and very severe.¹³³ Following the announcement of the new enforcement procedures on online platforms, Berlin issued a EUR14.5 million fine against a real estate agency for unjustified retention of customer data.¹³⁴

Germany took actions to strengthen cybersecurity through domestic policy changes, thus fulfilling the domestic dimension. Germany took actions to reinforce democratic institutions against both state and non-state actors. These actions fulfill three of the four dimensions of the commitment.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Yousef Choudhri

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to “work collaboratively to reinforce our democracies against illicit and malign behaviour and foreign hostile interference by state and non-state actors.”

On 21 September 2019, the Italian Government adopted the Law Decree n. 105 as part of the implementation of a comprehensive national cybersecurity framework.¹³⁵ The decree requires that individuals in the public and private sectors, who serve functions that are key components of the national security system, disclose relevant information to the Council of Ministers and the Minister of Economic Development and comply with measures aimed at upholding a high level of national security.¹³⁶

On 22 December 2019, Industry Minister Stefano Patuanelli announced that Chinese telecommunication firm Huawei, should be allowed to participate in the development of Italy’s future 5G network.¹³⁷ The announcement was released after the parliamentary security committee,

¹³¹ The Bundestag strengthens the data protection supervisory authority, Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information (Berlin) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. https://www.bfdi.bund.de/EN/Home/Press_Release/2019/28_Budget-BfDI.html.

¹³² How are German Data Protection Authorities going to determine a fine? / EUR 14.5 million fine imposed by Berlin DPA, Baker McKenzie (Berlin) November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.bakermckenzie.com/-/media/files/insight/publications/2019/11/client-alert-dpa-concept-for-fines-final.pdf>.

¹³³ How are German Data Protection Authorities going to determine a fine? / EUR 14.5 million fine imposed by Berlin DPA, Baker McKenzie (Berlin) November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.bakermckenzie.com/-/media/files/insight/publications/2019/11/client-alert-dpa-concept-for-fines-final.pdf>.

¹³⁴ How are German Data Protection Authorities going to determine a fine? / EUR 14.5 million fine imposed by Berlin DPA, Baker McKenzie (Berlin) November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.bakermckenzie.com/-/media/files/insight/publications/2019/11/client-alert-dpa-concept-for-fines-final.pdf>.

¹³⁵ Italy towards an effective National Cyber Security Strategy, Lexology (Rome) 26 September 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=bfe7f1d9-d5ea-4126-adf6-e74a58096249>.

¹³⁶ Italy towards an effective National Cyber Security Strategy, Lexology (Rome) 26 September 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=bfe7f1d9-d5ea-4126-adf6-e74a58096249>.

¹³⁷ Huawei should be allowed 5G role in Italy: Industry minister, Reuters (Rome) 22 December 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-italy-5g-security-patuanelli/huawei-should-be-allowed-5g-role-in-italy-industry-minister-idUSKBN1YQOD7>.

Copasir, stated that the government should consider preventing Huawei from participating in the development of a future 5G network.¹³⁸

Italy has taken domestic actions towards reinforcing democratic institutions. Italy has acted to reinforce democratic institutions against state and non-state actors. These actions fulfil three of the four components of the commitment.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Eunice Yong

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to “work collaboratively to reinforce our democracies against illicit and malign behaviour and foreign hostile interference by state and non-state actors.”

On 9 to 13 September 2019, a Japanese delegation, which included Japanese Deputy Assistant Minister Satoshi Akahori, Foreign Policy Bureau, attended the first meeting of the UN Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on Cybersecurity held in New York.¹³⁹ On 9 September 2019, Akahori stated that Japan increased its international collaboration in three areas: “promotion of the rule of law, confidence-building measures, and capacity-building.”¹⁴⁰ He reaffirmed Japan’s position that “existing international law applies in cyberspace” and expressed Japanese support for the upcoming Group of Governmental Experts on cybersecurity.¹⁴¹

On 9 to 12 September 2019, Japan’s Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and the Industrial Cyber Security Center of Excellence (ICSCoE) under the information-technology Promotion Agency (IPA), hosted the Japan-US Industrial Control Systems Cybersecurity Training in Tokyo.¹⁴² American and Japanese experts delivered lectures on the security of control systems of critical infrastructure.¹⁴³ Attendees were from 14 countries and regions in the Indo-Pacific region.¹⁴⁴

¹³⁸ Huawei should be allowed 5G role in Italy: Industry minister, Reuters (Rome) 22 December 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-italy-5g-security-patuanelli/huawei-should-be-allowed-5g-role-in-italy-industry-minister-idUSKBN1YQ0D7>.

¹³⁹ The UN Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on Cybersecurity 1st Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 September 2019. Access Date: 2 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002616.html.

¹⁴⁰ Statement by H.E. Mr. Takeshi Akahori, Ambassador in charge of Cyber Policy, Deputy Assistant Minister, Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, At the Open Ended Working Group on Information and Communications, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000515730.pdf>.

¹⁴¹ Statement by H.E. Mr. Takeshi Akahori, Ambassador in charge of Cyber Policy, Deputy Assistant Minister, Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, At the Open Ended Working Group on Information and Communications, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000515730.pdf>.

¹⁴² Japan - US Industrial Control Systems Cybersecurity Training for Indo-Pacific Region Held, Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (Tokyo) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 2 December 2019. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2019/0912_002.html.

¹⁴³ Japan - US Industrial Control Systems Cybersecurity Training for Indo-Pacific Region Held, Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (Tokyo) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 2 December 2019. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2019/0912_002.html.

¹⁴⁴ Japan - US Industrial Control Systems Cybersecurity Training for Indo-Pacific Region Held, Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (Tokyo) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 2 December 2019. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2019/0912_002.html.

On 9 October 2019, Japan and the North Atlantic Trade Organization (NATO), held defence staff talks on cybersecurity to assess current cyber threats and policies.¹⁴⁵ Officials compared notes on current efforts in strengthening cyber defence.¹⁴⁶ They also affirmed commitment in “[supporting] a norms-based, predictable, and secure cyberspace.”¹⁴⁷ Japanese Director of Strategic Planning Division at the Ministry of Defence Kyosuke Matsumoto, said Japan gave priority to “strengthening our cyber defence capability” and Japan valued “effectively cooperate with other like-minded countries to take prompt and appropriate actions against cyberattacks.”¹⁴⁸

On 11 October 2019, Japan hosted the 7th US-Japan Cyber Dialogue in Tokyo.¹⁴⁹ Representatives of both countries reaffirmed their commitment in confronting emerging cyber challenges, including “shared commitment to deter cyber adversaries and malicious cyber activities, to protect the cybersecurity of critical infrastructure, to enhance information sharing, to improve military-to-military cyber cooperation, and to address international security issues in cyberspace.”¹⁵⁰

On 18 October 2019, the Japanese government increased the budget for cybersecurity from JPY71.29 billion to JPY88.11 billion.¹⁵¹ The new budget distributed more fundings for unauthorized communication monitoring, operation cost of the Cyber Security Council, cyber security awareness-raising projects, and international collaboration.¹⁵²

On 29 October 2019, Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) held the 12th Policy Conference on Cyber Security. These countries affirmed commitments on “strengthening information sharing systems and response systems in the event of cyber incidents, promoting initiatives related to protection of critical infrastructure, and [promoting cooperation] in capacity building and awareness awareness.”¹⁵³

On 4 November 2019, Japan and ASEAN issued the Joint Statement of the 22nd ASEAN-Japan Summit on connectivity.¹⁵⁴ These countries declared to “[enhance] cybersecurity capacity building for

¹⁴⁵ NATO and Japan Intensify Dialogue on Cyber Defence, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Brussels) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 2 December 2019. https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_169493.htm?selectedLocale=en.

¹⁴⁶ NATO and Japan Intensify Dialogue on Cyber Defence, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Brussels) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 2 December 2019. https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_169493.htm?selectedLocale=en.

¹⁴⁷ NATO and Japan Intensify Dialogue on Cyber Defence, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Brussels) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 2 December 2019. https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_169493.htm?selectedLocale=en.

¹⁴⁸ NATO and Japan Intensify Dialogue on Cyber Defence, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Brussels) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 2 December 2019. https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_169493.htm?selectedLocale=en.

¹⁴⁹ The 7th Japan-US Cyber Dialogue, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 26 November 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002646.html.

¹⁵⁰ The 7th Japan-US Cyber Dialogue, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 26 November 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002646.html.

¹⁵¹ Government Cybersecurity Budget, National Centre of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity (Tokyo) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.nisc.go.jp/active/kihon/pdf/yosan2020.pdf>.

¹⁵² Government Cybersecurity Budget, National Centre of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity (Tokyo) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.nisc.go.jp/active/kihon/pdf/yosan2020.pdf>.

¹⁵³ Results of the Japan-ASEAN Cybersecurity Policy Conference, National Centre of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity (Tokyo) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. https://www.nisc.go.jp/press/pdf/aseanj_meeting20191119.pdf.

¹⁵⁴ Joint Statement of the 22nd ASEAN-Japan Summit on Connectivity, ASEAN Thailand 2019 (Bangkok) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.asean2019.go.th/en/news/joint-statement-of-the-22nd-asean-japan-summit-on-connectivity-2/>.

ASEAN through the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre and the ASEAN-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence.”¹⁵⁵

On 18 November 2019, Ambassador in Charge of Cyber Security Akahori Takeshi attended the 4th Trilateral Cyber Policy Consultation between Japan, the People’s Republic of China and South Korea.¹⁵⁶ They discussed the current environment in the field of cyber affairs, each country’s policies on cyber issues, and future cooperation on cyber issues.¹⁵⁷

On 18 November 2019, the Cabinet Secretariat Cyber Security Center Tomoo Yamauchi issued a document on 2020 Cyber Security Month.¹⁵⁸ The government planned to raise public awareness on cybersecurity through various public activities during the Cyber Security Month (1 February 2020 to 18 March 2020). Governmental agencies will collaborate with awareness-raising organizations for this event.¹⁵⁹

On 19 November 2019, Minister for Foreign Affairs Motegi Toshimitsu met with the Chairman of Rasmussen Global Anders Fogh Rasmussen.¹⁶⁰ Rasmussen acknowledged Japan as “an important partner for Europe in a global battle for freedom and democracy.”¹⁶¹ He also invited Japan to attend a democracy summit meeting next June in Copenhagen.¹⁶²

On 20 November 2019, Japan hosted the 4th Japan-Russia Cyber Security Consultation in Tokyo.¹⁶³ The representatives discussed the current landscape in cyberspace, and strategies and policies each country’s strategies and policies on cyber issues.¹⁶⁴ They also discussed the issues of cybersecurity in multilateral and regional context and security of critical information infrastructure.¹⁶⁵

¹⁵⁵ Joint Statement of the 22 nd ASEAN-Japan Summit on Connectivity, ASEAN Thailand 2019 (Bangkok) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.asean2019.go.th/en/news/joint-statement-of-the-22nd-asean-japan-summit-on-connectivity-2/>.

¹⁵⁶ The 4th Trilateral Cyber Policy Consultation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002682.html.

¹⁵⁷ The 4th Trilateral Cyber Policy Consultation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002682.html.

¹⁵⁸ With the implementation of Cybersecurity Month 2020 Recruitment of related events, National Centre of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity (Tokyo) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://www.nisc.go.jp/active/kihon/pdf/csm2020kanren.pdf>.

¹⁵⁹ With the implementation of Cybersecurity Month 2020 Recruitment of related events, National Centre of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity (Tokyo) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://www.nisc.go.jp/active/kihon/pdf/csm2020kanren.pdf>.

¹⁶⁰ Meeting between Foreign Minister Motegi and Mr. Rasmussen Chairman of Rasmussen Global (former Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), former Prime Minister of Denmark), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002688.html.

¹⁶¹ Meeting between Foreign Minister Motegi and Mr. Rasmussen Chairman of Rasmussen Global (former Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), former Prime Minister of Denmark), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002688.html.

¹⁶² Meeting between Foreign Minister Motegi and Mr. Rasmussen Chairman of Rasmussen Global (former Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), former Prime Minister of Denmark), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002688.html.

¹⁶³ The 3rd Japan-Russia Cyber Policy Consultation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 26 November 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002687.html.

¹⁶⁴ The 3rd Japan-Russia Cyber Policy Consultation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 26 November 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002687.html.

¹⁶⁵ The 3rd Japan-Russia Cyber Policy Consultation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 26 November 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002687.html.

On 16 January 2020, Japan, represented by Yamaguchi Isamu, the director of Emerging Security Challenges Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, co-chaired the fifth open-ended study group of Asean Regional Forum (ARF) Inter-Sessional Meeting on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) on Confidence Building Measures, with Malaysia and Singapore.¹⁶⁶ The participating experts discussed proposals on a whole range of ICT security issues, including confidence building measures.¹⁶⁷

On 21 January 2020, the Management Committee of ICT Information Sharing and Analysis Centre (ICT-ISAC), headed by Management Committee Chair Satoru Koyama, discussed information sharing initiatives, including collaborations with domestic and international working groups.¹⁶⁸ The committee also discussed the private sector's expectation and issues regarding public-private information sharing.¹⁶⁹

On 23 January 2020, the Cabinet Cyber Security Center collaborated with “Sword Art Online Alicization War of Underworld” (SAO-O) Project to create a tie-up poster and a web banner using characters from the aforementioned animation, to disseminate knowledge and raise awareness about cyber security, especially toward the younger demographic.¹⁷⁰

On 27 January 2020, Japan Internet Providers Association and Japan Network Information Center organized a brief session for the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2019 report, “Is One World, One Net, One Vision Possible?”¹⁷¹ The event planned to discuss “the main agenda items at IGF2019” and the development of Internet governance in Japan.¹⁷²

On 29 January 2020, the Cabinet Cyber Security Center issued a quarterly situation analysis of critical infrastructure.¹⁷³ The report acknowledged the importance of exchanging values and sharing information regarding critical infrastructure and analysis of cybersecurity incidents with stakeholders.¹⁷⁴ The report also suggested cybersecurity policies, such as implementing multifaceted defence, designing countermeasures based on thorough understanding of current attacks, using external services if necessary, and reviewing supply chain risks.¹⁷⁵

¹⁶⁶ ARF-ISM on ICTs Security 5th SG, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002757.html.

¹⁶⁷ ARF-ISM on ICTs Security 5th SG, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002757.html.

¹⁶⁸ ICT-ISAC Initiatives, National Centre of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity (Tokyo) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 1 April 2020. <https://www.nisc.go.jp/conference/cs/ciip/dai21/pdf/21shiryuu04.pdf>.

¹⁶⁹ ICT-ISAC Initiatives, National Centre of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity (Tokyo) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 1 April 2020. <https://www.nisc.go.jp/conference/cs/ciip/dai21/pdf/21shiryuu04.pdf>.

¹⁷⁰ Tie-up with Sword Art Online Alicization War of the Underworld. National Centre of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity (Tokyo) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 1 April 2020. <https://www.nisc.go.jp/security-site/month/sao.html>.

¹⁷¹ Announcement of IGE2019 Report Session-Is One World, One Net, One Vision Possible? Access Date: March 2020. https://japanigf.jp/topics/igf2019_readout.

¹⁷² Announcement of IGE2019 Report Session-Is One World, One Net, One Vision Possible? Access Date: March 2020. https://japanigf.jp/topics/igf2019_readout.

¹⁷³ Situation surrounding critical infrastructure. National Centre of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity (Tokyo) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 1 April 2020. <https://www.nisc.go.jp/conference/cs/ciip/dai21/pdf/21shiryuu05.pdf>.

¹⁷⁴ Situation surrounding critical infrastructure. National Centre of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity (Tokyo) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 1 April 2020. <https://www.nisc.go.jp/conference/cs/ciip/dai21/pdf/21shiryuu05.pdf>.

¹⁷⁵ Situation surrounding critical infrastructure. National Centre of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity (Tokyo) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 1 April 2020. <https://www.nisc.go.jp/conference/cs/ciip/dai21/pdf/21shiryuu05.pdf>.

On 30 January 2020, the Secretariat of Cabinet Cyber Security Center (NISC) Tomoo Yamauchi discussed the formulation of the 2020 cyber security annual plan.¹⁷⁶ The Center asked for the public's input on necessary measures for cyber security.¹⁷⁷

On 31 January 2020, the Fifth Japan-UK Bilateral Consultation on Cyberspace, chaired by Ambassador Akahori Takeshi and Dr. Alexandre Evans, took place in Tokyo.¹⁷⁸ At this meeting, the participants discussed "the latest cybersecurity strategy and efforts," bilateral cooperation on capacity building, and multilateral cooperation in the United Nations.¹⁷⁹

On 7 February 2020, the 13th meeting of the Cyber Security Strategy Division Research and Development Strategy Expert Committee took place in Tokyo.¹⁸⁰ The participants discussed initiatives of ministries and agencies based on "Cyber Security Research and Technology Development Policy" and community formation through industry-academia-government collaboration.¹⁸¹

On 10 February 2020, the Japan-Estonia Summit Meeting took place in Tokyo.¹⁸² Prime Minister Shinzo Abe mentioned a previous collaboration with Estonia regarding ICT.¹⁸³ He also discussed Japanese participation in NATO cyber defence exercises, and the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence hosted by Estonia.¹⁸⁴

On 2 March 2020, the National Centre of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity (NISC) released a Cyber Security Law Q and A Handbook, aimed at informing businesses on "legal issues concerning information handling" and laws "related to cyber security measures and response to incidents."¹⁸⁵

On 2 March 2020, the 12th meeting of the Cyber Security Strategy Headquarters Awareness Promotion/Human Resource Development Special Investigation Committee took place in Tokyo.¹⁸⁶

¹⁷⁶ Call for opinions on measures to be implemented in 2020 based on the Cyber Security Strategy (closed), National Centre of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity (Tokyo) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.nisc.go.jp/active/kihon/cyber-security2020.html>.

¹⁷⁷ Call for opinions on measures to be implemented in 2020 based on the Cyber Security Strategy (closed), National Centre of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity (Tokyo) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.nisc.go.jp/active/kihon/cyber-security2020.html>.

¹⁷⁸ The 5th Japan-UK Consultations on Cyberspace, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002766.html.

¹⁷⁹ The 5th Japan-UK Consultations on Cyberspace, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002766.html.

¹⁸⁰ Cyber Security Strategy Division Research and Development Strategy Expert Committee, the 13th Meeting Agenda, National Centre of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity (Tokyo) 7 February 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.nisc.go.jp/conference/cs/kenkyu/dai13/pdf/13gijishidai.pdf>.

¹⁸¹ Cyber Security Strategy Division Research and Development Strategy Expert Committee, the 13th Meeting Agenda, National Centre of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity (Tokyo) 7 February 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.nisc.go.jp/conference/cs/kenkyu/dai13/pdf/13gijishidai.pdf>.

¹⁸² Japan-Estonia Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 18 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/erp/we/ee/page4e_001177.html.

¹⁸³ Japan-Estonia Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 18 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/erp/we/ee/page4e_001177.html.

¹⁸⁴ Japan-Estonia Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 18 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/erp/we/ee/page4e_001177.html.

¹⁸⁵ About "Cyber Security Law Q & A Handbook," National Centre of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity (Tokyo) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. https://www.nisc.go.jp/security-site/law_handbook/index.html.

¹⁸⁶ Cyber Security Strategy Headquarters Awareness Promotion / Human Resource Development Special Investigation Committee, the 12th meeting agenda, National Centre of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity (Tokyo) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.nisc.go.jp/conference/cs/jinzai/dai12/pdf/12gijishidai.pdf>.

The participants discussed the approaches of the Cyber Security Awareness and Action Enhancement Program, the overview of development of strategic management, the cyber security laws and regulations sub-workings, and to report on group study results.¹⁸⁷

Japan has taken both domestic and international actions towards reinforcing democratic institutions. Japan has acted to reinforce democratic institutions against state and non-state actors. These actions fulfil all four components of the commitment.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Zihan (Alison) Pang

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to “work collaboratively to reinforce G7 democracies against illicit and malign behavior and foreign hostile interference by state and non-state actors.”

From 3 September 2019 to 17 March 2020, the Democracy and Digital Technologies Committee convened 16 times to converse with witnesses about the reconciliation of democracy and digital technologies.¹⁸⁸ Ranging from government officials to industry experts, these witnesses answered various inquiries that the committee may have about misinformation, cybersecurity, digital campaigning, etc.¹⁸⁹

On 18 October 2019, Business Secretary Andrea Leadsom announced that the UK government will be partnering with technology firm ARM, by providing GBP36 million towards a new project to develop computer hardware that is more resistant to cyber attacks.¹⁹⁰ This is the next phase of the UK government’s Digital Security by Design initiative.¹⁹¹

In November 2019, Politico reported that the UK’s electoral laws were insufficient in addressing “clandestine digital political interference.”¹⁹² In the article, Politico quotes special advisor to the UK House of Lords committee on democracy and digital technologies Kate Dommett, who expressed that existing laws have loopholes regarding the verification of “online campaign material,” and that “voters are...at risk” of manipulation and can expect “limited, if any, responses from both regulators and politicians to protect them.”¹⁹³

On 4 November 2019, Digital Minister Matt Warman launched a “call for evidence” to seek views from across the digital sector on how the government can help organizations improve their

¹⁸⁷ Cyber Security Strategy Headquarters Awareness Promotion / Human Resource Development Special Investigation Committee, the 12th meeting agenda, National Centre of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity (Tokyo) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.nisc.go.jp/conference/cs/jinzai/dai12/pdf/12gijishidai.pdf>.

¹⁸⁸ All events, UK Parliament Democracy and Digital Technologies Committee (London) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <https://committees.parliament.uk/work/5/democracy-and-digital-technologies/events/all/?SessionId=0&SortBy=StartDateAscending>.

¹⁸⁹ Committee news, UK Parliament Democracy and Digital Technologies Committee (London) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/407/democracy-and-digital-technologies-committee/news/>.

¹⁹⁰ Confronting cyber threats to businesses and personal data, Government of the UK (London) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/confronting-cyber-threats-to-businesses-and-personal-data>.

¹⁹¹ Confronting cyber threats to businesses and personal data, Government of the UK (London) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/confronting-cyber-threats-to-businesses-and-personal-data>.

¹⁹² UK ignores warnings of digital election interference, Politico (Brussels) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 11 December 2019. <https://www.politico.eu/article/uk-general-election-facebook-misinformation-boris-johnson-interference-russia/>.

¹⁹³ UK ignores warnings of digital election interference, Politico (Brussels) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 11 December 2019. <https://www.politico.eu/article/uk-general-election-facebook-misinformation-boris-johnson-interference-russia/>.

cybersecurity measures.¹⁹⁴ Minister Warman stated that overcoming barriers to improving cybersecurity “can help make the UK the safest place to live and do business online.”¹⁹⁵

On 5 November 2019, Minister for the Cabinet Office Oliver Dowden updated Parliament on numerous actions that the government took “to tackle intimidation” online, especially in relation to electoral matters.¹⁹⁶ In this update, the Minister spoke about the Online Harms White Paper, intended to make online platforms responsible for their user’s illegal activities; to legalize “undue influence of” a voter during elections; to “introduce a digital imprints regime”; and to introduce the Defending Democracy Programme, which aims to “protect...UK democratic processes...from interference, including from cyber...threats.”¹⁹⁷

On 25 November 2019, the Ministry of Justice announced that it was inviting bids for the creation of a centralized cybersecurity log collection and aggregation platform.¹⁹⁸ A spokesperson for the Ministry of Justice stated that the objective of the project is to resolve the Ministry’s inability to “understand the cybersecurity posture of its current estates due to security logs being held in multiple systems.”¹⁹⁹

On 16 December 2019, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that his government will release an Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament (ISC) report on Russian interference during the 2016 UK European Union membership referendum in 2020.²⁰⁰

On 15 January 2020, then Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Baroness Nicky Morgan revealed that the government had invested “1.9 billion pounds to protect the nation online” through the National Cyber Security Strategy.²⁰¹

On 3 February 2020, Baroness Nicky Morgan disclosed that the government committed GBP 2 million “for the pilot of the Future News Fund”²⁰². According to the innovation charity Nesta, who

¹⁹⁴ Call for evidence launched on improving cyber security across the UK economy, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-launched-on-improving-cyber-security-across-the-uk-economy>.

¹⁹⁵ Call for evidence launched on improving cyber security across the UK economy, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-launched-on-improving-cyber-security-across-the-uk-economy>.

¹⁹⁶ Update on tackling intimidation in public life, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/update-on-tackling-intimidation-in-public-life>.

¹⁹⁷ Update on tackling intimidation in public life, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/update-on-tackling-intimidation-in-public-life>.

¹⁹⁸ UK Government Invites Bids for New Cybersecurity Platform, Infosecurity Magazine (London) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/uk-invites-bids-for-cybersecurity/>.

¹⁹⁹ UK Government Invites Bids for New Cybersecurity Platform, Infosecurity Magazine (London) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/uk-invites-bids-for-cybersecurity/>.

²⁰⁰ Boris Johnson approves release of Russian interference report following election win, Independent (London) 17 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/boris-johnson-russia-report-brexit-interference-general-election-release-a9248446.html>.

²⁰¹ Baroness Morgan speaking on how we can make technology work for everyone, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/baroness-morgan-speaking-on-how-we-can-make-technology-work-for-everyone>.

²⁰² Letter from Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Rt Hon Baroness Morgan of Cotes to the Chair, UK Parliament Democracy and Digital Technologies Committee (London) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/407/democracy-and-digital-technologies-committee/publications/3/correspondence/>.

is responsible for the pilot, the project gives “communities in England...access to reliable...news” to protect the UK’s democracy.²⁰³

On 12 February 2020, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport revised the Online Harms White Paper²⁰⁴ This report addresses the “real danger that hostile actors” online can have on the UK’s “democratic values and principles” and outlines the UK government’s intention to establish a “duty of care to make companies...tackle harm caused by content or activity on their services,” invest in new technologies in the field of cybersecurity, and inform citizens about online safety.²⁰⁵

The UK has taken domestic actions towards reinforcing democratic institutions. The UK has acted to reinforce democratic institutions against state and non-state actors. These actions fulfil three of the four components of the commitment.

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

Analyst: Kevin Zuo

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to reinforce democratic institutions against illicit and malign behaviour and foreign hostile interference by state and non-state actors.

On 4 September 2019, US government officials met with representatives of major American technological companies, such as Microsoft, Facebook, Google and Twitter, to discuss strategies for securing the upcoming American election from the kind of foreign interference associated with the 2016 election.²⁰⁶ The discussion revolved around potential threats and threat detection, effective information sharing methods, as well as prevention of disinformation and foreign interference via social media.²⁰⁷ An FBI official stated that the agency, along with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Department of Homeland Security, attended this meeting to explore ways of “protecting democracy and securing the 2020 U.S. state, federal and presidential elections.”²⁰⁸

From 9 to 13 September 2019, the United States hosted the first meeting of the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Cybersecurity in New York City. Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs Ambassador Atul Keshap promised to continue offering cybersecurity, digital economy, and cybercrime workshops for the benefit of many Indo-Pacific nations.²⁰⁹ He has also stated that one of the key goals of this initiative is to ensure that the US and

²⁰³ Government-backed pilot fund to innovate public interest news to protect democracy, Nesta (London) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.nesta.org.uk/news/government-backed-pilot-fund-innovate-public-interest-news-protect-democracy/>

²⁰⁴ Online Harms White Paper, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 February 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/online-harms-white-paper/online-harms-white-paper>.

²⁰⁵ Online Harms White Paper, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 February 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/online-harms-white-paper/online-harms-white-paper>.

²⁰⁶ Big Tech Companies Meeting With U.S. Officials on 2020 Election Security, The New York Times (New York City) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/04/technology/2020-election-facebook-google.html>.

²⁰⁷ Big Tech Companies Meeting With U.S. Officials on 2020 Election Security, The New York Times (New York City) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/04/technology/2020-election-facebook-google.html>.

²⁰⁸ Big Tech Companies Meeting With U.S. Officials on 2020 Election Security, The New York Times (New York City) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/04/technology/2020-election-facebook-google.html>.

²⁰⁹ Industrial Control Systems Cybersecurity Training, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 6 December 2019. <https://www.state.gov/industrial-control-systems-cybersecurity-training/>.

its partners maintain secure networks as well as information and communications technology (ICT) supply chains to reduce the risk of unauthorized access and malicious cyber activity.²¹⁰

On 24 September 2019, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency released an updated National Emergency Communications Plan aimed at improving the US emergency communications capabilities at all levels of government.²¹¹ The update includes the addition of a cybersecurity goal and a focus on integrating new technologies which would improve the U.S. first responders' ability to effectively communicate in real time.²¹² This public safety development will prevent the exacerbation of internal emergencies within the United States due to malign interference in the communications system.²¹³

On 30 September 2019, the United States imposed sanctions on four entities and seven individuals associated with the Russian Internet Research Agency and its financier, Yevgeniy Prigozhin.²¹⁴ The government of the United States promised to ensure that people who “carry out destabilizing activities that threaten the interests of the United States and its allies and partners” are subject to sanctions.²¹⁵ Michael R. Pompeo, Secretary of State, also stated that the US will continue fighting against malign actors who seek to subvert American democratic processes and will impose further punishment on Russian Federation for “its destabilizing and unacceptable activities” because the US will not tolerate foreign interference in its elections.²¹⁶

On 3 October 2019, an inaugural US-ASEAN Cyber Policy Dialogue was held in Singapore. The Statement of the Co-chairs – the US and Laos – supported the 2015 Report of the UN Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and telecommunications in the Context of International Security and emphasized the recommended voluntary norms of behaviour in cyberspace.²¹⁷ Participating delegations, including that of the US, highlighted the importance of capacity building as well as initiatives and programmes related to “the protection of the critical infrastructure, combating cybercrime and terrorist use of ICT.”²¹⁸

On 16 October 2019, Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs David R. Stilwell appeared before the American Senate to discuss the US policy in the Indo-Pacific

²¹⁰ Industrial Control Systems Cybersecurity Training, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 11 September 2019.

Access Date: 6 December 2019. <https://www.state.gov/industrial-control-systems-cybersecurity-training/>.

²¹¹ CISA Releases the Updated National Emergency Communications Plan, CISA (Washington) 25 September 2019.

Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.cisa.gov/cisa/news/2019/09/24/cisa-releases-updated-national-emergency-communications-plan>.

²¹² CISA Releases the Updated National Emergency Communications Plan, CISA (Washington) 25 September 2019.

Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.cisa.gov/cisa/news/2019/09/24/cisa-releases-updated-national-emergency-communications-plan>.

²¹³ CISA Releases the Updated National Emergency Communications Plan, CISA (Washington) 25 September 2019.

Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.cisa.gov/cisa/news/2019/09/24/cisa-releases-updated-national-emergency-communications-plan>.

²¹⁴ U.S. Targets Russian Actors Involved in Efforts to Influence U.S. Elections, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 6 December 2019. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-targets-russian-actors-involved-in-efforts-to-influence-u-s-elections/>.

²¹⁵ U.S. Targets Russian Actors Involved in Efforts to Influence U.S. Elections, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 6 December 2019. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-targets-russian-actors-involved-in-efforts-to-influence-u-s-elections/>.

²¹⁶ U.S. Targets Russian Actors Involved in Efforts to Influence U.S. Elections, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 6 December 2019. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-targets-russian-actors-involved-in-efforts-to-influence-u-s-elections/>.

²¹⁷ ASEAN-US Cyber Policy Dialogue Initiated, GIP Digital Watch Observatory (Geneva) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://dig.watch/updates/asean-us-cyber-policy-dialogue-initiated>.

²¹⁸ ASEAN-US Cyber Policy Dialogue Initiated, GIP Digital Watch Observatory (Geneva) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://dig.watch/updates/asean-us-cyber-policy-dialogue-initiated>.

region.²¹⁹ As part of the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018, the US is providing increased support to its Indo-Pacific partners to help defend their networks from cyber threats, improve the resilience of critical infrastructure, and “counter malicious cyber activities by North Korea, China, cyber criminals, and other state and non-state cyber actors that seek to steal...sensitive information.”²²⁰

On 28 October 2019, the United States formalized a contribution of USD639,015 to the Organization of American States (OAS) Cybercrime Program, which is a training and technical assistance program to train judges, law enforcement, and prosecutors “the admissibility of electronic and digital evidence,” among other purposes.²²¹ Since 2015, this is the third such contribution made by the government of the United States to support the work of the OAS as a shared regional commitment to protect individuals and businesses across the Western Hemisphere from cybercrime and transnational crime.²²²

On 5 November 2019, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) released a joint statement from a number of US government agencies concerning the 2020 election security.²²³ It stated that the federal government prioritizes the sharing of threat intelligence and providing services that improve the security of election infrastructure.²²⁴ The US government is cooperating with all 50 states to identify threats, safely share information, and protect the democratic process.²²⁵ The statement also assures that, despite the current absence of threats to the US elections, the FBI, Department of Homeland Security and other agencies are monitoring cyberspace for suspicious social media campaigns, disinformation operations, or disruptive and/or destructive cyber attacks on state and local infrastructure.²²⁶

On 5 December 2019, the United States and co-host Jamaica completed a three-day cyber capacity development workshop which included 12 Caribbean and Latin American countries.²²⁷ This

²¹⁹ Statement Before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 6 December 2019. <https://www.state.gov/statement-before-the-senate-foreign-relations-committee-subcommittee-on-east-asia-the-pacific-and-international-cybersecurity-policy/>.

²²⁰ Statement Before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 6 December 2019. <https://www.state.gov/statement-before-the-senate-foreign-relations-committee-subcommittee-on-east-asia-the-pacific-and-international-cybersecurity-policy/>.

²²¹ United States Fights Cybercrime With Contribution to Organization of American States Program, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 6 December 2019. <https://www.state.gov/united-states-fights-cybercrime-with-contribution-to-organization-of-american-states-program/>.

²²² United States Fights Cybercrime With Contribution to Organization of American States Program, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 6 December 2019. <https://www.state.gov/united-states-fights-cybercrime-with-contribution-to-organization-of-american-states-program/>.

²²³ Joint Statement from DOJ, DOD, DHS, DNI, FBI, NSA, AND CISA on Ensuring Security of 2020 Elections, CISA (Washington) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.cisa.gov/cisa/news/2019/11/05/joint-statement-doj-dod-dhs-dni-fbi-nsa-and-cisa-ensuring-security-2020>.

²²⁴ Joint Statement from DOJ, DOD, DHS, DNI, FBI, NSA, AND CISA on Ensuring Security of 2020 Elections, CISA (Washington) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.cisa.gov/cisa/news/2019/11/05/joint-statement-doj-dod-dhs-dni-fbi-nsa-and-cisa-ensuring-security-2020>.

²²⁵ Joint Statement from DOJ, DOD, DHS, DNI, FBI, NSA, AND CISA on Ensuring Security of 2020 Elections, CISA (Washington) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.cisa.gov/cisa/news/2019/11/05/joint-statement-doj-dod-dhs-dni-fbi-nsa-and-cisa-ensuring-security-2020>.

²²⁶ Joint Statement from DOJ, DOD, DHS, DNI, FBI, NSA, AND CISA on Ensuring Security of 2020 Elections, CISA (Washington) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.cisa.gov/cisa/news/2019/11/05/joint-statement-doj-dod-dhs-dni-fbi-nsa-and-cisa-ensuring-security-2020>.

²²⁷ The United States Holds Inaugural Cyber Capacity Building Workshop for the Caribbean and Latin America, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-holds-inaugural-cyber-capacity-building-workshop-for-the-caribbean-and-latin-america/>.

innovative workshop, organized by the US, was the first such event in the region and designed to enhance local cybersecurity and combat cybercrime.²²⁸

On 5 December 2019, the US Department of State's Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) Rewards Program announced a USD5 million reward offer for information that could lead to the arrest and/or conviction of Russian cybercriminal Maksim Yakubets, following the Department of Justice's issue of federal indictments against him.²²⁹ Yakubets was involved with several computer malware conspiracies that caused significant damage to the US as well as international financial institutions in both North America and Europe.²³⁰ The TOC Rewards Program is one of the tools used by US authorities to bring major cybercriminals like Yakubets, who pose a national security threat, to justice.²³¹

On 16 January 2020, bill S.3207, titled Cybersecurity State Coordinator Act of 2020, was introduced to the US Senate.²³² This bill would obligate the Department of Homeland Security to appoint a Cybersecurity State Coordinator in each state, who would be responsible for advising on the development of secure infrastructure, serving as the main federal cybersecurity risk advisor, and facilitating the transmission of cyberthreat information between federal and non-federal entities.²³³

On 29 January 2020, bill H.R.5680, titled the Cybersecurity Vulnerability Identification and Notification Act of 2020, passed the House Committee on Homeland Security.²³⁴ This bill proposes to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 by granting the CISA subpoena authority to compel internet service providers to disclose the identity of owners of critical infrastructure whose devices the agency cannot identify otherwise.²³⁵ This information would be used to notify critical infrastructure entities of vulnerabilities in their systems.²³⁶

On 30 January 2020, the US expressed its support for a Toolbox developed by the European Union Network Information Security Cooperation Group.²³⁷ This Toolbox includes an acknowledgment of

²²⁸ The United States Holds Inaugural Cyber Capacity Building Workshop for the Caribbean and Latin America, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-holds-inaugural-cyber-capacity-building-workshop-for-the-caribbean-and-latin-america/>.

²²⁹ Reward Offer for Information on Russian Cybercriminal Maksim Yakubets, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://www.state.gov/reward-offer-for-information-on-russian-cybercriminal-maksim-yakubets/>.

²³⁰ Reward Offer for Information on Russian Cybercriminal Maksim Yakubets, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://www.state.gov/reward-offer-for-information-on-russian-cybercriminal-maksim-yakubets/>.

²³¹ Reward Offer for Information on Russian Cybercriminal Maksim Yakubets, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://www.state.gov/reward-offer-for-information-on-russian-cybercriminal-maksim-yakubets/>.

²³² S. 3207 - Cybersecurity State Coordinator Act of 2020, Congress.gov (Washington) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3207>.

²³³ S. 3207 - Cybersecurity State Coordinator Act of 2020, Congress.gov (Washington) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3207>.

²³⁴ H.R.5680 - Cybersecurity Vulnerability Identification and Notification Act of 2020, Congress.gov (Washington) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5680/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22HR+1%22%5D%7D&r=17&s=1>.

²³⁵ H.R.5680 - Cybersecurity Vulnerability Identification and Notification Act of 2020, Congress.gov (Washington) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5680/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22HR+1%22%5D%7D&r=17&s=1>.

²³⁶ H.R.5680 - Cybersecurity Vulnerability Identification and Notification Act of 2020, Congress.gov (Washington) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5680/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22HR+1%22%5D%7D&r=17&s=1>.

²³⁷ United States Welcomes the EU's Acknowledgement of the Unacceptable Risks Posed by Untrusted 5G Suppliers, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.state.gov/united-states-welcomes-the-eus-acknowledgement-of-the-unacceptable-risks-posed-by-untrusted-5g-suppliers/>.

risks posed by 5G suppliers based in authoritarian countries with previous history of malign cyber behaviour and a recommendation for EU members to exclude such companies from critical parts of their 5G networks.²³⁸ The US welcomed this action by the EU; however, it added that all parts of 5G networks must be viewed as “critical infrastructure” that every country should take steps to protect.²³⁹ The US called upon its European allies to implement EU recommendations, referencing its own measures taken to secure American 5G networks, mainly prohibiting “untrusted suppliers” such as Huawei and ZTE.²⁴⁰

On 10 February 2020, the National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC) released a report, concluding that the US is facing espionage threats from state adversaries, namely China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, the Lebanese Hizballah, ISIS, and al-Qaeda.²⁴¹ This report, titled the National Counterintelligence Strategy for 2020-2022, warns against artificial intelligence, advanced encryption, and the Internet, as the aforementioned adversaries are increasingly using emerging technologies to attack the US private sector and democratic institutions.²⁴² The objectives outlined in this document include “countering cyber and other technological espionage” as well as defending the democratic tradition from covert media campaigns designed to sway Americans’ public opinion against the US government and towards foreign agendas.²⁴³

On 10 February 2020, the Department of Justice issued charges against four members of China’s People’s Liberation Army who stole personal data of millions of American citizens from the US credit agency, Equifax, in 2017.²⁴⁴ Their action was labelled as a “counterintelligence attack” on the US.²⁴⁵ During a subsequent briefing for reporters, NCSC Director William Evanina stated that the diversity and intensity of cyber attacks against the US are increasing, so any individuals involved in them will face severe legal consequences.²⁴⁶

On 11 February 2020, Republican Senators rejected three election-security bills.²⁴⁷ The first one was the Defending Elections from Threats by Establishing Redlines (DETER) Act designed to disincentivize Russia from interfering in the US elections via sanctions.²⁴⁸ The second one was the

²³⁸ United States Welcomes the EU’s Acknowledgement of the Unacceptable Risks Posed by Untrusted 5G Suppliers, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.state.gov/united-states-welcomes-the-eus-acknowledgement-of-the-unacceptable-risks-posed-by-untrusted-5g-suppliers/>.

²³⁹ United States Welcomes the EU’s Acknowledgement of the Unacceptable Risks Posed by Untrusted 5G Suppliers, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.state.gov/united-states-welcomes-the-eus-acknowledgement-of-the-unacceptable-risks-posed-by-untrusted-5g-suppliers/>.

²⁴⁰ United States Welcomes the EU’s Acknowledgement of the Unacceptable Risks Posed by Untrusted 5G Suppliers, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.state.gov/united-states-welcomes-the-eus-acknowledgement-of-the-unacceptable-risks-posed-by-untrusted-5g-suppliers/>.

²⁴¹ U.S. Counterintelligence Chief Warns of Broadening Spy Threat, CBS News (New York City) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/u-s-counterintelligence-chief-warns-of-broadening-spy-threat/>.

²⁴² U.S. Counterintelligence Chief Warns of Broadening Spy Threat, CBS News (New York City) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/u-s-counterintelligence-chief-warns-of-broadening-spy-threat/>.

²⁴³ U.S. Counterintelligence Chief Warns of Broadening Spy Threat, CBS News (New York City) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/u-s-counterintelligence-chief-warns-of-broadening-spy-threat/>.

²⁴⁴ U.S. Counterintelligence Chief Warns of Broadening Spy Threat, CBS News (New York City) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/u-s-counterintelligence-chief-warns-of-broadening-spy-threat/>.

²⁴⁵ U.S. Counterintelligence Chief Warns of Broadening Spy Threat, CBS News (New York City) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/u-s-counterintelligence-chief-warns-of-broadening-spy-threat/>.

²⁴⁶ U.S. Counterintelligence Chief Warns of Broadening Spy Threat, CBS News (New York City) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/u-s-counterintelligence-chief-warns-of-broadening-spy-threat/>.

²⁴⁷ Senate GOP Rejects Election-Security Measures (Yes, Again), MSNBC (New York City) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 11 April, 2020. <https://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-show/senate-gop-rejects-election-security-measures-yes-again-n1135221>.

²⁴⁸ Senate GOP Rejects Election-Security Measures (Yes, Again), MSNBC (New York City) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 11 April, 2020. <https://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-show/senate-gop-rejects-election-security-measures-yes-again-n1135221>.

Securing America's Federal Elections (SAFE) Act that required voting systems to use backup paper ballots and technological safeguards.²⁴⁹ The last one was the Stopping Harmful Interference in Elections for a Lasting Democracy (SHIELD) Act mandating candidates to inform law enforcement officials about a foreign power's offer of campaign assistance.²⁵⁰ The rejection of these bills blocks US efforts to strengthen cybersecurity in the upcoming presidential elections.²⁵¹

On 20 February 2020, the US government condemned a cyber attack against the country of Georgia. This attack was carried out by Russian General Staff Main Intelligence Directorate and disrupted the operation of several thousand Georgian government and private websites as well as interrupting the broadcasts of two television stations.²⁵² The US called on Russia to discontinue its behaviour in Georgia as it undermines democratic institutions and creates uncertainty.²⁵³ The US Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo reiterated that responsible behaviour of countries is key to stable international cyberspace, which the US will continue to uphold.²⁵⁴ Furthermore, the US pledged to support Georgia in improving their cybersecurity by providing technical assistance to strengthen the country's public institutions.²⁵⁵

On 11 March 2020, the Cyberspace Solarium Commission (CSC) published a report that presented a strategic approach to protecting the security of American cyberspace against cyber attacks.²⁵⁶ The CSC proposed "a strategy of layered cyber deterrence," which consisted of more than 80 recommendations.²⁵⁷ These recommendations include reforming the federal government's structure and organization for cyberspace, strengthening non-military cyber tools, promoting national resilience, and enhancing cybersecurity cooperation with the private sector.²⁵⁸

The US has taken domestic and international actions towards reinforcing democratic institutions. The US has acted to reinforce democratic institutions against state and non-state actors. These actions fulfil all four components of the commitment.

Thus, the US receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Nadiya Kovalenko

²⁴⁹ Senate GOP Rejects Election-Security Measures (Yes, Again), MSNBC (New York City) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 11 April, 2020. <https://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-show/senate-gop-rejects-election-security-measures-yes-again-n1135221>.

²⁵⁰ Senate GOP Rejects Election-Security Measures (Yes, Again), MSNBC (New York City) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 11 April, 2020. <https://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-show/senate-gop-rejects-election-security-measures-yes-again-n1135221>.

²⁵¹ Senate GOP Rejects Election-Security Measures (Yes, Again), MSNBC (New York City) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 11 April, 2020. <https://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-show/senate-gop-rejects-election-security-measures-yes-again-n1135221>.

²⁵² The United States Condemns Russian Cyber Attack Against the Country of Georgia, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-condemns-russian-cyber-attack-against-the-country-of-georgia/>.

²⁵³ The United States Condemns Russian Cyber Attack Against the Country of Georgia, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-condemns-russian-cyber-attack-against-the-country-of-georgia/>.

²⁵⁴ The United States Condemns Russian Cyber Attack Against the Country of Georgia, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-condemns-russian-cyber-attack-against-the-country-of-georgia/>.

²⁵⁵ The United States Condemns Russian Cyber Attack Against the Country of Georgia, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-condemns-russian-cyber-attack-against-the-country-of-georgia/>.

²⁵⁶ CSC Executive Summary, United States of America Cyberspace Solarium Commission (Washington) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c1UQI74Js6vkfjUowl598NjwaHD1YtIY/view>.

²⁵⁷ CSC Executive Summary, United States of America Cyberspace Solarium Commission (Washington) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c1UQI74Js6vkfjUowl598NjwaHD1YtIY/view>.

²⁵⁸ CSC Executive Summary, United States of America Cyberspace Solarium Commission (Washington) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c1UQI74Js6vkfjUowl598NjwaHD1YtIY/view>.

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to “work collaboratively to reinforce our democracies against illicit and malign behaviour and foreign hostile interference by state and non-state actors.”

On 19 February 2020, the EU Commission released a white paper regarding artificial intelligence (AI).²⁵⁹ The white paper aims to support Europe’s core values of openness, diversity and democracy.²⁶⁰ President of the EU Commission Ursula von der Leyen outlined the intentions of the white paper, which cover areas including cybersecurity, critical digital infrastructure, democracy and media.²⁶¹

On 19 February 2020, Politico published an article stating that the EU Commission intends on delivering a concrete data strategy framework by the end of 2020.²⁶² The framework would be applied towards “common European data spaces” which could be implemented as early as 2022.²⁶³ The report also mentions the Commission’s goal to implement the Data Act by 2021.²⁶⁴ This new policy would seek to remove existing barriers and introduce rules for business-to-business as well as business-to-government data sharing.²⁶⁵

The EU has taken domestic actions towards reinforcing democratic institutions. The EU has acted to reinforce democratic institutions against state and non-state actors. These actions fulfil three of the four components of the commitment.

Thus, The European Union has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Yousef Choudhri

²⁵⁹ The European Commission has Released their White Paper on Artificial Intelligence today as Promise, Patently Apple (Brussels) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.patentlyapple.com/patently-apple/2020/02/the-european-commission-has-released-their-white-paper-on-artificial-intelligence-today-as-promised.html>.

²⁶⁰ The European Commission has Released their White Paper on Artificial Intelligence today as Promise, Patently Apple (Brussels) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.patentlyapple.com/patently-apple/2020/02/the-european-commission-has-released-their-white-paper-on-artificial-intelligence-today-as-promised.html>.

²⁶¹ The European Commission has Released their White Paper on Artificial Intelligence today as Promise, Patently Apple (Brussels) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.patentlyapple.com/patently-apple/2020/02/the-european-commission-has-released-their-white-paper-on-artificial-intelligence-today-as-promised.html>.

²⁶² Europe’s digital vision, explain, Politico (Arlington) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.politico.eu/article/europes-digital-vision-explained/>.

²⁶³ Europe’s digital vision, explain, Politico (Arlington) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.politico.eu/article/europes-digital-vision-explained/>.

²⁶⁴ Europe’s digital vision, explain, Politico (Arlington) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.politico.eu/article/europes-digital-vision-explained/>.

²⁶⁵ Europe’s digital vision, explain, Politico (Arlington) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.politico.eu/article/europes-digital-vision-explained/>.

3. Digital Economy: Artificial Intelligence

“We will continue to explore ways to advance our work on AI [artificial intelligence] to understand and share, on a regular basis, multidisciplinary research results on artificial intelligence issues and best practices, as well as bringing together international artificial intelligence initiatives.”

Biarritz Strategy for an Open, Free and Secure Digital Transformation

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

Background

Artificial intelligence (AI) is defined as the following, “AI systems are software (and possibly also hardware) systems designed by humans that, given a complex goal, act in the physical or digital dimension by perceiving their environment through data acquisition, interpreting the collected structured or unstructured data, reasoning on the knowledge, or processing the information, derived from this data and deciding the best action(s) to take to achieve the given goal.”²⁶⁶ These systems can derive the processing and reasoning of information through either “symbolic rules or numeric models and can adapt their behaviour by analysing how the environment is affected by their previous actions.”²⁶⁷ The applications of AI can be defined and described in terms of its scope of application. This scope can be either in terms of narrow/weak or general/strong. Narrow AI are systems that can perform one or a few specific tasks.²⁶⁸ General AI are intended to be systems that can perform most activities that humans can do.²⁶⁹ While current AI systems are limited to their application in narrow terms, general AI systems can have broad effects on culture, society and the economy.

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, G7 leaders agreed to the *G7 People-Centered Action Plan on Innovation, Skills and Labor* which acknowledged the role of AI to drive inclusive economic growth and progress.²⁷⁰ The leaders assessed the potential opportunities and challenges for the next product revolution.²⁷¹ To that end, G7 leaders acknowledged the need for production innovation, developing

²⁶⁶ A definition of Artificial Intelligence: main capabilities and scientific disciplines, European Commission (Brussels) 8 April 2019. Access Date: 7 November 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/document.cfm?doc_id=56341

²⁶⁷ A definition of Artificial Intelligence: main capabilities and scientific disciplines, European Commission (Brussels) 8 April 2019. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/definition-artificial-intelligence-main-capabilities-and-scientific-disciplines>

²⁶⁸ A definition of Artificial Intelligence: main capabilities and scientific disciplines, European Commission (Brussels) 8 April 2019. Access Date: 7 November 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/document.cfm?doc_id=56341

²⁶⁹ A definition of Artificial Intelligence: main capabilities and scientific disciplines, European Commission (Brussels) 8 April 2019. Access Date: 7 November 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/document.cfm?doc_id=56341

²⁷⁰ G7 People-Centered Action Plan on Innovation, Skills and Labor, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/action-plan.html>

²⁷¹ G7 People-Centered Action Plan on Innovation, Skills and Labor, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/action-plan.html>

knowledge-based capital and enabling infrastructure and evaluating the future of work.²⁷² The 2017 Taormina Summit marked the first time that the G7 leaders discussed AI.

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, G7 leaders agreed to the *Charlevoix Common Vision for the Future of Artificial Intelligence*.²⁷³ The leaders committed to a common approach to addressing issues on the future of AI, with particular emphasis to foster economic growth, societal trust, gender equality and inclusion.²⁷⁴ The leaders acknowledged that developing a human-centric vision of AI requires a predictable and stable policy environment that encompasses multi-stakeholder engagement.²⁷⁵ The leaders encouraged investments in AI technology to create new opportunities for all people and the development of voluntary codes of conduct, standards or guidelines and the sharing of best practises.²⁷⁶ In addition, the leaders committed to promoting investments in research and development that generates public trust while addressing issues relating to accountability, safety, biases and potential misuse.²⁷⁷

At the 2019 Biarritz Summit, the G7, plus Australia, Chile, India, and South Africa agreed to the *Biarritz Strategy for an Open Free and Secure Digital Transformation*.²⁷⁸ The leaders committed to promoting an open, free and secure digital transformation and recognised the role of the Internet to enable societal and economic development.²⁷⁹ The leaders assessed the potential contributions of AI to provide innovative solutions and progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and current challenges.²⁸⁰ The leaders recognised the potential of AI to transform societies, the global economy, and the future of work to improve the well-being of people, but also the disparate effects regarding privacy and data protection, and the implications for democracy.²⁸¹ In addition, the leaders also committed to exploring advancements in AI to share and understand best practices as well as to bring together international AI initiatives.²⁸²

²⁷² G7 People-Centered Action Plan on Innovation, Skills and Labor, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/action-plan.html>

²⁷³ Charlevoix Common Vision for the Future of Artificial Intelligence, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/ai-commitment.html>

²⁷⁴ Charlevoix Common Vision for the Future of Artificial Intelligence, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/ai-commitment.htm>

²⁷⁵ Charlevoix Common Vision for the Future of Artificial Intelligence, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/ai-commitment.htm>

²⁷⁶ Charlevoix Common Vision for the Future of Artificial Intelligence, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/ai-commitment.htm>

²⁷⁷ Charlevoix Common Vision for the Future of Artificial Intelligence, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/ai-commitment.htm>

²⁷⁸ Biarritz Strategy for an Open, Free and Secure Digital Transformation, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/biarritz-strategy-for-digital-transformation.html>

²⁷⁹ Biarritz Strategy for an Open, Free and Secure Digital Transformation, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/biarritz-strategy-for-digital-transformation.html>

²⁸⁰ Biarritz Strategy for an Open, Free and Secure Digital Transformation, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/biarritz-strategy-for-digital-transformation.html>

²⁸¹ Biarritz Strategy for an Open, Free and Secure Digital Transformation, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/biarritz-strategy-for-digital-transformation.html>

²⁸² Biarritz Strategy for an Open, Free and Secure Digital Transformation, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/biarritz-strategy-for-digital-transformation.html>

Commitment Features

This commitment has two main components.

The first component of this commitment is to “explore ways to advance our work on AI to understand and share multidisciplinary research results on artificial intelligence issues and best practices.” which refers to actions that improve on the understanding of AI and its impacts on society.²⁸³ This includes efforts to untangle the implications of AI on different sections or specific industries of society that do not directly relate to technical issues regarding the implementation or development of AI.

“Explore ways” can be achieved through the development of working groups, intergovernmental research programs, or allocating funding for the exploration of AI with regards to multidisciplinary research.

“Share” refers to the distribution and dissemination of research findings. Examples include the research and development of practices for distribution of the results from nationally funded AI research programs, contributions to AI specific forums and research projects and the outcomes of discussions. Thus, to be measured as compliance, G7 leaders must research, develop and create methods to which information from research findings can be shared amongst each other.

“Multidisciplinary research” is understood as research that encompasses more than one area of study. Examples include research on AI from public policy, science and technology policy, health, consumer protection, education, industry and transport.²⁸⁴

“Artificial intelligence issues and best practices” are understood as ideas, concepts and standards that relate to the study of AI and its implications on society as the product of research, study and relevant discussions. Thus, these research results must be developed as the product of learned experiences for specific issues relating to AI. Examples can include methods to ensure “human centric” values in the development of AI, the development of workflows to remove potential biases and/or the best methods of measuring the impact of AI on agricultural and other jobs.

The second component is “bringing together international artificial intelligence initiatives.”²⁸⁵ “Bringing together” refers to taking actions directed at developing international norms, standards, and common approaches to AI. “International artificial intelligence initiatives” is interpreted as initiatives that involve coordination with external partners that facilitate a common pool of research. Examples include supporting Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development policy initiatives on AI, developing international forums and/or partnerships on AI related issues to facilitate knowledge exchange and the establishment of common legal standards on AI issues.²⁸⁶

To achieve full compliance, G7 members must take actions that support at least three of the four parts of the commitment: 1. explore ways to improve their understanding of the issue; or 2. explore ways to share results; or 3. explore ways to share best practices; or 4. take actions that support the development of international best practices.

²⁸³ Digital Transformation in Africa, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/digital-transformation.html>

²⁸⁴ OECD AI Policy Observatory: A Platform for AI information, evidence and policy options, OECD (Paris) September 2019. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <https://www.oecd.org/going-digital/ai/about-the-oecd-ai-policy-observatory.pdf>

²⁸⁵ Digital Transformation in Africa, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/digital-transformation.html>

²⁸⁶ Canada and France work with international community to support responsible use of artificial intelligence, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 16 May 2019. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2019/05/canada-and-france-work-with-international-community-to-support-responsible-use-of-artificial-intelligence.html>

If only two of four parts of this commitment are fulfilled, members will receive a score of partial compliance. For instance, if a G7 member takes actions towards exploring ways to improve their understanding of the issue and share results, but does not explore ways to share best practices or take actions that support the development of international best practices, the member will receive a score of 0. The same score will be applied if a G7 member explores ways to share results and best practices, but does not examine ways to improve their understanding of the issue or support the development of international best practices; or if the member explores ways to improve their understanding of the issue and share practices, but fails to examine ways to share results or promote the development of international best practices.

A score of -1, no compliance, will be assigned if the G7 member fulfills only one of four parts of the commitment. A score of no compliance will also be assigned if a G7 member takes no action towards any of the four parts of the commitment.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The member has ONLY taken action towards ONE of the four parts of the commitment, OR has NOT taken any action towards any of the four parts of the commitment.
0	The member takes actions towards TWO of the four parts of the commitment and has NOT taken action towards the other parts of the commitment.
+1	The member takes actions towards at least THREE of the four parts of the commitment by exploring ways to improve their understanding of the issue, OR exploring ways to share results, OR exploring ways to share best practices, OR taking actions to develop international best practices.

*Compliance Director: Joe Wu
Lead Analyst: Feaven Abidta*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to explore ways to improve its understanding of artificial intelligence (AI), as well as to share results and best practices.

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and French President Emmanuel Macron established the Global Partnership in Artificial Intelligence, in collaboration with several other countries and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).²⁸⁷ This global partnership will enable policymakers and experts from the industry and academia, to come together to deliberate on further developments in AI and its policy implications.²⁸⁸

On 6 September 2019, Canada's Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Navdeep Bains and Quebec's Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie Nadine Girault announced the creation of a Montreal-based international centre of expertise in AI, as part of the Global Partnership in Artificial Intelligence.²⁸⁹ The Canadian government has committed to investing CAD10 million over five years to support the activities of the centre, while an additional

²⁸⁷ Address by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the G7 Summit, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2019/08/26/prime-minister-concludes-productive-g7-leaders-summit-france>

²⁸⁸ G7 Leaders Summit: Digital Economy and Artificial Intelligence, OECD (Paris) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://www.oecd.org/about/secretary-general/artificial-intelligence-g7-summit-france-august-2019.htm>

²⁸⁹ Government of Canada and Government of Quebec announce the creation of an international centre of expertise in Montreal for the advancement of artificial intelligence, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 6 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic->

CAD5 million in funding will be provided by the Quebec government.²⁹⁰ Once it formally begins its operation, the centre will facilitate collaboration between industry, academia, and civil society, to identify and anticipate issues associated with AI.²⁹¹ The centre's research and analysis will also be aimed at supporting the responsible development of AI, which is based in ethical values, human rights, innovation, and economic growth.²⁹²

On 10 January 2020, Canada's School of Public Service Scott McNaughton released a podcast series titled "Innovate on Demand: Regulatory Artificial Intelligence" available to the general public, in order to better understand how federal regulators can integrate technologies such as AI and Rules as Code into their work.²⁹³ This podcast aims to demystify and improve public understanding of AI policy for all.²⁹⁴

On 14 January 2020, the Government of Canada's Innovation Superclusters Initiative announced ten new AI projects.²⁹⁵ These projects will bring together private companies, academic institutions, and non-for profits organizations, that are examining how artificial intelligence can modernize and enhance productivity in the sectors of shipping, retail trade, aeronautics, and healthcare. The federal government, the Quebec government, and industry partners will invest CAD74.7 million in these projects.²⁹⁶

On 15-16 January 2020, in Toronto, Canada the Canadian Institution for Advance Research, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada and the US Consulate General Toronto held the Canada – US AI Symposium on Economic Innovation.²⁹⁷ The Symposium brought together students, researchers, policy makers, government and industry members to discuss the future of work, data governance and regulatory innovations to support the development of competitive AI strategies.²⁹⁸ The participants agreed to cooperate across the private sector, government, academia and civil society to support measures of competitive develop AI technologies that support economic growth

²⁹⁰ Government of Canada and Government of Quebec announce the creation of an international centre of expertise in Montreal for the advancement of artificial intelligence, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 6 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic->

²⁹¹ Government of Canada and Government of Quebec announce the creation of an international centre of expertise in Montreal for the advancement of artificial intelligence, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 6 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic->

²⁹² Government of Canada and Government of Quebec announce the creation of an international centre of expertise in Montreal for the advancement of artificial intelligence, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 6 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2019/09/government-of-canada-and-government-of-quebec-announce-the-creation-of-an-international-centre-of-expertise-in-montreal-for-the-advancement-of-arti.html>

²⁹³ Innovate on Demand: Regulatory Artificial Intelligence, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 10 January 2020. Access Date: 6 April 2020. <https://www.csps-efpc.gc.ca/podcasts/innovate7-eng.aspx>

²⁹⁴ Innovate on Demand: Regulatory Artificial Intelligence, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 10 January 2020. Access Date: 6 April 2020. <https://www.csps-efpc.gc.ca/podcasts/innovate7-eng.aspx>

²⁹⁵ Supercluster invests in AI's economic potential for Canadians, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 6 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/01/supercluster-invests-in-ais-economic-potential-for-canadians.html>

²⁹⁶ Supercluster invests in AI's economic potential for Canadians, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 6 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/01/supercluster-invests-in-ais-economic-potential-for-canadians.html>

²⁹⁷ Canada-U.S. AI Symposium on Economic Innovation, CIFAR (Toronto) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://www.cifar.ca/ai/ai-society/canada-us-ai-symposium-on-economic-innovation>

²⁹⁸ Canada-U.S. AI Symposium on Economic Innovation, CIFAR (Toronto) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://www.cifar.ca/ai/ai-society/canada-us-ai-symposium-on-economic-innovation>

and regional development in socially responsible methods, that “cultivate public trust” and address societal concerns.²⁹⁹

On 28 January 2020, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada announced that it would launch a consultation process to help ensure the appropriate regulation of AI.³⁰⁰ Through this process, experts in the field will have an opportunity to provide feedback on how existing federal legislation should potentially be reformed in order to enhance the protection of personal data and promote responsible innovation as there continues to be rapid developments in AI.³⁰¹

On 1 February 2020, the Canada-UK Artificial Intelligence Initiative released its funding to program participants.³⁰² The joint initiative launched in June 2019, aimed support AI collaboration to build competitive and resilient economies and maximize social and health benefits.³⁰³ Research participants in the initiative will conduct interdisciplinary research within the fields of social sciences and humanities, health and biomedical sciences, and natural sciences and engineering.³⁰⁴

On 24 February 2020, the Minister of Innovation, Science, and Industry, Navdeep Bains and the British High Commissioner to Canada, Susan le Jeune d'Allegre announced that their respective governments would provide an additional investment of CAD5 million and GBP5 million to fund ten international research teams, under the Canada-UK Artificial Intelligence Initiative.³⁰⁵ These research teams will consist of experts from Canada and the UK, who will work on multidisciplinary projects that examine how AI can be harnessed to combat abusive online language, detect and monitor global disease outbreaks, and other purposes.³⁰⁶

On 1 April 2020, Public Services and Procurement Canada, in partnership with Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, released a list of AI suppliers that can provide responsible and effective AI products and services to the federal government.³⁰⁷

On 28 May 2020, during a virtual ministerial meeting, G7 members agreed to formally launch the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence in order to promote international and multistakeholder cooperation on the responsible and human-centric development of AI, which will reflect shared

²⁹⁹ Canada-U.S. AI Symposium on Economic Innovation, CIFAR (Toronto) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://www.cifar.ca/ai/ai-society/canada-us-ai-symposium-on-economic-innovation>

³⁰⁰ Consultation on the OPC's Proposals for ensuring appropriate regulation of artificial intelligence, Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada (Ottawa) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/about-the-opc/what-we-do/consultations/consultation-ai/pos_ai_202001/

³⁰¹ Consultation on the OPC's Proposals for ensuring appropriate regulation of artificial intelligence, Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada (Ottawa) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/about-the-opc/what-we-do/consultations/consultation-ai/pos_ai_202001/

³⁰² Announcement-Canada-UK Artificial Intelligence Initiative, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Ottawa) 1 February 2020. Access Date: 6 April 2020. <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/51520.html>

³⁰³ Announcement-Canada-UK Artificial Intelligence Initiative, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Ottawa) 1 February 2020. Access Date: 6 April 2020. <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/51520.html>

³⁰⁴ Announcement-Canada-UK Artificial Intelligence Initiative, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Ottawa) 1 February 2020. Access Date: 6 April 2020. <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/51520.html>

³⁰⁵ Canada and the United Kingdom Collaborate on responsible artificial intelligence, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 24 February 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/social-sciences-humanities-research/news/2020/02/canada-and-the-united-kingdom-collaborate-on-responsible-artificial-intelligence.html>

³⁰⁶ Canada and the United Kingdom Collaborate on responsible artificial intelligence, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 24 February 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/social-sciences-humanities-research/news/2020/02/canada-and-the-united-kingdom-collaborate-on-responsible-artificial-intelligence.html>

³⁰⁷ List of interested Artificial Intelligence (AI) Suppliers, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/government/system/digital-government/modern-emerging-technologies/responsible-use-ai/list-interested-artificial-intelligence-ai-suppliers.html>

values and address global challenges. The G7 also further agreed that the immediate focus of the partnership would include responding to and recovering from COVID-19.³⁰⁸

On 15 June 2020, the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence was officially launched by Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, South Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the EU. The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence will be supported by a secretariat that is hosted at the OECD, along with two research centres of expertise, which are located in Montreal and Paris. The centres will provide administrative and research support for projects that are undertaken by experts from various sectors and relate to the following themes: responsible AI, data governance, the future of work, innovation and commercialization. The centres will also organize annual plenary sessions for the expert groups. The first meeting will be held by Canada and is expected to take place in late 2020.³⁰⁹

On June 17 2020, the Minister of Innovation, Science, and Industry, Navdeep Bains announced that the federal government would provide CAD492 million in funding to support research in the natural sciences and engineering fields, including mathematics, computer science, and artificial intelligence.³¹⁰

Canada has taken clear measures to improve its understanding of AI and its impact on society through its funding of various research projects and support for other initiatives. Canada has also explored ways to share results and best practices, through its participation in the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence and the Canada-UK Artificial Intelligence Initiative.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Tiffany Kwok

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to explore ways to improve its understanding of artificial intelligence (AI), as well as to share results and best practices.

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and French President Emmanuel Macron established the Global Partnership in Artificial Intelligence, in collaboration with several other countries and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).³¹¹ This global partnership will enable policymakers and experts from the industry and academia, to come together to deliberate on further developments in AI and its policy implications.³¹²

³⁰⁸ G7 Science and Technology Minister's Declaration COVID-19, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/science/2020-declaration.html>

³⁰⁹ The governments of Canada and Quebec and the international community join forces to advance the responsible development of artificial intelligence, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/06/the-governments-of-canada-and-quebec-and-the-international-community-join-forces-to-advance-the-responsible-development-of-artificial-intelligence.html>

³¹⁰ Government of Canada invests almost \$500 million in science and engineering, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 June 2020. https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Media-Media/NewsDetail-DetailNouvelles_eng.asp?ID=1165

³¹¹ Address by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the G7 Summit, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2019/08/26/prime-minister-concludes-productive-g7-leaders-summit-france>

³¹² G7 Leaders Summit: Digital Economy and Artificial Intelligence, OECD (Paris) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://www.oecd.org/about/secretary-general/artificial-intelligence-g7-summit-france-august-2019.htm>

On 27 September 2019, the Ministry of Finance published the 2020 finance bill, which pledges EU38 million towards research programs on AI.³¹³ The AI program will reinforce and focus on research collaboration between the public and private sector.³¹⁴

On 16 October 2019, during the Franco-German Ministerial Council in Toulouse, Germany and France agreed to reach a joint approach in early 2020 on a common data infrastructure and to explore new data sharing initiatives in specific industries.³¹⁵ A roadmap on AI was presented during the Council.³¹⁶ The four ministries from both sides (in charge of economy and research) finalized the plans for the creation of a “virtual AI network,” with the establishment of a ‘research link’ and a ‘business’ link, to facilitate the transfer of skills and technologies between companies and research institutions on both sides.³¹⁷ A joint working group was also set up to identify common methods for bilateral and multilateral cooperation with the objective of reaching coordinated action on AI standardisation and a common position on AI legislation.³¹⁸

On 28-30 October 2019, France hosted the Global Forum on AI for Humanity in Paris.³¹⁹ This forum served as the formal launch pad for Global Partnership on AI and was attended by policy makers, experts from the industry and academia, and civil society representatives.³²⁰ Participants explored and discussed the various opportunities and challenges associated with AI.³²¹ Participants also deliberated on the best methods and tools to address the challenges raised by AI.³²² At the end of the forum, President Macron also acknowledged the importance of further examining the impact that AI has had on society.³²³

³¹³ Baisser Les Impôts, Préparer L’Avenir 2020, Ministry of Finance (Paris) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=1DC53905-71C2-4CC9-86C6-4B9CC24CF246&filename=Dossier%20de%20presse%20-%20PLF%202020.pdf

³¹⁴ Baisser Les Impôts, Préparer L’Avenir 2020, Ministry of Finance (Paris) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=1DC53905-71C2-4CC9-86C6-4B9CC24CF246&filename=Dossier%20de%20presse%20-%20PLF%202020.pdf

³¹⁵ Franco-German Ministerial Council: new roadmap on economic and financial cooperation, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 30 November 2019. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Europe/Articles/2019-10-16-franco-german-ministerial-council.html>

³¹⁶ Franco-German Ministerial Council: new roadmap on economic and financial cooperation, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 30 November 2019. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Europe/Articles/2019-10-16-franco-german-ministerial-council.html>

³¹⁷ Roadmap for a Research and Innovation Network on Artificial Intelligence between the Governments of the French Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 5 December 2019. https://www.bmbf.de/files/191016_Roadmap_FRA_GER_AI_Network.pdf

³¹⁸ Franco-German Minister Council: new roadmap on economic and financial cooperation, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 30 November 2019. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Europe/Articles/2019-10-16-franco-german-ministerial-council.html>

³¹⁹ Global Forum on AI for Humanity, Embassy of France in Washington DC (Paris) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9413>

³²⁰ Global Forum on AI for Humanity, Embassy of France in Washington DC (Paris) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9413>

³²¹ Global Forum on AI for Humanity, Embassy of France in Washington DC (Paris) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9413>

³²² Global Forum on AI for Humanity, Embassy of France in Washington DC (Paris) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9413>

³²³ Global Forum on AI for Humanity, Embassy of France in Washington DC (Paris) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9413>

On 4 November 2019, the Ministry of Environment published a General Commission for Sustainable Development report, which detailed the benefits of AI to carry out effective data processing and for public policy makers.³²⁴

On 12 November 2019, during the Paris Peace Forum, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian opened the roundtable session on the Alliance for Multilateralism.³²⁵ The Minister reaffirmed the importance of multilateral approaches to digital technology such as AI to appropriately address issues concerning cyberspace which includes a multitude of actors.³²⁶

On 22-23 November 2019, the Secretary of State to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne attended the G20 meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers in Nagoya, Japan.³²⁷ The minister highlighted the regulatory challenges relating to the digital economy, particularly in the areas of corporate tax, AI, and data protection.³²⁸

On 28 November 2019, the French government released the results and findings of the first six AI projects proposed for public service.³²⁹

On 15 January 2020, the French government announced a public call for innovative projects that would examine how AI can be implemented to improve the healthcare system, particularly with regards to medical diagnoses and the management of health data.³³⁰

On 18 February 2020, the government launched the French National Institute for Research in digital sciences (Inria) under the project “Ambition Inria 2023.”³³¹ Through this project, Inria will be undertake research projects that focus on how digital technology, digital security, AI, and quantum computing, can address contemporary challenges.³³² This project forms part of the foundation for

³²⁴ General Commission for Sustainable Development, Ministry of Environment (Paris) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 14 December 2019. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/Th%C3%A9ma%20-%20Challenge%20RST-Analytics%20.pdf>

³²⁵ Paris Peace Forum Roundtable session at the Alliance for Multilateralism, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/our-ministers/jean-yves-le-drian/speeches/article/paris-peace-forum-round-table-session-at-the-alliance-for-multilateralism>

³²⁶ Paris Peace Forum Roundtable session at the Alliance for Multilateralism, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/our-ministers/jean-yves-le-drian/speeches/article/paris-peace-forum-round-table-session-at-the-alliance-for-multilateralism>

³²⁷ G20 Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne’s participation in the G20 Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 23 November 2019. Access Date: 14 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/g20-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-s-participation-in-the-g20-meeting-of-foreign-affairs>

³²⁸ G20 Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne’s participation in the G20 Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 23 November 2019. Access Date: 14 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/g20-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-s-participation-in-the-g20-meeting-of-foreign-affairs>

³²⁹ Proposed Experimented Projects for Public Service, Government of France (Paris) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://static.data.gouv.fr/resources/appel-a-manifestation-dinteret-ia-ndeg1/20191213-134819/20191128-pitch.pdf>

³³⁰ Call for Projects: Let’s innovate to improve the healthcare system thanks to artificial intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/appel-a-projets-innovons-pour-ameliorer-le-systeme-de-sante-grace-a-l-intelligence-artificielle>

³³¹ Inria: for scientific, technological and industrial leadership in digital technology, French government News 24 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/inria-for-scientific-technological-and-industrial-leadership-in-digital-technology>

³³² Inria: for scientific, technological and industrial leadership in digital technology, French government News 24 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/inria-for-scientific-technological-and-industrial-leadership-in-digital-technology>

France's digital strategy to speed up France's scientific and technological leadership in digital technology, as part of a broader Europe wide approach.³³³

On 27 February 2020, France's AI Strategy Report was updated to note that Inria would play a leading role in the national AI strategy and will conduct research on AI and provide annual reports on its coordination activities to the ministerial steering committee of the national AI strategy.³³⁴

On 5 March 2020, the AI France Summit was held in Paris by TECH IN France, in partnership with the Ministry of Economy and Finance.³³⁵ The summit brought together researchers, business officials, and civil servants, to discuss various topics, such as the impact of AI on work and society.³³⁶

On 28 May 2020, during a virtual ministerial meeting, G7 members agreed to formally launch the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence in order to promote international and multistakeholder cooperation on the responsible and human-centric development of AI, which will reflect shared values and address global challenges. The G7 also further agreed that the immediate focus of the partnership would include responding to and recovering from COVID-19.³³⁷

On 15 June 2020, the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence was officially launched by Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, South Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the EU. The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence will be supported by a Secretariat that is hosted at the OECD, along with two research centres of expertise, which are located in Montreal and Paris. The Centres will provide administrative and research support for projects that are undertaken by experts from various sectors and relate to the following themes: responsible AI, data governance, the future of work, innovation and commercialization. The centres will also organize annual plenary sessions for the expert groups. The first meeting will be held by Canada and is expected to take place in late 2020.³³⁸

France has taken clear measures to improve its understanding of AI and its impact on society, through its funding of research projects and forums relating to AI. France has also explored ways to share results and best practices, through its joint initiatives with other G7 members such as Germany and its participation in the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence.

Thus, France has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Jessie Choden Namgyal

³³³ Inria: for scientific, technological and industrial leadership in digital technology, French government News 24 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/inria-for-scientific-technological-and-industrial-leadership-in-digital-technology>

³³⁴ France AI Strategy Report, European Commission (Brussels) 27 February 2020. Access date: 10 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/ai-watch/france-ai-strategy-report_en

³³⁵ AI France Summit, AI France Summit (Paris) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.aifrancesummit.fr/>

³³⁶ Opinion of the Data Ethics Commission, Data Ethics Commission of the Federal Government (Berlin) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 30 November 2019.

³³⁷ AI France Summit, AI France Summit (Paris) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.aifrancesummit.fr/>

³³⁸ G7 Science and Technology Minister's Declaration COVID-19, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/science/2020-declaration.html>

³³⁸ The governments of Canada and Quebec and the international community join forces to advance the responsible development of artificial intelligence, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/06/the-governments-of-canada-and-quebec-and-the-international-community-join-forces-to-advance-the-responsible-development-of-artificial-intelligence.html>

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to explore ways to advance its understanding of artificial intelligence (AI) and share, on a regular basis, multidisciplinary research results on AI issues and best practices, as well as bringing together international AI initiatives.

On 10 October 2019, Germany's federally sponsored Data Ethics Commission published a report that sets out recommendations for how data and algorithmic development should happen in regard to AI.³³⁹ The German government set up the Commission in 2018 to develop ethical guidelines with respect to AI and recommendations for protecting individual rights.³⁴⁰

On 16 October 2019, during the Franco-German Ministerial Council in Toulouse, Germany and France agreed to reach a joint approach in early 2020 on a common data infrastructure and to explore new data sharing initiatives in specific industries.³⁴¹ A roadmap on AI was presented during the Council.³⁴² The four ministries from both sides (in charge of economy and research) finalized the plans for the creation of a “virtual AI network,” with the establishment of a “research link” and a ‘business’ link, to facilitate the transfer of skills and technologies between companies and research institutions on both sides.³⁴³ A joint working group was also set up to identify common methods for bilateral and multilateral cooperation with the objective of reaching coordinated action on AI standardisation and a common position on AI legislation.³⁴⁴

On 10-11 November 2019, during a Cabinet retreat in Meseberg, senior officials from the German government and industry experts discussed concerns relating to AI, particularly with respect to democracy.³⁴⁵ For instance, they addressed the potential use of “deepfakes” during democratic elections – which refers to when AI is used to produce fake videos and audio that appear to be authentic.³⁴⁶ Officials and experts also discussed strategies that could be undertaken in order to address these challenges that AI poses to democracy.³⁴⁷

³³⁹ Opinion of the Data Ethics Commission, Data Ethics Commission of the Federal Government (Berlin) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 30 November 2019. https://www.bmju.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Themen/Fokusthemen/Gutachten_DEK_EN.pdf

³⁴⁰ Opinion of the Data Ethics Commission, Data Ethics Commission of the Federal Government (Berlin) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 30 November 2019. https://www.bmju.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Themen/Fokusthemen/Gutachten_DEK_EN.pdf

³⁴¹ Franco-German Ministerial Council: new roadmap on economic and financial cooperation, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 30 November 2019. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Europe/Articles/2019-10-16-franco-german-ministerial-council.html>

³⁴² Franco-German Ministerial Council: new roadmap on economic and financial cooperation, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 30 November 2019. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Europe/Articles/2019-10-16-franco-german-ministerial-council.html>

³⁴³ Roadmap for a Research and Innovation Network on Artificial Intelligence between the Governments of the French Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 5 December 2019. https://www.bmbf.de/files/191016_Roadmap_FRA_GER_AI_Network.pdf

³⁴⁴ Franco-German Minister Council: new roadmap on economic and financial cooperation, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 30 November 2019. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Europe/Articles/2019-10-16-franco-german-ministerial-council.html>

³⁴⁵ Government retreat focuses on digital issues, Press and Information Office of the Federal Government (Berlin), 20 November 2019. Access Date: 30 November 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/digital-klausur-meseberg-1693590>

³⁴⁶ Government retreat focuses on digital issues, Press and Information Office of the Federal Government (Berlin), 20 November 2019. Access Date: 30 November 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/digital-klausur-meseberg-1693590>

³⁴⁷ Government retreat focuses on digital issues, Press and Information Office of the Federal Government (Berlin), 20 November 2019. Access Date: 30 November 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/digital-klausur-meseberg-1693590>

On 2 December 2019, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy launched the “Regulatory Sandboxes Innovation Prize.”³⁴⁸ The Ministry said the project will support innovation with regulation exemptions or “experimentation clauses” for a “limited time” where new and emerging technologies and their business models are tested in a “real life” environment.³⁴⁹ These regulatory “Sandboxes” will allow for testing of compatibility of legal and regulatory frameworks and new technologies to develop insights where for legal framework improvement.³⁵⁰ These regulatory sandboxes will be used applied to test technologies such as self-driving cars, telemedicine and new e-public administration models.³⁵¹

On 5 December 2019, during an interview conducted by the German broadcasting service Deutsche Welle, Ina Schieferdecker, a junior minister in Germany’s Federal Ministry of Education and Research, defended the “trustworthiness” of AI and technology in general.³⁵² Junior minister Schiefferdecker also called for an interdisciplinary approach to developing AI, involving business, science and education sectors.³⁵³

On 17 January 2020, the German government and the state of Berlin announced that they would be funding the establishment of a new AI research centre.³⁵⁴ The two existing AI research centres at the Technische Universität Berlin, the Berlin Big Data Centre and the Berlin Centre for Machine Learning, will be merged in the newly created Berlin Institute for the Foundation of Learning.³⁵⁵

³⁴⁸ Minister Altmaier: “Spotlighting regulatory sandboxes” - Economic Affairs Ministry awards innovation prize for testing environments for innovation and regulation, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 2 December 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2019/20191202-altmaier-spotlighting-regulatory-sandboxes.html>

³⁴⁹ Minister Altmaier: “Spotlighting regulatory sandboxes” - Economic Affairs Ministry awards innovation prize for testing environments for innovation and regulation, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 2 December 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2019/20191202-altmaier-spotlighting-regulatory-sandboxes.html>

³⁵⁰ Minister Altmaier: “Spotlighting regulatory sandboxes” - Economic Affairs Ministry awards innovation prize for testing environments for innovation and regulation, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 2 December 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2019/20191202-altmaier-spotlighting-regulatory-sandboxes.html>

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³⁵² Minister, what's a European artificial intelligence?, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.dw.com/en/minister-whats-a-european-artificial-intelligence/a-51599207?maca=en-gk_volltext_AppleNews_scitech-16401-xml-atom

³⁵³ Minister, what's a European artificial intelligence?, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.dw.com/en/minister-whats-a-european-artificial-intelligence/a-51599207?maca=en-gk_volltext_AppleNews_scitech-16401-xml-atom

³⁵⁴ Novel cutting-edge AI research Centre in Berlin is funded with millions of euros by the German Government and the State of Berlin, The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin), 17 January 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2019 https://www.research-in-germany.org/news/2020/1/2020-01-17_Novel_cutting-edge_AI_research_Centre_in_Berlin_is_funded_with_millions_of_euros_by_the_German_Government_and_the_State_of_Berlin.html

³⁵⁵ Novel cutting-edge AI research Centre in Berlin is funded with millions of euros by the German Government and the State of Berlin, The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin), 17 January 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2019 https://www.research-in-germany.org/news/2020/1/2020-01-17_Novel_cutting-edge_AI_research_Centre_in_Berlin_is_funded_with_millions_of_euros_by_the_German_Government_and_the_State_of_Berlin.html

On 7 February 2020, the German consulate in New York hosted an event which examined AI ethics.³⁵⁶ The event examined current trends and practices in effectively applying the AI ethics principles of explainability and enforceability.³⁵⁷ Other topics of discussion included social media, big data, and data sovereignty.³⁵⁸

On 28 May 2020, during a virtual ministerial meeting, G7 members agreed to formally launch the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence in order to promote international and multistakeholder cooperation on the responsible and human-centric development of AI, which will reflect shared values and address global challenges. The G7 also further agreed that the immediate focus of the partnership would include responding to and recovering from COVID-19.³⁵⁹

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Germany has taken clear measures to improve its understanding of AI, through its funding of research initiatives and other projects. Germany has also explored ways to share results and best practices, through its joint initiatives with other G7 members such as France and its participation in the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence.

Thus, Germany has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Henry Luo

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to explore ways to improve its understanding of artificial intelligence (AI), as well as to share results and best practices.

On 13 September 2020, the Ministry of Economic Development closed the public consultation period for “Intelligenza Artificiale Verso una strategia nazionale” (National Strategy for Artificial

³⁵⁶ For Better or for Worse? Peter Dabrock Debates AI Ethics, The German Consulates General in the United States (New York), 7 February 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2019 <https://www.germany.info/us-en/embassy-consulates/newyork/-/2305080>

³⁵⁷ For Better or for Worse? Peter Dabrock Debates AI Ethics, The German Consulates General in the United States (New York), 7 February 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2019 <https://www.germany.info/us-en/embassy-consulates/newyork/-/2305080>

³⁵⁸ For Better or for Worse? Peter Dabrock Debates AI Ethics, The German Consulates General in the United States (New York), 7 February 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2019 <https://www.germany.info/us-en/embassy-consulates/newyork/-/2305080>

³⁵⁹ G7 Science and Technology Minister’s Declaration COVID-19, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/science/2020-declaration.html>

³⁶⁰ The governments of Canada and Quebec and the international community join forces to advance the responsible development of artificial intelligence, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/06/the-governments-of-canada-and-quebec-and-the-international-community-join-forces-to-advance-the-responsible-development-of-artificial-intelligence.html>

Intelligence).³⁶¹ The National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence identifies nine objectives including: increasing public and private collaboration; developing a research and innovation ecosystem; supporting the adoption of digital technologies; placing AI in the workforce; consolidating an ethical regulatory framework; promoting trust and awareness in AI among citizens and fostering European and International cooperation for responsible and inclusive AI.³⁶²

On 22 November 2019, Italian President Conte gave a speech at the “Conferenza statuto etico e giuridico dell’intelligenza artificiale” (Conference on the ethical and legal status of artificial intelligence) in the Chamber of Deputies.³⁶³ In his speech, President Conte called for the need to address AI from a regulatory and political point of view to preserve the role for the human in society and to protect their “cultural and material wealth.”³⁶⁴ President Conte also called for the study and research to address the needs of small and medium size businesses from the impacts of AI and technological innovation.³⁶⁵

On 28 February 2020, in Rome, Italy, the Italian Government alongside the Pontifical Academy for Life of the Vatican City, Microsoft, IBM, and the FAO signed the “Rome Call for AI Ethics.”³⁶⁶ The document aims to support the development of an ethical approach to AI which “promotes a sense of responsibility” for governments, organizations and institutions which serve human creativity.³⁶⁷

On 2 March 2020, the UK- Italy robotics and AI research collaboration workshop between the UK Turing Institute, Consorzio Interuniversitario Nazionale per Informatica (CINI) – Laboratorio Nazionale di Artificial Intelligence and Intelligent Systems, Centro di Competenza ad Alta Specializzazione in Industria 4.0 e Robotica (Artes 4.0) and Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia (IIT) postponed its workshop due to be held on 18-19 March 2020 due to COVID-19.³⁶⁸ The workshop was to be held at the residence of the British Ambassador in Rome.³⁶⁹ The workshop aimed to bring together leading researchers in AI from Italy and the UK to identify topics of collaboration and establish a basis for future joint venture activities in AI.³⁷⁰

³⁶¹ Consultazione sulla Strategia nazionale per l’Intelligenza Artificiale, Governo Italiano (Rome), 5 September 2019. Access Date: 2 May 2020. <http://www.governo.it/it/articolo/consultazione-sulla-strategia-nazionale-l-intelligenza-artificiale/12694>

³⁶² Consultazione sulla Strategia nazionale per l’Intelligenza Artificiale, Governo Italiano (Rome), 5 September 2019. Access Date: 2 May 2020. <http://www.governo.it/it/articolo/consultazione-sulla-strategia-nazionale-l-intelligenza-artificiale/12694>

³⁶³ Intervento del Presidente Conte alla Conferenza sullo statuto etico e giuridico dell’intelligenza artificiale, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri (Rome), 22 November 2019. Access Date: 2 May 2020.

<http://www.governo.it/it/articolo/intervento-del-presidente-conte-alla-conferenza-sullo-statuto-etico-e-giuridico-dell>

³⁶⁴ Intervento del Presidente Conte alla Conferenza sullo statuto etico e giuridico dell’intelligenza artificiale, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri (Rome), 22 November 2019. Access Date: 2 May 2020.

<http://www.governo.it/it/articolo/intervento-del-presidente-conte-alla-conferenza-sullo-statuto-etico-e-giuridico-dell>

³⁶⁵ Intervento del Presidente Conte alla Conferenza sullo statuto etico e giuridico dell’intelligenza artificiale, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri (Rome), 22 November 2019. Access Date: 2 May 2020.

<http://www.governo.it/it/articolo/intervento-del-presidente-conte-alla-conferenza-sullo-statuto-etico-e-giuridico-dell>

³⁶⁶ AI ethics backed by Pope and tech giants in new plan, BBC (London), 28 February 2020. Access Date 27 April 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-51673296>

³⁶⁷ Rome Call for AI Ethics, Pontifical Academy for Life (Vatican City), 28 February 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020

http://www.academyforlife.va/content/dam/pav/documenti%20pdf/2020/CALL%2028%20febbraio/AI%20Rome%20Call%20x%20firma_DEF_DEF_.pdf

³⁶⁸ UK-Italy robotics and AI research collaboration workshop, The Alan Turing Institute (London), 2 March 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2020. <https://www.turing.ac.uk/events/uk-italy-robotics-and-ai-research-collaboration-workshop>

³⁶⁹ UK-Italy robotics and AI research collaboration workshop, The Alan Turing Institute (London), 2 March 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2020. <https://www.turing.ac.uk/events/uk-italy-robotics-and-ai-research-collaboration-workshop>

³⁷⁰ UK-Italy robotics and AI research collaboration workshop, The Alan Turing Institute (London), 2 March 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2020. <https://www.turing.ac.uk/events/uk-italy-robotics-and-ai-research-collaboration-workshop>

On 14 January 2020, CINI and NVIDIA signed a three-year joint collaboration partnership aimed to accelerate AI research and commercial adoption across Italy.³⁷¹ The initiative has an estimated value of EUR2 million over three years.³⁷² The initiative will create a local research hub at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (Unimore) and aims to train students, nurture start-ups and spread adoption of AI technology in industry.³⁷³

On 23 March 2020, the government of Italy announced the “Innova per l’Italia” initiative, which encourages companies, universities, research centers, and other organizations to contribute products and technologies that can help the fight against COVID-19.³⁷⁴ Through this initiative, the Italian government is seeking to utilize artificial intelligence and other technology to more effectively monitor and contain the spread of the virus.³⁷⁵

On 28 May 2020, during a virtual ministerial meeting, G7 members agreed to formally launch the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence in order to promote international and multistakeholder cooperation on the responsible and human-centric development of AI, which will reflect shared values and address global challenges. The G7 also further agreed that the immediate focus of the partnership would include responding to and recovering from COVID-19.³⁷⁶

On 15 June 2020, the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence was officially launched by Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, South Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union. The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence will be supported by a secretariat that is hosted at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, along with two research centres of expertise, which are located in Montreal and Paris. The centres will provide administrative and research support for projects that are undertaken by experts from various sectors and relate to the following themes: responsible AI, data governance, the future of work, innovation and commercialization. The centres will also organize annual plenary sessions for the expert groups. The first meeting will be held by Canada and is expected to take place in late 2020.³⁷⁷

On 2 July 2020, the Ministry of Economic Development published the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence. This document was produced by a group of experts that were selected by the Ministry and it also incorporated suggestions that were provided during a public consultation process

³⁷¹ Italy Forges AI Future in Partnership with NVIDIA, NVIDIA (Santa Clara), 15 January 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2020. <https://blogs.nvidia.com/blog/2020/01/15/italy-ai-nvaitc/>

³⁷² La prima sede italiana di NVIDIA AI Technology Center apre in Unimore, Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia Magazine (Modena), 14 January 2020, Access Date: 2 May 2020. <https://www.magazine.unimore.it/site/home/notizie/articolo820052606.html>

³⁷³ Italy Forges AI Future in Partnership with NVIDIA, NVIDIA (Santa Clara), 15 January 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2020. <https://blogs.nvidia.com/blog/2020/01/15/italy-ai-nvaitc/>

³⁷⁴ Innova per l’Italia: technology, research and innovation against the COVID emergency, Ministry for Technological Innovation and Digitization (Rome), 23 March 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2020.

<https://innovazione.gov.it/innova-per-l-italia-technology-research-and-innovation-against-the-covid-emergency/>
³⁷⁵ Innova per l’Italia: technology, research and innovation against the COVID emergency, Ministry for Technological Innovation and Digitization (Rome), 23 March 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2020.

<https://innovazione.gov.it/innova-per-l-italia-technology-research-and-innovation-against-the-covid-emergency/>
³⁷⁶ G7 Science and Technology Minister’s Declaration COVID-19, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/science/2020-declaration.html>

³⁷⁷ The governments of Canada and Quebec and the international community join forces to advance the responsible development of artificial intelligence, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/06/the-governments-of-canada-and-quebec-and-the-international-community-join-forces-to-advance-the-responsible-development-of-artificial-intelligence.html>

that took place the previous year.³⁷⁸ This document outlines the elements of the National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence and offers recommendations for its implementation. For instance, the strategy calls for increased public and private investment in AI; strengthening research and education in the field of AI; establishing regulatory frameworks; and promoting international and European cooperation for the responsible and sustainable development of AI among other suggestions.³⁷⁹

Italy has taken clear measures to enhance its understanding of AI, through its support for various research initiatives and projects. Italy has also explored ways to share results and best practices, through its participation in the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence and other initiatives.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Tigran Abelyan

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to improve its understanding of AI as well as explore ways to share results and best practices.

On 29 August 2019, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Kenji Yamada committed to working with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for AI application and capacity-building in Africa, at the Seventh Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD).³⁸⁰ The main focus of TICAD was to promote business for both countries involved, with the theme of “Advancing Africa’s development through people, technology and innovation.”³⁸¹ The panel discussion revolved around African AI prospects and challenges, and it also explored how AI could potentially be used in areas of disaster reduction.³⁸² Japan also committed to continuing to work with and support UNESCO as it develops ethical guidelines for AI.³⁸³

On 19 September 2019, at the Alan Turing Institute in London, the United Kingdom government in partnership with the Japanese government held a workshop in the fields of robotics, AI and the ethical use of data.³⁸⁴ The workshop involved over 130 participants including academic researchers from Japan and industry representatives from Japan and the UK.³⁸⁵ The workshop recognised the

³⁷⁸ Artificial Intelligence: the strategy is online, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/per-i-media/notizie/2041246-intelligenza-artificiale-online-la-strategia>

³⁷⁹ The Italian strategy on AI: what to do and how to do it, AI4Business (Milan) 15 July 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. https://www.ai4business.it/intelligenza-artificiale/la-strategia-italiana-sulla-ai-cosa-fare-e-come-farlo/#_tre_pilastr_i_della_Strategia_italiana

³⁸⁰ Japan renews commitment to UNESCO through enhanced cooperation on artificial intelligence and cultural diversity, UNESCO (Paris) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. <https://en.unesco.org/news/japan-renews-commitment-unesco-through-enhanced-cooperation-artificial-intelligence-and>

³⁸¹ The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000521256.pdf>

³⁸² The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000521256.pdf>

³⁸³ TICAD7 official side event “Panel Discussion on AI Utilization”, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/pr_pd/mcc/page4e_001090.html

³⁸⁴ UK-Japan robotics and AI workshops produce promising collaboration in health, transport and smart city infrastructure. Alan Turing Institute (London). 19 September 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. <https://www.turing.ac.uk/research/research-programmes/artificial-intelligence-robotics/programme-articles/uk-japan-robotics-and-ai-workshops-produce-promising-collaborations-health-transport-and-smart-city>

³⁸⁵ UK-Japan robotics and AI workshops produce promising collaboration in health, transport and smart city infrastructure. Alan Turing Institute (London). 19 September 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. <https://www.turing.ac.uk/research/research-programmes/artificial-intelligence-robotics/programme-articles/uk-japan-robotics-and-ai-workshops-produce-promising-collaborations-health-transport-and-smart-city>

need to share and develop solutions on using data legally, ethically and safely while facilitating technological breakthroughs in scalable deployment of algorithms.³⁸⁶ The participants identified key potential impact areas for AI and robotics including “sustaining the health of aging populations; infrastructure inspection repair and maintenance in extreme environment; mitigating climate change; and managing transport systems within smart cities.”³⁸⁷

On 10-11 October 2019, during the tenth US-Japan Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy in Tokyo, the US and Japan emphasised their commitment to an open, interoperable, reliable and secure internet and the global digital economy policy environment.³⁸⁸ The dialogue included discussions with public and private sector representatives on “public-private partnerships regarding the social implementation of artificial intelligence [AI] in a manner that fosters public trust in AI.”³⁸⁹ The U.S. and Japan reaffirmed their commitment to international policy discussions for an inclusive, open and transparent system of internet governance based on a multi-stakeholder approach.³⁹⁰ Furthermore, both countries also emphasised the importance of sharing best practises of the results of social implementation on AI at international forums.³⁹¹

On 3 December 2019, in Paris, France, the UNESCO held a roundtable on the topic of the “Changing Relationship between Artificial Intelligence and Humans.”³⁹² The roundtable is part of a series of events hosted by the UNESCO with funding from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan.³⁹³ The roundtable aimed to address issues relating to AI assisted decision making and the impact of AI on human communications for policy makers, researchers, and the general public.³⁹⁴

³⁸⁶ UK-Japan robotics and AI workshops produce promising collaboration in health, transport and smart city infrastructure. Alan Turing Institute (London). 19 September 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. <https://www.turing.ac.uk/research/research-programmes/artificial-intelligence-robotics/programme-articles/uk-japan-robotics-and-ai-workshops-produce-promising-collaborations-health-transport-and-smart-city>

³⁸⁷ UK-Japan robotics and AI workshops produce promising collaboration in health, transport and smart city infrastructure. Alan Turing Institute (London). 19 September 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. <https://www.turing.ac.uk/research/research-programmes/artificial-intelligence-robotics/programme-articles/uk-japan-robotics-and-ai-workshops-produce-promising-collaborations-health-transport-and-smart-city>

³⁸⁸ Joint Statement on the 10th U.S.- Japan Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy, Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry of Japan (Tokyo). 11 October 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. <https://www.meti.go.jp/press/2019/10/20191018005/20191018006-2.pdf>

³⁸⁹ Tenth U.S.-Japan Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy Held, Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2019/1018_005.html

³⁹⁰ Joint Statement on the 10th U.S.- Japan Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy, Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry of Japan (Tokyo). 11 October 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. <https://www.meti.go.jp/press/2019/10/20191018005/20191018006-2.pdf>

³⁹¹ Joint Statement on the 10th U.S.- Japan Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy, Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry of Japan (Tokyo). 11 October 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. <https://www.meti.go.jp/press/2019/10/20191018005/20191018006-2.pdf>

³⁹² Roundtable on “Changing Relationships between Artificial Intelligence and Humans”, UNESCO (Paris) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. <https://en.unesco.org/events/roundtable-changing-relationship-between-artificial-intelligence-and-humans>

³⁹³ Roundtable on “Changing Relationships between Artificial Intelligence and Humans”, UNESCO (Paris) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. <https://en.unesco.org/events/roundtable-changing-relationship-between-artificial-intelligence-and-humans>

³⁹⁴ Roundtable on “Changing Relationships between Artificial Intelligence and Humans”, UNESCO (Paris) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. <https://en.unesco.org/events/roundtable-changing-relationship-between-artificial-intelligence-and-humans>

On 5 December 2019 in Brussels, Belgium, the European Union and Japan co-chaired the fifth Joint Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation.³⁹⁵ The EU and Japan recognized research and innovation as key areas of cooperation and explored priority areas for future collaboration.³⁹⁶ Subsequently, the EU and Japan reviewed the results from previous collaborations and discussed present activities, new initiatives, and ways to strengthen future thematic cooperation in AI among other areas.³⁹⁷

On 22 January 2020, the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) through the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) announced the launch of six joint Japanese-UK research projects with the Japanese Science and Technology Agency (JST).³⁹⁸ These research projects will investigate the impacts of AI technologies effect on society, culture and economy for a duration of three years beginning in January 2020.³⁹⁹ The projects aim to improve the understanding of how AI technologies could affect people's lives in healthcare, housework and the ethics of AI driven legal decision making.⁴⁰⁰ The projects are funded through the joint UK-Japan initiative of the UKRI Fund for International Collaboration with a GBP2.4 million contribution from the UKRI and YEN180 million from the JST.⁴⁰¹

In February 2020, the JST announced a call for proposal for the Moonshot research and development program.⁴⁰² Through this program, the Japanese government has committed to spending YEN100 billion over five years to fund research on how technological innovations and further development in AI can address contemporary challenges, such as the early detection and prevention of infectious diseases.⁴⁰³

On 19 February 2020, the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Kajiyama Hiroshi held a meeting with the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization Director, Francis

³⁹⁵ The 5th Joint Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the EU and Japan Joint Summary. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/dns/isc/page22e_000937.html

³⁹⁶ The 5th Joint Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the EU and Japan Joint Summary. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/dns/isc/page22e_000937.html

³⁹⁷ The 5th Joint Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the EU and Japan Joint Summary. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/dns/isc/page22e_000937.html

³⁹⁸ UK-Japanese projects to explore effects of AI on society and economy. UK Research Institute Economic and Social Research Council (London) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://esrc.ukri.org/news-events-and-publications/news/news-items/uk-japanese-projects-to-explore-effects-of-ai-on-society-and-economy/>

³⁹⁹ UK-Japanese projects to explore effects of AI on society and economy. UK Research Institute Economic and Social Research Council (London) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://esrc.ukri.org/news-events-and-publications/news/news-items/uk-japanese-projects-to-explore-effects-of-ai-on-society-and-economy/>

⁴⁰⁰ UK-Japanese projects to explore effects of AI on society and economy. UK Research Institute Economic and Social Research Council (London) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://esrc.ukri.org/news-events-and-publications/news/news-items/uk-japanese-projects-to-explore-effects-of-ai-on-society-and-economy/>

⁴⁰¹ UK-Japanese projects to explore effects of AI on society and economy. UK Research Institute Economic and Social Research Council (London) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://esrc.ukri.org/news-events-and-publications/news/news-items/uk-japanese-projects-to-explore-effects-of-ai-on-society-and-economy/>

⁴⁰² Moonshot: Announcing Calls for Proposals, Japanese Science and Technology Agency (Tokyo) February 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.jst.go.jp/moonshot/en/application/>

⁴⁰³ Moonshot: Announcing Calls for Proposals, Japanese Science and Technology Agency (Tokyo) February 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.jst.go.jp/moonshot/en/application/>

Gurry.⁴⁰⁴ The two leaders agreed on the importance on sharing knowledge and information in order to better protect intellectual property related to emerging technologies such as AI.⁴⁰⁵

On 28 May 2020, during a virtual ministerial meeting, G7 members agreed to formally launch the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence in order to promote international and multistakeholder cooperation on the responsible and human-centric development of AI, which will reflect shared values and address global challenges. The G7 also further agreed that the immediate focus of the partnership would include responding to and recovering from COVID-19.⁴⁰⁶

On 15 June 2020, the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence was officially launched by Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, South Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the EU. The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence will be supported by a secretariat that is hosted at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, along with two research centres of expertise, which are located in Montreal and Paris. The centres will provide administrative and research support for projects that are undertaken by experts from various sectors and relate to the following themes: responsible AI, data governance, the future of work, innovation and commercialization. The centres will also organize annual plenary sessions for the expert groups. The first meeting will be held by Canada and is expected to take place in late 2020.⁴⁰⁷

Japan has taken clear measures to enhance its understanding of AI through its support of various research initiatives. It has also explored ways to share results and best practices with various international partners.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Tiffany Kwok

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to take actions that improve on its understanding of AI and its impacts on society as well as explore ways to share results and best practices.

On 19 September 2019, at the Alan Turing Institute in London, the UK government in partnership with the Japanese government held a workshop in the fields of robotics, AI and the ethical use of data.⁴⁰⁸ The workshop involved over 130 participants including academic researchers from Japan and

⁴⁰⁴ Minister Kajiyama Holds Meeting with WIPO Director General Gurry, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0219_001.html

⁴⁰⁵ Minister Kajiyama Holds Meeting with WIPO Director General Gurry, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0219_001.html

⁴⁰⁶ G7 Science and Technology Minister's Declaration COVID-19, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/science/2020-declaration.html>

⁴⁰⁷ The governments of Canada and Quebec and the international community join forces to advance the responsible development of artificial intelligence, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/06/the-governments-of-canada-and-quebec-and-the-international-community-join-forces-to-advance-the-responsible-development-of-artificial-intelligence.html>

⁴⁰⁸ UK-Japan robotics and AI workshops produce promising collaboration in health, transport and smart city infrastructure. Alan Turing Institute (London). 19 September 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. <https://www.turing.ac.uk/research/research-programmes/artificial-intelligence-robotics/programme-articles/uk-japan-robotics-and-ai-workshops-produce-promising-collaborations-health-transport-and-smart-city>

industry representatives from Japan and the UK.⁴⁰⁹ The workshop recognised the need to share and develop solutions on using data legally, ethically, and safely while facilitating technological breakthroughs in scalable deployment of algorithms.⁴¹⁰ The participants identified key potential impact areas for AI and robotics including “sustaining the health of aging populations; infrastructure inspection repair and maintenance in extreme environment; mitigating climate change; and managing transport systems within smart cities.”⁴¹¹

On 18 October 2019, the UK government updated their guide to using AI in the public sector, sharing best practices regarding the use of AI.⁴¹² A new case study was added in “Examples of Artificial Intelligence Use” which detailed the use of AI in a UK based bank to reduce the duration of a compliance process.⁴¹³ The application of AI allowed the bank to automate its internal compliance processes to improve compliance risk, accuracy risk and processing time in accordance to regulatory compliance requirements.⁴¹⁴

On 20 October 2019, the United Kingdom will be the first country to pilot government procurement guidelines published by the World Economic Forum.⁴¹⁵ The guidelines aim to aid governments in optimizing the use of AI in the public sector, as well as answering and mitigating concerns regarding rapid AI development.⁴¹⁶

On 24 October 2019, the United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI) promoted applications to the Turing AI Fellowship.⁴¹⁷ The Fellowship encourages research and development in the AI sector in both the study of AI and the applications of it.⁴¹⁸

⁴⁰⁹ UK-Japan robotics and AI workshops produce promising collaboration in health, transport and smart city infrastructure. Alan Turing Institute (London). 19 September 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. <https://www.turing.ac.uk/research/research-programmes/artificial-intelligence-robotics/programme-articles/uk-japan-robotics-and-ai-workshops-produce-promising-collaborations-health-transport-and-smart-city>

⁴¹⁰ UK-Japan robotics and AI workshops produce promising collaboration in health, transport and smart city infrastructure. Alan Turing Institute (London). 19 September 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. <https://www.turing.ac.uk/research/research-programmes/artificial-intelligence-robotics/programme-articles/uk-japan-robotics-and-ai-workshops-produce-promising-collaborations-health-transport-and-smart-city>

⁴¹¹ UK-Japan robotics and AI workshops produce promising collaboration in health, transport and smart city infrastructure. Alan Turing Institute (London). 19 September 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. <https://www.turing.ac.uk/research/research-programmes/artificial-intelligence-robotics/programme-articles/uk-japan-robotics-and-ai-workshops-produce-promising-collaborations-health-transport-and-smart-city>

⁴¹² A guide to using artificial intelligence in the public sector, UK Government (London) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/a-guide-to-using-artificial-intelligence-in-the-public-sector#history>

⁴¹³ A guide to using artificial intelligence in the public sector, UK Government (London) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/a-guide-to-using-artificial-intelligence-in-the-public-sector#history>

⁴¹⁴ A guide to using artificial intelligence in the public sector, UK Government (London) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/a-guide-to-using-artificial-intelligence-in-the-public-sector#history>

⁴¹⁵ UK Government First to Pilot AI Procurement Guidelines Co-Designed with World Economic Forum, World Economic Forum (Geneva) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.weforum.org/press/2019/09/uk-government-first-to-pilot-ai-procurement-guidelines-co-designed-with-world-economic-forum/>

⁴¹⁶ UK Government First to Pilot AI Procurement Guidelines Co-Designed with World Economic Forum, World Economic Forum (Geneva) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.weforum.org/press/2019/09/uk-government-first-to-pilot-ai-procurement-guidelines-co-designed-with-world-economic-forum/>

⁴¹⁷ Turing AI Fellowships to keep UK at forefront of Artificial Intelligence, UK Research and Innovation (London) 24 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.ukri.org/news/turing-ai-fellowships-to-keep-uk-at-forefront-of-artificial-intelligence-revolution1/>

On 22 January 2020, the UKRI through the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) announced the

launch of six joint Japanese-UK research projects with the Japanese Science and Technology Agency (JST).⁴¹⁹ These research projects will investigate the impacts of AI technologies effect on society, culture and economy for a duration of three years beginning in January 2020.⁴²⁰ The projects aim to improve the understanding of how AI technologies could affect people's lives in healthcare, housework and the ethics of AI driven legal decision making.⁴²¹ The projects are funded through the joint UK-Japan initiative of the UKRI Fund for International Collaboration with a GBP2.4 million contribution from the UKRI and YEN180 million from the JST.⁴²²

On 1 February 2020, the Canada-UK Artificial Intelligence Initiative released its funding to program participants. The joint initiative launched in June 2019, aimed support AI collaboration to build competitive and resilient economies and maximize social and health benefits.⁴²³ Research participants in the initiative will conduct interdisciplinary research within the fields of social sciences and humanities, health and biomedical sciences, and natural sciences and engineering.⁴²⁴

On 10 February 2020, the UK Government's Committee on Standards in Public Life published its report on AI and its impact on public service standards.⁴²⁵ This report analyzes how AI can be utilized to enhance efficiency, accuracy, and effectiveness in the provision of public services.⁴²⁶ The report also examines the potential negative implications of the growing use of AI in the public sector and provides several recommendations on how to mitigate these risks, such as establishing additional safeguards, regulations, and more clearly defined ethical guidelines to address concerns regarding data bias and transparency.⁴²⁷

⁴¹⁸ Turing AI Fellowships to keep UK at forefront of Artificial Intelligence, UK Research and Innovation (London) 24 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.ukri.org/news/turing-ai-fellowships-to-keep-uk-at-forefront-of-artificial-intelligence-revolution1/>

⁴¹⁹ UK-Japanese projects to explore effects of AI on society and economy. UK Research Institute Economic and Social Research Council (London) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://esrc.ukri.org/news-events-and-publications/news/news-items/uk-japanese-projects-to-explore-effects-of-ai-on-society-and-economy/>

⁴²⁰ UK-Japanese projects to explore effects of AI on society and economy. UK Research Institute Economic and Social Research Council (London) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://esrc.ukri.org/news-events-and-publications/news/news-items/uk-japanese-projects-to-explore-effects-of-ai-on-society-and-economy/>

⁴²¹ UK-Japanese projects to explore effects of AI on society and economy. UK Research Institute Economic and Social Research Council (London) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://esrc.ukri.org/news-events-and-publications/news/news-items/uk-japanese-projects-to-explore-effects-of-ai-on-society-and-economy/>

⁴²² UK-Japanese projects to explore effects of AI on society and economy. UK Research Institute Economic and Social Research Council (London) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://esrc.ukri.org/news-events-and-publications/news/news-items/uk-japanese-projects-to-explore-effects-of-ai-on-society-and-economy/>

⁴²³ Announcement-Canada-UK Artificial Intelligence Initiative, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Ottawa) 1 February 2020. Access Date: 6 April 2020. <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/51520.html>

⁴²⁴ Announcement-Canada-UK Artificial Intelligence Initiative, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Ottawa) 1 February 2020. Access Date: 6 April 2020. <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/51520.html>

⁴²⁵ Artificial Intelligence and Public Standards: Committee publishes report, UK Government (London) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/artificial-intelligence-and-public-standards-committee-publishes-report>

⁴²⁶ Artificial Intelligence and Public Standards: Committee publishes report, UK Government (London) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/artificial-intelligence-and-public-standards-committee-publishes-report>

⁴²⁷ Artificial Intelligence and Public Standards: Committee publishes report, UK Government (London) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/artificial-intelligence-and-public-standards-committee-publishes-report>

On 21 February 2020, the UK government launched a joint initiative with several companies in the private sector to offer additional funding for postgraduate students pursuing studies in the field of AI.⁴²⁸ The objective of this joint initiative is to provide greater support to research and development into AI, as further developments in this field can enhance productivity and help address contemporary challenges.⁴²⁹

On 24 February 2020, the Minister of Innovation, Science, and Industry Navdeep Bains and the British High Commissioner to Canada Susan le Jeune d'Allegre announced that their respective governments would invest CAD5 million and GBP5 million to fund ten international research teams, under the Canada-UK Artificial Intelligence Initiative.⁴³⁰ These research teams will consist of experts from Canada and the UK, who will work on multidisciplinary projects that examine how AI can be harnessed to combat abusive online language, detect and monitor global disease outbreaks, and other purposes.⁴³¹

On 2 March 2020, the UK- Italy robotics and AI research collaboration workshop between the UK Turing Institute, Consorzio Interuniversitario Nazionale per Informatica (CINI) - Laboratorio Nazionale di Artificial Intelligence and Intelligent Systems, Centro di Competenza ad Alta Specializzazione in Industria 4.0 e Robotica (Artes 4.0) and Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia (IIT) postponed its workshop due to be held on 18-19 March 2020 due to COVID-19.⁴³² The workshop was to be held at the residence of the British Ambassador in Rome.⁴³³ The workshop aimed to bring together leading researchers in AI from Italy and the UK to identify topics of collaboration and establish a basis for future joint venture activities in AI.⁴³⁴

On 28 May 2020, during a virtual ministerial meeting, G7 members agreed to formally launch the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence in order to promote international and multistakeholder cooperation on the responsible and human-centric development of AI, which will reflect shared values and address global challenges. The G7 also further agreed that the immediate focus of the partnership would include responding to and recovering from COVID-19.⁴³⁵

On 8 June 2020, the UK government published a document containing guidelines for the procurement of AI. These guidelines were developed in collaboration with the World Economic Forum and are intended to assist government departments and public sector agencies with acquiring

⁴²⁸ Next generation of artificial intelligence talent to be trained at UK universities, UK Government (London) 21 February. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-generation-of-artificial-intelligence-talent-to-be-trained-at-uk-universities>

⁴²⁹ Next generation of artificial intelligence talent to be trained at UK universities, UK Government (London) 21 February. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-generation-of-artificial-intelligence-talent-to-be-trained-at-uk-universities>

⁴³⁰ Canada and the United Kingdom Collaborate on responsible artificial intelligence, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 24 February 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/social-sciences-humanities-research/news/2020/02/canada-and-the-united-kingdom-collaborate-on-responsible-artificial-intelligence.html>

⁴³¹ Canada and the United Kingdom Collaborate on responsible artificial intelligence, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 24 February 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/social-sciences-humanities-research/news/2020/02/canada-and-the-united-kingdom-collaborate-on-responsible-artificial-intelligence.html>

⁴³² UK-Italy robotics and AI research collaboration workshop, The Alan Turing Institute (London), 2 March 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2020. <https://www.turing.ac.uk/events/uk-italy-robotics-and-ai-research-collaboration-workshop>

⁴³³ UK-Italy robotics and AI research collaboration workshop, The Alan Turing Institute (London), 2 March 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2020. <https://www.turing.ac.uk/events/uk-italy-robotics-and-ai-research-collaboration-workshop>

⁴³⁴ UK-Italy robotics and AI research collaboration workshop, The Alan Turing Institute (London), 2 March 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2020. <https://www.turing.ac.uk/events/uk-italy-robotics-and-ai-research-collaboration-workshop>

⁴³⁵ G7 Science and Technology Minister's Declaration COVID-19, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/science/2020-declaration.html>

AI. The document identifies various challenges that may emerge during the procurement process and outlines best practices that the public sector can follow to ensure the ethical use of AI.⁴³⁶

On 15 June 2020, the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence was officially launched by Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, South Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the EU. The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence will be supported by a secretariat that is hosted at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, along with two research centres of expertise, which are located in Montreal and Paris. The centres will provide administrative and research support for projects that are undertaken by experts from various sectors and relate to the following themes: responsible AI, data governance, the future of work, innovation and commercialization. The centres will also organize annual plenary sessions for the expert groups. The first meeting will be held by Canada and is expected to take place in late 2020.⁴³⁷

The United Kingdom has taken measures to improve its understanding of AI, through its support of research initiatives and projects. The United Kingdom has also explored ways to share results and best practices, through its joint initiatives with other countries and its participation in the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence.

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

Analyst: Benjamin Liu

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to explore ways to advance its understanding of artificial intelligence (AI) and share, on a regular basis, multidisciplinary research results on AI issues and best practices.

On 9 September 2019, the White House hosted the Summit on Artificial Intelligence in Government to facilitate discussions on how the federal government can adopt AI to better achieve its mission and improve services to citizens.⁴³⁸ Over 175 leaders and experts from government, industry, and academia came together to identify best practices in the use of AI, opportunities to foster collaborative partnerships, and ways to potentially incorporate AI in the public service.⁴³⁹

On 10 September 2019, the White House released a supplementary report following the announcement from the Trump administration that nearly USD1 billion would be allocated to non-defense AI research and development in 2020.⁴⁴⁰ The report outlined the strategic priorities around

⁴³⁶ Guidelines for AI Procurement, UK Government (London) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidelines-for-ai-procurement/guidelines-for-ai-procurement>

⁴³⁷ The governments of Canada and Quebec and the international community join forces to advance the responsible development of artificial intelligence, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/06/the-governments-of-canada-and-quebec-and-the-international-community-join-forces-to-advance-the-responsible-development-of-artificial-intelligence.html>

⁴³⁸ Summary of the 2019 White House Summit on AI in Government, White House (Washington) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Summary-of-White-House-Summit-on-AI-in-Government-September-2019.pdf>

⁴³⁹ Summary of the 2019 White House Summit on AI in Government, White House (Washington) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Summary-of-White-House-Summit-on-AI-in-Government-September-2019.pdf>

⁴⁴⁰ The Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program: Supplement to the President's FY2020 Budget, White House (Washington) 10 September 2019. Access date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/FY2020-NITRD-AI-RD-Budget-September-2019.pdf>

AI across various government agencies, such as examining the impact of further developments in AI, exploring collaboration opportunities, and exploring ways to design AI systems that align with ethical, legal, and societal standards.⁴⁴¹

On 10-11 October 2019, during the tenth US-Japan Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy in Tokyo, the US and Japan emphasised their commitment to an open, interoperable, reliable and secure internet and the global digital economy policy environment.⁴⁴² The dialogue included discussions with public and private sector representatives and on regarding “public-private partnerships regarding the social implementation of artificial intelligence (AI) in a manner that fosters public trust in AI.”⁴⁴³ The US and Japan reaffirmed their commitment to international policy discussions for an inclusive, open and transparent system of internet governance based on a multi-stakeholder approach.⁴⁴⁴ Furthermore, both countries also emphasised the importance of sharing best practises of the results of social implementation on AI at international forums.⁴⁴⁵

On 5 December 2019, the Department of Veteran Affairs launched the National Artificial Intelligence Institute.⁴⁴⁶ The institute, working in collaboration with partners across federal agencies, industry, and academic institutions, will aim to explore ways to advance AI technology in the healthcare sector to benefit veterans and the wider public.⁴⁴⁷

On 15-16 January 2020, in Toronto, Canada the Canadian Institution for Advance Research, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada and the US Consulate General Toronto held the Canada-US AI Symposium on Economic Innovation.⁴⁴⁸ The symposium brought together students, researchers, policy makers, government and industry members to discuss the future of work, data governance and regulatory innovations to support the development of competitive AI strategies.⁴⁴⁹ The participants agreed to cooperate across the private sector, government, academia and civil society to support measures of competitive develop AI technologies that support economic growth and regional development in socially responsible methods, that “cultivate public trust” and address societal concerns.⁴⁵⁰

⁴⁴¹ The Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Program: Supplement to the President’s FY2020 Budget, White House (Washington) 10 September 2019. Access date: 19 December 2019.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/FY2020-NITRD-AI-RD-Budget-September-2019.pdf>

⁴⁴² Joint Statement on the 10th U.S.- Japan Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy, Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry of Japan (Tokyo). 11 October 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019.

<https://www.meti.go.jp/press/2019/10/20191018005/20191018006-2.pdf>

⁴⁴³ Tenth U.S.-Japan Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy Held, Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2019/1018_005.html

⁴⁴⁴ Joint Statement on the 10th U.S.- Japan Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy, Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry of Japan (Tokyo). 11 October 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019.

<https://www.meti.go.jp/press/2019/10/20191018005/20191018006-2.pdf>

⁴⁴⁵ Joint Statement on the 10th U.S.- Japan Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy, Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry of Japan (Tokyo). 11 October 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019.

<https://www.meti.go.jp/press/2019/10/20191018005/20191018006-2.pdf>

⁴⁴⁶ VA Launches National Artificial Intelligence Institute, US Department of Veterans Affairs (Washington) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5369>

⁴⁴⁷ VA Launches National Artificial Intelligence Institute, US Department of Veterans Affairs (Washington) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5369>

⁴⁴⁸ Canada-U.S. AI Symposium on Economic Innovation, CIFAR (Toronto) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://www.cifar.ca/ai/ai-society/canada-us-ai-symposium-on-economic-innovation>

⁴⁴⁹ Canada-U.S. AI Symposium on Economic Innovation, CIFAR (Toronto) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://www.cifar.ca/ai/ai-society/canada-us-ai-symposium-on-economic-innovation>

⁴⁵⁰ Canada-U.S. AI Symposium on Economic Innovation, CIFAR (Toronto) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://www.cifar.ca/ai/ai-society/canada-us-ai-symposium-on-economic-innovation>

On 10 February 2020, the White House announced that the government would double federal spending for nondefense AI research and development by 2022 in the new Federal Budget for 2021.⁴⁵¹ The budget prioritizes accelerating developing AI solutions in the Administration's efforts to foster "industries of the future."⁴⁵² The White House also announced that the Department of Energy (DOE) established a "Artificial Intelligence and Technology Office" (Office) to provide oversight on AI and ensure AI technological developments are applied across the DOE.⁴⁵³ The budget allocates USD5 Million to the office under the DOE pursue and enhance research and development for projects already underway.⁴⁵⁴ The office will also align investments and efforts with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy's AI strategic priorities.⁴⁵⁵

On February 24, 2020, the Department of Defense announced that it would adopt a series of ethical principles for the use of AI.⁴⁵⁶ These principles will be applied in both combat and non-combat situation and will ensure the US military maintains its legal, ethical, and policy commitments in the area of AI.⁴⁵⁷

On 28 May 2020, during a virtual ministerial meeting, G7 members agreed to formally launch the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence in order to promote international and multistakeholder cooperation on the responsible and human-centric development of AI, which will reflect shared values and address global challenges. The G7 also further agreed that the immediate focus of the partnership would include responding to and recovering from COVID-19.⁴⁵⁸

On 15 June 2020, the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence was officially launched by Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, South Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the EU. The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence will be supported by a secretariat that is hosted at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, along with two research centres of expertise, which are located in Montreal and Paris. The centres will provide administrative and research support for projects that are undertaken by experts from various sectors and relate to the following themes: responsible AI, data governance, the future of work, innovation and commercialization. The centres

⁴⁵¹ Fiscal Year 2021: A Budget for America's Future, White House (Washington). 10 February 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2020. https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/budget_fy21.pdf

⁴⁵² Fiscal Year 2021: A Budget for America's Future, White House (Washington). 10 February 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2020. https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/budget_fy21.pdf

⁴⁵³ Fiscal Year 2021: A Budget for America's Future, White House (Washington). 10 February 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2020. https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/budget_fy21.pdf

⁴⁵⁴ Fiscal Year 2021: A Budget for America's Future, White House (Washington). 10 February 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2020. https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/budget_fy21.pdf

⁴⁵⁵ Fiscal Year 2021: A Budget for America's Future, White House (Washington). 10 February 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2020. https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/budget_fy21.pdf

⁴⁵⁶ DOD Adopts ethical principles for artificial intelligence, US Department of Defense (Washington). 24 February 2020. Access Date: 04 March 2020. <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2091996/dod-adopts-ethical-principles-for-artificial-intelligence/>

⁴⁵⁷ DOD Adopts ethical principles for artificial intelligence, US Department of Defense (Washington). 24 February 2020. Access Date: 04 March 2020. <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2091996/dod-adopts-ethical-principles-for-artificial-intelligence/>

⁴⁵⁸ G7 Science and Technology Minister's Declaration COVID-19, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/science/2020-declaration.html>

will also organize annual plenary sessions for the expert groups. The first meeting will be held by Canada and is expected to take place in late 2020.⁴⁵⁹

The United States has taken various measures to improve its understanding of AI. The United States has also explored ways to share results and best practices, particularly through its joint initiatives with other countries and its participation in the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence.

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

Analyst: Rhoda Akiol Philip

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to explore ways to advance its understanding of artificial intelligence (AI), share multidisciplinary research results in AI issues and best practices, as well as bringing together international AI initiatives.

On 21 November 2019, the Expert Group on Liability and New Technologies – New Technologies Formation, an independent expert group set up by the European Commission, published the Report on liability for AI and other emerging technologies.⁴⁶⁰ The report assesses the limitations of existing liability regimes and lists necessary changes to appropriately respond to new challenges from emerging digital technologies including AI.⁴⁶¹

On 5 December 2019 in Brussels, the EU and Japan co-chaired the fifth Joint Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation.⁴⁶² The EU and Japan recognised research and innovation as key areas of cooperation and explored priority areas for future collaboration.⁴⁶³ Subsequently, the EU and Japan reviewed the results from past collaborations and discussed present activities, new initiatives and ways to strengthen future thematic cooperation in AI among other areas.⁴⁶⁴

In January 2020, the European Commission organized a series of five workshops on reference testing and experimentation facilities (TEFs) for AI.⁴⁶⁵ The workshops aim to support the development of shared European reference TEFs for AI hardware, software, components, systems

⁴⁵⁹ The governments of Canada and Quebec and the international community join forces to advance the responsible development of artificial intelligence, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/06/the-governments-of-canada-and-quebec-and-the-international-community-join-forces-to-advance-the-responsible-development-of-artificial-intelligence.html>

⁴⁶⁰ Artificial Intelligence, European Commission (Brussels) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/artificial-intelligence>

⁴⁶¹ Liability for Artificial Intelligence and other emerging digital technologies, European Commission (Brussels) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupMeetingDoc&docid=36608>

⁴⁶² The 5th Joint Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the EU and Japan Joint Summary. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/dns/isc/page22e_000937.html

⁴⁶³ The 5th Joint Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the EU and Japan Joint Summary. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/dns/isc/page22e_000937.html

⁴⁶⁴ The 5th Joint Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the EU and Japan Joint Summary. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/dns/isc/page22e_000937.html

⁴⁶⁵ Workshops on reference testing and experimentation facilities for Artificial Intelligence in the Digital Europe Programme, European Commission (Brussels) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/workshops-reference-testing-and-experimentation-facilities-artificial-intelligence-digital>

and solutions and underlying resources for difference sectors.⁴⁶⁶ The shared reference TEF's will work to foster the deployment and adoption of trustworthy AI.⁴⁶⁷ In the workshops, the Commission presented its goals for future TEFs for different sectors and technologies and asked for input from invited experts and national delegations on the existing structure and future needs.⁴⁶⁸

On 19 February 2020, the European Commission published its White Paper on Artificial Intelligence. This paper proposes a series of measures that will streamline research, foster collaboration between EU member states, and increase investment into AI development and deployment.⁴⁶⁹ This paper also addresses the potential risks associated with the growing use of AI and proposes policy options for a future EU regulatory framework which would determine legal requirements that would apply to relevant actors, with a focus on high-risk applications.⁴⁷⁰ The paper is also open to public consultation until 31 May 2020, which all European citizens, member states, and other relevant stakeholders can participate in.⁴⁷¹

On 19 February 2020, the European Commission published a Commission Report on safety and liability implications of AI, the Internet of Things and Robotics.⁴⁷² The report identified gaps in EU wide safety legislation as they apply to AI, and called for work to address these gaps in a “consistent and harmonised manner.”⁴⁷³ The report noted AI products poses new challenges for liability, which require clarifications of scope and to develop solutions compared to approaches currently applied to traditional technologies.⁴⁷⁴ The report also highlighted that solutions need to balance with the needs of product innovation with those of protection as solutions which help create trust in digital technologies and enable investment stability.⁴⁷⁵

On 15 June 2020, the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence was launched by Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, South Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the

⁴⁶⁶ Workshops on reference testing and experimentation facilities for Artificial Intelligence in the Digital Europe Programme, European Commission (Brussels) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/workshops-reference-testing-and-experimentation-facilities-artificial-intelligence-digital>

⁴⁶⁷ Workshops on reference testing and experimentation facilities for Artificial Intelligence in the Digital Europe Programme, European Commission (Brussels) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/workshops-reference-testing-and-experimentation-facilities-artificial-intelligence-digital>

⁴⁶⁸ Workshops on reference testing and experimentation facilities for Artificial Intelligence in the Digital Europe Programme, European Commission (Brussels) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/workshops-reference-testing-and-experimentation-facilities-artificial-intelligence-digital>

⁴⁶⁹ The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000521256.pdf>

⁴⁷⁰ The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000521256.pdf>

⁴⁷¹ White Paper on Artificial Intelligence – a European approach to excellence and trust, European Commission (Brussels) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/white-paper-artificial-intelligence-european-approach-excellence-and-trust>

⁴⁷² Commission Report on safety and liability implications of AI, the Internet of Things and Robotics, European Commission (Brussels). 19 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/commission-report-safety-and-liability-implications-ai-internet-things-and-robotics-0_en

⁴⁷³ Commission Report on safety and liability implications of AI, the Internet of Things and Robotics, European Commission (Brussels). 19 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/commission-report-safety-and-liability-implications-ai-internet-things-and-robotics-0_en

⁴⁷⁴ Commission Report on safety and liability implications of AI, the Internet of Things and Robotics, European Commission (Brussels). 19 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/commission-report-safety-and-liability-implications-ai-internet-things-and-robotics-0_en

⁴⁷⁵ Commission Report on safety and liability implications of AI, the Internet of Things and Robotics, European Commission (Brussels). 19 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/commission-report-safety-and-liability-implications-ai-internet-things-and-robotics-0_en

United Kingdom, the United States, and the EU. The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence will be supported by a secretariat that is hosted at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, along with two research centres of expertise, which are located in Montreal and Paris. The centres will provide administrative and research support for projects that are undertaken by experts from various sectors and relate to the following themes: responsible AI, data governance, the future of work, innovation and commercialization. The centres will also organize annual plenary sessions for the expert groups.⁴⁷⁶

On 17 July 2020, the European Commission published an assessment list for Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence. This list outlines standards for Trustworthy AI, which considers the following factors: human agency and oversight; technical robustness and safety; privacy and data governance; transparency; diversity, non-discrimination and fairness; societal and environmental well-being; and accountability. This assessment list is intended to help organizations develop responsible and trustworthy AI, so that they can reap the benefits that AI offers while reducing any potential risks.⁴⁷⁷

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to explore ways of improving their understanding of AI issues, as well as share multidisciplinary research results and best practices.

Thus, the EU receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Emily Yu

⁴⁷⁶ Artificial intelligence: The Commission welcomes the opportunities offered by the final Assessment List for Trustworthy AI (ALTAI), European commission (Brussels) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/artificial-intelligence-commission-welcomes-opportunities-offered-final-assessment-list>

⁴⁷⁷ Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

4. Gender: Gender Equality

“Aside from our domestic commitments, we stand ready to support interested countries through our different expertise and development mechanisms to adopt, implement and monitor laws that remedy this and advance gender equality.”

G7 Biarritz Leaders’ Communiqué

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average	+0.88 (94%)		

Background

The G7/G8 members initially recognized gender equality in 2000 as an issue in context of schooling and education. At the 2002 Kananaskis Summit, members committed to supporting African efforts to promote gender equality and empowerment of women.⁴⁷⁸ At the 2006 St. Petersburg Summit, members expressed regret towards not meeting interim targets to eliminate disparities in gender equality in primary and secondary education, and reaffirmed commitment to achieve gender equality in schooling by 2015.⁴⁷⁹

Gender equality was acknowledged as an aspect of promoting good governance for the first time at the 2007 Heiligendamm Summit. Furthermore, members also committed to working together to stop sexual exploitation and gender-based violence at the 2007 summit.⁴⁸⁰ The 2008 Hokkaido Toyako Summit was the first time when gender equality and women’s empowerment were considered an important principle of development.⁴⁸¹ At the 2014 Brussels Summit, members recognized the necessity to promote gender equality and to end all forms of violence and discrimination against girls and women, specifically by ending child, early and forced marriage and promoting empowerment of all women and girls.⁴⁸² At the 2015 Elmau Summit, members once again reaffirmed their commitment to promote gender equality and empowerment of women.⁴⁸³ At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, members agreed to integrate gender equality within all policy areas of the United Nations

⁴⁷⁸ All G7/8 Commitments, 1975-2012, G7/8 (Toronto). Access date: 13 October 2019.

http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/G8_commitments-to-2012.pdf

⁴⁷⁹ All G7/8 Commitments, 1975-2012, G7/8 (Toronto). Access date: 13 October 2019.

http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/G8_commitments-to-2012.pdf

⁴⁸⁰ All G7/8 Commitments, 1975-2012, G7/8 (Toronto). Access date: 13 October 2019.

http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/G8_commitments-to-2012.pdf

⁴⁸¹ G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Declaration: Hokkaido Toyako Summit, G7 (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Access date:

13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>

⁴⁸² G7 Brussels Summit Declaration: Brussels Summit, G7 (Brussels) 5 June 2014. Access date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>

⁴⁸³ G7 Leaders’ Declaration: Elmau, G7 (Elmau) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Members at this summit also acknowledged the need to continue promoting gender equality and empowerment of women.⁴⁸⁴

The 2017 Taormina Summit was monumental for the G7's recognition of mainstreaming gender equality into all policies. Focus was directed towards ensuring economic gender equality, including – but not limited to – reducing the gender wage gap. Members not only recognized gender equality as fundamental for fulfilling human rights, but also adopted the first “G7 Roadmap for a Gender-Responsive Economic Environment.” The Roadmap outlines structural policies falling within central governments’ jurisdiction that will “have the greatest impact in delivering gender equality.” This roadmap was developed with outcomes of previous G7 presidencies and other relevant international frameworks including 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and Women’s 7 Forum – Starting from Girls.⁴⁸⁵

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, G7 members renewed their recognition of gender equality as fundamental for fulfillment of human rights and reaffirmed their commitment to advance gender equality and end gender-based violence. These objectives were endorsed in the “Charlevoix Commitment to End Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Abuse and Harassment in Digital Contexts.”⁴⁸⁶

Commitment Features

The G7 commitment is to “stand ready to support interested countries through our different expertise and development mechanisms to adopt, implement and monitor laws that remedy this and advance gender equality” aside from domestic commitments. In this commitment, the targets are to support interested countries to – 1. develop mechanisms to implement laws towards gender equality, and 2. develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

“Adopt” is understood to mean to accept formally and put into effect.

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

“Laws” are understood to be binding customs or practices of community, rules of conduct or actions prescribed or formally recognized as binding or enforced by a controlling authority.

To “stand ready” is understood to be prepared mentally or physically for some experience or action.

“Expertise” is understood to mean the skills of an expert.

“Develop mechanisms” should be understood as establishment of new initiatives and projects within an area.

“Gender equality” as defined by European Institute of Gender Equality refers to equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of men and women and girls and boys. Equality does not mean that they will be the same; rather, rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on the gender one identifies as. The term implies that interests, needs and priorities of all genders are taken

⁴⁸⁴ G7 Leaders’ Declaration: Ise-Shima Summit, G7 (Ise-Shima) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>

⁴⁸⁵ G7 Roadmap for a gender-response economic environment, G7 (Taormina) 27 May 2017. Access date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/gender.html>

⁴⁸⁶ G7 Charlevoix Summit Declaration: Charlevoix Summit, G7 (Charlevoix) 5 June 2018. Access date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>

into consideration and diversity should be recognized. Gender equality should be viewed as a human rights issue and a “precondition for and indicator of sustainable people-centred development.”⁴⁸⁷

Part One: Develop Mechanisms to Implement Laws towards Gender Equality

“Remedy” is understood to mean a measure that corrects or counteracts an action or circumstance.

“Discriminatory laws” refer to legal and legislative frameworks that may disproportionately disadvantage citizens belonging to a specific gender group and/or enable violence against them.

“Legal protection” is understood to be the benefit or safety which the government affords to its citizens.

Compliance is achieved by creating new laws surrounding gender equality in any policy sector. Examples include, but are not limited to, reducing wage gap, creating equal opportunity workplaces, improving access to equal education and reducing gender-based violence. It is important to note that domestic actions to advance gender equality will not count towards compliance.

Full compliance within part one is achieved through supporting interested countries in correcting discriminatory laws and/or implementing laws that provide legal protection to populations discriminated against and/or implementing laws that advance gender equality, using domestic expertise and development mechanisms.

Part Two: Develop Mechanisms to Monitor Laws towards Gender Equality

“Monitor” is understood to mean to watch, to keep track of or check usually for a special purpose.

An example of compliance within part two includes establishment of various relevant indicators that will be monitored over a pre-established time period to measure progress towards achieving gender equality; such examples of relevant indicators include cases of sexual harassment, enrolment in gender equality schemes, and gender wage gap. Another example of compliance within part two includes establishment of dedicated personnel to monitor progress. It is important to note that domestic actions to advance gender equality will not count towards compliance.

Full compliance within part two is achieved through supporting interested countries in developing mechanisms to monitor and measure progress of laws towards improving gender equality.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G7 member does not stand ready to help interested countries implement laws towards equality NOR stands ready to help interested countries develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.
0	G7 member stands ready to help interested countries implement laws towards equality OR stands ready to help interested countries develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.
+1	G7 member stands ready to help interested countries implement laws towards equality AND stands ready to help interested countries develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

*Compliance Director: Drishti Thakkar
Lead Analyst: Kaylin Dave*

⁴⁸⁷ Gender Mainstreaming Concepts and Definitions, European Institute of Gender Equality. Access date: 13 October 2019. <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/concepts-and-definitions>

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to stand ready to help interested countries implement laws towards equality and develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

On 29 October 2019, all states of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), of which Canada is a member, adopted Resolution 2492 which promotes a women, peace and security agenda.⁴⁸⁸ UNSC urges members to facilitate full and equal participation of women at every stage of peacebuilding processes, to address threats and violence against women and to increase number of civilian and uniformed women in peacekeeping operations.⁴⁸⁹

On 3 December 2019, Jamaica's Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport Honourable Olivia Grange announced that the High Commission of Canada in Jamaica will offer five grants to local organisations to advance gender equality, peace and security in the communities they serve across the island.⁴⁹⁰ Organizations include the Boxing Board of Jamaica, National Youth Orchestra of Jamaica, Peace Management Initiative, Institute of Law and Economics, and Advocates for Change.⁴⁹¹ The money will be used by each organization in order to further their mandates, specifically those that relate to gender equality.⁴⁹²

On 9 December 2019, Minister of International Development Honourable Karina Gould declared that Canada will provide CAD21 million over five years to “support a gender-sensitive approach to women’s reproductive health services in Pakistan” as part of the United Nations-led “Healthy Families Pakistan” initiative.⁴⁹³ It will also aim to tackle underlying factors that prevent women and girls from accessing health services.⁴⁹⁴

On 6 February 2020, Minister Gould gave a speech with the Canadian Partnership for Women and Children’s Health and Canadian Council for International Cooperation in celebration of International

⁴⁸⁸ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>.

⁴⁸⁹ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>.

⁴⁹⁰ Canada Gives Grants to Local Organizations to Advance Gender Equality, Jamaican Information Service (Jamaica) 3 December 2019. Accessed Date: 6 December 2019. <https://jis.gov.jm/canada-gives-grants-to-local-organisations-to-advance-gender-equality/>.

⁴⁹¹ Canada Gives Grants to Local Organizations to Advance Gender Equality, Jamaican Information Service (Jamaica) 3 December 2019. Accessed Date: 6 December 2019. <https://jis.gov.jm/canada-gives-grants-to-local-organisations-to-advance-gender-equality/>.

⁴⁹² Canada Gives Grants to Local Organizations to Advance Gender Equality, Jamaican Information Service (Jamaica) 3 December 2019. Accessed Date: 6 December 2019. <https://jis.gov.jm/canada-gives-grants-to-local-organisations-to-advance-gender-equality/>.

⁴⁹³ Minister Gould announces new support for women’s reproductive health services in Pakistan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/12/minister-gould-announces-new-support-for-womens-reproductive-health-services-in-pakistan.html>.

⁴⁹⁴ Minister Gould announces new support for women’s reproductive health services in Pakistan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/12/minister-gould-announces-new-support-for-womens-reproductive-health-services-in-pakistan.html>.

Development Week.⁴⁹⁵ The minister stated that Canada will continue to deliver its Feminist International Policy and work with other countries to advance gender equality on a global level.⁴⁹⁶

On 29 February 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs Honourable François-Philippe Champagne issued a statement in support of the agreement between the United States and the Taliban.⁴⁹⁷ Champagne declared that Canada continues to support stabilization efforts in Afghanistan and that it will continue to engage in meaningful peace negotiations with the Afghan people, particularly women and other minority populations.⁴⁹⁸

On 6 March 2020, Minister Champagne concluded his visit to Latvia, Ukraine and Poland.⁴⁹⁹ During his visit to Ukraine, he stated Canada's efforts to engage women in peace building efforts throughout the region.⁵⁰⁰ As such, CAD2 million will be invested in a three year period in order to "strengthen the capacity of the National Police of Ukraine in planning, implementing, monitoring and reviewing reform processes."⁵⁰¹

On 8 March 2020, International Women's Day, Minister Champagne, Minister Gould and Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and Trade Honourable Mary Ng issued a statement in which they reiterated Canada's support for gender equality initiatives.⁵⁰² The three ministers highlighted Canada's work with women's organizations and civil society groups both at home and abroad and pledged to actively promote the rights of women and girls across the globe.⁵⁰³

⁴⁹⁵ Address by Minister Gould at Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health (CanWaCH) and Canadian Council for International Co-Operation (CCIC) Celebration for International Development Week (IDW) 2020, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/02/address-by-minister-gould-at-canadian-partnership-for-women-and-childrens-health-canwach-and-canadian-council-for-international-co-operation-ccic-c.html>.

⁴⁹⁶ Address by Minister Gould at Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health (CanWaCH) and Canadian Council for International Co-Operation (CCIC) Celebration for International Development Week (IDW) 2020, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/02/address-by-minister-gould-at-canadian-partnership-for-women-and-childrens-health-canwach-and-canadian-council-for-international-co-operation-ccic-c.html>.

⁴⁹⁷ Canada Welcomes U.S.-Taliban Agreement in Afghanistan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 February 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. Canada Welcomes U.S.-Taliban Agreement in Afghanistan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 February 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/02/canada-welcomes-us-taliban-agreement-in-afghanistan.html>.

⁴⁹⁸ Canada Welcomes U.S.-Taliban Agreement in Afghanistan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 February 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. Canada Welcomes U.S.-Taliban Agreement in Afghanistan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 February 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/02/canada-welcomes-us-taliban-agreement-in-afghanistan.html>.

⁴⁹⁹ Minister Champagne Concludes Successful Visit to Latvia, Ukraine and Poland, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 March 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/minister-champagne-concludes-successful-visit-to-latvia-ukraine-and-poland.html>.

⁵⁰⁰ Minister Champagne Concludes Successful Visit to Latvia, Ukraine and Poland, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 March 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/minister-champagne-concludes-successful-visit-to-latvia-ukraine-and-poland.html>.

⁵⁰¹ Minister Champagne Concludes Successful Visit to Latvia, Ukraine and Poland, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 March 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/minister-champagne-concludes-successful-visit-to-latvia-ukraine-and-poland.html>.

⁵⁰² Statement on International Women's Day, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/statement-on-international-womens-day.html>.

⁵⁰³ Statement on International Women's Day, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/statement-on-international-womens-day.html>.

On 20 March 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced CAD50 million in funding to help vulnerable countries respond to the COVID-19 crisis.⁵⁰⁴ This funding will, in part, be used to ensure that these countries respond to the crisis in a way that meets the needs of women and girls who are disproportionately affected by the crisis.⁵⁰⁵

On 10 April 2020, Minister Champagne and Minister Gould announced their support of the UN Secretary-General's call for an immediate global ceasefire.⁵⁰⁶ Both ministers cited their concerns for the plight of women, children and other vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 crisis as a reason for their support.⁵⁰⁷ The ministers also reiterated their support for a multilateral response to the COVID-19 crisis and a rules-based international order in which civilians and vulnerable populations, including women, are prioritized.⁵⁰⁸

On 13 April 2020, Canada's ambassador to France Isabelle Hudon issued a joint statement with a number of other nations in which together they called upon international governments to ensure that all measures taken in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic are legitimate and lawful.⁵⁰⁹ The statement further called for all governments to address the COVID-19 pandemic in a gender-responsive manner, taking into account gender-related consequences of the pandemic, of which include a rise in domestic violence.⁵¹⁰

On 17 April 2020, the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 issued a declaration in which they urged other countries to take into consideration the populations which are disproportionately affected by COVID-19, particularly women.⁵¹¹ In doing so, Canada called upon these other countries to take into account gender-differentiated concerns and respond accordingly to meet the needs of these groups.⁵¹²

On 21 April 2020, Minister Gould issued a joint statement with Brazil, Italy, and Egypt regarding the effects of COVID-19 on food security and supply.⁵¹³ In the statement, the countries called upon

⁵⁰⁴ Canada's Humanitarian Assistance to Help Developing Countries Prepare and Respond to COVID-19. Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/canadas-humanitarian-assistance-to-help-developing-countries-prepare-and-respond-to-covid-19.html>.

⁵⁰⁵ Canada's Humanitarian Assistance to Help Developing Countries Prepare and Respond to COVID-19. Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/canadas-humanitarian-assistance-to-help-developing-countries-prepare-and-respond-to-covid-19.html>.

⁵⁰⁶ Statement in Support of Global Ceasefire, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/statement-in-support-of-global-ceasefire.html>.

⁵⁰⁷ Statement in Support of Global Ceasefire, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/statement-in-support-of-global-ceasefire.html>.

⁵⁰⁸ Statement in Support of Global Ceasefire, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/statement-in-support-of-global-ceasefire.html>.

⁵⁰⁹ G7 Must Put a Gender Lens on COVID-19 Efforts, Women Deliver (New York) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2020. <https://womendeliver.org/2020/step-it-up-g7/>.

⁵¹⁰ G7 Must Put a Gender Lens on COVID-19 Efforts, Women Deliver (New York) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2020. <https://womendeliver.org/2020/step-it-up-g7/>.

⁵¹¹ Foreign Ministers From 15 Countries Agree on Key Principles to Keep Transportation Links and Supply Chains Open, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/foreign-ministers-from-13-countries-agree-on-key-principles-to-keep-transportation-links-and-supply-chains-open.html>.

⁵¹² Foreign Ministers From 15 Countries Agree on Key Principles to Keep Transportation Links and Supply Chains Open, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/foreign-ministers-from-13-countries-agree-on-key-principles-to-keep-transportation-links-and-supply-chains-open.html>.

⁵¹³ Joint Statement by Brazil, Canada, Italy and Egypt Following the Extraordinary High-Level Meeting of the Group of Friends of Food Security and Nutrition on the Impact of COVID-19 on Food Availability and Supply, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-by-brazil-canada-italy-and-egypt-following-the-extraordinary-high-level-meeting-of-the-group-of-friends-of-food-security-and-nutrit.html>.

other nations to ensure the sustainability of the food supply chain and recognize the effects of changes in demand and supply on agri-food producers.⁵¹⁴ In doing so, the minister encouraged countries to invest in women in particular in order to ensure they have access to land, credit and information regarding COVID-19.⁵¹⁵

On 28 April 2020, Minister Champagne hosted a call with his colleagues from several other countries including France, Germany, Australia, Brazil, Indonesia and Peru to discuss their responses to COVID-19.⁵¹⁶ Several ministers reiterated their desire to coordinate a multilateral response to the crisis in order to address the particular needs of vulnerable communities, including women.⁵¹⁷

On 4 August 2010, Minister Ng signed a new Global Trade and Gender Arrangement with the fellow members of the Inclusive Trade Action Group – Chile and New Zealand.⁵¹⁸ This arrangement will allow for the members to “share best practices and promote gender equality, including in international organizations such as the World Trade Organization” to help build economies “where everyone can succeed.”⁵¹⁹

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to help interested countries implement gender equality laws through providing grants to various organizations, supporting Pakistan monetarily in developing a gender-sensitive reproductive health system and advocating for gender-differentiated responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. Canada has not complied with its commitment to help interested countries develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Aliya Hemani

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to stand ready to help interested countries implement laws towards equality and develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

⁵¹⁴ Joint Statement by Brazil, Canada, Italy and Egypt Following the Extraordinary High-Level Meeting of the Group of Friends of Food Security and Nutrition on the Impact of COVID-19 on Food Availability and Supply, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-by-brazil-canada-italy-and-egypt-following-the-extraordinary-high-level-meeting-of-the-group-of-friends-of-food-security-and-nutrit.html>.

⁵¹⁵ Joint Statement by Brazil, Canada, Italy and Egypt Following the Extraordinary High-Level Meeting of the Group of Friends of Food Security and Nutrition on the Impact of COVID-19 on Food Availability and Supply, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-by-brazil-canada-italy-and-egypt-following-the-extraordinary-high-level-meeting-of-the-group-of-friends-of-food-security-and-nutrit.html>.

⁵¹⁶ Readout: Minister of Foreign Affairs Continues to Coordinate With International Counterparts on COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/readout-minister-of-foreign-affairs-continues-to-coordinate-with-international-counterparts-on-covid-190.html>.

⁵¹⁷ Readout: Minister of Foreign Affairs Continues to Coordinate With International Counterparts on COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/readout-minister-of-foreign-affairs-continues-to-coordinate-with-international-counterparts-on-covid-190.html>.

⁵¹⁸ Minister Ng signs new Global Trade and Gender Arrangement with Chile and New Zealand, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 4 August 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/08/minister-ng-signs-new-global-trade-and-gender-arrangement-with-chile-and-new-zealand.html>

⁵¹⁹ Minister Ng signs new Global Trade and Gender Arrangement with Chile and New Zealand, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 4 August 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/08/minister-ng-signs-new-global-trade-and-gender-arrangement-with-chile-and-new-zealand.html>

On 29 October 2019, all states of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), of which France is a member, adopted Resolution 2492 which promotes a women, peace and security agenda.⁵²⁰ UNSC urges members to facilitate full and equal participation of women at every stage of peacebuilding processes, to address threats and violence against women and to increase number of civilian and uniformed women in peacekeeping operations.⁵²¹

On 25 November 2019, the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs announced their support in the fight to end violence against women internationally.⁵²² They reaffirmed their commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and called neighboring countries to ratify Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.⁵²³ As a member of UNSC, France has also adopted and implemented its resolution on women, peace and security, which urges members to increase participation of women in conflict resolution and peacekeeping activities.⁵²⁴

On 19 December 2019, French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian and Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the United Mexican States Marcelo Luis Ebrard Casaubo agreed upon a declaration for effective multilateralism.⁵²⁵ Both countries emphasized the importance of promoting and protecting human rights while acknowledging gender equality and empowerment of women.⁵²⁶ Both countries also reiterated their commitment to Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and will jointly host Generation Equality Forum to promote the commitments within the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.⁵²⁷ Furthermore, both countries agreed to work together to improve access to female education, increase women participation in the labour market, promote the United Nations Women, Peace and Security Agenda, combat violence against women through the European Union and United Nations Spotlight Initiative and provide more comprehensive sexual education to women.⁵²⁸

⁵²⁰ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>.

⁵²¹ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>.

⁵²² France committed to fighting violence against women internationally (Paris) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/france-committed-to-fighting-violence-against-women-internationally-25-nov-2019>.

⁵²³ France committed to fighting violence against women internationally (Paris) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/france-committed-to-fighting-violence-against-women-internationally-25-nov-2019>.

⁵²⁴ France committed to fighting violence against women internationally (Paris) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/france-committed-to-fighting-violence-against-women-internationally-25-nov-2019>.

⁵²⁵ French-Mexican Declaration for Effective Multilateralism (19 December 2019), France Diplomatie (Paris) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/mexico/news/article/french-mexican-declaration-for-effective-multilateralism-19-dec-2019>.

⁵²⁶ French-Mexican Declaration for Effective Multilateralism (19 December 2019), France Diplomatie (Paris) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/mexico/news/article/french-mexican-declaration-for-effective-multilateralism-19-dec-2019>.

⁵²⁷ French-Mexican Declaration for Effective Multilateralism (19 December 2019), France Diplomatie (Paris) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/mexico/news/article/french-mexican-declaration-for-effective-multilateralism-19-dec-2019>.

⁵²⁸ French-Mexican Declaration for Effective Multilateralism (19 December 2019), France Diplomatie (Paris) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/mexico/news/article/french-mexican-declaration-for-effective-multilateralism-19-dec-2019>.

On 15 January 2020, the French Government announced the Action Coalition themes for the Generation Equality Forum to be held in 2021, which is a global and multi-stakeholder coalition organized by UN women and co-hosted by Mexico and France.^{529,530} The forum will launch coalitions on gender-based violence, economic justice and rights, bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights, feminist action for climate justice, technology and innovation for gender equality, and investing in feminist movements and leadership.⁵³¹ Each coalition will develop and implement targeted solutions to advance gender equality with adolescent girls and young women in mind specifically to fulfill United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.⁵³²

On 16 to 17 January 2020, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian visited Saudi Arabia to meet with his counterparts, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah al-Saud and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Abdel al-Jubeir.⁵³³ Minister Le Drian will discuss areas of common interest and reaffirm France's priorities as they relate to the Saudi presidency of the G20, of which include gender equality.⁵³⁴

On 6 February 2020, International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, France encouraged the international community to increase initiatives dedicated towards ending the practice of female genital mutilation.⁵³⁵ France argues these mutilations violate the safety and dignity of women and girls and thus impede a country's ability to achieve substantive equality between men and women.⁵³⁶ This issue and related ones will be addressed by the Gender Equality Forum, which will be held by in July by UN Women and co-chaired by France and Mexico.⁵³⁷

⁵²⁹ In lead up to Generation Equality Forum, Action Coalition Themes Announced (2020) Relief Web (New York) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/lead-generation-equality-forum-action-coalition-themes-announced>.

⁵³⁰ Generation Equality Forum Postponed (2020) UN Women (New York) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/4/announcer-generation-equality-forum-postponed>.

⁵³¹ In lead up to Generation Equality Forum, Action Coalition Themes Announced (2020) Relief Web (New York) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/lead-generation-equality-forum-action-coalition-themes-announced>.

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⁵³³ Visit by Jean-Yves Le Drian to Saudi Arabia (16-17 January 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/saudi-arabia/news/article/visit-by-jean-yves-le-drian-to-saudi-arabia-16-17-jan-2020>.

⁵³⁴ Visit by Jean-Yves Le Drian to Saudi Arabia (16-17 January 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/saudi-arabia/news/article/visit-by-jean-yves-le-drian-to-saudi-arabia-16-17-jan-2020>.

⁵³⁵ United Nations International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (6 February 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/events-6401/article/united-nations-international-day-of-zero-tolerance-for-female-genital>.

⁵³⁶ United Nations International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (6 February 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/events-6401/article/united-nations-international-day-of-zero-tolerance-for-female-genital>.

⁵³⁷ United Nations International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (6 February 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/events-6401/article/united-nations-international-day-of-zero-tolerance-for-female-genital>.

On 19 January 2020, France reaffirmed its commitment to bring peace to Libya at the Berlin Conference on Libya.⁵³⁸ The involved countries called on all parties in Libya to hold individuals accountable for violations of international law, including those who commit sexual and gender-based violence.⁵³⁹ These areas include “the indiscriminate use of force against civilians, attacks on densely populated residential areas, extrajudicial killings, kidnappings, enforced disappearances, sexual and gender-based violence, torture and ill-treatment, human trafficking, and violence against or the abuse of migrants and refugees.”⁵⁴⁰ Involved countries also called on Libya to encourage effective and meaningful participation of women in activities relating to Libya’s democratic transition, conflict resolution and peacebuilding and to support efforts of Special Representative to the United Nations Secretary General Ghassan Salamé to improve female participation in the political process and public institutions.

On 11 March 2020, Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde and Minister Le Drian issued a joint statement from Paris.⁵⁴¹ They confirmed they will continue to collaborate on gender equality initiatives, including the reproductive rights of women and girls as well as equal economic and social conditions.⁵⁴² France and Sweden will jointly increase their efforts to support the participation of women in conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction.⁵⁴³ They will also advance gender equality through the European Union and continue to advocate against sex trafficking and sexual exploitation.⁵⁴⁴

On 15 April 2020, France issued a joint statement on the safety of journalists and access to information during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁴⁵ In this statement, France called upon all countries to ensure the internet access of all citizens in order to ensure that those affected by the virus have access to information.⁵⁴⁶ By extension, France calls upon countries to stop internet shutdowns,

⁵³⁸ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁵³⁹ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁵⁴⁰ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁵⁴¹ Joint Press Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Sweden and France (11 March 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/sweden/events/article/joint-press-statement-by-the-ministers-for-foreign-affairs-of-sweden-and-france>.

⁵⁴² Joint Press Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Sweden and France (11 March 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/sweden/events/article/joint-press-statement-by-the-ministers-for-foreign-affairs-of-sweden-and-france>.

⁵⁴³ Joint Press Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Sweden and France (11 March 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/sweden/events/article/joint-press-statement-by-the-ministers-for-foreign-affairs-of-sweden-and-france>.

⁵⁴⁴ Joint Press Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Sweden and France (11 March 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/sweden/events/article/joint-press-statement-by-the-ministers-for-foreign-affairs-of-sweden-and-france>.

⁵⁴⁵ Joint Statement on Safety of Journalists and Access to Information During the Covid-19 Crisis (15 April 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/coronavirus-statements/article/joint-statement-on-safety-of-journalists-and-access-to-information-during-the/>.

⁵⁴⁶ Joint Statement on Safety of Journalists and Access to Information During the Covid-19 Crisis (15 April 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/coronavirus-statements/article/joint-statement-on-safety-of-journalists-and-access-to-information-during-the/>.

provide the most effective access to internet services, and mend any digital divides, including the gender gap.⁵⁴⁷

On 16 April 2020, Minister Le Drian issued a joint statement with a several other countries and Group of Friends on the Safety of Journalists in New York, Geneva, Vienna (OSCE) and Paris in which they called upon international governments to ensure that all measures taken in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic are legitimate and lawful.⁵⁴⁸ The statement further called for all governments to address the COVID-19 pandemic in gender-responsive manner, taking into account gender-related consequences of the pandemic, of which include a rise in domestic violence.⁵⁴⁹

On 28 April 2020, Minister Le Drian participated in a call hosted by Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Honourable François-Phillipe Champagne with their colleagues from Germany, Australia, Brazil, Indonesia and Peru to discuss their responses to COVID-19.⁵⁵⁰ Several ministers reiterated their desire to coordinate a multilateral response to the crisis in order to address the particular needs of vulnerable communities, including women.⁵⁵¹

France has fully complied with its commitment to help interested countries implement laws promoting gender equality by calling to other countries to ratify Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and collaborating with United Mexican States to host the Generation Equality Forum promoting commitment to Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. France has also called upon other countries to ensure that their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic take into consideration the promotion of gender-equality. France has not complied with its commitment to help interested countries develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Roba Hena and Aliya Hemani

Germany: 0

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to stand ready to help interested countries implement laws towards equality and develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

⁵⁴⁷ Joint Statement on Safety of Journalists and Access to Information During the Covid-19 Crisis (15 April 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/coronavirus-statements/article/joint-statement-on-safety-of-journalists-and-access-to-information-during-the/>.

⁵⁴⁸ COVID-19 – Joint Declaration of the Alliance for Multilateralism (16 April 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/alliance-for-multilateralism-63158/article/covid-19-joint-declaration-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism-16-apr-2020>.

⁵⁴⁹ COVID-19 – Joint Declaration of the Alliance for Multilateralism (16 April 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/alliance-for-multilateralism-63158/article/covid-19-joint-declaration-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism-16-apr-2020>.

⁵⁵⁰ Readout: Minister of Foreign Affairs Continues to Coordinate With International Counterparts on COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/readout-minister-of-foreign-affairs-continues-to-coordinate-with-international-counterparts-on-covid-190.html>.

⁵⁵¹ Readout: Minister of Foreign Affairs Continues to Coordinate With International Counterparts on COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/readout-minister-of-foreign-affairs-continues-to-coordinate-with-international-counterparts-on-covid-190.html>.

On 29 October 2019, all states of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), of which Germany is a member, adopted Resolution 2492 which promotes a women, peace and security agenda.⁵⁵² UNSC urges members to facilitate full and equal participation of women at every stage of peacebuilding processes, to address threats and violence against women and to increase number of civilian and uniformed women in peacekeeping operations.⁵⁵³ German Minister of State Michelle Müntefering noted that Germany aims to implement 10 of 12 commitments of the women, peace and security agenda.⁵⁵⁴

On 31 October 2019, Germany pledged at the Nairobi Summit to work with partners at home and abroad to ensure that pregnancies are wanted and that births are safe.⁵⁵⁵ This involves creating policies that address sexual and reproductive rights and combat violence against women to ensure that women are empowered to make decisions about their health.⁵⁵⁶

On 19 January 2020, Germany reaffirmed its commitment to bring peace to Libya at the Berlin Conference on Libya.⁵⁵⁷ The involved countries called on all parties in Libya to hold individuals accountable for violations of international law, including those who commit sexual and gender-based violence.⁵⁵⁸ These areas include “the indiscriminate use of force against civilians, attacks on densely populated residential areas, extrajudicial killings, kidnappings, enforced disappearances, sexual and gender-based violence, torture and ill-treatment, human trafficking, and violence against or the abuse of migrants and refugees.”⁵⁵⁹ Involved countries also called on Libya to encourage effective and meaningful participation of women in activities relating to Libya’s democratic transition, conflict resolution and peacebuilding and to support efforts of Special Representative to the United Nations Secretary General Ghassam Salamé to improve female participation in the political process and public institutions.

On 24 January 2020, Germany launched a delegated cooperation agreement with the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Malawi to co-finance the project “Promoting Agricultural Technical Vocational Education and Training for Women.”⁵⁶⁰ The program has been in place in Malawi since 2017, with the objective to bring women into employment.⁵⁶¹ This phase of the cooperation will

⁵⁵² Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>.

⁵⁵³ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>.

⁵⁵⁴ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>.

⁵⁵⁵ Investing in Health, Rights and Choices for All, Nairobi Summit ICPD (Nairobi) 31 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.nairobisummiticpd.org/commitment/investing-health-rights-and-choices-all>.

⁵⁵⁶ Investing in Health, Rights and Choices for All, Nairobi Summit ICPD (Nairobi) 31 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.nairobisummiticpd.org/commitment/investing-health-rights-and-choices-all>.

⁵⁵⁷ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁵⁵⁸ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁵⁵⁹ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁵⁶⁰ African Union Project on Malawian Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture: Cooperation with Norway and Germany (Malawi) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/news/african-union-project-malawian-women%E2%80%99s-empowerment-agriculture-cooperation-norway-and-germany>.

⁵⁶¹ African Union Project on Malawian Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture: Cooperation with Norway and Germany (Malawi) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/news/african-union-project-malawian-women%E2%80%99s-empowerment-agriculture-cooperation-norway-and-germany>.

focus on hearing feedback from the project's beneficiaries and stakeholders and will be financed with approximately EUR 1 million per year until August 2022.⁵⁶²

On 28 April 2020, Germany participated in a call hosted by Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Honourable François-Phillipe Champagne with several countries including France, Australia, Brazil, Indonesia and Peru to discuss their responses to COVID-19.⁵⁶³ Several ministers reiterated their desire to coordinate a multilateral response to the crisis in order to address the particular needs of vulnerable communities, including women.⁵⁶⁴

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to help interested countries implement laws promoting gender equality through adopting Resolution 2492 and collaborating with Nairobi and other partners to create policies addressing sexual and reproductive rights of women. Germany has not complied with its commitment to help interested countries develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

Thus, Germany receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Daniella Marciano

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to stand ready to help interested countries implement laws towards equality and develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

On 9 September 2019, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation announced a partnership with UN Women to strengthen institutional capacity in Jordan in order to support gender equality and women's empowerment over two years.⁵⁶⁵ The partnership will provide technical assistance to the Jordanian Ministry of Social Development to enhance the quality of services provided to vulnerable girls and women.⁵⁶⁶ UN Women will also support Jordanian Ministry of Social Development to consolidate the experience of model of support for gender mainstreaming and the benefits of it in a report that can be presented to other ministries and at a regional level through a conference.⁵⁶⁷

⁵⁶² African Union Project on Malawian Women's Empowerment in Agriculture: Cooperation with Norway and Germany (Malawi) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/news/african-union-project-malawian-women%E2%80%99s-empowerment-agriculture-cooperation-norway-and-germany>.

⁵⁶³ Readout: Minister of Foreign Affairs Continues to Coordinate With International Counterparts on COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/readout-minister-of-foreign-affairs-continues-to-coordinate-with-international-counterparts-on-covid-190.html>.

⁵⁶⁴ Readout: Minister of Foreign Affairs Continues to Coordinate With International Counterparts on COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/readout-minister-of-foreign-affairs-continues-to-coordinate-with-international-counterparts-on-covid-190.html>.

⁵⁶⁵ Government of Italy, UN Women announce partnership to strengthen institutional capacity on women's empowerment, UN Women (Amman) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://jordan.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/september/italy-and-un-women-partnership>

⁵⁶⁶ Government of Italy, UN Women announce partnership to strengthen institutional capacity on women's empowerment, UN Women (Amman) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://jordan.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/september/italy-and-un-women-partnership>

⁵⁶⁷ Government of Italy, UN Women announce partnership to strengthen institutional capacity on women's empowerment, UN Women (Amman) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://jordan.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/september/italy-and-un-women-partnership>

On 19 January 2020, Italy reaffirmed its commitment to bring peace to Libya at the Berlin Conference on Libya.⁵⁶⁸ The involved countries called on all parties in Libya to hold individuals accountable for violations of international law, including those who commit sexual and gender-based violence.⁵⁶⁹ These areas include “the indiscriminate use of force against civilians, attacks on densely populated residential areas, extrajudicial killings, kidnappings, enforced disappearances, sexual and gender-based violence, torture and ill-treatment, human trafficking, and violence against or the abuse of migrants and refugees.”⁵⁷⁰ Involved countries also called on Libya to encourage effective and meaningful participation of women in activities relating to Libya’s democratic transition, conflict resolution and peacebuilding and to support efforts of United Nations Secretary General Salamé to improve female participation in the political process and public institutions.

On 11 March 2020, the United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children Fund (UNFPA-UNICEF) Global Program to End Child Marriage, of which Italy is a member, was renewed for an additional four years.⁵⁷¹ The program will aim to increase girls’ access to education, health services, skills development, community education, promotion of gender equality, economic support, and enforcement of laws that set 18 years of age as the minimum for marriage. The program is part of the global effort to end child marriages by 2030.¹

On 21 April 2020, Emanuela Claudia Del Re, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy, as chair of the Group of Friends of Food Security and Nutrition, along with ministers and vice ministers from Canada, Brazil and Egypt issued a joint statement on the effects of COVID-19 on food security and supply.⁵⁷² In the statement, the countries called upon other countries to ensure the sustainability of the food supply chain and recognize the effects of changes in demand and supply on agri-food producers.⁵⁷³ In doing so, it recognized the contribution of women to the agriculture and food production and the need to invest in women in particular in order to ensure they have access to land, credit and digital information.⁵⁷⁴

On 3 July 2020, Italy held its first meeting for the Advisory Board of “Women in International Security Italy.” The organization “promotes the leadership and professional development of women

⁵⁶⁸ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁵⁶⁹ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁵⁷⁰ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁵⁷¹ UNICEF and UNFPA Renew Multi-Country Initiative to Protect Millions of Girls from Child Marriage (New York) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/unicef-and-unfpa-renew-multi-country-initiative-protect-millions-girls-child>.

⁵⁷² Joint Statement by Brazil, Canada, Italy and Egypt Following the Extraordinary High-Level Meeting of the Group of Friends of Food Security and Nutrition on the Impact of COVID-19 on Food Availability and Supply, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-by-brazil-canada-italy-and-egypt-following-the-extraordinary-high-level-meeting-of-the-group-of-friends-of-food-security-and-nutrit.html>.

⁵⁷³ Joint Statement by Brazil, Canada, Italy and Egypt Following the Extraordinary High-Level Meeting of the Group of Friends of Food Security and Nutrition on the Impact of COVID-19 on Food Availability and Supply, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-by-brazil-canada-italy-and-egypt-following-the-extraordinary-high-level-meeting-of-the-group-of-friends-of-food-security-and-nutrit.html>.

⁵⁷⁴ Joint Statement by Brazil, Canada, Italy and Egypt Following the Extraordinary High-Level Meeting of the Group of Friends of Food Security and Nutrition on the Impact of COVID-19 on Food Availability and Supply, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-by-brazil-canada-italy-and-egypt-following-the-extraordinary-high-level-meeting-of-the-group-of-friends-of-food-security-and-nutrit.html>.

in promoting peace and security national and internationally.” The goal is to have increasing amounts of women involved in peace processes in areas such as the Middle East.⁵⁷⁵

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to implement laws that promote gender equality by committing to support the Jordanian Ministry of Social Development in improving their institutional capacity to support women empowerment and supporting Libya in transitioning towards a more gender-equal democratic system. Italy has not complied with its commitment to help interested countries develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Daniella Marciano

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to stand ready to help interested countries implement laws towards equality and develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

On 30 August 2019, Japanese and African Union delegations participated in the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development, where Japan committed to working with the African Union to reduce the gender gap, combat gender-based violence, and empower women and youth.⁵⁷⁶

On 18 September 2019, Government of Japan provided JPY218 million of grant aid through United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for the project of “Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Sri Lanka.”⁵⁷⁷ The project aims to improve economic empowerment of women, awareness of women’s rights and political participation while paying attention to vulnerable groups.⁵⁷⁸

On 4 November 2019, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan released “The Mekong-Japan Initiative for SDGs [Sustainable Development Goals] toward 2030,” which highlighted areas of co-operation between Japan and countries in the Mekong region (e.g. Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia).⁵⁷⁹ It included a commitment to promoting gender equality.⁵⁸⁰ Japan offered to microfinance women’s enterprises in Asia, and to collaborate with Mekong countries to eradicate human trafficking.⁵⁸¹

⁵⁷⁵ First meeting of the Advisory Board of “Women in International Security – Italy,” Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 3 July 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stamp/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/prima-riunione-dell-advisory-board-di-women-in-international-security-italy.html

⁵⁷⁶ Yokohama Declaration 2019 Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Yokohama) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/yokohama_declaration_en.pdf

⁵⁷⁷ Japan provides USD 2 million grant aid for Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Sri Lanka, Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka (Colombo), 18 September 2019. Access date: 3 January 2020. https://www.lk.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/00_000930.html

⁵⁷⁸ Japan provides USD 2 million grant aid for Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Sri Lanka, Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka (Colombo), 18 September 2019. Access date: 3 January 2020. https://www.lk.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/00_000930.html

⁵⁷⁹ The Mekong-Japan Initiative for SDGs toward 2030, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 4 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000535957.pdf>

⁵⁸⁰ The Mekong-Japan Initiative for SDGs toward 2030, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo), 4 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000535957.pdf>

⁵⁸¹ The Mekong-Japan Initiative for SDGs toward 2030, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo), 4 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000535957.pdf>

On 21 February 2020, Japan announced that they will provide a grant of USD83,708 to support women empowerment in Egypt.⁵⁸² This grant will enable training of women in the old Cairo region for self-employment so they have skills to be compatible with the needs of the labour market, including marketing skills.⁵⁸³

On 3 March 2020, Japan donated USD2.3 million to the UN Women's and Sasakawa Africa Association's Grant Aid project to the Lake Chad Region. The Grand Aid aims to support women and girls withstand crises, recover and develop resilience to crises, prepare women to participate in decision making, provide protection from gender-based violence.⁵⁸⁴

On 10 March 2020, Japan donated USD13 million of Emergency Grant Aid to Brazil, Columbia, Ecuador and Peru.⁵⁸⁵ USD3.4 million of Emergency Grant Aid was allocated to Ecuador for the provision of protection services, including sexual and gender-based violence prevention, to people displaced from Venezuela.⁵⁸⁶ USD3.5 million of grant aid was allocated to Peru to develop a protection response for vulnerable people, focusing on sexual and gender-based violence survivors.⁵⁸⁷

On 10 March 2020, Japan donated a total of USD23.7 million to refugees and internally displaced people in the Sahel region. Of this amount, USD 7.3 million was given to the Republic of Niger for the provision of protection activities for people suffering from gender-based violence, along with the improvement of both living and nutritional conditions. Additionally, USD4.7 million was given to the Republic of Mali for the provision of protection activities and legal assistance for people suffering from gender-based violence, along with the provision of educational opportunities, and food assistance, to improvement people's nutritional conditions.⁵⁸⁸

On 21 April 2020, Japan signed a grant agreement with UNICEF of USD2 million to research the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on women and children, along with providing essential services to those in the Pacific region.⁵⁸⁹

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to support interested countries in implementing laws that promote gender equality by committing to collaborate with African Union to reduce gender gap and combat gender-based violence, by providing grant aid to a UN project aiming to improve economic empowerment of women in Sri Lanka and microfinancing women enterprises in Asia to collaborate with Mekong countries to eradicate human trafficking. It has also demonstrated its

⁵⁸² Japan gives Egypt \$US 83,708 grant to support women's empowerment, Egypt Independent (Cairo), 21 February 2019. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://egyptindependent.com/japan-gives-egypt-us-83708-grant-to-support-womens-empowerment/>.

⁵⁸³ Japan gives Egypt \$US 83,708 grant to support women's empowerment, Egypt Independent (Cairo), 21 February 2019. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://egyptindependent.com/japan-gives-egypt-us-83708-grant-to-support-womens-empowerment/>.

⁵⁸⁴ Japan Extends Grand Aid of USD 2.3 Million for Supporting Women and Girls Withstand Crises, Recovery from the Impact of Crises and Increase their Resilience in Nigeria and Cameroon, UN Women (New York City) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.ng.emb-japan.go.jp/files/100018832.pdf>.

⁵⁸⁵ Emergency grant aid to displaced people in neighbouring countries of Venezuela, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002764.html.

⁵⁸⁶ Emergency grant aid to displaced people in neighbouring countries of Venezuela, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002764.html.

⁵⁸⁷ Emergency grant aid to displaced people in neighbouring countries of Venezuela, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002764.html.

⁵⁸⁸ Emergency grant aid in response to the humanitarian crisis in the Sahel region, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002744.html.

⁵⁸⁹ Japan supports UNICEF to reach more than one million children in COVID-19 response, UNICEF (Suva) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/japan-supports-unicef-reach-more-one-million-children-covid-19-response>.

dedication through grant donations to Nigeria and Cameroon to support women and girls in crisis situations, to countries in the Sahel region to help combat gender-based violence amongst refugees and internally displaced peoples, and to countries in the Pacific region, to provide essential services and research the impact of COVID-19 on women and children. Japan has not complied with its commitment to help interested countries develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Sanjna Ullal

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to stand ready to help interested countries implement laws towards equality and develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

On 22 September 2019, the United Kingdom announced an additional aid of GBP 87 million to sustain its operations in Cox Bazar for Rohingya refugees. Part of this amount will fund reproductive services, protection for victims, and basic living and healthcare needs for Rohingya women and girls.⁵⁹⁰

On 24 September 2019, the UK announced an education commitment of GBP 515 million for women and girls at the United Nations. The aim is to increase education in areas of warzones and conflict areas to further social and economic empowerment of women.⁵⁹¹ The UK also announced additional GBP 5 billion that will be used move towards education investment in Africa and Asia.⁵⁹²

On 8 October 2019, the British ambassador to Turkmenistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage and abet gender equality, sensitivity and empowerment in the Turkmen security sector as a part of an Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe project.⁵⁹³ The aim is to promote gender main-streaming, particularly in male-dominated sectors, and provide gender sensitivity training to security officials.⁵⁹⁴

On 12 December 2019, the UK embassy in Cairo announced its moral and financial support of the first Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security in Egypt to prevent the effects of conflict and

⁵⁹⁰ UK announces extra £87 million funding for Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh, British High Commission (Dhaka) 22 September 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-extra-87-million-funding-for-rohingya-crisis-in-bangladesh>

⁵⁹¹ PM steps up UK effort to get every girl in the world into school, Prime Minister Office (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 26 December, 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-effort-to-get-every-girl-in-the-world-into-school>

⁵⁹² PM steps up UK effort to get every girl in the world into school, Prime Minister Office (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 26 December, 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-effort-to-get-every-girl-in-the-world-into-school>.

⁵⁹³ British Embassy Ashgabat supports women's empowerment and gender sensitivity, British Embassy (Ashgabat) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/british-embassy-ashgabat-supports-womens-empowerment-and-gender-sensitivity>.

⁵⁹⁴ British Embassy Ashgabat supports women's empowerment and gender sensitivity, British Embassy (Ashgabat) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/british-embassy-ashgabat-supports-womens-empowerment-and-gender-sensitivity>

injustice on women and girls.⁵⁹⁵ It also aims to support the involvement of women in peace processes to ensure peace and security in the region.⁵⁹⁶

On 19 January 2020, UK reaffirmed its commitment to bring peace to Libya at the Berlin Conference on Libya.⁵⁹⁷ The involved countries called on all parties in Libya to hold individuals accountable for violations of international law, including those who commit sexual and gender-based violence.⁵⁹⁸ These areas include “the indiscriminate use of force against civilians, attacks on densely populated residential areas, extrajudicial killings, kidnappings, enforced disappearances, sexual and gender-based violence, torture and ill-treatment, human trafficking, and violence against or the abuse of migrants and refugees.”⁵⁹⁹ Involved countries also called on Libya to encourage effective and meaningful participation of women in activities relating to Libya’s democratic transition, conflict resolution and peacebuilding and to support efforts of Special Representative to the United Nations Secretary General Ghassam Salamé to improve female participation in the political process and public institutions.

On 16 January 2020, UK announced an aid package of GBP3.5 million aiming to empower women entrepreneurs and business leaders in Africa.⁶⁰⁰ This aid package will aim to assist female entrepreneurs in acquiring investments through specialist business training, creating up to 3,000 jobs and reducing workplace inequality; create investment and development partnerships; and enable working alongside the governments of Ghana, Nigeria and Kenya to create gender-inclusive trade policies.⁶⁰¹

On 4 March 2020, the UK ambassador to Egypt Sir Geoffrey Adams announced a roundtable meeting with the Arab Women’s Enterprise Fund (AWEF), aiming to decrease barriers for women empowerment, education and employment in the Arab world and North Africa.⁶⁰² The enterprise funded by the UK government and aims to boost financial independence in the home and workplace.⁶⁰³

On 8 July 2020, the UK’s Ambassador to the World Trade Organization and the UN, Julian Braithwaite, reiterated their commitment to gender equality at the Women’s Economic

⁵⁹⁵ UK supports Egypt in developing 1st action plan on women, peace, security, Ahram (Cairo) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/357664/Egypt/Politics-/UK-supports-Egypt-in-developing-st-action-plan-on-.aspx>

⁵⁹⁶ UK supports Egypt in developing 1st action plan on women, peace, security, Ahram (Cairo) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/357664/Egypt/Politics-/UK-supports-Egypt-in-developing-st-action-plan-on-.aspx>

⁵⁹⁷ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁵⁹⁸ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁵⁹⁹ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁶⁰⁰ UK aid boosts support for African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets, Department of International Development (London), January 16, 2020. Access Date: April 26, 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-boosts-support-for-african-women-entrepreneurs-to-expand-businesses-into-global-markets>.

⁶⁰¹ UK aid boosts support for African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets, Department of International Development (London), January 16, 2020. Access Date: April 26, 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-boosts-support-for-african-women-entrepreneurs-to-expand-businesses-into-global-markets>.

⁶⁰² British embassy launches its annual campaign to support gender equality. British Embassy (Cairo) 4 March 2020. Access Date: April 26, 2020. <https://www.dailynewssegypt.com/2020/03/04/british-embassy-launches-its-annual-campaign-to-support-gender-equality/>.

⁶⁰³ British embassy launches its annual campaign to support gender equality. British Embassy (Cairo) 4 March 2020. Access Date: April 26, 2020. <https://www.dailynewssegypt.com/2020/03/04/british-embassy-launches-its-annual-campaign-to-support-gender-equality/>.

Empowerment through Trade event.⁶⁰⁴ Braithwaite highlights the four challenges to gender equality in trade, listed in the International Trade Centre’s report: awareness, expertise, gender-disaggregated data and political will.⁶⁰⁵ Firstly, it was stated that trade is not “gender neutral” and there are barriers for women’s participation.⁶⁰⁶ Secondly, there needs to be increased inclusion of women expertise for policy development and trade.⁶⁰⁷ Thirdly, there is a need to monitor the progress towards implementing these goals.⁶⁰⁸ Particularly, the UK’s Aid for Trade portfolio will show “best practices on trade and gender policies around the world, providing a crucial step forward in identifying, understanding and addressing the barriers for women in international trade.”⁶⁰⁹ Lastly, political will. The UK not only supports free and fair trade but also identifies the importance of the political will of the international community.⁶¹⁰ The UK notes it strongly supports the creation of an Informal working Group on Women’s Economic Empowerment for considering gender equality in international trade.⁶¹¹

United Kingdom has demonstrated its dedication to support interested countries in implementing laws that promote gender equality by funding reproductive and protective services for female Rohingya refugees, signing a MoU with Turkmenistan to encourage gender equality by providing gender sensitivity training to security officials and by announcing moral and financial support for the first Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security in Egypt. United Kingdom has not complied with its commitment to help interested countries develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

Thus, United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Jaijika Kataria

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to stand ready to help interested countries implement laws towards equality and develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

⁶⁰⁴ Ambassador Julian Braithwaite’s statement on Women’s Economic Empowerment, Department for International Development (London) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/ambassador-julian-braithwaites-statement-on-womens-economic-empowerment>

⁶⁰⁵ Ambassador Julian Braithwaite’s statement on Women’s Economic Empowerment, Department for International Development (London) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/ambassador-julian-braithwaites-statement-on-womens-economic-empowerment>

⁶⁰⁶ Ambassador Julian Braithwaite’s statement on Women’s Economic Empowerment, Department for International Development (London) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/ambassador-julian-braithwaites-statement-on-womens-economic-empowerment>

⁶⁰⁷ Ambassador Julian Braithwaite’s statement on Women’s Economic Empowerment, Department for International Development (London) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/ambassador-julian-braithwaites-statement-on-womens-economic-empowerment>

⁶⁰⁸ Ambassador Julian Braithwaite’s statement on Women’s Economic Empowerment, Department for International Development (London) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/ambassador-julian-braithwaites-statement-on-womens-economic-empowerment>

⁶⁰⁹ Ambassador Julian Braithwaite’s statement on Women’s Economic Empowerment, Department for International Development (London) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/ambassador-julian-braithwaites-statement-on-womens-economic-empowerment>

⁶¹⁰ Ambassador Julian Braithwaite’s statement on Women’s Economic Empowerment, Department for International Development (London) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/ambassador-julian-braithwaites-statement-on-womens-economic-empowerment>

⁶¹¹ Ambassador Julian Braithwaite’s statement on Women’s Economic Empowerment, Department for International Development (London) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/ambassador-julian-braithwaites-statement-on-womens-economic-empowerment>

On 29 October 2019, all states of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), of which the United States is a member, adopted Resolution 2492 which promotes a women, peace and security agenda.⁶¹² UNSC urges members to facilitate full and equal participation of women at every stage of peacebuilding processes, to address threats and violence against women and to increase number of civilian and uniformed women in peacekeeping operations.⁶¹³

On 18 November 2019, USAID Administrator Mark Green and Advisor to Ivanka Trump announced that additional USD50 million funding will be directed towards Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (W-GDP).⁶¹⁴ W-GDP aims to advance women's economic empowerment in developing countries with the goal of reaching 50 million women by 2025 through collaboration with local organizations.⁶¹⁵

On 2 December 2019, USAID and Aga Khan Foundation announced USD37.5 million in funding for project known as "Local Impact."⁶¹⁶ Funds from this project will help Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan "expand opportunity and overall quality of life" for women and girls specifically.⁶¹⁷

On 19 January 2020, United States reaffirmed its commitment to bring peace to Libya at the Berlin Conference on Libya,⁶¹⁸ The involved countries called on all parties in Libya to hold individuals accountable for violations of international law, including those who commit sexual and gender-based violence.⁶¹⁹ These areas include "the indiscriminate use of force against civilians, attacks on densely populated residential areas, extrajudicial killings, kidnappings, enforced disappearances, sexual and gender-based violence, torture and ill-treatment, human trafficking, and violence against or the abuse of migrants and refugees."⁶²⁰ Involved countries also called on Libya to encourage effective and meaningful participation of women in activities relating to Libya's democratic transition, conflict resolution and peacebuilding and to support efforts of United Nations Secretary General Salamé to improve female participation in the political process and public institutions.

⁶¹² Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>

⁶¹³ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>

⁶¹⁴ USAID Administrator Mark Green and Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump announce Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative Fund's increase to \$100 million in first year and launch of new partnerships, USAID (Washington D.C.) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 4 January 2020. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/nov-18-2019-administrator-green-advisor-trump-w-gdp-funding-increase>

⁶¹⁵ USAID Administrator Mark Green and Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump announce Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative Fund's increase to \$100 million in first year and launch of new partnerships, USAID (Washington D.C.) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 4 January 2020. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/nov-18-2019-administrator-green-advisor-trump-w-gdp-funding-increase>.

⁶¹⁶ USAID and The Aga Khan Foundation work to increase the impact of local organizations in Central Asia, USAID (Washington D.C.) 2 December 2019. Access Date: 4 January 2020. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/dec-2-2019-usaid-and-aga-khan-foundation-work-increase-impact-local-organizations>.

⁶¹⁷ USAID and The Aga Khan Foundation work to increase the impact of local organizations in Central Asia, USAID (Washington D.C.) 2 December 2019. Access Date: 4 January 2020. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/dec-2-2019-usaid-and-aga-khan-foundation-work-increase-impact-local-organizations>.

⁶¹⁸ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁶¹⁹ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁶²⁰ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to support interested countries in implementing laws that promote gender equality by collaborating with members of UNSC, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan to encourage gender equality by supporting women economic empowerment in developing countries and women participation in civil services. The United States has not complied with its commitment to help interested countries develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Shaina Sharma

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to stand ready to help interested countries implement laws toward equality and develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

On 2 September 2019, EU Programmes Officer Mathe Tau signed a financing agreement called “EU Support to Civil Society,” which provided a grant to the Lesotho chapter of Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA).⁶²¹ WLSA will use this grant towards a project called ‘Socio-Economic Empowerment through Gender-Responsive Policies, Legislations and Action’ to contribute to the development of gender-sensitive policies and laws, increased knowledge about gender-based violence, and towards women’s economic empowerment.⁶²² WLSA will collaborate with Lesotho National Council of Women, the Women’s Law Clinic, the Migrants Workers Association of Lesotho and the Lesotho Youth Federation for this 48-month project.⁶²³

On 8 October 2019, the EU released an action plan for supporting gender equality in Libya. The action plan reflected the ways in which the EU is working in Libya to prevent and combat violence against women and girls, promote women’s economic and social rights, and strengthen their ability to participate in society.⁶²⁴

On 14 October 2019, the EU Delegation to Egypt and the Embassy of Sweden in Cairo launched the Gender Champion initiative to support Egypt in empowering its women to participate more in public life and support female leadership.⁶²⁵ The EU also stated its intent to help combat female genital mutilation in collaboration with the National Council for Women and United Nations.

On 9 and 10 December 2019, the European Union and Zambia launched the Natwampane Programme. The European Development Fund allocated a budget of EUR25 million to prevent sexual and gender-based violence, while simultaneously improving access to services for survivors

⁶²¹ The EU supports the fight for gender justice in Lesotho European External Action Service (Brussels) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67216/eu-supports-fight-gender-justice-lesotho_en.

⁶²² The EU supports the fight for gender justice in Lesotho European External Action Service (Brussels) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67216/eu-supports-fight-gender-justice-lesotho_en.

⁶²³ The EU supports the fight for gender justice in Lesotho European External Action Service (Brussels) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67216/eu-supports-fight-gender-justice-lesotho_en

⁶²⁴ European Union support to gender equality in Libya European External Action Service (Brussels) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/eu_support_for_gender_equality_final_-_web.pdf

⁶²⁵ EU Gender Champions working with Egypt to support women empowerment (Brussels) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/68873/eu-gender-champions-working-egypt-support-women-empowerment_en

within the Zambian's Northern Province and Luapula Province.⁶²⁶ This will be achieved through sexual education for 235,000 children; sensitization of 335,000 children; engagement of 1,600 faith leaders, 1,800 civic leaders, 1,530 marriage counsellors; and 392 radio programs to reach 200,000 youth.⁶²⁷

On 12 February 2020, the EU called for a vote on a resolution that called on United Nations members to implement an EU strategy to end female genital mutilations across the world.⁶²⁸

On 5 March 2020, the European Union released its Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, within which it reaffirmed its commitment to ending violence against women and girls, promoting women's empowerment, and ensuring the fulfillment of their rights – human, political, or civil.⁶²⁹ As part of this plan, it has pledged to promote gender equality through its trade policy by gathering gender-disaggregated data to ensure that the gender impact of trade agreements is considered.⁶³⁰ It plans on using its External Investment Plan to promote women's entrepreneurship and labour market participation, both through the 2020 EU Strategy with Africa, and the Women's Financial Inclusion Facility.⁶³¹

On 5 March 2020, the European Union initiated the Spotlight Initiative, in partnership with the United Nations, to end violence against women and girls.⁶³² To this end, the European Union has invested USD550 million to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in 26 countries⁶³³ by 2030.⁶³⁴ Its foci are to reform the procedural laws that govern legal proceedings, enhance victim rights policy frameworks, improve the capacity for nations to plan, fund, and deliver programmes that prevent and respond to violence against women and girls, while expanding existing programs that work towards the same ends.⁶³⁵

⁶²⁶ Launch of the Natwampane Programme “together to STOP sexual and gender-based violence” European External Action Service (Brussels) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019.

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/72468/launch-natwampane-programme-%E2%80%9Ctogether-stop-sexual-and-gender-based-violence%E2%80%9D_en.

⁶²⁷ Launch of the Natwampane Programme “together to STOP sexual and gender-based violence” European External Action Service (Brussels) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019.

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/72468/launch-natwampane-programme-%E2%80%9Ctogether-stop-sexual-and-gender-based-violence%E2%80%9D_en.

⁶²⁸ Coming up: EU-Vietnam trade deal, artificial intelligence and EU-UK cooperation, European Parliament (Brussels) 7 February 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/eu-affairs/20200131STO71520/coming-up-eu-vietnam-trade-deal-artificial-intelligence-and-eu-uk-cooperation>.

⁶²⁹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2020%3A152%3AFIN/>.

⁶³⁰ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2020%3A152%3AFIN/>.

⁶³¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2020%3A152%3AFIN/>.

⁶³² European Union, the Government of Timor-Leste and UN launch Spotlight Initiative to end violence against women and girls (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/75540/european-union-government-timor-leste-and-un-launch-spotlight-initiative-end-violence-against_fi

⁶³³ Empowering women and girls (Brussels) Access Date: 27 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/topics/empowering-women-and-girls_en.

⁶³⁴ European Union, the Government of Timor-Leste and UN launch Spotlight Initiative to end violence against women and girls (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/75540/european-union-government-timor-leste-and-un-launch-spotlight-initiative-end-violence-against_fi.

⁶³⁵ Spotlight Initiative to End Violence Against Women and Girls Launched in Grenada. 6 March 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/75690/spotlight-initiative-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-launched-grenada_fi.

On 6 March 2020, the European Union's executive announced that the European Commission will introduce laws that combat gender equality that include "binding measures on pay transparency," which aim to encourage member states to implement these laws to bridge the gender wage gap.⁶³⁶

On 15 March 2020, Delegation of EU to Nigeria and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) advocated for equal opportunity for all genders to bridge the gender inequality gap in Nigeria.⁶³⁷ Ambassador of EU to Nigeria and ECOWAS noted that EU is working with Nigerian institutions to improve gender equality and will continue to support opening of a national register against sexual offenders and sexual assault referral centres throughout the country on a call.⁶³⁸

On 11 June 2020, the EU called for a peace agreement in South Sudan. The EU called for an end to the "high number of fatalities, force displacement, sexual and gender-based violence and other human rights abuses" that has been perpetuated by delays in the implementation of said peace agreement. Additionally, the EU states that it must be ensured that women represent 35 per cent of those in public office.⁶³⁹

On 13 July 2020, the the Council set the EU's priorities for the 75th General Assembly of the United Nations.⁶⁴⁰ Among these priorities includes "human rights and gender equality, promoting peace and security, building a fair globalisation, accelerating the global transition towards sustainable and climate neutral future, and leading the transition to a new digital world."⁶⁴¹

European Union has demonstrated its dedication to implement laws that promote gender equality by providing grants to WLSA working to develop gender-sensitive policies, developing an action plan to collaborate with Libya to prevent and combat violence against women and promote women's economic and social rights, launching the Gender Champion Initiative and funding Natwampane' Programme in collaboration with Zambia to improve access to services for survivors of violence in Zambia's Norther Province and Luapula Province. It has also demonstrated its interest through its renewal of its Gender Equality strategy, which reaffirms its commitment to helping women realize their rights, and its joint creation of the Spotlight Initiative, which aims to end violence against women and girls in 26 countries globally.

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

Analyst: Sanjna Ullal

⁶³⁶ EU Executive seeks to crack down on gender pay gap, Premium Times (Brussels) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://nypost.com/2020/03/06/eu-executive-seeks-to-crack-down-on-gender-pay-gap/>.

⁶³⁷ EU advocates gender equality in Nigeria, Premium Times (Brussels) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/more-news/382030-eu-advocates-gender-equality-in-nigeria.html>.

⁶³⁸ EU advocates gender equality in Nigeria, Premium Times (Brussels) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/more-news/382030-eu-advocates-gender-equality-in-nigeria.html>.

⁶³⁹ South Sudan: declaration by the High Representative, on behalf of the European Union, on delays in the implementation of the peace agreement and widespread violence, Council of the EU (Brussels) 11 June 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/06/11/south-sudan-declaration-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-european-union-on-delays-in-the-implementation-of-the-peace-agreement-and-widespread-violence/>

⁶⁴⁰ EU priorities at the United Nations and the 75th United Nations General Assembly adopted, Council of the EU (Brussels) 13 July 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/07/13/eu-priorities-at-the-united-nations-and-the-75th-united-nations-general-assembly-adopted/>

⁶⁴¹ EU priorities at the United Nations and the 75th United Nations General Assembly adopted, Council of the EU (Brussels) 13 July 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/07/13/eu-priorities-at-the-united-nations-and-the-75th-united-nations-general-assembly-adopted/>

5. Gender: Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa

“We support the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) initiative including through the Women Entrepreneurs-Finance Initiative (We-Fi).”

Biarritz Declaration for a G7 and Africa Partnership

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France		0	
Germany			+1
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union		0	
Average		+0.63 (82%)	

Background

There is a higher percentage of women entrepreneurs in Africa than in any other part of the world, one in four women in Africa starts or manages a business.⁶⁴² Over 40 per cent of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are run by women.⁶⁴³ Women entrepreneurs’ investment and contribution to their family and community, up to 90 per cent of their income, far outweighs the 40 per cent male entrepreneurs invest.⁶⁴⁴ It is more difficult for women to obtain loans and funding; financial institutions do not have the capacity to assist women adequately and there are often legal and regulatory frameworks which prevent women from being involved in the private sector.⁶⁴⁵

In 2016, the African Development Bank (AfDB) launched the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) at their annual meeting.⁶⁴⁶ AFAWA provides “available, accessible and affordable financial services to women in business through selected financial institutions.”⁶⁴⁷ The purpose of these services is to change the nature of trade in Africa, increase credit of up to USD1

⁶⁴² Why AFAWA? African Development Bank Group (Tunis). Access Date: 10 October 2019. <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/afawa-affirmative-finance-action-for-women-in-africa/why-afawa>

⁶⁴³ G7 Summit: President Macron and G7 leaders provide Bank’s Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) initiative with \$251 million, Africanews (Pointe-Noire) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 10 October 2019. <https://www.africanews.com/2019/08/26/g7-summit-president-macron-and-g7-leaders-provide-banks-affirmative-finance-action-for-women-in-africa-afawa-initiative-with-251-million/>

⁶⁴⁴ 7 Summit: President Macron and G7 leaders provide Bank’s Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) initiative with \$251 million, Africanews (Pointe-Noire) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 10 October 2019. <https://www.africanews.com/2019/08/26/g7-summit-president-macron-and-g7-leaders-provide-banks-affirmative-finance-action-for-women-in-africa-afawa-initiative-with-251-million/>

⁶⁴⁵ Why AFAWA? African Development Bank Group (Tunis). Access Date: 10 October 2019. <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/afawa-affirmative-finance-action-for-women-in-africa/why-afawa>

⁶⁴⁶ AfDB and IFC agree to promote investments that benefit women in Africa, ReliefWeb (New York City) 23 May 2017. Access Date: 10 October 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/afdb-and-ifc-agree-promote-investments-benefit-women-africa>

⁶⁴⁷ AfDB and IFC agree to promote investments that benefit women in Africa, ReliefWeb (New York City) 23 May 2017. Access Date: 10 October 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/afdb-and-ifc-agree-promote-investments-benefit-women-africa>

billion per year for five years after its commencement in support of women entrepreneurs, and, most significantly, close the USD42 billion financing gap between men and women entrepreneurs.⁶⁴⁸

In 2018, the AfDB committed over USD50 million in lines of credit to women through Fidelity Bank, Kenya Commercial Bank and other financial institutions.⁶⁴⁹ Furthermore, AfDB made an anchor investment of USD12.5 million in Alitheia IDF Managers (AIM).⁶⁵⁰ AIM is a private equity fund managed by women, first of its kind, that invests in “high-growth women-owned and -led SMEs in Africa.”⁶⁵¹ The goal of AIM is to raise USD100 million, focusing on ten countries in Southern and Western Africa.⁶⁵²

In 2018, AFAWA contributed technical assistance to several banks and worked with Entrepreneurium Foundation to train 1000 women entrepreneurs across Africa in financial planning and business model development.⁶⁵³ AFAWA works with central banks and government entities across Africa to develop policy dialogue.⁶⁵⁴ As well, AFAWA is developing a digital platform, 50 Million African Women Speak, with the goal of connecting women entrepreneurs from around Africa.⁶⁵⁵

In April 2018, the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi) contributed their first round of funding. We-Fi is a “collaborative partnership among 14 governments, eight multilateral development banks, and other public and private sector stakeholders, hosted by the World Bank Group.”⁶⁵⁶ A minimum of 58 per cent of the first round of funding is allocated for women-owned SMEs in low-income countries and fragile and conflict-affected situations. Of that funding, 43 per cent is meant for country and regional projects in Sub-Saharan Africa.⁶⁵⁷

In May 2019, We-Fi allocated their second round of funding, including to the AfDB, for programs to benefit 70,000 women-led businesses, mobilize nearly one billion dollars of additional public and

⁶⁴⁸ AFAWA could be a real game changer for trade in Africa, Africanews (Pointe-Noire) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 10 October 2019. <https://www.africanews.com/2019/08/28/afawa-could-be-a-real-game-changer-for-trade-in-africa-business/>

⁶⁴⁹ What does AFAWA do? African Development Bank Group (Tunis). Access Date: 10 October 2019. <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/afawa-affirmative-finance-action-for-women-in-africa/what-does-afawa-do>

⁶⁵⁰ What does AFAWA do? African Development Bank Group (Tunis). Access Date: 10 October 2019. <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/afawa-affirmative-finance-action-for-women-in-africa/what-does-afawa-do>

⁶⁵¹ What does AFAWA do? African Development Bank Group (Tunis). Access Date: 10 October 2019. <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/afawa-affirmative-finance-action-for-women-in-africa/what-does-afawa-do>

⁶⁵² What does AFAWA do? African Development Bank Group (Tunis). Access Date: 10 October 2019. <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/afawa-affirmative-finance-action-for-women-in-africa/what-does-afawa-do>

⁶⁵³ What does AFAWA do? African Development Bank Group (Tunis). Access Date: 10 October 2019. <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/afawa-affirmative-finance-action-for-women-in-africa/what-does-afawa-do>

⁶⁵⁴ What does AFAWA do? African Development Bank Group (Tunis). Access Date: 10 October 2019. <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/afawa-affirmative-finance-action-for-women-in-africa/what-does-afawa-do>

⁶⁵⁵ What does AFAWA do? African Development Bank Group (Tunis). Access Date: 10 October 2019. <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/afawa-affirmative-finance-action-for-women-in-africa/what-does-afawa-do>

⁶⁵⁶ Who We Are, Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (Washington D.C.). Access Date: 10 October 2019. <https://we-fi.org/who-we-are/>

⁶⁵⁷ Programs Funded by We-Fi, Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (Washington D.C.). Access Date: 10 October 2019. <https://we-fi.org/programs/>

private sector resources, and boost women’s entrepreneurship.⁶⁵⁸ 70 per cent of this funding will go towards women entrepreneurs in low-income countries and fragile and conflict-affected countries.⁶⁵⁹

On 13 May 2019, We-Fi announced USD62 million for AFAWA to support 40,000 SMEs in 21 African states.⁶⁶⁰ AFAWA’s programs will contribute to “innovative and tailored financial instruments including a women-focused first loss risk-sharing facility, specialized capacity-building training, and targeted initiatives to dramatically transform the business-enabling environment for women entrepreneurs.”⁶⁶¹

On 25 August 2019, the G7 announced a USD251 million funding package for AFAWA in support of women entrepreneurs.⁶⁶²

Commitment Features

At Biarritz, G7 leaders committed to “support the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) initiative including through the Women Entrepreneurs-Finance Initiative (We-Fi).” This commitment was made in order to reform “the social, legal and regulatory barriers to women’s full and free economic participation and empowerment.”⁶⁶³ The goal of the AFAWA initiative is “to facilitate up to USD3 billion of loans through existing African commercial banks and microfinance institutions over 5 years for over 50,000 women businesses.”⁶⁶⁴ These loans should create jobs, structural change and long-lasting economic growth.⁶⁶⁵ The G7 leaders also welcomed We-Fi’s funding contribution of USD62 million to AFAWA, which promotes policy objectives for AFAWA which are in line with the G7’s objectives in this area.⁶⁶⁶

This commitment focuses on “support,” which is “the action, or act of providing aid, assistance, or backing up an initiative, or entity.”⁶⁶⁷ In this case, the commitment focuses on G7 members contributing to AFAWA and doing so through We-Fi.⁶⁶⁸

⁶⁵⁸ Programs Funded by We-Fi, Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (Washington D.C.). Access Date: 10 October 2019. <https://we-fi.org/programs/>

⁶⁵⁹ Programs Funded by We-Fi, Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (Washington D.C.). Access Date: 10 October 2019. <https://we-fi.org/programs/>

⁶⁶⁰ Nearly \$62 million is headed to Africa to support women in business, Africa Times 14 May 2019. Access Date: 10 October 2019. <https://africatimes.com/2019/05/14/nearly-62-million-is-headed-to-africa-to-support-women-in-business/>

⁶⁶¹ Programs Funded by We-Fi, Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (Washington D.C.). Access Date: 10 October 2019. <https://we-fi.org/programs/>

⁶⁶² G7 Summit: President Macron and G7 leaders provide Bank’s Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) initiative with \$251 million, Africanews (Pointe-Noire) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 10 October 2019. <https://www.africanews.com/2019/08/26/g7-summit-president-macron-and-g7-leaders-provide-banks-affirmative-finance-action-for-women-in-africa-afawa-initiative-with-251-million/>

⁶⁶³ Biarritz Declaration for a G7 & African Partnership, Elysee G7 Biarritz (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 10 October 2019.

<https://www.elysee.fr/admin/upload/default/0001/05/2b23c8767bc581f1a204029870f8f400cd2546ae.pdf>

⁶⁶⁴ Promoting Women’s Entrepreneurship in Africa, Elysee G7 Biarritz (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 10 October 2019.

<https://www.elysee.fr/admin/upload/default/0001/05/e09962f6f2b061641431cb4ed91687f1cc049cf0.pdf>

⁶⁶⁵ Promoting Women’s Entrepreneurship in Africa, Elysee G7 Biarritz (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 10 October 2019.

<https://www.elysee.fr/admin/upload/default/0001/05/e09962f6f2b061641431cb4ed91687f1cc049cf0.pdf>

⁶⁶⁶ Promoting Women’s Entrepreneurship in Africa, Elysee G7 Biarritz (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 10 October 2019.

<https://www.elysee.fr/admin/upload/default/0001/05/e09962f6f2b061641431cb4ed91687f1cc049cf0.pdf>

⁶⁶⁷ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 19 September 2016. Access Date: 10 October 2019.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1K4GvxGEMGP_ZDyQgx5LF9meXpnKaRpW_e_QeF2J0WX0/edit#heading=h.30j0

The AFAWA initiative is based on three pillars: AFAWA finance, AFAWA technical assistance, and AFAWA enabling environment.⁶⁶⁹

AFAWA finance uses the AfDB's financial instruments to transform the banking and financial landscape in Africa to create incentives for lending to women, through two mechanisms.⁶⁷⁰

1. A USD300 million risk-sharing instrument with the goal of creating USD3 billion in credit for businesses and enterprises run by women. The purpose of this is to initiate structural change by building on the existing network of commercial banks and microfinance institutions.⁶⁷¹
2. A rating system which evaluates “financial institutions based on the share and quality of their lending to women, and their socio-economic impact,” rewarding the financial institutions with preferential financing terms from the AfDB based on their rank.⁶⁷²

AFAWA technical assistance offers advisory services to financial institutions with the goal of effectively implementing women's product portfolios.⁶⁷³ Furthermore, the technical assistance is meant to strengthen “the capacity of women entrepreneurs through training to enhance business productivity and growth.”⁶⁷⁴

AFAWA enabling environment “engages with African governments and other key stakeholders to support legal, policy and regulatory reforms and strike down the structural barriers impeding women in business.”⁶⁷⁵

For a G7 member to achieve full compliance, they must support all three pillars of the AFAWA initiative, including through the We-FI. A G7 member must provide aid for AFAWA finance, AFAWA technical assistance and AFAWA enabling environment. Aid can be in the form of, but not limited to, financial or political support, providing technical and professional advisers, sharing best practices and knowledge with AFAWA, African governments or key stakeholders, or working with other governments or key stakeholders to implement these pillars.

⁶⁶⁸ What does AFAWA do? African Development Bank Group (Tunis). Access Date: 10 October 2019.
<https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/afawa-affirmative-finance-action-for-women-in-africa/what-does-afawa-do>

⁶⁶⁹ What does AFAWA do? African Development Bank Group (Tunis). Access Date: 10 October 2019.
<https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/afawa-affirmative-finance-action-for-women-in-africa/what-does-afawa-do>

⁶⁷⁰ What does AFAWA do? African Development Bank Group (Tunis). Access Date: 10 October 2019.
<https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/afawa-affirmative-finance-action-for-women-in-africa/what-does-afawa-do>

⁶⁷¹ What does AFAWA do? African Development Bank Group (Tunis). Access Date: 10 October 2019.
<https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/afawa-affirmative-finance-action-for-women-in-africa/what-does-afawa-do>

⁶⁷² What does AFAWA do? African Development Bank Group (Tunis). Access Date: 10 October 2019.
<https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/afawa-affirmative-finance-action-for-women-in-africa/what-does-afawa-do>

⁶⁷³ What does AFAWA do? African Development Bank Group (Tunis). Access Date: 10 October 2019.
<https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/afawa-affirmative-finance-action-for-women-in-africa/what-does-afawa-do>

⁶⁷⁴ What does AFAWA do? African Development Bank Group (Tunis). Access Date: 10 October 2019.
<https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/afawa-affirmative-finance-action-for-women-in-africa/what-does-afawa-do>

⁶⁷⁵ What does AFAWA do? African Development Bank Group (Tunis). Access Date: 10 October 2019.
<https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/afawa-affirmative-finance-action-for-women-in-africa/what-does-afawa-do>

Partial compliance would be if a G7 member supports two pillars, including or not including the We-Fi, or the G7 member supports one pillar, including through We-Fi. Anything less than this counts for non-compliance.

Additionally, this report considers the strength of the action in each of the pillars. For example, if the G7 member supported all three pillars but in one pillar only made a verbal declaration or reiteration of support, or something equivalent, this will lower the members' score from a +1 to a 0 for a work in progress.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member does not support the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) initiative or the Women Entrepreneurs-Finance Initiative (We-Fi).
0	The G7 member supports two pillars of the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) initiative, including or not including the Women Entrepreneurs-Finance Initiative (We-Fi) OR supports one pillar including through We-Fi.
+1	The G7 member fully supports the three pillars of the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) initiative, including through the Women Entrepreneurs-Finance Initiative (We-Fi).

*Compliance Direction: Sonja Dobson
Lead Analyst: Anahid Najafizadeh*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to support the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) initiative including through the Women Entrepreneurs-Finance Initiative (We-Fi).

As of 30 September 2019, the latest We-Fi Financial Report prepared by the World Bank Group Trustee highlights Canada's total financial contributions to the We-Fi Trust Fund at CAD15.55 million since its inception.⁶⁷⁶

On 12 November 2019, the Development Finance Institute Canada (FinDev) announced an investment of CAD7.5 million to Alitheia IDF (AIF), a fund supporting women-owned and led businesses, to boost women's economic empowerment and access to finance in Sub-Saharan Africa.⁶⁷⁷ The AIF is a joint venture of women-owned and led funds between Alitheia Capital in Nigeria and IDF Capital in South Africa. As the first fund of its kind in Africa, it uses a gender-lens investing approach to support high-growth African small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that help improve women's access to finance and foster their economic empowerment.⁶⁷⁸ The capital invested by FinDev Canada will be used to finance locally-owned, high-growth SMEs that address

⁶⁷⁶ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative Financial Report. The World Bank Group (Washington D.C.) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019.

<https://fiftrustee.worldbank.org/content/dam/fif/funds/wefi/TrusteeReports/We-Fi-Trustee-Report---09-30-2019.pdf>.

⁶⁷⁷ FinDev Canada invests in gender-lens fund to bolster women-owned SMEs in Africa, FinDev Canada (Montréal) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.findevcanada.ca/en/news/findev-canada-invests-gender-lens-fund-bolster-women-owned-smes-africa>.

⁶⁷⁸ FinDev Canada invests in gender-lens fund to bolster women-owned SMEs in Africa, Cision PR Newswire Association LLC (Chicago) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/findev-canada-invests-in-gender-lens-fund-to-bolster-women-owned-smes-in-africa-300956608.html>.

unmet demand for essential goods and services and operate in priority sectors where women entrepreneurs are dominant both as producers and consumers.⁶⁷⁹

On 27 November 2019, FinDev Canada in partnership with the development finance institutions CDC Group United Kingdom, Proparco France, Overseas Private Investment Corporation United States, and the Mastercard Foundation unveiled their joint initiative Invest2Impact at the Global Gender Summit 2019.⁶⁸⁰ The initiative empowers East African women business leaders through providing business development services, access to funding, and network opportunities.⁶⁸¹ 100 African women entrepreneurs were selected as inaugural winners through the entrepreneurship competition securing a collective total of USD85,000 in investment.⁶⁸²

On 13 December 2019, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau released ministerial mandate letters outlining the policy objectives that each minister will work to accomplish.⁶⁸³ The Ministers of Foreign Affairs, International Development, and for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development will continue gender equality work abroad and furthering global feminist initiatives with the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council.⁶⁸⁴ The Minister of International Development is also tasked with implementing the Feminist International Assistance Policy, which is geared towards creating opportunities for women on the ground in developing countries.⁶⁸⁵

On 14 January 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs published Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy. Global Affairs Canada (GAC) henceforth pledged to contribute 15 per cent of its bilateral international development assistance to improving gender equality and the quality of life for women and girls.⁶⁸⁶ GAC will also work with women in developing countries to access more opportunities and encourage greater financial inclusion.⁶⁸⁷ There is a focus on equal access for women to capital, markets, digital technology and business development, as well as technical support

⁶⁷⁹ FinDev Canada invests in gender-lens fund to bolster women-owned SMEs in Africa, FinDev Canada (Montréal) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.findevcanada.ca/en/news/findev-canada-invests-gender-lens-fund-bolster-women-owned-smes-africa>.

⁶⁸⁰ Rwandan firms win big at inaugural women entrepreneurship challenge, The New Times (Kigali) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/rwandan-firms-win-big-inaugural-women-entrepreneurship-challenge>.

⁶⁸¹ The Power of 100: 2019 Winners, Invest2Impact (Montréal) 29 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://invest2impact.africa/>.

⁶⁸² 31 Kenyan women entrepreneurs win Invest2Impact awards in Rwanda, Citizen Digital 29 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://citizentv.co.ke/business/31-kenyan-women-entrepreneurs-win-2x-invest2impact-awards-in-rwanda-305805/>

⁶⁸³ Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development Mandate Letter, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 13 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/mandate-letters/minister-women-and-gender-equality-and-rural-economic-development-mandate-letter>.

⁶⁸⁴ Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development Mandate Letter, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 13 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/mandate-letters/minister-women-and-gender-equality-and-rural-economic-development-mandate-letter>.

⁶⁸⁵ Minister for International Development Mandate Letter, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 13 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/mandate-letters/minister-international-development-mandate-letter>.

⁶⁸⁶ Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/priorities-priorites/policy-politique.aspx?lang=eng#5.3.

⁶⁸⁷ Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/priorities-priorites/policy-politique.aspx?lang=eng#5.3.

and vocational training.⁶⁸⁸ Canada has already begun work in Senegal with a women’s advocacy organization, to help women gain access to more opportunities through training in financial management and harvesting and processing techniques.⁶⁸⁹

On 1 June 2020, FinDev Canada announced an investment of USD20 million in African Development Partners III for “job creation, climate change mitigation and gender balance across Africa, as well as increasing access to education, healthcare and other crucial services.” Furthermore, this investment contributes to expanding women’s access to “entrepreneurship, leadership, quality employment and products and services in their portfolio.”⁶⁹⁰

On 25 June 2020, the 2X Challenge, launched at the G7 Charlevoix Summit, announced that the founding G7 members have already contributed and mobilized CAD4.1 billion, which surpasses the original aim of CAD3 billion by the end of 2020. The 2X Challenge “is a multilateral initiative...with the ambitious objective of deploying and mobilizing unprecedented amounts of capital to support projects that empower women as entrepreneurs, as business leaders, as employees and as consumers of products and services that enhance their economic participation.”⁶⁹¹

On 20 August 2020, as a member of the We-Fi governing committee, Canada announced We-Fi’s third funding allocation of USD49.3 million. Over 65 per cent of these allocations are dedicated to benefiting women entrepreneurs in low-income countries and countries impacted by fragility and conflict. This funding focuses on the needs of women entrepreneurs during the COVID-19 pandemic, innovation and digital development, partnership development and facilitating greater access to financing for women entrepreneurs.⁶⁹²

Canada has fully complied with its commitment by taking action to support AFAWA’s technical and financial pillars through partnerships and investments with FinDev and Invest2Impact to help decrease the funding gap and opportunities for women entrepreneurs in Africa. As well, Canada has financially contributed to We-Fi.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Cecilia Pang

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to support the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) initiative including through the Women Entrepreneurs-Finance Initiative (We-Fi).

⁶⁸⁸ Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/priorities-priorites/policy-politique.aspx.

⁶⁸⁹ Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/priorities-priorites/policy-politique.aspx.

⁶⁹⁰ FinDev Canada invests in private company expansion across Africa with leading equity firm Development Partners International, FinDev Canada (Montreal) 1 June 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.findevcanada.ca/en/news/findev-canada-invests-private-company-expansion-across-africa-leading-equity-firm-development>.

⁶⁹¹ 2X Challenge exceeds initial target by committing and mobilizing \$4.5 billion in capital towards women’s economic empowerment, FinDev Canada (Montreal) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 29 August 2020. <https://www.findevcanada.ca/en/news/2x-challenge-exceeds-initial-target-committing-and-mobilizing-45-billion-capital-towards>.

⁶⁹² Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis, Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

On 28 November 2019, the French Development Agency (AFD) and the African Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (AGF) signed a sub-participation agreement of USD30 million.⁶⁹³ The agreement will improve access to credit for (SMEs), cover losses through a risk-sharing mechanism for SMEs, and guarantee USD60 million to financial institutions which provide loans to approximately 1800 SMEs.⁶⁹⁴ The sub-participation seeks to support “women’s access to finance” specifically through AFAWA, with a “special emphasis” placed on the AFAWA initiative.⁶⁹⁵

On 9 December 2019, AFD announced a EUR15 million seed fund to assist African start-ups in 45 African countries.⁶⁹⁶ This initiative is in response to the lack access to bank loans for SMEs and start-ups. Furthermore, the seed fund is part of Emerging Valley, “a platform for emerging innovations and partnerships between Europe and Africa.”⁶⁹⁷

On 3 April 2020, the AfDB received USD7 billion through the Gender Equality Trust Fund (GETF).⁶⁹⁸ Among the anchor investors in the GETF is the Government of France.⁶⁹⁹ The GETF works with its partner, the AGF, to support access to financing for women-run SMEs in Africa.⁷⁰⁰

On 25 June 2020, the 2X Challenge, launched at the G7 Charlevoix Summit, announced that the founding G7 members have already contributed and mobilized CAD4.1 billion, which surpasses the original aim of CAD3 billion by the end of 2020. The 2X Challenge “is a multilateral initiative...with the ambitious objective of deploying and mobilizing unprecedented amounts of capital to support projects that empower women as entrepreneurs, as business leaders, as employees and as consumers of products and services that enhance their economic participation.”⁷⁰¹

⁶⁹³ French Development Agency supports African SMEs via a counter-guarantee of USD 30 Million to the African Guarantee Fund, African Guarantee Fund (Nairobi) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://africanguaranteefund.com/french-development-agency-supports-african-smes-via-a-counter-guarantee-of-usd-30-million-to-the-african-guarantee-fund/>.

⁶⁹⁴ French Development Agency supports African SMEs via a counter-guarantee of USD 30 Million to the African Guarantee Fund, African Guarantee Fund (Nairobi) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://africanguaranteefund.com/french-development-agency-supports-african-smes-via-a-counter-guarantee-of-usd-30-million-to-the-african-guarantee-fund/>.

⁶⁹⁵ French Development Agency supports African SMEs via a counter-guarantee of USD 30 Million to the African Guarantee Fund, African Guarantee Fund (Nairobi) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://africanguaranteefund.com/french-development-agency-supports-african-smes-via-a-counter-guarantee-of-usd-30-million-to-the-african-guarantee-fund/>.

⁶⁹⁶ AFD Group: Driver for African Start Ups, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 22 April 2020. https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/afd-group-driver-african-start-ups?origin=/en/actualites?field_date_value=&field_date_value_1=&field_type_target_id=1318&field_theme_target_id=All&items_per_page=5&page=3.

⁶⁹⁷ AFD Group: Driver for African Start Ups, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 22 April 2020. https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/afd-group-driver-african-start-ups?origin=/en/actualites?field_date_value=&field_date_value_1=&field_type_target_id=1318&field_theme_target_id=All&items_per_page=5&page=3.

⁶⁹⁸ AfDB to mobilise \$7bn for women-focused businesses through GETF, Vanguard (Lagos) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 8 April 2020. <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/04/afdb-to-mobilise-7bn-for-women-focused-businesses-through-getf/>.

⁶⁹⁹ AfDB to mobilise \$7bn for women-focused businesses through GETF, Vanguard (Lagos) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 8 April 2020. <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/04/afdb-to-mobilise-7bn-for-women-focused-businesses-through-getf/>.

⁷⁰⁰ AfDB to mobilise \$7bn for women-focused businesses through GETF, Vanguard (Lagos) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 8 April 2020. <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/04/afdb-to-mobilise-7bn-for-women-focused-businesses-through-getf/>.

⁷⁰¹ 2X Challenge exceeds initial target by committing and mobilizing \$4.5 billion in capital towards women’s economic empowerment, FinDev Canada (Montreal) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 29 August 2020. <https://www.findevcanada.ca/en/news/2x-challenge-exceeds-initial-target-committing-and-mobilizing-45-billion-capital-towards>.

On 25 June 2020, Proparco, a subsidiary of AfD, announced a USD30 million investment in AfricInvest's new multisector private equity fund AfricInvest Fund IV. This project will support job creation and women's employment through increasing access to capital for African SMEs.⁷⁰²

France has partially complied with its commitment to AFAWA through the technical pillar, by signing an agreement with AGF to support financial institutions, and through the finance pillar, by announcing a seed fund for start-ups. However, France has not contributed to We-Fi or to the remaining pillar of working with African governments to enable a conducive business environment for women entrepreneurs.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Maryanna Sierra C. Diab

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to support the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) initiative, including through the Women Entrepreneurs-Finance Initiative (We-Fi).

On 20 November 2019, iMOVE, an initiative of the Ministry of Education and Research, and the German African Business Association held the first German African Forum on Vocational Training and Education.⁷⁰³ The Forum focused on vocational education and training, with an emphasis on the role of women. Ministers from Egypt, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, South Sudan, Togo, Chad and Uganda attended the Forum and proclaimed their interest in escalating cooperation with Germany in the education and training sector.⁷⁰⁴

On 9 January 2020, KfW Development Bank contributed EUR25 million to the African Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (AGF).⁷⁰⁵ AGF stated the intention for the capital is to create more guarantees and technical assistance to financial institutions.⁷⁰⁶

On 28 January 2020, the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development signed an agreement with the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Malawi on co-financing the project 'Promoting Agricultural Technical Vocational Education and Training for Women (ATVET4W)'.⁷⁰⁷ The project is

⁷⁰² Proparco Takes a 30 M USD Stake in Pan-African Fund AfricInvest IV, Dedicated to African SMES, Proparco (Paris) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. https://www.proparco.fr/en/actualites/proparco-takes-30-m-usd-stake-pan-african-fund-africinvest-iv-dedicated-african-smes?origin=/en/actualites?field_date_value=&field_date_value_1=&field_type_target_id=All&field_theme_target_id=All&items_per_page=5&page=1.

⁷⁰³ German partners urgently needed: liMOVE and the African Association organized the 1st German-African Forum on Vocational Training and Education, iMOVE (Bonn) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 10 April 2020. https://www.imove-germany.de/cps/rde/xchg/imove_projekt_international/hs.xsl/events.htm?rdeLocaleAttr=en&content-url=/cps/rde/xchg/imove_projekt_international/hs.xsl/German-partners-urgently-needed.htm.

⁷⁰⁴ German partners urgently needed: liMOVE and the African Association organized the 1st German-African Forum on Vocational Training and Education, iMOVE (Bonn) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 10 April 2020. https://www.imove-germany.de/cps/rde/xchg/imove_projekt_international/hs.xsl/events.htm?rdeLocaleAttr=en&content-url=/cps/rde/xchg/imove_projekt_international/hs.xsl/German-partners-urgently-needed.htm.

⁷⁰⁵ AGF receives EUR 25 million capital increased from KfW Development Bank, African Guarantee Fund (Nairobi) 9 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://africanguaranteefund.com/african-guarantee-fund-receives-eur-25-million-capital-increase-from-kfw-development-bank/>.

⁷⁰⁶ AGF receives EUR 25 million capital increased from KfW Development Bank, African Guarantee Fund (Nairobi) 9 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://africanguaranteefund.com/african-guarantee-fund-receives-eur-25-million-capital-increase-from-kfw-development-bank/>.

⁷⁰⁷ African Union Project on Malawian Women's Empowerment in Agriculture: Cooperation with Norway and Germany, United Nations Africa Renewal (New York) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/news/african-union-project-malawian-women%E2%80%99s-empowerment-agriculture-cooperation-norway-and-germany>.

implemented by the African Union Development Agency with support from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, the German development agency.⁷⁰⁸ ATVET4W's approach is to increase women's skills, knowledge, income, decision making power and agency and "questions established norms and gender stereotypes to dismantle existing structural inequalities for women in Malawi's agricultural sector."⁷⁰⁹

On 17 February 2020, We-Fi published their annual report. The report stated that as of 31 December 2019, Germany had contributed EUR45.53 million to the initiative with a pledge to contribute a further EUR11.23 million.⁷¹⁰ We-Fi contributes 45 per cent of their funding to Africa through AFAWA to improve women SMEs access to funding, contribute technical assistance to financial institutions, and better the policy and enabling environment for women.⁷¹¹

On 25 June 2020, the 2X Challenge, launched at the G7 Charlevoix Summit, announced that the founding G7 members have already contributed and mobilized CAD4.1 billion, which surpasses the original aim of CAD3 billion by the end of 2020. The 2X Challenge "is a multilateral initiative...with the ambitious objective of deploying and mobilizing unprecedented amounts of capital to support projects that empower women as entrepreneurs, as business leaders, as employees and as consumers of products and services that enhance their economic participation."⁷¹²

On 20 August 2020, as a member of the We-Fi governing committee, Germany announced We-Fi's third funding allocation of USD49.3 million. Over 65 per cent of these allocations are dedicated to benefiting women entrepreneurs in low-income countries and countries impacted by fragility and conflict. This funding focuses on the needs of women entrepreneurs during the COVID-19 pandemic, innovation and digital development, partnership development and facilitating greater access to financing for women entrepreneurs.⁷¹³

Germany fully complied with its commitment to AFAWA including through We-Fi. Germany has supported the technical pillar and financial pillars through the German African Forum on Vocational Training and Education and contributing to the AGF. The enabling pillar was fulfilled by Germany's co-financing of and support for ATVET4W. Finally, Germany has contributed to We-Fi.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jieyi Tang

⁷⁰⁸ African Union Project on Malawian Women's Empowerment in Agriculture: Cooperation with Norway and Germany, United Nations Africa Renewal (New York) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/news/african-union-project-malawian-women%E2%80%99s-empowerment-agriculture-cooperation-norway-and-germany>.

⁷⁰⁹ African Union Project on Malawian Women's Empowerment in Agriculture: Cooperation with Norway and Germany, United Nations Africa Renewal (New York) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/news/african-union-project-malawian-women%E2%80%99s-empowerment-agriculture-cooperation-norway-and-germany>.

⁷¹⁰ 2019 Annual Report, Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (Washington, D.C.) 17 February 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2020. <https://we-fi.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/We-Fi-Annua-Report-2019.pdf>.

⁷¹¹ 2019 Annual Report, Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (Washington, D.C.) 17 February 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2020. <https://we-fi.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/We-Fi-Annua-Report-2019.pdf>.

⁷¹² 2X Challenge exceeds initial target by committing and mobilizing \$4.5 billion in capital towards women's economic empowerment, FinDev Canada (Montreal) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 29 August 2020. <https://www.findevcanada.ca/en/news/2x-challenge-exceeds-initial-target-committing-and-mobilizing-45-billion-capital-towards>.

⁷¹³ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis, Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to support actions and cooperation with regards to the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA), including investment in the Women Entrepreneurs-Finance Initiative (We-Fi), micro-financing and providing support in developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable.

On 25 June 2020, the 2X Challenge, launched at the G7 Charlevoix Summit, announced that the founding G7 members have already contributed and mobilized CAD4.1 billion, which surpasses the original aim of CAD3 billion by the end of 2020. The 2X Challenge “is a multilateral initiative...with the ambitious objective of deploying and mobilizing unprecedented amounts of capital to support projects that empower women as entrepreneurs, as business leaders, as employees and as consumers of products and services that enhance their economic participation.”⁷¹⁴

Italy has partially complied with its commitment through supporting the technical, financial and enabling pillar of AFAWA by contributing to the 2X Challenge which aims to create incentives to lend to women, expand access to financial services, and encourage reform, equality and empowerment. However, Italy has only taken partial action on AFAWA’s pillars and has not contributed to We-Fi

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Maryanna Sierra C. Diab

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to support the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) initiative including through the Women Entrepreneurs-Finance Initiative (We-Fi).

From 28-30 August 2019, the Government of Japan, the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, and the African Union Commission co-hosted the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7).⁷¹⁵ The Government of Japan declared that it will “welcome efforts to support women entrepreneurship through financial and technical assistance.”⁷¹⁶ In addition, Japan reaffirmed its commitment to make financial contributions to AFAWA through We-Fi, as well as through the Private Sector Investment Finance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).⁷¹⁷ The Japanese government also indicated it would support capacity building through technical cooperation, including contribution to the African Development Bank trust fund.⁷¹⁸ They expect this will help train 140,000 people, including women and youth, and expand their opportunities.⁷¹⁹

⁷¹⁴ 2X Challenge exceeds initial target by committing and mobilizing \$4.5 billion in capital towards women’s economic empowerment, FinDev Canada (Montreal) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 29 August 2020. <https://www.findevcanada.ca/en/news/2x-challenge-exceeds-initial-target-committing-and-mobilizing-45-billion-capital-towards>.

⁷¹⁵ The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) Access Date: 8 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/index.html>.

⁷¹⁶ Yokohama Declaration 2019 from the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 8 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/yokohama_declaration_en.pdf.

⁷¹⁷ Yokohama Plan of Actions 2019 from TICAD7, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 8 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/yokohama_action_plan_en.pdf.

⁷¹⁸ Yokohama Plan of Actions 2019 from TICAD7, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 8 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/yokohama_action_plan_en.pdf.

⁷¹⁹ Yokohama Plan of Actions 2019 from TICAD7, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 8 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/yokohama_action_plan_en.pdf.

On 28 August 2019, JICA, with the City of Yokohama and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, co-hosted an official side event for TICAD7 titled “Unleashing the Power of Women and Girls in Africa.”⁷²⁰ This symposium focused on the social issues affecting women and discussed the potential of social business and entrepreneurship to tackle gender barriers.⁷²¹

In August 2019, JICA and the European Investment Bank co-invested in a women-focused microfinance fund in Sub-Saharan Africa, aiming to improve economic conditions for women entrepreneurs and their families.⁷²²

On 14 February 2020, JICA signed a Limited Partnership Agreement to finance Women’s World Banking Capital Partners II. This fund aims to support institutions who deliver financial services to women in developing countries through investment and providing technical assistance.⁷²³ Approximately 40 per cent of the funds are being allocated to financial institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa.⁷²⁴

On 5 March 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan announced details of its annual World Assembly for Women.⁷²⁵ Leading figures from all over the world will attend to discuss and advocate for women-related issues worldwide, including women’s empowerment.⁷²⁶

On 25 June 2020, the 2X Challenge, launched at the G7 Charlevoix Summit, announced that the founding G7 members have already contributed and mobilized CAD4.1 billion, which surpasses the original aim of CAD3 billion by the end of 2020. The 2X Challenge “is a multilateral initiative...with the ambitious objective of deploying and mobilizing unprecedented amounts of capital to support projects that empower women as entrepreneurs, as business leaders, as employees and as consumers of products and services that enhance their economic participation.”⁷²⁷

On 20 August 2020, as a member of the We-Fi governing committee, Japan announced We-Fi’s third funding allocation of USD49.3 million. Over 65 per cent of these allocations are dedicated to benefiting women entrepreneurs in low-income countries and countries impacted by fragility and conflict. This funding focuses on the needs of women entrepreneurs during the COVID-19

⁷²⁰ Unleashing the Power of Women and Girls in Africa - Social Business and Social Entrepreneurship to Achieve Transformative Change, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) Access Date: 9 December 2019. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2019/c8h0vm0000f5zxol-att/20190912_01_11.pdf

⁷²¹ Unleashing the Power of Women and Girls in Africa - Social Business and Social Entrepreneurship to Achieve Transformative Change, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) Access Date: 9 December 2019. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2019/c8h0vm0000f5zxol-att/20190912_01_11.pdf.

⁷²² EIB expands its partnership with Japan’s JICA, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/news/eib-expands-partnership-with-japan>.

⁷²³ JICA Signs Limited Partnership Agreement to Support Women’s World Banking in Expanding Women’s Access to Financial Services and Contributing to Empowerment of Women in Developing Countries, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 29 March 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200219_10_en.html.

⁷²⁴ JICA Signs Limited Partnership Agreement to Support Women’s World Banking in Expanding Women’s Access to Financial Services and Contributing to Empowerment of Women in Developing Countries, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 29 March 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200219_10_en.html.

⁷²⁵ World Assembly for Women: 6th WAW!, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 29 March 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page22e_000940.html.

⁷²⁶ World Assembly for Women: 6th WAW!, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 29 March 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page22e_000940.html.

⁷²⁷ 2X Challenge exceeds initial target by committing and mobilizing \$4.5 billion in capital towards women’s economic empowerment, FinDev Canada (Montreal) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 29 August 2020. <https://www.findevcanada.ca/en/news/2x-challenge-exceeds-initial-target-committing-and-mobilizing-45-billion-capital-towards>.

pandemic, innovation and digital development, partnership development and facilitating greater access to financing for women entrepreneurs.⁷²⁸

Japan partially complied with its commitment to AFAWA by supporting the finance and technical pillars through investing in programs to support women entrepreneurs in Sub-Saharan Africa, and the enabling pillar through conferences aimed at discussing how to overcome barriers to women in business. Furthermore, as a member of the governing committee, Japan has supported the work of We-Fi and allocated funds to support women entrepreneurs.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Rose Zhang

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to support the Affirmative Finance Action for Women (AFAWA) initiative including the Women Entrepreneurs-Finance Initiative (We-Fi).

On 24 September 2019, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced GBP515 million in aid for education.⁷²⁹ UK funding will ensure more girls can fulfill their potential by teaching basic literacy and numeracy, getting children living in conflict zones into schools, and mobilizing an additional USD5 billion of investment for education in Africa and Asia, with a focus on marginalized children.⁷³⁰

On 27 September 2019, the Department for International Development (DFID) announced a new UK aid package that will help mobilize GBP500 million in private sector investment and create 50,000 jobs across sub-Saharan Africa.⁷³¹ The package will support financial start-ups and entrepreneurs and boost economic growth across the region; as a result, 12.5 million people, half of them women and girls, will have better access to financial services.⁷³²

On 14 October 2019, London hosted the Financial Times Africa Summit in which the emphasis of discussion was on youth, women, entrepreneurs, scientists, artists, and innovation.⁷³³ Minister for Africa, Andrew Stephenson, addressed the United Kingdom's commitment to economic partnerships

⁷²⁸ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis, Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

⁷²⁹ Press Release: PM steps up UK effort to get every girl in the world into school, Department for International Development (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-effort-to-get-every-girl-in-the-world-into-school>.

⁷³⁰ Press Release: PM steps up UK effort to get every girl in the world into school, Department for International Development (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-effort-to-get-every-girl-in-the-world-into-school>.

⁷³¹ Press Release: UK aid to boost access to finance for sub-Saharan Africa, Department for International Development (London) 27 September 2019. Access Date 11 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-boost-access-to-finance-for-sub-saharan-africa>.

⁷³² UK aid is vital, but our ultimate goal is to help countries support themselves, Prospect Magazine (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 11 December 2019. <https://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/world/prospect-aid-report-alok-sharma>.

⁷³³ Ramaphosa in London for Financial Times Africa Summit (London) 13 October 2019. Access Date: 11 December 2019. <https://www.iol.co.za/news/politics/ramaphosa-in-london-for-financial-times-africa-summit-34828714s>.

with African countries, businesses, society, and the United Kingdom's plan of "accelerating long term sustainable, direct investment across Africa."⁷³⁴

On 27 November 2019, the Renewable Energy Performance Platform (REPP) expressed interest in the financing of renewable energy projects run by women in Africa.⁷³⁵ REPP, funded by the UK government, is aiming to channel sources of funding to help create equal opportunities in Africa's rapidly expanding renewable energy sector.⁷³⁶

From 4-5 December 2019, the British Council and Ashoka Africa held the Impact!Africa Social Entrepreneurship Summit in Nairobi, Kenya.⁷³⁷ The summit brought together social entrepreneurs from the public and private sectors to share experiences and exchange ideas on the best way to finance social enterprises.⁷³⁸ Participants engaged in keynote addresses and panel discussions, while sharing in innovation labs and capacity building sessions, all from social entrepreneurs and policymakers and educational institutions working across the African continent.⁷³⁹

On 16 January 2020, the DFID announced an increase in support of GBP3.5 million⁷⁴⁰ for female entrepreneurs in Africa to access global markets through the International Trade Centre's SheTrades programme.⁷⁴¹ SheTrades was launched in 2018 to improve involvement of women-owned businesses in international trade through training and mentoring.⁷⁴² The new contribution will further support female entrepreneurs through specialised "business training, creating up to 3000 more jobs and helping to reduce inequality in the workplace."⁷⁴³

On 17 January 2020, the DFID announced GBP320 million over the next five years to support 3.9 million small businesses across 45 countries in Africa to the UK Financial Sector Deepening (FSD)

⁷³⁴ Press Release: FT Africa Summit 2019: Minister for Africa's speech, Department for International Development (London) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 11 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/speech-by-andrew-stephenson-minister-for-africa-to-ft-africa-summit-october-2019>.

⁷³⁵ AFRICA: REPP will finance renewable energy projects run by women, Afrik 21 (Paris) 27 November 2019. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://www.afrik21.africa/en/africa-repp-will-finance-renewable-energy-projects-run-by-women/>.

⁷³⁶ Big break for women-led renewable energy projects in Africa, ESI Africa (Africa) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://www.esi-africa.com/women-in-energy/big-break-for-women-led-renewable-energy-projects-in-africa/>.

⁷³⁷ Impact!Africa Social Entrepreneurship Summit, Ashoka (Arlington) Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://www.ashoka.org/en/event/impactafrica-social-entrepreneurship-summit>.

⁷³⁸ Kenya: 300 Social Entrepreneurs in Nairobi Summit for Impact!Africa Summit, AllAfrica (Nairobi) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://allafrica.com/stories/201912050675.html>.

⁷³⁹ Event: Impact!Africa 2019 (Nairobi) Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://vc4a.com/ashoka/impact-africa-2019/>.

⁷⁴⁰ United Kingdom announces additional £3.5m support to ITC's SheTrades Commonwealth project, International Trade Centre (London) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2020. <http://www.intracen.org/United-Kingdom-announces-additional-35m-support-to-ITCs-SheTrades-Commonwealth-project/>.

⁷⁴¹ UK aid boosts support for African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets, Department for International Development (London) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-boosts-support-for-african-women-entrepreneurs-to-expand-businesses-into-global-markets>.

⁷⁴² United Kingdom announces additional £3.5m support to ITC's SheTrades Commonwealth project, International Trade Centre (London) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2020. <http://www.intracen.org/United-Kingdom-announces-additional-35m-support-to-ITCs-SheTrades-Commonwealth-project/>.

⁷⁴³ UK aid boosts support for African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets, Department for International Development (London) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-boosts-support-for-african-women-entrepreneurs-to-expand-businesses-into-global-markets>.

Platform.⁷⁴⁴ This platform will also strengthen financial links across African countries, to support female entrepreneurs' access to financing.⁷⁴⁵

On 20 January 2020, International Development Secretary Alok Sharma spoke at the closing of the UK-Africa Investment Summit.⁷⁴⁶ He reiterated the UK's focus on supporting women and girls in Africa through "training, boosting skills, and more job opportunities."⁷⁴⁷

On 20 January 2020, DFID committed GBP17.4 million of the GBP320 million for the FSD Programmes to FSD Kenya,⁷⁴⁸ FSD Zambia will receive GBP21.95 million of the fund and funding will also be directed to Ethiopia, Ghana, and Sierra Leone.⁷⁴⁹ Chair of the FSD Network Council and CEO of FSD Zambia Betty Wilkinson stated "we will use these resources responsibly to deepen financial inclusion, make money work to increase incomes and reduce poverty, and enable sustainable futures for the women, men, and children of our country."⁷⁵⁰

On 21 January 2020, DFID committed GBP15 million of the GBP320 million for FSD Programmes to FSD Uganda to increase access to financial services and support technical assistance and capacity building by working with development agencies, key stakeholders, and improving the financial sector.⁷⁵¹

On 17 February 2020, We-Fi published its annual report. The report stated that as of 31 December 2019, the UK had contributed GBP4.79 million to the initiative with a pledge to contribute a further GBP4.89 million.⁷⁵² We-Fi contributes 45 per cent of their funding to Africa through AFAWA to improve women SMEs access to funding, contribute technical assistance to financial institutions, and better the policy and enabling environment for women.⁷⁵³

⁷⁴⁴ UK Government supporting City of London to mobilise billions of pounds of investment to transform Africa, Department for International Development (London) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-supporting-city-of-london-to-mobilise-billions-of-pounds-of-investment-to-transform-africa>.

⁷⁴⁵ UK Government supporting City of London to mobilise billions of pounds of investment to transform Africa, Department for International Development (London) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-supporting-city-of-london-to-mobilise-billions-of-pounds-of-investment-to-transform-africa>.

⁷⁴⁶ Alok Sharma's closing speech at UK-Africa Investment Summit, Government of the UK (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/alok-sharmas-closing-speech-at-uk-africa-investment-summit>.

⁷⁴⁷ Alok Sharma's closing speech at UK-Africa Investment Summit, Government of the UK (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/alok-sharmas-closing-speech-at-uk-africa-investment-summit>.

⁷⁴⁸ FSD Kenya welcomes £17.14m commitment from UK Aid to initiate new phase of financial sector development, fsd Kenya (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://fsdkenya.org/news/fsd-kenya-welcomes-17-14m-commitment-from-uk-aid-to-initiate-new-phase-of-financial-sector-development/>.

⁷⁴⁹ FSD Zambia welcomes £21.95m 5-year commitment from UK Aid to initiate new phase of financial sector development, fsd Zambia (Lusaka) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.fsdzambia.org/news-item/fsd-zambia-welcomes-21-95m-5-year-commitment-from-uk-aid-to-initiate-new-phase-of-financial-sector-development/>.

⁷⁵⁰ FSD Zambia welcomes £21.95m 5-year commitment from UK Aid to initiate new phase of financial sector development, Lusaka Times (Lusaka) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.lusakatimes.com/2020/01/21/fsd-zambia-welcomes-21-95m-5-year-commitment-from-uk-aid-to-initiate-new-phase-of-financial-sector-development/#>.

⁷⁵¹ Financial Sector Deepening Uganda (FSDU) welcomes £15m commitment from UK aid to initiate new phase of financial sector development, FSD Uganda (London) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://fsduganda.or.ug/fsd-uganda-welcomes-15m-commitment-from-uk-aid/>.

⁷⁵² 2019 Annual Report, Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (Washington, D.C.) 17 February 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2020. <https://we-fi.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/We-Fi-Annua-Report-2019.pdf>.

⁷⁵³ 2019 Annual Report, Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (Washington, D.C.) 17 February 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2020. <https://we-fi.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/We-Fi-Annua-Report-2019.pdf>.

On 3 April 2020, the African Development Bank announced the approval of a new Gender Equality Trust Fund (GETF) to promote gender equality and women's empowerment across the continent.⁷⁵⁴ Anchor investors in the GETF include the Government of the United Kingdom and together they have invested up to USD2 billion in credit as well as another USD5 billion for women-led SMEs in Africa.⁷⁵⁵

On 25 June 2020, the 2X Challenge, launched at the G7 Charlevoix Summit, announced that the founding G7 members have already contributed and mobilized CAD4.1 billion, which surpasses the original aim of CAD3 billion by the end of 2020. The 2X Challenge "is a multilateral initiative...with the ambitious objective of deploying and mobilizing unprecedented amounts of capital to support projects that empower women as entrepreneurs, as business leaders, as employees and as consumers of products and services that enhance their economic participation."⁷⁵⁶

On 20 August 2020, as a member of the We-Fi governing committee, the United Kingdom announced We-Fi's third funding allocation of USD49.3 million. Over 65 per cent of these allocations are dedicated to benefiting women entrepreneurs in low-income countries and countries impacted by fragility and conflict. This funding focuses on the needs of women entrepreneurs during the COVID-19 pandemic, innovation and digital development, partnership development and facilitating greater access to financing for women entrepreneurs.⁷⁵⁷

The United Kingdom fully complied with its commitment to AFAWA by supporting the finance and technical pillars through investing in programs to support women entrepreneurs in Africa, and the enabling pillar through partnerships with African governments and other stakeholders. Furthermore, the United Kingdom has contributed to We-Fi.

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

Analyst: Sebastian Vecerina

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to support the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) initiative including through the Women Entrepreneurs-Finance Initiative (We-Fi).

During the week of 29 August 2019, the United States Embassy in Pretoria launched the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) in South Africa.⁷⁵⁸ This program will support women entrepreneurs in "fulfilling their economic potential" by providing them with online education in business and finance, networking opportunities, and access to mentorship.⁷⁵⁹ This initiative was

⁷⁵⁴ AfDB approves a trust fund to improve women's economic empowerment in Africa, Ventures (Africa) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 8 April 2020. <http://venturesafrica.com/afdb-approves-a-trust-fund-to-improve-womens-economic-empowerment-in-africa/>.

⁷⁵⁵ AfDB to mobilise \$7bn for women-focused businesses through GETF, Vanguard (Lagos) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 8 April 2020. <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/04/afdb-to-mobilise-7bn-for-women-focused-businesses-through-getf/>.

⁷⁵⁶ 2X Challenge exceeds initial target by committing and mobilizing \$4.5 billion in capital towards women's economic empowerment, FinDev Canada (Montreal) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 29 August 2020. <https://www.findevcanada.ca/en/news/2x-challenge-exceeds-initial-target-committing-and-mobilizing-45-billion-capital-towards>.

⁷⁵⁷ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis, Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

⁷⁵⁸ U.S. Empowering South Africa's Businesswomen, U.S. Embassy & Consulates in South Africa (Pretoria) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://za.usembassy.gov/empowering-south-africas-businesswomen/>.

⁷⁵⁹ U.S. Partnership With the African Union, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-partnership-with-the-african-union/>.

developed to support the White House's Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative, which aims to promote an "enabling environment that reduces barriers and facilitates women's participation in the economy."⁷⁶⁰ Nine other African countries are participating in the inaugural AWE cohort: Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.⁷⁶¹

On 6 September 2019, the United States Embassy launched the AWE in Zimbabwe, which will be implemented through the development organization Act in Africa.⁷⁶² This initiative will provide 100 participants between the ages of 18 and 35 with personalized business mentorship, professional knowledge, and tools and networks to build successful businesses over 6 months.⁷⁶³

On 16 September 2019, the United States Consulate General launched the AWE in Nigeria.⁷⁶⁴ This initiative will provide 100 participants, chosen from more than 6000 applications, with business management lessons, networking opportunities and practical skills during a weeklong workshop facilitated by leading local business leaders.⁷⁶⁵

On 23 September 2019, the United States Embassy in Kigali launched the AWE in Rwanda by putting out a call for applications to the program.⁷⁶⁶ The US Embassy is leading the program, in partnership with Igire Rwanda Organization and Noble Women, to teach women how to develop a business plan, raise capital and network.⁷⁶⁷

As of 27 September 2019, the United States African Development Foundation (USADF) and the Government of Niger State announced a USD10 million co-funding agreement.⁷⁶⁸ This is a five-year commitment, with each side contributing USD1 million annually, and will provide technical

⁷⁶⁰ AWE Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://eca.state.gov/awe>.

⁷⁶¹ U.S. Consulate Launches Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, U.S. Embassy & Consulate in Nigeria (Lagos) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://ng.usembassy.gov/u-s-consulate-launches-academy-for-women-entrepreneurs/>.

⁷⁶² U.S. Embassy Launches Academy of Women Entrepreneurs Program in Zimbabwe, U.S Embassy in Zimbabwe (Harare) 6 September 2019. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://zw.usembassy.gov/u-s-embassy-launches-academy-of-women-entrepreneurs-program-in-zimbabwe/>.

⁷⁶³ U.S. Embassy Launches Academy of Women Entrepreneurs Program in Zimbabwe, U.S Embassy in Zimbabwe (Harare) 6 September 2019. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://zw.usembassy.gov/u-s-embassy-launches-academy-of-women-entrepreneurs-program-in-zimbabwe/>.

⁷⁶⁴ U.S Consulate Launches Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, U.S. Embassy & Consulate in Nigeria (Lagos) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://ng.usembassy.gov/u-s-consulate-launches-academy-for-women-entrepreneurs/>.

⁷⁶⁵ U.S Consulate Launches Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, U.S. Embassy & Consulate in Nigeria (Lagos) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://ng.usembassy.gov/u-s-consulate-launches-academy-for-women-entrepreneurs/>.

⁷⁶⁶ U.S. Embassy Launches Application for Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, U.S. Embassy in Rwanda (Kigali) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://rw.usembassy.gov/u-s-embassy-launches-application-for-academy-for-women-entrepreneurs/>.

⁷⁶⁷ U.S. Embassy Launches Application for Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, U.S. Embassy in Rwanda (Kigali) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://rw.usembassy.gov/u-s-embassy-launches-application-for-academy-for-women-entrepreneurs/>.

⁷⁶⁸ USADF and the Government of Niger State (Nigeria) Announce \$10 Million Co-Funding Agreement During UNGA, United States African Development Foundation (Washington D.C.) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.usadf.gov/pressreleases/2019/9/27/usadf-and-government-of-niger-state-nigeria-announce-co-funding-agreement>.

assistance to support farmer cooperatives, producer associations, and small and medium-sized enterprises.⁷⁶⁹ There will be an emphasis placed on youth and women.⁷⁷⁰

On 3 October 2019, the United States' Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) contributed USD200 million to the Union Bank of Nigeria to support women-driven businesses in the country.⁷⁷¹ This contribution is part of OPIC's 2X Women's initiative which plans to mobilize USD1 billion for women-driven businesses.⁷⁷²

On 22 October 2019, the United Nations General Assembly held the 18th meeting of its 74th session to discuss the New Partnership for Africa's Development, as well as international support for the continent.⁷⁷³ Courtney Nemroff, the representative for the United States, emphasized that the United States is focused on providing technical assistance and investing directly in women-owned businesses in Africa.⁷⁷⁴

On 12 November 2019, the United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and the African Development Bank Group signed a memorandum of understanding strengthening their collaboration to support development in Africa.⁷⁷⁵ They aim to invest a total of USD2 billion and mobilize an additional USD3 billion from the private sector, while prioritizing investments that empower women in Africa.⁷⁷⁶

On 14 December 2019, the USADF and the Government of Senegal announced a USD20 million partnership.⁷⁷⁷ This will be a five-year commitment, with each party contributing up to USD2 million annually.⁷⁷⁸ It will provide technical assistance to youth and women entrepreneurs in Senegal, as well

⁷⁶⁹ USADF and the Government of Niger State (Nigeria) Announce \$10 Million Co-Funding Agreement During UNGA, United States African Development Foundation (Washington D.C.) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.usadf.gov/pressreleases/2019/9/27/usadf-and-government-of-niger-state-nigeria-announce-co-funding-agreement>.

⁷⁷⁰ USADF and the Government of Niger State (Nigeria) Announce \$10 Million Co-Funding Agreement During UNGA, United States African Development Foundation (Washington D.C.) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.usadf.gov/pressreleases/2019/9/27/usadf-and-government-of-niger-state-nigeria-announce-co-funding-agreement>.

⁷⁷¹ Union Bank of Nigeria gets \$200 mn to fund SMEs, entrepreneurs, International Finance (London) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 8 December 2019. <https://internationalfinance.com/union-bank-nigeria-gets-200-mn-fund-smes-entrepreneurs/>.

⁷⁷² Union Bank of Nigeria gets \$200 mn to fund SMEs, entrepreneurs, International Finance (London) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 8 December 2019. <https://internationalfinance.com/union-bank-nigeria-gets-200-mn-fund-smes-entrepreneurs/>.

⁷⁷³ Despite Gains in Reducing Poverty, Fuelling Growth, Africa Still Needs International Funding, Training to Overcome Development Challenges, Speakers Tell General Assembly, United Nations (New York City) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/ga12205.doc.htm>.

⁷⁷⁴ Despite Gains in Reducing Poverty, Fuelling Growth, Africa Still Needs International Funding, Training to Overcome Development Challenges, Speakers Tell General Assembly, United Nations (New York City) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/ga12205.doc.htm>.

⁷⁷⁵ DFC and African Development Bank Partner to Support Development in Africa, U.S. Embassy in Senegal (Dakar) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://sn.usembassy.gov/dfc-and-african-development-bank-partner-to-support-development-in-africa/>.

⁷⁷⁶ DFC and African Development Bank Partner to Support Development in Africa, U.S. Embassy in Senegal (Dakar) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://sn.usembassy.gov/dfc-and-african-development-bank-partner-to-support-development-in-africa/>.

⁷⁷⁷ USADF and The Government of Senegal Announce \$20 Million Co-Funding Blended Finance Partnership, United States African Development Foundation (Washington D.C.) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.usadf.gov/pressreleases>.

⁷⁷⁸ USADF and The Government of Senegal Announce \$20 Million Co-Funding Blended Finance Partnership, United States African Development Foundation (Washington D.C.) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.usadf.gov/pressreleases>.

as small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), by providing low interest loans through banks and microfinance institutions.⁷⁷⁹

On 20 February 2020, Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump announced a partnership between the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the USADF, which aims to support the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (W-GDP) through funding the AWE.⁷⁸⁰ The USADF will provide up to USD10 million in grants to African AWE graduates over the next five years.⁷⁸¹

On 12 March 2020, the DFC approved USD881 million in funding for global development projects, including those which are "owned by, led by, or empower women across the developing world."⁷⁸²

On 4 June 2020, the DFC approved USD1 billion of investments for emerging markets and advancing development in Africa, Latin America and the Indo-Pacific. Several of the projects this investment will fund include projects that will allow women greater access to financial services and capital, which advance the DFC's 2X Women's Initiative and the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative. These initiatives focus on investing in projects owned by let by or empower women. Up to USD30 million will go to AfricInvest Fund IV, to support financial services in Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Nigeria, Egypt and other African countries; up to USD25 million will support SPE AIF I LP, "a fund which will invest in businesses in key industries across North and Sub-Saharan Africa;" USD14.6 million will go to the World Business Capital to expand lending to SMEs in Nigeria; USD4 million will go to debt and equity investments in SMEs across East Africa; up to USD7 million will go to One Acre Fund to support agribusiness in Kenya; among other projects.⁷⁸³

On 25 June 2020, the 2X Challenge, launched at the G7 Charlevoix Summit, announced that the founding G7 members have already contributed and mobilized CAD4.1 billion, which surpasses the original aim of CAD3 billion by the end of 2020. The 2X Challenge "is a multilateral initiative...with the ambitious objective of deploying and mobilizing unprecedented amounts of capital to support projects that empower women as entrepreneurs, as business leaders, as employees and as consumers of products and services that enhance their economic participation."⁷⁸⁴

⁷⁷⁹ USADF and The Government of Senegal Announce \$20 Million Co-Funding Blended Finance Partnership, United States African Development Foundation (Washington D.C.) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.usadf.gov/pressreleases>.

⁷⁸⁰ White House, State Department, and U.S. African Development Foundation Announce Funding for the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, U.S Department of State (Washington D.C.) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. <https://www.state.gov/white-house-state-department-and-u-s-african-development-foundation-announce-funding-for-the-academy-for-women-entrepreneurs/>.

⁷⁸¹ White House, State Department, and U.S. African Development Foundation Announce Funding for the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, U.S Department of State (Washington D.C.) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. <https://www.state.gov/white-house-state-department-and-u-s-african-development-foundation-announce-funding-for-the-academy-for-women-entrepreneurs/>.

⁷⁸² DFC Approves Nearly \$900 Million for Global Development Projects, U.S International Development Finance Corporation (Washington D.C.) 12 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.dfc.gov/media/press-releases/dfc-approves-nearly-900-million-global-development-projects>.

⁷⁸³ DFC Approves \$1 Billion of Investments in Global Development, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (Washington, D.C.) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.dfc.gov/media/press-releases/dfc-approves-1-billion-investments-global-development>.

⁷⁸⁴ 2X Challenge exceeds initial target by committing and mobilizing \$4.5 billion in capital towards women's economic empowerment, FinDev Canada (Montreal) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 29 August 2020. <https://www.findevcanada.ca/en/news/2x-challenge-exceeds-initial-target-committing-and-mobilizing-45-billion-capital-towards>.

On 14 July 2020, the DFC announced it will be launching the Africa Investment Advisor Program, a regional team based in Africa to expand the DFC's work on investing in Africa. This program will include a focus on increasing financial services for small businesses and women entrepreneurs.⁷⁸⁵

On 6 August 2020, the DFC announced its intent to catalyze an additional USD6 billion of private sector investment in 2X Women's Initiative and the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative. This funding would contribute to furthering women's economic empowerment around the world.⁷⁸⁶

On 20 August 2020, as a member of the We-Fi governing committee, the United States announced We-Fi's third funding allocation of USD49.3 million. Over 65 per cent of these allocations are dedicated to benefiting women entrepreneurs in low-income countries and countries impacted by fragility and conflict. This funding focuses on the needs of women entrepreneurs during the COVID-19 pandemic, innovation and digital development, partnership development and facilitating greater access to financing for women entrepreneurs.⁷⁸⁷

The United States fully complied with its commitment to AFAWA including through We-Fi. The United States has demonstrated its efforts in supporting the AFAWA initiative through various forms of investment and funding, as well as through implementing programs supporting women entrepreneurs in Africa such as the AWE. It has thus supported all three AFAWA pillars: finance, technical assistance, and enabling environment. Furthermore, as a governing member of We-Fi, the United States has supported We-Fi's work and allocated funds to support women entrepreneurs.

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

Analyst: Rose Zhang

European Union: 0

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to support the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) initiative including through the Women Entrepreneurs-Finance Initiative (We-Fi).

On 12 November 2019, the European Investment Bank (EIB) announced a EUR1 billion lending program called SheInvest to help women entrepreneurs on the continent.⁷⁸⁸ The program, which aims to support women in Africa in gaining access to finance, will be informed by the criteria set in the 2X Challenge, an EIB-endorsed initiative promoting gender equality⁷⁸⁹ in the financial sector.⁷⁹⁰

⁷⁸⁵ DFC to Launch Regional Team Based in Africa, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (Washington, D.C.) 14 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.dfc.gov/media/press-releases/dfc-launch-regional-team-based-africa>.

⁷⁸⁶ W-GDP, DFC Target Additional \$6 Billion of Investment in Women, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (Washington, D.C.) 6 August 2020. <https://www.dfc.gov/media/press-releases/w-gdp-dfc-target-additional-6-billion-investment-women>.

⁷⁸⁷ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis, Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

⁷⁸⁸ SheInvest-new initiative to mobilise EUR1 billion for women across Africa, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-306-sheinvest-new-initiative-to-mobilise-eur-1-billion-for-women-across-africa>.

⁷⁸⁹ SheInvest programme to support women's economic empowerment, Government Europa via Pan European Networks Ltd. (Congleton) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.gouvernementeuropea.eu/sheinvest-programme-to-support-women/95424/>.

⁷⁹⁰ Africa Investment Forum 2019: Billion dollar boost for African female entrepreneurs, African Development Bank (Tunis) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/africa-investment-forum-2019-billion-dollar-boost-african-female-entrepreneurs-32626>.

Investment mobilized through the SheInvest program will be allocated towards sustainable infrastructure and climate financing, with a specific focus on how these factors affect women.⁷⁹¹ SheInvest will target gender responsive projects in recognition of women's role in combating climate change and the ways in which women are disproportionately impacted by the climate emergency.⁷⁹²

On 29 November 2019, the European Union and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) announced the signing of a EUR8.8 million Contribution Agreement, which strives to increase private sector participation in sustainable regional and global value chains through improved investment and business climate for the COMESA region.⁷⁹³ The funds will be used to implement the Regional Enterprise Competitiveness and Access to Markets Program, focusing on agro-processing, horticulture, and leather products.⁷⁹⁴

On 5 December 2019, the EIB proposed its participation in the Alitheia Women Fund for Africa by financing approximately USD20 million to the closed-end private equity fund.⁷⁹⁵ The Fund has a target size of USD75 million and invests in women-owned or -led SMEs in Sub-Saharan Africa as well as businesses that provide goods and services to women in Africa.⁷⁹⁶

On 27 February 2020, the European Commission and the African Union Commission met for the 10th Commission to Commission meeting to discuss future cooperation in many areas, including training and development for women.⁷⁹⁷ The proposals discussed stemmed from commitments made at the 5th African Union-European Union Summit in Abidjan. Progress was acknowledged on commitments made on sustainable investment and job creation.⁷⁹⁸

On 29 February 2020, the European Union announced EUR100 million to support Sudan's democratic transition.⁷⁹⁹ This will be partially achieved through the EU's assistance to Sudanese authorities and partners to improve education, training and women's economic empowerment.⁸⁰⁰

On 9 March 2020, the European Commission and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy announced the EU's new strategy with Africa, discussed at the 27 February 10th

⁷⁹¹ Africa Investment Forum 2019: Billion dollar boost for African female entrepreneurs, Ecofin Agency (Geneva) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.ecofinagency.com/public-management/1211-40655-africa-investment-forum-2019-billion-dollar-boost-for-african-female-entrepreneurs>.

⁷⁹² EIB to raise €1bn to invest in digital solutions, financial products for girls, women, VentureBurn (Cape Town) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <https://ventureburn.com/2019/11/eib-sheinvest-initiative-women/>.

⁷⁹³ COMESA-EU Sign €8.8M to Support Private Sector Competitiveness, COMESA (Lusaka) 29 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.comesa.int/comesa-eu-sign-e8-8m-to-support-private-sector-competitiveness/>.

⁷⁹⁴ EU and COMESA Sign 8.8M Euros Deal to Support Private Sector, East African Business Week (Kampala) 4 December 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.busiweek.com/eu-and-comesa-sign-8-8m-euros-deal-to-support-private-sector/>.

⁷⁹⁵ Alitheia IDF Women Fund for Africa, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/projects/pipelines/all/20180684>.

⁷⁹⁶ Alitheia IDF Women Fund for Africa, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/projects/pipelines/all/20180684>.

⁷⁹⁷ EU paves the way for a stronger, more ambitious partnership with Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_373.

⁷⁹⁸ EU paves the way for a stronger, more ambitious partnership with Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_373.

⁷⁹⁹ European Union announces EUR100 million to support the democratic transition in Sudan, European Commission (Brussels) 29 February 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_352.

⁸⁰⁰ European Union announces EUR100 million to support the democratic transition in Sudan, European Commission (Brussels) 29 February 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_352.

Commission to Commission meeting.⁸⁰¹ The proposals include improving “learning, knowledge and skills, research and innovation capacities, particularly for women.”⁸⁰²

On 10 April 2020, the European Union and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development announced a EUR1 billion solidarity package to support women-owned SMEs in Morocco who are existing clients due to COVID-19.⁸⁰³ Assistance is in the form of “among other measures, short-term capital, refinancing, trade finance and restructuring support.”⁸⁰⁴

The European Union partially complied with its commitment to AFAWA by fulfilling the technical and finance pillars through empowering women in the African economy directly through launching financial initiatives such as SheInvest and indirectly, through COMESA, by implementing the RECAMP program or providing financial support amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The European Union has fulfilled the enabling pillar by working with the African Union and Sudan to empower women. However, the European Union has not taken any actions to specifically support We-Fi.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Cecilia Pang

⁸⁰¹ EU paves the way for a stronger, more ambitious partnership with Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_373.

⁸⁰² EU paves the way for a stronger, more ambitious partnership with Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_373.

⁸⁰³ Coronavirus: Moroccan Women-Led SMEs Get EBRD-EU Support, The North Africa Post (Morocco), 10 April 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <http://northafricapost.com/39892-coronavirus-moroccan-women-led-smes-get-ebrd-eu-support.html>.

⁸⁰⁴ Coronavirus: Moroccan Women-Led SMEs Get EBRD-EU Support, The North Africa Post (Morocco), 10 April 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <http://northafricapost.com/39892-coronavirus-moroccan-women-led-smes-get-ebrd-eu-support.html>.

6. Gender: Women's Entrepreneurship in Africa

“We will continue to support women's entrepreneurship in Africa, including by supporting the removal of legal, social and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women's full and free economic participation and empowerment.”

Annex I: Promoting Women's Entrepreneurship in Africa

Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union		0	
Average		+0.63 (81%)	

Background

For the first time in G8 history at the 2008 Tokyo Summit, G8 leaders agreed to promote gender equality and women's empowerment as a principle in their development cooperation through mainstreaming and specific actions.⁸⁰⁵ They promised to improve women's security through protection and empowerment of women and their communities.⁸⁰⁶

At the 2015 Schloss-Elmau Summit, for the second time G7 leaders agreed to take steps towards empowering women in regard to women's health, economic empowerment and climate protection.⁸⁰⁷ Leaders affirmed to contribute to women's entrepreneurship as a key driver for innovation, growth, and jobs for women across G7 members.⁸⁰⁸ This is the first time G7 leaders chose and vowed to address the specific needs of women and promised to promote their access to finance, markets, skills, leadership opportunities and networks.⁸⁰⁹ G7 members asked the Organisation for Economic and Co-operation and Development (OECD) to monitor progress on promoting women's entrepreneurship as it would work to promote gender equality as well as the full participation of empowering all women and girls.⁸¹⁰ Additionally, G7 leaders condemned all forms of sexual violence in conflict and are committed to enhancing the role of women in international peace and security.⁸¹¹

⁸⁰⁵ G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 July 2008. Access Date: 14 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>

⁸⁰⁶ G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 July 2008. Access Date: 14 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>

⁸⁰⁷ G7 Leaders' Declaration Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 June 2015. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

⁸⁰⁸ G7 Leaders' Declaration Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 June 2015. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

⁸⁰⁹ G7 Leaders' Declaration Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 June 2015. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

⁸¹⁰ G7 Leaders' Declaration Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 June 2015. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

⁸¹¹ G7 Leaders' Declaration Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 June 2015. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

Members declared that in order to offer inclusive sustainable solutions to peace and stability women must be included to establish effective governance.⁸¹²

Also at the 2015 Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 leaders recognised that being equipped with relevant skills for decent work, especially through technical and vocational education and training (TVET) via formal and non-formal learning, is key to the economic empowerment of women and girls, including those who face multiple sources of discrimination (e.g. women and girls with disabilities), and to improving their employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.⁸¹³ G7 leaders committed to increasing the number of women and girls technically and vocationally educated and trained in developing countries through G7 measures by one third (compared to “business as usual”) by 2030.⁸¹⁴ G7 leaders promised to work to increase career training and education for women and girls within G7 members.⁸¹⁵ Members promised to take steps to foster access to quality jobs for women and to reduce the gender gap in workforce participation within countries by 25 per cent by 2025, taking into account national circumstances including by improving the framework conditions to enable women and men to balance family life and employment, including access to parental leave and childcare. Moreover, members recognize that the private sector also has a vital role in creating an environment in which women can more meaningfully participate in the economy.⁸¹⁶ G7 leaders vowed to support the UN Women’s Empowerment Principles and call on companies worldwide to integrate them into their activities.⁸¹⁷ This initiative was the first time G7 leaders promised to coordinate their efforts through a new G7 working group on women.⁸¹⁸

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 members committed to taking concrete actions, internationally and in their own countries and reaffirmed their commitment to achieve gender equality and human rights for women and girls, and to enable women and girls to realize their full potential to 1. actively engage in society and to take control of their own destiny; 2. contribute to and benefit from sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth and quality of life at home, in the community, and in all spheres of society; and 3. fully and effectively participate in all phases of the peacebuilding continuum, from conflict prevention to resolution and ultimately reconciliation.⁸¹⁹ G7 leaders also remained committed to preventing and responding to all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls as they are pervasive barriers in realizing their full potentials.⁸²⁰ This was the first time that members actively encouraged the active role of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) careers, and strived to remove gender bias in careers, through promoting institutional change and creating legal and policy environments

⁸¹² G7 Leaders’ Declaration Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 June 2015. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

⁸¹³ G7 Leaders’ Declaration Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 June 2015. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

⁸¹⁴ G7 Leaders’ Declaration Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 June 2015. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

⁸¹⁵ G7 Leaders’ Declaration Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 June 2015. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

⁸¹⁶ G7 Leaders’ Declaration Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 June 2015. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

⁸¹⁷ G7 Leaders’ Declaration Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 June 2015. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

⁸¹⁸ G7 Leaders’ Declaration Schloss-Elmau Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 08 June 2015. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

⁸¹⁹ G7 Guiding Principles for Capacity Building of Women and Girls: Towards a Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Growth and Peace, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/principles-women.html>

⁸²⁰ G7 Guiding Principles for Capacity Building of Women and Girls: Towards a Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Growth and Peace, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/principles-women.html>

which effectively advance gender equality, and thereby increase the number of female students in STEM fields, and broaden the participation of women in research, engineering and entrepreneurial careers.⁸²¹

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 leaders also committed to addressing barriers to equal access for all women and men to quality technical, vocational and tertiary education.⁸²² Members committed to take into account women's diverse needs and to encourage a more equal division of unpaid care and domestic work between women and men, in order to facilitate women's access to education and training, and thereby, to increase female labor force participation rates.⁸²³ G7 leaders committed to enhance education, training and programs to support women to assume leadership positions in the public and private sector, and to increase the number of female leaders at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, academic and public life.⁸²⁴

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, G7 leaders adopted the Roadmap.⁸²⁵ In line with the principles endorsed in the Taormina Declaration, the Roadmap focuses on the structural policies falling within our central governments' jurisdiction that are likely to have the greatest impact in delivering gender equality through enabling women's labor force participation, entrepreneurship, economic empowerment and thus their full and equal participation in society.⁸²⁶ Members agreed to increasing women's participation and promoting equal opportunities and fair selection processes for leadership at all levels of decision-making.⁸²⁷ This includes recommendations that G7 members take action to increase the representation of women in all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life by 2022.⁸²⁸ In addition, they agreed to encourage the private sector to value women's active role in private companies by developing positive actions, such as leadership trainings and gender equality labels/certifications, and promoting role models.⁸²⁹ Furthermore, leaders also vowed to strengthen the foundation of women's access to decent and quality job, promote participation by girls and women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine (STEMM), and eliminate violence against women and girl throughout their lives.⁸³⁰

⁸²¹ G7 Guiding Principles for Capacity Building of Women and Girls: Towards a Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Growth and Peace, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/principles-women.html>

⁸²² G7 Guiding Principles for Capacity Building of Women and Girls: Towards a Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Growth and Peace, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/principles-women.html>

⁸²³ G7 Guiding Principles for Capacity Building of Women and Girls: Towards a Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Growth and Peace, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/principles-women.html>

⁸²⁴ G7 Guiding Principles for Capacity Building of Women and Girls: Towards a Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Growth and Peace, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/principles-women.html>

⁸²⁵ G7 Roadmap for Gender-Responsive Economic Environment, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/gender.html>

⁸²⁶ G7 Roadmap for Gender-Responsive Economic Environment, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/gender.html>

⁸²⁷ G7 Roadmap for Gender-Responsive Economic Environment, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/gender.html>

⁸²⁸ G7 Roadmap for Gender-Responsive Economic Environment, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/gender.html>

⁸²⁹ G7 Roadmap for Gender-Responsive Economic Environment, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/gender.html>

⁸³⁰ G7 Roadmap for Gender-Responsive Economic Environment, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/gender.html>

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, G7 leaders recognized that gender equality is fundamental for the fulfillment of human rights and is a social and economic imperative.⁸³¹ Leaders declared to remove the barriers that keep their citizens, including women and marginalized individuals, from participating fully in the global economy.⁸³² Members promised to reinforce their commitment to eradicate poverty, advance gender equality, foster income equality, ensure better access to financial resources and create decent work and quality of life for all.⁸³³ Further, members support efforts to promote and protect women's and adolescents' health and well-being through evidence-based healthcare and health information.⁸³⁴ Similarly, members vowed to expand market-driven training and education, particularly for girls and women in the STEM fields.⁸³⁵ G7 leaders recognized the need to remove barriers to women's leadership and equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of the labour market, including by eliminating violence, discrimination and harassment within and beyond the workplace.⁸³⁶ Members committed to explore innovative new approaches to apprenticeship and vocational learning, as well as opportunities to engage employers and improve access to workplace training.⁸³⁷

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, G7 leaders promised to work to remove barriers to women's participation and decision-making in social, economic and political spheres as well as increase the opportunities for all to participate equally in all aspects of the labour market.⁸³⁸ Leaders vowed that their path forward will promote women's full economic participation through working to reduce the gender wage gap, supporting women business leaders and entrepreneurs and recognizing the value of unpaid care work.⁸³⁹ Through the Charlevoix Declaration on Quality Education for Girls, Adolescent Girls, and Women in Developing Countries, G7 members affirmed their commitment to increase opportunities for at least 12 years of safe and quality education for all and to dismantle the barriers to girls' and women's quality education, particularly in emergencies and in conflict-affected and fragile states.⁸⁴⁰ We recognize that marginalized girls, such as those with a disability, face additional barriers in attaining access to education.⁸⁴¹ In addition, through the endorsement of the Charlevoix Commitment to End Sexual and Gender-Based violence, Abuse and Harassment in Digital Contexts they affirm to strive for a future where individuals' human rights are equally protected both offline

⁸³¹ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

⁸³² The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

⁸³³ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

⁸³⁴ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

⁸³⁵ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

⁸³⁶ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

⁸³⁷ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

⁸³⁸ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

⁸³⁹ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

⁸⁴⁰ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

⁸⁴¹ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

and online; and where everyone has equal opportunity to participate in political, social, economic and cultural endeavors.⁸⁴²

Commitment Features

The G7 committed “to continue to support women’s entrepreneurship in Africa, including by supporting the removal of legal, social and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women’s full and free economic participation and empowerment.”

The core of this commitment is to support women’s entrepreneurship in Africa. This means the G7 member must aim to support and create programs or a project to promote and advance a women’s economic empowerment and remove legal, social, and regulatory barriers. “Support” is understood to mean “the action, or act of providing aid, assistance, or backing up an initiative, or entity.”⁸⁴³

“Entrepreneurship” is the activity of setting up a business or businesses, taking on a financial risk in the hope of a profit.”⁸⁴⁴ This must be aimed at women, such as giving equal access to financial capital, a social barrier.⁸⁴⁵

To achieve this, the G7 committed to support African countries’ efforts to remove legal, social and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women’s full and free economic participation and empowerment. In this commitment “removal” means to eliminate or get rid of any barrier that may be “legal” deriving from authority or established by law, “social” deriving from human society, and “regulatory” under the control of law or constituted authority that may discriminate against women’s full and free economic empowerment.⁸⁴⁶

“Promoting women’s economic empowerment” implies tangible efforts by a G7 member to increase women’s labour market participation and employment opportunities, improve labour conditions and reduce the gender pay gap.⁸⁴⁷ Examples of women’s economic empowerment include, but are not limited to, creating employment opportunities, encouraging skills development, encouraging property ownership, and increasing access to economic and educational resources and financial services. Women’s empowerment is actively promoted through the removal of barriers in women’s education, training and professional development.

To achieve full compliance, the G7 member must to support women’s entrepreneurship in Africa by doing the following three: 1. Supporting African countries to remove legal barriers; 2. Supporting African countries to remove social barriers; and 3. Supporting African countries to remove regulatory barriers that discriminate against women’s full and free economic empowerment.

For a score of partial compliance, the G7 member has only strongly supported one or two of the three criteria or somewhat supports all three criteria’s of: 1. Supporting African countries to remove legal barriers; 2. Supporting African countries to remove social barriers; and 3. Supporting African

⁸⁴² The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

⁸⁴³ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

⁸⁴⁴ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

⁸⁴⁵ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

⁸⁴⁶ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

⁸⁴⁷ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 09 May June 2018. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

countries to remove regulatory barriers that discriminate against women's full and free economic empowerment.

For a score of non-compliance, the G7 member has done none of the aforementioned criteria.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G7 member has failed to take action to 1. Support African countries to remove legal barriers; 2. Support African countries to remove social barriers; and 3. Support African countries to remove regulatory barriers that discriminate against women's full and free economic empowerment.
0	G7 member has only strongly supported one or two of the three criteria or somewhat supports all three criteria's of: 1. Supporting African countries to remove legal barriers; 2. Supporting African countries to remove social barriers; and 3. Supporting African countries to remove regulatory barriers that discriminate against women's full and free economic empowerment.
+1	G7 member has taken action in all three areas of: 1. Supporting African countries to remove legal barriers; 2. Supporting African countries to remove social barriers; and 3. Supporting African countries to remove regulatory barriers that discriminate against women's full and free economic empowerment.

*Compliance Director: Joanna Ilunga-Kapinga
Lead Analyst: Emma Davy*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to women's entrepreneurship in Africa by supporting the removal of legal, social, and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women's full and free economic participation and empowerment.

On 20 September 2019, Canada committed CAD4 million to the Rights to Inclusive Education and Retention of Girls in School in Côte d'Ivoire until 30 September 2021.⁸⁴⁸ The components of the project include training leaders of women's and youth organizations, improving access to sexual health and reproductive health services, and improving preventative responses to gender-based violence.⁸⁴⁹ The initiative aims to reduce barriers for more than 700,000 girls between the ages of 10 to 19 in order to support equitable access to education.⁸⁵⁰

On 29 October 2019, the Government of Canada made a national statement at the United Nations General Assembly on the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda during the Open Debate at the UN Security Council.⁸⁵¹ The three areas of focus in implementing the agenda

⁸⁴⁸ Rights to Inclusive Education and Retention of Girls in School in Côte d'Ivoire, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007019001>

⁸⁴⁹ Rights to Inclusive Education and Retention of Girls in School in Côte d'Ivoire, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007019001>

⁸⁵⁰ Rights to Inclusive Education and Retention of Girls in School in Côte d'Ivoire, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007019001>

⁸⁵¹ Canada National Statement - Women, Peace and Security Open Debate UN Security Council, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2019-10-women-femmes.aspx?lang=eng

include; innovative partnerships, new approaches to funding, and focusing on inclusion.⁸⁵² With regards to funding, Canada has doubled its commitment to the Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund, launched the Equality Fund, and made a three year, CAD650 million commitment to close gaps in supporting sexual and reproductive health and rights.⁸⁵³

On 29 October 2019, the Government of Canada pledged CAD3,730,020 to the project for Enhancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Women and Adolescents in Ethiopia.⁸⁵⁴ The project activities include providing reproductive health training, medical equipment, identifying gaps in medical coverage and providing advocacy using local women’s organizations.⁸⁵⁵ As of 14 November 2019 Canada, has disbursed CAD976,370.⁸⁵⁶

On 16 November 2019, the Government of Canada pledged CAD10 million toward equitable access to inclusive education in crisis-affected regions of Cameroon.⁸⁵⁷ The project works in partnership with UNICEF and seeks to “improve schooling for children and adolescents aged 4 to 15 years, including those living with a disability, with a special focus on girls” and targets areas affected by humanitarian crises.⁸⁵⁸

On 18 November 2019, the Government of Canada pledged CAD1,905,250 toward The Simameni Project in partnership with the Canadian Teachers’ Federation and Uganda National Teachers’ Union.⁸⁵⁹ This project seeks to “improve access, retention, and educational opportunities for secondary-aged girls in schools from the Western and Teso regions in Uganda” by tackling two key drivers of poverty in the region; lack of access to education and gender inequality.⁸⁶⁰

⁸⁵² Canada National Statement - Women, Peace and Security Open Debate UN Security Council, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2019-10-women-femmes.aspx

⁸⁵³ Canada National Statement - Women, Peace and Security Open Debate UN Security Council, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2019-10-women-femmes.aspx

⁸⁵⁴ Project profile — Enhancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Women and Adolescents in Ethiopia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006317001>

⁸⁵⁵ Project profile — Enhancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Women and Adolescents in Ethiopia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006317001>

⁸⁵⁶ Project profile — Enhancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Women and Adolescents in Ethiopia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006317001>

⁸⁵⁷ Project profile — Equitable Access to Inclusive Education in Crisis-Affected Regions of Cameroon, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 November 2019. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007015001>

⁸⁵⁸ Project profile — Equitable Access to Inclusive Education in Crisis-Affected Regions of Cameroon, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 November 2019. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007015001>

⁸⁵⁹ Project profile — Simameni: Stand Together for Girls' Secondary Education in Uganda, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P005992001>

⁸⁶⁰ Project profile — Simameni: Stand Together for Girls' Secondary Education in Uganda, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P005992001>

On November 22–23 2019, François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Foreign Affairs, participated in the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nagoya, Japan.⁸⁶¹ The ministers discussed issues such as ensuring sustainable economic growth of Africa, assisting African-led progress on peace and security, and addressing the root causes of the outstanding challenges in Africa.⁸⁶²

On 5 December 2019, the Government of Canada in partnership with the Government of the United Kingdom announced a CAD15 million contribution over three years toward girls' education in South Sudan.⁸⁶³ Part of the second phase of Girls Education in South Sudan, the project aims to increase access to education for girls in South Sudan by improving enrolment and retention, improving quality of education, and addressing key barriers to education with a particular emphasis on the prevention of sexual and gender based violence and child marriage.⁸⁶⁴

On 19 December 2019, the Government of Canada announced a CAD5 million contribution over three years in support of UNICEF Canada's UNdaunted Initiative to educate girls with disabilities in Somalia.⁸⁶⁵ This project works to improve learning outcomes for girls, including those with disabilities, by increasing equal access to education.⁸⁶⁶

On 20 December 2019, the Government of Canada announced a CAD1.2 million contribution over three years to support the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report.⁸⁶⁷ The project aims to “contribute to inclusive and equitable quality education and to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, as outlined in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4)” through funding the Global Education Monitoring Report which monitors progress towards international education targets.⁸⁶⁸

On 20 January 2020, the Government of Canada announced a contribution of CAD8.5 million over three years in support of community-based education in South Sudan.⁸⁶⁹ This project aims to improve access to education and learning opportunities for children, especially girls, through the

⁸⁶¹ Foreign Affairs Minister to attend G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/11/foreign-affairs-minister-to-attend-g20-foreign-ministers-meeting.html>

⁸⁶² Foreign Affairs Minister to attend G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/11/foreign-affairs-minister-to-attend-g20-foreign-ministers-meeting.html>

⁸⁶³ Project profile — Girls' Education in South Sudan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006982001>

⁸⁶⁴ Project profile — Girls' Education in South Sudan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006982001>

⁸⁶⁵ Project profile — UNdaunted: Educating Girls with Disabilities in Somalia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007688001>

⁸⁶⁶ Project profile — UNdaunted: Educating Girls with Disabilities in Somalia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 December 2019 Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007688001>

⁸⁶⁷ Project profile — Support to the UNESCO Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/D004898001>

⁸⁶⁸ Project profile — Support to the UNESCO Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/D004898001>

⁸⁶⁹ Project profile — Community Based Education in South Sudan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007329001>

establishment of 300 community schools in rural communities, providing training to women teachers and providing training to parents on homestead gardening and backyard poultry rearing.⁸⁷⁰

On 20 January 2020, the Government of Canada announced a contribution of CAD20,303,941 over three and a half years in conjunction with Plan International Canada, World Vision Canada and Save the Children Canada toward Improving Adolescent Girls' Inclusive Education (IMAGINE) in Mali.⁸⁷¹ The project aims to “improve the realization of rights to inclusive, quality and gender-sensitive education for 90,000 conflict-affected girls and adolescent girls in 11 communities in the Segou and Mopti regions of Mali.”⁸⁷²

On 23 January 2020, Minister Champagne concluded a visit to Mali to focus on the bilateral relationship between the countries.⁸⁷³ He announced CAD78.9 million of funding across eight projects, of which CAD10 million will go toward a partnership with CowaterSogema International toward promoting girls' education.⁸⁷⁴ The project aims to improve the school performance of more than 16,000 adolescent girls, improve access and retention of adolescent girls in targeted schools in the Segou region and strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Education to reduce barriers to education and promote quality, gender-sensitive education.⁸⁷⁵

On 24 January 2020, Minister Champagne concluded a visit to Morocco in which he met with Prime Minister of Morocco Saad Eddine El Othmani to discuss the countries' shared priorities, chief amongst them being gender equality.⁸⁷⁶ During this visit, Minister Champagne announced two projects totalling more than CAD13.9 million over five years toward women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship and sustainable economic development in the region.⁸⁷⁷ The development of forestry cooperatives and empowerment of women in the Middle Atlas will support the integration of women in economic activities related to growing rosemary and cedar while the funding toward empowering women through sustainable entrepreneurship aims to create profitable and sustainable economic enterprises with opportunities for women in the labour market.⁸⁷⁸

On 2 February 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued a statement marking the beginning of the 30th annual International Development week.⁸⁷⁹ This statement reaffirms Canada's commitment to the goals set out in the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including prioritizing the

⁸⁷⁰ Project profile — Community Based Education in South Sudan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007329001>

⁸⁷¹ Project profile — Improving Adolescent Girls' Inclusive Education (IMAGINE) in Mali, 20 January 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006790001>

⁸⁷² Project profile — Improving Adolescent Girls' Inclusive Education (IMAGINE) in Mali, 20 January 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006790001>

⁸⁷³ Minister Champagne concludes visit to Mali, continues on to Morocco, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/minister-champagne-concludes-visit-to-mali-continues-on-to-morocco.html>

⁸⁷⁴ Canadian supported projects in Mali, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/canadian-supported-projects-in-mali.html>

⁸⁷⁵ Canadian supported projects in Mali, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/canadian-supported-projects-in-mali.html>

⁸⁷⁶ Minister Champagne Concludes Successful Visit to Morocco, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/minister-champagne-concludes-successful-visit-to-morocco.html>

⁸⁷⁷ Canada Supported Projects in Morocco, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/canadian-supported-projects-in-morocco.html>

⁸⁷⁸ Canada Supported Projects in Morocco, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/canadian-supported-projects-in-morocco.html>

⁸⁷⁹ Statement by the Prime Minister on International Development Week, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 2 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2020/02/02/statement-prime-minister-international-development-week>

empowerment of women and girls through Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy by funding projects to increase access to education in "crisis and conflict situations."⁸⁸⁰ Global Affairs Canada describes Canada's feminist vision in relation to its bilateral international development assistance initiatives which includes economic empowerment in areas of Africa, particularly for women.⁸⁸¹

On 5 February 2020, Antoine Chevrier, Ambassador of Canada to the African Union, participated in the fourth High-Level Dialogue on Gender Equality and Education in Africa at the African Union headquarters in Ethiopia.⁸⁸² The objects of the dialogue were to; "tak[e] specific measures to protect girls and boys in education systems in conflict and post-conflict situations; advocate for all member states to implement the safe school Declaration to protect and secure teaching and learning environments to ease access for children and especially girls in armed conflict and post-conflict zones; [and to] create a platform for sharing and learning on existing reporting mechanisms among stakeholders for protecting education for girls and women in Africa."⁸⁸³

On 8 February 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau met with the Chair of the AU Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, on the margins of the 33rd African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.⁸⁸⁴ Prime Minister Trudeau pledged Canada's continued support for the African Union's work to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, focusing on the importance of economic growth and supporting Africa's dynamic women entrepreneurs.⁸⁸⁵

On 8 February 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau met with the President of Ethiopia Zewde Sahle-Work in Addis Abababa.⁸⁸⁶ The leaders discussed ways to "continue advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, building upon their successful collaboration at Women Deliver hosted by Canada in 2019," exchanging views on regional peace and security, and continuing their work in advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda.⁸⁸⁷

On 10 February 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau concluded his visit to Ethiopia by making several regional pledges toward advancing gender equality in the African Union.⁸⁸⁸ Pledges include;

⁸⁸⁰ Statement by the Prime Minister on International Development Week, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 2 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2020/02/02/statement-prime-minister-international-development-week>

⁸⁸¹ Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/priorities-priorites/policy-politique.aspx?lang=eng

⁸⁸² 4th High-Level Dialogue on Gender Equality and Education in Africa, African Union (Addis Ababa) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://au.int/en/newsevents/20200205/4th-high-level-dialogue-gender-equality-and-education-africa>

⁸⁸³ 4th High-Level Dialogue on Gender Equality and Education in Africa, African Union (Addis Ababa) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://au.int/en/newsevents/20200205/4th-high-level-dialogue-gender-equality-and-education-africa>

⁸⁸⁴ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meets with African Union Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat, Office of the Prime Minister (Addis Ababa) 8 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020.

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2020/02/08/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-meets-african-union-commission-chairperson>

⁸⁸⁵ Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities, Office of the Prime Minister (Addis Ababa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>

⁸⁸⁶ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meets with President of Ethiopia Zewde Sahle-Work, Office of the Prime Minister (Addis Ababa) 8 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2020/02/08/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-meets-president-ethiopia-zewde-sahle-work>

⁸⁸⁷ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meets with President of Ethiopia Zewde Sahle-Work, Office of the Prime Minister (Addis Ababa) 8 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2020/02/08/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-meets-president-ethiopia-zewde-sahle-work>

⁸⁸⁸ Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities, Office of the Prime Minister (Addis Ababa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>

CAD355.2 million over three years toward the African Development Fund, holding high-level consultations with the AU Commission to explore ongoing work on gender equality, investing CAD4.8 million toward ACUMEN and provide leadership training to youth leaders and support women-led businesses, and contributing CAD15 million to TradeMark East Africa to address barriers to economic opportunities for 150,000 women cross-border traders in East Africa.⁸⁸⁹ Canada also pledged a CAD10 million contribution to support the AU Commission to increase gender equality and women's empowerment in sectors including economic development and CAD8.3 million toward the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) toward women's economic empowerment and gender equality.⁸⁹⁰

On 10 February 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau made several pledges toward regional support for women in Ethiopia.⁸⁹¹ Canada will invest CAD20 million in Ethiopia's Land Management Program through the Resilient Landscapes and Livelihoods for Women initiative managed by the World Bank, contribute CAD20 million to Marie Stopes International to help 350,000 adolescent girls have increased access to family services, CAD10 million in funding to UNICEF to help provide 1.7 million women and girls with improved health services, and lastly the two contributions of CAD8.5 million toward RENEW and CAD12.9 million to Digital Opportunity Trust, helping the growth of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized businesses in Ethiopia, with a focus on those owned by young people and women.⁸⁹²

On 13 February 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau concluded a trip to Senegal in which he pledged support for removal of barriers that discriminate against Senegalese women's economic empowerment.⁸⁹³ Among these, Justin Trudeau announced funding of CAD10 million to the World Bank to provide better educational opportunities for adolescent girls, CAD18 million to College and Institutes Canada to provide support for "income-generating activities for vulnerable and marginalized women" of which 200,000 people will be mobilized to support "women becom[ing] leaders and active citizens in their communities" and CAD4.8 million to the International Development Research Centre to examine the link between gender-based violence and broader gender inequalities.⁸⁹⁴

On 13 February 2020, the Government of Canada pledged CAD6,661,368 across three and a half years toward Burundian Refugee Girls' Right to Education in partnership with Right to Play.⁸⁹⁵ The

⁸⁸⁹ Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities, Office of the Prime Minister (Addis Ababa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>

⁸⁹⁰ Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities, Office of the Prime Minister (Addis Ababa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>

⁸⁹¹ Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities, Office of the Prime Minister (Addis Ababa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>

⁸⁹² Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities, Office of the Prime Minister (Addis Ababa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>

⁸⁹³ Prime Minister concludes productive visit to Senegal, Office of the Prime Minister (Dakar) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/02/13/prime-minister-concludes-productive-visit-senegal>

⁸⁹⁴ Canada working with partners in Senegal to advance shared priorities, Office of the Prime Minister (Dakar) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>

⁸⁹⁵ Project profile — My Education, My Future: Supporting Burundian Refugee Girls' Right to Education, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007232001>

project aims to “implement a gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive education program for girls affected by the Burundian refugee crisis in Burundi and Tanzania” through the reduction of barriers to education.⁸⁹⁶

On 27 February 2020, the Government of Canada pledged CAD9,427,412 across three years in support of the transition, retention, and training for Young Women and Girls in Zimbabwe in partnership with CARE Canada.⁸⁹⁷ The project “targets socio-economic barriers that are worsened by the lingering crisis in Zimbabwe, prohibiting girls’ sustained engagement in secondary education and/or training, and their successful transition into adulthood.”⁸⁹⁸

On 28 February 2020, the Government of Canada pledged CAD7.5 million across three years toward the Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds project in South Sudan.⁸⁹⁹ The project, a partnership with the Canadian Red Cross, aims to increase equal opportunities for school-age girls and young women, including those with disabilities, to attend school in Gogrial West, South Sudan.⁹⁰⁰ This project works to contribute to Canada’s G7 Charlevoix Declaration on “Quality Education for Girls, Adolescent Girls and Women in Developing Countries.”⁹⁰¹

On 12 March 2020, Minister Champagne, alongside the Foreign Affairs Committee, participated in the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development to speak about the Canadian Government’s foreign policy mandate and priorities.⁹⁰² He discussed his campaigning for Canada’s seat on the UN Security Council and his recent trip with Prime Minister Trudeau to the African Union which focused on bilateral relations and economic security, particularly for women, reiterating Canada’s stance toward gender in the region by stating “think about the power of these women in Africa if we push for gender equality.”⁹⁰³

On 30 March 2020, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) which is funded by the Government of Canada awarded CAD34.2 million to projects aiming to strengthen national education systems in more than 40 low and middle-income countries across Global Partnership for

⁸⁹⁶ Project profile — My Education, My Future: Supporting Burundian Refugee Girls’ Right to Education, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007232001>

⁸⁹⁷ Project profile — Supporting Transition, Retention, and Training for Young Women and Girls, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 February 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007216001>

⁸⁹⁸ Project profile — Supporting Transition, Retention, and Training for Young Women and Girls, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 February 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007216001>

⁸⁹⁹ Project profile — Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds - South Sudan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006959001>

⁹⁰⁰ Project profile — Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds - South Sudan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006959001>

⁹⁰¹ Project profile — Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds - South Sudan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006959001>

⁹⁰² House of Commons Canada: Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development, House of Commons Canada (Ottawa) 12 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-1/FAAE/meeting-2/evidence>

⁹⁰³ House of Commons Canada: Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development, House of Commons Canada (Ottawa) 12 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-1/FAAE/meeting-2/evidence>

Education members through the Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX).⁹⁰⁴ Implemented by IDRC, KIX seeks to strengthen national education systems and accelerate educational progress in the Global South, it is the “largest fund solely dedicated to meet global public good gaps in education.”⁹⁰⁵

On 15 July 2020, the Government of Canada funded CARE Canada’s project supporting women’s rights organizations in South Sudan to combat the negative impacts of COVID-19 on women’s rights including sexual and gender-based violence in the country.⁹⁰⁶ The project, which commits to funding CAD149,600, is part of Canada’s Women’s Voice and Leadership Program which supports women’s rights organizations.⁹⁰⁷ It supports women’s rights organizations by helping build their institutional capacity, providing funding, and promoting network and alliance-building.⁹⁰⁸ It supports 15 women’s rights organizations in South Sudan, which are working across the former states of Jonglei, Eastern Equatoria and Central Equatoria.⁹⁰⁹

Canada has demonstrated full compliance with its support for the removal of social, legal, and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women through issuing bilateral meetings, summit diplomacy, and both pledging and disbursing funds to local governmental, non-governmental, and international organizations which focus on region-specific solutions to gender equality in Africa. This includes supporting African women’s access to education and supporting community-based learning for women.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexandra Miller

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to support women’s entrepreneurship in Africa, including by supporting the removal of legal, social and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women’s full and free economic participation and empowerment.

On 23 September 2019, France announced its plan to co-host the next UN Women’s Generation Equality forum alongside Mexico in July 2020.⁹¹⁰ As one of the “Core Group” members, France will share ultimate decision-making power over initiatives to encourage urgent action and accountability for global gender inequality.⁹¹¹

On 8 November 2019, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), an agency of the governmental Committee for International Cooperation and Development, awarded Cameroonian company

⁹⁰⁴ KIX funding announced for research to scale education innovations, International Development Research Centre (Ottawa) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.idrc.ca/en/news/kix-funding-announced-research-scale-education-innovations>

⁹⁰⁵ Grants awarded to scale proven innovations and strengthen education systems through the GPE Knowledge and Innovation Exchange, Global Partnerships for Education (Washington) 30 March 2020. Access Date 12 April 2020. <https://www.globalpartnership.org/news/grants-awarded-scale-proven-innovations-and-strengthen-education-systems-through-gpe-knowledge>

⁹⁰⁶ Project Profile – Women’s Voice and Leadership – Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) – South Sudan 15 July 2020. Access Date 17 August 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P001980002>

⁹⁰⁷ Project Profile – Women’s Voice and Leadership – Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) – South Sudan 15 July 2020. Access Date 17 August 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P001980002>

⁹⁰⁸ Project Profile – Women’s Voice and Leadership – Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) – South Sudan 15 July 2020. Access Date 17 August 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P001980002>

⁹⁰⁹ Project Profile – Women’s Voice and Leadership – Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) – South Sudan 15 July 2020. Access Date 17 August 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P001980002>

⁹¹⁰ Generation Equality Forum, UN Women (New York) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 5 November 2019. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/beijing-plus-25/generation-equality-forum>

⁹¹¹ Generation Equality Forum, UN Women (New York) 23 September 2019. Access date: 5 November 2019. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/beijing-plus-25/generation-equality-forum>

KmerPad with a prize and funding package for its solidarity-based entrepreneurship.⁹¹² Started by Cameroonian women, the company produces sanitary pads with the goal of removing barriers that discriminate against women's full and free involvement in education and work due to social taboos that discourage hygienic menstruation practices.⁹¹³

On 12 November 2019, French Minister of State for Gender Equality and the Fight against Discrimination Marlene Schiappa hosted international ministers and UN Women executives at a Paris Peace Forum exhibit showcasing the success of women's entrepreneurship projects supported by the French government including "African Girls Can Code" from Ethiopia and "Buy From Digital Platform for Smallholder Farms" from Mali.⁹¹⁴

On 19 November 2019, the Consulate General of France in Johannesburg, South Africa, unveiled its "Challenge for 1000" initiative, in which 1000 African entrepreneurs will be selected to showcase innovative solutions to urban problems at the Africa-France summit in June 2020.⁹¹⁵ The Consulate General included in the announcement a commitment to ensure gender parity to support women entrepreneurs and decrease barriers to their participation.⁹¹⁶

On 28 November 2019, AFD announced it will contribute EUR3 million toward the creation of treatment centres for female victims of sexual and gender-based violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic.⁹¹⁷ The centres will provide physical, psychological, legal and economic support to victims with the goal of helping to rebuild their lives and reduce barriers that may prevent them from achieving empowerment.⁹¹⁸

On 31 January 2020, the French Ministry for European and Foreign Affairs announced its action coalition themes for the Generation Equality Forum it will co-chair with Mexico in May 2020.⁹¹⁹ Working with UN Women to identify areas of importance, they selected "economic justice and rights"

⁹¹² Lifting the Menstruation Taboo in Cameroon, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 8 November 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. https://www.afd.fr/en/lifting-menstruation-taboo-cameroon?origin=/en/actualites?field_region_country_target_id=187&field_date_value=&field_date_value_1=&field_type_target_id=All&field_theme_target_id=All&items_per_page=5&page=4

⁹¹³ Lifting the Menstruation Taboo in Cameroon, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 8 November 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. https://www.afd.fr/en/lifting-menstruation-taboo-cameroon?origin=/en/actualites?field_region_country_target_id=187&field_date_value=&field_date_value_1=&field_type_target_id=All&field_theme_target_id=All&items_per_page=5&page=4

⁹¹⁴ UN Women Deputy Executive Director Anita Bhatia attends Paris Peace Forum, UN Women (New York) 14 November 2019. Access date: 15 December 2019. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/11/news-coverage-ded-bhatia-attends-paris-peace-forum>

⁹¹⁵ African entrepreneurs take part in Challenge of 1,000 at the Africa-France 2020 Summit, Consulat général de France à Johannesburg (Johannesburg) 11 November 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://johannesburg.consulfrance.org/Africans-entrepreneurs-take-part-in-Challenge-of-1-000-at-the-Africa-France>

⁹¹⁶ African entrepreneurs take part in Challenge of 1,000 at the Africa-France 2020 Summit, Consulat général de France à Johannesburg (Johannesburg) 11 November 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://johannesburg.consulfrance.org/Africans-entrepreneurs-take-part-in-Challenge-of-1-000-at-the-Africa-France>

⁹¹⁷ Stopping Violence Against Women in Central Africa, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 02 December 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/stopping-violence-against-women-centralafrica?origin=/en/actualites?field_region_country_target_id=187&field_date_value=&field_date_value_1=&field_type_target_id=All&field_theme_target_id=All&items_per_page=5&page=1

⁹¹⁸ Stopping Violence Against Women in Central Africa, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 02 December 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/stopping-violence-against-women-centralafrica?origin=/en/actualites?field_region_country_target_id=187&field_date_value=&field_date_value_1=&field_type_target_id=All&field_theme_target_id=All&items_per_page=5&page=1

⁹¹⁹ Generation Equality Forum, France Diplomatie Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/generation-equality-forum/>

and “technology and innovation for gender equality” as top priorities.⁹²⁰ The forum will be informed by multi-regional consultations including African countries.⁹²¹ France will lead an action coalition and collaborate with various partners to address critical issues of gender inequality.⁹²²

On 13-14 February 2020, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director of Sustainable Development Philippe Lacoste visited the African Development Bank headquarters to negotiate the allocation of USD3 billion in funding for women’s economic empowerment in Africa by the G7.⁹²³ The funds will be directed to the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa initiative to further the breaking down of legal and regulatory barriers that restrict women’s access to credit, as well as providing technical support to financial institutions to facilitate women’s entrepreneurship.⁹²⁴

On 3 April 2020, the African Development Bank Group announced a new Gender Equality Trust Fund, jointly funded by the governments of France, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.⁹²⁵ The first transaction is estimated to unlock USD 2 billion in credit for women-empowered businesses across the continent of Africa. be directed towards removing legal and regulatory barriers to women’s full and free economic empowerment by improving access to credit and other financial services for entrepreneurial projects.⁹²⁶

France has fully complied with its commitment to support women’s entrepreneurship in Africa. By showcasing and supporting women’s entrepreneurship projects in Ethiopia, Mali, and Cameroon, France is removing social barriers that impede women’s entrepreneurship. The Consulate General’s commitment to ensure gender parity is another action that supports the removal of social and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women’s full and free economic participation and empowerment. The joint funding of the Gender Equality Trust fund and funding of centers that provide economic and legal support to female victims of sexual and gender-based violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic, work to remove legal and regulatory barriers to women’s full economic empowerment.

⁹²⁰ Generation Equality Forum, France Diplomatie Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/generation-equality-forum/>

⁹²¹ Generation Equality Forum, UN Women (New York) Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/beijing-plus-25/generation-equality-forum>

⁹²² Generation Equality Forum, France Diplomatie Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/generation-equality-forum/>

⁹²³ AFAWA Initiative - French Delegation Follows Through Its Commitment With Working Visit to African Development Bank Headquarters, African Development Bank (Abidjan).12 February 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2020. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/afawa-initiative-french-delegation-follows-through-its-commitment-working-visit-african-development-bank-headquarters-34291>

⁹²⁴ AFAWA Initiative - French Delegation Follows Through Its Commitment With Working Visit to African Development Bank Headquarters, African Development Bank (Abidjan) 12 February 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2020. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/afawa-initiative-french-delegation-follows-through-its-commitment-working-visit-african-development-bank-headquarters-34291>

⁹²⁵ African Development Bank Group approves Gender Equality Trust Fund and Risk-Sharing Mechanism to improve women’s economic empowerment in Africa, African Development Bank (Abidjan) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-group-approves-gender-equality-trust-fund-and-risk-sharing-mechanism-improve-womens-economic-empowerment-africa-35077>

⁹²⁶ African Development Bank Group approves Gender Equality Trust Fund and Risk-Sharing Mechanism to improve women’s economic empowerment in Africa, African Development Bank (Abidjan) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-group-approves-gender-equality-trust-fund-and-risk-sharing-mechanism-improve-womens-economic-empowerment-africa-35077>

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Kathryn Mullins

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to support women's entrepreneurship in Africa, including by supporting the removal of legal, social and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women's full and free economic participation and empowerment.

On 30 August 2019, the government-backed development bank Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) announced its provision of USD458 million in support for female-owned businesses in developing countries.⁹²⁷ The funding was raised in contribution with development banks from other G7 members in the "2X Challenge," an initiative to raise USD3 billion for women entrepreneurs and employees in the developing world by 2020.⁹²⁸

On 1-28 October 2019, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) contributed to the funding of several "African Code Week" initiatives.⁹²⁹ Over 1.5 million youth in 37 African nations participated in the week-long events which aimed to improve the digital literacy of girls in particular, reducing the "digital divide," which creates social and regulatory barriers to women's participation in the economy.⁹³⁰

On 23 October 2019, German Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged EUR30 million for the promotion of women's digital literacy to the African Development Bank.⁹³¹ The Chancellor announced the funding during a speech awarding the 2019 German-Africa Prize to Kenyan information technologist Juliana Rotich, emphasizing the importance of digital skills for African women to achieve full economic participation and empowerment.⁹³²

On 25 October 2019, the German Federal Foreign Office helped launch a start-up project called Maisha Business Women in Europe.⁹³³ The project, will offer women refugees from African countries opportunities to develop their entrepreneurial skills and help them participate in the economies of their home countries upon their return.⁹³⁴

⁹²⁷ 2X Challenge: USD 2.5 billion mobilised for women's economic empowerment, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (Frankfurt) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 23 October 2019. https://www.deginvest.de/Newsroom/News/News-Details_539264-2.html

⁹²⁸ 2X Challenge: USD 2.5 billion mobilised for women's economic empowerment, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (Frankfurt) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 23 October 2019. https://www.deginvest.de/Newsroom/News/News-Details_539264-2.html

⁹²⁹ Germany promotes education in development cooperation worldwide, Deutschland.de (Frankfurt) 11 November 2019. Access Date: 27 November 2019. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/topic/politics/education-and-development-cooperation-projects-from-germany>

⁹³⁰ Germany promotes education in development cooperation worldwide, Deutschland.de (Frankfurt) 11 November 2019. Access Date: 27 November 2019. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/topic/politics/education-and-development-cooperation-projects-from-germany>

⁹³¹ German Africa Prize 2019, Die Bundesregierung (Berlin) 24 October 2019. Access Date: 27 November 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/afrika-preis-2019-1685170>

⁹³² German Africa Prize 2019, Die Bundesregierung (Berlin) 24 October 2019. Access Date: 27 November 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/afrika-preis-2019-1685170>

⁹³³ Project to support African women entrepreneurs in Europe launches, The African Courier (Berlin) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 27 November 2019. <https://www.theafricancourier.de/business/business-support-project-for-african-women-in-europe-launches/>

⁹³⁴ Project to support African women entrepreneurs in Europe launches, The African Courier (Berlin) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 27 November 2019. <https://www.theafricancourier.de/business/business-support-project-for-african-women-in-europe-launches/>

On 13 November 2019, the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), an agency of BMZ, renewed its support for a joint fund with the Algerian Environment Ministry to encourage women in rural areas to establish cooperative businesses for the sale of sustainably harvested plant products.⁹³⁵ GIZ will finance oil presses and other production tools that help Algerian women manage their own entrepreneurial projects.⁹³⁶

On 17 December 2019, KfW launched its Gender Smart Opportunity Assessment program to support financial institutions in developing countries in providing opportunities suited to the needs of women.⁹³⁷ They aim to help women gain better access to credit for entrepreneurial projects and increase the number of employment opportunities available to women, leading to more full and free economic participation.⁹³⁸

On 22 January 2020, the development finance institution Deutsche Investitions-und Entwicklungsgesellschaft, a subsidiary of KfW, announced its donation of EUR10,000 for charitable organizations AIM and Tatort Strassen der Welte.V., which fund schooling and vocational training for girls affected by female genital mutilation in Sierra Leone and Kenya, attempting to minimize social barriers to their empowerment.⁹³⁹

On 4 March 2020, the German Federal Foreign Office released a report outlining its goals for gender equality initiatives in developing countries in 2020.⁹⁴⁰ These include projects to remove social barriers to networking between women for the purpose of entrepreneurship, as well as the removal of barriers to senior positions for women in higher education and research.⁹⁴¹

Germany has continued to support women's entrepreneurship in Africa, including by supporting the removal of legal, social and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women's full and free economic participation and empowerment. This includes supporting female-owned businesses in African countries, funding projects that aim to reduce the 'digital divide', pledging support to initiatives that aimed at the removal of regulatory barriers preventing women from attaining senior positions, and supporting financial institutions to help women gain access to credit for entrepreneurial projects.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Kathryn Mullins

⁹³⁵ Algeria: Natural cosmetics sourced from protected areas and produced by women, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (Bonn) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 27 November 2019. <https://www.giz.de/en/mediacenter/80797.html>

⁹³⁶ Algeria: Natural cosmetics sourced from protected areas and produced by women, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (Bonn) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 27 November 2019. <https://www.giz.de/en/mediacenter/80797.html>

⁹³⁷ DEG advisory service: empowering female entrepreneurs in developing countries, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (Frankfurt) 17 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. https://www.deginvest.de/Newsroom/News/Pressemitteilungen-Details_557568-2.html

⁹³⁸ DEG advisory service: empowering female entrepreneurs in developing countries, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (Frankfurt) 17 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. https://www.deginvest.de/Newsroom/News/Pressemitteilungen-Details_557568-2.html

⁹³⁹ DEG donates to three charitable organisations, DEG Press Office (Cologne) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2020. https://www.deginvest.de/Newsroom/News/News-Details_562752-2.html

⁹⁴⁰ Gender equality in German foreign policy and in the Federal Foreign Office, Auswärtiges Amt (Berlin) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/blob/2314180/31e4d4f4035a37b3cfaf86f3b536e487/geschlechtergerechtigkeit-data.pdf>

⁹⁴¹ Gender equality in German foreign policy and in the Federal Foreign Office, Auswärtiges Amt (Berlin) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/blob/2314180/31e4d4f4035a37b3cfaf86f3b536e487/geschlechtergerechtigkeit-data.pdf>

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to support women's entrepreneurship in Africa by supporting African countries to remove social barriers that discriminate against women's full and free economic empowerment.

On 26 August 2019, Italy provided UNICEF Eritrea with a grant of EUR1 million to enhance existing community-based child protection programs.⁹⁴² As part of this program, adolescent girls from disadvantaged families receive cash incentives to enable the girls to remain in school and pursue secondary education.⁹⁴³

On 25 November 2019, Italy reaffirmed its support for the removal of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation subscribed to UN Women's campaign on gender violence called #OrangetheWorld.⁹⁴⁴

On 9 December 2019, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation allocated EUR642,000 from the Africa Fund to the United Nations Capital Development Fund to promote inclusive credit services for refugees in the Tigray, Somaliland and Addis Ababa areas of Ethiopia.⁹⁴⁵ This project aims to enable economic self-sufficiency of refugees, especially refugee women and Ethiopians willingly returning to the country.⁹⁴⁶

On 6 March 2020, Italian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Emanuela Claudia Del Re inaugurated a new block at the Mayo Girls Basic School in Al Yarmouk's Block 7 in Mayo, Khartoum State, and signed a new agreement with the UNDP to further commit EUR1.3 million for peace and social stability projects in Khartoum State and South Darfur.⁹⁴⁷ The focus of this agreement is on job and community infrastructure creation such as women's vocational training for leatherwork and commodity product creation, and peacebuilding.⁹⁴⁸ The new school block and vocational training were jointly funded by Italy, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission as part of Italy's support for UNDP's

⁹⁴² Italy Grants €1 Million to UNICEF Eritrea, TesfaNews (Asmara) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <https://www.tesfanews.net/italy-grants-one-million-euro-unicef-eritrea/>

⁹⁴³ Italy Grants €1 Million to UNICEF Eritrea, TesfaNews (Asmara). 26 August 2019. Access Date: 12 November 2019. <https://www.tesfanews.net/italy-grants-one-million-euro-unicef-eritrea/>

⁹⁴⁴ Violence against women: Italy joins #OrangetheWorld, #Generationequality campaigns, OnItalia (New York). 25 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.onitalia.com/violence-against-women-italy-joins-orangetheWorld-generationequality-campaigns/>

⁹⁴⁵ The Foreign Ministry provides two new allocations for refugees in Niger and Ethiopia, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/duo-nuovi-contributi-maeci-per-rifugiati-in-niger-e-etiopia_0.html

⁹⁴⁶ The Foreign Ministry provides two new allocations for refugees in Niger and Ethiopia, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/duo-nuovi-contributi-maeci-per-rifugiati-in-niger-e-etiopia_0.html

⁹⁴⁷ Italian Deputy Minister Foreign Affairs Commits €1.3m to further Peacebuilding Efforts; Inaugurates Girls School Block in Mayo, United Nations Development Programme (Khartoum) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 5 April 2020. <https://www.sd.undp.org/content/sudan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/italian-deputy-minister-foreign-affairs-inaugurates-girls-school.html>

⁹⁴⁸ Italian Deputy Minister Foreign Affairs Commits €1.3m to further Peacebuilding Efforts; Inaugurates Girls School Block in Mayo, United Nations Development Programme (Khartoum) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 5 April 2020. <https://www.sd.undp.org/content/sudan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/italian-deputy-minister-foreign-affairs-inaugurates-girls-school.html>

Community Security and Stabilization Programme (C2SP) aiming to support people most at risk in entering a conflict, including women.⁹⁴⁹

On July 16 2020, Vice Minister Del Re attended the “Women in Industry and Innovation” conference in support of women entrepreneurship in the Middle East and North Africa funded by the Italian Cooperation.⁹⁵⁰ She emphasized gender equality as the absolute priority of the Italian Cooperation, and stated that the Cooperation’s focus is on both the rural and private sector, ensuring women participate in the agriculture workforce, have more access to financial services and encouraging leadership.⁹⁵¹

Italy has taken some actions to support women’s entrepreneurship in Africa through the removal of social barriers to women’s full and free economic empowerment. This includes providing funding for initiatives that promote the economic self-sufficiency of African women and girls. However, Italy has not demonstrated support for the removal of legal or regulatory barriers that discriminate against women’s full and free economic participation and empowerment.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Brandon Yih

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to continue to support women’s entrepreneurship in Africa and to support the removal of legal, social and regulatory barriers for women’s empowerment.

On 28 August 2019, the Japanese government hosted the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7), and issued the Yokohama Declaration and the Yokohama Plan of Actions, which aimed at promoting focus areas including African women empowerment through financial contribution to the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) and the Private Sector Investment Finance of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).⁹⁵² These measures aim to empower African women entrepreneurs through increased financial access and supports.⁹⁵³

On 28 August 2019, JICA hosted a symposium that focused on the roles and potential of social business and entrepreneurship to address gender barriers in Africa. During the conference, Dr. Yumiko Tanaka, Senior Gender Advisor of JICA, called for the promotion and collaborations to

⁹⁴⁹ Italian Deputy Minister Foreign Affairs Commits €1.3m to further Peacebuilding Efforts; Inaugurates Girls School Block in Mayo, United Nations Development Programme (Khartoum) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 5 April 2020.

<https://www.sd.undp.org/content/>

[sudan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/italian-deputy-minister-foreign-affairs-inaugurates-girls-school.html](https://www.sd.undp.org/content/sudan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/italian-deputy-minister-foreign-affairs-inaugurates-girls-school.html)

⁹⁵⁰ Ms Del Re: gender equality is necessary to recover from the crisis 16 July 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/del-re-l-uguaglianza-di-genere-e-necessaria-per-la-ripresa-dalla-crisi.html

⁹⁵¹ Ms Del Re: gender equality is necessary to recover from the crisis 16 July 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/del-re-l-uguaglianza-di-genere-e-necessaria-per-la-ripresa-dalla-crisi.html

⁹⁵² TICAD7, the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development, opening in Yokohama: Advancing Africa’s development through People, Technology and Innovation, JICA (Tokyo) 28 August 2019. Access date: 22 December 2019. https://jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2019/2019082_01.html

⁹⁵³ Yokohama Plan of Actions 2019 & Actions for Implementation of the Yokohama Declaration 2019, MOFA (Tokyo) 30 August 2019. Access date: 22 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/yokohama_action_plan_en.pdf

promote African women's access to greater economic and political power and thus to combat gender inequalities.⁹⁵⁴

On 29 August 2019, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced that Japan will introduce assistance policy for human resource development in Africa at the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa and the Neighboring Region.⁹⁵⁵ This initiative would allow youth and women to acquire skills to make a living by themselves and to play an increasing role in economic activities.⁹⁵⁶

On 24 September 2019, Prime Minister Abe attended the UN General Assembly and announced that Japan pledged to provide enriched education to a minimum of nine million children and women in Sub-Saharan African nations in the next three years, which would help to “promote inclusive quality education for all girls and women.”⁹⁵⁷

On 30 September 2019, Japan's Government Pension Investment Fund (GPIF) signed an agreement with the African Development Bank (AfDB) to channel investment towards inclusive and sustainable growth in Africa.⁹⁵⁸ The collaboration would provide investment opportunities to GPIF to fund projects in Africa leading to increase women's employment opportunities in Africa.⁹⁵⁹

On 23 November 2019, Minister of Foreign Affairs Toshimitsu Motegi held a Presidency Press Conference for the G20 Aichi-Nagoya Foreign Ministers' Meeting, in which he confirmed that Japan and other G20 members will continue to support women's empowerment in Africa as part of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.⁹⁶⁰

On 5 December 2019, JICA signed an agreement with the Government of Kenya to provide a Japanese official development assistance of JPY47.8 billion to the Mombasa Gate Bridge construction Project.⁹⁶¹ This project not only aimed to facilitate efficient transportation in East Africa,

⁹⁵⁴ Unleashing the power of Women and Girls in Africa – Social Business and Social Entrepreneurship to Achieve Transformation Change, JICA (Tokyo) 28 August 2019. Access date: 22 December 2019. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2019/c8h0vm0000f5zxol-att/20190912_01_11.pdf

⁹⁵⁵ Prime Minister Abe and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Kono attended the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa and the Neighboring Region, MOFA (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access date: 22 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/page4e_001075.html

⁹⁵⁶ Prime Minister Abe and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Kono attended the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa and the Neighboring Region, MOFA (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access date: 22 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/page4e_001075.html

⁹⁵⁷ At UN debate, Japan vows to back global push for inclusive quality education for all girls and women, UN News (New York) 24 September 2019. Access date: 22 December 2018. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/09/1047382>

⁹⁵⁸ African Development Bank, Government Pension Investment Fund, partner for green, social and sustainability bond markets, African Development Bank (Abidjan) 11 October 2019. Access date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-government-pension-investment-fund-partner-green-social-and-sustainability-bond-markets-31954>

⁹⁵⁹ African Development Bank, Government Pension Investment Fund, partner for green, social and sustainability bond markets, African Development Bank (Abidjan) 11 October 2019. Access date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-government-pension-investment-fund-partner-green-social-and-sustainability-bond-markets-31954>

⁹⁶⁰ Presidency Conference for the G20 Foreign ministers' Meeting by Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu, MOFA (Tokyo) 23 November 2019. Access date: 22 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ecm/ec/page25e_000367.html

⁹⁶¹ Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with the Republic of Kenya: Contributing to the stimulation of regional economic activities by the construction of a bridge at Mombasa, a gateway to East Africa, JICA (Tokyo) 11 December 2019. Access date: 22 December 2019. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191211_41_en.html

but also provided roadside trading facilities and vocational training to African women entrepreneurs in the region, which removed social barriers that discriminate women's economic participation.⁹⁶²

Japan has fully complied in all three commitment areas by supporting African countries in women's entrepreneurship through their removal of legal, social and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women's full and free economic empowerment. Japan's introduction of an assistance policy for human resource development in Africa and its collaboration with the AfDB to fund women's employment opportunities in Africa has fulfilled its commitment.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Mary Qiu

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to support women's entrepreneurship in Africa by removing legal, social and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women's full and free economic participation and empowerment.

On 28 August 2019, International Development Secretary Alok Sharma announced the establishment of a new Commission to mobilize private sector investments following his first visit to Ethiopia.⁹⁶³ The Commission will be composed of UK and international business experts and aims to facilitate financial investment for infrastructure projects in developing countries.⁹⁶⁴ While in Ethiopia, Secretary Sharma met with women who have taken part in entrepreneurial training programs and guidance initiatives supported by aid from the UK and the company Unilever.⁹⁶⁵

On 24 September 2019, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced GBP515 million to provide education for approximately 12 million children in developing countries.⁹⁶⁶ This funding builds on the GBP90 million the Prime Minister committed at the 2019 G7 summit in Biarritz.⁹⁶⁷ The new

⁹⁶² Feasibility Study in the Mombasa Gate Bridge Construction Project, Mombasa County, JICA (Tokyo) March 2019. Access date: 22 December 2019. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/social_environmental/id/africa/kenya/c8h0vm00009praz8-att/c8h0vm0000eu3o4t.pdf

⁹⁶³ International Development Secretary to boost infrastructure in the poorest countries with UK aid, Department for International Development (London) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-development-secretary-to-boost-infrastructure-in-the-poorest-countries-with-uk-aid>

⁹⁶⁴ International Development Secretary to boost infrastructure in the poorest countries with UK aid, Department for International Development (London) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-development-secretary-to-boost-infrastructure-in-the-poorest-countries-with-uk-aid>

⁹⁶⁵ International Development Secretary to boost infrastructure in the poorest countries with UK aid, Department for International Development (London) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-development-secretary-to-boost-infrastructure-in-the-poorest-countries-with-uk-aid>

⁹⁶⁶ PM steps up UK effort to get every girl in the world into school, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street and Department for International Development (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-effort-to-get-every-girl-in-the-world-into-school>

⁹⁶⁷ PM steps up UK effort to get every girl in the world into school, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street and Department for International Development (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-effort-to-get-every-girl-in-the-world-into-school>

spending commitment will focus on teaching literacy and numeracy to children in African and Asian countries.⁹⁶⁸

On 27 September 2019, Secretary Sharma announced a new UK aid package which will help mobilize GBP500 million in private sector investment, support entrepreneurs in countries across sub-Saharan Africa and provide improved access to financial services.⁹⁶⁹ To achieve this, the UK has committed GBP90 million to Financial Sector Deepening Africa, a non-profit organization that works in 28 countries to help people access financial services, such as banking.⁹⁷⁰

On 5 November 2019, the International Tech Hub Network of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) opened applications for its new “Africa-UK: Female Tech Founders 2020” program.⁹⁷¹ The program will invite 15 women entrepreneurs from Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa to partake in workshops and events on business strategies in London from 20-22 January 2020.⁹⁷² The goal of the program is to foster inclusive economic growth by giving women entrepreneurs the tools to surmount the gender divide.⁹⁷³

On 5 December 2019, the United Kingdom and Canada announced a contribution over three years towards girls’ education in South Sudan.⁹⁷⁴ This was part of the second phase of Girls Education in South Sudan (GESS2), a project which aims to increase access to education for girls education by addressing key barriers to education.⁹⁷⁵

On 13 January 2020, DCMS released the names of the 15 finalists for the International Tech Hub Network’s Africa-UK: Female Tech Founders program.⁹⁷⁶ The finalists are women entrepreneurs in the technology sector hailing from Kenya, South Africa, and Nigeria.⁹⁷⁷

⁹⁶⁸ PM steps up UK effort to get every girl in the world into school, Prime Minister’s Office, 10 Downing Street and Department for International Development (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-effort-to-get-every-girl-in-the-world-into-school>

⁹⁶⁹ UK aid to boost access to finance for sub-Saharan Africa, Department for International Development (London) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-boost-access-to-finance-for-sub-saharan-africa>

⁹⁷⁰ UK aid to boost access to finance for sub-Saharan Africa, Department for International Development (London) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-boost-access-to-finance-for-sub-saharan-africa>

⁹⁷¹ Applications open for Africa-UK Female Tech Founders 2020, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Blog (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://dcmsblog.uk/2019/11/applications-open-for-africa-uk-female-tech-founders-2020/>

⁹⁷² Applications open for Africa-UK Female Tech Founders 2020, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Blog (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://dcmsblog.uk/2019/11/applications-open-for-africa-uk-female-tech-founders-2020/>

⁹⁷³ Applications open for Africa-UK Female Tech Founders 2020, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Blog (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://dcmsblog.uk/2019/11/applications-open-for-africa-uk-female-tech-founders-2020/>

⁹⁷⁴ Project profile — Girls' Education in South Sudan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006982001>

⁹⁷⁵ Project profile — Girls' Education in South Sudan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006982001>

⁹⁷⁶ Finalists announced for the International Tech Hub Network’s Female Tech Founders and TeXchange programmes, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Blog (London) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://dcmsblog.uk/2020/01/finalists-announced-for-the-international-tech-hub-networks-female-tech-founders-and-texchange-programmes/>

⁹⁷⁷ Finalists announced for the International Tech Hub Network’s Female Tech Founders and TeXchange programmes, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Blog (London) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://dcmsblog.uk/2020/01/finalists-announced-for-the-international-tech-hub-networks-female-tech-founders-and-texchange-programmes/>

On 16 January 2020, the UK pledged GBP3.5 million to the International Trade Centre's SheTrades program.⁹⁷⁸ The UK's funding will assist women entrepreneurs in Nigeria, Ghana, and Kenya in the growth of their businesses by connecting them to trade and investment opportunities and business partnerships.⁹⁷⁹ Women entrepreneurs will also have access to specialized training and mentorship.⁹⁸⁰ As a result of this aid, the UK projects that approximately 3,000 jobs will be created in African businesses led by women.⁹⁸¹

On 16 January 2020, the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and Department for International Trade partnered with the organization Lionesses of Africa to host Start-up Night Africa.⁹⁸² The event provided 11 African women entrepreneurs with the opportunity to pitch their businesses to UK-based investors and gain funding and partnerships.⁹⁸³ The event also featured a panel of three women entrepreneurs with established African businesses who discussed their experiences and shared advice.⁹⁸⁴

On 20 January 2020, DFID and the Department for International Trade initiated several programs to meet the demand for investment in Africa, including three programs that will help empower African women.⁹⁸⁵ DFID's new Digital Access program will use GBP45 million to help marginalized populations in Africa, particularly women, improve their digital and technological skills and access the internet.⁹⁸⁶ DFID also announced the establishment of a GBP2 million program which will fund

⁹⁷⁸ UK aid boosts support for African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets, Department for International Development, Department for International Trade, and The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP (London) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-boosts-support-for-african-women-entrepreneurs-to-expand-businesses-into-global-markets>

⁹⁷⁹ UK aid boosts support for African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets, Department for International Development, Department for International Trade, and The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP (London) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-boosts-support-for-african-women-entrepreneurs-to-expand-businesses-into-global-markets>

⁹⁸⁰ UK aid boosts support for African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets, Department for International Development, Department for International Trade, and The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP (London) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-boosts-support-for-african-women-entrepreneurs-to-expand-businesses-into-global-markets>

⁹⁸¹ UK aid boosts support for African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets, Department for International Development, Department for International Trade, and The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP (London) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-boosts-support-for-african-women-entrepreneurs-to-expand-businesses-into-global-markets>

⁹⁸² Women entrepreneurs pitch innovation for Africa to UK investors, Department for International Development, Department for International Trade, and The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (London) 18 January 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/women-entrepreneurs-pitch-innovation-for-africa-to-uk-investors>

⁹⁸³ Women entrepreneurs pitch innovation for Africa to UK investors, Department for International Development, Department for International Trade, and The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (London) 18 January 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/women-entrepreneurs-pitch-innovation-for-africa-to-uk-investors>

⁹⁸⁴ Women entrepreneurs pitch innovation for Africa to UK investors, Department for International Development, Department for International Trade, and The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (London) 18 January 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/women-entrepreneurs-pitch-innovation-for-africa-to-uk-investors>

⁹⁸⁵ UK aims to be Africa's partner of choice for trade and investment, Department for International Development, Department for International Trade, The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, and The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aims-to-be-africas-partner-of-choice-for-trade-and-investment>

⁹⁸⁶ UK aims to be Africa's partner of choice for trade and investment, Department for International Development, Department for International Trade, The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, and The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aims-to-be-africas-partner-of-choice-for-trade-and-investment>

the education of women in developing countries in order to help them obtain jobs.⁹⁸⁷ In addition, it will provide the Work and Opportunities for Women program with GBP6.1 million.⁹⁸⁸ This money will increase economic opportunities for women and thereby assist approximately 100,000 women until 2024.⁹⁸⁹

On 20 January 2020, Prime Minister Johnson hosted the UK-Africa Investment Summit in London.⁹⁹⁰ During the conference, the UK strengthened its relationships with African countries and pledged to support their economic empowerment through investment, trade, and funding.⁹⁹¹ The UK also outlined specific commitments towards the empowerment of women in Africa.⁹⁹² This included previously announced aid packages, such as the GBP6.1 million for the Work and Opportunities for Women program and the GBP3.5 million for the SheTrades program, and new funding of GBP2 million to assist initiatives in Mozambique that support the economic empowerment of women.⁹⁹³

On 20 January 2020, the International Tech Hub Network commenced its three-day Africa-UK: Female Tech Founders program in London.⁹⁹⁴ The 15 women entrepreneurs selected for the program participated in workshops, masterclasses, and networking events, where they connected

⁹⁸⁷ UK aims to be Africa's partner of choice for trade and investment, Department for International Development, Department for International Trade, The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, and The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aims-to-be-africas-partner-of-choice-for-trade-and-investment>

⁹⁸⁸ UK aims to be Africa's partner of choice for trade and investment, Department for International Development, Department for International Trade, The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, and The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aims-to-be-africas-partner-of-choice-for-trade-and-investment>

⁹⁸⁹ UK aims to be Africa's partner of choice for trade and investment, Department for International Development, Department for International Trade, The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, and The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aims-to-be-africas-partner-of-choice-for-trade-and-investment>.

⁹⁹⁰ UK Government Statement on UK-Africa Investment Summit, Department for International Development, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street, Department for International Trade, The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, and The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-government-statement-on-the-uk-africa-investment-summit>

⁹⁹¹ UK Government Statement on UK-Africa Investment Summit, Department for International Development, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street, Department for International Trade, The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, and The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-government-statement-on-the-uk-africa-investment-summit>

⁹⁹² UK Government Statement on UK-Africa Investment Summit, Department for International Development, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street, Department for International Trade, The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, and The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-government-statement-on-the-uk-africa-investment-summit>

⁹⁹³ UK Government Statement on UK-Africa Investment Summit, Department for International Development, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street, Department for International Trade, The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, and The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-government-statement-on-the-uk-africa-investment-summit>

⁹⁹⁴ Celebrating a successful Africa-UK: Female Tech Founders programme, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Blog (London) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://dcmsblog.uk/2020/01/celebrating-a-successful-africa-uk-female-tech-founders-programme/>

with investors, stakeholders, entrepreneurs, and government officials in the UK.⁹⁹⁵ They also attended the UK-Africa Investment Summit on 20 January 2020.⁹⁹⁶

On 3 April 2020, the African Development Bank (AfDB) authorized the establishment of a new Gender Equality Trust Fund in which the United Kingdom is a key investor, along with France and the Netherlands.⁹⁹⁷ The Fund will last for ten years and primarily help expand the AfDB's Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa program, which seeks to redress the financing gap African women experience.⁹⁹⁸ In doing so, the Fund hopes to empower women and work towards gender equality in Africa.⁹⁹⁹

The United Kingdom has demonstrated full compliance with its support for the removal of social, legal, and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women by funding projects to address women's barriers to education and job training, projects that assist women entrepreneurs by connecting them to trade and investment opportunities. The UK has also supported projects such as the Digital Access Program and the AfDB's Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa program which help African women overcome social, legal, and regulatory barriers to their full economic empowerment.

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

Analyst: Annie Ding

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment towards women's empowerment in Africa.

On 12 November 2019, the United States Chief Executive Officer of the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), Adam Boehler, joined the President of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group, Akinwumi Adesina, in signing a memorandum of understanding to support further development in African countries.¹⁰⁰⁰ Some of the top priority sectors the partners

⁹⁹⁵ Celebrating a successful Africa-UK: Female Tech Founders programme, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Blog (London) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://dcmsblog.uk/2020/01/celebrating-a-successful-africa-uk-female-tech-founders-programme/>

⁹⁹⁶ Celebrating a successful Africa-UK: Female Tech Founders programme, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Blog (London) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://dcmsblog.uk/2020/01/celebrating-a-successful-africa-uk-female-tech-founders-programme/>

⁹⁹⁷ African Development Bank Group approves Gender Equality Trust Fund and Risk-Sharing Mechanism to improve women's economic empowerment in Africa, African Development Bank Group (Abidjan) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-group-approves-gender-equality-trust-fund-and-risk-sharing-mechanism-improve-womens-economic-empowerment-africa-35077>

⁹⁹⁸ African Development Bank Group approves Gender Equality Trust Fund and Risk-Sharing Mechanism to improve women's economic empowerment in Africa, African Development Bank Group (Abidjan) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-group-approves-gender-equality-trust-fund-and-risk-sharing-mechanism-improve-womens-economic-empowerment-africa-35077>

⁹⁹⁹ African Development Bank Group approves Gender Equality Trust Fund and Risk-Sharing Mechanism to improve women's economic empowerment in Africa, African Development Bank Group (Abidjan) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-group-approves-gender-equality-trust-fund-and-risk-sharing-mechanism-improve-womens-economic-empowerment-africa-35077>

¹⁰⁰⁰ DFC and African Development Bank Partner to Support Development in Africa, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (United States) November 12 2019. Access Date: April 8 2020. <https://www.dfc.gov/media/press-releases/dfc-and-african-development-bank-partner-support-development-africa>

will focus on include financial services and investments that empower women in the region.¹⁰⁰¹ The DFC and the AfDB aim to invest USD 5 billion in regional development projects.¹⁰⁰²

On 18 November 2019, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced that the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative Fund (W-GDP) would increase its funding to USD100 million.¹⁰⁰³ In February 2019, U.S. President Donald Trump established the W-GDP Initiative to increase women's economic participation in developing nations throughout Africa.¹⁰⁰⁴ The initiative seeks to strengthen laws and regulations that promote women's participation in the economy and to provide women entrepreneurs with education, training and support.¹⁰⁰⁵ With the new funding, the initiative seeks to reach 50 million women in 22 developing countries by 2025.¹⁰⁰⁶

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to support women's empowerment in Africa through its support of the removal of social and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women's full and free economic empowerment. Only meeting two out of three criteria, the United States failed to support African countries in their removal of legal barriers against women's entrepreneurship in Africa.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Danielle Maragh

European Union: 0

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to support women's entrepreneurship in Africa through the removal of legal, social and regulatory barriers that discriminate against women's full and free economic participation and empowerment.

On 12 November 2019, the European Investment Bank announced a new initiative called SheInvest.¹⁰⁰⁷ The initiative aims to mobilize EUR1 billion of investment and increase women's

¹⁰⁰¹ DFC and African Development Bank Partner to Support Development in Africa, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (United States) November 12 2019. Access Date: April 8 2020. <https://www.dfc.gov/media/press-releases/dfc-and-african-development-bank-partner-support-development-africa>

¹⁰⁰² DFC and African Development Bank Partner to Support Development in Africa, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (United States) November 12 2019. Access Date: April 8 2020. <https://www.dfc.gov/media/press-releases/dfc-and-african-development-bank-partner-support-development-africa>

¹⁰⁰³ What is USAID's W-GDP Initiative Fund that recently increases its Funding to \$100 million for New Partnerships?, FundsforNGOs Grants and resources for Sustainability (United States) Access Date: 8 December. 2019. <https://www2.fundsforngos.org/featured/what-is-usaids-w-gdp-initiative-fund-that-recently-increased-its-funding-to-100-million-for-new-partnerships/>

¹⁰⁰⁴ What is USAID's W-GDP Initiative Fund that recently increases its Funding to \$100 million for New Partnerships?, FundsforNGOs Grants and resources for Sustainability (United States) Access Date: 8 December. 2019. <https://www2.fundsforngos.org/featured/what-is-usaids-w-gdp-initiative-fund-that-recently-increased-its-funding-to-100-million-for-new-partnerships/>

¹⁰⁰⁵ Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative, The White House (Washington, D.C.) Access Date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wgdp/>

¹⁰⁰⁶ What is USAID's W-GDP Initiative Fund that recently increases its Funding to \$100 million for New Partnerships?, FundsforNGOs Grants and resources for Sustainability (United States) Access Date: 8 December. 2019. <https://www2.fundsforngos.org/featured/what-is-usaids-w-gdp-initiative-fund-that-recently-increased-its-funding-to-100-million-for-new-partnerships/>

¹⁰⁰⁷ SheInvest - new initiative to mobilise EUR 1 billion for women across Africa, European Investment Bank (Johannesburg and Luxembourg) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 14 December 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-306-sheinvest-new-initiative-to-mobilise-eur-1-billion-for-women-across-africa>

economic participation in countries across the African continent.¹⁰⁰⁸ SheInvest plans to organize efforts to invest in projects that increase the capacity of women to participate in the economy and it will provide monitoring to women entrepreneurs so they can better access finance.¹⁰⁰⁹ It will also focus on investment in digital solutions and financial products to help women reach important business services.¹⁰¹⁰

On 19 December, 2019, the European Investment Bank issued a loan of more than EUR10 million for the Women's World Banking Capital Partners II Fund.¹⁰¹¹ This fund aims to reduce regulatory barriers that discriminate against women's full and free economic participation and empowerment by increasing financial inclusion in emerging markets in Sub-Saharan Africa and reducing the gender gap.¹⁰¹² The fund aims to allow women who have been financially excluded or underserved the opportunity to access a broad range of financial services which will help them grow their businesses.¹⁰¹³

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to support women's entrepreneurship and economic participation in Africa by launching the SheInvest initiative and financing the Women's World Banking Capital Partners II Fund. These initiatives have helped the EU take action in fulfilling their promise to help remove social and regulatory barriers to women's entrepreneurship in Africa. However, the EU has failed to address the legal barriers to women's entrepreneurship in Africa.

Thus, the EU receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Nivaal Rehman

¹⁰⁰⁸ Africa Investment Forum 2019: Billion dollar boost for African female entrepreneurs, African Development Bank Group (Johannesburg and Luxembourg) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 13 December 2019. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/africa-investment-forum-2019-billion-dollar-boost-african-female-entrepreneurs-32626>

¹⁰⁰⁹ SheInvest - new initiative to mobilise EUR 1 billion for women across Africa, European Investment Bank (Johannesburg and Luxembourg) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 14 December 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-306-sheinvest-new-initiative-to-mobilise-eur-1-billion-for-women-across-africa>

¹⁰¹⁰ SheInvest - new initiative to mobilise EUR 1 billion for women across Africa, European Investment Bank (Johannesburg) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 14 December 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-306-sheinvest-new-initiative-to-mobilise-eur-1-billion-for-women-across-africa>

¹⁰¹¹ Womens World Banking Capital Partners II Fund, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 19 December 2019. Access Date: Monday April 7 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/projects/loans/all/20180557>

¹⁰¹² Womens World Banking Capital Partners II Fund, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 19 December 2019. Access Date: Monday April 7 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/projects/loans/all/20180557>

¹⁰¹³ Womens World Banking Capital Partners II Fund, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 19 December 2019. Access Date: Monday April 7 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/projects/loans/all/20180557>

7. Gender: STEM Education

“[We] ... endeavor to work together with developing countries to promote inclusion, equity and access of girls and women to quality education, including access to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).”

Declaration on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy	-1		
Japan	-1		
United Kingdom		0	
United States		0	
European Union		0	
Average	+0.13 (56%)		

Background

At the 2006 St. Petersburg Summit, for the first time ever the G8 leaders agreed to the Education for Innovation Societies in the 21st Century that promoted the innovation of education to keep with the success of 21st century rapid development of human innovation.¹⁰¹⁴ The leaders assessed science and technology at the forefront of global innovation.¹⁰¹⁵ G8 leaders committed to increase exchanges in science and technology, and promote higher standards in mathematics, science and technology.¹⁰¹⁶

The 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, marked the first time in ten years since the 2006 St. Petersburg Summit that the G7 endorsed the G7 Guiding Principles for Building the Capacity of Women and Girls.¹⁰¹⁷ The G7 committed to create a society where all women and girls are empowered and actively engaged for sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth.¹⁰¹⁸ For the first time in ten years, G7 members committed to achieving economic equality through capacity-building such as education and training as well as promoting active role of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).¹⁰¹⁹

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, the G7 committed to the Next Production Revolution (NPR).¹⁰²⁰ The NPR endorsed by the G7 was designed to help people across all sectors and regions to reap the

¹⁰¹⁴ Education for Innovation Societies in the 21st Century, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 July 2006. Access Date: 4 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2006stpetersburg/education.html>.

¹⁰¹⁵ Education for Innovation Societies in the 21st Century, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 July 2006. Access Date: 4 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2006stpetersburg/education.html>.

¹⁰¹⁶ Education for Innovation Societies in the 21st Century, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 July 2006. Access Date: 4 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2006stpetersburg/education.html>.

¹⁰¹⁷ G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 4 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

¹⁰¹⁸ G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 4 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

¹⁰¹⁹ G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 4 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

¹⁰²⁰ G7 Taormina Leaders Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 4 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

benefits of innovation and digitalization and enhance women's opportunities to pursue STEM careers.¹⁰²¹

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, the G7 committed to prepare women for jobs of the future, through educational opportunities and work environmental protections.¹⁰²² Through this commitment, the G7 vowed to ensure that all workers have access to the skills and education necessary to adapt and prosper in the new world of work brought by innovation through emerging technologies.¹⁰²³ The G7 committed to expand market-driven training and education, particularly for girls and women in STEM programs.¹⁰²⁴

At the 2018 Biarritz Summit, the G7 agreed to tackle inequality in developing countries through gender-responsive education and quality technical and vocational education and training.¹⁰²⁵ The G7 reinforced the notion that equal access to quality education is vital to achieve the empowerment and equal opportunity of girls and women. In addition, the G7 affirmed support for eliminating gender inequality and discrimination, and countering gender biases and stereotypes and to work together with developing countries to promote inclusion, equality and access of girls and women to quality education in STEM.¹⁰²⁶

Commitment Features

The G7 members are committed to “endeavor to work together with developing countries to promote inclusion, equity, and access of girls and women to quality education, including access to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).”¹⁰²⁷

The first part of this commitment reflects the G7's collective commitment to work together with developing countries to endeavor to work together with developing countries to promote inclusion. “Endeavor” means an effort to do something, especially something new or difficult.¹⁰²⁸ “Inclusion” should be interpreted to mean the action or state of including women or girls in all places and remove any barriers that create undue effort and separation.¹⁰²⁹ For this commitment, “Promote” entails supporting or renewing old efforts or creating new efforts in the area of women's economic development.¹⁰³⁰ In this case, the efforts do not have to be brand new initiatives.¹⁰³¹

¹⁰²¹ G7 Taormina Leaders Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 4 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

¹⁰²² The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 4 November 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

¹⁰²³ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 4 November 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

¹⁰²⁴ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 4 November 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

¹⁰²⁵ Declaration on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 4 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-on-gender-equality.pdf>.

¹⁰²⁶ Declaration on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 4 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-on-gender-equality.pdf>.

¹⁰²⁷ Declaration on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 4 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-on-gender-equality.pdf>.

¹⁰²⁸ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 May 2018. Access Date: 23 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

¹⁰²⁹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 May 2018. Access Date: 23 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

¹⁰³⁰ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 May 2018. Access Date: 23 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

The second part of this commitment is dedicated to promoting equity. “Equity” should be interpreted to mean fair and just as indicated by law and “girls” includes any female person ages 15 and younger.¹⁰³² Meanwhile, women include female persons aged 15 and older. In the context of this commitment, “access to quality education” entails creating or enhancing opportunities for women to receive education as well as training in order to best equip them with the necessary skills, or update existing skillsets, for succeeding in the labour market.¹⁰³³ It is particularly important that such efforts are of “quality education” in that they adequately and sufficiently address women’s needs in this regard.¹⁰³⁴ Examples, are not limited to, encouraging skills development, increasing access to economic and educational resources for women and girls.¹⁰³⁵

To achieve full compliance, the G7 member must take action with developing countries to promote 1. inclusion to quality education, 2. Equity for quality education, 3. Access to quality education for girls and women, 4. INCLUDING access to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

To achieve partial compliance, the G7 members must take action with developing countries to promote 1. Inclusion to quality education, and 2. Equity to quality education. The G7 member may also be awarded partial compliance for taking action with developing countries to promote 3. Access to quality education for girls and women, Including, 4. access to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

For a score of non-compliance, the G7 member has done none of the aforementioned criteria.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	Member has NOT taken any action with developing countries to promote 1. inclusion to quality education, 2. Equity for quality education, 3. Access to quality education for girls and women, 4. INCLUDING access to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).
0	Member has taken some action with developing countries to promote 1. Inclusion to quality education, and 2. Equity to quality education. The G7 member may also be awarded partial compliance for taking action with developing countries to promote 3. Access to quality education for girls and women, Including, 4. access to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).
+1	Member has taken all actions with developing countries to promote 1. inclusion to quality education, 2. Equity for quality education, 3. Access to quality education for girls and women, 4. INCLUDING access to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)

¹⁰³¹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 May2018. Access Date: 23 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

¹⁰³² Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 May2018. Access Date: 23 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

¹⁰³³ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 May2018. Access Date: 23 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

¹⁰³⁴ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 May2018. Access Date: 23 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

¹⁰³⁵ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 May2018. Access Date: 23 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

*Compliance Director: Joanna Ilunga- Kapinga
Lead Analyst: Apanuba Mahmood*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to endeavour to work with developing countries to promote inclusion, equity and access to quality education for girls and women, including access to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Canada’s plan to partner with the African Development Bank and invest CAD12.5 million in the African Guarantee Fund.¹⁰³⁶ This initiative is a part of the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa to “improve access to finance for women entrepreneurs in Africa.”¹⁰³⁷

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that Canada would invest CAD9.5 million in Mozambique as a part of the Empowering Adolescent Girls to Learn and Earn (EAGLE) project.¹⁰³⁸ This project aims to expand the “literacy, numeracy, and skills development”¹⁰³⁹ of 3,000 adolescent girls who have been out of school.¹⁰⁴⁰

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Canada’s plan to invest CAD7 million in Niger to improve girls’ right to education, which would “directly benefit up to 100,000 school-aged girls.”¹⁰⁴¹

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced a CAD30 million investment to establish the School Feeding Platform project, which aims to address the “barriers to education faced by girls and adolescent girls”¹⁰⁴² such as by increasing attendance at the “primary and secondary school levels”¹⁰⁴³ and improving “learning conditions in displacement settings.”¹⁰⁴⁴

On 9 December 2019, Canada, along with Italy and Sweden, co-led the International Clean Energy Education Empowerment (C3E) Initiative’s Women in Energy event, to “advocate for the recruitment, retention, and advancement of women in the energy sector.”¹⁰⁴⁵ The C3E Initiative is a Collaboration Programme of the International Energy Agency and the Clean Energy Ministerial, and

¹⁰³⁶ Creating a better future, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>.

¹⁰³⁷ Creating a better future, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>.

¹⁰³⁸ Creating a better future, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>.

¹⁰³⁹ Creating a better future, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>.

¹⁰⁴⁰ Creating a better future, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>.

¹⁰⁴¹ Creating a better future, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>.

¹⁰⁴² Creating a better future, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>.

¹⁰⁴³ Creating a better future, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>.

¹⁰⁴⁴ Creating a better future, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>.

¹⁰⁴⁵ IEA Ministerial C3E Side Event 2019, Office of International Affairs of U.S. Department of Energy (Washington D.C.) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.energy.gov/ia/articles/iea-ministerial-c3e-side-event-2019-0>.

was first established in 2010.¹⁰⁴⁶ The Initiative acknowledges that it is “impossible to address the future of energy without highlighting the importance of engaging the talents of the entire energy workforce,”¹⁰⁴⁷ which includes women, who have been “historically left behind in the energy sector.”¹⁰⁴⁸

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to work together with developing countries to promote inclusion, equity, and access to quality education for girls and women, including access to STEM. By increasing its funding commitments to help African nations increase available infrastructure for primary and secondary education for girls, Canada has demonstrated its endeavours to work collaboratively to work on region-specific solutions to increase equity for women and girls. This is in addition to collaboratively pledging to support women in careers in STEM related fields like the energy sector.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Mingyang (Charles) Deng

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to work together with developing countries to promote inclusion, equity and access of girls and women to quality education, including access to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

On 26 August 2019, President Emmanuel Macron and the G7 leaders approved USD251 million in funding to the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa Initiative, supporting women entrepreneurs in Africa.¹⁰⁴⁹ The AFAWA provides women with financing and training needed to succeed as entrepreneurs in Africa.¹⁰⁵⁰

In November 2019, France organized meetings with key stakeholders of the “Priority to Equality” Initiative to discuss and finalize the implementation details in helping the eight developing countries, Mauritania, Niger, Burkina, Mali, Chad, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Mozambique strengthen gender

¹⁰⁴⁶ IEA Ministerial C3E Side Event 2019, Office of International Affairs of U.S. Department of Energy (Washington D.C.) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.energy.gov/ia/articles/iea-ministerial-c3e-side-event-2019-0>.

¹⁰⁴⁷ IEA Ministerial C3E Side Event 2019, Office of International Affairs of U.S. Department of Energy (Washington D.C.) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.energy.gov/ia/articles/iea-ministerial-c3e-side-event-2019-0>.

¹⁰⁴⁸ IEA Ministerial C3E Side Event 2019, Office of International Affairs of U.S. Department of Energy (Washington D.C.) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.energy.gov/ia/articles/iea-ministerial-c3e-side-event-2019-0>.

¹⁰⁴⁹ G7 Summit: President Macron and G7 Leaders Provide Bank’s Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) Initiative with \$251 Million, Ghanaian News Canada (Toronto) 2 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <http://ghanaiannews.ca/g7-summit-president-macron-and-g7-leaders-provide-banks-affirmative-finance-action-for-women-in-africa-afawa-initiative-with-251-million/>.

¹⁰⁵⁰ G7 Summit: President Macron and G7 Leaders Provide Bank’s Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) Initiative with \$251 Million, Ghanaian News Canada (Toronto) 2 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <http://ghanaiannews.ca/g7-summit-president-macron-and-g7-leaders-provide-banks-affirmative-finance-action-for-women-in-africa-afawa-initiative-with-251-million/>.

equality in their education systems.¹⁰⁵¹ France announced to invest EUR2.5 million in the initiative as of 20 September 2019.¹⁰⁵² Implementation will begin in early 2020.¹⁰⁵³

On 21 November 2019, the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Industry, and the Union of Professors of Sciences and Technology for Industry hosted the national Engineering Sciences for Women day, to educate young women about the Science and Technology field and encourage participation of girls in STEM.¹⁰⁵⁴ There were 18,000 students from 25 countries, including France, who participated in the event.¹⁰⁵⁵

On 18-20 December 2019, the Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian visited Mexico to meet with his counterparts to discuss the promotion of joint values, including fighting against inequality.¹⁰⁵⁶ Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian met with the Franco-Mexican Strategic Council, which brings together French and Mexican stakeholders from the public and private sector responsible for proposing initiatives such as education and vocational training.¹⁰⁵⁷

On 3 January 2020, the French Embassy in Ireland announced a partnership with Teen Turn, a charity promoting STEM careers and equality of opportunity.¹⁰⁵⁸ The purpose of this partnership is to promote female participation in the STEM field in Ireland.¹⁰⁵⁹

On 10 February 2020, the Ministry of Labour signed an Inclusive Temporary Agency Development Pact with the Inclusion in Employment and Luc de Gardelle and the Federation of Integration Companies.¹⁰⁶⁰ The Pact focuses on providing integrated career options and services to men and women for temporary work integration companies, decentralizing employment administration, and combining quantitative and qualitative development of job training.¹⁰⁶¹

¹⁰⁵¹ Initiative priorité à l'égalité, Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères (Paris). Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/la-france-et-les-nations-unies/l-alliance-pour-le-multilateralisme/initiative-priorite-a-l-egalite/>.

¹⁰⁵² Initiative priorité à l'égalité, Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères (Paris). Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/la-france-et-les-nations-unies/l-alliance-pour-le-multilateralisme/initiative-priorite-a-l-egalite/>.

¹⁰⁵³ Initiative priorité à l'égalité, Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères (Paris). Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/la-france-et-les-nations-unies/l-alliance-pour-le-multilateralisme/initiative-priorite-a-l-egalite/>.

¹⁰⁵⁴ Sciences de l'ingénieur au féminin, UPTSI (Paris) 25 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.upsti.fr/nos-evenements/sciences-de-l-ingenieur-au-feminin>.

¹⁰⁵⁵ Sciences de l'ingénieur au féminin, UPTSI (Paris) 25 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.upsti.fr/nos-evenements/sciences-de-l-ingenieur-au-feminin>.

¹⁰⁵⁶ Déplacement de Jean-Yves Le Drian (18-20 décembre 2019), Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères (Paris) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/dossiers-pays/mexique/evenements/article/deplacement-de-jean-yves-le-drian-18-20-12-19>.

¹⁰⁵⁷ Déplacement de Jean-Yves Le Drian (18-20 décembre 2019), Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères (Paris). 18 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/dossiers-pays/mexique/evenements/article/deplacement-de-jean-yves-le-drian-18-20-12-19>.

¹⁰⁵⁸ Teen Turn: Promoting STEM careers and equality of opportunity, France in Ireland (Dublin). 3 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://ie.ambafrance.org/Promoting-STEM-careers-and-equality-of-opportunity#Project-Squad>.

¹⁰⁵⁹ Teen Turn: Promoting STEM careers and equality of opportunity, France in Ireland (Dublin). 3 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://ie.ambafrance.org/Promoting-STEM-careers-and-equality-of-opportunity#Project-Squad>.

¹⁰⁶⁰ Signature d'un Pacte pour le développement de l'intérim inclusif, Ministère du Travail (Paris). 10 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/signature-d-un-pacte-pour-le-developpement-de-l-interim-inclusif>.

¹⁰⁶¹ Signature d'un Pacte pour le développement de l'intérim inclusif, Ministère du Travail (Paris). 10 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/signature-d-un-pacte-pour-le-developpement-de-l-interim-inclusif>

France has fully complied with its commitment to endeavour to work together with developing countries to promote inclusion, equity, and access of girls and women to quality education, including access to STEM. By increasing funding commitments to collaborative initiatives aimed at fostering gender equality in education in many developing countries, France has effectively helped to increase equity and access to equality education for women and girls. In addition, by creating partnerships within both public and private sector actors, France has demonstrated its commitment to promoting STEM access and equality of opportunity for women and girls.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jijun (Amber) Meng

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to work together with developing countries to promote inclusion, equity and access of girls and women to quality education, as well as access to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

On 18 September 2019, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, through their Programme Advocating Women Scientists in STEM initiative, called for proposals for international collaborative research projects in STEM bringing together research institutions in Germany and Africa.¹⁰⁶²

On 21 September 2019, EQUALS Global Partnership held a meeting in New York announcing their partnership's plans for 2020.¹⁰⁶³ EQUALS is a global partnership network of corporate leaders, governments, non-profit organizations, communities and individuals supported by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) with the goal of bridging the digital gender divide.¹⁰⁶⁴ The partnership selected projects to include, such as the Access Coalition's new plan to identify countries to increase women's online access and digital inclusion.¹⁰⁶⁵ SheTrades Invests, another project which equips women in the tech sector to meet investors' needs and secure investment.¹⁰⁶⁶ Fairness AI works to detect and combat biases in artificial intelligence (AI) such as ageism and sexism.¹⁰⁶⁷ EQUALS Digital Skills Fund 2.0: The Skills Coalition will facilitate digital skills training for 10,000

¹⁰⁶² Programme Advocating Women Scientists in STEM (PAWS), PRE-LEAP-RE (Gif-sur-Yvette). 18 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <http://www.leap-re.eu/2019/09/18/programme-advocating-women-scientists-in-stem-paws/>.

¹⁰⁶³ Press Release: EQUALS Annual Partners Meeting, EQUALS Global Partnership (Geneva). 21 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.equals.org/single-post/2019/09/21/Press-Release-EQUALS-Annual-Partners-Meeting>.

¹⁰⁶⁴ EQUALS Partnership Meeting, New York, eskills4girls (Bonn). 21 September 2019. Access Date : 19 December 2019. <https://www.eskills4girls.org/discover/activities/>.

¹⁰⁶⁵ Press Release: EQUALS Annual Partners Meeting, EQUALS Global Partnership (Geneva). 21 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.equals.org/single-post/2019/09/21/Press-Release-EQUALS-Annual-Partners-Meeting>.

¹⁰⁶⁶ Press Release: EQUALS Annual Partners Meeting, EQUALS Global Partnership (Geneva). 21 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.equals.org/single-post/2019/09/21/Press-Release-EQUALS-Annual-Partners-Meeting>.

¹⁰⁶⁷ Press Release: EQUALS Annual Partners Meeting, EQUALS Global Partnership (Geneva). 21 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.equals.org/single-post/2019/09/21/Press-Release-EQUALS-Annual-Partners-Meeting>.

women and girls.¹⁰⁶⁸ The Digital Ambassador Program will increase Rwandan digital literacy and their access to online systems and services.¹⁰⁶⁹

On 16 October 2019, BMZ announced their support for the SAP Africa Code Week for the fourth time in 12 African countries with the goal of promoting digital literacy and encouraging young people to gain job-relevant digital skills, specifically targeting young women and girls.¹⁰⁷⁰ Female role models from the #eSkills4Girls network will conduct the workshops and reach approximately 11,000 young women and girls.¹⁰⁷¹

On 23 October 2019, GIZ members from Cameroon and Mozambique, tech leader Nnenna Nwakanma from the Web Foundation, and the BMZ hosted an #eSkills4Girls pre-conference workshop in Abidjan.¹⁰⁷² The interactive workshop design based on a country-specific problem allows participants to develop ideas which strengthen digital skill building for girls and women, as well as to discuss potential project implementation ideas.¹⁰⁷³

On 18 November 2019, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research launched a new funding competition to strengthen STEM education offers for young people between the ages of 10 and 16 years old nationwide.¹⁰⁷⁴

On 25 March 2020, the national Girls' Day initiative presented a wide range of professions and activities related to tech, science, and IT for girls ten years old and up through digital platforms.¹⁰⁷⁵ It is funded by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research, and the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, as well as through collaboration with participating companies.¹⁰⁷⁶

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to endeavour to work together with developing countries to promote inclusion, equity, and access of girls and women to quality education, including access to STEM. By leading initiatives to promote equity in access to STEM specific knowledge and education for women and girls in developing nations as well as within its own country, Germany has demonstrated its efforts to increase equality and access for women and girls in these fields.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Hoore Jannat

¹⁰⁶⁸ Press Release: EQUALS Annual Partners Meeting, EQUALS Global Partnership (Geneva). 21 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.equals.org/single-post/2019/09/21/Press-Release-EQUALS-Annual-Partners-Meeting>.

¹⁰⁶⁹ Press Release: EQUALS Annual Partners Meeting, EQUALS Global Partnership (Geneva). 21 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.equals.org/single-post/2019/09/21/Press-Release-EQUALS-Annual-Partners-Meeting>.

¹⁰⁷⁰ SAP Africa Code Week 2019, eskills4girls (Bonn). 16 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.eskills4girls.org/discover/activities/>.

¹⁰⁷¹ SAP Africa Code Week 2019, eskills4girls (Bonn). 16 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.eskills4girls.org/discover/activities/>.

¹⁰⁷² eLearning Africa Workshop on #eSkills4Girls, eskills4girls (Bonn). 23 October 2019. Access Date : 19 December 2019. <https://www.eskills4girls.org/discover/activities/>.

¹⁰⁷³ eLearning Africa Workshop on #eSkills4Girls, eskills4girls (Bonn). 23 October 2019. Access Date : 19 December 2019. <https://www.eskills4girls.org/discover/activities/>.

¹⁰⁷⁴ "MINT education for young people" competition starts (Bielefeld). 18 November 2019. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.girls-day.de/aktuelles/girls-day/wettbewerb-mint-bildung-fuer-jugendliche>.

¹⁰⁷⁵ Girls'Day digital 2020 (Bielefeld). 25 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.girls-day.de/aktuelles/girls-day/girls-day-digital>.

¹⁰⁷⁶ Girls'Day digital 2020 (Bielefeld). 25 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.girls-day.de/aktuelles/girls-day/girls-day-digital>.

Italy: -1

Italy has failed to comply with its commitment to work together with developing countries to promote inclusion, equity, and access of girls and women to quality education, including access to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

On 9 December 2019, Italy, along with Canada and Sweden, co-led the International Clean Energy Education Empowerment (C3E) Initiative's Women in Energy event, to "advocate for the recruitment, retention, and advancement of women in the energy sector."¹⁰⁷⁷ The Initiative acknowledges that it is "impossible to address the future of energy without highlighting the importance of engaging the talents of the entire energy workforce,"¹⁰⁷⁸ which includes women, who have been "historically left behind in the energy sector."¹⁰⁷⁹

Although Italy has jointly made initiatives with Canada and Sweden to promote opportunities for women, Italy has not taken any actions or made any collaborative commitments to support developing countries in promoting inclusion, equity and access to education, including access to STEM education, for girls and women.

Thus, Italy receives a score of -1.¹⁰⁸⁰

Analyst: Mingyang (Charles) Deng

Japan: -1

Japan has failed to comply with its commitment to work together with developing countries to promote inclusion, equity, and access of girls and women to quality education, including access to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

Japan has not taken any actions or made any collaborative commitments to support developing countries in promoting inclusion, equity and access to education, including access to STEM education, for girls and women.

Thus, Japan receives a score of -1.¹⁰⁸¹

¹⁰⁷⁷ IEA Ministerial C3E Side Event 2019, Office of International Affairs of U.S. Department of Energy (Washington D.C.) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.energy.gov/ia/articles/iea-ministerial-c3e-side-event-2019-0>.

¹⁰⁷⁸ IEA Ministerial C3E Side Event 2019, Office of International Affairs of U.S. Department of Energy (Washington D.C.) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.energy.gov/ia/articles/iea-ministerial-c3e-side-event-2019-0>.

¹⁰⁷⁹ IEA Ministerial C3E Side Event 2019, Office of International Affairs of U.S. Department of Energy (Washington D.C.) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.energy.gov/ia/articles/iea-ministerial-c3e-side-event-2019-0>.

¹⁰⁸⁰ Non-compliance was determined after reviewing the following websites: <https://www.bbc.com>, <https://www.nytimes.com>, <https://governo.it>, <https://en.camera.it/>, <https://www.esteri.it/mae/en>, <https://www.un.org>, <https://www.unesco.org/>, <https://www.unep.org/>, <http://www.oecd.org/>, <https://www.oecd.org/italy/governmentofitalyusefullinks.htm>, <https://www.cnel.it/Chi-Siamo/English-version>, <https://www.aljazeera.com/>, <https://www.reuters.com/>, <https://www.ap.org/en-us/>, <https://www.thelocal.it/>, and www.ansa.it.

¹⁰⁸¹ Non-compliance was determined after reviewing the following websites: <https://www.mofa.go.jp/>, <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/>, <https://www.nytimes.com/>, <https://asia.nikkei.com/>, <https://www.bbc.com/news>, <https://www.huffpost.com/>, <https://japan.kantei.go.jp/>, <https://www.japan.go.jp/>, <https://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/index-e.html>, <https://www.mofa.go.jp>, <https://www.ipa.go.jp/>, <http://www.yomiuri.com.hp/index-e.htm>, <https://www.un.org/>, <https://www.unesco.org/>, <https://www.unep.org/>, <https://www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/Documents.center/forstats.html>, <https://www.politicalresources.net/>, <https://www.polisci.com/almanac/almanac.htm>.

Analyst: Devon Brenner

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to endeavor to work together with developing countries to promote inclusion, equity and access of girls and women to quality education, including access to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

On 25 August 2019, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that the UK would contribute GBP90 million to Education Cannot Wait, a global fund for education in emergency and conflict areas.¹⁰⁸² The additional funding is estimated to help 600,000 children get an education.¹⁰⁸³ The funding was reconfirmed on 25 September 2019 at the “Leave No One Behind: Accelerating the SDGs [Sustainable Development Goals] Through Quality Education” event held at UNICEF during the annual UN General Assembly.¹⁰⁸⁴ The funds will help the organization assist children deprived of education due to humanitarian crises such as “armed conflicts, forced displacements, natural disasters, and protracted crises.”¹⁰⁸⁵ The Fund and its partners seek to “mobilize US\$1.8 billion by 2021 to reach 9 million children and youth.”¹⁰⁸⁶

On 25 August 2019, International Development Secretary Alok Sharma announced a funding increase of GBP30 million for the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa programme.¹⁰⁸⁷ This increase in funding is a part of the Department for International Development’s (DFID) Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative, and is intended to incentivize African banks to lend to women by reducing lending costs and providing business training to female entrepreneurs.¹⁰⁸⁸

On 24 September 2019, Minister of State for the Commonwealth, the United Nations and South Asia Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon spoke at the United Nations General Assembly SDG summit, and announced an additional GBP515 million in funding for children’s education projects.¹⁰⁸⁹ GBP215 million will go towards a new education quality programme in Africa which focuses on marginalised

¹⁰⁸² Press Release: PM offers education lifeline to 600,000 children living in conflict, Department for International Development (London) 25 August 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-offers-education-lifeline-to-600000-children-living-in-conflict>.

¹⁰⁸³ Press Release: PM offers education lifeline to 600,000 children living in conflict, Department for International Development (London) 25 August 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-offers-education-lifeline-to-600000-children-living-in-conflict>.

¹⁰⁸⁴ World Leaders Pledge a Record US\$216 million to Education Cannot Wait during United Nations General Assembly, Education Cannot Wait (New York) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019 <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/unga-2019-pledges/>.

¹⁰⁸⁵ World Leaders Pledge a Record US\$216 million to Education Cannot Wait during United Nations General Assembly, Education Cannot Wait (New York) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019 <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/unga-2019-pledges/>.

¹⁰⁸⁶ World Leaders Pledge a Record US\$216 million to Education Cannot Wait during United Nations General Assembly, Education Cannot Wait (New York) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019 <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/unga-2019-pledges/>.

¹⁰⁸⁷ Press Release: UK aid to break down barriers for female entrepreneurs in Africa, Department for International Development (London) 25 August 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-break-down-barriers-for-female-entrepreneurs-in-africa>.

¹⁰⁸⁸ Press Release: UK aid to break down barriers for female entrepreneurs in Africa, Department for International Development (London) 25 August 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-break-down-barriers-for-female-entrepreneurs-in-africa>.

¹⁰⁸⁹ Speech: Delivering Sustainable Development Goals at home and abroad matters to us all: Lord Ahmad’s statement, Minister Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon at the United Nations General Assembly Sustainable Development Goals summit (New York City) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/delivering-on-all-the-sdgs-both-home-and-abroad-matters-to-us-all>.

girls.¹⁰⁹⁰ The remaining GBP300 million will be invested in the International Finance Facility for Education, a new financing facility that will work with donors to mobilise an additional USD5 billion of financial support to education projects in lower-middle income countries.¹⁰⁹¹

On 7 October 2019, as part of its ongoing UK Aid Match program, the DFID announced that it would match all donations made to Street Child's Mind the Gap! initiative before January 4, up to GBP2 million.¹⁰⁹² Street Child is a British charity that aims to create educational opportunity for the most vulnerable children in Africa and Asia, focusing in particular on the empowerment of girls.¹⁰⁹³

On 11 October 2019, the British Embassy in Caracas announced that the UK would be funding the She Plays Safe project as part of the #LeaveNoGirlBehind campaign.¹⁰⁹⁴ The #LeaveNoGirlBehind campaign advocates for 12 years of quality education for girls, and aims to empower and educate girls worldwide to "find, respect and embrace their voices, talents and unique potential."¹⁰⁹⁵ The new funding will go towards the operation of football and rugby clinics for female Venezuelan athletes from low-income communities.¹⁰⁹⁶ In addition to athletics, the clinics focus on promoting effective communication skills, career planning, and female leadership and empowerment.¹⁰⁹⁷

On 11 October 2019, Minister for the Middle East Andrew Murrison announced that the UK would provide GBP2 million to the No Lost Generation initiative.¹⁰⁹⁸ The No Lost Generation initiative supports the delivery of non-formal education and protection for vulnerable out of school refugee children, focusing on at risk girls and boys.¹⁰⁹⁹ This additional funding is expected to benefit 7,000 Syrian and Lebanese children by improving access to quality education, and also through the creation of jobs.¹¹⁰⁰

¹⁰⁹⁰ Accelerated Action Description: A £515m package for education, Partnerships for SDGs Online Platform (New York City) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=33981>.

¹⁰⁹¹ Accelerated Action Description: A £515m package for education, Partnerships for SDGs Online Platform (New York City) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=33981>.

¹⁰⁹² Tweet, Department for International Development (London) 7 October 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019.

https://twitter.com/DFID_UK/status/1181208258587090944.

¹⁰⁹³ Street Child Calls on British Public to 'Mind The Gap', Street Child (London) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.street-child.co.uk/mind-the-gap>.

¹⁰⁹⁴ She Plays Safe: a #LeaveNoGirlBehind project in Venezuela, British Embassy Caracas (Caracas) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/she-plays-safe-a-leavenogirlbehind-project-in-venezuela>.

¹⁰⁹⁵ About Us, Leave No Girl Behind International (International). Access Date: 26 December 2019.

<https://www.leavenogirlbehind.org/about-us/>.

¹⁰⁹⁶ She Plays Safe: a #LeaveNoGirlBehind project in Venezuela, British Embassy Caracas (Caracas) 11 October 2019.

Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/she-plays-safe-a-leavenogirlbehind-project-in-venezuela>.

¹⁰⁹⁷ She Plays Safe: a #LeaveNoGirlBehind project in Venezuela, British Embassy Caracas (Caracas) 11 October 2019.

Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/she-plays-safe-a-leavenogirlbehind-project-in-venezuela>.

¹⁰⁹⁸ Press Release: UK aid to provide education and jobs to thousands of Syrian refugees, Department for International Development (London) 12 October 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-provide-education-and-jobs-to-thousands-of-syrian-refugees>

¹⁰⁹⁹ Lebanon No Lost Generation Initiative (NLGI), Department for International Development (London) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-GOV-1-300059>.

¹¹⁰⁰ Press Release: UK aid to provide education and jobs to thousands of Syrian refugees, Department for International Development (London) 12 October 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-provide-education-and-jobs-to-thousands-of-syrian-refugees>.

On 21 October 2019, Secretary Sharma at the World Bank Annual Meeting said that more funding from the UK to the World Bank's concessional loan facility for the world's least-developed countries would be contingent on a more focused anti-poverty approach.¹¹⁰¹ Among other anti-poverty initiatives, he emphasized improving the rights of women and girls, action to ensure girls can go to school, and stronger laws against gender-based violence.¹¹⁰²

On 15 January 2020, the Government of Tanzania signed a new Global Partnership for Education grant of USD112 million which will be directed towards improving the quality of pre-primary, primary and non-formal education, and will be focused in particular on helping girls and children from disadvantaged backgrounds.¹¹⁰³ The Global Partnership for Education is a multi-stakeholder partnership comprised of governments, international organizations, civil society organizations, foundations and the private sector.¹¹⁰⁴ The UK is presently the largest donor to the Global Partnership for Education.¹¹⁰⁵

On 16 January 2020, Secretary Sharma announced that the UK would be increasing funding for the SheTrades programme by GBP3.5 million, and that the additional funding will go to, among other things, specialized business education for women entrepreneurs in Africa.¹¹⁰⁶ SheTrades is an initiative of the International Trade Centre which aims to connect women entrepreneurs around the world and provide a unique information-sharing network.¹¹⁰⁷

On 7 February 2020, the British Embassy in Caracas invited organizations to become project implementers of the 2020-2021 Official Development Assistance programme.¹¹⁰⁸ The Official Development Assistance programme is the main channel through which the British Embassy finances projects in Venezuela.¹¹⁰⁹ The Embassy's cooperation objectives for the upcoming year's programme include promoting gender equality, female empowerment; and increasing access to education.¹¹¹⁰

¹¹⁰¹ Alok Sharma at the World Bank Annual Meetings, DFID Media Team (London) 21 October 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://dfidnews.blog.gov.uk/2019/10/21/alok-sharma-at-the-world-bank-annual-meetings/>.

¹¹⁰² Alok Sharma at the World Bank Annual Meetings, DFID Media Team (London) 21 October 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://dfidnews.blog.gov.uk/2019/10/21/alok-sharma-at-the-world-bank-annual-meetings/>.

¹¹⁰³ Press Release: Global Partnership for Education boosts support for Tanzania to US\$112 million, Global Partnership for Education (Washington D.C.) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.globalpartnership.org/news/global-partnership-education-boosts-support-tanzania-us112-million>.

¹¹⁰⁴ Donor Profile: United Kingdom, Global Partnership for Education (Washington D.C.). Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.globalpartnership.org/who-we-are/about-gpe/donor-united-kingdom>.

¹¹⁰⁵ Donor Profile: United Kingdom, Global Partnership for Education (Washington D.C.). Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.globalpartnership.org/who-we-are/about-gpe/donor-united-kingdom>.

¹¹⁰⁶ Press Release: UK aid boosts support for African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets, Department for International Development (London) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-boosts-support-for-african-women-entrepreneurs-to-expand-businesses-into-global-markets>.

¹¹⁰⁷ Frequently Asked Questions, She Trades Commonwealth (Geneva). Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://shetradescommonwealth.converve.io/FAQs.html>,

¹¹⁰⁸ Press Release: British Embassy Caracas launches 2020-2021 Official Development Assistance programme, British Embassy Caracas (Caracas) 8 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/official-development-assistance-programme-2020-2021-expressions-of-interest>

¹¹⁰⁹ Press Release: British Embassy Caracas launches 2020-2021 Official Development Assistance programme, British Embassy Caracas (Caracas) 8 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/official-development-assistance-programme-2020-2021-expressions-of-interest>

¹¹¹⁰ Press Release: British Embassy Caracas launches 2020-2021 Official Development Assistance programme, British Embassy Caracas (Caracas) 8 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/official-development-assistance-programme-2020-2021-expressions-of-interest>

On 14 February 2020, the British Embassy to Guatemala, together with the Organization for the Development of the Indigenous Maya, concluded a project which aimed to reduce child marriage and adolescent pregnancy in Guatemala through improved access to quality education for girls and women.¹¹¹¹

On 25 February 2020, at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, the UK launched a report by the Research for Equitable Access and Learning Centre at the University of Cambridge on the role of global political leadership for achieving 12 years of quality education for all girls.¹¹¹² The report outlines recommendations on how political leadership can be leveraged to achieve 12 years of quality education for all girls around the world.¹¹¹³

On 3 March 2020, Secretary of State for International Development Anne-Marie Trevelyan announced an additional GBP89 million in funding towards the UK's humanitarian assistance in Syria in light of escalating violence in the region.¹¹¹⁴ Among other things, this additional funding will be directed towards emergency access to education facilities where children and their families can be protected and supported.¹¹¹⁵

On 5 March 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson appointed Baroness Liz Sugg as the Special Envoy for Girls' Education.¹¹¹⁶ Special Envoy for Girls' Education is a new role which, according to Prime Minister Boris Johnson, will help accelerate progress towards getting more girls in the world's poorest countries into schools and benefitting from quality education.¹¹¹⁷

On 1 April 2020, Global Partnership for Education announced that it would be immediately donating USD250 million for the educational needs of the world's most vulnerable children, focusing in particular on girls, facing disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹¹¹⁸ The Global Partnership for Education is a multi-stakeholder partnership comprised of governments, international

¹¹¹¹ Press Release: British Embassy improves equality for girls and women in Sololá, British Embassy Guatemala City (Guatemala City) 14 February 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/british-embassy-improves-equality-for-girls-and-women-in-solola>

¹¹¹² Press Release: New Report: Transformative Political Leadership for Girls' Education , United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (Geneva) 25 February 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://lnhb.ungei.org/new-report-transformative-political-leadership-for-girls-education>

¹¹¹³ Press Release: New Report: Transformative Political Leadership for Girls' Education , United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (Geneva) 25 February 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://lnhb.ungei.org/new-report-transformative-political-leadership-for-girls-education>

¹¹¹⁴ Press Release: UK aid protects victims of violence as Syrian regime increases attacks in Idlib, Department for International Development (London) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-protects-victims-of-violence-as-syrian-regime-increases-attacks-in-idlib>

¹¹¹⁵ Press Release: UK aid protects victims of violence as Syrian regime increases attacks in Idlib, Department for International Development (London) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-protects-victims-of-violence-as-syrian-regime-increases-attacks-in-idlib>

¹¹¹⁶ Press Release: PM appoints new Special Envoy for Girls' Education ahead of International Women's Day, Prime Minister's Office (London) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-appoints-new-special-envoy-for-girls-education-ahead-of-international-womens-day>

¹¹¹⁷ Press Release: PM appoints new Special Envoy for Girls' Education ahead of International Women's Day, Prime Minister's Office (London) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-appoints-new-special-envoy-for-girls-education-ahead-of-international-womens-day>

¹¹¹⁸ News Release: Global Partnership for Education announces US\$250 million for developing countries battling COVID-19, Global Partnership for Education (Washington D.C.) 1 April 2020. Access Date 11 April 2020. https://www.globalpartnership.org/news/global-partnership-education-announces-us250-million-developing-countries-battling-covid-19?utm_source=gpe_social_en&utm_medium=twitter_en&utm_campaign=announcement

organizations, civil society organizations, foundations and the private sector.¹¹¹⁹ The UK is presently the largest donor to the Global Partnership for Education.¹¹²⁰

On 4 April 2020, Education Cannot Wait, a global fund for education during emergencies, announced a series of grants totalling USD23 million that will go towards providing essential education services to vulnerable girls and boys facing the COVID-19 pandemic in significantly affected countries.¹¹²¹ The UK is presently Education Cannot Wait's largest donor.¹¹²²

On 13 April 2020, as part of the UK's the broader GBP200 million COVID-19 response, DFID announced an additional GBP5 million in funding to Education Cannot Wait.¹¹²³ The additional funding is expected to address critical education needs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on the needs of girls in particular.¹¹²⁴

Although the UK has continued to increase its funding commitments towards promoting inclusion and access to quality education for women and girls, including making effort to addressing critical and emergency education needs in the face of the COVID-19 crisis, the UK has not taken any action or collaborative commitments with developing countries to demonstrate its endeavours to promote access to STEM for women and girls.

Thus, the UK receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Tenzing Gaphel Kongtso

United States: 0

United States has partially complied with the commitment to work with developing countries to promote inclusion, equity and access to quality education for girls and women, including access to STEM.

On 20 November 2019, the White House released a press statement announcing the doubling of funding for the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative Fund (W-GDP) from an initial USD50 million in fiscal year 2018 to USD100 million in fiscal year 2019.¹¹²⁵ In the same month the USA, under the W-GDP initiative, partnered with the global SERVIR network to close the gap

¹¹¹⁹ Donor Profile: United Kingdom, Global Partnership for Education (Washington D.C.). Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.globalpartnership.org/who-we-are/about-gpe/donor-united-kingdom>

¹¹²⁰ Donor Profile: United Kingdom, Global Partnership for Education (Washington D.C.). Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.globalpartnership.org/who-we-are/about-gpe/donor-united-kingdom>

¹¹²¹ Press Release: Education Cannot Wait Releases US\$23 Million in 24 Hours in Emergency Grants to The COVID-19 Humanitarian Response (New York City) 4 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/covid-fer-2/>

¹¹²² Press Release: Education Cannot Wait Releases US\$23 Million in 24 Hours in Emergency Grants to The COVID-19 Humanitarian Response (New York City) 4 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/covid-fer-2/>

¹¹²³ Press Release: United Kingdom Announces £5 Million In Additional Funding For Education Cannot Wait's Education in Emergency Response To COVID-19 (New York City) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/uk-covid19/>

¹¹²⁴ Press Release: United Kingdom Announces £5 Million In Additional Funding For Education Cannot Wait's Education in Emergency Response To COVID-19 (New York City) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/uk-covid19/>

¹¹²⁵ Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative Fund Increases to \$100 Million in its First Year and Launches New Partnerships, USAID 20 November 2019. Access date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.usaid.gov/w-gdp/fact-sheet/nov-2019-womens-global-development-and-prosperity-w-gdp-initiative-fund-increases-100-million>

between higher education, employment and advancement of women in STEM.¹¹²⁶ A second round of the W-GDP Women Connect Challenge was launched in the same month as well with USD2 million in funding to close the gender digital divide in developing countries.¹¹²⁷ President Donald Trump further highlighted the commitment of the US government to empowering women in the developing world through education by stating “W-GDP is the first-ever whole of government approach to women's economic empowerment.¹¹²⁸ Today's new announcements reflect how W-GDP is prioritizing partnering with the private sector and driving collaboration for major impact! Together we will reach our goal of empowering 50 million women by 2025.”¹¹²⁹

On 25 September 2019, the United States pledged USD13 million to the charity Education Cannot Wait in an attempt to expand access to inclusive quality education for girls and boys caught up in the world's worst humanitarian crisis.¹¹³⁰

On 28 October 2019, Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick and Joaquin Castro introduced the Global Child Thrive Act.¹¹³¹ Senator Castro re-affirmed the US's commitment to early childhood education in the developing world reflected in his statement “Our bill directs relevant federal departments and agencies to incorporate early childhood development into their work and builds on existing interagency collaboration.¹¹³² There is no more cost-effective, worthwhile cause than early childhood development, and I applaud my HFAC colleagues for reinforcing our resolve.”¹¹³³

The United States has demonstrated its willingness to make effort to promoting inclusion and access to quality education for women and girls by reaffirming and increasing its funding commitments to help address inequalities in education and access to primary education for girls and women. However, the United States has not taken any action or collaborative commitments with developing countries to promote access to STEM specifically.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Paras Kapoor

¹¹²⁶ Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Annual Report 2019-2020, White House 12 February 2020. Access date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/WGDP-2019-Annual-Report-02102020.pdf>.

¹¹²⁷ Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Annual Report 2019-2020, White House 12 February 2020. Access date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/WGDP-2019-Annual-Report-02102020.pdf>.

¹¹²⁸ Ivanka Trump announces \$50M for women's global development fund, FOX Business 18 November 2019. Access date: 19th December 2019. <https://www.foxbusiness.com/money/ivanka-trump-w-gdp-developing-countries>

¹¹²⁹ Ivanka Trump announces \$50M for women's global development fund, FOX Business 18 November 2019. Access date: 19th December 2019. <https://www.foxbusiness.com/money/ivanka-trump-w-gdp-developing-countries>

¹¹³⁰ World Leaders Pledge a Record US\$216 million to Education Cannot Wait during United Nations General Assembly, Education Cannot Wait 25 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/unga-2019-pledges/>

¹¹³¹ World Leaders Pledge a Record US\$216 million to Education Cannot Wait during United Nations General Assembly, Education Cannot Wait 25 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/unga-2019-pledges/>

¹¹³² World Leaders Pledge a Record US\$216 million to Education Cannot Wait during United Nations General Assembly, Education Cannot Wait 25 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/unga-2019-pledges/>

¹¹³³ Fitzpatrick, Castro Statement on Global Child Thrive Act Markup, Brian Fitzpatrick's website 19th December 2019. Access date: 20 December 2019. <https://fitzpatrick.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/fitzpatrick-castro-statement-global-child-thrive-act-markup>

European Union: 0

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to endeavour to work together with developing countries to promote inclusion, equity, and access of girls and women to quality education, including access to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

On 11 September 2019, the EU released the 2018 Annual Implementation Report of The Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020 (GAP II).¹¹³⁴ GAP II stresses the need for the full realization of women's and girls' full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.¹¹³⁵ The report monitors progress achieved by means of a comprehensive set of actions taken by the European Commission, the European External Action Services, EU Delegations and EU Member States, while underlining the remaining challenges still to be addressed to meet the GAP II's objectives and ways to move forward for the year of 2019.¹¹³⁶

On 4 October 2019, the EU issued a statement delivered by First Secretary, European Union Delegation to the United Nations Julien Bourtembourg, at the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly Third Committee Item 26: Advancement of Women.¹¹³⁷ The statement was a way to "demonstrate achievements and accountability, and also identify gaps that remain."¹¹³⁸ The European Union stated that no single country is on track to achieve gender equality by 2030. They also stated their future goal to expand gender equality to the international community.¹¹³⁹

On 10 November 2019, the EU provided school infrastructure support to the Somaliland Ministry of Education and Science at a ceremony held in Mandheera, Sahil region.¹¹⁴⁰ This consisted of 10 new schools, 65 new classrooms, 30 renovated classrooms and school furniture. About 10.000 children

¹¹³⁴ EU Gender Action Plan II Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020, International Cooperation and Development - European Commission (Brussels) 11 September 2019. Access date: 3 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/eu-gender-action-plan-ii-gender-equality-and-womens-empowerment-transforming-lives-girls-and-women_en.

¹¹³⁵ EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020, Capacity4dev (Brussels) 31 July 2017. Date accessed December 18, 2019. <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/public-gender/minisite/eu-gender-action-plan-2016-2020>.

¹¹³⁶ 2018 Annual Implementation Report of GAP II, Capacity4dev (Brussels) 21 November 2019. Date accessed: December 18, 2019. <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/public-gender/documents/2018-annual-implementation-report-gap-ii>.

¹¹³⁷ EU Statement – United Nations 3rd Committee: Advancement of Women, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations (New York) 4 October 2019. Date Accessed December 18, 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/68416/eu-statement—united-nations-3rd-committee-advancement-women_en.

¹¹³⁸ EU Statement – United Nations 3rd Committee: Advancement of Women, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations (New York) 4 October 2019.,. Date Accessed December 18, 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/68416/eu-statement—united-nations-3rd-committee-advancement-women_en.

¹¹³⁹ EU Statement – United Nations 3rd Committee: Advancement of Women, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations (New York) 4 October 2019.,. Date Accessed December 18, 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/68416/eu-statement—united-nations-3rd-committee-advancement-women_en.

¹¹⁴⁰ School Infrastructure Boost, the European Union Hands over New Schools and Classrooms in Somaliland, European Union External Action (Mogadishu) 10 November 2019. . Date accessed December 19, 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/70190/school-infrastructure-boost-european-union-hands-over-new-schools-and-classrooms-somaliland_en.

(50 per cent girls) in Somaliland will have access to expanded quality education through improved learning environment.¹¹⁴¹

On 5 March 2020, the EU presented the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025.¹¹⁴² This document delivers on policy objectives and actions to make significant progress by 2025 towards a gender-equal Europe.¹¹⁴³ The key objectives are ending gender-based violence; challenging gender stereotypes; closing gender gaps in the labour market; achieving equal participation across different sectors of the economy; addressing the gender pay and pension gaps; closing the gender care gap and achieving gender balance in decision-making and in politics.¹¹⁴⁴ Within this document is the Digital Education Action Plan and The Updated Skills Agenda for Europe, which will help address inequality in STEM graduates amidst the rapid transformation and digitization of the economy and the labour market.¹¹⁴⁵ This will be accomplished through horizontal segregation, stereotyping and gender gaps in education and training.¹¹⁴⁶

The European Union has continued to increase its funding commitments towards promoting inclusion, access, and equity to quality education for women and girls. By providing infrastructure in developing countries, the UK has helped increase access to quality education for women and girls, however, the European Union has not taken any action or collaborative commitments with developing nations to promote access to STEM specifically.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Eisha Khan

¹¹⁴¹ School Infrastructure Boost, the European Union Hands over New Schools and Classrooms in Somaliland, European Union External Action (Mogadishu) 10 November 2019. . Date accessed December 19, 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/70190/school-infrastructure-boost-european-union-hands-over-new-schools-and-classrooms-somaliland_en.

¹¹⁴² "Gender Equality Strategy." European Commission - European Commission, March 6, 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy_en.

¹¹⁴³ "Gender Equality Strategy." European Commission - European Commission, March 6, 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy_en.

¹¹⁴⁴ "Gender Equality Strategy." European Commission - European Commission, March 6, 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy_en.

¹¹⁴⁵ A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, Accessed April 12, 2020. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0152&from=EN>.

¹¹⁴⁶ A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, Accessed April 12, 2020. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0152&from=EN>.

8. Regional Security: Iran

“[We share an objective] to foster peace and stability in the region.”

G7 Biarritz Leaders' Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada		0	
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+0.75 (88%)		

Background

The case of Iran's nuclear ambitions has become a preeminent security issue for the global community. While Iran has consistently insisted its nuclear Programme is peaceful, suspicions led the United Nations Security Council, European Union, and United States to impose wide ranging sanctions in 2010. However, in 2015, Iran reached a deal with the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Russia, France, and China that would limit Iran's enrichment of uranium and allow international inspections in return for sanctions relief. In May 2018, President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the deal and reinstated sanctions. In return, Iran stopped abiding by their commitments and as of 1 July 2019, the International Energy Agency confirmed Iran exceeded the 300kg (660lb) limit on its stockpile of enriched uranium.¹¹⁴⁷ Iran has also been accused of building up a network of non-state alliances that have partaken in violent conflicts throughout Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and Yemen.¹¹⁴⁸

The G7 has for decades focused on Iran as both a potential nuclear and security threat, in turn taking various steps to promote peace and stability throughout the region. At the 2003 Evian Summit, then G8 members recognized the growing danger of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and highlighted the need for both individual and collective action to tackle the challenge.¹¹⁴⁹ At the 2004 Sea Island Summit, G8 members were united in their determination to “see the proliferation implications of Iran's advanced nuclear program resolved” in compliance with its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.¹¹⁵⁰ Then in 2007, G8 leaders reiterated their commitment to resolving “the proliferation concerns posed by Iran's nuclear programme.”¹¹⁵¹

¹¹⁴⁷ Iran nuclear crisis in 300 words, BBC (London) 5 September 2019. Access Date: 8 November 2019. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-48201138>.

¹¹⁴⁸ Iran's network of influence in Mid-East 'growing', BBC (London) 7 November 2019. Access Date: 8 November 2019. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-50324912>.

¹¹⁴⁹ Non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction: A G8 Declaration, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2 June 2003. Access Date: 8 November 2019. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2003evian/wmd_declaration_en.html.

¹¹⁵⁰ All G7/8 Commitments, 1975 -2012, G7 Research Group (Toronto) Access Date: 13 October 2019. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/G8_commitments-to-2012.pdf.

¹¹⁵¹ Heiligendamm Statement on Non-Proliferation, G7 Research Group (Toronto) Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2007heiligendamm/g8-2007-nonprolif.pdf>.

At the 2014 Brussels Summit, G7 leaders took a more expansive focus on security policy as they “call[ed] on Iran to play a more constructive role in supporting regional security, in particular in Syria, and to reject all acts of terrorism and terrorist groups.”¹¹⁵²

On 2 April 2015, Iran and the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council – the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and China – and the European Union agreed to the Joint Comprehensive Plan for Action, also known as the Iran Nuclear Deal. Iran promised to make drastic cuts to its nuclear programme in return for the lifting of sanctions.¹¹⁵³

At the 2015 G7 Summit in Elmau, leaders welcomed the agreement and offered continuous support for ensuring Iran’s nuclear ambitions are exclusively peaceful in nature and that Iran does not acquire nuclear weapons. Additionally, leaders urged Iran to respect the human rights of its citizens and to contribute constructively to regional stability.”¹¹⁵⁴

In 2016, G7 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the “full and effective implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).” Additionally, they called on Iran to “play a constructive role in its region and thus contribute to the efforts to achieve political solutions, reconciliation and peace, and cooperate to prevent and counter the spread of terrorism and violent extremism” and “comply with its international human rights obligations.”¹¹⁵⁵

However, on 8 May 2019, U.S. President Donald Trump announced that the United States would withdraw from the Iran Nuclear Deal and re-impose sanctions on Iran.¹¹⁵⁶

Meanwhile, at the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, G7 leaders committed to “permanently ensuring that Iran’s nuclear program remains peaceful, in line with its international obligations and commitments to never seek, develop or acquire a nuclear weapon.” Furthermore, leaders condemned “all financial support of terrorism including terrorist groups sponsored by Iran” and called “upon Iran to play a constructive role by contributing to efforts to counter terrorism and achieve political solutions, reconciliation and peace in the region.”¹¹⁵⁷

Commitment Features

At Biarritz, G7 members highlighted their shared objective “to foster peace and stability in the region. Based on historical precedent in relation to Iran, G7 actions towards promoting peace and security in the region have involved the issue areas of nuclear weapons, terrorism, and human rights. “Foster” in this case refers to promoting “the growth or development of.”¹¹⁵⁸ The region in this case refers to Iran, its neighboring countries, and countries throughout the area, such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Syria.

¹¹⁵² Brussels Declaration, G7 Summit, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 June 2015. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

¹¹⁵³ Iran nuclear deal: negotiators announce 'framework' agreement, The Guardian (Washington D.C.) 3 April 2015. Access Date: 14 October 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/apr/02/iran-nuclear-deal-negotiators-announce-framework-agreement>.

¹¹⁵⁴ Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date 14 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

¹¹⁵⁵ G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration Ise-Shima, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 14 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html#iran>.

¹¹⁵⁶ Iran nuclear deal: Trump pulls US out in break with Europe allies, BBC (London) 9 May 2018. Access Date: 14 October 2019. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-44045957>.

¹¹⁵⁷ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

¹¹⁵⁸ Foster, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) Access Date: 14 October 2019. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/foster>.

In terms of these three issue areas, there are many possible actions that can be taken in order to promote peace and security. In terms of terrorism, members can utilize several different mechanisms, such as military force, financial instruments, or political pressure, such as targeted economic sanctions, in order to promote peace and security. In terms of nuclear weapons, members can make efforts towards developing joint comprehensive frameworks, such as JCPOA, in order to promote the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Finally, in terms of human rights, members can take actions to reduce conditions, such as poverty and inequality, that lead to the growth of conflict levels. All of these actions must involve the aforementioned region, with specific regards to Iran and its neighbors.

Therefore, in order to achieve full compliance, members must make efforts to ending the proliferation of nuclear weapons, combatting terrorism, and promoting human rights. For partial compliance, members must only focus on one or two of these issues. For non-compliance, members must not make any efforts to promoting denuclearization, human rights, and fighting terrorism.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	Member has NOT made efforts to promote peace and stability throughout the region by combatting terrorism and promoting human rights.
0	Member has made efforts to promote peace and stability throughout the region in one issue areas by combatting terrorism OR promoting human rights.
+1	Member has made efforts to promote peace and stability throughout the region by combatting terrorism AND promoting human rights.

*Compliance Director: David Mancchio
Lead Analyst: Collin Xia*

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to promote peace and stability in the region by combatting terrorism and promoting human rights.

On 8 November 2019, the Government of Canada called upon Iran to end its human rights abuses as part of the UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review process.¹¹⁵⁹ Canada recommended that Iran revise its Penal Code to reduce the use of the death penalty and end torture in prisons.¹¹⁶⁰ Canada expressed its concern over Iran’s legal and political discrimination against “women, ethnic and recognized and unrecognized religious minorities, and LGBTI persons.”¹¹⁶¹

On 26 November 2019, Global Affairs Canada released a statement condemning the violent crackdown on protests and restrictions on communications in Iran.¹¹⁶² The statement condemned “threats made by Iranian officials and the deliberate use of excessive force by Iranian security

¹¹⁵⁹ UPR recommendations for Iran, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 8 November 2019. Access Date: 13 April 2020. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/human_rights-droits_homme/upr-epu/iran.aspx?lang=eng.

¹¹⁶⁰ UPR recommendations for Iran, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 8 November 2019. Access Date: 13 April 2020. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/human_rights-droits_homme/upr-epu/iran.aspx?lang=eng.

¹¹⁶¹ UPR recommendations for Iran, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 8 November 2019. Access Date: 13 April 2020. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/human_rights-droits_homme/upr-epu/iran.aspx?lang=eng.

¹¹⁶² Statement regarding protests in Iran, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 30 November 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/11/canada-concerned-by-violent-crackdown-on-iranian-protestors.html>.

forces.”¹¹⁶³ The Canadian government called on the “Iranian authorities to lift all restrictions on the Internet and mobile services and to ensure that all those arrested have access to fair legal process and procedures.”¹¹⁶⁴ Canada expressed its support for Iranians exercising their rights to freedom of expression and assembly.¹¹⁶⁵

On 28 November 2019, Global Affairs Canada released a statement condemning the escalating violence in Iraq, and reiterated their support for stability, prosperity, security, and the protection of their “human and democratic rights – including the right to protest and freedom of expression.”¹¹⁶⁶

On 18 December 2019, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution drafted by Canada calling on Iran to stop its human rights abuses, including the detainment of peaceful protestors.¹¹⁶⁷ The resolution also condemns Iran’s detainment of dual nationals and its violations against ethnic, linguistic, and other minorities and their defenders.¹¹⁶⁸

On 3 January 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs François-Philippe Champagne commented on the US killing of Iranian General Qasem Soleimani in Iraq.¹¹⁶⁹ Minister Champagne urged all sides to “exercise restraint and pursue de-escalation” to ensure the stability of Iraq.¹¹⁷⁰ Minister Champagne remarked that the Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps’ (IRGC) Quds Force, led by Qasem Soleimani has “had a destabilizing effect in the region.”¹¹⁷¹

On 25 March 2020, Canada participated in a G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting by videoconference to discuss COVID-19 pandemic, persecution of Rohingya people by Myanmar, and included broader discussions focused on G7 commitments in Iran and Syria.¹¹⁷²

On 2 April 2020, Canada participated in a virtual meeting of foreign ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which discussed NATO’s ongoing commitment to training Iraqi

¹¹⁶³ Statement regarding protests in Iran, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 30 November 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/11/canada-concerned-by-violent-crackdown-on-iranian-protestors.html>.

¹¹⁶⁴ Statement regarding protests in Iran, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 30 November 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/11/canada-concerned-by-violent-crackdown-on-iranian-protestors.html>.

¹¹⁶⁵ Statement regarding protests in Iran, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 30 November 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/11/canada-concerned-by-violent-crackdown-on-iranian-protestors.html>.

¹¹⁶⁶ Canada condemns escalating violence in Iraq, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 5 January 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/11/canada-condemns-escalating-violence-in-iraq.html>.

¹¹⁶⁷ UN Adopts Resolution Condemning Iran’s Human Rights Violations, Radio Farda (Prague) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://en.radiofarda.com/a/un-adopts-resolution-condemning-iran-human-rights-violations/30333824.html>.

¹¹⁶⁸ UN Adopts Resolution Condemning Iran’s Human Rights Violations, Radio Farda (Prague) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://en.radiofarda.com/a/un-adopts-resolution-condemning-iran-human-rights-violations/30333824.html>.

¹¹⁶⁹ Statement from Minister Champagne following the airstrike carried out by the U.S. on Iranian commander Qasem Soleimani in Iraq, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/statement-from-minister-champagne.html>.

¹¹⁷⁰ Statement from Minister Champagne following the airstrike carried out by the U.S. on Iranian commander Qasem Soleimani in Iraq, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/statement-from-minister-champagne.html>.

¹¹⁷¹ Statement from Minister Champagne following the airstrike carried out by the U.S. on Iranian commander Qasem Soleimani in Iraq, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/statement-from-minister-champagne.html>.

¹¹⁷² Readout: Minister Champagne Participates in G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/200325-champagne.html>.

security forces and stabilizing the country.¹¹⁷³ NATO reasserted its commitment to protecting Iraqi sovereignty against Daesh.¹¹⁷⁴

On 25 July 2020, the Government of Canada began to enforce a ministerial directive on financial transactions associated with Iran as recommended by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).¹¹⁷⁵ The FATF expressed concern over Iran's deficiencies in combatting money laundering and the financing of terrorism in February 2020.¹¹⁷⁶ As such, Canada has issued this ministerial directive to reaffirm its commitment to combating terrorist financing by ordering all financial institutions to screen and report transactions originating from or bound for Iran.¹¹⁷⁷

Through its condemnation of Iranian human rights abuses and its efforts in the United Nations, Canada has demonstrated its commitment to upholding international human rights. However, no specific anti-terrorist commitments for the region has been announced for the current compliance cycle.

Thus, Canada has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Matthew Remedios

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to promote peace and stability throughout the region by combatting terrorism and promoting human rights.

On 1 October 2018, France amended its Monetary and Financial code to include Article D561-51 to “ensure better coordination of the state services and supervisory authorities concerned with the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing” to reduce the capital of terrorist groups in the region.¹¹⁷⁸

On 28 March 2019, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted a French resolution on terrorist financing.¹¹⁷⁹ Resolution 2462 requires that all states “ensure that their laws and regulations make it possible to penalize, as serious criminal offences, the provision or collection of funds, resources and services intended to be used for the benefit of terrorist organizations or

¹¹⁷³ Solidarity of the Alliance members in times of crisis: virtual NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/internationale-organisationen/uebersicht-node-nato/-/2331226>.

¹¹⁷⁴ Solidarity of the Alliance members in times of crisis: virtual NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/internationale-organisationen/uebersicht-node-nato/-/2331226>.

¹¹⁷⁵ FINTRAC guidance related to the Ministerial Directive on Financial Transactions Associated with the Islamic Republic of Iran issued on July 25, 2020, Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (Ottawa) 25 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.fintrac-canafe.gc.ca/obligations/dir-iri-eng>.

¹¹⁷⁶ FINTRAC guidance related to the Ministerial Directive on Financial Transactions Associated with the Islamic Republic of Iran issued on July 25, 2020, Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (Ottawa) 25 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.fintrac-canafe.gc.ca/obligations/dir-iri-eng>.

¹¹⁷⁷ FINTRAC guidance related to the Ministerial Directive on Financial Transactions Associated with the Islamic Republic of Iran issued on July 25, 2020, Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (Ottawa) 25 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.fintrac-canafe.gc.ca/obligations/dir-iri-eng>.

¹¹⁷⁸ Code monétaire et financier- Article D561-51, LegiFrance (Paris) 18 April 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCodeArticle.do?idArticle=LEGIARTI000036824932&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006072026&dateTexte=20181001>.

¹¹⁷⁹ Security Council Unanimously Adopts Resolution Calling upon Member States to Combat, Criminalize Financing of Terrorists, Their Activities, United Nations (New York) 28 March 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13754.doc.htm>.

individual terrorists.”¹¹⁸⁰ The Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drain stressed that “the international community must tackle evil at the root and isolate terrorists by drying up their source of financing.”¹¹⁸¹

On 31 August 2019, French President Emmanuel Macron had a telephone call with the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Hassan Rohani.¹¹⁸² Macron discussed taking measures to restore peace and security in the region by urging Iran to end fighting and open negotiations in Yemen.¹¹⁸³ President Macron also insisted Iran exercise restraint in Lebanon to preserve its stability during times of increased tensions.¹¹⁸⁴

On 23 September 2019, France, the United Kingdom, and Germany released a joint statement condemning Iran sponsored attacks on Saudi Arabian oil facilities on 14 September 2019.¹¹⁸⁵ The Iran backed Houthi movement claimed responsibility for this attack as part of the ongoing Yemeni civil war.¹¹⁸⁶ France condemned Iran’s terrorist sponsorship and reiterated French commitment to de-escalation of tensions in the region through resumption of negotiations between the United States and Iran.¹¹⁸⁷

On 9 October 2019, France issued new travel advisory for French nationals against travelling to Iran.¹¹⁸⁸ France cited “the arbitrary arrest and detention practices of the Iranian security and intelligence services especially with regard to the contacts of foreign nationals with the population.”¹¹⁸⁹ This action follows Iran’s arrest of French researcher Roland Marchal and his colleague Franco-Iranian Fariba

¹¹⁸⁰ Security Council Unanimously Adopts Resolution Calling upon Member States to Combat, Criminalize Financing of Terrorists, Their Activities, United Nations (New York) 28 March 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13754.doc.htm>.

¹¹⁸¹ Security Council Unanimously Adopts Resolution Calling upon Member States to Combat, Criminalize Financing of Terrorists, Their Activities, United Nations (New York) 28 March 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13754.doc.htm>.

¹¹⁸² Entretien téléphonique entre M. le Président de la République et M. Hassan Rohani, Président de la République islamique d’Iran, La France en Iran (Tehran) 2 September 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://ir.ambafrance.org/Entretien-telephonique-entre-M-le-President-de-la-Republique-et-M-Hassan-Rohani>.

¹¹⁸³ Entretien téléphonique entre M. le Président de la République et M. Hassan Rohani, Président de la République islamique d’Iran, La France en Iran (Tehran) 2 September 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://ir.ambafrance.org/Entretien-telephonique-entre-M-le-President-de-la-Republique-et-M-Hassan-Rohani>.

¹¹⁸⁴ Entretien téléphonique entre M. le Président de la République et M. Hassan Rohani, Président de la République islamique d’Iran, La France en Iran (Tehran) 2 September 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://ir.ambafrance.org/Entretien-telephonique-entre-M-le-President-de-la-Republique-et-M-Hassan-Rohani>.

¹¹⁸⁵ France committed to maritime security in the Gulf, France in the United Kingdom (Paris) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://uk.ambafrance.org/France-committed-to-maritime-security-in-the-Gulf>.

¹¹⁸⁶ France committed to maritime security in the Gulf, France in the United Kingdom (Paris) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://uk.ambafrance.org/France-committed-to-maritime-security-in-the-Gulf>.

¹¹⁸⁷ France committed to maritime security in the Gulf, France in the United Kingdom (Paris) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://uk.ambafrance.org/France-committed-to-maritime-security-in-the-Gulf>.

¹¹⁸⁸ France demands Iran release two of its citizens held since June, Reuters (Paris) 15 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-iran-france/france-demands-iran-release-two-of-its-citizens-held-since-june-idUSKBN1WU2XZ>.

¹¹⁸⁹ France demands Iran release two of its citizens held since June, Reuters (Paris) 15 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-iran-france/france-demands-iran-release-two-of-its-citizens-held-since-june-idUSKBN1WU2XZ>.

Adelkhah¹¹⁹⁰ France demands their immediate release and seeks to prevent further arbitrary arrests of its nationals by Iranian authorities.¹¹⁹¹

On 18 November 2019, a Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs spokesperson stated that France was “closely monitoring the demonstrations currently taking place in several cities in Iran,” and reaffirmed its commitment to the freedom of expression and right to protest.¹¹⁹²

On 19 November 2019, French troops aided the sixth Iraqi Infantry Division in the rehabilitation of infrastructure in Iraq following damage caused by Daesh.¹¹⁹³ The participation in Iraq’s restructuring constitutes a long-term effort to ensure stability in the region, preventing terrorist activities in the future.¹¹⁹⁴

On 20 November 2019, the Government of France expressed “its deep concern over reports of the deaths of many demonstrators in recent days” and called for Iran to respect international human rights.¹¹⁹⁵ French foreign ministry spokeswoman Agnes von der Muhll called on Iran to respect its international human rights obligations.¹¹⁹⁶

On 3 December 2019, France condemned “the violence and disproportionate use of force used against the demonstrators” in Iran.¹¹⁹⁷ France urged Iran to comply with “its international human rights obligations, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.”¹¹⁹⁸ France reiterated its commitment to de-escalating tensions in the region and ensuring Iran respects the rights of Iranians to peaceful protest, freedom of expression and free access to communication.¹¹⁹⁹

¹¹⁹⁰ France demands Iran release two of its citizens held since June, Reuters (Paris) 15 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-iran-france/france-demands-iran-release-two-of-its-citizens-held-since-june-idUSKBN1WU2XZ>.

¹¹⁹¹ France demands Iran release two of its citizens held since June, Reuters (Paris) 15 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-iran-france/france-demands-iran-release-two-of-its-citizens-held-since-june-idUSKBN1WU2XZ>.

¹¹⁹² France is closely monitoring demonstrations in Iran, says Ministry, France in the United Kingdom (Paris) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://uk.ambafrance.org/France-is-closely-monitoring-demonstrations-in-iran-says-Ministry>.

¹¹⁹³ Chammal: La Task Force Monsabert soutient de la 6e division irakienne, Ministère des Armées (Paris) 29 November 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/operations/chammal/breves/chammal-la-task-force-monsabert-en-soutien-de-la-6e-division-irakienne>.

¹¹⁹⁴ Terrorism: France’s International Action, France Diplomatie (Paris) 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/terrorism-france-s-international-action/>.

¹¹⁹⁵ France says concerned by reports of many deaths in Iran protests, Reuters (Paris) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-gasoline-protests-france/france-says-concerned-by-reports-of-many-deaths-in-iran-protests-idUSKBN1XU1Y8>.

¹¹⁹⁶ France says concerned by reports of many deaths in Iran protests, Reuters (Paris) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-gasoline-protests-france/france-says-concerned-by-reports-of-many-deaths-in-iran-protests-idUSKBN1XU1Y8>.

¹¹⁹⁷ France condemns disproportionate force against protesters in Iran, France in the United Kingdom (Paris) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://uk.ambafrance.org/France-condemns-disproportionate-force-against-protesters-in-iran>.

¹¹⁹⁸ France condemns disproportionate force against protesters in Iran, France in the United Kingdom (Paris) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://uk.ambafrance.org/France-condemns-disproportionate-force-against-protesters-in-iran>.

¹¹⁹⁹ France condemns disproportionate force against protesters in Iran, France in the United Kingdom (Paris) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://uk.ambafrance.org/France-condemns-disproportionate-force-against-protesters-in-iran>.

On 10 December 2019, President Macron called for the release of Fariba Adelkhah and Roland Marchal, two French nationals imprisoned by Iran.¹²⁰⁰ President Macron stated that “their imprisonment is intolerable.¹²⁰¹ They must be freed without delay.”¹²⁰²

On 27 December 2019, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs summoned the Iranian Ambassador to reiterate France’s demand for the release of Fariba Adelkhah and Roland Marchal.¹²⁰³ France has deemed their imprisonment as “unacceptable” and affirmed their continued efforts to obtain their release.¹²⁰⁴

On 3 January 2020, President Macron called on Iran to refrain from any provocation following the US killing of Iranian General Qasem Soleimani.¹²⁰⁵ Macron further stated that he held talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin to review the situation in Iraq and agreed to stay in contact to avoid further escalation.¹²⁰⁶

On 6 January 2020, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom released a joint statement condemning Iran’s involvement in the attacks on Iraqi coalition holdings.¹²⁰⁷ The statement called for Iran “to refrain from further violent action.”¹²⁰⁸ All three countries reiterated their commitment to stabilizing Iraq and protecting Iraqi sovereignty from Daesh and Iranian backed terrorist organizations.¹²⁰⁹

¹²⁰⁰ Macron calls for immediate release of French nationals held in Iran, Reuters (Paris) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-iran-france/macron-calls-for-immediate-release-of-french-nationals-held-in-iran-idUSKBN1YE2JZ>.

¹²⁰¹ Macron calls for immediate release of French nationals held in Iran, Reuters (Paris) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-iran-france/macron-calls-for-immediate-release-of-french-nationals-held-in-iran-idUSKBN1YE2JZ>.

¹²⁰² Macron calls for immediate release of French nationals held in Iran, Reuters (Paris) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-iran-france/macron-calls-for-immediate-release-of-french-nationals-held-in-iran-idUSKBN1YE2JZ>.

¹²⁰³ Situation of Fariba Adelkhah and Roland Marchal – Summoning of Iranian ambassador (27 December 2019), France Diplomatie (Paris) 27 December 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/iran/news/article/situation-of-fariba-adelkhah-and-roland-marchal-summoning-of-iranian-ambassador>.

¹²⁰⁴ Situation of Fariba Adelkhah and Roland Marchal – Summoning of Iranian ambassador (27 December 2019), France Diplomatie (Paris) 27 December 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/iran/news/article/situation-of-fariba-adelkhah-and-roland-marchal-summoning-of-iranian-ambassador>.

¹²⁰⁵ France calls on Iran to refrain from provocation after U.S. air strike, Reuters (Paris) 3 January 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iraq-security-blast-france-refrain/france-calls-on-iran-to-refrain-from-provocation-after-u-s-air-strike-idUSKBN1Z21LT>.

¹²⁰⁶ Iran's top general Soleimani killed in US strike, CNN (Atlanta) 3 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020.

https://www.cnn.com/middleeast/live-news/baghdad-airport-strike-live-intl-hnk/h_f6fd9bad0ccadf3bfc9f81246460223a.

¹²⁰⁷ Joint statement from President Macron, Chancellor Merkel and Prime Minister Johnson on the situation in Iraq, GOV.UK (London) 6 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-from-president-macron-chancellor-merkel-and-prime-minister-johnson-on-the-situation-in-iraq>.

¹²⁰⁸ Joint statement from President Macron, Chancellor Merkel and Prime Minister Johnson on the situation in Iraq, GOV.UK (London) 6 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-from-president-macron-chancellor-merkel-and-prime-minister-johnson-on-the-situation-in-iraq>.

¹²⁰⁹ Joint statement from President Macron, Chancellor Merkel and Prime Minister Johnson on the situation in Iraq, GOV.UK (London) 6 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-from-president-macron-chancellor-merkel-and-prime-minister-johnson-on-the-situation-in-iraq>.

On 7 January 2020, President Macron had a phone conversation with the President of Iran, Hassan Rohani.¹²¹⁰ President Macron expressed France's deep concern over increased tensions in the region following the US killing of Iranian General Qasem Soleimani.¹²¹¹ France called on Iran "to refrain from any measure likely to exacerbate the ongoing escalation of tensions" and to release Fariba Adelkhah and Roland Marchal from imprisonment.¹²¹²

On 16 January 2020, France announced that the Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier would be deployed from January to April "to support French military operations in the Middle East."¹²¹³ President Macron reaffirmed that French forces would remain in the fight against Daesh.¹²¹⁴

On 31 January 2020, France announced its continued participation of Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq.¹²¹⁵ The purpose of Operation Inherent Resolve is to work with international organizations "to improve essential services, infrastructure and the development of the local economy."¹²¹⁶ Air Brigade General Stéphane Dupont stressed that "civil-military actions are an integral part of operational planning" in order to achieve long-term stability in the region and a durable defeat of Daesh.¹²¹⁷

On 9 February 2020, France condemned an Iranian space launch "which employs ballistic missile technologies."¹²¹⁸ France stressed that "the development of the Iranian ballistic missile program undermines regional stability and affects European security" and that Iran needs to abide by its international obligations.¹²¹⁹

On 15 March 2020, France, along with the United Kingdom, Germany, and the United States, issued a joint statement on the ninth anniversary of the Syria uprising.¹²²⁰ The statement condemns violations in

¹²¹⁰ Conversation between Emmanuel Macron President of the French Republic and Hassan Rouhani President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, France Diplomatie (Paris) 7 January 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/iran/news/article/iran-conversation-between-emmanuel-macron-president-of-the-french-republic-and>.

¹²¹¹ Conversation between Emmanuel Macron President of the French Republic and Hassan Rouhani President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, France Diplomatie (Paris) 7 January 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/iran/news/article/iran-conversation-between-emmanuel-macron-president-of-the-french-republic-and>.

¹²¹² Conversation between Emmanuel Macron President of the French Republic and Hassan Rouhani President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, France Diplomatie (Paris) 7 January 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/iran/news/article/iran-conversation-between-emmanuel-macron-president-of-the-french-republic-and>.

¹²¹³ France to deploy Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier to support Middle East Operations, Middle East Monitor (London) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20200116-france-to-deploy-charles-de-gaulle-aircraft-carrier-to-support-middle-east-operations/>.

¹²¹⁴ France Deploys Only Aircraft Carrier to Anti-IS Mission In Middle East, Radio Free Europe (Prague) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.rferl.org/a/france-deploys-carrier-middle-east-islamic-state/30382245.html>.

¹²¹⁵ Chammal: Au Cœur de la Coalition les actions civilo-militaire, Ministère des Armées (Paris) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/chammal/breves/chammal-au-coeur-de-la-coalition-les-actions-civilo-militaire>.

¹²¹⁶ Chammal: Au Cœur de la Coalition les actions civilo-militaire, Ministère des Armées (Paris) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/chammal/breves/chammal-au-coeur-de-la-coalition-les-actions-civilo-militaire>.

¹²¹⁷ Chammal: Au Cœur de la Coalition les actions civilo-militaire, Ministère des Armées (Paris) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/chammal/breves/chammal-au-coeur-de-la-coalition-les-actions-civilo-militaire>.

¹²¹⁸ Iran – Space/ballistic launch, France Diplomatie (Paris) 9 February 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/iran/news/article/iran-space-ballistic-launch-09-feb-20>.

¹²¹⁹ Iran – Space/ballistic launch, France Diplomatie (Paris) 9 February 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/iran/news/article/iran-space-ballistic-launch-09-feb-20>.

¹²²⁰ Ninth anniversary of the Syrian Uprising: joint statement, GOV.UK(London) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-on-the-ninth-anniversary-of-the-syrian-uprising>.

international humanitarian law and continued violence by “the reckless military offensive by Assad, Russia, and Iran in Idlib” and asserts that they will demand accountability for the atrocities committed by the Assad regime.¹²²¹

On 21 March 2020, President Macron announced the release of Roland Marchal from Iran.¹²²² France exchanged Jalal Ruhollahnejad, an Iranian engineer detained by the French authorities to secure Marchal’s release.¹²²³ President Macron implored Iranian authorities to immediately release Fariba Adelkhah, who is subject to human rights violations in Iran.¹²²⁴

On 25 March 2020, France participated in a G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting by videoconference to discuss COVID-19 pandemic, persecution of Rohingya people by Myanmar, and included broader discussions focused on G7 commitments in Iran and Syria.¹²²⁵

On 2 April 2020, France participated in a virtual meeting of foreign ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which discussed NATO’s ongoing commitment to training Iraqi security forces and stabilizing the country.¹²²⁶ NATO reasserted its commitment to protecting Iraqi sovereignty against Daesh.¹²²⁷

On 6 April 2020, President Macron had a phone conversation with President Rouhani of Iran.¹²²⁸ President Macron reiterated that Fariba Adelkhah must be released without delay as her imprisonment is a violation of human rights.¹²²⁹

On 5 June 2020, President Macron issued a statement demanding the release of Fariba Adelkhah on the one-year anniversary of her arrest.¹²³⁰ President Macron asserted that Adelkhah was arbitrarily arrested and demands her release from the Iranian authorities.¹²³¹

¹²²¹ Ninth anniversary of the Syrian Uprising: joint statement, GOV.UK(London) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-on-the-ninth-anniversary-of-the-syrian-uprising>.

¹²²² Iran Released French Academic in Prisoner Swap, The New York Times (New York) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/21/world/middleeast/prisoner-swap-france-iran.html>.

¹²²³ Libération de M. Roland Marchal, Élysée Palace (Paris) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2020/03/21/liberation-de-m-roland-marchal>.

¹²²⁴ Libération de M. Roland Marchal, Élysée Palace (Paris) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2020/03/21/liberation-de-m-roland-marchal>.

¹²²⁵ Readout: Minister Champagne Participates in G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/200325-champagne.html>.

¹²²⁶ Solidarity of the Alliance members in times of crisis: virtual NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/internationale-organisationen/uebersicht-node-nato/-/2331226>.

¹²²⁷ Solidarity of the Alliance members in times of crisis: virtual NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/internationale-organisationen/uebersicht-node-nato/-/2331226>.

¹²²⁸ Entretien téléphonique entre le Président de la République & M.Hassan Rohani Président de la République islamique d’Iran, Élysée Palace (Paris) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2020/04/07/entretien-telephonique-entre-le-president-de-la-republique-m-hassan-rohani-president-de-la-republique-islamique-d-iran>.

¹²²⁹ Entretien téléphonique entre le Président de la République & M.Hassan Rohani Président de la République islamique d’Iran, Élysée Palace (Paris) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2020/04/07/entretien-telephonique-entre-le-president-de-la-republique-m-hassan-rohani-president-de-la-republique-islamique-d-iran>.

¹²³⁰ Macron demands release of French-Iranian academic Adelkhah, Reuters (Paris) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-france-rights-justice/macron-demands-release-of-french-iranian-academic-adelkhah-idUSKBN23COIV>.

On 19 June 2020, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian held talks with German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas and British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab to discuss Iran's destabilizing activities in the Middle East.¹²³² The meeting focused on pursuing diplomatic solutions to de-escalate tensions in the region and holding the Iran accountable for its destabilizing activities.¹²³³

On 24 August 2020, Minister Le Drian spoke with Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif to express concern over Iran's destabilizing activities in the region and the consequences of the expiration of the UN arms embargo.¹²³⁴ Minister Le Drian also expressed France, Germany, and the United Kingdom's "determination to seek solutions that preserve regional security and stability."¹²³⁵ Minister Le Drian reiterated French requests for the release of Fariba Adelkhah, who has been detained in Iran "without justification."¹²³⁶

France has demonstrated efforts to combat terrorism in the region through its diplomatic and military efforts. It continues to monitor and condemn Iranian human rights violations as well as urge Iran to uphold its international human rights obligations.

Thus, France has received a score of +1.

Analysts: Aiman Akmal and Collin Xia

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to promote peace and stability in the region by combatting terrorism and promoting human rights.

On 13 September 2019, German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz issued a joint statement with French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire "reaffirm[ing] their willingness to tackle the challenges raised by cryptocurrency and so-called stable coin projects: financial security, investor protection, prevention of money laundering and terrorism financing, data protection and financial and monetary

¹²³¹ Macron demands release of French-Iranian academic Adelkhah, Reuters (Paris) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-france-rights-justice/macron-demands-release-of-french-iranian-academic-adelkhah-idUSKBN23C0IV>.

¹²³² European foreign ministers meet to discuss Iran, GOV.UK (London) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/european-foreign-ministers-meet-to-discuss-iran>.

¹²³³ European foreign ministers meet to discuss Iran, GOV.UK (London) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/european-foreign-ministers-meet-to-discuss-iran>.

¹²³⁴ Iran – Telephone conversation between Jean-Yves Le Drian and his Iranian counterpart (24 Aug. 20), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 24 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/iran/news/article/iran-telephone-conversation-between-jean-yves-le-drian-and-his-iranian>.

¹²³⁵ Iran – Telephone conversation between Jean-Yves Le Drian and his Iranian counterpart (24 Aug. 20), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 24 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/iran/news/article/iran-telephone-conversation-between-jean-yves-le-drian-and-his-iranian>.

¹²³⁶ Iran – Telephone conversation between Jean-Yves Le Drian and his Iranian counterpart (24 Aug. 20), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 24 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/iran/news/article/iran-telephone-conversation-between-jean-yves-le-drian-and-his-iranian>.

sovereignty” and announced the creation of a G7 working group to assess these challenges.¹²³⁷ The working group issued their report on 17 October 2019.¹²³⁸

On 23 September 2019, German Chancellor Angela Merkel issued a joint statement with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and French President Emmanuel Macron blaming Iran for Houthi rebel drone attacks on Saudi Aramco oil facilities on 14 September 2019, stating, “we are committed to continuing our diplomatic efforts to create conditions and facilitate dialogue with all relevant partners interested in de-escalation of tensions in the Middle East, in the interest of preserving international peace and security, building upon our joint declaration on 14 July 2019 and G7 conclusions adopted in Biarritz.¹²³⁹ We urge Iran to engage in such a dialogue and refrain from further provocation and escalation.”¹²⁴⁰

On 27 September 2019, German Interior Minister Horst Seehofer reaffirmed German commitment to German-Afghan police training project, stating, “on the path to achieving permanent peace, security and stable governance, the Afghan government depends on our continued support.”¹²⁴¹

On 24 October 2019, at a meeting of defence ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), German Defence Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer proposed the creation of an internationally controlled safe zone in Northeast Syria in order to stabilize the region.¹²⁴²

On 12 November 2019, German Ambassador to Yemen Carola Muller-Holtkemper expressed support for the Riyadh agreement.¹²⁴³ The agreement seeks to end a power struggle in southern Yemen, stating, “Germany is closely following up developments in Yemen and it will work with the government and the international community to reach full peace in Yemen.”¹²⁴⁴

¹²³⁷ Joint Statement on Libra, Bundesministerium der Finanzen (Helsinki) 13 September 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://g8fip1kplyr33r3krz5b97d1-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Joint-statement-on-Libra-final.pdf>.

¹²³⁸ Investigating the Impact of Global Stablecoins, G7 Working Group on Stablecoins (Washington D.C.) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.bis.org/cpmi/publ/d187.pdf>.

¹²³⁹ Iran Bears Responsibility for Saudi Arabia Attacks, Say Leaders, French Embassy in London (New York) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://uk.ambafrance.org/Iran-bears-responsibility-for-Saudi-Arabia-attacks-say-leaders>.

¹²⁴⁰ Iran Bears Responsibility for Saudi Arabia Attacks, Say Leaders, French Embassy in London (New York) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://uk.ambafrance.org/Iran-bears-responsibility-for-Saudi-Arabia-attacks-say-leaders>.

¹²⁴¹ Federal Government Reaffirms Commitment to Police Training Project in Afghanistan, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Kabul) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2019/09/police-training-project-afghanistan.html>.

¹²⁴² German Defense Minister Sets Out Syria Plan to NATO; Turkey, U.S. Supportive, Al Jazeera (Brussels) 24 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-syria-security-pentagon-nato/german-defense-minister-sets-out-syria-plan-to-nato-turkey-us-supportive-idUSKBN1X30SA>.

¹²⁴³ U.S., Germany Back Yemen Govt. in Implementing Riyadh Agreement, Asharq Al-Awsat (Riyadh) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/1989446/us-germany-back-yemen-govt-implementing-riyadh-agreement>.

¹²⁴⁴ U.S., Germany Back Yemen Govt. in Implementing Riyadh Agreement, Asharq Al-Awsat (Riyadh) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/1989446/us-germany-back-yemen-govt-implementing-riyadh-agreement>.

On 18 November 2019, Ulrike Demmer, spokesperson for Chancellor Merkel, called on Iran to respect protests among Iranian citizens over hikes in gas prices, stating, “We urge the government in Tehran to respect freedom of assembly and expression.”¹²⁴⁵

On 19 December 2019, the Bundestag urged the European Union to recognize the political arm of Iran-backed group Hezbollah as a terrorist group.¹²⁴⁶ Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz praised the resolution as an important step to combating Iranian terrorist activities in the region.¹²⁴⁷

On 6 January 2020, Germany, France and the United Kingdom released a joint statement condemning Iran’s involvement in the attacks on Iraqi coalition holdings.¹²⁴⁸ The statement called for Iran “to refrain from further violent action.”¹²⁴⁹ All three countries reiterated their commitment to stabilizing Iraq and protecting Iraqi sovereignty from Daesh and Iranian backed terrorist organizations.¹²⁵⁰

On 8 January 2020, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas condemned Iranian attacks on Iraqi military bases hosting coalition troops.¹²⁵¹ Minister Maas urged Iran refrain from any action that could lead to further escalation.¹²⁵² Maas stated that Germany is in contact with all sides to de-escalate tensions and prevent further violence.¹²⁵³

On 31 January 2020, Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid at the Federal Foreign Office Bärbel Kofler issued a statement condemning Iranian religious discrimination against unrecognized religious groups.¹²⁵⁴ Commissioner Kofler commented on Iran’s discriminatory ID system which excludes unrecognized religious minorities

¹²⁴⁵ Germany Urges Iran to Respect ‘Legitimate’ Protests, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-urges-iran-to-respect-legitimate-protests/a-51295901>.

¹²⁴⁶ German Parliament Calls for Full Ban of Hezbollah Activities, Associated Press (Berlin) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://apnews.com/45c48fdda55ce0d18d2cc03149e08297>.

¹²⁴⁷ German Parliament Calls for Full Ban of Hezbollah Activities, Associated Press (Berlin) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://apnews.com/45c48fdda55ce0d18d2cc03149e08297>.

¹²⁴⁸ Joint statement from President Macron, Chancellor Merkel and Prime Minister Johnson on the situation in Iraq, GOV.UK (London) 6 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-from-president-macron-chancellor-merkel-and-prime-minister-johnson-on-the-situation-in-iraq>.

¹²⁴⁹ Joint statement from President Macron, Chancellor Merkel and Prime Minister Johnson on the situation in Iraq, GOV.UK (London) 6 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-from-president-macron-chancellor-merkel-and-prime-minister-johnson-on-the-situation-in-iraq>.

¹²⁵⁰ Joint statement from President Macron, Chancellor Merkel and Prime Minister Johnson on the situation in Iraq, GOV.UK (London) 6 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-from-president-macron-chancellor-merkel-and-prime-minister-johnson-on-the-situation-in-iraq>.

¹²⁵¹ Foreign Minister Maas on the Iranian missile attack on Iraqi military bases, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 8 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-missile-attack/2291176>.

¹²⁵² Foreign Minister Maas on the Iranian missile attack on Iraqi military bases, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 8 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-missile-attack/2291176>.

¹²⁵³ Foreign Minister Maas on the Iranian missile attack on Iraqi military bases, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 8 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-missile-attack/2291176>.

¹²⁵⁴ Statement by Human rights Commissioner Kofler on discrimination against Baha’is and other unrecognised religious groups in Iran, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/kofler-bahai/2302334>.

such as Baha'is from accessing basic public services.¹²⁵⁵ Commissioner Kofler reaffirmed Germany's commitment to campaigning for religious freedom in Iran.¹²⁵⁶

On 27 February 2020, Commissioner Kofler issued a statement condemning the execution of three protestors that participated in anti-government protests in November 2019.¹²⁵⁷ Commissioner Kofler called for the "human rights violations committed during the November 2019 demonstrations to be examined."¹²⁵⁸ Commissioner Kofler asserts the right of Iranians to protest freely, access humane detention conditions, and to fair trials under the rule of law.¹²⁵⁹

On 15 March 2020, Germany, along with France, the United Kingdom, and the United States, issued a joint statement on the ninth anniversary of the Syria uprising.¹²⁶⁰ The statement condemns violations in international humanitarian law and continued violence by "the reckless military offensive by Assad, Russia, and Iran in Idlib" and asserts that they will demand accountability for the atrocities committed by the Assad regime.¹²⁶¹

On 25 March 2020, Germany participated in a G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting by videoconference to discuss COVID-19 pandemic, persecution of the Rohingya people by Myanmar, and included broader discussions focused on G7 commitments in Iran and Syria.¹²⁶²

On 2 April 2020, Germany participated in a virtual meeting of NATO foreign ministers, who discussed NATO's ongoing commitment to training Iraqi security forces and stabilizing the country.¹²⁶³ NATO reasserted its commitment to protecting Iraqi sovereignty against Daesh.¹²⁶⁴

On 4 June 2020, Commissioner Kofler condemned the imprisonment of Iranian filmmaker Mohammad Rasoulof.¹²⁶⁵ Kofler stated that the conviction was a "blow to freedom of the press and

¹²⁵⁵ Statement by Human rights Commissioner Kofler on discrimination against Baha'is and other unrecognised religious groups in Iran, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/kofler-bahai/2302334>.

¹²⁵⁶ Statement by Human rights Commissioner Kofler on discrimination against Baha'is and other unrecognised religious groups in Iran, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/kofler-bahai/2302334>.

¹²⁵⁷ Human Rights Commissioner Kofler on death penalty for three protesters in Iran, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 27 February 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/kofler-iran/2312196>.

¹²⁵⁸ Human Rights Commissioner Kofler on death penalty for three protesters in Iran, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 27 February 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/kofler-iran/2312196>.

¹²⁵⁹ Human Rights Commissioner Kofler on death penalty for three protesters in Iran, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 27 February 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/kofler-iran/2312196>.

¹²⁶⁰ Ninth anniversary of the Syrian Uprising: joint statement, GOV.UK(London) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-on-the-ninth-anniversary-of-the-syrian-uprising>.

¹²⁶¹ Ninth anniversary of the Syrian Uprising: joint statement, GOV.UK(London) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-on-the-ninth-anniversary-of-the-syrian-uprising>.

¹²⁶² Readout: Minister Champagne Participates in G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/200325-champagne.html>.

¹²⁶³ Solidarity of the Alliance members in times of crisis: virtual NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/internationale-organisationen/uebersicht-node-nato-/2331226>.

¹²⁶⁴ Solidarity of the Alliance members in times of crisis: virtual NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/internationale-organisationen/uebersicht-node-nato-/2331226>.

¹²⁶⁵ Human Rights Commissioner Kofler on the intended imprisonment of renowned filmmaker Mohammad Rasoulof in Iran, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/kofler-mohammad-rasoulof/2347148>.

of opinion in Iran.”¹²⁶⁶ Kofler urged Iranian authorities to uphold International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by respecting freedom of speech and releasing Rasoulof.¹²⁶⁷

On 19 June 2020, Minister Maas met with British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab and French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian to discuss Iran’s destabilizing activities in the Middle East.¹²⁶⁸ Their discussion focused on pursuing diplomatic solutions to de-escalate tensions and holding the Government of Iran accountable for its destabilizing activities.¹²⁶⁹

On 20 July 2020, Commissioner Kofler condemned Iran’s extension of women’s rights activist Saba Kord Afshari’s prison sentence.¹²⁷⁰ She stated that Afshari did not receive a fair trial under the rule of law.¹²⁷¹ Kofler urged the Iranian government to uphold its human and civil rights obligations, and release Afshari and other detained women’s rights activists.¹²⁷²

Germany is in full compliance with its G7 commitment to promote peace and stability throughout the region. Germany has committed to combatting terrorism and promoting human rights by issuing several condemnations and engaging in both bilateral and multilateral efforts to promote peace and stability in the region including police training and the establishment of safe zones.

Thus, Germany has received a score of +1.

Analysts: Rachel Zack and Collin Xia

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to promote peace and stability in the region by combatting terrorism and promoting human rights.

On 30 October 2019, the Italian Civil Aviation Authority announced a ban on flights by Iran’s Mahan Air following a meeting between the Italian Foreign Minister and the United States Secretary

¹²⁶⁶ Human Rights Commissioner Kofler on the intended imprisonment of renowned filmmaker Mohammad Rasoulof in Iran, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/kofler-mohammad-rasoulof/2347148>.

¹²⁶⁷ Human Rights Commissioner Kofler on the intended imprisonment of renowned filmmaker Mohammad Rasoulof in Iran, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/kofler-mohammad-rasoulof/2347148>.

¹²⁶⁸ European foreign ministers meet to discuss Iran, GOV.UK (London) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/european-foreign-ministers-meet-to-discuss-iran>.

¹²⁶⁹ European foreign ministers meet to discuss Iran, GOV.UK (London) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/european-foreign-ministers-meet-to-discuss-iran>.

¹²⁷⁰ Human Rights Commissioner Kofler on the term of imprisonment of Iranian women’s rights activist Saba Kord Afshari, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/kofler-saba-kord-afshari/2369730>.

¹²⁷¹ Human Rights Commissioner Kofler on the term of imprisonment of Iranian women’s rights activist Saba Kord Afshari, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/kofler-saba-kord-afshari/2369730>.

¹²⁷² Human Rights Commissioner Kofler on the term of imprisonment of Iranian women’s rights activist Saba Kord Afshari, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/kofler-saba-kord-afshari/2369730>.

of State.¹²⁷³ The United States has accused the airline of supporting terrorism by transporting military equipment and personnel to war zones in the region.¹²⁷⁴

On 25 November 2019, the Embassy of Italy in Iran released a statement from the Italian Ministry of Affairs calling for the end of violence against women.¹²⁷⁵ The statement reaffirms Italy's commitment to the fight against all forms of discrimination and violence against women.¹²⁷⁶ The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is pursuing both diplomatic and development cooperation.¹²⁷⁷

On 8 January 2020, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation released a statement condemning the Iranian attack on two Iraqi bases hosting coalition soldiers.¹²⁷⁸ Italy affirmed its commitment to fostering peaceful dialogue in the Gulf region.¹²⁷⁹

On 27 January 2020, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Luigi Di Maio spoke with Foreign Minister of Iran Javad Zarif about the need to de-escalate tensions following weeks of regional conflict.¹²⁸⁰ Di Maio expressed that de-escalation in the region required all parties to commitment to dialogue and political negotiation.¹²⁸¹

¹²⁷³ Italy to ban flights by Iran's Mahan Air from mid-December, Reuters (Dubai) 2 November 2019. Access Date: 30 November 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-iran-sanctions-italy/italy-to-ban-flights-by-irans-mahan-air-from-mid-december-idUSKBN1XC0FV>.

¹²⁷⁴ Italy to ban flights by Iran's Mahan Air from mid-December, Reuters (Dubai) 2 November 2019. Access Date: 30 November 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-iran-sanctions-italy/italy-to-ban-flights-by-irans-mahan-air-from-mid-december-idUSKBN1XC0FV>.

¹²⁷⁵ November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Ambasciata d'Italia Teheran (Tehran) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 30 November 2019. https://ambteheran.esteri.it/ambasciata_teheran/it/ambasciata/news/news/2019/11/november-25-international-day-for.html.

¹²⁷⁶ November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Ambasciata d'Italia Teheran (Tehran) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 30 November 2019. https://ambteheran.esteri.it/ambasciata_teheran/it/ambasciata/news/news/2019/11/november-25-international-day-for.html.

¹²⁷⁷ November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Ambasciata d'Italia Teheran (Tehran) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 30 November 2019. https://ambteheran.esteri.it/ambasciata_teheran/it/ambasciata/news/news/2019/11/november-25-international-day-for.html.

¹²⁷⁸ Latest developments in Iraq: attacks on US bases by Iran, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 8 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/ultimi-sviluppi-in-iraq-attacchi-a-basi-usa-da-parte-dell-iran.html.

¹²⁷⁹ Latest developments in Iraq: attacks on US bases by Iran, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 8 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/ultimi-sviluppi-in-iraq-attacchi-a-basi-usa-da-parte-dell-iran.html.

¹²⁸⁰ Minister Di Maio holds talks with the Iranian Foreign Minister, Javad Zarif, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/01/colloquio-del-ministro-di-maio-con-il-ministro-degli-esteri-iraniano-javad-zarif.html.

¹²⁸¹ Minister Di Maio holds talks with the Iranian Foreign Minister, Javad Zarif, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/01/colloquio-del-ministro-di-maio-con-il-ministro-degli-esteri-iraniano-javad-zarif.html.

On 25 March 2020, Italy participated in a G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting by videoconference to discuss COVID-19 pandemic, persecution of Rohingya people by Myanmar, and included broader discussions focused on G7 commitments in Iran and Syria.¹²⁸²

On 2 April 2020, Italy participated in a virtual meeting of foreign ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which discussed NATO's ongoing commitment to training Iraqi security forces and stabilizing the country.¹²⁸³ NATO reasserted its commitment to protecting Iraqi sovereignty against Daesh.¹²⁸⁴

On 28 July 2020, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Marina Sereni held a virtual meeting with Secretary-General of the Oman Foreign Ministry Sayyid Badr Al Busaidi in which they discussed the conflict in Yemen and Iranian involvement.¹²⁸⁵ Sereni expressed concern over Iran's support of non-state actors, its transfer of missile technology, and its human rights abuses. Sereni stressed the importance of continued dialogue with Iranian authorities.¹²⁸⁶

Through its anti-terrorist measures and its condemnation of Iranian human rights violations and military actions, Italy has fully complied with its commitment to promote peace and stability in the region.

Thus, Italy has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Matthew Remedios

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its Iran commitment to promote peace and stability in the region.

On 30 August 2019, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stated his desire to promote peace and stability in the Middle East, stating, "peace and stability in the Middle East directly links to Japan's national interest ... I would like to work tenaciously and play the best possible role to ease tensions in the Middle East."¹²⁸⁷

On 5 September 2019, Japan launched talks with the Arab League and the United Nations Development Programme with the goal of promoting sustainable development in crisis- and war-

¹²⁸² Readout: Minister Champagne Participates in G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/200325-champagne.html>.

¹²⁸³ Solidarity of the Alliance members in times of crisis: virtual NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/internationale-organisationen/uebersicht-node-nato/-/2331226>.

¹²⁸⁴ Solidarity of the Alliance members in times of crisis: virtual NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/internationale-organisationen/uebersicht-node-nato/-/2331226>.

¹²⁸⁵ Video interview of Vice Minister Sereni with Oman's Secretary-General of Foreign Affairs Al Busaidi. Dialogue on Iran, Yemen, and Libya, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 28 July 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/video-colloquio-sereni-con-segretario-generale-degli-esteri-dell-oman-al-busaidi-dialogo-su-iran-yemen-e-libia.html.

¹²⁸⁶ Video interview of Vice Minister Sereni with Oman's Secretary-General of Foreign Affairs Al Busaidi. Dialogue on Iran, Yemen, and Libya, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 28 July 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/video-colloquio-sereni-con-segretario-generale-degli-esteri-dell-oman-al-busaidi-dialogo-su-iran-yemen-e-libia.html.

¹²⁸⁷ Japan PM: Aiming to Do Everything Possible to Ease Mideast Tension, Reuters (Tokyo) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-japan-iran/japan-pm-aiming-to-do-everything-possible-to-ease-middle-east-tension-idUSKCN1VK0IY>.

torn parts of the region.¹²⁸⁸ Japanese Ambassador to Cairo Masaaki Nuki “expressed delight for launching the platform as a significant contributor to building peace and stability so that the region could flourish.”¹²⁸⁹

On 15 September 2019, the Japanese Foreign Ministry issued a statement condemning the 14 September 2019 Houthi rebel drone attacks on Saudi Aramco oil facilities, saying it would engage to ensure peace and stability in the Middle East.¹²⁹⁰

On 16 September 2019, Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Toshiimitsu Motegi and United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo agreed to cooperate on a number of foreign policy issues including peace and stability in the Middle East, discussing “the need for all nations to ensure safe transit for all through the Strait of Hormuz.”¹²⁹¹

On 18 September 2019, Japanese Defense Minister Taro Kono said Japan had not seen intelligence pointing to Iranian involvement in the 14 September Houthi rebel drone attacks.¹²⁹² Japan also restated that they could not participate in any military retaliation because of constitutional restraints and would instead pursue a diplomatic solution to the current crisis.¹²⁹³

On 23 September 2019, Minister Motegi met with his Iranian counterpart and, in light of Houthi attacks on Saudi oil facilities, the two “candidly exchanged their views, towards relieving tensions and stabilizing the situation in the Middle East.”¹²⁹⁴ Minister Motegi also expressed concern over Iran’s successive suspension of commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and strongly urged Iran to refrain from taking measures that would undermine the JCPOA.¹²⁹⁵

On 24 September 2019, Prime Minister Abe met with Iranian Prime Minister Hassan Rouhani and “asked Iran to play a constructive role toward regional peace and stability and expressed Japan’s intention to fulfill a role in easing tensions and stabilizing the situation.¹²⁹⁶ The two leaders exchanged views candidly toward easing tensions and stabilizing the situation in the Middle East.”¹²⁹⁷

¹²⁸⁸ Arab League Launches Dialogue with Japan, UNDP, Asharq Al-Awsat (Cairo) 6 September 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/1889906/arab-league-launches-dialogue-japan-undp>.

¹²⁸⁹ Arab League Launches Dialogue with Japan, UNDP, Asharq Al-Awsat (Cairo) 6 September 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/1889906/arab-league-launches-dialogue-japan-undp>.

¹²⁹⁰ Saudi Oil Shock Unites China, Japan and Other Asian Rivals Worried about War, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 17 September 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/09/17/asia-pacific/saudi-oil-shock-unites-china-japan-asian-rivals-worried-war/#.Xe9JPuhKjIU>.

¹²⁹¹ Japan and U.S. Top Envoys Vow to Cooperate on North Korea and Middle East, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 17 September 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/09/17/national/politics-diplomacy/japan-us-envoys-north-korea-middle-east/#.Xe9JQehKjIU>.

¹²⁹² Japanese Defense Minister: Not Aware of Any Iran Involvement in Saudi Attacks, Al Jazeera (Tokyo) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-saudi-aramco-attacks-japan/japan-defense-minister-not-aware-of-any-iran-involvement-in-saudi-attacks-idUSKBN1W30KV>.

¹²⁹³ Japanese Defense Minister: Not Aware of Any Iran Involvement in Saudi Attacks, Al Jazeera (Tokyo) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-saudi-aramco-attacks-japan/japan-defense-minister-not-aware-of-any-iran-involvement-in-saudi-attacks-idUSKBN1W30KV>.

¹²⁹⁴ Japan-Iran Foreign Ministers Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (New York) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/me_a/me2/ir/page6e_000214.html.

¹²⁹⁵ Japan-Iran Foreign Ministers Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (New York) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/me_a/me2/ir/page6e_000214.html.

¹²⁹⁶ Japan-Iran Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (New York) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/me_a/me2/ir/page3e_001109.html.

¹²⁹⁷ Japan-Iran Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (New York) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/me_a/me2/ir/page3e_001109.html.

On 25 September 2019, Prime Minister Abe told United States President Donald Trump on the sidelines of United Nations meetings, “it is difficult to think” Houthi rebels carried out the attacks on Saudi oil facilities without help.¹²⁹⁸ However, he did not officially link Iran with the attacks.¹²⁹⁹

On 24 October 2019, Prime Minister Abe made a courtesy call with Vice President for Legal Affairs for Iran Laya Joneydi to reaffirm his commitment to peace and stability in the region.¹³⁰⁰ Prime Minister Abe stated that Japan will continue to make persistent diplomatic efforts.¹³⁰¹

On 22 November 2019, Japanese Ambassador to the United Nations Koro Bessho voted in favor of United Nations Resolution A/74/L.13 (“The Situation in Afghanistan”), aimed at promoting peace, stability, and development in Afghanistan.¹³⁰²

On 20 December 2019, Prime Minister Abe hosted President Rouhani and stated he “strongly expect[s]” Iran will “play a constructive role for peace and security in the region.”¹³⁰³ Additionally, Prime Minister Abe urged Iran to honour the JCPOA and expressed concerns about rising tensions in the region.¹³⁰⁴

On 12 January 2020, Prime Minister Abe visited Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Oman, where he explained the purpose of dispatching the Self-Defense forces to Saudi Arabia and the UAE.¹³⁰⁵ He expressed support for Iran’s proposed Hormuz Peace Endeavor, which hopes to reduce tensions in the region between Iran and Saudi Arabia and the UAE.¹³⁰⁶ The Prime Minister affirmed his commitment to regional stability following the killing of General Qassem Soleimani, commander of IRGC’s Quds Force.¹³⁰⁷

¹²⁹⁸ Abe Shifts Stance on Saudi Oil Attacks as He and Trump Affirm Cooperation on Middle East, The Japan Times (New York) 26 September 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/09/26/national/politics-diplomacy/abe-shifts-stance-saudi-oil-attack-trump-affirm-cooperation-middle-east/#.XfANuehKjIU>.

¹²⁹⁹ Abe Shifts Stance on Saudi Oil Attacks as He and Trump Affirm Cooperation on Middle East, The Japan Times (New York) 26 September 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/09/26/national/politics-diplomacy/abe-shifts-stance-saudi-oil-attack-trump-affirm-cooperation-middle-east/#.XfANuehKjIU>.

¹³⁰⁰ Courtesy Call on Prime Minister Shinzo Abe by Joneydi of Vice-President for Legal Affairs of Iran, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 24 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/me_a/me2/ir/page4e_001144.html.

¹³⁰¹ Courtesy Call on Prime Minister Shinzo Abe by Joneydi of Vice-President for Legal Affairs of Iran, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 24 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/me_a/me2/ir/page4e_001144.html.

¹³⁰² The Situation in Afghanistan, United Nations (New York) 22 November 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019.

<https://undocs.org/en/A/74/L.13>.

¹³⁰³ Iran’s Rouhani Visits Japan Amid Nuclear Deal Impasse, Al Jazeera (Tokyo) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/12/iran-rouhani-visits-japan-nuclear-deal-impasse-191220153826601.html>.

¹³⁰⁴ Iran’s Rouhani Visits Japan Amid Nuclear Deal Impasse, Al Jazeera (Tokyo) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/12/iran-rouhani-visits-japan-nuclear-deal-impasse-191220153826601.html>.

¹³⁰⁵ The US-Iran Crisis and Japan’s Response, The Diplomat (Tokyo) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020.

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/01/the-u-s-iran-crisis-and-japans-response/>.

¹³⁰⁶ The US-Iran Crisis and Japan’s Response, The Diplomat (Tokyo) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020.

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/01/the-u-s-iran-crisis-and-japans-response/>.

¹³⁰⁷ The US-Iran Crisis and Japan’s Response, The Diplomat (Tokyo) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020.

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/01/the-u-s-iran-crisis-and-japans-response/>.

On 15 February 2020, Minister Motegi met with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.¹³⁰⁸ Japan reaffirmed its commitment to peace and stability in the Middle East and urged Iran “exercise self-restraint” and influence all relevant parties refrain from heightening tensions in the region.¹³⁰⁹

On 25 March 2020, Minister Motegi attended a videoconference with other G7 foreign ministers where they reaffirmed their commitment to peace and stability in Afghanistan, Iran, Libya, and Syria.¹³¹⁰

On 2 April 2020, Japanese Press Secretary Masato Ohtaka released a press statement condemning an attack on Saudi Arabia by Yemen as reported by Saudi Arabia on 29 March 2020. Secretary Ohtaka reaffirmed Japan’s commitment to peace and stability in the Middle East.¹³¹¹ Secretary Ohtaka called for all legitimate government and anti-government forces to come to an early political solution in Yemen.¹³¹²

Japan has affirmed its commitment to peace and stability in the Middle East through diplomatic efforts but has not held Iran accountable for its destabilizing efforts in the region nor demanded Iran respect the human rights of its citizens. Japan has also failed to demonstrate specific-anti-terrorism commitments. Therefore, Japan has met some, but not all, of its G7 commitments to uphold peace and stability in the region.

Thus, Japan has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Rachel Zack

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to promote peace and stability throughout the region by combatting terrorism and promoting human rights.

On 23 September 2019, Prime Minister Boris Johnson released a statement with the heads of state of France and Germany, condemning the Iranian attacks on oil facilities on Saudi territory in Abqaiq and Khurais.¹³¹³ The statement reiterates the United Kingdom’s commitment to create conditions and facilitate dialogue to condemn state sponsored attacks and de-escalate tension in the Middle East.¹³¹⁴

On 25 September 2019, the UK Minister of State for the Commonwealth, United Nations and South Asia Lord Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon, raised concerned over Iran’s human rights record at a United

¹³⁰⁸ Japan-Iran Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 15 February 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/me_a/me2/ir/pagee3_000001_00003.html.

¹³⁰⁹ Japan-Iran Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 15 February 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/me_a/me2/ir/pagee3_000001_00003.html.

¹³¹⁰ G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000215.html.

¹³¹¹ The Attack on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002788.html.

¹³¹² The Attack on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002788.html.

¹³¹³ Joint statement by the heads of state and government of France, Germany and the United Kingdom, GOV.UK (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 21 November 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-by-the-heads-of-state-and-government-of-france-germany-and-the-united-kingdom>.

¹³¹⁴ Joint statement by the heads of state and government of France, Germany and the United Kingdom, GOV.UK (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 21 November 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-by-the-heads-of-state-and-government-of-france-germany-and-the-united-kingdom>.

Nations General Assembly 2019 event.¹³¹⁵ The minister opened the event by saying Iran's recent behaviour moves in the wrong direction in terms of international cooperation, human rights and its commitments to the nuclear deal.¹³¹⁶ Lord Ahmad urged the international community to hold Iran accountable.¹³¹⁷

On 25 September 2019, the First Secretary of State and Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Dominic Raab spoke in the House of Commons about Iran's violation of international law.¹³¹⁸ Raab expressed concern over Iran support for the Houthi rebels in Yemen and Iran's "arbitrary detention of dual-nationals."¹³¹⁹

On 7 November 2019, the UK supported International Maritime Security Construct was formally inaugurated to "supplement longstanding multilateral Gulf naval operations that have targeted smuggling, piracy, the movement of terrorists and weaponry, and other potential threats in the Gulf."¹³²⁰

On 8 November 2019, UK Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva Miriam Shearman expressed concern of Iran's discrimination against religious minorities, particularly the Baha'i and Christians as well as Iran's "arbitrary detention of citizens and dual nationals arrested on unclear charges."¹³²¹ Shearman recommends Iran demonstrate that "all detainees in prison are neither tortured nor subject to cruel or inhumane treatment or punishment" and granted due process.¹³²²

On 3 January 2020, Secretary Raab responded to US airstrike on Iranian military commander, Qasem Soleimani, in Iraq.¹³²³ In the statement, the foreign secretary stated that the UK has always recognized the aggressive threat posed by the Iranian Quds force led by Soleimani. The statement urged all parties to de-escalate the situation.¹³²⁴

¹³¹⁵ UK shines light on Iran's human rights violations, GOV.UK (London) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 21 November 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-shines-spotlight-on-irans-human-rights-violations>.

¹³¹⁶ UK shines light on Iran's human rights violations, GOV.UK (London) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 21 November 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-shines-spotlight-on-irans-human-rights-violations>.

¹³¹⁷ UK shines light on Iran's human rights violations, GOV.UK (London) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 21 November 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-shines-spotlight-on-irans-human-rights-violations>.

¹³¹⁸ Iran's violations of international law: Foreign Secretary's statement, GOV.UK (London) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/foreign-secretary-statement-on-iran>.

¹³¹⁹ Iran's violations of international law: Foreign Secretary's statement, GOV.UK (London) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/foreign-secretary-statement-on-iran>.

¹³²⁰ U.S.-Iran Tensions and Implications for U.S. Policy, Congressional Research Service (Washington D.C.) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019 <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/R45795.pdf>.

¹³²¹ 34th Universal Periodic Review: UK statement on Islamic Republic of Iran, GOV.UK (Geneva) 8 November 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/34th-universal-periodic-review-uk-statement-on-islamic-republic-of-iran>.

¹³²² 34th Universal Periodic Review: UK statement on Islamic Republic of Iran, GOV.UK (Geneva) 8 November 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/34th-universal-periodic-review-uk-statement-on-islamic-republic-of-iran>.

¹³²³ Iran: UK responds to US airstrike on military commander in Iraq, GOV.UK (London) 3 January 2020. Access Date: 4 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/iran-uk-responds-to-us-airstrike-on-military-commander-in-iraq>.

¹³²⁴ Iran: UK responds to US airstrike on military commander in Iraq, GOV.UK (London) 3 January 2020. Access Date: 4 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/iran-uk-responds-to-us-airstrike-on-military-commander-in-iraq>.

On 6 January 2020, the United Kingdom, Germany, and France released a joint statement condemning Iran's involvement in the attacks on Iraqi coalition holdings.¹³²⁵ The statement called for Iran "to refrain from further violent action."¹³²⁶

On 8 January 2020, Secretary Raab called for de-escalation following an Iranian attack on Iraqi military bases hosting coalition forces.¹³²⁷ Secretary Raab urged Iran to not repeat attacks that benefit terrorist organizations in the region.¹³²⁸

On 11 January 2020, Secretary Raab condemned the brief detention of the British Ambassador to Iran Rob Macaire without grounds as "flagrant violation of international law."¹³²⁹ The statement calls for Iran to take steps to deescalate tensions and engage in diplomatic paths forward.¹³³⁰

On 13 January 2020, the Minister of the Middle East Andrew Murrison summoned Iran Ambassador Hamid Baeidinejad to the Foreign Office.¹³³¹ Minister Murrison demanded an apology and seek full assurance that the temporary detention of the British Ambassador to Iran Rob Macaire will not happen again.¹³³²

On 13 January 2020, Secretary Raab addressed the House of Commons about the government's response to the security situation in Iran, urging diplomacy and peace with the Iranian authorities.¹³³³

On 25 February 2020, the UK Minister of State for the Commonwealth, United Nations and South Asia Lord Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon addressed 43rd Session of the UN Human Rights Council condemning Iranian authorities' crackdown on protesters in November 2019.¹³³⁴ Lord Ahmad urged the Iranian authorities to release those detained and to respect freedom of expression, religion, or belief.¹³³⁵

¹³²⁵ Joint statement from President Macron, Chancellor Merkel and Prime Minister Johnson on the situation in Iraq, GOV.UK (London) 6 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-from-president-macron-chancellor-merkel-and-prime-minister-johnson-on-the-situation-in-iraq>.

¹³²⁶ Joint statement from President Macron, Chancellor Merkel and Prime Minister Johnson on the situation in Iraq, GOV.UK (London) 6 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-from-president-macron-chancellor-merkel-and-prime-minister-johnson-on-the-situation-in-iraq>.

¹³²⁷ Attack on Iraqi military bases: Foreign Secretary's statement, GOV.UK (London) 8 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-statement-on-attack-on-iraqi-military-bases>.

¹³²⁸ Attack on Iraqi military bases: Foreign Secretary's statement, GOV.UK (London) 8 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-statement-on-attack-on-iraqi-military-bases>.

¹³²⁹ Arrest of Ambassador to Iran: Foreign Secretary Statement, GOV.UK (London) 11 January 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/arrest-of-ambassador-to-iran-foreign-secretary-statement>.

¹³³⁰ Arrest of Ambassador to Iran: Foreign Secretary Statement, GOV.UK (London) 11 January 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/arrest-of-ambassador-to-iran-foreign-secretary-statement>.

¹³³¹ Iran: Foreign Secretary's Common statement, 13 January 2020, GOV.UK (London) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/iran-foreign-secretarys-commons-statement-13-january-2020>.

¹³³² Iran: Foreign Secretary's Common statement, 13 January 2020, GOV.UK (London) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/iran-foreign-secretarys-commons-statement-13-january-2020>.

¹³³³ Iran: Foreign Secretary's Common statement, 13 January 2020, GOV.UK (London) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/iran-foreign-secretarys-commons-statement-13-january-2020>.

¹³³⁴ Lord Ahmad addresses 43rd Session of the UN Human Rights Council, GOV.UK (London) 25 February 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/lord-ahmad-addresses-43rd-session-of-the-un-human-rights-council>.

¹³³⁵ Lord Ahmad addresses 43rd Session of the UN Human Rights Council, GOV.UK (London) 25 February 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/lord-ahmad-addresses-43rd-session-of-the-un-human-rights-council>.

On 12 March 2020, the UK made a statement welcoming the adoption of the Universal Periodic Review by the Islamic Republic of Iran at the 43rd session of the Human Rights Council.¹³³⁶ The UK welcomed the temporary release of detainees following the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak and reasserted its pledge to help Iran combat the outbreak.¹³³⁷ The UK encouraged Iran to engage fully with the international community on their accepted recommendations and implement them fully.¹³³⁸ The UK made the following recommendations: “demonstrate detainees are not tortured or subject to cruel or inhumane treatment or punishment; allow an impartial trial process, so defendants and lawyers have access to charges and evidence; and investigate sexual exploitation of children and develop a protection plan.” While Iran did not support any of UK’s three recommendations, the UK stated its willingness to discuss these recommendations with Iran.¹³³⁹

On 15 March 2020, the United Kingdom, along with France, Germany and the United States, issued a joint statement on the ninth anniversary of the Syria uprising.¹³⁴⁰ The statement calls out violations in international humanitarian law and continued violence by “the reckless military offensive by Assad, Russia, and Iran in Idlib” and states that they will demand accountability for the atrocities committed by the Assad regime.¹³⁴¹

On 17 March 2020, Secretary Raab made a statement, following the temporary release of British-Iranian dual national Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, urging Iran to release all UK dual nationals arbitrarily detained in Iran, and enable them to return to their families in the UK.¹³⁴²

On 25 March 2020, the UK participated in a G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting by videoconference which included discussions focused on G7 commitments in Iran and Syria.¹³⁴³

On 2 April 2020, the UK participated in a virtual meeting of foreign ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which discussed NATO’s ongoing commitment to training Iraqi security forces, fostering political progress, and stabilizing the country.¹³⁴⁴

¹³³⁶ UN Human Rights Council 43: Universal Periodic Review Adoption of Iran, GOV.UK(Geneva) 12 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/un-human-rights-council-43-universal-periodic-review-adoption-of-iran>.

¹³³⁷ UN Human Rights Council 43: Universal Periodic Review Adoption of Iran, GOV.UK(Geneva) 12 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/un-human-rights-council-43-universal-periodic-review-adoption-of-iran>.

¹³³⁸ UN Human Rights Council 43: Universal Periodic Review Adoption of Iran, GOV.UK(Geneva) 12 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/un-human-rights-council-43-universal-periodic-review-adoption-of-iran>.

¹³³⁹ UN Human Rights Council 43: Universal Periodic Review Adoption of Iran, GOV.UK(Geneva) 12 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/un-human-rights-council-43-universal-periodic-review-adoption-of-iran>.

¹³⁴⁰ Ninth anniversary of the Syrian Uprising: joint statement, GOV.UK(London) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-on-the-ninth-anniversary-of-the-syrian-uprising>.

¹³⁴¹ Ninth anniversary of the Syrian Uprising: joint statement, GOV.UK(London) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-on-the-ninth-anniversary-of-the-syrian-uprising>.

¹³⁴² Temporary release of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe: Foreign Secretary statement, GOV.UK(London) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/temporary-release-of-nazanin-zaghari-ratcliffe-foreign-secretary-statement>.

¹³⁴³ Readout: Minister Champagne Participates in G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/200325-champagne.html>.

¹³⁴⁴ Solidarity of the Alliance members in times of crisis: virtual NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/internationale-organisationen/uebersicht-node-nato/-/2331226>.

On 9 April 2020, the UK updated its list of financial sanctions targets in the UK for human rights violations in Iran. There are 82 individuals and one entity on the list, and they are subjected to asset freeze.¹³⁴⁵

On 19 June 2020, Secretary Raab discussed Iran's destabilizing activities in the Middle East with German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas and French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian.¹³⁴⁶ The discussion focused on finding diplomatic solutions to de-escalate tensions and holding Iran accountable for its destabilizing activities.¹³⁴⁷

The UK has fully complied with its commitment to combat terrorism and promote human rights in Iran and throughout the region by condemning Iranian human rights violations and Iranian military operations in the region.

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

Analysts: Chen Ou Yang

United States: +1

The United States of America has fully complied with its commitment to promote peace and stability throughout the region by combatting terrorism and promoting human rights.

On 8 April 2019, the Trump administration designated the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.¹³⁴⁸ The designation states that the IRGC supports terrorist groups through “financial and other material support, training, technology transfer, advanced conventional weapons, guidance, or direction.”¹³⁴⁹

On 4 September 2019, the State Department Special Representative for Iran and Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State Brian Hook stated the United States would “offer up to 15 million to any person who helps the United States disrupt the financial operations of the IRGC and its Quds Force – the IRGC unit that assists Iran-linked forces and factions in the region.”¹³⁵⁰

On 10 September 2019, the Trump administration amended Executive Order 13324 to authorize the barring of foreign banks that have supported international terrorism from accessing the US financial system.¹³⁵¹ US sanctions focus largely on trying to persuade Iran to agree to limits to its nuclear program.¹³⁵²

¹³⁴⁵ Consolidated list of financial sanctions targets in the UK, GOV.UK(London) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878954/iran__human_rights_.pdf.

¹³⁴⁶ European foreign ministers meet to discuss Iran, GOV.UK (London) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/european-foreign-ministers-meet-to-discuss-iran>.

¹³⁴⁷ European foreign ministers meet to discuss Iran, GOV.UK (London) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/european-foreign-ministers-meet-to-discuss-iran>.

¹³⁴⁸ U.S.-Iran Tensions and Implications for U.S. Policy, Congressional Research Service (Washington D.C.) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019 <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/R45795.pdf>.

¹³⁴⁹ U.S.-Iran Tensions and Implications for U.S. Policy, Congressional Research Service (Washington D.C.) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019 <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/R45795.pdf>.

¹³⁵⁰ U.S.-Iran Tensions and Implications for U.S. Policy, Congressional Research Service (Washington D.C.) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019 <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/R45795.pdf>.

¹³⁵¹ Iran Sanctions, Congressional Research Service (Washington D.C.) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/RS/RS20871>.

¹³⁵² Iran Sanctions, Congressional Research Service (Washington D.C.) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/RS/RS20871>.

On 18 September 2019, Secretary of State Michael Pompeo met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to discuss the 14 September attack on the Saudi oil facilities and discuss policies to counter Iranian aggression in the region.¹³⁵³

On 20 September 2019, the Trump administration established additional sanctions on Iran's Central Bank and an Iranian sovereign fund, the National Development Fund of Iran.¹³⁵⁴ The sanctions were imposed by designating Iran's Central Bank as a terrorism supporting entity under Executive Order 13224.¹³⁵⁵ Also sanctioned was an Iranian sovereign wealth fund, the National Development Fund of Iran.¹³⁵⁶

On 25 October 2019, the US Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network barred the "U.S. financial system from any transactions with Iranian banks or foreign banks acting on behalf of Iranian banks."¹³⁵⁷ This was based on based on a determination that Iran's financial system, including the Central Bank, constitutes a threat to governments or financial institutions that do business with Iran's banks¹³⁵⁸

On 30 October 2019, Secretary Pompeo expressed support for the Financial Action Task Force's "re-imposition of additional countermeasures on Iran for its failure to uphold international anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism standards."¹³⁵⁹ Pompeo stated that Iran has deliberately ensured there is no transparency in its economy so it can continue to export terrorism.¹³⁶⁰

On 4 November 2019, the US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control sanctioned Iran's Armed Forces General Staff and nine individuals who were involved with Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's oppression of Iranian people and export of terrorism.¹³⁶¹ Secretary of the Treasury Steven T. Mnuchin indicated that "this action further constricts the Supreme Leader's ability to execute his agenda of terror and oppression."¹³⁶²

¹³⁵³ Pompeo to discuss efforts versus Iran with Saudi crown prince, Reuters (Dubai) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-saudi-aramco-usa-pompeo/pompeo-to-discuss-efforts-versus-iran-with-saudi-crown-prince-idUSKBN1W31AG>.

¹³⁵⁴ U.S.-Iran Tensions and Implications for U.S. Policy, Congressional Research Service (Washington D.C.) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019 <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/R45795.pdf>.

¹³⁵⁵ U.S.-Iran Tensions and Implications for U.S. Policy, Congressional Research Service (Washington D.C.) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019 <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/R45795.pdf>.

¹³⁵⁶ U.S.-Iran Tensions and Implications for U.S. Policy, Congressional Research Service (Washington D.C.) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019 <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/R45795.pdf>.

¹³⁵⁷ Iran Sanctions, Congressional Research Service (Washington D.C.) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/RS/RS20871>.

¹³⁵⁸ Iran Sanctions, Congressional Research Service (Washington D.C.) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/RS/RS20871>.

¹³⁵⁹ U.S. Welcomes FATF Measures To Protect International Financial System From Iranian Threats, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 30 October 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-welcomes-fatf-measures-to-protect-international-financial-system-from-iranian-threats/>.

¹³⁶⁰ U.S. Welcomes FATF Measures To Protect International Financial System From Iranian Threats, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 30 October 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-welcomes-fatf-measures-to-protect-international-financial-system-from-iranian-threats/>.

¹³⁶¹ Press Releases: Treasury Designates Supreme Leader of Iran's Inner Circle Responsible for Advancing Regime's Domestic and Foreign Oppression, U.S. Department of The Treasury (Washington D.C.) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 3 December 2019 <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm824>.

¹³⁶² Press Releases: Treasury Designates Supreme Leader of Iran's Inner Circle Responsible for Advancing Regime's Domestic and Foreign Oppression, U.S. Department of The Treasury (Washington D.C.) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 3 December 2019. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm824>.

On 7 November 2019, the US led International Maritime Security Construct was formally inaugurated to “supplement longstanding multilateral Gulf naval operations that have targeted smuggling, piracy, the movement of terrorists and weaponry, and other potential threats in the Gulf.”¹³⁶³

On 18 November 2019, Ambassador at Large and Coordinator for Counterterrorism Nathan A. Sales called for other countries to join the US in its efforts to exert “maximum economic and diplomatic pressure to force Iran to abandon terrorism as a basic tool of statecraft.”¹³⁶⁴

On 22 November 2019, Secretary Pompeo announced sanctions against Iran’s Minister of Information and Communications Technology Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi for helping shutdown internet access for Iranians.¹³⁶⁵

On 5 December 2019, Brian Hook condemned Iran’s imprisonment of protestors and political opposition as well as the “inhumane” treatment of prisoners in Iranian prisons.¹³⁶⁶

On 6 December 2019, the Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned three leaders of Iran-backed militias in Iraq.¹³⁶⁷ The OFAC states that these militias “opened fire on peaceful protests, killing dozens of innocent civilians.”¹³⁶⁸ Treasury Secretary Mnuchin affirmed US commitment to holding perpetrators of human rights abuse accountable.¹³⁶⁹

On 9 December 2019, the House of Representatives introduced H. RES. 752 to condemn restrictions on Iranian freedom of expression and Iranian authorities’ crackdown of legitimate protests.¹³⁷⁰ These restrictions included the continuing closures of media outlets, arrests of journalists, and the censorship of expression in online forums such as blogs and websites.¹³⁷¹

¹³⁶³ U.S.-Iran Tensions and Implications for U.S. Policy, Congressional Research Service (Washington D.C.) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/R45795.pdf>.

¹³⁶⁴ Press Briefing with Nathan A. Sales, Ambassador at Large and Coordinator for Counterterrorism, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.state.gov/briefing-with-nathan-a-sales-ambassador-at-large-and-coordinator-for-counterterrorism/>.

¹³⁶⁵ The United States Holds Iranian Officials Accountable for Crackdown on Protestors, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 22 November 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-holds-iranian-officials-accountable-for-crackdown-on-protestors/>.

¹³⁶⁶ Special Representative for Iran and Senior Advisor to the Secretary Brian Hook, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.state.gov/special-representative-for-iran-and-senior-advisor-to-the-secretary-brian-hook-3/>.

¹³⁶⁷ Treasury Sanctions Iran-Backed Militia Leaders Who Killed Innocent Demonstrators in Iraq, U.S. Department of The Treasury (Washington D.C.) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm847>.

¹³⁶⁸ Treasury Sanctions Iran-Backed Militia Leaders Who Killed Innocent Demonstrators in Iraq, U.S. Department of The Treasury (Washington D.C.) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm847>.

¹³⁶⁹ Treasury Sanctions Iran-Backed Militia Leaders Who Killed Innocent Demonstrators in Iraq, U.S. Department of The Treasury (Washington D.C.) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm847>.

¹³⁷⁰ H.Res.752 - Supporting the rights of the people of Iran to free expression, condemning the Iranian regime for its crackdown on legitimate protests, and for other purposes, Congress.gov (Washington D.C.) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/752/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22iran%22%5D%7D&r=12&s=4>.

¹³⁷¹ H.Res.752 - Supporting the rights of the people of Iran to free expression, condemning the Iranian regime for its crackdown on legitimate protests, and for other purposes, Congress.gov (Washington D.C.) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/752/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22iran%22%5D%7D&r=12&s=4>.

On 11 December 2019, the United States sanctioned eight entities that helped smuggle weapons from Iran to Yemen.¹³⁷² The designations aimed to serve as a warning that doing business with these entities risked contributing to Iran's proliferation-sensitive programs, including its nuclear and missile programs.¹³⁷³

On 19 December 2019, Secretary Pompeo mentioned new actions that are being made in support of the Iranian people.¹³⁷⁴ He stated that Iran has been re-designated as a Country of Particular Concern under the International Religious Freedom Act and the US Department of the Treasury will sanction two Iranian judges: Mohammad Moghisseh, and Abolghassem Salavati for being "responsible for or complicit in the abuse, detention, or killing of peaceful protesters, or for inhibiting their rights to freedom of expression or assembly."¹³⁷⁵

On 19 December 2019, Secretary Pompeo condemned Iranian human rights violations in his speech.¹³⁷⁶ Pompeo urged the Government of Iran to uphold commitments under the Iranian Constitution and international human rights law.¹³⁷⁷

On 19 December 2019, the Ambassador At Large For International Religious Freedom Office of International Religious Freedom Samuel D. Brownback called for Iran to stop the practice of arresting leading Christian figures during Christmas and to uphold religious freedom enshrined in the Iranian Constitution.¹³⁷⁸

On 2 January 2020, the United States carried out an airstrike in Iraq that killed Iranian IRGC's Quds Force commander Qassem Soleimani.¹³⁷⁹ Iranian leadership and several affiliated violent extremist organizations publicly expressed their intent to retaliate against the US.¹³⁸⁰

On 10 January 2020, the OFAC targeted Iranian destabilization efforts in the region by designating eight senior Iranian officials and the Iranian metals sector for advancing the regime's destabilization efforts.¹³⁸¹

¹³⁷² United States Designates Key Iranian Shipping and Aviation Entities, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.state.gov/united-states-designates-key-iranian-shipping-and-aviation-entities/>.

¹³⁷³ United States Designates Key Iranian Shipping and Aviation Entities, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.state.gov/united-states-designates-key-iranian-shipping-and-aviation-entities/>.

¹³⁷⁴ Human Rights and the Iranian Regime, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.state.gov/human-rights-and-the-iranian-regime/>.

¹³⁷⁵ Human Rights and the Iranian Regime, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.state.gov/human-rights-and-the-iranian-regime/>.

¹³⁷⁶ Human Rights and the Iranian Regime, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.state.gov/human-rights-and-the-iranian-regime/>.

¹³⁷⁷ Human Rights and the Iranian Regime, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.state.gov/human-rights-and-the-iranian-regime/>.

¹³⁷⁸ Human Rights and Religious Freedom in Iran, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.state.gov/human-rights-and-religious-freedom-in-iran/>.

¹³⁷⁹ Summary of Terrorism Threat to The U.S. Homeland, National Terrorism Advisory System (Washington D.C.) 4 January 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2020. https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/ntas/alerts/20_0104_ntas_bulletin.pdf.

¹³⁸⁰ Summary of Terrorism Threat to The U.S. Homeland, National Terrorism Advisory System (Washington D.C.) 4 January 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2020. https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/ntas/alerts/20_0104_ntas_bulletin.pdf.

¹³⁸¹ Treasury Targets Iran's Billion Dollar Metals Industry and Senior Regime Officials, U.S. Department of The Treasury (Washington D.C.) 10 January 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2020. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm870>.

On 10 January 2020, the Trump administration issued Executive Order 13902 that targets additional sources of revenue used by the Iranian regime to support its nuclear program, missile development, and terrorism.¹³⁸² It authorized the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of State to impose sanctions against individuals sponsoring global terrorism.¹³⁸³

On 18 January 2020, the Department of State designated IRGC Brigadier General Shahvarpour for his involvement in human rights violations against Iranians who protested against the Iranian regime.¹³⁸⁴ This designation makes Brigadier General Shahvarpour ineligible for entry into the United States.¹³⁸⁵

On 23 January 2020, the OFAC took further actions against petrochemical and petroleum companies who are major sources of revenue for the Iranian regime and its destabilizing efforts throughout the Middle East.¹³⁸⁶ Treasury Secretary Mnuchin stated that petrochemical and metal sectors fund and enable Iran's persistent use of violence and global terrorism.¹³⁸⁷

On 27 January 2020, Secretary Pompeo condemned large-scale assaults on the people of Idlib and western Aleppo provinces in Syria by combined forces of Russia, the Iranian regime, Hizballah, and the Assad regime.¹³⁸⁸

On 21 February 2020, Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing Marshall Billingslea applauded the Financial Action Task Force's condemnation of Iran's failure to implement basic controls to counter illicit finance.¹³⁸⁹ Billingslea urged other countries to help prevent Iran from using the international financial system for illicit purposes.¹³⁹⁰

On 26 February 2020, Secretary Pompeo designated Iran-backed militia in Iraq Ahmad al-Hamidawi as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist.¹³⁹¹

¹³⁸² Treasury Targets Iran's Billion Dollar Metals Industry and Senior Regime Officials, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 10 January 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2020. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm870>.

¹³⁸³ Treasury Targets Iran's Billion Dollar Metals Industry and Senior Regime Officials, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 10 January 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2020. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm870>.

¹³⁸⁴ Designation of IRGC Commander Shahvarpour for Gross Human Rights Violations During Protests, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 18 January 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2020. <https://www.state.gov/designation-of-irgc-commander-shahvarpour-for-gross-human-rights-violations-during-protests/>.

¹³⁸⁵ Designation of IRGC Commander Shahvarpour for Gross Human Rights Violations During Protests, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 18 January 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2020. <https://www.state.gov/designation-of-irgc-commander-shahvarpour-for-gross-human-rights-violations-during-protests/>.

¹³⁸⁶ Treasury Targets International Network Supporting Iran's Petrochemical and Petroleum Industries, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2020. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm885>.

¹³⁸⁷ Treasury Targets International Network Supporting Iran's Petrochemical and Petroleum Industries, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2020. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm885>.

¹³⁸⁸ Attacks on the People of Idlib, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.state.gov/attacks-on-the-people-of-idlib/>.

¹³⁸⁹ Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Calls for Countermeasures on Iran, Evaluates U.S. AML Framework, Releases Digital Identity Guidance, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Paris) 21 February 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm913>.

¹³⁹⁰ Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Calls for Countermeasures on Iran, Evaluates U.S. AML Framework, Releases Digital Identity Guidance, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Paris) 21 February 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm913>.

¹³⁹¹ This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-4/>.

On 10 March 2020, Secretary Pompeo reported that the COVID-19 has spread to Iranian prisons and commented on the human rights violation of the prison conditions.¹³⁹² Pompeo stated that “any nation considering to provide Iran with humanitarian assistance should seek reciprocal humanitarian gesture by the regime: release all wrongly detained foreign nationals.”¹³⁹³

On 12 March 2020, the United States struck an Iraqi militia group with ties to Iran.¹³⁹⁴ The US targeted Kataib Hezbollah that is believed to have been a part of the attack against Iraqi military bases hosting coalition forces.¹³⁹⁵

On 15 March 2020, the United States, along with France, the United Kingdom, and Germany, issued a joint statement on the ninth anniversary of the Syria uprising.¹³⁹⁶ The statement condemns violations in international humanitarian law and continued violence by “the reckless military offensive by Assad, Russia, and Iran in Idlib” and asserts that they will demand accountability for the atrocities committed by the Assad regime.¹³⁹⁷

On 18 March 2020, the Department of State imposed sanctions, pursuant to Executive Order 13846 on seven entities engaged in “the purchase, acquisition, sale, transport, or marketing of petrochemical products from Iran.”¹³⁹⁸ The sanctions are an effort to hinder Iranian capacity to conduct destabilizing activities in the region.¹³⁹⁹

On 25 March 2020, the United States participated in a G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting by videoconference which included discussions focused on G7 commitments in Iran and Syria.¹⁴⁰⁰

On 26 March 2020, Department of State spokesperson Morgan Ortagus announced 20 new designations for individuals and entities who have been known to provide financial support and lethal aid to the IRGC’s Quds Force.¹⁴⁰¹ Secretary Pompeo remarked that with new designations and sanctions the US continues to “hold the regime accountable for the malign activity through actions like banning Mahan Air and designating all of Hizballah and other Iran-backed terror groups as terrorist organizations.”¹⁴⁰²

¹³⁹² This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 13 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020 <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-5/>.

¹³⁹³ This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 13 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020 <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-5/>.

¹³⁹⁴ U.S. Carries Out Retaliatory Strikes on Iranian-Backed Militia in Iraq, The New York Times (New York) 12 March 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/12/world/middleeast/military-iran-iraq.html>.

¹³⁹⁵ U.S. Carries Out Retaliatory Strikes on Iranian-Backed Militia in Iraq, The New York Times (New York) 12 March 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/12/world/middleeast/military-iran-iraq.html>.

¹³⁹⁶ Ninth anniversary of the Syrian Uprising: joint statement, GOV.UK(London) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-on-the-ninth-anniversary-of-the-syrian-uprising>.

¹³⁹⁷ Ninth anniversary of the Syrian Uprising: joint statement, GOV.UK(London) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-on-the-ninth-anniversary-of-the-syrian-uprising>.

¹³⁹⁸ This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-6/>.

¹³⁹⁹ This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-6/>.

¹⁴⁰⁰ Readout: Minister Champagne Participates in G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/200325-champagne.html>.

¹⁴⁰¹ This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-7/>.

¹⁴⁰² This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-7/>.

On 2 April 2020, President Trump remarked that the US sanctions have not been interfering with Iran's access to medical aid.¹⁴⁰³ He affirmed that sanctions are intended to prevent funding of terrorism and not limit access to proper healthcare. Humanitarian channels have been established to ensure the Iranian people are able to cope with the growing health crisis.¹⁴⁰⁴

On 2 April 2020, the United States participated in a virtual meeting of foreign ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which discussed NATO's ongoing commitment to training Iraqi security forces and stabilizing the country.¹⁴⁰⁵

On 24 June 2020, Brian Hook virtually briefed the UN Security Council on a proposed resolution to extend the arms embargo on Iran that is set to expire on 18 October 2020.¹⁴⁰⁶ He briefed the Security Council on Iran's destabilizing activities in the region and urged Security Council members to extend the arms embargo.¹⁴⁰⁷

On 25 June 2020, the United States announced sanctions on nine companies connected to Iran's metal industry.¹⁴⁰⁸ According to the Department of State, Iran uses revenue from exporting metals to fund the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, a U.S.-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization.¹⁴⁰⁹ These sanctions blocks "the property and interests in property of these sanctioned entities and deny them access to the US financial system."¹⁴¹⁰

From 27 to 28 June 2020, Brian Hook traveled to the United Arab Emirates to discuss the extension of the UN arms embargo on Iran, set to expire on 18 October 2020.¹⁴¹¹ He updated Emirati officials on US diplomatic efforts to extend the embargo and discussed the risk of an arms race and escalating tensions in the region if the embargo is not renewed.¹⁴¹²

On 29 June 2020, Brian Hook traveled to Saudi Arabia and Bahrain to discuss the extension of the UN arms embargo on Iran.¹⁴¹³ He highlighted the importance of the embargo and committed to extending the embargo through diplomatic efforts.¹⁴¹⁴

¹⁴⁰³ Iran's Sanctions Relief Scam, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.state.gov/irans-sanctions-relief-scam/>.

¹⁴⁰⁴ Iran's Sanctions Relief Scam, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.state.gov/irans-sanctions-relief-scam/>.

¹⁴⁰⁵ Solidarity of the Alliance members in times of crisis: virtual NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/internationale-organisationen/uebersicht-node-nato-/2331226>.

¹⁴⁰⁶ This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-16/>.

¹⁴⁰⁷ This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-16/>.

¹⁴⁰⁸ This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-16/>.

¹⁴⁰⁹ This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-16/>.

¹⁴¹⁰ This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-16/>.

¹⁴¹¹ This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-17/>.

¹⁴¹² This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-17/>.

¹⁴¹³ This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-17/>.

¹⁴¹⁴ This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-17/>.

On 1 July 2020, Brian Hook traveled to Austria and Israel to discuss the expiration of the UN arms embargo on Iran.¹⁴¹⁵ The arms embargo acted as a tool to hinder Iran's destabilizing activities in the region and the United States is committed to extending the embargo to "deny Iran the resources it needs to fuel terrorism and fund proxies."¹⁴¹⁶

From 24 to 26 July 2020, Brian Hook traveled to Tunisia, Qatar, and Kuwait to discuss extending the UN arms embargo on Iran.¹⁴¹⁷ He requested support from each country to extend the UN arms embargo set to expire on 18 October 2020.¹⁴¹⁸ He discussed the potential regional arms race and escalation of Iran's destabilizing activities in the region when the arms embargo ends.¹⁴¹⁹

On 14 August 2020, the Department of Justice announced the seizure of over one million barrels of Iranian gasoline intended for Venezuela to prevent the proceeds from benefiting designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations such as Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.¹⁴²⁰

On 20 August 2020, Secretary Pompeo announced that the United States is restoring virtually all UN sanctions on Iran lifted under UN Security Council Resolution 2231.¹⁴²¹ He asserted that the United States would not permit Iran to "freely buy and sell planes, tanks, missiles, and other kinds of conventional weapons." Secretary Pompeo hopes this arms embargo will reimpose accountability on "the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism."

On 20 August 2020, the United States designated Parthia Cargo and Delta Parts, two companies based in the United Arab Emirates and Iranian national Amin Mahdavi for procuring parts for Mahan Air, an Iranian airline designated by the US as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist entity.¹⁴²² According to the Department of State, Mahan Air has a record of ferrying weapons and terrorists around the world for Iran and these designations aim to prevent entities or individuals from working with Mahan Air.¹⁴²³

On 21 August 2020, the Department of State announced visa restrictions on 14 Iranians for their involvement in human rights violations on behalf of the Government of Iran.¹⁴²⁴ These visa restrictions bar officials and their immediate families from entering the United States and hold individuals accountable for gross human rights violations.¹⁴²⁵

¹⁴¹⁵ This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-17/>.

¹⁴¹⁶ This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-17/>.

¹⁴¹⁷ This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-19/>.

¹⁴¹⁸ This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-19/>.

¹⁴¹⁹ This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-19/>.

¹⁴²⁰ This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 22 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-20/>.

¹⁴²¹ This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 22 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-20/>.

¹⁴²² This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 22 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-20/>.

¹⁴²³ This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 22 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-20/>.

¹⁴²⁴ This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 28 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-21/>.

¹⁴²⁵ This Week in Iran Policy, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 28 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/this-week-in-iran-policy-21/>.

Through its consistent efforts of combatting terrorism by imposing sanctions, deploying military support, and coalition-building, the United States remains committed to holding Iran accountable for its human rights abuses and sponsorship of terrorism.

Thus, the United States of America has received a score of +1.

Analysts: Shreyashi Saha and Collin Xia

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to promote peace and stability throughout the region by combatting terrorism and promoting human rights.

On 19 September 2019, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the violent crackdown on the recent protests in Iran.¹⁴²⁶ The European Parliament calls on Iranian authorities to release imprisoned women's rights defenders, human rights defenders, and EU-Iranian dual nationals.¹⁴²⁷

On 21 November 2019, the European Commission allocated an additional EUR40 million in emergency assistance for the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, as well as Afghan refugees in neighbouring Pakistan and Iran.¹⁴²⁸ This brings total EU humanitarian aid for the Afghan crisis to EUR77 million in 2019, EUR61 million in Afghanistan, EUR9 million in Pakistan, and EUR7 million in Iran.

On 21 November 2019, a European Union External Action spokesperson addressed Iranian protests and urged Iranian authorities to "exercise maximum restraint in handling the protests" and ensure access to the internet.¹⁴²⁹

On 8 December 2019, High Representative Josep Borrell Fontelles condemned Iran's "widespread and disproportionate use of force against nonviolent protestors."¹⁴³⁰ Fontelles urged Iran to provide due process for all detainees, release all non-violent protestors and respect "fundamental rights such as freedom of expression and assembly."¹⁴³¹

¹⁴²⁶ Human Rights: breaches in Iran, Turkey and Myanmar, European Parliament (Brussels) 19 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20190912IPR60935/human-rights-breaches-in-iran-turkey-and-myanmar>.

¹⁴²⁷ Human Rights: breaches in Iran, Turkey and Myanmar, European Parliament (Brussels) 19 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20190912IPR60935/human-rights-breaches-in-iran-turkey-and-myanmar>.

¹⁴²⁸ EU reinforces humanitarian support with €40 million as crisis in Afghanistan worsens, European Commission (Brussels) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 2 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/echo/news/eu-reinforces-humanitarian-support-40-million-crisis-afghanistan-worsens_en.

¹⁴²⁹ Statement by the Spokesperson on the developments in Iran, European External Action Service (Brussels) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/70754/statement-spokesperson-developments-iran_en.

¹⁴³⁰ Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the recent protests in Iran, European Council (Brussels) 8 December 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/12/08/declaration-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-eu-on-the-recent-protests-in-iran/>.

¹⁴³¹ Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the recent protests in Iran, European Council (Brussels) 8 December 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/12/08/declaration-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-eu-on-the-recent-protests-in-iran/>.

On 11 December 2019, the Council of Europe appointed Christoph Buik as its new head of mission for the European Union Advisory Mission in Iraq (EUAM Iraq).¹⁴³² EUAM Iraq is based in Bagdad and contributes to the implementation at strategic level of a comprehensive strategy countering terrorism and organized crime.¹⁴³³ It has specific references to border management, financial crime, money laundering and the trafficking of cultural heritage. Christoph Buik will take up his duties on 1 January 2020.¹⁴³⁴

On 18 December 2019, High Representative Borrell addressed the violent crackdown on recent protests in Iran at the European Parliament plenary debate.¹⁴³⁵ He urged concrete actions as part of EU diplomacy with Iran and urged that the Iranian authorities to comply with their “international obligations, including both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.”¹⁴³⁶

On 19 December 2019, members of the European Parliament voted to denounce “disproportionate use of force by Iranian security forces against non-violent protesters,” demand the immediately release of Nasrin Sotoudeh, and condemn Iran’s decision to shut down internet access as a violation of freedom of speech.¹⁴³⁷

On 5 January 2020, High Representative Borrell spoke with Foreign Minister of Iran Mohammad Javad Zarif about de-escalation following rising tensions in Iraq.¹⁴³⁸ He urged the Iranian government to avoid further escalations and offered his full engagement in these efforts.¹⁴³⁹

On 9 January 2020, the President of the European Council Charles Michel expressed his condolences for the PS752 crash.¹⁴⁴⁰ In a call with Iranian President Rouhani, President Michel stated that the EU

¹⁴³² EUAM Iraq: New head of mission appointed, European Council (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/12/11/euam-iraq-new-head-of-mission-appointed/?utm_source=dsms-.auto&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EUAM+Iraq%3a+New+head+of+mission+appointed.

¹⁴³³ EUAM Iraq: New head of mission appointed, European Council (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/12/11/euam-iraq-new-head-of-mission-appointed/?utm_source=dsms-.auto&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EUAM+Iraq%3a+New+head+of+mission+appointed.

¹⁴³⁴ EUAM Iraq: New head of mission appointed, European Council (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/12/11/euam-iraq-new-head-of-mission-appointed/?utm_source=dsms-.auto&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EUAM+Iraq%3a+New+head+of+mission+appointed.

¹⁴³⁵ Violent crackdown on the recent protests in Iran: remarks of High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell at the European Parliament plenary debate, European External Action Service (Strasbourg) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/72371/violent-crackdown-recent-protests-iran-remarks-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell_en.

¹⁴³⁶ Violent crackdown on the recent protests in Iran: remarks of High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell at the European Parliament plenary debate, European External Action Service (Strasbourg) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/72371/violent-crackdown-recent-protests-iran-remarks-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell_en.

¹⁴³⁷ MEPs condemn violent crackdown on the recent protests in Iran, European Parliament (Brussels) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20191217IPR69210/meps-condemn-violent-crackdown-on-the-recent-protests-in-iran>.

¹⁴³⁸ Iran: High Representative Josep Borrell spoke with Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, European External Action Service (Brussels) 5 January 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/iran/72675/iran-high-representative-josep-borrell-spoke-foreign-minister-javad-zarif_en.

¹⁴³⁹ Iran: High Representative Josep Borrell spoke with Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, European External Action Service (Brussels) 5 January 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/iran/72675/iran-high-representative-josep-borrell-spoke-foreign-minister-javad-zarif_en.

encourages the active diffusion of tension.¹⁴⁴¹ Furthermore, he emphasized the European Union's stabilizing role in the region as well as the EU's commitment to Middle Eastern regional stability.¹⁴⁴²

On 10 January 2020, High Representative Borrell was tasked with intensifying diplomatic efforts with all parties to contribute to de-escalation in the Middle East following crash of plane PS752. Fontelles seeks to support political dialogue and promote a regional solution by the Foreign Affairs Council.¹⁴⁴³

On 14 January 2020, the EU and Iraq held their first Political Dialogue under their Partnership and Cooperation agreement.¹⁴⁴⁴ The two delegations were headed by the European External Action Service Secretary General Helga Maria Schmid and Iraqi Deputy Foreign minister Abdel Karim Hashem Mostafa.¹⁴⁴⁵ The meeting focused on bilateral relations, the situation in Iraq and in the wider Middle East region.¹⁴⁴⁶ Both parties emphasized the need for cooperation to defuse tension and to avoid further escalation.¹⁴⁴⁷

On 16 January 2020, President Michel called Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss the regional risks posed by Libya and in the Middle East.¹⁴⁴⁸ President Michel emphasized the importance of reaching out to and cooperating with all international partners to de-escalate the situation in Iran and Iraq.¹⁴⁴⁹

¹⁴⁴⁰ The European Council President calls upon Iran to avoid posing irreversible action, European Council (Brussels) 9 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/01/09/the-european-council-president-called-upon-the-iranian-president-to-avoid-posing-irreversible-acts/>.

¹⁴⁴¹ The European Council President calls upon Iran to avoid posing irreversible action, European Council (Brussels) 9 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/01/09/the-european-council-president-called-upon-the-iranian-president-to-avoid-posing-irreversible-acts/>.

¹⁴⁴² The European Council President calls upon Iran to avoid posing irreversible action, European Council (Brussels) 9 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/01/09/the-european-council-president-called-upon-the-iranian-president-to-avoid-posing-irreversible-acts/>.

¹⁴⁴³ Libya/Iraq/Iran: Press remarks by High Representative Josep Borrell after the extraordinary Foreign Affairs Council, European External Action Service (Brussels) 10 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/72910/libyairaqiran-press-remarks-high-representative-josep-borrell-after-extraordinary-foreign_en.

¹⁴⁴⁴ First Political Dialogue under the EU-Iraq Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, European External Action Service (Brussels) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/73058/first-political-dialogue-under-eu-iraq-partnership-and-cooperation-agreement_en.

¹⁴⁴⁵ First Political Dialogue under the EU-Iraq Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, European External Action Service (Brussels) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/73058/first-political-dialogue-under-eu-iraq-partnership-and-cooperation-agreement_en.

¹⁴⁴⁶ First Political Dialogue under the EU-Iraq Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, European External Action Service (Brussels) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/73058/first-political-dialogue-under-eu-iraq-partnership-and-cooperation-agreement_en.

¹⁴⁴⁷ First Political Dialogue under the EU-Iraq Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, European External Action Service (Brussels) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/73058/first-political-dialogue-under-eu-iraq-partnership-and-cooperation-agreement_en.

¹⁴⁴⁸ Readout of the telephone conversation between President Charles Michel and Russian President Vladimir Putin, European Council (Brussels) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/01/16/readout-of-the-telephone-conversation-between-president-charles-michel-and-russian-president-vladimir-putin/>.

¹⁴⁴⁹ Readout of the telephone conversation between President Charles Michel and Russian President Vladimir Putin, European Council (Brussels) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/01/16/readout-of-the-telephone-conversation-between-president-charles-michel-and-russian-president-vladimir-putin/>.

On 3 and 4 February 2020, High Representative Borrell visited Iran and met with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, the President of the Parliament Ali Larijani and Minister Zarif.¹⁴⁵⁰ In his press conference statement, High Representative Borrell restated the EU commitment to regional security and stability.¹⁴⁵¹ He further emphasized the creation of mutual understand and the building of trust between the EU and its Iranian counterparts.¹⁴⁵²

On 21 February 2020, the EU called all actors to cease hostilities immediately following the renew military offense in Idlib by the Syrian regime and its backers.¹⁴⁵³ The EU called the action unacceptable and urged all parties to the conflict to fully respect their obligation under international humanitarian law and international human rights law and to allow unimpeded and direct humanitarian access to all those in need.¹⁴⁵⁴ Furthermore, the EU stated its commitment to strengthening its humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable civilian population in the Idlib area.¹⁴⁵⁵

On 6 March 2020, High Representative Borrell announced that the EU would convene a fourth Brussels Conference on “Support the Future of Syria and Region” on 29 and 30 June 2020.¹⁴⁵⁶ He stated that the EU’s immediate concern is to work towards a lasting ceasefire, to engage with all relevant actors for a comprehensive political solution and to address the humanitarian needs of the Syrian people.¹⁴⁵⁷

On 25 March 2020, High Representative Borrell participated in a G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting by videoconference, which included discussions focused on G7 commitments in Iran and Syria.¹⁴⁵⁸

¹⁴⁵⁰ Iran: Remarks by High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell at the press conference during his visit, European External Action Service (Brussels) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020.

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/73972/iran-remarks-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell-press-conference-during-his-visit_en.

¹⁴⁵¹ Iran: Remarks by High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell at the press conference during his visit, European External Action Service (Brussels) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020.

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/73972/iran-remarks-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell-press-conference-during-his-visit_en.

¹⁴⁵² Iran: Remarks by High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell at the press conference during his visit, European External Action Service (Brussels) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020.

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/73972/iran-remarks-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell-press-conference-during-his-visit_en.

¹⁴⁵³ Declaration of the European Council on the situation in Idlib, European Council (Brussels) 21 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/02/21/declaration-of-the-european-council-on-the-situation-in-idlib/>.

¹⁴⁵⁴ Declaration of the European Council on the situation in Idlib, European Council (Brussels) 21 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/02/21/declaration-of-the-european-council-on-the-situation-in-idlib/>.

¹⁴⁵⁵ Declaration of the European Council on the situation in Idlib, European Council (Brussels) 21 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/02/21/declaration-of-the-european-council-on-the-situation-in-idlib/>.

¹⁴⁵⁶ Syria: IV Brussels Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region, European External Action Service (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/75709/syria-iv-brussels-conference-supporting-future-syria-and-region_en.

¹⁴⁵⁷ Syria: IV Brussels Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region, European External Action Service (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/75709/syria-iv-brussels-conference-supporting-future-syria-and-region_en.

¹⁴⁵⁸ Readout: Minister Champagne Participates in G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/200325-champagne.html>.

On 7 April 2020, the Council of the European Union implemented targeted financial sanctions for the human rights situation in Iran.¹⁴⁵⁹ The targeted individuals were responsible for violent crackdowns on protesters, rights abuses, and cyber attacks amongst various other reasons.¹⁴⁶⁰

On 21 April 2020, the European External Action Service (EEAS) released a statement condemning the execution of juvenile offender Shayan Saeedpour.¹⁴⁶¹ The EEAS asserted that the execution was inconsistent with Iran's international obligations under the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.¹⁴⁶² The EEAS reiterated its commitment to the abolition of the death penalty in Iran.¹⁴⁶³

On 18 May 2020, the Council of the European Union adopted Decision (CFSP) 2020/512, which renews sanctions on various Iranian individuals responsible for human rights violations.¹⁴⁶⁴ The designations include Iranian government and military officials and hold Iranian authorities accountable for their involvement in human rights violations.¹⁴⁶⁵

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to combat terrorism and promote human rights in Iran and throughout the region. The European Union has committed funds to aid humanitarian crisis and promote human rights. In addition, the European Union has increased efforts to promote diplomatic dialogue, cooperation, and conflict resolution throughout the region.

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

Analysts: Chen Ou Yang and Collin Xia

¹⁴⁵⁹ Regulations: council implementing regulation (EU) 2020/510 of 7 April 2020 implementing Regulation (EU) No 359/2011 concerning restrictive measures directed certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Iran, Official Journal of the European Union (Luxembourg) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020R0510&from=EN>.

¹⁴⁶⁰ Regulations: council implementing regulation (EU) 2020/510 of 7 April 2020 implementing Regulation (EU) No 359/2011 concerning restrictive measures directed certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Iran, Official Journal of the European Union (Luxembourg) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020R0510&from=EN>.

¹⁴⁶¹ Statement by the Spokesperson on the recent execution of a juvenile offender in Iran, European External Action Service (Brussels) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/iran/77808/statement-spokesperson-recent-execution-juvenile-offender-iran_en.

¹⁴⁶² Statement by the Spokesperson on the recent execution of a juvenile offender in Iran, European External Action Service (Brussels) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/iran/77808/statement-spokesperson-recent-execution-juvenile-offender-iran_en.

¹⁴⁶³ Statement by the Spokesperson on the recent execution of a juvenile offender in Iran, European External Action Service (Brussels) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/iran/77808/statement-spokesperson-recent-execution-juvenile-offender-iran_en.

¹⁴⁶⁴ Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the alignment of certain countries concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities in view of the situation in Iran, European Council (Brussels) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/05/18/declaration-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-eu-on-the-alignment-of-certain-countries-with-concerning-restrictive-measures-directed-against-certain-persons-and-entities-in-view-of-the-situation-in-iran/#_ftn1.

¹⁴⁶⁵ Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the alignment of certain countries concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities in view of the situation in Iran, European Council (Brussels) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/05/18/declaration-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-eu-on-the-alignment-of-certain-countries-with-concerning-restrictive-measures-directed-against-certain-persons-and-entities-in-view-of-the-situation-in-iran/#_ftn1.

9. Regional Security: G5 Sahel Security and Development

“We [support the efforts of countries in the region, notably those in the G5, in coming together to address these security and development challenges and] remain committed to working with them to improve and better coordinate efforts to enhance their defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.”

Sahel Partnership Action Plan

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany		0	
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+0.88 (94%)		

Background

In February 2014, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger set up the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5 Sahel) to foster close cooperation on development and security in the Sahel region.¹⁴⁶⁶ The Sahel countries face challenges such as extreme poverty, conflict, and terrorism and organized crimes such as human trafficking.

In June 2014, the G5 Sahel started the Priority Investment Program (PIP), a USD14.8 billion regional investment program aiming to deal with security and development problems.^{1467,1468} The first phase of the program is set to be from 2019 to 2021, where 40 priority projects were selected to be implemented by Member States to improve defence and security, governance, resilience and human development, and infrastructure.¹⁴⁶⁹ The G5 Sahel leaders then launched the Cross-Border Joint Force (FC-G5S) in 2017 in Bamako to fight security threats.¹⁴⁷⁰ The Joint Force has since carried out several operations.

G7 members have worked with the Sahel region previously. In July 2017, during the Franco-German Council of Ministers, France, Germany, and the European Union, along with the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme, launched the Sahel

¹⁴⁶⁶ Sahel G5 Meeting Brings Together Governments and Donors to Accelerate Regional Development, The World Bank (Niamey) 14 July 2014. Access Date: 8 October 2019. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2014/07/14/sahel-g5-meeting-brings-together-governments-and-donors-to-accelerate-regional-development>.

¹⁴⁶⁷ Priority Investment Program (PIP/G5 Sahel) First Phase 2019-2021, G5 Permanent Secretariat, October 2018. Access Date: 9 October 2019. https://www.g5sahel.org/images/DOCPIP/PIP_G5S_EN__VF.pdf.

¹⁴⁶⁸ Sahel G5 Meeting Brings Together Governments and Donors to Accelerate Regional Development, The World Bank (Niamey) 14 July 2014. Access Date: 8 October 2019. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2014/07/14/sahel-g5-meeting-brings-together-governments-and-donors-to-accelerate-regional-development>.

¹⁴⁶⁹ Priority Investment Program (PIP/G5 Sahel) First Phase 2019-2021, G5 Permanent Secretariat, October 2018. Access Date: 9 October 2019. https://www.g5sahel.org/images/DOCPIP/PIP_G5S_EN__VF.pdf.

¹⁴⁷⁰ G5 Sahel Joint Force and the Sahel Alliance, France Diplomat February 2019. Access Date: 8 October 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/crises-and-conflicts/g5-sahel-joint-force-and-the-sahel-alliance/>.

Alliance.¹⁴⁷¹ The Sahel Alliance is an international cooperation platform that allows donor countries and multilateral organizations to better coordinate international assistance for the Sahel countries. Their actions are guided by principles and priority fields.¹⁴⁷²

More countries have since joined the Alliance. Of the G7 members, France, Germany, the European Union, Italy and the United Kingdom are currently members of the Sahel Alliance.¹⁴⁷³ The United States is an observer to the Alliance.¹⁴⁷⁴ In June 2019, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau confirmed to French President Emmanuel Macron that Canada would seek observer status with the Sahel Alliance.¹⁴⁷⁵ Japan also carries the observer status.¹⁴⁷⁶

The G7 first referenced Africa in 1980 and commitments towards Africa have risen through the years.¹⁴⁷⁷ During the 2002 Kananaskis Summit, the then-G8 leaders signed the G8 Africa Action Plan as a response to the African States initiative New Partnership for African's Development (NEPAD).¹⁴⁷⁸ The Plan considered the promotion of peace and security as one of the priorities.¹⁴⁷⁹ Implementation Reports by Africa Personal Representatives on the Plan have since been discussed at G7/8 Summits.^{1480,1481,1482,1483,1484} The L'Aquila Summit in 2009 also held a G8-Africa session in which the importance of a credible system of regional system, through the African Peace and Security Architecture and the proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons, was highlighted.¹⁴⁸⁵ The G8 Leaders then produced the G8/Africa Joint Declaration: Shared Values, Shared

¹⁴⁷¹ The Sahel Alliance Officially Announces the Implementation of Over 500 Projects for a Total Amount of EUR 6bn to be Disbursed Between 2018 and 2022, The World Bank (Brussels) 23 February 2018. Access Date: 8 October 2019. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2018/02/23/the-sahel-alliance-officially-announces-the-implementation-of-over-500-projects-for-a-total-amount-of-eur-6bn-to-be-disbursed-between-2018-and-2022>.

¹⁴⁷² The Sahel Alliance, Alliance Sahel (Paris). Access Date: 8 October 2019. <https://www.alliance-sahel.org/en/sahel-alliance/>.

¹⁴⁷³ The Sahel Alliance, Alliance Sahel (Paris). Access Date: 8 October 2019. <https://www.alliance-sahel.org/en/sahel-alliance/>.

¹⁴⁷⁴ G5 Sahel Joint Force and the Sahel Alliance, France Diplomat February 2019. Access Date: 8 October 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/crises-and-conflicts/g5-sahel-joint-force-and-the-sahel-alliance/>.

¹⁴⁷⁵ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau Meets with President Emmanuel Macron of France, Prime Minister of Canada (Paris) 7 June 2019. Access Date: 8 October 2019. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2019/06/07/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-meets-president-emmanuel-macron-france>.

¹⁴⁷⁶ Statement by H.E. Mr. Kono Taro, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan at the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Sahel Region, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Yokohama) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 10 October 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/000511296.pdf>.

¹⁴⁷⁷ G7 Performance on Africa, The Global Governance Project (London) 12 August 2019. Access Date: 8 October 2019. <http://www.globalgovernanceproject.org/2019/08/12/g7-performance-on-africa/>.

¹⁴⁷⁸ G7/8 Summits 2002 Kananaskis Summit Documents: G8 Africa Action Plan. G8 Summit (Kananaskis) 27 June 2002. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2002kananaskis/africaplan.html>.

¹⁴⁷⁹ G8 Africa Action Plan (Kananaskis) 27 June 2002. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2002kananaskis/afraction-e.pdf>.

¹⁴⁸⁰ Implementation Report by Africa Personal Representatives to Leaders on the G8 Africa Action Plan (Evian) 1 June 2003. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2003evian/>.

¹⁴⁸¹ Gleneagles Summit Official Documents (Gleneagles) 8 July 2005. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/index.html>.

¹⁴⁸² St. Petersburg Summit Official Documents (St. Petersburg) 16 July 2006. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2006stpetersburg/index.html>.

¹⁴⁸³ Heiligendamm Summit Official Documents (Heiligendamm) 8 June 2007. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2007heilgendamm/index.html>.

¹⁴⁸⁴ Hokkaido Toyako Summit Official Documents (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/index.html>.

¹⁴⁸⁵ Chair Summary of the G8-Africa session at the G8 L'Aquila Summit (L'Aquila) 10 July 2009. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2009aquila/2009-summary-africa.pdf>.

Responsibilities during the 2011 Deauville Summit. The document focuses on three topics: 1. security and governance; 2. economic development and environment; and 3. mutual accountability.¹⁴⁸⁶

On 25 September 2018, during the United Nations General Assembly, President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron expressed that “the time when a club of rich countries could alone define the world’s balances is long gone.”¹⁴⁸⁷ Hence, the French G7 Presidency changed the group format by including partner countries to take part in their working meetings.¹⁴⁸⁸ Burkina Faso, which holds the Presidency of the G5 Sahel, was invited along with four other African partners (Senegal, Rwanda, South Africa, and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission) to the Biarritz Summit.¹⁴⁸⁹ There, the G7 Sahel Action Plan was declared and again reaffirmed in the Biarritz Declaration for a G7 and Africa Partnership to promote peace and security in Africa.¹⁴⁹⁰

Commitment Features

The G7 commitment is to “work with [those in the G5] to improve and better coordinate efforts to enhance their defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.” Thus, it is understood that actions need to be between the G7 member and at least one country in the G5 Sahel region (i.e. Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger) to be counted for compliance.

“Improve and better coordinate” signals that actions do not necessarily need to be started by the G7 member. Instead, they can simply be actions that build on new or existing efforts by the G5 Sahel member states. These can be through “advancing the progress of or making useful additions” to the G5 Sahel’s defence and internal security.¹⁴⁹¹ Alternative actions include “bringing different [regional security efforts] into a harmonious or efficient relationship.”¹⁴⁹²

Actions need to be related to the security of the G5 Sahel region, where defence refers to “military measures of resources for protecting a country” and internal security refers to the act of keeping peace within the borders of a sovereign state, which is the responsibility of the police force.¹⁴⁹³

It is noteworthy that the text of the commitment, “including,” implies that support for structural reforms of the G5 Sahel’s security apparatus should be prioritized and not excluded. Structural reforms are measures that change the way the economy operates e.g. in the labour, product and

¹⁴⁸⁶ G8/Africa Joint Declaration: Shared Values, Shared Responsibilities. G8 Summit (Deauville) 27 May 2011. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-africa-en.html>.

¹⁴⁸⁷ G7 Leaders’ Summit (24-26.08.19, Biarritz), France Diplomat. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/french-g7-presidency/g7-leaders-summit-24-26-08-19-biarritz/>.

¹⁴⁸⁸ G7 Leaders’ Summit (24-26.08.19, Biarritz), France Diplomat. Access Date: 7 November 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/french-g7-presidency/g7-leaders-summit-24-26-08-19-biarritz/>.

¹⁴⁸⁹ G7 Leaders’ Summit, France Diplomat. Access Date: 8 October 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/french-g7-presidency/g7-leaders-summit-24-26-08-19-biarritz/>.

¹⁴⁹⁰ Biarritz Declaration for a G7 & Africa Partnership, G7 France (Biarritz) 25 August 2019. Access Date: 8 October 2019. <https://www.elysee.fr/admin/upload/default/0001/05/2b23c8767bc581f1a204029870f8f400cd2546ae.pdf>.

¹⁴⁹¹ Improve, Merriam Webster Dictionary. Access Date: 8 October 2019. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/improve>.

¹⁴⁹² Coordinate, Oxford Dictionary (Oxford). Access Date: 8 October 2019. <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/coordinate>.

¹⁴⁹³ Defence, Oxford Dictionary (Oxford). Access Date: 8 October 2019. <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/defence>.

service markets.¹⁴⁹⁴ In the context of regional security, examples can include transformation of institutions' methods of control and establishment of good governance through electing representatives. Transparency of institutions, especially with regards to their budget, as well as post-conflict recovery are also examples of structural reforms.¹⁴⁹⁵

For full compliance, member needs to provide tangible support to at least one G5 Sahel country on their defence and to at least one G5 Sahel country on internal security. Tangible support can be through funding or implementing new initiatives. The G7 member will get a score of partial compliance if efforts in either or both areas are just verbal declaration of support. No actions towards either of the areas will yield a score of -1.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member does not work with any of the G5 to improve and better coordinate efforts to enhance either their defence or internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus
0	The G7 member provides tangible support to some of the G5 to improve and better coordinate efforts to enhance their defence OR internal security capabilities, AND only verbal declaration of support in the other area
1	The G7 member provides tangible support to at least one G5 Sahel country's defence AND to at least one G5 Sahel country's internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus

*Compliance Director: Tacye Hong
Lead Analyst: Foti Vito*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to work with the G5 Sahel to improve and better coordinate efforts to enhance their defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 28 August 2019, the Commander of Operation PRESENCE – Mali, Colonel Travis Morehen told reporters that a small team of Canadian Forces personnel will redeploy to Mali for approximately one week in September 2019 to train an incoming Romanian contingent on mission-specific abilities.¹⁴⁹⁶ The Department of National Defence has confirmed that this deployment was carried out, and included providing four C-17 intra-theatre airlift flights to assist with the deployment of Romanian personnel and equipment.¹⁴⁹⁷ The Ministry of National Defence announced that Canadian soldiers deployed to assist the Romanian forces will end their mission no later than January 2020.¹⁴⁹⁸ This action provides tangible support to Mali's defence.

¹⁴⁹⁴ Structural Reforms for Economic Growth, European Commission. Access Date: 8 December 2019.

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/](https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/growth-and-investment/structural-reforms/structural-reforms-economic-growth_en)

[business-economy-euro/growth-and-investment/structural-reforms/structural-reforms-economic-growth_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/growth-and-investment/structural-reforms/structural-reforms-economic-growth_en).

¹⁴⁹⁵ Andrzej Karkoszka, "The Concept of Security Sector Reform", UN. Access Date: 8 December 2019.

<https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/files/Karkoszka.pdf>.

¹⁴⁹⁶ Canada to send team back to Mali to help Romania minimize gap in evacuation, The Canadian Press (Ottawa) 28 August 2019. Access date: 12 October 2019. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-mali-romania-1.5263048>.

¹⁴⁹⁷ Canadian Armed Forces conclude peacekeeping mission in Mali, Department of National Defence (Ottawa) 31 August 2019. Access date: 12 October 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2019/08/canadian-armed-forces-conclude-peacekeeping-mission-in-mali.html>.

¹⁴⁹⁸ Operation PRESENCE, Department of National Defence (Ottawa) 2019. Access date: 12 October 2019.

<https://www.canada.ca/>

[en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/op-presence.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/op-presence.html).

On 30 August 2019, Global Affairs Canada committed CAD2.77 million to support the implementation of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali.¹⁴⁹⁹ A statement by the department states that the funding will make “the tools for its implementation – Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, a joint protection force and local police – more participatory, inclusive, and gender and conflict sensitive.¹⁵⁰⁰ The program aims to meet the needs of local populations in northern regions of Mali.¹⁵⁰¹ This action provides tangible support to Mali’s defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 30 August 2019, Global Affairs Canada committed CAD1.59 million to support the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission in Mali, increasing its capacity regarding units responsible for investigations and reparations for victims, its ability to hold public hearings, and a national communications campaign.¹⁵⁰² The Canadian Government expects the funding to better equip the Commission “to investigate and shed light on human rights violations committed during conflicts and other episodes of armed violence, including sexual violence and other violations against women and girls.”¹⁵⁰³ The program supports the implementation of the Algiers Peace Agreement and compliments Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission of the United Nations in Mali (MINUSMA).¹⁵⁰⁴ This action provides tangible support for structural reforms of Mali’s security apparatus.

On 23 January 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs François-Phillippe Champagne concluded a visit to Mali, announcing “the deployment of 2 police trainers to the Alioune Blondin Beye Peacekeeping School in Bamako, Mali.”¹⁵⁰⁵ This action provides tangible support to Mali’s internal security capabilities.

On 21 February 2020, Global Affairs Canada provided an additional CAD1.8 million to the MINUSMA Trust Fund.¹⁵⁰⁶ The fund provides “support to Malian institutions in areas including rule of law and security institutions, mine action, promotion of national dialogue, regional cooperation, security sector reform, human rights, and the initial Demobilization Disarmament and Reintegration

¹⁴⁹⁹ Project profile — For a More Inclusive Peace Process in Mali, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 30 August 2019. Access date: 19 December 2019. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007720001>.

¹⁵⁰⁰ Project profile — For a More Inclusive Peace Process in Mali, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 30 August 2019. Access date: 19 December 2019. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007720001>.

¹⁵⁰¹ Project profile — For a More Inclusive Peace Process in Mali, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 30 August 2019. Access date: 19 December 2019. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007720001>.

¹⁵⁰² Project profile — Supporting the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission for the Stabilization of Mali, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 30 August 2019. Access date: 19 December 2019. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007718001>.

¹⁵⁰³ Project profile — Supporting the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission for the Stabilization of Mali, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 30 August 2019. Access date: 19 December 2019. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007718001>.

¹⁵⁰⁴ Project profile — Supporting the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission for the Stabilization of Mali, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 30 August 2019. Access date: 19 December 2019. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007718001>.

¹⁵⁰⁵ Minister Champagne concludes visit to Mali, continues on to Morocco, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 23 January 2020. Access date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/minister-champagne-concludes-visit-to-mali-continues-on-to-morocco.html>.

¹⁵⁰⁶ Project profile — Support to MINUSMA Trust Fund – Mali, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 21 February 2020. Access date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P002431002>.

(DDR) of former combatants.”¹⁵⁰⁷ This action provides tangible support to Mali’s internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 11 March 2020, Global Affairs Canada contributed CAD162,485 to “Conflict Prevention and Mitigation in Sahel Border Regions,” in partnership with the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue.¹⁵⁰⁸ The project intends to “help stabilize the conflict situation between communities and armed groups in the border areas of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger.”¹⁵⁰⁹ The project also supports conflict mediation with non-jihadist armed groups and self-defence groups in Burkina Faso and Niger that have close ties with the armed groups in Mali’s border areas.”¹⁵¹⁰ This action provides tangible support to Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger’s defence and internal security capabilities.

On 14 March 2020, Minister Champagne, after confirming the safe discovery of a Canadian hostage in Mali, stated that “The government of Canada will continue to engage Mali and Burkina Faso at the highest levels, and will work with international partners to pursue those responsible for this crime and bring them to justice.”¹⁵¹¹ This action provides tangible support for Mali and Burkina Faso’s internal security capabilities.

On 31 March 2020, Global Affairs Canada contributed CAD331,765 to “Arms and Ammunition Management for More Stability in the Sahel Region,” in partnership with the Mines Advisory Group.¹⁵¹² The Government of Canada states that the project will improve security in the Sahel through “close cooperation with local authorities in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger to develop and strengthen their capacity to safely manage, store and monitor weapons and ammunition.”¹⁵¹³ This action provides tangible support to Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger’s internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 31 March 2020, Global Affairs Canada disbursed CAD1.099 million to grant “Support to Gender Advisors in MINUSMA – Mali,” partnered with the United Nations General Trust Fund.¹⁵¹⁴ The project intends to “address gender expertise gaps” within MINUSMA by supporting two gender

¹⁵⁰⁷ Project profile — Support to MINUSMA Trust Fund – Mali, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 21 February 2020. Access date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P002431002>.

¹⁵⁰⁸ Project profile — Conflict Prevention and Mitigation in Sahel Border Regions, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 11 March 2020. Access date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P005169001>.

¹⁵⁰⁹ Project profile — Conflict Prevention and Mitigation in Sahel Border Regions, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 11 March 2020. Access date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P005169001>.

¹⁵¹⁰ Project profile — Conflict Prevention and Mitigation in Sahel Border Regions, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 11 March 2020. Access date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P005169001>.

¹⁵¹¹ Statement by Minister of Foreign Affairs on Édith Blais, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 March 2020. Access date: 01 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/statement-by-minister-of-foreign-affairs-on-edith-blais.html>.

¹⁵¹² Project profile — Arms and Ammunition Management for More Stability in the Sahel Region, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 31 March 2020. Access date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/p005184001>.

¹⁵¹³ Project profile — Arms and Ammunition Management for More Stability in the Sahel Region, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 31 March 2020. Access date: 12 April 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/p005184001>.

¹⁵¹⁴ Project profile — Support to Gender Advisors in MINUSMA – Mali, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 31 March 2020. Access date: 31 August 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006560001>.

advisors, located in regional offices; this creates “a more effective peace operation.”¹⁵¹⁵ This action provides tangible support to Mali’s internal security capabilities.

On 31 March 2020, the Government of Canada and Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) fulfilled its 7-year commitment to the training of the Forces armées nigériennes (FAN), which occurred twice per year by 27 members of the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command and the Canadian Army.¹⁵¹⁶ Throughout its deployment, the CAF trained the FAN in combat skills, as well as “laws of armed conflict, operational planning, human rights law, gender equality and perspectives and the protection of vulnerable populations.”¹⁵¹⁷ By deploying its soldiers, Canada engages in capacity building of “the Nigerien military and security forces.”¹⁵¹⁸ This action provides tangible support to Niger’s defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 12 June 2020, Minister Champagne and Minister of National Defence Harjit Sajjan announced that Canada will “join the International Coalition for the Sahel,” and reiterated Canada’s commitment to support Sahel states in “advancing their priorities for peace and security.”¹⁵¹⁹ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel’s defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

Canada has provided tangible support to the G5 Sahel to enhance their defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Justin O’Brien and Ben Holt

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to work with the G5 Sahel to improve and better coordinate efforts to enhance their defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 3 October 2019, France asked a series of European partners to dispatch special forces to various nations in the Sahel region of Africa, including Mali, with the goal of assisting local forces who are increasingly being targeted in deadly jihadist attacks.¹⁵²⁰ The additional units would assist in the training of local forces, while also allowing those deployed as part of France’s Operation Barkhane to

¹⁵¹⁵ Project profile — Support to Gender Advisors in MINUSMA – Mali, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 31 March 2020. Access date: 31 August 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/projet-projet/details/P006560001>.

¹⁵¹⁶ Operation NABERIUS, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 March 2018. Access date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/operation-naberius.html>.

¹⁵¹⁷ Operation NABERIUS, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 March 2018. Access date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/operation-naberius.html>.

¹⁵¹⁸ Operation NABERIUS, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 March 2018. Access date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/operation-naberius.html>.

¹⁵¹⁹ Canada joins International Coalition for the Sahel – News Release, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 12 June 2020. Access date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/06/canada-joins-international-coalition-for-the-sahel.html>.

¹⁵²⁰ France Seeks International Support for Sahel Military Coalition, The Defence Post (Washington.) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://thedefensepost.com/2019/10/03/france-international-coalition-sahel-special-operations/>.

focus their intent on preventing attacks and pursuing insurgent targets.¹⁵²¹ This action provides tangible support to the G5 Sahel's internal security capabilities.

On 16 October 2019, French and German representatives reaffirmed their shared determination to work together for peace and stability in the Sahel.¹⁵²² Representatives from the two countries reaffirmed their full commitment to securing, stabilizing, and developing the Sahel Region and vowed to work in close coordination with the European Union in the launch and implementation of the Partnership for Security and Stability in the Sahel.¹⁵²³ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 1 November 2019, France and its G5 Sahel partners commenced a 17-day military operation involving 1,400 troops.¹⁵²⁴ The campaign concentrated on the Boulikessi area of Mali and the Déou area of Burkina Faso.¹⁵²⁵ Carried out simultaneously in both locations with the help of partners forces, the mission attempted to hinder the ongoing terrorist activity in the area and disturb the operations of existing armed groups.¹⁵²⁶ The campaign, titled Bourgou IV, led to the seizure of ammunition stores, 100 telephones, 64 vehicles, and more.¹⁵²⁷ This action provides tangible support to Mali and Burkina Faso's defence.

On 4 November 2019, Minister of Defence Florence Parly announced her country's intention to deploy ground troops to Burkina Faso's "three borders" area in a matter of days.¹⁵²⁸ The same day, Minister Parly remarked that the launching of operation Bourgou 4, under the larger Barkhane campaign (France's military offensive in Africa's Sahel region), will be paired with the contribution of two local Burkinabe units.¹⁵²⁹ This action provides tangible support to Burkina Faso's defence and internal security capabilities.

¹⁵²¹ France Seeks International Support for Sahel Military Coalition, The Defence Post (Washington.) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://thedefensepost.com/2019/10/03/france-international-coalition-sahel-special-operations/>.

¹⁵²² Deutsch-Französische Erklärung von Toulouse, German Federal Foreign Office (Bonn) 16 October 2019. Date Accessed: 15 December 2019. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/blob/2258030/8250e92c55a8fc2c6d25b00fd8c57214/erklaerung-data.pdf>.

¹⁵²³ Deutsch-Französische Erklärung von Toulouse, German Federal Foreign Office (Bonn) 16 October 2019. Date Accessed: 15 December 2019. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/blob/2258030/8250e92c55a8fc2c6d25b00fd8c57214/erklaerung-data.pdf>.

¹⁵²⁴ France and Sahel partner forces conduct 'unprecedented' operation in Burkina Faso and Mali, The Defence Post (Washington) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://thedefensepost.com/2019/11/18/joint-operation-burkina-faso-mali-barkhane-bourgou-iv-sahel/>.

¹⁵²⁵ France and Sahel partner forces conduct 'unprecedented' operation in Burkina Faso and Mali, The Defence Post (Washington) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://thedefensepost.com/2019/11/18/joint-operation-burkina-faso-mali-barkhane-bourgou-iv-sahel/>.

¹⁵²⁶ BARKHANE: Operation BOURGOU IV in the Gourma, Ministry of Armed Forces (Paris) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/operations/actualites2/barkhane-operation-bourgou-iv-dans-le-gourma>.

¹⁵²⁷ BARKHANE: Operation BOURGOU IV in the Gourma, Ministry of Armed Forces (Paris) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/operations/actualites2/barkhane-operation-bourgou-iv-dans-le-gourma>.

¹⁵²⁸ France Announces Troop Deployment to Burkina Faso, Al Jazeera (Doha) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/11/france-announces-troop-deployment-burkina-faso-191106133819577.html>.

¹⁵²⁹ France Announces Troop Deployment to Burkina Faso, Al Jazeera (Doha) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/11/france-announces-troop-deployment-burkina-faso-191106133819577.html>.

On 12 December 2019, President Emmanuel Macron and Niger's President Mahamadou Issoufou jointly agreed to postpone a scheduled meeting between the leaders of the G5 Sahel members and their French counterpart set for late December.¹⁵³⁰ The meeting is now planned for early 2020.¹⁵³¹ Aimed at addressing France's continued military presence in the region and the ongoing battle being waged against jihadist organizations prevalent in the area, the two leaders opted to postpone the event following an attack on a remote armed forces outpost in Niger.¹⁵³² This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 19 December 2019, Minister of Defence Florence Parly announced that American-built Reaper drones, equipped with laser-guided missiles, will see use as part of France's Barkhane mission in the G5 member states of Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mali.¹⁵³³ While the drones have been used by French forces in the region since 2014 to provide surveillance support to missions, they will only now be permitted to strike targets.¹⁵³⁴ This action provides tangible support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities.

On 21 December 2019, President Macron announced the killing of 33 militants in Mali by French forces operating in the country.¹⁵³⁵ The declaration comes weeks after 13 French troops died in a helicopter crash in the country; the largest single day loss for the French military since the 1980s.¹⁵³⁶ Thousands of French troops have been deployed in the country since 2013.¹⁵³⁷ This action provides tangible support to Mali's internal security capabilities.

On 13 January 2020, President Macron hosted his counterparts from the G5 Sahel member states in Pau, France to examine the ongoing situation in the Sahel region.¹⁵³⁸ With the United Nations Secretary-General in attendance, the G5 Sahel heads of state called on the international community to increase its collective presence in the region with the hope of preventing terrorist threats from spreading across borders, safeguarding civilians, and protecting the sovereignty of the G5 Sahel states, with the end goal being the restoration of stability in the region – a necessary starting point for

¹⁵³⁰ France postpones G5 Sahel meeting after deadly Niger attack, France24 (Paris) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20191212-france-postpones-g5-sahel-meeting-after-deadly-niger-attack>.

¹⁵³¹ France postpones G5 Sahel meeting after deadly Niger attack, France24 (Paris) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20191212-france-postpones-g5-sahel-meeting-after-deadly-niger-attack>.

¹⁵³² France postpones G5 Sahel meeting after deadly Niger attack, France24 (Paris) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20191212-france-postpones-g5-sahel-meeting-after-deadly-niger-attack>.

¹⁵³³ France deploys armed drones in the Sahel region, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.dw.com/en/france-deploys-armed-drones-in-the-sahel-region/a-51744023>.

¹⁵³⁴ France deploys armed drones in the Sahel region, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.dw.com/en/france-deploys-armed-drones-in-the-sahel-region/a-51744023>.

¹⁵³⁵ Mali conflict: Macron says 33 'terrorists' killed by French troops, British Broadcasting Company (London) 21 December 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-50879429>.

¹⁵³⁶ Mali conflict: Macron says 33 'terrorists' killed by French troops, British Broadcasting Company (London) 21 December 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-50879429>.

¹⁵³⁷ Mali conflict: Macron says 33 'terrorists' killed by French troops, British Broadcasting Company (London) 21 December 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-50879429>.

¹⁵³⁸ G5 Sahel – Pau Summit – Statement by the Heads of State (13 Jan, 2020), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/news/news-about-defence-and-security/article/g5-sahel-pau-summit-statement-by-the-heads-of-state-13-jan-2020>.

further development.¹⁵³⁹ President Macron also announced plans to dispatch an additional 220 soldiers to aid with Operation Barkhane.¹⁵⁴⁰ This action provides tangible support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities.

On 2 February 2020, Minister Parly announced that an additional 600 soldiers would be deployed to the Sahel region to aid in the ongoing fight against Islamist militants in the region.¹⁵⁴¹ She added that the reinforcement would allow for the increase of pressure against the Islamic State group in the Grand Sahara (ISIS-GS).¹⁵⁴² In addition to the French presence, a contingent of 13,000 UN peacekeepers, referred to as MINUSMA, are present on the ground in Mali.¹⁵⁴³ Prior to the announcement, France had an existing 4,500 troops stationed in the Europe-sized region as part of ongoing Operation Barkhane.¹⁵⁴⁴ This action provides tangible support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities.

On 8 February 2020, the military announced that joint operations between Malian and French forces had killed 30 extremists in Africa's Sahel region in recent days.¹⁵⁴⁵ The news comes in the wake of a recent statement announcing the addition of 600 soldiers to aid with Operation Barkhane, increasing the total number of troops to 5,100.¹⁵⁴⁶ This action provides tangible support to the G5 Sahel's internal security capabilities.

On 27 March 2020, France, along with 13 other European allies, announced the establishment of a new task force, named Takuba (meaning "Sabre" in Tuareg).¹⁵⁴⁷ The group will assist with ongoing efforts by regional forces to resist armed groups in the Sahel region, adding to the existing presence

¹⁵³⁹ G5 Sahel – Pau Summit – Statement by the Heads of State (13 Jan, 2020), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/news/news-about-defence-and-security/article/g5-sahel-pau-summit-statement-by-the-heads-of-state-13-jan-2020>.

¹⁵⁴⁰ G5 Sahel – Pau Summit – Statement by the Heads of State (13 Jan, 2020), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/news/news-about-defence-and-security/article/g5-sahel-pau-summit-statement-by-the-heads-of-state-13-jan-2020>.

¹⁵⁴¹ France to send 600 more troops to Africa's Sahel, France24 (Paris) 24 February 2020. Date Accessed: 13 April 2020. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200202-france-sahel-africa-parly-troops-army-soldiers-defence-minister-florence-mali-burkina-faso-niger>.

¹⁵⁴² France to send 600 more troops to Africa's Sahel, France24 (Paris) 24 February 2020. Date Accessed: 13 April 2020. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200202-france-sahel-africa-parly-troops-army-soldiers-defence-minister-florence-mali-burkina-faso-niger>.

¹⁵⁴³ France to send 600 more troops to Africa's Sahel, France24 (Paris) 24 February 2020. Date Accessed: 13 April 2020. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200202-france-sahel-africa-parly-troops-army-soldiers-defence-minister-florence-mali-burkina-faso-niger>.

¹⁵⁴⁴ France to send 600 more troops to Africa's Sahel, France24 (Paris) 24 February 2020. Date Accessed: 13 April 2020. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200202-france-sahel-africa-parly-troops-army-soldiers-defence-minister-florence-mali-burkina-faso-niger>.

¹⁵⁴⁵ French airstrikes, commandos kill 30 extremists in Sahel, ABC News (New York) 8 February 2020. Date Accessed: 14 April 2020. <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/french-airstrikes-commandos-kill-30-extremists-sahel-68844791>.

¹⁵⁴⁶ French airstrikes, commandos kill 30 extremists in Sahel, ABC News (New York) 8 February 2020. Date Accessed: 14 April 2020. <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/french-airstrikes-commandos-kill-30-extremists-sahel-68844791>.

¹⁵⁴⁷ France and allies establish new task force in Sahel, Al Jazeera (Doha) 28 March 2020. Date Accessed: 14 April 2020. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/03/france-allies-establish-task-force-sahel-200328075257444.html>.

of Operation Barkhane and the regional G5 Sahel Joint Force.¹⁵⁴⁸ This action provides tangible support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities.

On 7 April 2020, Permanent Representative of France to the UN Nicolas de Rivière delivered an address to the UN Security Council highlighting the results of the recent Pau Summit and the overall state of affairs in the G5 Sahel region.¹⁵⁴⁹ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 27 April 2020, French and G5 Sahel ministers held a videoconference call, restating their "solidarity and mobilisation" while faced with COVID-19.¹⁵⁵⁰ The ministers congratulated progress made in the fight against Boko Haram, welcomed the progress of multi-party military operations, engaged the idea of territorial development and humanitarian aid, and called for more international support for G5 Sahel countries' armed forces military operations in the Sahel region.¹⁵⁵¹ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security operations, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 28 April 2020, France welcomed the "establishment of the International Coalition for the Sahel," in the presence of the G5 Sahel heads of state and the UN Deputy Secretary-General.¹⁵⁵² France announced its intentions to continue the efforts it has made with the European Union and its Sahel partners to expand the Coalition to other international partners.¹⁵⁵³ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security operations, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus. This action provides tangible and verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 12 June 2020, France participated in the inaugural meeting of the International Coalition for the Sahel.¹⁵⁵⁴ French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian re-affirmed French commitment to support the four pillars of the Coalition: "counter-terrorism, building the military capabilities of G5 Sahel

¹⁵⁴⁸ France and allies establish new task force in Sahel, Al Jazeera (Doha) 28 March 2020. Date Accessed: 14 April 2020. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/03/france-allies-establish-task-force-sahel-200328075257444.html>.

¹⁵⁴⁹ Official speeches and statements – April 7, 2020, Embassy of France in Washington, D.C. (Washington) 7 April 2020. Date Accessed: 16 April 2020. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9701>.

¹⁵⁵⁰ The International Coalition for the Sahel – Strong commitments, Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 27 April 2020. Date Accessed: 31 August 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/terrorism-france-s-international-action/article/the-international-coalition-for-the-sahel>.

¹⁵⁵¹ Joint Statement following the G5 Sahel-France Foreign/Defence Ministers Meeting of 27 April 2020, French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 27 April 2020. Date Accessed: 31 August 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/news/news-about-defence-and-security/article/joint-statement-following-the-g5-sahel-france-foreign-defence-ministers-meeting>.

¹⁵⁵² Establishment of the International Coalition for the Sahel (28 Apr. 2020), French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 28 April 2020. Date Accessed: 31 August 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/news/news-about-defence-and-security/article/establishment-of-the-international-coalition-for-the-sahel-28-apr-2020>.

¹⁵⁵³ Establishment of the International Coalition for the Sahel (28 Apr. 2020), French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 28 April 2020. Date Accessed: 31 August 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/news/news-about-defence-and-security/article/establishment-of-the-international-coalition-for-the-sahel-28-apr-2020>.

¹⁵⁵⁴ Informal conclusions of the first meeting of the International Coalition for the Sahel (12 Jun. 2020), French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 12 June 2020. Date Accessed: 31 August 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/news/news-about-defence-and-security/article/informal-conclusions-of-the-first-meeting-of-the-international-coalition-for>.

States, supporting the return of the State and administrations to the territory, and development assistance.”¹⁵⁵⁵

On 15 July 2020, France and its partners officially launched Task Force Takuba.¹⁵⁵⁶ The first wave of special forces were deployed as well, including forward elements of French and Estonian special forces into the Sahel-Sahara belt.¹⁵⁵⁷ This action provides tangible support to the G5 Sahel’s defence and internal security capabilities.

France has provided tangible support to the G5 Sahel to enhance their defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analysts: William Lloyd and Ben Holt

Germany: 0

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to work the G5 Sahel to improve and better coordinate efforts to enhance their defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 24 September 2019, Minister of Foreign Affairs Heiko Maas outlined Germany’s goals at the forthcoming meeting of the United Nations General Assembly with respect to the country’s commitments to the Sahel region.¹⁵⁵⁸ Minister Maas stated that Germany regards security, disarmament, the protection of international humanitarian law, and crisis prevention in the Sahel region as crucial topics that must be addressed by the international community.¹⁵⁵⁹ Minister Maas stated that Germany will continue to work towards peaceful cooperation and de-escalation in Sahel.¹⁵⁶⁰ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel’s defence and internal security capabilities.

On 7 October 2019, Minister of Defence Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer met with the Prime Minister of Niger Brigi Rafini to discuss the special challenges that the country faces with respect to cross-

¹⁵⁵⁵ Informal conclusions of the first meeting of the International Coalition for the Sahel (12 Jun. 2020), French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 12 June 2020. Date Accessed: 31 August 2020.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/news/news-about-defence-and-security/article/informal-conclusions-of-the-first-meeting-of-the-international-coalition-for>.

¹⁵⁵⁶ France’s action in the Sahel – Partnerships at the request of African countries – Military support for Sahel countries, French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 15 July 2020. Date Accessed: 31 August 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/terrorism-france-s-international-action/article/france-s-action-in-the-sahel>.

¹⁵⁵⁷ France’s action in the Sahel – Partnerships at the request of African countries – Military support for Sahel countries, French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 15 July 2020. Date Accessed: 31 August 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/terrorism-france-s-international-action/article/france-s-action-in-the-sahel>.

¹⁵⁵⁸ Statement by Foreign Minister Maas prior to his departure for New York, German Federal Foreign Office (Bonn) 24 September 2019. Date Accessed: 15 December 2019. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-gneral-assembly/2249318>.

¹⁵⁵⁹ Statement by Foreign Minister Maas prior to his departure for New York, German Federal Foreign Office (Bonn) 24 September 2019. Date Accessed: 15 December 2019. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-gneral-assembly/2249318>.

¹⁵⁶⁰ Statement by Foreign Minister Maas prior to his departure for New York, German Federal Foreign Office (Bonn) 24 September 2019. Date Accessed: 15 December 2019. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-gneral-assembly/2249318>.

border terrorism and illegal migration.¹⁵⁶¹ Minister Kramp-Karrenbauer stated that German missions in the region aim to prioritize the military issues facing the country as well as the civil ones, such as the education of girls.¹⁵⁶² This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 9 October 2019, Minister Kramp-Karrenbauer visited German soldiers of the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission of the United Nations in Mali (MINUSMA) and reaffirmed the Bundeswehr's contribution to education, medical care, and protection in Mali in preservation of the fragile peace agreement reached in the country.¹⁵⁶³ This action provides verbal support to the Mali's internal security capabilities.

On 16 October 2019, German and French representatives reaffirmed their shared determination to work together for peace and stability in the Sahel.¹⁵⁶⁴ Representatives from the two countries reaffirmed their full commitment to securing, stabilizing, and developing the Sahel Region and vowed to work in close coordination with the European Union in the launch and implementation of the Partnership for Security and Stability in the Sahel.¹⁵⁶⁵ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 20 November 2019, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations Juergen Schulz stressed that all partners of the Sahel Alliance must do more to stabilize the situation during a meeting of the United Nations Security Council.¹⁵⁶⁶ Deputy Permanent Representative Schulz invited other Council members to participate in the security partnership recently launched by Germany and France.¹⁵⁶⁷ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities.

On 26 November 2019, Minister of Foreign Affairs Heiko Maas stated that more will be expected of Germany in addressing the ongoing conflicts in the Sahel region.¹⁵⁶⁸ Minister Maas suggested that German military engagement in the Sahel region would increase in the foreseeable future, but also

¹⁵⁶¹ Ministerin: Einsatzreise nach Niger und Mali, Bundesministerium der Verteidigung (Bonn) 7 October 2019. Date Accessed: 16 December 2019. <https://www.bmvg.de/de/aktuelles/verteidigungsministerin-einsatzreise-niger-mali-122720>.

¹⁵⁶² Ministerin: Einsatzreise nach Niger und Mali, Bundesministerium der Verteidigung (Bonn) 7 October 2019. Date Accessed: 16 December 2019. <https://www.bmvg.de/de/aktuelles/verteidigungsministerin-einsatzreise-niger-mali-122720>.

¹⁵⁶³ MINUSMA: Truppenbesuch der Ministerin bei UN-Mission in Mali, Bundesministerium der Verteidigung (Bonn) 9 October 2019. Date Accessed: 15 December 2019. <https://www.bmvg.de/de/aktuelles/verteidigungsministerin-truppenbesuch-minusma-mali-131688>.

¹⁵⁶⁴ Deutsch-Französische Erklärung von Toulouse, German Federal Foreign Office (Bonn) 16 October 2019. Date Accessed: 15 December 2019. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/blob/2258030/8250e92c55a8fc2c6d25b00fd8c57214/erklaerung-data.pdf>.

¹⁵⁶⁵ Deutsch-Französische Erklärung von Toulouse, German Federal Foreign Office (Bonn) 16 October 2019. Date Accessed: 15 December 2019. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/blob/2258030/8250e92c55a8fc2c6d25b00fd8c57214/erklaerung-data.pdf>.

¹⁵⁶⁶ Amid Increased Terrorist Activity in Sahel Region, Speakers Tell Security Council Greater Commitment Needed for Joint Force, United Nations (New York) 20 November 2019. Date Accessed: 15 December 2019. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc14027.doc.htm>.

¹⁵⁶⁷ Amid Increased Terrorist Activity in Sahel Region, Speakers Tell Security Council Greater Commitment Needed for Joint Force, United Nations (New York) 20 November 2019. Date Accessed: 15 December 2019. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc14027.doc.htm>.

¹⁵⁶⁸ Speech by Foreign Minister Heiko Maas at the Körber-Stiftung Berlin Foreign Policy Forum, German Federal Foreign Office (Bonn) 26 November 2019. Date Accessed: 16 December 2019. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-berlin-policy-forum/2282522>.

noted that military crisis management was not enough.¹⁵⁶⁹ Minister Maas stated that Germany must also work toward “political answers to profound changes to the international system.”¹⁵⁷⁰ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel’s defence and internal security capabilities.

On 12 December 2019, the Government of Germany announced the allocation of EUR66 million to its equipment assistance program for foreign armed forces for the period of 2021-2024.¹⁵⁷¹ The program focuses on providing the skills and materials necessary for peacekeeping to “selected African countries” with a particular priority on assistance for Burkina Faso.¹⁵⁷² The program will include the allocation of particular military equipment as well as training and advising foreign armed forces in the use of equipment.¹⁵⁷³ This action provides tangible support to the G5 Sahel’s defence.

On 26 February 2020, Minister Maas declared at the 56th Munich Security Conference that Europe must do more to promote the “security and stability of our neighbourhood” from Ukraine to the Sahel.¹⁵⁷⁴ Maas identified the Sahel region as “a new haven for international terrorism” and affirmed that “nowhere else are Germany and Europe more committed - both in military and civilian terms.”¹⁵⁷⁵ He announced that Germany was “prepared to become more involved” in the Sahel region.¹⁵⁷⁶ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel’s defence and internal security capabilities.

On 8 April 2020, Minister Maas announced a grant of EUR10 million to the World Food Programme and United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS).¹⁵⁷⁷ The money will be directed to food security initiatives and the transportation of humanitarian aid workers in the G5 Sahel.¹⁵⁷⁸ This action provides tangible support to the G5 Sahel’s internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

¹⁵⁶⁹ Speech by Foreign Minister Heiko Maas at the Körber-Stiftung Berlin Foreign Policy Forum, German Federal Foreign Office (Bonn) 26 November 2019. Date Accessed: 16 December 2019. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-berlin-policy-forum/2282522>.

¹⁵⁷⁰ Speech by Foreign Minister Heiko Maas at the Körber-Stiftung Berlin Foreign Policy Forum, German Federal Foreign Office (Bonn) 26 November 2019. Date Accessed: 16 December 2019. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-berlin-policy-forum/2282522>.

¹⁵⁷¹ Projekte stehen: Ausstattungshilfe für ausländische Streitkräfte, Bundesministerium der Verteidigung (Bonn) 12 December 2019. Date Accessed: 17 December 2019. <https://www.bmvg.de/de/aktuelles/projekte-stehen-ausstattungshilfe-auslaendische-streitkraefte-163000>.

¹⁵⁷² Projekte stehen: Ausstattungshilfe für ausländische Streitkräfte, Bundesministerium der Verteidigung (Bonn) 12 December 2019. Date Accessed: 17 December 2019. <https://www.bmvg.de/de/aktuelles/projekte-stehen-ausstattungshilfe-auslaendische-streitkraefte-163000>.

¹⁵⁷³ Projekte stehen: Ausstattungshilfe für ausländische Streitkräfte, Bundesministerium der Verteidigung (Bonn) 12 December 2019. Date Accessed: 17 December 2019. <https://www.bmvg.de/de/aktuelles/projekte-stehen-ausstattungshilfe-auslaendische-streitkraefte-163000>.

¹⁵⁷⁴ Speech by Foreign Minister Heiko Mass at the 56th Munich Security Conference, German Federal Foreign Office (Bonn) 14 February 2020. Date Accessed: 15 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-munich-security-conference/2308256>.

¹⁵⁷⁵ Speech by Foreign Minister Heiko Mass at the 56th Munich Security Conference, German Federal Foreign Office (Bonn) 14 February 2020. Date Accessed: 15 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-munich-security-conference/2308256>.

¹⁵⁷⁶ Speech by Foreign Minister Heiko Mass at the 56th Munich Security Conference, German Federal Foreign Office (Bonn) 14 February 2020. Date Accessed: 15 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-munich-security-conference/2308256>.

¹⁵⁷⁷ Statement by Foreign Minister Maas on food aid for people in the Sahel region, Federal Foreign Office (Bonn) 8 April 2020. Date Accessed: 2 September 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-wfp-sahel/2331716>.

¹⁵⁷⁸ Statement by Foreign Minister Maas on food aid for people in the Sahel region, Federal Foreign Office (Bonn) 8 April 2020. Date Accessed: 2 September 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-wfp-sahel/2331716>.

On 13 May 2020, Minister Maas addressed the Bundestag on the German government's participation, through its armed forces, in the European Union Training Mission in Mali (EUTM Mali).¹⁵⁷⁹ During his speech, the Mr. Maas sought to gain the Bundestag's approval to extend Germany's mandate as a part of EUTM for another year, by forwarding Germany's planned reform proposals for the EU mission, such as EUTM to all G5 Sahel countries and decentralisation of training for Malian soldiers.¹⁵⁸⁰ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel's internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 11 June 2020, Minister Maas addressed the UN Security Council in regards to MINUSMA.¹⁵⁸¹ He noted the need to ramp up support efforts to MINUSMA from members of the Security Council.¹⁵⁸² Minister Maas announced that Germany's "parliament approved our military's participation for another year" in MINUSMA, as well as highlighted Germany's relevance as main "contributor of police trainers who are essential for the long-term stability of the country."¹⁵⁸³ The Germans announced expanded deployments of "high-value reconnaissance assets" to the G5 Sahel states and called for women to be added into peace processes in Mali.¹⁵⁸⁴ This action provides tangible and verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 12 June 2020, Minister Maas participated in the inaugural meeting of the International Coalition for the Sahel, over videoconference.¹⁵⁸⁵ During the ministerial meeting, Germany affirmed its desire to train and equip the security forces of the Sahel "in such a way that they can independently ensure the security of the population...and [that the] presence of the state grows again."¹⁵⁸⁶ This action provides verbal and tangible support to the G5 Sahel's internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

Germany has provided the G5 Sahel with tangible support to enhance their defense and verbal support to enhance both their defense and internal security capabilities but has failed to provide

¹⁵⁷⁹ Speech by Foreign Minister Heiko Maas to the German Bundestag on the Federal Government's motion to "continue the participation of German armed forces in the EU military mission as contribution to the training of the Malian Armed Forces (EUTM Mali)", Federal Foreign Office (Bonn) 13 May 2020. Date Accessed: 2 September 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-eutm-mali/2340752>.

¹⁵⁸⁰ Speech by Foreign Minister Heiko Maas to the German Bundestag on the Federal Government's motion to "continue the participation of German armed forces in the EU military mission as contribution to the training of the Malian Armed Forces (EUTM Mali)", Federal Foreign Office (Bonn) 13 May 2020. Date Accessed: 2 September 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-eutm-mali/2340752>.

¹⁵⁸¹ Speech by Federal Foreign Minister Heiko Maas on MINUSMA in the UN Security Council, Federal Foreign Office (Bonn) 11 June 2020. Date Accessed: 2 September 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-security-council-minusma/2352026>.

¹⁵⁸² Speech by Federal Foreign Minister Heiko Maas on MINUSMA in the UN Security Council, Federal Foreign Office (Bonn) 11 June 2020. Date Accessed: 2 September 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-security-council-minusma/2352026>.

¹⁵⁸³ Speech by Federal Foreign Minister Heiko Maas on MINUSMA in the UN Security Council, Federal Foreign Office (Bonn) 11 June 2020. Date Accessed: 2 September 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-security-council-minusma/2352026>.

¹⁵⁸⁴ Speech by Federal Foreign Minister Heiko Maas on MINUSMA in the UN Security Council, Federal Foreign Office (Bonn) 11 June 2020. Date Accessed: 2 September 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-security-council-minusma/2352026>.

¹⁵⁸⁵ Foreign Minister Maas on the Partnership for Security and Stability in the Sahel, Federal Foreign Office (Bonn) 12 June 2020. Date Accessed: 2 September 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-securityand-stability-sahel/2352460>.

¹⁵⁸⁶ Foreign Minister Maas on the Partnership for Security and Stability in the Sahel, Federal Foreign Office (Bonn) 12 June 2020. Date Accessed: 2 September 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-securityand-stability-sahel/2352460>.

tangible support for internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

Thus, Germany receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Jessi Gilchrist and Ben Holt

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to work the G5 Sahel to improve and better coordinate efforts to enhance their defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 5 September 2019, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Luigi Di Maio reiterated Italy's support for the United Nations High Commissioner as a priority partner in assisting refugees in the ongoing humanitarian crises and in the management of migratory flows in transit countries such as Niger.¹⁵⁸⁷ This action provides verbal support to enhance the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities.

On 14 October 2019, the Government of Italy donated ten ambulances and three tank trucks to the Government of Niger through the Africa Fund in order to "strengthen the capacity of the Nigerian authorities to help migrants and to combat human trafficking."¹⁵⁸⁸ This action provides tangible support to enhance Niger's defence and internal security capabilities.

On 6 December 2019, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Emanuela Del Re participated in a meeting with the Minister of Foreign of Niger Kalla Ankoura and declared that Niger and its stabilization is a priority of Italian foreign policy.¹⁵⁸⁹ Representatives from Niger and Italy discussed the economic and social development of Niger as it relates to security and agreed to organize upcoming initiatives in this regard.¹⁵⁹⁰ This action provides verbal support to enhance Niger's internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 7 November 2019, the Italian Embassy in Niger launched "Pizza for Peace," a project designed to develop the entrepreneurship of refugee women residing in the country and assist Niger in

¹⁵⁸⁷ Incontro del Ministro Di Maio con l'Alto Commissario ONU per i Rifugiati, Filippo Grandi, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale, (Rome) 25 September 2019. Date Accessed: 12 December 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2019/09/incontro-del-ministro-di-maio-con-l-alto-commissario-onu-per-i-rifugiati-filippo-grandi.html.

¹⁵⁸⁸ L'Italia dona 10 ambulanze al Governo del Niger, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 15 October 2019. Date Accessed 11 December 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2019/10/l-italia-dona-10-ambulanze-al-governo-del-niger.html.

¹⁵⁸⁹ Med 2019: Del Re incontra il Ministro degli Esteri Niger, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 6 December 2019. Date Accessed: 11 December 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2019/12/med-2019-del-re-incontra-il-ministro-degli-esteri-niger.html

¹⁵⁹⁰ Med 2019: Del Re incontra il Ministro degli Esteri Niger, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 6 December 2019. Date Accessed: 11 December 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2019/12/med-2019-del-re-incontra-il-ministro-degli-esteri-niger.html

structural economic reform.¹⁵⁹¹ This action provides tangible support to enhance Niger's internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 7 December 2019, President Giuseppe Conte reaffirmed Italy's sustained action towards the stability and prosperity of the Republic of Chad in a speech at the Mediterranean Dialogues conference.¹⁵⁹² This action provides verbal support to enhance Chad's internal security capabilities.

On 9 December 2019, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation allocated EUR800,000 to the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention through the Africa Fund to strengthen the capacities of judicial procedures in the fight against human trafficking in Niger as the crossroads of migrate routes to the central Mediterranean.¹⁵⁹³ This action provides tangible support to Niger's internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 3 February 2020, Deputy Minister Del Re participated in the seventh Ministerial Conference of Dialogue 5+5 that brought together representatives from Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, and Malta with representatives from the G5 Sahel countries to discuss Migration and Development.¹⁵⁹⁴ At the conference, she reaffirmed Italy's support to integrate the "different dimensions of security" by promoting an "all-encompassing and balanced approach to ... migration" with the "fight against traffickers."¹⁵⁹⁵ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 25 February 2020, Deputy Minister Del Re attended the first General Assembly of the Sahel Alliance.¹⁵⁹⁶ At the meeting, Del Re confirmed Italy's support for the Sahel Alliance in the challenges that the Sahel countries face with respect to security and development.¹⁵⁹⁷ At the conference, she participated in a meeting with the President of Burkina Faso Roch Mark Kaboré and expressed his "great satisfaction at the recent signing of the defense cooperation agreement which will allow for increased bilateral collaboration for training in the areas of border control and the fight against illicit

¹⁵⁹¹ Settimana cucina italiana: In Niger 'la pizza per la pace', Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 7 November 2019. Date Accessed: 14 December 2019.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2019/11/settimana-cucina-italiana-in-niger-la-pizza-per-la-pace.html.

¹⁵⁹² Intervento del Presidente Conte al Rome MED 2019, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri (Rome) 7 December 2019. Date Accessed: 14 December 2019. <http://www.governo.it/it/articolo/intervento-del-presidente-conte-al-rome-med-2019/13531>.

¹⁵⁹³ Due nuovi contributi MAECI per rifugiati in Niger e Etiopia, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 9 December 2019. Date Accessed: 11 December 2019.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2019/12/due-nuovi-contributi-maeci-per-rifugiati-in-niger-e-etiofia_0.html.

¹⁵⁹⁴ Partecipazione della Vice Ministra Del Re alla VIII Conferenza Ministeriale del Dialogo 5+5 a Marrakech. Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 3 February 2020. Date Accessed: 16 April 2020.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/03/partecipazione-della-vice-ministra-del-re-alla-viii-conferenza-ministeriale-del-dialogo-5-5-a-marrakech.html.

¹⁵⁹⁵ Partecipazione della Vice Ministra Del Re alla VIII Conferenza Ministeriale del Dialogo 5+5 a Marrakech. Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 3 February 2020. Date Accessed: 16 April 2020.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/03/partecipazione-della-vice-ministra-del-re-alla-viii-conferenza-ministeriale-del-dialogo-5-5-a-marrakech.html.

¹⁵⁹⁶ Del Re a Nouakchott: Italia per sicurezza e sviluppo in Sahel. Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 25 February 2020. Date Accessed: 13 April 2020.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/02/del-re-a-nouakchott-italia-per-sicurezza-e-sviluppo-in-sahel.html.

¹⁵⁹⁷ Del Re a Nouakchott: Italia per sicurezza e sviluppo in Sahel. Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 25 February 2020. Date Accessed: 13 April 2020.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/02/del-re-a-nouakchott-italia-per-sicurezza-e-sviluppo-in-sahel.html.

trafficking.”¹⁵⁹⁸ This action provides tangible support to the G5 Sahel’s defence and internal security capabilities.

On 12 June 2020, Minister Di Maio participated in the first Ministerial Meeting of the Coalition for the Sahel.¹⁵⁹⁹ This action provides tangible support to the G5 Sahel’s defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 21 August 2020, Deputy Minister Del Re called upon the European Union to “look more closely” at the Sahel.¹⁶⁰⁰ She noted Italian military and civil contributions to stabilisation efforts in the Sahel, while asking the European Union to create “more engagement” in a “broader project that responds to peoples’ demands.”¹⁶⁰¹ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel’s defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

Italy has provided the G5 Sahel with tangible support to enhance both their defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Jessi Gilebrist and Ben Holt

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to work with the G5 Sahel to improve and better coordinate efforts to enhance their defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 28 August 2019, Minister for Foreign Affairs Taro Kono participated in the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Sahel Region at the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7).¹⁶⁰² Minister Kono pledged that Japan will provide training to 1,000 personnel from the G5 Sahel members over a three-year period, vocational training and educational opportunities for youth and fostering the development of human resources through the School of Peacekeeping “Ecole de Maintien de la Paix Alioune Blondin BEYE de Bamako.”¹⁶⁰³ Minister Kono also reiterated Japan’s commitment to help refugees and their host communities in the context of the

¹⁵⁹⁸ Del Re a Nouakchott: Italia per sicurezza e sviluppo in Sahel. Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 25 February 2020. Date Accessed: 13 April 2020.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/02/del-re-a-nouakchott-italia-per-sicurezza-e-sviluppo-in-sahel.html.

¹⁵⁹⁹ Participation by Minister Di Maio in the first Ministerial Meeting of the Coalition for the Sahel, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 12 June 2020. Date Accessed: 2 September 2020.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2020/06/partecipazione-del-ministro-di-maio-alla-prima-conferenza-ministeriale-della-coalizione-per-il-sahel.html.

¹⁶⁰⁰ Lebanon, Mali, Belarus. That is where Italy goes. The floor to Vice Minister De Re (Formiche.net), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 21 August 2020. Date Accessed: 2 September 2020.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/interviste/2020/08/libano-mali-bielorussia-ecco-dove-va-l-italia-parla-la-vice-ministra-del-re-formiche-net.html.

¹⁶⁰¹ Lebanon, Mali, Belarus. That is where Italy goes. The floor to Vice Minister De Re (Formiche.net), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 21 August 2020. Date Accessed: 2 September 2020.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/

[interviste/2020/08/libano-mali-bielorussia-ecco-dove-va-l-italia-parla-la-vice-ministra-del-re-formiche-net.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/interviste/2020/08/libano-mali-bielorussia-ecco-dove-va-l-italia-parla-la-vice-ministra-del-re-formiche-net.html).

¹⁶⁰² Address by the Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Kono Taro at the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Sahel Region, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Yokohama) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019.

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/000511296.pdf>.

¹⁶⁰³ Address by the Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Kono Taro at the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Sahel Region, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Yokohama) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019.

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/000511296.pdf>.

humanitarian and developmental issues.¹⁶⁰⁴ This action provides tangible support for structural reforms of the G5 Sahel region's security apparatuses.

On 28 August 2019, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe participated in a bilateral meeting with the President of Mali, Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta.¹⁶⁰⁵ Prime Minister Abe discussed Japan's support for the School of Peacekeeping in Mali and Japan's continued support in the field of public safety including assistance to peacekeeping training centres in Africa.¹⁶⁰⁶ This action provides verbal support to the Mali's internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 29 August 2019, Prime Minister Abe participated in the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa and neighbouring regions during the TICAD7.¹⁶⁰⁷ In attendance were the heads of state, heads of governments and government representatives from 15 countries and 16 organizations in Africa.¹⁶⁰⁸ This action provides verbal support to enhance the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities.

On 29 August 2019, Prime Minister Abe held a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Mauritania at the TICAD7.¹⁶⁰⁹ Prime Minister Abe renewed Japan's commitment to strengthen counter measures to illegal immigration and terrorism.¹⁶¹⁰ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities.

On 29 August 2019, Prime Minister Abe participated in a bilateral meeting with the President of Burkina Faso Roch Marc Christian Kaboré during the TICAD7.¹⁶¹¹ President Kaboré welcomed Japan's New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa.¹⁶¹² The two leaders also discussed counterterrorism in Burkina Faso.¹⁶¹³ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities.

¹⁶⁰⁴ Address by the Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Kono Taro at the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Sahel Region, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Yokohama) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/000511296.pdf>.

¹⁶⁰⁵ Japan-Mali Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Yokohama) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/ml/page3e_001070.html.

¹⁶⁰⁶ Japan-Mali Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Yokohama) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/ml/page3e_001070.html.

¹⁶⁰⁷ Prime Minister Abe and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Kono attended the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa and the Neighboring Region, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Yokohama) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/page4e_001075.html.

¹⁶⁰⁸ Prime Minister Abe and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Kono attended the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Horn of Africa and the Neighboring Region, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Yokohama) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/page4e_001075.html.

¹⁶⁰⁹ Japan-Mauritania Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Yokohama) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/mr/page3e_001076.html.

¹⁶¹⁰ Japan-Mauritania Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Yokohama) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/mr/page3e_001076.html.

¹⁶¹¹ Japan-Burkina Faso Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Yokohama) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/bf/page25e_000323.html.

¹⁶¹² Japan-Burkina Faso Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Yokohama) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/bf/page25e_000323.html.

¹⁶¹³ Japan-Burkina Faso Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Yokohama) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/bf/page25e_000323.html.

On 29 August 2019, Minister Kono held a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Economy and Developmental Planning of Chad Issa Doubragne at the TICAD7.¹⁶¹⁴ Minister Kono renewed Japan's initiatives to improve the situation in the Lake Chad Basin and its renewed support to the goals of the G5 Sahel.¹⁶¹⁵ This action provides verbal support to the Chad's defence and internal security capabilities.

On 31 August 2019, Minister Kono held a bilateral meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation for Burkina Faso Alpha Barry during the TICAD7.¹⁶¹⁶ Minister Barry welcomed NAPSA, which was introduced by Japan at TICAD7.¹⁶¹⁷ He also welcomed the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Sahel region that was held as part of TICAD7.¹⁶¹⁸ Minister Kono expressed support for deepening bilateral cooperation on security measures among other things.¹⁶¹⁹ This action provides verbal support to Burkina Faso's defence and internal security capabilities.

On 21 October 2019, Minister Kono held a meeting with Minister Barry.¹⁶²⁰ Japan will back up the efforts made by Burkina Faso in the fight against terrorism and will work with African-led initiatives, like the G5 Sahel.¹⁶²¹ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities.

On 10 December 2019, Japan co-sponsored a United Nations Economic and Social Council draft resolution which was later adopted as resolution "Support to the Sahel region" (E/2020/L.3).¹⁶²² This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 10 March 2020, Japan extended an Emergency Grant Aid of USD 23.7 million for displaced persons due to the deteriorated security conditions in the Sahel region.¹⁶²³ This action provides tangible support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities.

On 11 March 2020, the delegation to the United Nations Ishikane Kimihiro supported a UN Security Council Presidential Statement calling for greater efforts to help Africa's fight against terrorism.¹⁶²⁴

¹⁶¹⁴ Meeting between Foreign Minister Kono and Doubragne, Minister of Economy and Developmental Planning of the Republic of Chad. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Yokohama) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/td/page3e_001090.html.

¹⁶¹⁵ Meeting between Foreign Minister Kono and Doubragne, Minister of Economy and Developmental Planning of the Republic of Chad. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Yokohama) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/td/page3e_001090.html.

¹⁶¹⁶ Japan-Burkina Faso Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Yokohama) 31 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/bf/page25e_000334.html.

¹⁶¹⁷ Japan-Burkina Faso Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Yokohama) 31 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/bf/page25e_000334.html.

¹⁶¹⁸ Japan-Burkina Faso Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Yokohama) 31 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/bf/page25e_000334.html.

¹⁶¹⁹ Japan-Burkina Faso Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Yokohama) 31 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/bf/page25e_000334.html.

¹⁶²⁰ Japan-Burkina Faso Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 12 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002657.html.

¹⁶²¹ Japan-Burkina Faso Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 12 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002657.html.

¹⁶²² Statement by Mr. Nakano Junya, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, EOP of Japan on the Resolution on the Sahel, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (New York) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.un.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/nakano121019.html.

¹⁶²³ Emergency Grant Aid in response to the humanitarian crisis in the Sahel region, Reliefweb (Tokyo) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. <https://reliefweb.int/report/burkina-faso/emergency-grant-aid-response-humanitarian-crisis-sahel-region>.

Ambassador Ishikane noted Japan's support for peacekeeping training centres in Mali and Japan's continued cooperation with joint efforts among the Security Council and the African Union.¹⁶²⁵ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities.

On 7 August 2020, the Japanese government extended an Emergency Aid Grant of USD4.8 million for humanitarian assistance "to refugees and internally displaced persons" and to "alleviate the impact of COVID-19" within Burkina Faso, Chad, and Niger.¹⁶²⁶ A provision of the aid package requires prevention and protection response against Sexual and Gender Based Violence.¹⁶²⁷ This action provides tangible support to the G5 Sahel's internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 19 August 2020, Japan issued a statement on the recent Malian coup that condemned the recent arrest of Mali's president and prime minister by force.¹⁶²⁸ The Japanese government called on all parties to restore constitutional order as early as possible, "halt violence," and make efforts towards a "peaceful solution" to the ongoing crisis.¹⁶²⁹ This action provides verbal support to Mali's defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

Japan has provided the G5 Sahel with tangible support to enhance both their defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Mostafa El Sharkany and Ben Holt

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to work with the G5 to improve and better coordinate efforts to enhance their defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 6 November 2019, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence published a Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) Programme Summary on the Niger Delta and Maritime

¹⁶²⁴ Security Council Issues Presidential Statement Calling for Greater Efforts to Help Africa Fight Terrorism, as Delegates Denounce 'Insufficient' Current Approaches, Reliefweb (New York City) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-issues-presidential-statement-calling-greater-efforts-help-africa>.

¹⁶²⁵ Security Council Issues Presidential Statement Calling for Greater Efforts to Help Africa Fight Terrorism, as Delegates Denounce 'Insufficient' Current Approaches, Reliefweb (New York City) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-issues-presidential-statement-calling-greater-efforts-help-africa>.

¹⁶²⁶ Emergency Grant Aid in response to the humanitarian crisis in Burkina Faso, Chad, and Niger, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 7 August 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002875.html.

¹⁶²⁷ Emergency Grant Aid in response to the humanitarian crisis in Burkina Faso, Chad, and Niger, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 7 August 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002875.html.

¹⁶²⁸ The Situation in the Republic of Mali (Statement by Press Secretary Yoshida Tomoyuki), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 19 August 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002882.html.

¹⁶²⁹ The Situation in the Republic of Mali (Statement by Press Secretary Yoshida Tomoyuki), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 19 August 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002882.html.

Security and Stability Programme.¹⁶³⁰ For the duration of April 2019 to March 2020, a sum budget of GBP1.5 million is allocated to projects regarding regional maritime security and Niger Delta Stability.¹⁶³¹ This action provides tangible support to the G5 Sahel's defence.

On 6 November 2019, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development published a CSSF Programme Summary on stabilization in the Sahel region.¹⁶³² The project has a duration of April 2018 to March 2021, and in 2019 to 2020 a sum budget of GBP5.05 million is allocated to projects regarding stabilization in Niger, Mali, Chad, and the region as a whole.¹⁶³³ This action provides tangible support to the G5 Sahel's internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 6 November 2019, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence, National Crime Agency, and Stabilization Unit published a CSSF Programme Summary on the Sahel Defence and Security Programme.¹⁶³⁴ For the duration of 2019 to 2020, a sum budget of GBP6.4 million is allocated to projects regarding defence and security institutions, professional development of Sahelian States' Officer Corps, counter-terrorism, and related areas.¹⁶³⁵ This action provides tangible support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 20 November 2019, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations Ambassador Jonathon Allen addressed the United Nations Security Council briefing on the Joint Force of the G5 Sahel regarding commitments within the G5.¹⁶³⁶ Ambassador Allen noted the United Kingdom's contribution of USD20 million through the European Union and USD116

¹⁶³⁰ CSSF Programme Summary: Niger Delta and Maritime Security and Stability Program, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence (London), 6 November 2019. Date of access: 10 December 2019.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/842226/Niger_Delta_and_Maritime_Programme.odt.

¹⁶³¹ CSSF Programme Summary: Niger Delta and Maritime Security and Stability Program, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence (London), 6 November 2019. Date of access: 10 December 2019.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/842226/Niger_Delta_and_Maritime_Programme.odt

¹⁶³² CSSF Programme Summary: Sahel Stabilisation CSSF Programme, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development (London), 6 November 2019. Date of access: 10 December 2019.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/842237/Sahel_Stabilisation.odt

¹⁶³³ CSSF Programme Summary: Sahel Stabilisation CSSF Programme, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development (London), 6 November 2019. Date of access: 10 December 2019.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/842237/Sahel_Stabilisation.odt

¹⁶³⁴ CSSF Programme Summary: Sahel Defence and Security Programme, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence and National Crime Agency and Stabilization Unit (London), 6 November 2019. Date of access: 10 December 2019.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/842236/Sahel_Defence_and_Security.odt

¹⁶³⁵ CSSF Programme Summary: Sahel Defence and Security Programme, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence and National Crime Agency and Stabilization Unit (London), 6 November 2019. Date of access: 10 December 2019.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/842236/Sahel_Defence_and_Security.odt

¹⁶³⁶ G5 efforts to combat instability in the Sahel, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Jonathan Allen (New York), 20 November 2019. Date of access: 5 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/g5-efforts-to-combat-instability-in-the-sahel>.

million independently toward bilateral development in the G5 Sahel Force.¹⁶³⁷ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities.

On 5 December 2019, the United Kingdom Chief of the Defence Staff General Sir Nick Carter delivered the annual Royal United Services Institute speech regarding the current state of defence, in which he outlined the approximately 5,000 troops deployed to support French troops in the Sahel.¹⁶³⁸ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence.

On 9 January 2020, Ambassador James Roscoe delivered a speech at the Security Council briefing on the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel that outlined an additional GBP20 million in humanitarian funding on top of the GBP50 million currently spent.¹⁶³⁹ This initiative aims to combat humanitarian crises in the Sahel region through security and humanitarian work while countries within the region prepared for elections.¹⁶⁴⁰ This action provides tangible support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 20 January 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson met with President of Ghana Akufo-Addo at the UK-Africa Investment Summit and expressed continued support for security within the Sahel region, although no specific contributions were outlined.¹⁶⁴¹ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities.

On 7 April 2020, Ambassador Roscoe delivered an address at the Security Council briefing on the situation in Mali which outlined the United Kingdom's continued work toward free elections and security in Mali during the Covid-19 pandemic, including deploying 250 British troops to Mali later this year and continuing support for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).¹⁶⁴² This action provides tangible support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

¹⁶³⁷ G5 efforts to combat instability in the Sahel, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Jonathan Allen (New York), 20 November 2019. Date of access: 5 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/g5-efforts-to-combat-instability-in-the-sahel>.

¹⁶³⁸ Chief of the Defence Staff, General Sir Nick Carter's annual RUSI speech, United Kingdom Ministry of Defence (London), 5 December 2019. Date of access: 10 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/chief-of-the-defence-staff-general-sir-nick-carters-annual-rusi-speech>.

¹⁶³⁹ Address by Ambassador James Roscoe at the Security Council briefing on the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 9 January 2020. Access Date: 20 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/preparing-for-elections-and-addressing-root-causes-of-conflict-in-west-africa>.

¹⁶⁴⁰ Address by Ambassador James Roscoe at the Security Council briefing on the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 9 January 2020. Access Date: 20 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/preparing-for-elections-and-addressing-root-causes-of-conflict-in-west-africa>.

¹⁶⁴¹ PM meeting with President of Ghana: 20 January 2020, Office of the Prime Minister (London) 20 January 2020, Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-meeting-with-president-of-ghana-20-january-2020>.

¹⁶⁴² Address by Ambassador and acting UK Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN James Roscoe at the Security Council briefing on the situation in Mali, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/commitment-from-all-parties-is-necessary-for-sustainable-peace-in-mali>.

On 12 June 2020, Parliamentary Secretary of State and Minister for Africa James Duddridge took part in a ministerial videoconference with members of the Coalition for the Sahel.¹⁶⁴³ Minister Duddridge, along with UK Minister for the Armed Forces, James Heapey, announced the extension of the UK's deployment of 3 Chinook helicopter to Operation Barkhane.¹⁶⁴⁴ Concurrently, the Minister for Africa reconfirmed the United Kingdom's planned deployment of 250 troops to MINUSMA later this year, despite the COVID-19 Pandemic.¹⁶⁴⁵ Also, Minister Duddridge publicised the disbursement of GBP10.5 million of funding to Education Cannot Wait, which will help children access education in Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso.¹⁶⁴⁶ This action provides verbal and tangible support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 9 July 2020, the British Ministry of Defence announced the loaning of equipment to the Estonian Armed Forces as they ready for their deployment in the Sahel to fight against Islamic terrorism.¹⁶⁴⁷ The loan includes 4 'Jackal 2' armoured reconnaissance vehicles and a three-week training package for Estonian soldiers on the operation of the vehicles.¹⁶⁴⁸ This action provides tangible support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities.

The United Kingdom has provided the G5 Sahel with tangible support to enhance both their defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

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

Analysts: Shauna McLean and Ben Holt

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to work with the G5 Sahel to improve and better coordinate efforts to enhance their defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 16 September 2019, United States Army General and Commander of the United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) Stephen Townsend met with the President of Mali Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, senior Malian military leaders and leaders of the G5 Sahel Joint Force.¹⁶⁴⁹ General Townsend recognized the continued assistance and partnership of the United States towards Mali, including

¹⁶⁴³ International Ministers discuss a new Coalition for the Sahel, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/international-ministers-discuss-a-new-coalition-for-the-sahel>.

¹⁶⁴⁴ International Ministers discuss a new Coalition for the Sahel, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/international-ministers-discuss-a-new-coalition-for-the-sahel>.

¹⁶⁴⁵ International Ministers discuss a new Coalition for the Sahel, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/international-ministers-discuss-a-new-coalition-for-the-sahel>.

¹⁶⁴⁶ International Ministers discuss a new Coalition for the Sahel, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/international-ministers-discuss-a-new-coalition-for-the-sahel>.

¹⁶⁴⁷ UK loans Estonia four Jackal vehicles to support counter-terror mission in Mali, Ministry of Defence (London) 9 July 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-loans-estonia-four-jackal-vehicles-to-support-counter-terror-mission-in-mali>.

¹⁶⁴⁸ UK loans Estonia four Jackal vehicles to support counter-terror mission in Mali, Ministry of Defence (London) 9 July 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-loans-estonia-four-jackal-vehicles-to-support-counter-terror-mission-in-mali>.

¹⁶⁴⁹ AFRICOM Commander Visits West Africa, United States Africa Command (Stuttgart) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.africom.mil/media-room/article/32219/africom-commander-visits-west-africa>.

funding to the G5 Sahel Joint Force which provides equipment, training, and advisory support for G5 members to operate infantry forces in the fight against violent extremism in the Sahel region.¹⁶⁵⁰ This action provides verbal support to Mali's defence and internal security capabilities.

On 17 September 2019, General Townsend met with the President of Burkina Faso Roch Marc Christian Kabore and Burkinabe military leaders.¹⁶⁵¹ In their discussion, General Townsend stressed the significance of annual regional military exercises like Flintlock and AFRICOM's military support.¹⁶⁵² This action provides verbal support to Burkina Faso's defence and internal security capabilities.

On 18 September 2019, General Townsend met with the President of Niger Mahamadou Issoufou, Nigerian military leaders, and United States troops deployed in Niger.¹⁶⁵³ General Townsend and President Issoufou discussed the new Air Base 201 which will support intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions by the United States and Nigerian Air Forces.¹⁶⁵⁴ AFRICOM said that MQ-9 Reaper drones were set to start flying missions from the base by the end of 2019.¹⁶⁵⁵ United States Ambassador to Niger Eric Paul Whitaker stated that the goal of the United States mission is to "enable Niger's defense and security forces to develop and sustain a professional force and contribute to peacekeeping efforts" while General Townsend recognized Niger as "a regional security leader."¹⁶⁵⁶ This action provides verbal support to Niger's defence and internal security capabilities.

On 8 October 2019, United States Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for West Africa and Security Affairs in the Bureau of African Affairs Whitney Baird met with the Ambassadors of the United States to Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger.¹⁶⁵⁷ The Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Baird discussed the overall approach of the United States towards the Sahel region with the purpose of increasing the understanding of county and region-specific issues.¹⁶⁵⁸ United States Agency for International Development Directors, State Department personnel and Department of Defence personnel were also present.¹⁶⁵⁹ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities.

¹⁶⁵⁰ AFRICOM Commander Visits West Africa, United States Africa Command (Stuttgart) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.africom.mil/media-room/article/32219/africom-commander-visits-west-africa>.

¹⁶⁵¹ AFRICOM Commander Visits West Africa, United States Africa Command (Stuttgart) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.africom.mil/media-room/article/32219/africom-commander-visits-west-africa>.

¹⁶⁵² AFRICOM Commander Visits West Africa, United States Africa Command (Stuttgart) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.africom.mil/media-room/article/32219/africom-commander-visits-west-africa>.

¹⁶⁵³ AFRICOM Commander Visits West Africa, United States Africa Command (Stuttgart) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.africom.mil/media-room/article/32219/africom-commander-visits-west-africa>.

¹⁶⁵⁴ AFRICOM Commander Visits West Africa, United States Africa Command (Stuttgart) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.africom.mil/media-room/article/32219/africom-commander-visits-west-africa>.

¹⁶⁵⁵ US begins ISR flight operations from Air Base 201 in northern Niger, The Defense Post (Washington) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://thedefensepost.com/2019/11/01/us-isr-flights-nigerien-air-base-201-agadez-sahel/>.

¹⁶⁵⁶ AFRICOM Commander Visits West Africa, United States Africa Command (Stuttgart) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.africom.mil/media-room/article/32219/africom-commander-visits-west-africa>.

¹⁶⁵⁷ AFRICOM hosts high level discussions on G5 Sahel region, United States Africa Command (Stuttgart) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.africom.mil/media-room/Article/32259/africom-hosts-high-level-discussions-on-g5-sahel-region>.

¹⁶⁵⁸ AFRICOM hosts high level discussions on G5 Sahel region, United States Africa Command (Stuttgart) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.africom.mil/media-room/Article/32259/africom-hosts-high-level-discussions-on-g5-sahel-region>.

¹⁶⁵⁹ AFRICOM hosts high level discussions on G5 Sahel region, United States Africa Command (Stuttgart) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.africom.mil/media-room/Article/32259/africom-hosts-high-level-discussions-on-g5-sahel-region>.

On 1 November 2019, AFRICOM began intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance flight operations from Air Base 201 in Niger to support “partner forces and international efforts to counter violent extremist organizations in the region.”¹⁶⁶⁰

On 20 November 2019, Senior Policy Advisor to the United States Mission to the United Nations Michael Barkin proclaimed at a United Nations Security Council meeting proclaimed in response to the increasing terrorist activity in the Sahel region that “new funding for direct support of the joint force should be avoided, rather existing international modalities of support should be leveraged by the countries of the Sahel.”¹⁶⁶¹ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel’s defence and internal security capabilities.

On 31 December 2019, the Lead Inspector General for the Department of Defence submitted a quarterly report to the U.S. Congress titled “East Africa and North and West Africa Counterterrorism operations.”¹⁶⁶² In this report, the Inspector General notes the Department of Defence’s “Blank Slate Review” of USAFRICOM.¹⁶⁶³ Senior Department of Defence officials have said that options under consideration include troop reduction in West Africa, ceasing operations from Air Base 201 in Niger and ending assistance to French forces fighting militias in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso.¹⁶⁶⁴ This action goes against the U.S.’s commitment to support G5 Sahel in enhancing their defence and internal security capabilities.

On 6-7 February 2020, Under Secretary for Political Affairs David Hale met with President of Mali Ibrahim Boubacar Keita in Mali.¹⁶⁶⁵ Under Secretary Hale discussed efforts to address security concerns and improve civilian protection in the region.¹⁶⁶⁶ This action provides verbal support to Mali’s internal security capabilities.

On 10 February 2020, Under Secretary Hale met with Burkina Faso Prime Minister Christophe Joseph Marie Dabire and Minister of Defence Chreiff Moumina Sy in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.¹⁶⁶⁷ Under Secretary Hale reaffirmed America’s support in the fight against terrorism and discussed

¹⁶⁶⁰ US begins ISR flight operations from Air Base 201 in northern Niger, The Defense Post (Washington) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://thedefensepost.com/2019/11/01/us-isr-flights-nigerien-air-base-201-agadez-sahel/>.

¹⁶⁶¹ Amid Increased Terrorist Activity in Sahel Region, Speakers Tell Security Council Greater Commitment Needed for Joint Force, United Nations (New York) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc14027.doc.htm>.

¹⁶⁶² East Africa and North and West Africa Counterterrorism Operations, Lead Inspector General Report to the United States Congress (Washington) 31 December 2019. Access Date: 7 April 2020. <https://media.defense.gov/2020/Feb/21/2002252793/-1/-1/1/LEAD%20IG%20EAST%20AFRICA%20AND%20NORTH%20AND%20WEST%20AFRICA%20COUNTERTERRORISM%20OPERATIONS.PDF>

¹⁶⁶³ East Africa and North and West Africa Counterterrorism Operations, Lead Inspector General Report to the United States Congress (Washington) 31 December 2019. Access Date: 7 April 2020. <https://media.defense.gov/2020/Feb/21/2002252793/-1/-1/1/LEAD%20IG%20EAST%20AFRICA%20AND%20NORTH%20AND%20WEST%20AFRICA%20COUNTERTERRORISM%20OPERATIONS.PDF>.

¹⁶⁶⁴ Pentagon Eyes Africa Drawdown as First Step in Global Troop Shift, New York Times (Washington) 24 December 2019. Access Date: 7 April 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/24/world/africa/esper-troops-africa-china.html>.

¹⁶⁶⁵ Under Secretary Hale’s Visit to Bamako- February 6-7, 2020, U.S. Embassy in Mali (Bamako) 7 February 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. <https://ml.usembassy.gov/under-secretary-for-political-affairs-david-hales-visit-to-bamako/>.

¹⁶⁶⁶ Under Secretary Hale’s Visit to Bamako- February 6-7, 2020, U.S. Embassy in Mali (Bamako) 7 February 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020 <https://ml.usembassy.gov/under-secretary-for-political-affairs-david-hales-visit-to-bamako/>

¹⁶⁶⁷ Under Secretary Hale’s Meetings in Burkina Faso, U.S. Embassy in Burkina Faso (Ouagadougou) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. <https://bf.usembassy.gov/under-secretary-hales-meetings-in-burkina-faso/>.

the need for solutions to restore stability and address the cause of violent extremism.¹⁶⁶⁸ This action provides verbal support for Burkina Faso's defence and internal security capabilities.

On 12 February 2020, Under Secretary Hale met with President of Mauritania Ghazounai, Prime Minister Sidiya, and Foreign Minister Ahmed in Nouakchott, Mauritania.¹⁶⁶⁹ Under Secretary Hale reiterated America's support for efforts to improve, govern and develop throughout the region¹⁶⁷⁰ He also met with the G5 Sahel Permanent Secretary Maman Sidikou.¹⁶⁷¹ Under Secretary Hale expressed strong support for the G5 Sahel.¹⁶⁷² This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities.

On 27-28 February 2020, Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs R. Clarke Cooper travelled to Mauritania to observe the Flintlock 2020, the US-led multinational special forces operations exercise.¹⁶⁷³ This action provides verbal support to Mauritania's defence and internal security capabilities.

On 8 March 2020, Secretary of State appointed J. Peter Pham as the U.S. Special Envoy for the Sahel Region.¹⁶⁷⁴ The Special Envoy maximizes U.S. diplomatic efforts to address the threat of violent extremists and engages actively to support governance, political liberalization, economic growth and development in the region.¹⁶⁷⁵

On 10 April 2020, U.S. Ambassador to Mali, Dennis Hankins, and Malian Minister of Defence, Major General Ibrahim Dahirou Dembélé signed a memorandum of understanding to facilitate an American donation of fuel for the Malian military, specifically the Malian Air Force.¹⁶⁷⁶ Ambassador Hankins noted the impact this fuel would have on the Malian military's ability to support land and logistical operations of the G5 Joint Forces while simultaneously reaffirming American commitment to counterterrorism initiatives in the Sahel.¹⁶⁷⁷ This action provides tangible support to the G5 Sahel and Mali's defence and internal security capabilities.

On 22 April 2020, Nigerien Air Force Captain Ouma Louali completed an American-led international pilot training program on the C-130 Hercules at Little Rock Air Force Base,

¹⁶⁶⁸ Under Secretary Hale's Meetings in Burkina Faso, U.S. Embassy in Burkina Faso (Ouagadougou) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. <https://bf.usembassy.gov/under-secretary-hales-meetings-in-burkina-faso/>.

¹⁶⁶⁹ Under Secretary for Political Affairs Visits Mauritania, U.S. Embassy in Mauritania (Nouakchott) 12 February 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. <https://mr.usembassy.gov/under-secretary-for-political-affairs-visits-mauritania/>.

¹⁶⁷⁰ Under Secretary for Political Affairs Visits Mauritania, U.S. Embassy in Mauritania (Nouakchott) 12 February 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020 <https://mr.usembassy.gov/under-secretary-for-political-affairs-visits-mauritania/>.

¹⁶⁷¹ Under Secretary for Political Affairs Visits Mauritania, U.S. Embassy in Mauritania (Nouakchott) 12 February 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. <https://mr.usembassy.gov/under-secretary-for-political-affairs-visits-mauritania/>.

¹⁶⁷² Under Secretary for Political Affairs Visits Mauritania, U.S. Embassy in Mauritania (Nouakchott) 12 February 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. <https://mr.usembassy.gov/under-secretary-for-political-affairs-visits-mauritania/>.

¹⁶⁷³ Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs R. Clarke Cooper Travels to Mauritania, Algeria, and Tunisia, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. <https://www.state.gov/assistant-secretary-of-state-for-political-military-affairs-r-clarke-cooper-travels-to-mauritania-algeria-and-tunisia/>.

¹⁶⁷⁴ Dr. J. Peter Pham Special Envoy for the Sahel Region of Africa, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. <https://www.state.gov/biographies/dr-j-peter-pham/>.

¹⁶⁷⁵ Office of the Special Envoy for the Sahel Region of Africa, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. <https://www.state.gov/bureaus-offices/under-secretary-for-political-affairs/bureau-of-african-affairs/office-of-the-special-envoy-for-the-sahel-region-of-africa/>.

¹⁶⁷⁶ U.S., Mail sign agreement for fuel donation, United States Africa Command (Stuttgart) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.africom.mil/article/32654/us-mali-sign-agreement-for-fuel-donation>.

¹⁶⁷⁷ U.S., Mail sign agreement for fuel donation, United States Africa Command (Stuttgart) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.africom.mil/article/32654/us-mali-sign-agreement-for-fuel-donation>.

Arkansas.¹⁶⁷⁸ Captain Louali became Niger's first female combat-capable C-130 pilot, demonstrating the "pressure of setting a good example for the women who might follow her."¹⁶⁷⁹ This action provides tangible support to Niger's defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

The United States has provided the G5 Sahel with tangible support to enhance both their defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

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

Analysts: Mostafa El Sharkany and Ben Holt

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to work with the G5 Sahel to improve and better coordinate efforts to enhance their defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 23 October 2019, the European Union Regional Advisory and Coordination Cell ran a pre-deployment training session for 35 staff officers from G5 Sahel member states.¹⁶⁸⁰ The course took place at the Defense College of the G5 Sahel and was conducted by EU security and defence experts.¹⁶⁸¹ This action provides tangible support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 12 November 2019, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini, speaking at a press conference following a meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council in Defence Formation, announced the EU's intention to broaden its presence and support for regional partners combating terrorism in the Sahel.¹⁶⁸² High Representative Mogherini remarked that while the attending ministers discussed ongoing EU operations and missions, they drew particular focus to the existing missions in the Sahel.¹⁶⁸³ There are more than 5,000 EU military personnel on the ground in the Sahel, and an additional 16 missions operating under the EU flag.¹⁶⁸⁴ This action provides

¹⁶⁷⁸ Nigerien Air Force's first female pilot adds C-130 to repertoire, United States Africa Command (Stuttgart) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.africom.mil/article/32750/nigerien-air-forces-first-female-pilot-adds-c>.

¹⁶⁷⁹ Nigerien Air Force's first female pilot adds C-130 to repertoire, United States Africa Command (Stuttgart) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.africom.mil/article/32750/nigerien-air-forces-first-female-pilot-adds-c>.

¹⁶⁸⁰ Pooling forces and know-how: first staff-level course by EU security and defence experts for the joint military force of the five African G5 Sahel countries, European Union External Action Services (Brussels) 23 October 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/new-zealand/69292/pooling-forces-and-know-how-first-staff-level-course-eu-security-and-defence-experts-joint_en.

¹⁶⁸¹ Pooling forces and know-how: first staff-level course by EU security and defence experts for the joint military force of the five African G5 Sahel countries, European Union External Action Services (Brussels) 23 October 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/new-zealand/69292/pooling-forces-and-know-how-first-staff-level-course-eu-security-and-defence-experts-joint_en.

¹⁶⁸² EU to 'increase presence and improve support' for Sahel partners fighting terrorism, The Defense Post (Washington) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://thedefensepost.com/2019/11/13/eu-support-sahel-terrorism-mali/>.

¹⁶⁸³ EU to 'increase presence and improve support' for Sahel partners fighting terrorism, The Defense Post (Washington) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://thedefensepost.com/2019/11/13/eu-support-sahel-terrorism-mali/>.

¹⁶⁸⁴ EU to 'increase presence and improve support' for Sahel partners fighting terrorism, The Defense Post (Washington) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://thedefensepost.com/2019/11/13/eu-support-sahel-terrorism-mali/>.

verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 13 November 2019, the EU announced plans to increase its support in the Sahel region, committing an additional EUR35 million in humanitarian aid.¹⁶⁸⁵ The funding will be provided to humanitarian organisations working in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, and will increase access to food and basic social services, aid people forcibly displaced by conflicts in the region and host communities, and support humanitarian organisations in responding to sudden humanitarian crises.¹⁶⁸⁶ With this addition, the EU's financial contribution total reaches more than EUR187 million in 2019.¹⁶⁸⁷ This action provides tangible support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 13 January 2020, European Council President Charles Michel announced plans to host an EU-Sahel summit in late March.¹⁶⁸⁸ The announcement came when Michel was attending the Pau Summit, hosted by France and attended by members of the G5 Sahel coalition.¹⁶⁸⁹ The next day, President Michel's spokesperson confirmed that all G5 Sahel nations would attend the upcoming conference.¹⁶⁹⁰ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities.

On 17 January 2020, Special Representative of the European Union for the Sahel Angel Losada transferred 13 Arqus Bastion armored vehicles to the Malian Army.¹⁶⁹¹ Of the 13 Bastion armored vehicles delivered, eight were configured for troop transport, two to combat improvised explosive devices, two for medical evacuations, and one as a command post vehicle.¹⁶⁹² The vehicles will be used to equip two Malian battalions serving as part of the regional G5 Sahel Joint Force.¹⁶⁹³ The transfer is part of a larger program to deliver 46 armored vehicles to G5 Sahel countries funded by

¹⁶⁸⁵ EU commits additional €35 million for Africa's Sahel region, European Commission (Brussels) 13 November 2019. Access Date: December 22 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/echo/news/eu-commits-additional-35-million-africa-s-sahel-region_en.

¹⁶⁸⁶ EU commits additional €35 million for Africa's Sahel region, European Commission (Brussels) 13 November 2019. Access Date: December 22 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/echo/news/eu-commits-additional-35-million-africa-s-sahel-region_en.

¹⁶⁸⁷ EU commits additional €35 million for Africa's Sahel region, European Commission (Brussels) 13 November 2019. Access Date: December 22 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/echo/news/eu-commits-additional-35-million-africa-s-sahel-region_en.

¹⁶⁸⁸ Charles Michel reaches for his peak, Politico (Brussels) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.politico.eu/article/charles-michel-reaches-for-his-peak-summit-euco/>.

¹⁶⁸⁹ Charles Michel reaches for his peak, Politico (Brussels) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.politico.eu/article/charles-michel-reaches-for-his-peak-summit-euco/>.

¹⁶⁹⁰ Charles Michel reaches for his peak, Politico (Brussels) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.politico.eu/article/charles-michel-reaches-for-his-peak-summit-euco/>.

¹⁶⁹¹ EU hands 13 Arqus Bastion armored vehicles to Mali for G5 Sahel operations, The Defense Post (Washington) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.thedefensepost.com/2020/01/21/mali-eu-arqus-bastion-vehicles-g5-sahel/>.

¹⁶⁹² EU hands 13 Arqus Bastion armored vehicles to Mali for G5 Sahel operations, The Defense Post (Washington) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.thedefensepost.com/2020/01/21/mali-eu-arqus-bastion-vehicles-g5-sahel/>.

¹⁶⁹³ EU hands 13 Arqus Bastion armored vehicles to Mali for G5 Sahel operations, The Defense Post (Washington) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.thedefensepost.com/2020/01/21/mali-eu-arqus-bastion-vehicles-g5-sahel/>.

the EU African Peace Facility.¹⁶⁹⁴ EU Ambassador to Mali Bart Ouvry was also present at the ceremony.¹⁶⁹⁵ This action provides tangible support to Mali's defence.

On 25 February 2020, Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner, delivered a speech at the G5 Sahel Summit, stressing that "the Sahel remains a top priority."¹⁶⁹⁶ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities.

On 9 March 2020, the European Union released a new Africa engagement strategy that aims to create a more equal partnership.¹⁶⁹⁷ It will focus on five key areas: sustainable growth and jobs; peace, security and governance; migration and mobility; digital transformation, and access to energy (particularly green energy).¹⁶⁹⁸ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 28 April 2020, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs participated in the EU-G5 Sahel videoconference.¹⁶⁹⁹ During this videoconference, they announced EUR194 million to "support the security, stability and resilience in the Sahel."¹⁷⁰⁰ EUR112 million will help strengthen the security and defence capabilities of the G5 Sahel countries while the remaining EUR82 million will be mobilised to intensify development effort and help improve living conditions of vulnerable communities.¹⁷⁰¹ This action provides tangible and verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 12 June 2020, High Representative Josep Borell participated in a videoconference with ministerial meeting of the International Coalition for the Sahel.¹⁷⁰² He committed to strengthening the mandate and geographical scope of the European training mission EUTM Mali, as well as confirming future

¹⁶⁹⁴ EU hands 13 Arqus Bastion armored vehicles to Mali for G5 Sahel operations, The Defense Post (Washington) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.thedefensepost.com/2020/01/21/mali-eu-arqus-bastion-vehicles-g5-sahel/>.

¹⁶⁹⁵ EU hands 13 Arqus Bastion armored vehicles to Mali for G5 Sahel operations, The Defense Post (Washington) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.thedefensepost.com/2020/01/21/mali-eu-arqus-bastion-vehicles-g5-sahel/>.

¹⁶⁹⁶ Speech by Commissioner Urpilainen at G5 Sahel Summit, European Commission (Brussels) 27 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/urpilainen/announcements/speech-commissioner-urpilainen-g5-sahel-summit_en.

¹⁶⁹⁷ Africa in the news: New EU-Africa strategy, impacts of the oil price crash, and spread of coronavirus, Brookings (Washington) 14 March 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2020/03/14/africa-in-the-news-new-eu-africa-strategy-impacts-of-the-oil-price-crash-and-spread-of-coronavirus/>.

¹⁶⁹⁸ Africa in the news: New EU-Africa strategy, impacts of the oil price crash, and spread of coronavirus, Brookings (Washington) 14 March 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2020/03/14/africa-in-the-news-new-eu-africa-strategy-impacts-of-the-oil-price-crash-and-spread-of-coronavirus/>.

¹⁶⁹⁹ EU announces €194 million additional support to the Sahel, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_768.

¹⁷⁰⁰ EU announces €194 million additional support to the Sahel, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_768.

¹⁷⁰¹ EU announces €194 million additional support to the Sahel, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_768.

¹⁷⁰² Informal conclusions of the first meeting of the International Coalition for the Sahel, European External Action Service (Brussels) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/burkina-faso/80844/informal-conclusions-first-meeting-international-coalition-sahel-12-june-2020_en.

EU efforts to deepen ties with both the P3S and the Sahel Alliance.¹⁷⁰³ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

On 26 August 2020, High Representative Borell gave a press conference following an informal meeting of the EU Defence Ministers.¹⁷⁰⁴ He stressed that "Missions in Mali" would be restarted as soon as COVID permitted and that these initiatives were incredibly important to the European Union.¹⁷⁰⁵ This action provides verbal support to the G5 Sahel's defence and internal security capabilities, including through support for structural reforms of their security apparatus.

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

Analysts: William Lloyd and Ben Holt

¹⁷⁰³ Informal conclusions of the first meeting of the International Coalition for the Sahel, European External Action Service (Brussels) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/burkina-faso/80844/informal-conclusions-first-meeting-international-coalition-sahel-12-june-2020_en.

¹⁷⁰⁴ Informal meeting of EU Defence Ministers: Remarks by the High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borell at the press conference, European External Action Service (Brussels) 8 August 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/csdp-missions-operations/eucap-sahel-mali/84441/informal-meeting-eu-defence-ministers-remarks-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell_en.

¹⁷⁰⁵ Informal meeting of EU Defence Ministers: Remarks by the High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borell at the press conference, European External Action Service (Brussels) 8 August 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/csdp-missions-operations/eucap-sahel-mali/84441/informal-meeting-eu-defence-ministers-remarks-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell_en.

10. Regional Security: G5 Sahel Police

“As the G7, we will work with the United Nations and INTERPOL in order to provide appropriate support to G5 countries in building more efficient G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities.”

Sahel Partnership Action Plan

Assessment

Member	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada		0	
France		0	
Germany			+1
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
United Kingdom		0	
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.38 (69%)	

Background

On 16 February 2014, the leaders of Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Chad met in Nouakchott, Mauritania to create the G5 Sahel, in order to improve cooperation, security, and development in the Sahel region of Africa.¹⁷⁰⁶ The goals of the G5 Sahel group are to:¹⁷⁰⁷

- Guarantee the conditions required for economic development and peace in the Sahel Region
- Provide a framework for strategic intervention for improving living conditions in the region
- Combine development with security through democracy and good governance, while promoting regional and international cooperation
- Promote inclusive and sustainable development in the Sahel Region

On 1 August 2014, France launched Operation Barkhane, a counter-terrorism operation focused on fighting and neutralizing jihadist organizations operating in the Sahel region, deploying 3000 soldiers to the region to support the G5 Sahel countries.¹⁷⁰⁸

On 5 June 2017, the European Union pledged EUR50 million for the creation of a larger, multinational joint Sahel task force, merging the French soldiers from the prior Operation Barkhane with soldiers from various other countries, totaling a force of 10,000 soldiers.¹⁷⁰⁹

¹⁷⁰⁶ Le G5 Sahel, G5 Sahel (Nouakchott) 29 September 2015. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://www.g5sahel.org/qui-sommes-nous/le-g5-sahel>

¹⁷⁰⁷ Le G5 Sahel, G5 Sahel (Nouakchott) 29 September 2015. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://www.g5sahel.org/qui-sommes-nous/le-g5-sahel>

¹⁷⁰⁸ Welcome to France's New War on Terror in Africa: Operation Barkhane, The National Interest (Washington D.C.) 7 August 2014. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://nationalinterest.org/feature/welcome-frances-new-war-terror-africa-operation-barkhane-11029>

¹⁷⁰⁹ Mali: la France propose à l'ONU le déploiement d'une force africaine au Sahel, France Info Africa (Niamey) 8 June 2017. Access Date: 7 December 2019. https://www.francetvinfo.fr/monde/afrique/niger/mali-la-france-propose-a-lonu-le-deploiement-dune-force-africaine-au-sahel_3060181.html

With one of the major themes of the Biarritz Summit focusing on cooperation with Africa, the Sahel region was brought forward as a significant discussion point for the first time. In the Sahel Partnership Action Plan, G7 leaders outlined the major issues facing the region, and how the G7 and G5 Sahel can work together to improve the pace at which the G5 Sahel group reaches its goals.¹⁷¹⁰ A major focus was the security aspect of the G5 Sahel goals, with the G7 calling for international cooperation between the G7 and G5 Sahel, as well as the United Nations as INTERPOL.¹⁷¹¹

Commitment Features

While the goals of the G5 Sahel group focus on both security and development, the commitment text focusses on specifically bolstering the G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities. As such, for all aspects of this commitment only actions that address security issues will be considered for compliance.

The primary measure of compliance for this commitment will be cooperation with the aim of improving regional security in the Sahel. Compliance will be split into two sections; the first type of compliance will be G7 cooperation with UN to address security issues, and the second type of compliance will be cooperation with INTERPOL to address security issues in the Sahel region. Examples of the first type of compliance include, but are not limited to, cooperation with INTERPOL to specifically address security issues, funding provisions for security issues, bolstering of the G5 Sahel joint security force through military or financial contributions, and cooperation with INTERPOL in providing key information that would aid in counter-terrorism operations in the Sahel region. Examples of the second type of compliance include, but are not limited to, cooperation with UN to directly target and neutralize threats from Sahel region jihadist groups, and financial support of or participation in multinational UN security operations in the Sahel region.

In order to achieve a full compliance score, a G7 member must take actions of both the first and second types. In order to achieve a partial compliance score, a G7 member must take actions of either the first or second type. A G7 member who does not take either type of actions will receive a score of no compliance.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member has not cooperated with United Nations OR with INTERPOL to provide appropriate support to G5 countries in building more efficient G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities.
0	The G7 member has cooperated with United Nations OR with INTERPOL to provide appropriate support to G5 countries in building more efficient G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities.
+1	The G7 member has cooperated with United Nations AND with INTERPOL to provide appropriate support to G5 countries in building more efficient G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities.

*Compliance Director: Ian Stansbury
Lead Analyst: Bogdan Stovba*

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to work with the United Nations and INTERPOL in order to provide appropriate support to G5 countries in building more efficient G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities.

¹⁷¹⁰ Sahel Partnership Action Plan, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/sahel-partnership-action-plan.html>

¹⁷¹¹ Sahel Partnership Action Plan, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/sahel-partnership-action-plan.html>

On 30 August 2019, Canada started a project “For a More Inclusive Peace Process in Mali” in partnership with the International Peacebuilding Alliance.¹⁷¹² The project aims “to contribute to the implementation of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali by making the tools for its implementation—Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), a joint protection force and local police—more participatory, inclusive, and gender and conflict sensitive.”¹⁷¹³ Canada plans to contribute around CAD2.7 million until the project’s scheduled finish in December 2023.¹⁷¹⁴

On 1 September 2019, Canada ended its peacekeeping mission in Mali that was a part of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission (MINUSMA).¹⁷¹⁵ Only “a small number of CAF members will remain in the region” until January 2020.¹⁷¹⁶ There is no indication that Operation PRESENCE – Mali would resume at a later date.¹⁷¹⁷ However, Canada will continue to provide financial, military personnel, military training, and civilian police officers in Mali through the Peace and Stabilization Operations Program and Canadian Policy Arrangements.¹⁷¹⁸ In addition, Canada continues to financially contribute to the Trust Fund in Support of Peace and Security in Mali that is part of MINUSMA. The Trust Fund aims to “(1) provide support to Malian institutions in areas including rule of law and security institutions, mine action, promotion of national dialogue, regional cooperation, security sector reform, human rights, and the initial Demobilization Disarmament and Reintegration (DDR) of former combatants; (2) facilitate activities in providing support to the Malian Defense and Security Forces and activities in support of immediate and long-term efforts by the international community to resolve the crisis in Mali encompassing security, development and humanitarian issues.”¹⁷¹⁹ Canada pledged to contribute CAD6 million between January 2017 and August 2020 and additional CAD3.8 million between March 2019 and August 2020.

¹⁷²⁰ ¹⁷²¹

In 10 October 2019, Canada started a project in partnership with the International Peace Institute to “increase the use of conflict analysis and strategic assessments in the United Nations peace operations mandate renewal decisions and to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Special

¹⁷¹² Project profile — For a More Inclusive Peace Process in Mali, Government of Canada (Ottawa). n.d., Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007720001>

¹⁷¹³ Project profile — For a More Inclusive Peace Process in Mali, Government of Canada (Ottawa). n.d., Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007720001>

¹⁷¹⁴ Project profile — For a More Inclusive Peace Process in Mali, Government of Canada (Ottawa). n.d., Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007720001>

¹⁷¹⁵ Operation PRESENCE, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 26 December 2019. Access Date: 10 January 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/operations/military-operations/current-operations/op-presence.html>

¹⁷¹⁶ Canadian Armed Forces Conclude Peacekeeping Mission in Mali, National Defense (Ottawa) 1 September 2019.

Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2019/08/canadian-armed-forces-conclude-peacekeeping-mission-in-mali.html>

¹⁷¹⁷ Canadian Armed Forces Conclude Peacekeeping Mission in Mali, National Defense (Ottawa) 1 September 2019.

Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2019/08/canadian-armed-forces-conclude-peacekeeping-mission-in-mali.html>

¹⁷¹⁸ Canada’s Engagement in Mali, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 December 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.international.gc.ca/country-pays/mali/relations.aspx?lang=eng>

¹⁷¹⁹ Project profile — Support to MINUSMA Trust Fund – Mali, Government of Canada (Ottawa). n.d., Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P002431002>

¹⁷²⁰ Project profile — Support to MINUSMA Trust Fund – Mali, Government of Canada (Ottawa). n.d., Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P002431002>

¹⁷²¹ Project profile — Support to MINUSMA Trust Fund – Mali, Government of Canada (Ottawa). n.d., Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/D004268001>

Committee on Peacekeeping through field visits” including “organizing analytical workshops.”¹⁷²² Canada’s planned contribution is CAD228,107.¹⁷²³

On 23 January 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs François-Phillippe Champagne announced that two police trainers will be deployed to the Alioune Blondin Beye Peacekeeping School.¹⁷²⁴ These police officers will provide “training in community policing techniques.”¹⁷²⁵ In addition, Canada pledged to provide CAD1 million in funding to the school between 2018 and 2020.¹⁷²⁶

On 14 March 2020, a Canadian woman and Italian man kidnapped in Burkina Faso in 2018 were found by United Nations OPERATION MINUSMA peacekeeping forces. Minister Champagne indicated that the Government of Canada was working closely with the leaders of Burkina Faso and Mali to apprehend the perpetrators.¹⁷²⁷

On April 7 2020, Travel and Tourism Canada updated its travel advisories, warning against “non-essential” to Burkina Faso “due to the threat of terrorism.”¹⁷²⁸ Updated travel advisory all recommend to “avoid all travel” to provinces along Mali, Niger, Benin and Togo boarded due to “terrorist threat as well as the risk of banditry and kidnapping.”¹⁷²⁹

On 12 June 2020, Minister Champagne and Minister of National Defence Harjit Sajjan announced that Canada will join the International Coalition for the Sahel.¹⁷³⁰ The aim of the coalition coordinate effort to assist G5 Sahel states across four pillars: the fight against terrorism, strengthening of military capabilities of states in the region, support for the return of the state and administrations on the territory, and development assistance.¹⁷³¹

On 30 July 2020, the Global Affairs Canada published its 2020-2021 Departmental Plan. The documents states that Canada will “support and deliver assistance through gender-sensitive programming to address the root causes of conflict and improve security and stability” in several

¹⁷²² Project profile — Improving United Nations Peacekeeping Mandates, Government of Canada (Ottawa). n.d., Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P008189001>

¹⁷²³ Project profile — Improving United Nations Peacekeeping Mandates, Government of Canada (Ottawa). n.d., Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P008189001>

¹⁷²⁴ Minister Champagne concludes visit to Mali, continues on to Morocco, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa). 23 January 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/minister-champagne-concludes-visit-to-mali-continues-on-to-morocco.html>

¹⁷²⁵ Canadian support projects in Mali, Government of Canada (Ottawa). 23 January 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/canadian-supported-projects-in-mali.html>

¹⁷²⁶ Canada’s engagement in Mali, Government of Canada (Ottawa). 19 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.international.gc.ca/country-pays/mali/relations.aspx?lang=eng>

¹⁷²⁷ Diallo, Tiemoko. Two Western Hostages Freed after 15-Month Captivity in Africa’s Sahel (Bamako) 14 March 2020. Access Date: April 13 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mali-kidnapping-canada-italy/canadian-woman-and-italian-man-kidnapped-in-burkina-faso-have-been-released-u-n-idUSKBN2110HR?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews>

¹⁷²⁸ Official Global Travel Advisory (Ottawa) April 7 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/burkina-faso?wbdisable=true#levels>

¹⁷²⁹ Official Global Travel Advisory (Ottawa) April 7 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/burkina-faso?wbdisable=true#levels>

¹⁷³⁰ Canada joins International Coalition for the Sahel, Government of Canada (Ottawa). 12 June 2020. Access Date: <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/06/canada-joins-international-coalition-for-the-sahel.html>

¹⁷³¹ France and the G5 Sahel agree for a "Coalition for the Sahel" at the Pau Summit, Embassy of France (Washington) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9533>

region including the Sahel region.¹⁷³² The support will be provided through the Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building Program “through trusted and new partners at the cutting edge of counterterrorism.”¹⁷³³

On 31 August 2020, the Arms and Ammunition Management for More Stability in Sahel Region project comes to its planned completion. This project was started by Canada in July 2017 in partnership with Mines Advisory Group with Canada contributing is around CAD3.6 million throughout its duration.¹⁷³⁴ The objective of the project is to “improve local, national, and regional security and stability by addressing illicit use and flow of arms and ammunition,” strengthen “capacity of national security forces for arms management and destruction practices,” and increase “accountability and governmentance in the security sector.”¹⁷³⁵ This project is executed in “close cooperation with local authorities in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger.”¹⁷³⁶

While Canada did not extend deployment of its military force as a part of MINUSMA, Canada continued to work with the UN and financially support UN programs that aim to assist G5 Sahel countries to develop its police and defence capabilities. However, Canada did not partner with INTERPOL or supported any INTERPOL G5 Sahel security or defence related projects.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Nicholas Lovrics

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to work with the United Nations and INTERPOL in order to provide appropriate support to G5 countries in building more efficient G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities.

On 25 September 2019, Minister of Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian participated in UN hosted high-level meeting on Mali and the Sahel.¹⁷³⁷ Participants “discussed the implementation of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, ... welcomed the progress made in the Accelerated Demobilization Disarmament and Reintegration (MDSF), [and called for] ... the early finalization of the comprehensive plan for the progressive redeployment of the reconstituted and reformed MDSF as part of a broader vision for Security Sector Reform.”¹⁷³⁸

¹⁷³² Departmental Plan 2020-21, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa). 30 July 2020. Access Date: 27 August 2020. https://www.international.gc.ca/gac-amc/publications/plans/dp-pm/dp-pm_2021.aspx?lang=eng

¹⁷³³ Departmental Plan 2020-21, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa). 30 July 2020. Access Date: 27 August 2020. https://www.international.gc.ca/gac-amc/publications/plans/dp-pm/dp-pm_2021.aspx?lang=eng

¹⁷³⁴ Project profile — Arms and Ammunition Management for More Stability in the Sahel Region, Government of Canada (Ottawa). n.d., Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P005184001>

¹⁷³⁵ Project profile — Arms and Ammunition Management for More Stability in the Sahel Region, Government of Canada (Ottawa). n.d., Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P005184001>

¹⁷³⁶ Project profile — Arms and Ammunition Management for More Stability in the Sahel Region, Government of Canada (Ottawa). n.d., Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P005184001>

¹⁷³⁷ High-Level Meeting on Mali and the Sahel Co-chairs’ summary, United Nations (New York). 25 September 2019. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2019-09-25/note-correspondents-high-level-meeting-mali-and-the-sahel-co-chairs%E2%80%99-summary-scroll-down-for-french>

¹⁷³⁸ High-Level Meeting on Mali and the Sahel Co-chairs’ summary, United Nations (New York). 25 September 2019. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2019-09-25/note-correspondents-high-level-meeting-mali-and-the-sahel-co-chairs%E2%80%99-summary-scroll-down-for-french>

Between 29 September and 7 October 2019, French soldiers of the “Belleface” desert battle group led a major operation, which mobilized about 200 men and 40 vehicles, to establish zone control in the three-border area of the Liptako region and to strengthen the Operational Military Partnership with the Malian Armed Forces in the area.¹⁷³⁹ The operation led to the improvement and reinforcement of passive defense points in the cities and the Malian military camps, with the aim of preventing the armed terrorist groups from operating in the region.¹⁷⁴⁰

On 3 October 2019, the French Barkhane force participated in the operational coordination committee of the G5 Sahel member countries, organized by the General Staff of the Armies of Chad, which aimed to increase cooperation between the forces.¹⁷⁴¹ Participation in the coordination committee improved “understanding of the complementary” of the Barkhane and the G5 Sahel members armed forces “in the fight against armed terrorist groups.”¹⁷⁴²

On 10 October 2019, the G5 Sahel Joint Force, backed by the French-led Operation Barkhane force, completed a “major arms seizure” following a 10-day military counter-terrorism operation in northern Niger, during which the French force carried out airdrops and ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance) flights.¹⁷⁴³

Between 1 and 17 November 2019, the G5 Sahel Joint Force, in cooperation with the armies of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, and with support from the Barkhane force, carried out operation Bourgou IV which aimed to disrupt the activity of armed terrorist groups in the “three borders” Sahel region.¹⁷⁴⁴ The operation mobilized over 1,400 soldiers, with 600 of them French.¹⁷⁴⁵ Bourgou IV succeeded in the coordination of all the troops and resulted in 25 terrorists neutralized or captured, 64 vehicles destroyed, a large quantity of ammunition seized, over 100 phones recovered, and a fuel depot and an IED manufacturing workshop destroyed.¹⁷⁴⁶

¹⁷³⁹ BARKHANE: The Malian armed forces and Barkhane in operation in the Liptako, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019.

<https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-les-forces-armees-maliennes-et-barkhane-en-operation-dans-le-liptako>

¹⁷⁴⁰ BARKHANE: The Malian armed forces and Barkhane in operation in the Liptako, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019.

<https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-les-forces-armees-maliennes-et-barkhane-en-operation-dans-le-liptako>

¹⁷⁴¹ BARKHANE: Operational coordination committee of the G5 Sahel member countries in N'Djamena, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019.

<https://www.defense.gouv.fr/espanol/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-comite-de-coordination-operationnelle-des-pays-membres-du-g5-sahel-a-n-djamena>

¹⁷⁴² BARKHANE: Operational coordination committee of the G5 Sahel member countries in N'Djamena, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019.

<https://www.defense.gouv.fr/espanol/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-comite-de-coordination-operationnelle-des-pays-membres-du-g5-sahel-a-n-djamena>

¹⁷⁴³ G5 Sahel Joint Force makes ‘major’ weapons seizure in northern Niger, The Defense Post (Washington) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://thedefensepost.com/2019/10/17/g5-sahel-weapons-seizure-niger-madama>

¹⁷⁴⁴ French and Sahel soldiers step up campaign against jihadists, France 24 (Paris) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20191125-french-and-sahel-soldiers-step-up-campaign-against-jihadists>

¹⁷⁴⁵ BARKHANE: Operation BOURGOU IV in the Gourma, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-operation-bourgou-iv-dans-le-gourma>

¹⁷⁴⁶ Joint Force G5 Sahel Operation in the Gourma, G5 Sahel (Nouakchott) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://www.g5sahel.org/21-nos-activit%C3%A9s/defense-et-securite/1539-force-conjointe-operation-dans-le-gourma>

On 20 November 2019, Permanent Representative to the United Nations Nicolas de Rivière affirmed that France supports “the G-5 countries’ requests for increased multilateral support.”¹⁷⁴⁷ Rivière announced that a European special forces unit named Takuba will be deployed as part of Operation Barkhane in Mali starting in 2020 to support them on their path to autonomy.¹⁷⁴⁸

On 19 December 2019, President Emmanuel Macron delivered a speech in Niamey, Niger following an attack on a military camp in Niger that killed 71 soldiers.¹⁷⁴⁹ Macron vowed to keep fighting extremism in the region, noting that the Sahel is at a “turning point” in the war, and emphasized the need to redefine and clarify military and political objectives at the upcoming summit on 13 January 2020 with the Sahel G5 leaders in Pau, France.¹⁷⁵⁰

On 20 December 2019, Operation Barkhane forces killed 33 Islamist militants in Mali near the Mauritanian border where a “group linked to Al Qaeda operates,” utilizing helicopters, ground troops, and a drone.¹⁷⁵¹ The operation also included a seizure of four equipped trucks, four motorcycles, and a large volume of armaments including heavy machine guns, as well as a release of two Malian hostage gendarmes.¹⁷⁵²

Between 27-29 December 2019, the G5 Sahel Joint Force Staff met with representatives of the Sahel national armies and the Barkhane Force at the Niamey command post.¹⁷⁵³ General Pascal Facon, Commander of the Barkhane, “stressed that all the conditions are met for increased cooperation in the fight” and reaffirmed the need to continue strengthening the joint operationalization between the partner forces in the region.¹⁷⁵⁴

On 13 January 2020, President Macron hosted the G5 Sahel members’ heads of state at a summit in Pau, France, where they reaffirmed their commitment to jointly combat terrorism in the Sahel region

¹⁷⁴⁷ Address by Permanent Representative Nicolas de Riviere at the United Nations Security Council, The Permanent Representation of France to the UN (Paris) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019.

<https://onu.delegfrance.org/situation-in-the-Sahel-remains-very-precarious>

¹⁷⁴⁸ Address by Permanent Representative Nicolas de Riviere at the United Nations Security Council, The Permanent Representation of France to the UN (Paris) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019.

<https://onu.delegfrance.org/situation-in-the-Sahel-remains-very-precarious>

¹⁷⁴⁹ ‘We are at a turning point in war’ against jihadism: French President Macron in Niger, France 24 (Paris) 22 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20191222-we-are-at-a-turning-point-in-war-against-jihadism-french-president-macron-in-niger>

¹⁷⁵⁰ ‘We are at a turning point in war’ against jihadism: French President Macron in Niger, France 24 (Paris) 22 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20191222-we-are-at-a-turning-point-in-war-against-jihadism-french-president-macron-in-niger>

¹⁷⁵¹ France Kills 33 Militants in Mali Raid: President, New York Times (New York) 21 December 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2019/12/21/world/africa/21reuters-france-mali-conflict.html?searchResultPosition=1>

¹⁷⁵² BARKHANE: Neutralization of a major armed terrorist group in the Mopti region, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 21 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-neutralisation-d-un-important-groupe-arme-terroriste-dans-la-region-de-mopti>

¹⁷⁵³ BARKHANE: The G5 Sahel Joint Force strengthens its preponderant role in cross-border operations, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 3 January 2020. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-la-force-conjointe-du-g5-sahel-renforce-son-role-preponderant-dans-les-operations-transfrontalieres>

¹⁷⁵⁴ BARKHANE: The G5 Sahel Joint Force strengthens its preponderant role in cross-border operations, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 3 January 2020. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-la-force-conjointe-du-g5-sahel-renforce-son-role-preponderant-dans-les-operations-transfrontalieres>

and urged international partners to increase their aid.¹⁷⁵⁵ The heads of state formed a new framework, “Coalition for the Sahel,” on the basis of four pillars: the fight against terrorism, strengthening of military capabilities of states in the region, support for the return of the state and administrations on the territory, and development assistance.¹⁷⁵⁶

On 2 February 2020, the French Ministry of the Armed Forces issued a press release announcing the deployment of 600 more troops in the Barkhane force.¹⁷⁵⁷ This action was taken as part of the Coalition for the Sahel framework agreed upon at the Pau summit and brought the total number of troops to approximately 5,100.¹⁷⁵⁸

Between 6-7 February 2020, Operation Barkhane neutralized 20 terrorists and destroyed several vehicles in a double targeted strike west of the Gourma region.¹⁷⁵⁹ This operation aimed was conducted to reduce “the potential of armed terrorist groups” by destroying their supply chains.¹⁷⁶⁰

Between 9-15 February 2020, Operation Barkhane’s “Steel” desert battle group carried out an operation in Liptako, Mali, during which one terrorist was put out of action, several resources were seized, and terrorist group materials were destroyed.¹⁷⁶¹

Between 9-17 February 2020, Operation Barkhane utilized drones, jet fighters and combat helicopters to carry out two operations in the Mopti region in Mali, which neutralized approximately 50 jihadist fighters, destroyed over 30 vehicles, and allowed for major weapon seizures.¹⁷⁶² This operation aims to “weaken the offensive potential of armed terrorist groups.”¹⁷⁶³

On 12 February 2020, a Barkhane-taught three-week training course for special Malian anti-terrorist units (USAT-2) was concluded in a ceremony which saw the graduation of 97 Malian soldiers.¹⁷⁶⁴

¹⁷⁵⁵ France and the G5 Sahel agree for a "Coalition for the Sahel" at the Pau Summit, Embassy of France (Washington) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9533>

¹⁷⁵⁶ France and the G5 Sahel agree for a "Coalition for the Sahel" at the Pau Summit, Embassy of France (Washington) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9533>

¹⁷⁵⁷ Official speeches and statements - February 4, 2020, Embassy of France (Washington) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9575#2>

¹⁷⁵⁸ Official speeches and statements - February 4, 2020, Embassy of France (Washington) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9575#2>

¹⁷⁵⁹ BARKHANE: Opportunity actions in the region of the three borders, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 7 February 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-actions-d-opportunit%C3%A9-dans-la-region-des-trois-frontieres>

¹⁷⁶⁰ BARKHANE: Opportunity actions in the region of the three borders, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 7 February 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-actions-d-opportunit%C3%A9-dans-la-region-des-trois-frontieres>

¹⁷⁶¹ BARKHANE: The "Steel" battle group in operation in the Malian Liptako, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-le-groupe-tactique-acier-en-operation-dans-le-liptako-malien>

¹⁷⁶² BARKHANE: Operations in the Mopti region, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 20 February 2020. Access Date 17 April 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/operations/actualites2/barkhane-operations-dans-la-region-de-mopti>

¹⁷⁶³ BARKHANE: Operations in the Mopti region, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 20 February 2020. Access Date 17 April 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/operations/actualites2/barkhane-operations-dans-la-region-de-mopti>

¹⁷⁶⁴ BARKHANE: End of training for the USAT-2 of the Malian armed forces, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-fin-de-formation-pour-l-usat-2-des-forces-armees-maliennes>

This training also helped with establishing “real working relations ... between French and Malian soldiers.”¹⁷⁶⁵

On 20 February 2020, the Nigerian defense ministry released a balance sheet demonstrating that 120 terrorists have been neutralized in southwestern Niger since the start of the joint military operation conducted by the Nigerian armed forces and the French Barkhane force on 1 February 2020.¹⁷⁶⁶ Niger’s defence minister welcomed the “cooperation with the strategic partner in the fight against terrorism” and noted that the joint operation is “in line with the recommendations resulting from the Pau summit.”¹⁷⁶⁷

Between 3 and 23 March 2020, the Barkhane force conducted Operation Monclar in an unprecedented joint commitment with the Malian and Nigerian forces in the three-border region.¹⁷⁶⁸ Operation Monclar mobilized nearly 5,000 soldiers through the establishment of a Joint Command Mechanism, which made the large-scale coordination of forces possible; the operation brought “particularly notable results,” “neutralized a large number of terrorists,” and either seized or destroyed a “very large number of resources.”¹⁷⁶⁹

On 27 March 2020, Minister for Armed Forces Florence Parly held a remote conference with five other European Defense Ministers and the Defense Ministers in Mali and Niger to discuss the launch of the Takuba Task Force, a grouping of European special forces whose military contributions will be placed under Operation Barkhane’s command and will operate in the Liptako region.¹⁷⁷⁰ The Takuba Task Force is expected to become operational by early 2021 and will work in coordination with G5 Sahel partners, the UN mission (MINUSMA) and EU missions.¹⁷⁷¹

Between 2 and 5 April 2020, the “Dragon” desert battle group conducted a series of operations and sweeps along the Niger River in the area of the three borders to disrupt the movements of armed terrorist groups through and reassure local populations.¹⁷⁷²

¹⁷⁶⁵ BARKHANE: The "Altor" and "Centurion" battlegroups in operation in the Malo-Nigerian Liptako, Ministry of Defense (Paris) 27 February 2020, Access Date: 17 April 2020.

<https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-les-groupements-tactique-altor-et-centurion-en-operation-dans-le-liptako-malo-nigerien>

¹⁷⁶⁶ Niger. 120 "terrorists neutralized" during an operation, Ouest France (Paris) 22 February 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/monde/niger/niger-120-terroristes-neutralises-au-cours-d-une-operation-6747870>

¹⁷⁶⁷ Niger. 120 "terrorists neutralized" during an operation, Ouest France (Paris) 22 February 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/monde/niger/niger-120-terroristes-neutralises-au-cours-d-une-operation-6747870>

¹⁷⁶⁸ BARKHANE: Operation Monclar - unprecedented concentration of efforts in the three border area, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020.

<https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-l-operation-monclar-concentration-inedite-des-efforts-en-zone-des-trois-frontieres>

¹⁷⁶⁹ BARKHANE: Operation Monclar - unprecedented concentration of efforts in the three border area, Ministry of Defence (Paris) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020.

<https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-l-operation-monclar-concentration-inedite-des-efforts-en-zone-des-trois-frontieres>

¹⁷⁷⁰ Official speeches and statements - March 30, 2020, Embassy of France (Washington) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9690#2>

¹⁷⁷¹ Official speeches and statements - March 30, 2020, Embassy of France (Washington) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9690#2>

¹⁷⁷² BARKHANE: The Desert Dragon Battle Group (GTD) in operation, Ministry of Defense (Paris) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/breves/barkhane-le-groupement-tactique-desert-gtd-dragon-en-operation>

On 8 April 2020, a French patrol of two Mirage 2000s responded to an air support request from a reconnaissance mission of a G5 Sahel joint in Burkina Faso and successfully supported troops on the ground in repelling an armed terrorist group.¹⁷⁷³

On 3 June 2020, France military forces conducted an operation in Mali and killed al-Qaeda leader in North Africa.

On 5 June 2020, Ambassador de Rivière delivered a statement at the UN Security Council in which he underlined that “the international community has recently its support” to the Sahel states including the launch of the Coalition for Sahel which “resulted in the establishment of a joint command mechanism between the French force Barkhane and the armies of the G5 Sahel.”¹⁷⁷⁴

On 15 July 2020, Task Force Takuba was launched with “the deployment of French and Estonian special forces in the Sahel-Sahara belt.”¹⁷⁷⁵

France has demonstrated efforts to counter terrorism and provide appropriate support to G5 countries through the work of the Operation Barkhane forces, which have collaborated with the G5 Sahel Joint Force to neutralize jihadist groups and stifle militant operations in all five countries. France, through its leadership role in the United Nations, is advocating for increased multilateral support for the G5 but there is no evidence of its cooperation with INTERPOL.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Mascha Kopytina

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to work with the United Nations and INTERPOL in order to provide appropriate support to G5 countries in building more efficient G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities.

On 24 September 2019, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas stated that as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, Germany will focus on “peaceful cooperation and de-escalation” of conflicts in Syria, Gulf states, Yemen, Sahel region and Sudan.¹⁷⁷⁶

On 16 October 2019, at the Franco-German Defence and United Nations Security Council, Germany reaffirmed its commitment to “securing, stabilizing and developing the Sahel region.”¹⁷⁷⁷

¹⁷⁷³ BARKHANE: Joint force of the G5 Sahel and Mirage 2000D coordinate during an operation, Ministry of Defense (Paris) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020.

<https://www.defense.gouv.fr/english/operations/barkhane/brevs/barkhane-force-conjointe-du-g5-sahel-et-mirage-2000d-se-coordonnent-au-cours-d-une-operation>

¹⁷⁷⁴ The international community can succeed in stabilising the Sahel. Permanent mission of France to the United Nations in New York (New York). 5 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/The-international-community-can-succeed-in-stabilizing-the-Sahel>

¹⁷⁷⁵ France’s action in the Sahel, France Diplomacy (Paris). April 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/terrorism-france-s-international-action/article/france-s-action-in-the-sahel>

¹⁷⁷⁶ Statement by Foreign Minister Maas prior to his departure for New York, Federal Foreign Office 24 September 2019. Access Date: 21 January 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-gneral-assembly/2249318>

¹⁷⁷⁷ Agreed Conclusions, Franco-German Defence and Security Council (Toulouse) 16 October 2019. Access Date 21 January 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/blob/2258026/d0f478d0223d47c90dbe02f5426fc9c1/191016-erklaerung-data.pdf>

Germany also committed to working with France and the European Union on “the launch and implementation of the Partnership for Security and Stability in the Sahel (P3S).”¹⁷⁷⁸

On 11–17 November 2019, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC), INTERPOL Firearms Programme, and 110 “police, customs, border police and prosecution services” from Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire and Mali conducted operation KAFO.¹⁷⁷⁹ This operation “permitted law enforcement to intercept illicit firearms and identify potential links with other criminal activity across the region and beyond, including terrorism.”¹⁷⁸⁰ KAFO is “part of joint efforts to strengthen the criminal justice chain” through training “in the use of operation tools ... [and] techniques to support the fight against illicit firearms trafficking.”¹⁷⁸¹ In particular, training scope of KAFO includes “UNODC’s training on detection and investigation of firearms trafficking at land border crossing points as well as on INTERPOL global policing capabilities, including iARMS and the INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table (IFRT).”¹⁷⁸² KAFO “was made possible with the support from Germany, Japan, and the European Union.”¹⁷⁸³

In December 2019, the German Defense Ministry rejected for the second time a French request to dispatch “European special forces to tackle Mali’s dangerous security situation.”^{1784,1785} Germany also “turned down the request” to create a Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force.¹⁷⁸⁶ This is an instance of lack of compliance with the commitment to cooperate with G5 Sahel nations.

On 10-12 December 2019, UNDOC and INTERPOL conducted a workshop on criminal intelligence for 60 participants from the G5 Sahel states intelligence services.¹⁷⁸⁷ The key objective of the workshop was “to strengthen the intelligence system of the structures of the G5 Sahel, in order to harmonize the way they exchange information and to strengthen knowledge of tools and models

¹⁷⁷⁸ Agreed Conclusions, Franco-German Defence and Security Council (Toulouse) 16 October 2019. Access Date 21 January 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/blob/2258026/d0f478d0223d47c90dbe02f5426fc9c1/191016-erklaerung-data.pdf>

¹⁷⁷⁹ A joint INTERPOL-UNODC operation against illicit firearms trafficking in West Africa has seen arrests and the seizure of firearms and ammunition, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (New York). 23 December 2019. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/firearms-protocol/news/kafo-operation.html>

¹⁷⁸⁰ A joint INTERPOL-UNODC operation against illicit firearms trafficking in West Africa has seen arrests and the seizure of firearms and ammunition, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (New York). 23 December 2019. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/firearms-protocol/news/kafo-operation.html>

¹⁷⁸¹ A joint INTERPOL-UNODC operation against illicit firearms trafficking in West Africa has seen arrests and the seizure of firearms and ammunition, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (New York). 23 December 2019. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/firearms-protocol/news/kafo-operation.html>

¹⁷⁸² A joint INTERPOL-UNODC operation against illicit firearms trafficking in West Africa has seen arrests and the seizure of firearms and ammunition, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (New York). 23 December 2019. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/firearms-protocol/news/kafo-operation.html>

¹⁷⁸³ A joint INTERPOL-UNODC operation against illicit firearms trafficking in West Africa has seen arrests and the seizure of firearms and ammunition, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (New York). 23 December 2019. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/firearms-protocol/news/kafo-operation.html>

¹⁷⁸⁴ Germany twice rejects France plea for military aid in Mali as Paris keeps sending body bags home, Russia Today 21 December 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.rt.com/news/476973-germany-rejects-help-france-mali/>

¹⁷⁸⁵ Terrorism poses growing threat in Africa’s Sahel, Germany warns, Deutsche Welle 27 December 2019. Access Date: 21 January 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/terrorism-poses-growing-threat-in-africas-sahel-germany-warns/a-51813261>

¹⁷⁸⁶ Terrorism poses growing threat in Africa’s Sahel, Germany warns, Deutsche Welle 27 December 2019. Access Date: 21 January 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/terrorism-poses-growing-threat-in-africas-sahel-germany-warns/a-51813261>

¹⁷⁸⁷ Towards a criminal intelligence system for the G5 Sahel, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (New York). December 2019. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/westandcentralafrica/en/2019-12-12-criminal-intelligence-system-g5-sahel.html>

with regards to criminal intelligence.”¹⁷⁸⁸ This workshop was financed by the government of Germany.¹⁷⁸⁹

On 29 December 2019, Defense Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer stated that “Germany should consider expanding its troop mandate” in Sahel region.¹⁷⁹⁰ Currently, 1100 Bundeswehr soldiers are “taking part in a UN mission in the region, as well as an EU military training mission,” however, the German mandate “does not cover taking part in counter-terrorism operations.”¹⁷⁹¹ Thus, Germany expressed desire to cooperate further with the G5 Sahel countries.

On 27 March 2020, ministers of defence of Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and the United Kingdom held a remote conference with the Defense Ministers in Mali and Niger to discuss the launch of the Takuba Task Force, a grouping of European special forces whose military contributions will be placed under Operation Barkhane’s command and will operate in the Liptako region.¹⁷⁹² The Takuba Task Force is expected to become have “initial operational capability” by support 2020 and fully operational by early 2021 and will work in coordination with G5 Sahel partners, the UN mission (MINUSMA) and EU missions.¹⁷⁹³

On 29 May 2020, Parliament of Germany extended Germany’s troop deployment to Mali until 2021 under the European Union Training Mission in Mali (EUTM).¹⁷⁹⁴ Around 450 German soldiers take part in EUTM with a mandate “to instruct Malian soldiers, establish a new training center in central Mali, as well as training recruits of other Sahel nations.”¹⁷⁹⁵

On 11 June 2020, Minister Maas delivered a speech to the UN Security Council on MINUSMA and situation in Mali. The Foreign Minister stated that making progress in the fight against terrorism requires “the international community ... [to] uphold its commitment to Mali,” “all Malian actions work[ing] together for a better future of their people,” and expansion of “stabilization, development cooperation and humanitarian assistance measures for Mali and the region.”¹⁷⁹⁶ Minister Maas

¹⁷⁸⁸ Towards a criminal intelligence system for the G5 Sahel, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (New York). December 2019. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/westandcentralafrica/en/2019-12-12-criminal-intelligence-system-g5-sahel.html>

¹⁷⁸⁹ Towards a criminal intelligence system for the G5 Sahel, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (New York). December 2019. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/westandcentralafrica/en/2019-12-12-criminal-intelligence-system-g5-sahel.html>

¹⁷⁹⁰ Germany ponders bigger troop mandate in Africa's Sahel, Deutsche Welle 29 December 2019. Access Date 21 January 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-ponders-bigger-troop-mandate-in-africas-sahel/a-51828723>

¹⁷⁹¹ Germany ponders bigger troop mandate in Africa's Sahel, Deutsche Welle 29 December 2019. Access Date 21 January 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-ponders-bigger-troop-mandate-in-africas-sahel/a-51828723>

¹⁷⁹² Official speeches and statements - March 30, 2020, Embassy of France (Washington) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9690#2>

¹⁷⁹³ Official speeches and statements - March 30, 2020, Embassy of France (Washington) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9690#2>

¹⁷⁹⁴ Germany extends Bundeswehr mission in Mali, Deutsche Welle (Bonn). 29 May 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-extends-bundeswehr-mission-in-mali/a-53621405>

¹⁷⁹⁵ Germany extends Bundeswehr mission in Mali, Deutsche Welle (Bonn). 29 May 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-extends-bundeswehr-mission-in-mali/a-53621405>

¹⁷⁹⁶ Speech by Federal Foreign Minister Heiko Maas on MINUSMA in the UN Security Council, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin). 11 June 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-security-council-minusma/2352026>

underlined that “Germany has supported MINUSMA from day” and it remains Germany’s “most important military commitment to any UN mission.”¹⁷⁹⁷

On 12 June 2020, Minister Maas participated in the International Coalition for the Sahel conference. He stated that the coalition wants “to train and equip the security forces of the Sahel countries in such a way that they can independently ensure the security of the population.”¹⁷⁹⁸

On 31 July 2020, INTERPOL published a list of Contributions Agreements Signed in 2020. According to the document, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs committed to contributing more than EUR3.9 million to “Project G5 Sahel.”¹⁷⁹⁹ The project aims to “promote the effective use of INTERPOL policing capacities in the member countries of the Sahel region to combat terrorism.”¹⁸⁰⁰

On 4 August 2020, INTERPOL published a list of Contributions Agreements Signed in 2019. According to the document, German Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs committed to contributing around EUR3.8 million on “support to project integration for Impact, INTERPOL and G5 Sahel Joint Force Police Component” and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) contributing EUR58,421 to “Enable and enhance security cooperation on biological threats in Mali, G5-Sahel and Tunisia.”¹⁸⁰¹

While Germany rejected the creation of the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force, it has demonstrated commitment to work with the United Nations, INTERPOL and G5 Sahel countries to build more efficient police and defense capabilities.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Shamsbir Malik

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to work with the United Nations and INTERPOL in order to provide appropriate support to G5 countries in building more efficient G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities.

On 29 August 2019, the Italian Army team, as part of the Bilateral Support Mission in Niger (MISIN), concluded its two-week Improvised Explosive Device (IED) threat awareness course at the Niamey training center.¹⁸⁰² The course taught the Nigerian Security Forces the procedures of

¹⁷⁹⁷ Speech by Federal Foreign Minister Heiko Maas on MINUSMA in the UN Security Council, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin). 11 June 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-security-council-minusma/2352026>

¹⁷⁹⁸ Foreign Minister Maas on the Partnership for Security and Stability in the Sahel, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin). 12 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-securityand-stability-sahel/2352460>

¹⁷⁹⁹ CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT SIGNED IN 2020, INTERPOL (Lyon). 31 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.interpol.int/en/content/download/15134/file/NEW%20CONTRIBUTIONS%20AGREEMENTS%20SIGNED%20IN%202020.pdf>

¹⁸⁰⁰ G5 Sahel, INTERPOL (Lyon). n.d. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.interpol.int/en/Crimes/Terrorism/Counter-terrorism-projects/G5-Sahel>

¹⁸⁰¹ CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT SIGNED IN 2019, INTERPOL (Lyon). 4 August 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.interpol.int/content/download/13691/file/NEW%20CONTRIBUTIONS%20AGREEMENTS%20SIGNED%20IN%202019.pdf>

¹⁸⁰² Niger: IED threat awareness course completed, Ministry of Defense (Rome) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.difesa.it/OperazioniMilitari/op_intern_corso/Niger_missione_bilaterale_supporto/notizie_teatro/Pagine/Niger_concluso_corso_contro_minaccia_IED.aspx

combatting fundamentalist terrorism attacks caused by explosive devices through lessons on the characteristics of the IEDs and their effects.¹⁸⁰³

On 13 September 2019, the Mobile Training Team (MTT) of the Carabinieri, the Italian military force, concluded the final exercise of a forest combat techniques course as part of MISIN.¹⁸⁰⁴ The course trained the Nigerian military forces on the proper defensive conduct in wooded areas, including specific techniques of concealment, “hand strike,” and ambush.¹⁸⁰⁵

On 27 September 2019, the MTT of the Carabinieri concluded the final exercise of a two-part Operative Intervention Techniques course as part of MISIN.¹⁸⁰⁶ The course trained the National Guard of Niger and the Gendarmes in theoretical and practical skills of engagement in territorial control and police operations, and sought to develop the Nigerian forces’ knowledge of criminal law and procedure, the “jus in bello,” and the skills of carrying out immediate relief.¹⁸⁰⁷

On 25 September 2019, at the 74th United Nations General Assembly, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte declared Italy’s “strong commitment to face the Sahel crisis.”¹⁸⁰⁸ Prime Minister stated that Italy plans to “play a high profile role” on the African continent at bilateral level and also through coordination with the European Union.¹⁸⁰⁹

On 4 October 2019, Brigade General Claudio Dei of MISIN and Permanent Secretary Maman Sambo Sidikou of the G5 Sahel signed a military cooperation agreement for the training of personnel

¹⁸⁰³ Niger: IED threat awareness course completed, Ministry of Defense (Rome) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019.

https://www.difesa.it/OperazioniMilitari/op_intern_corso/Niger_missione_bilaterale_supporto/notizie_teatro/Pagine/Niger_concluso_corso_contro_minaccia_IED.aspx

¹⁸⁰⁴ Niger Mission: combat techniques course, Ministry of Defense (Rome) 13 September 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019.

https://www.difesa.it/OperazioniMilitari/op_intern_corso/Niger_missione_bilaterale_supporto/notizie_teatro/Pagine/Missione_Niger_corso_tecniche_combattimento_boschivo_per_esercito_nigerino.aspx

¹⁸⁰⁵ Niger Mission: combat techniques course, Ministry of Defense (Rome) 13 September 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019.

https://www.difesa.it/OperazioniMilitari/op_intern_corso/Niger_missione_bilaterale_supporto/notizie_teatro/Pagine/Missione_Niger_corso_tecniche_combattimento_boschivo_per_esercito_nigerino.aspx

¹⁸⁰⁶ Mission to Niger: training courses for Nigerian forces, Ministry of Defense (Rome) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019.

http://www.difesa.it/OperazioniMilitari/op_intern_corso/Niger_missione_bilaterale_supporto/notizie_teatro/Pagine/Missione_in_Niger_corsi_di_formazione_per_le_forze_nigerine.aspx

¹⁸⁰⁷ Mission to Niger: training courses for Nigerian forces, Ministry of Defense (Rome) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019.

http://www.difesa.it/OperazioniMilitari/op_intern_corso/Niger_missione_bilaterale_supporto/notizie_teatro/Pagine/Missione_in_Niger_corsi_di_formazione_per_le_forze_nigerine.aspx

¹⁸⁰⁸ Address by Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte at the United Nations, The Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 13 September 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. <http://www.governo.it/it/articolo/intervento-del-presidente-conte-alla-74-assemblea-generale-onu/12876>

¹⁸⁰⁹ Address by Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte at the United Nations, The Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 13 September 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. <http://www.governo.it/it/articolo/intervento-del-presidente-conte-alla-74-assemblea-generale-onu/12876>

at the G5 Sahel Defense College in Nouakchott, Mauritania.¹⁸¹⁰ As part of the agreement, Italy committed to sending two MISIN officers to teach and train at the college.¹⁸¹¹

On 14 October 2019, the Ministry of Defense, with the aid of resources from the National Africa Fund and as part of the MISIN commitment, donated ten ambulances and three military tanks to the Government of Niger in a handover ceremony in Niamey.¹⁸¹² This military equipment will increase Nigerian authorities' capacity in "rescuing migrants and fighting human trafficking."¹⁸¹³

On 4 December 2019, Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Stefano Stefanile outlined the Italian efforts to "support the G5 Sahel Joint Force both financially and through capacity building activities" and confirmed Italy's "strong commitment to the stabilization of the Sahel" in a statement at the Peacebuilding Commission Session.¹⁸¹⁴

On 9 December 2019, the Foreign Ministry of Italy announced that EUR800,000 will be allocated to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) "with the aim of building the capacity of the judicial Authorities of Niger in combating human trafficking and enhancing the judicial cooperation with Italy."¹⁸¹⁵

On 22 December 2019, the MTT, under the command of the MISIN Brigadier General Claudio Dei, completed the training of the Paratrooper Battalion of Niger in a launch of 150 paratroopers.¹⁸¹⁶ The training team included three instructors from the Pisa Parachuting Training Center in Italy, who carried out the 21-week course.¹⁸¹⁷

On 25 February 2020, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Emanuela Del Re participated in the General Assembly of the Sahel Alliance. She highlighted "Italy's multi-dimensional commitment" to

¹⁸¹⁰ Signature of a military cooperation partnership between the G5 Sahel Defense College and Italy, G5 Sahel (Nouakchott) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. <https://www.g5sahel.org/21-nos-activit%C3%A9s/defense-et-securite/1525-signature-d-un-partenariat-de-cooperation-militaire-entre-le-college-de-defense-du-g5sahel-et-l-italie>.

¹⁸¹¹ Niger: two Italian officers in the Collège de Défense du G5 Sahel, Ministry of Defense (Rome) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.difesa.it/OperazioniMilitari/op_intern_corso/Niger_missione_bilaterale_supporto/notizie_teatro/Pagine/Niger_due_ufficiali_italiani_nel_Collage_de_Defence_du_G5_Sahel.aspx.

¹⁸¹² Italy donates 10 ambulances to the government of Niger, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rome) 15 October 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2019/10/l-italia-dona-10-ambulanze-al-governo-del-niger.html.

¹⁸¹³ Italy donates 10 ambulances to the government of Niger, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rome) 15 October 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2019/10/l-italia-dona-10-ambulanze-al-governo-del-niger.html.

¹⁸¹⁴ Statement by Ambassador Stefano Stefanile at the Peacebuilding Commission Annual Session, The Permanent Representation of Italy to the UN (Rome) 4 December 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://italyun.esteri.it/rappresentanza_onu/en/comunicazione/archivio-news/2019/12/peacebuilding-commission-sessione.html.

¹⁸¹⁵ The Foreign Ministry provides two new allocations for refugees in Niger and Ethiopia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rome). 9 December 2019. Access Date: 28 August 2020. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2019/12/due-nuovi-contributi-maeci-per-rifugiati-in-niger-e-etiofia_0.html

¹⁸¹⁶ Mission to Niger: the 2019 Zebu exercise is over, Ministry of Defense (Rome) 22 December 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.difesa.it/OperazioniMilitari/op_intern_corso/Niger_missione_bilaterale_supporto/notizie_teatro/Pagine/Missione_in_Niger_terminata_lesercitazione_Zebu_2019.aspx.

¹⁸¹⁷ Mission to Niger: the 2019 Zebu exercise is over, Ministry of Defense (Rome) 22 December 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.difesa.it/OperazioniMilitari/op_intern_corso/Niger_missione_bilaterale_supporto/notizie_teatro/Pagine/Missione_in_Niger_terminata_lesercitazione_Zebu_2019.aspx.

the region.¹⁸¹⁸ She also expressed “reat satisfaction for the recent signing of the cooperation agreement in the field of defence, which will enhance bilateral cooperation for training in border control activities and the struggle against illegal trafficking.”

On 6 March 2020, the Italian Air Force donated equipment to the Niger Armée de l’Air as part of the MISIN training program.¹⁸¹⁹ Donation of the equipment will allow Nigerian army to proceed with the practical training of the personnel that protects the country’s main airport.¹⁸²⁰

On 12 June 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Luigi di Maio participated in the ministerial meeting of the Coalition for the Sahel. Minister reiterated Italy’s support of the Colation and its commitment to “stability, security and sustaitanble development” of the region.¹⁸²¹

On 9 July 2020, Defence Minister of Italy Lorenzo Guerini and Defence Minister of France Florence Parly met in Rome. Minister Guerini stated that Italy intents to join Takuba Task Force once the Italian Partliament approval is granted.¹⁸²²

On 8 August 2020, Deputy Minister Del Re was intervied by Agenzia DIRE. Commiting the situation on Mali, she stated that “Italy considered the stability of the Sahel to be a priority objective” and that Italy “should also participate” in the Task Force Takuba.¹⁸²³ Deputy Minister Del Re underlined that “instability in the area.. confirmed the need for greater non-military involvement of the Euroipean Union in Sahel.”¹⁸²⁴

Italy has demonstrated independent efforts to train and contribute to the defense of the security forces in Niger through the assistance initiative MISIN, and has cooperated with United Nations in the region. However, Italy has not directly cooperated with INTERPOL support development of the G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Mascha Kopytina

¹⁸¹⁸ Del Re visits Nouakchott: Italy supports security and development in the Sahel, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rome). 25 February 2020. Access Date: https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/02/del-re-a-nouakchott-italia-per-sicurezza-e-sviluppo-in-sahel.html

¹⁸¹⁹ MISIN: donated material to Niger’s Armee de l’Air, Ministry of Defense (Rome) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020.

https://www.difesa.it/OperazioniMilitari/op_intern_corso/Niger_missione_bilaterale_supporto/notizie_teatro/Pagine/MISIN_donato_materiale_a_Armee_de_l_Air_Niger.aspx

¹⁸²⁰ MISIN: donated material to Niger’s Armee de l’Air, Ministry of Defense (Rome) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020.

https://www.difesa.it/OperazioniMilitari/op_intern_corso/Niger_missione_bilaterale_supporto/notizie_teatro/Pagine/MISIN_donato_materiale_a_Armee_de_l_Air_Niger.aspx

¹⁸²¹ Participation by Minister Di Maio in the first Ministerial Meeting of the Coalition for the Sahel, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rome). 12 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2020/06/partecipazione-del-ministro-di-maio-alla-prima-conferenza-ministeriale-della-coalizione-per-il-sahel.html

¹⁸²² Minister Guerini receives French Defense Minister Parly in Rome, Defence Ministy (Rome). 9 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020.

https://www.difesa.it/Primo_Piano/Pagine/Difesa_Guerini_incontra_omologa_francese_Parly.aspx

¹⁸²³ VM Del Re: "Truce in Libya offers ways out of the crisis" (Agenzia DIRE), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rome). 21 August 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/interviste/2020/08/del-re-tregua-in-libia-offre-possibilita-di-uscita-dalla-crisi.html

¹⁸²⁴ VM Del Re: "Truce in Libya offers ways out of the crisis" (Agenzia DIRE), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rome). 21 August 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/interviste/2020/08/del-re-tregua-in-libia-offre-possibilita-di-uscita-dalla-crisi.html

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to work with the United Nations and INTERPOL to provide appropriate support to G5 countries in building more efficient G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities.

On 28 August 2019, the government of Japan co-hosted the seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7) with the United Nations, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank and African Union Commission (AUC).¹⁸²⁵ The Government of Japan and the African Union also co-organized the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Sahel region, which occurred on the margins of TICAD 7.¹⁸²⁶ The participants renewed their commitment to further enhancing peace and stability in the Sahel region and strengthening the coordination of their efforts.

On 30 August 2019, the Yokohama Declaration 2019 was produced, endorsing the theme of TICAD 7, “Advancing Africa’s Development through People, Technology and Innovation.”¹⁸²⁷ The Yokohama Plan of Actions 2019, which accompanies the Declaration, lists actions expected to be implemented by the TICAD partners in order to promote focus areas of the three main pillars of the Yokohama Declaration 2019 adopted at TICAD 7.¹⁸²⁸ These actions include Japan’s “New Approach for Peace and Stability in Africa” (NAPSA).¹⁸²⁹ Japan has committed to train 60,000 people in the areas of justice, police, security maintenance and others, as well as provide states with border control equipment.¹⁸³⁰ Japan has also committed to strengthen capacity-building through supporting 15 African Peacekeeping Operations Training Centers and enhance capability development through the UN Triangular Partnership Project for Rapid Deployment of Enabling Capabilities.¹⁸³¹

On 26 September 2019, Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs Takeshi Akahori attended a UN-hosted High-Level Meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission on Prevention and Peacebuilding on Burkina Faso. The statement delivered by the representative of Japan “highlighted the four foundational elements of Japan’s assistance to the [Sahel] region: institution-building, vocational training to youth, human resources, and assistance to refugees and their host communities” and reiterated that “Japan also supports these priorities through contribution to the Peacebuilding Fund.”¹⁸³²

¹⁸²⁵ The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/afr/af2/page25e_000274.html

¹⁸²⁶ Co-chairs’ Summary of the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Sahel Region on the Margins of TICAD7, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/000511802.pdf>

¹⁸²⁷ Yokohama Declaration 2019, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/yokohama_declaration_en.pdf

¹⁸²⁸ Yokohama Plan of Actions 2019 Actions for Implementation of the Yokohama Declaration 2019, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 August 2019, Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/yokohama_action_plan_en.pdf

¹⁸²⁹ TICAD7: Japan’s contributions for Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 August 2019, Access Date: 29 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/ticad7_torikumi_en.pdf

¹⁸³⁰ TICAD7: Japan’s contributions for Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 August 2019, Access Date: 29 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/ticad7_torikumi_en.pdf

¹⁸³¹ TICAD7: Japan’s contributions for Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 August 2019, Access Date: 29 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/ticad7_torikumi_en.pdf

¹⁸³² Statement by Mr. Takeshi Akahori, Deputy Assistant Minister, Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, at the High-Level Meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission on Prevention and Peacebuilding in Burkina Faso, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (New York). 26 September 2019. Access Date: 28 August 2020. https://www.un.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/akahori092619.html

On 21 October 2019, Minister of Foreign Affairs Toshimitsu Motegi met with Burkina Faso's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Alpha Barry. Minister Motegi reiterated Japan's commitment to "back up the efforts made by Burkina Faso [as the Chair of the G5 Sahel] in the fight against terrorism."¹⁸³³

On 11–17 November 2019, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC), the INTERPOL Firearms Programme, and 110 "police, customs, border police and prosecution services" from Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Mali conducted operation KAFO.¹⁸³⁴ This operation "permitted law enforcement to intercept illicit firearms and identify potential links with other criminal activity across the region and beyond, including terrorism."¹⁸³⁵ KAFO is "part of joint efforts to strengthen the criminal justice chain" through training "in the use of operation tools ...[and] techniques to support the fight against illicit firearms trafficking."¹⁸³⁶ In particular, training scope of KAFO includes "UNODC's training on detection and investigation of firearms trafficking at land border crossing points as well as on INTERPOL global policing capabilities, including iARMS and the INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table (IFRT)."¹⁸³⁷ KAFO "was made possible with the support from Germany, Japan, and the European Union."¹⁸³⁸

On 10 December 2019, Junya Nakano, Minister, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, made a statement on the UN Resolution on the Sahel. The statement reiterated Japan's commitment to continue to "provide vital assistance for peace and stability, and sustainable development" of the Sahel region and stated that JAPAN provided USD23 million "in humanitarian response funding to the G5 Sahel countries."¹⁸³⁹

Japan's cooperation with both the United Nations and the INTERPOL is evidence of its commitment to build more efficient police and defence capabilities.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jonathan Banfield

United Kingdom 0

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to work with the United Nations and INTERPOL in order to provide appropriate support to G5 countries in building more efficient G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities.

¹⁸³³ Japan-Burkina Faso Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 21 October 2019. Access Date: 28 August 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002657.html

¹⁸³⁴ A joint INTERPOL-UNODC operation against illicit firearms trafficking in West Africa has seen arrests and the seizure of firearms and ammunition, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (New York). 23 December 2019. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/firearms-protocol/news/kafo-operation.html>

¹⁸³⁵ A joint INTERPOL-UNODC operation against illicit firearms trafficking in West Africa has seen arrests and the seizure of firearms and ammunition, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (New York). 23 December 2019. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/firearms-protocol/news/kafo-operation.html>

¹⁸³⁶ A joint INTERPOL-UNODC operation against illicit firearms trafficking in West Africa has seen arrests and the seizure of firearms and ammunition, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (New York). 23 December 2019. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/firearms-protocol/news/kafo-operation.html>

¹⁸³⁷ A joint INTERPOL-UNODC operation against illicit firearms trafficking in West Africa has seen arrests and the seizure of firearms and ammunition, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (New York). 23 December 2019. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/firearms-protocol/news/kafo-operation.html>

¹⁸³⁸ A joint INTERPOL-UNODC operation against illicit firearms trafficking in West Africa has seen arrests and the seizure of firearms and ammunition, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (New York). 23 December 2019. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/firearms-protocol/news/kafo-operation.html>

¹⁸³⁹ Statement by Mr. NAKANO Junya, Minister, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, EOP of Japan on the Resolution on the Sahel, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (New York). 10 December 2019. Access Date: 28 August 2020. https://www.un.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/nakano121019.html

On January 9, 2020, Ambassador James Roscoe conducted a briefing at the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel where he stated that “On the security and humanitarian side, as I said, we’re continuing to be concerned about the damaging cycles of violence that we’re seeing”¹⁸⁴⁰ and that to aid in this the UK “has just released a further 20 million pounds in additional humanitarian funding in the Sahel on top of the 50 million pounds we’re already spending to help address this situation.”¹⁸⁴¹

On January 16, 2020, Ambassador Jonathan Allan, at the Security Council briefing on UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), said “we very much commend MINUSMA’s plans and efforts to adopt a more mobile, flexible and agile posture with high-end capabilities”¹⁸⁴² and that “the UK’s planned deployment of 250 troops to the mission is testament to the important role that we believe MINUSMA plays and also of this region.”¹⁸⁴³

On March 1, 2020, Minister for Africa James Duddridge met with Sahel leaders to discuss “how the UK can support the fragile region in key sectors such as health and education, and help to build peace and security for millions.”¹⁸⁴⁴ Responding to a question from a member of Parliament (MP) about terrorism in Sahel Africa, the minister stated that the UK is expanding “development, diplomacy and defence engagement to address the impacts and drivers of conflict and poverty” which included providing of “three CH-47 Chinook helicopters to French counter terrorism operation Barkhane [and] a UN peacekeeping deployment later this year.”¹⁸⁴⁵

On March 3, 2020, Minister of State (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) James Cleverly answered a question from MP Harriet Baldwin on the potential security effects of developments in the Sahel Libya region, stating that “UK interests will be supported by lasting peace and stability in the Sahel and Libya”¹⁸⁴⁶ and that the UK will increase “ support to the Sahel, bringing together our

¹⁸⁴⁰ Statement by Ambassador James Roscoe at the Security Council briefing on the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), United Nations (New York). 9 January 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/preparing-for-elections-and-addressing-root-causes-of-conflict-in-west-africa>

¹⁸⁴¹ Statement by Ambassador James Roscoe at the Security Council briefing on the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), United Nations (New York). 9 January 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/preparing-for-elections-and-addressing-root-causes-of-conflict-in-west-africa>

¹⁸⁴² Statement by Ambassador Jonathan Allen, UK Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, at the Security Council briefing on UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), United Nations (New York). 16 January 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/inclusive-government-action-needed-to-bring-stability-to-mali>

¹⁸⁴³ Statement by Ambassador Jonathan Allen, UK Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, at the Security Council briefing on UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), United Nations (New York). 16 January 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/inclusive-government-action-needed-to-bring-stability-to-mali>

¹⁸⁴⁴ Minister for Africa James Duddridge meets Sahel leaders and partners, championing the UK’s role in girls’ education and ending preventable deaths, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London). Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/africa-minister-champions-uk-leadership-to-help-educate-girls-and-end-preventable-deaths--2>

¹⁸⁴⁵ Sahel and West Africa: Terrorism:Written question - 29866, Parliament (London). Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-16/29866/>

¹⁸⁴⁶ Libya and Sahel: Politics and Government:Written question - 20480, Parliament (London). Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-25/20480/>

development, diplomacy and defence expertise to help tackle the underlying causes of poverty and conflict in the region.”¹⁸⁴⁷

On 12 March, 2020, Minister Cleverly answered another question from Baldwin about bilateral and multilateral programs in Sahel and Libya regions on 12 March, 2020, stating that at the G5 Leaders’ Summit the UK has restated its “commitment to increased efforts to improve security and encourage development in the Sahel.”¹⁸⁴⁸

On 27 March 2020, the ministers of defence of Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and the United Kingdom held a remote conference with five other European Defense Ministers and the Defense Ministers in Mali and Niger to discuss the launch of the Takuba Task Force, a grouping of European special forces whose military contributions will be placed under Operation Barkhane’s command and will operate in the Liptako region.¹⁸⁴⁹ The Takuba Task Force is expected to become have “initial operational capability” by support 2020 and fully operational by early 2021 and will work in coordination with G5 Sahel partners, MINUSMA and EU missions.¹⁸⁵⁰

On April 7, 2020, Ambassador Roscoe gave a speech in the UN security council briefing on the situation in Mali and “welcoming the deployment of the reconstituted armed forces to Kidal, Gao, Timbuktu and Menaka.”¹⁸⁵¹

On 5 June 2020, Ambassador Roscoe delivered a statement during the Security Council briefing on G5 Sahel. He reiterated UK’s commitment to “continue to play its part, working with the UN, the G5 Sahel states and all ... [UK’s] partners across the region, in pursuit of peace, stability, sustainable development and justice for the people of the Sahel.”¹⁸⁵² Ambassador Roscoe also underlined UK’s ongoing contributions to the peace and security of the region through deployment of its forces to MINUSMA, “non-combat assistance to Operation BARKHANE,” support of the EU Training Mission to Mali, and USD3.4 million in bilateral contributions to the G5 Sahel Joint Force.¹⁸⁵³

On 11 June 2020, Lord Ahmad, UK Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the UN, delivered a statement at the UN Security Council briefing on MINUSMA. The Minister welcomed African Union commitment to deploy forces, stated that this year UK deployed 250 UK “roops in a long-range mechanised infantry Reconnaissance Task Patrol Group,” reiterated UK’s commitment to

¹⁸⁴⁷ Libya and Sahel: Politics and Government:Written question - 20480, Parliament (London). Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-25/20480/>

¹⁸⁴⁸ Libya and Sahel: Politics and Government:Written question - 25093, Parliament (London). Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-04/25093/>

¹⁸⁴⁹ Official speeches and statements - March 30, 2020, Embassy of France (Washington) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9690#2>

¹⁸⁵⁰ Official speeches and statements - March 30, 2020, Embassy of France (Washington) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9690#2>

¹⁸⁵¹ Statement by Ambassador James Roscoe, acting UK Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, at the Security Council briefing on the situation in Mali, United Nations (New York). Access Date: 9 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/commitment-from-all-parties-is-necessary-for-sustainable-peace-in-mali>

¹⁸⁵² Pursuing peace in the Sahel, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London). 5 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pursuing-peace-in-the-sahel>

¹⁸⁵³ Pursuing peace in the Sahel, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London). 5 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pursuing-peace-in-the-sahel>

continue providing funds to the Peacekeeping Intelligence Policy and support the Mission Adaption Plan.¹⁸⁵⁴

On 12 June 2020, Africa Minister James Duddridge attended the virtual ministerial meeting of the Coalition for the Sahel. He announced an “extension of the UK’s deployment of three Chinook helicopters to Operation Barkhane” and underlined that the UK will be deploying 250 troops to MINUSMA.¹⁸⁵⁵ Minister Duddridge also underlined that UK is “third largest humanitarian donor to the region and has provided over GDP500 million in bilateral development and humanitarian assistance since 2015.”¹⁸⁵⁶ Minister of Defence James Heapey announced that besides the extension of the UK’s helicopers to Operation Barkhane, 100 personnel will remain to support the Operation.¹⁸⁵⁷

On 2 July 2020, Lord Ahmed delivered a statement at the UN Security Council briefing on COVID19. The Minister stated that COVID19 impedes effort “to prevent or resolve conflict” in Lake Chad Basin and the Sahel regions and underlined that “the Security Council has a key role to play” while countries “should all stand firm on ... peacekeeping troops contrinutions.”¹⁸⁵⁸

On 9 July 2020, Minister for the Armed Forces James Heapey announced that UK will loan four armed vehicle to the Estonian Special Forces that will be deployed to Mali.¹⁸⁵⁹ Defence personnel will also deliver a three-week training on the vehicles.

On 21 August 2020, UK Secretary of Defence Ben Wallace during a meeting with defence ministers of France and Germany stated that UK is “monitoring the developments in Mali very closely” and UK will “continue to work strongly together to make sure that ... [UK, France, and Germany] uphold te UN mandate, ... [and] support counterterrorism efforts.”¹⁸⁶⁰

The United Kingdom has demonstrated commitment to expanding their military and financial commitments to provide support to G5 countries in areas of security and peace through bilateral programs and in cooperation with the United Nation but not INTERPOL.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Faadil Butt

¹⁸⁵⁴ Adapting MINUSMA while working towards lasting peace in Mali, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London). 11 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/adapting-minusma-while-working-toward-lasting-peace-in-mali>

¹⁸⁵⁵ International Ministers discuss a new Coalition for the Sahel, Department of International Development (London) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/international-ministers-discuss-a-new-coalition-for-the-sahel>

¹⁸⁵⁶ International Ministers discuss a new Coalition for the Sahel, Department of International Development (London) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/international-ministers-discuss-a-new-coalition-for-the-sahel>

¹⁸⁵⁷ UK extends commitment to fight violent extremism in the Sahel, Ministry of Defence (London). 12 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-extends-commitment-to-fight-violent-extremism-in-the-sahel>

¹⁸⁵⁸ Maintaining international peace and security, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London). 2 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/maintaining-international-peace-and-security>

¹⁸⁵⁹ UK loans Estonia four Jackal vehicles to support counter-terror mission in Mali, Ministry of Defence (London). 9 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-loans-estonia-four-jackal-vehicles-to-support-counter-terror-mission-in-mali>

¹⁸⁶⁰ Defence Secretary’s speech at meeting of UK, German and French defence ministers, Ministry of Defence (London). 21 August 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/defence-secretarys-speech-at-meeting-of-uk-german-and-french-defence-ministers>

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to work with the United Nations and INTERPOL in order to provide appropriate support to G5 countries in building more efficient G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities.

On 18 September 2019, United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) commander Stephen Townsend met with the G5 Sahel joint force heads. The meeting was held to “get a better understanding of defence and security-related issues in the region” as well as to “ensure ... future cooperation is understood and well-coordinated.”¹⁸⁶¹ Commander Townsend confirmed US continuous support of “international effort taking place in Burkina Faso” aiming to contain “the spread of terrorism.”¹⁸⁶² The actions taken by the AFRICOM commander display cooperation with the G5 Sahel countries.

On 30 September 2019, the United States cooperated with the G5 Sahel countries and delivered the “second tranche of equipment to Chadian G5 Sahel security forces.”¹⁸⁶³ The equipment includes “vehicle, communications gear, and other related support material” worth of USD15 million and will “help Chad’s military and police forces fight terrorism and insecurity in the region.”¹⁸⁶⁴

On 17 October 2019, AFRICOM hosted a “high level discussions on G5 Sahel region.”¹⁸⁶⁵ The meeting was attended by the representatives of the US, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Niger, Chad, as well as Germany, France, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

On 1 November 2019, U.S. Africa Command announced that intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) operations were conducted on the military base in Agadez, Niger.¹⁸⁶⁶ AFRICOM commander U.S. Army Gen. Stephen Townsend commented: “We are working with our African and international partners to counter security threats in West Africa.”¹⁸⁶⁷ The construction of

¹⁸⁶¹ US AFRICOM commander Townsend meets G5 Sahel leaders in inaugural trip, The Defence Post. 18 September 2019. Access Date: 13 January 2020. <https://thedefensepost.com/2019/09/18/us-africom-townsend-g5-sahel-mali-burkina-faso-niger/>

¹⁸⁶² US AFRICOM commander Townsend meets G5 Sahel leaders in inaugural trip, The Defence Post. 18 September 2019. Access Date: 13 January 2020. <https://thedefensepost.com/2019/09/18/us-africom-townsend-g5-sahel-mali-burkina-faso-niger/>

¹⁸⁶³ U.S. Equipment Donation Strengthens Chadian G5 Sahel Forces, US Embassy in Chad (Ndjamen) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 12 January 2020. <https://td.usembassy.gov/u-s-equipment-donation-strengthens-chadian-g5-sahel-forces/>

¹⁸⁶⁴ U.S. Equipment Donation Strengthens Chadian G5 Sahel Forces, US Embassy in Chad (Ndjamen) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 12 January 2020. <https://td.usembassy.gov/u-s-equipment-donation-strengthens-chadian-g5-sahel-forces/>

¹⁸⁶⁵ AFRICOM hosts high level discussions on G5 Sahel region, United States Africa Command (Stuttgart) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 13 January 2020. <https://www.africom.mil/media-room/photo/32255/africom-hosts-high-level-discussions-on-g5-sahel-region>

¹⁸⁶⁶ Armed drones to fly out of Niger air base now operational after delayed completion. Air Force Times (Vienna, United States) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.airforcetimes.com/flashpoints/2019/11/01/armed-drones-to-fly-out-of-niger-air-base-now-operational-after-delayed-completion/>

¹⁸⁶⁷ Armed drones to fly out of Niger air base now operational after delayed completion. Air Force Times (Vienna, United States) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.airforcetimes.com/flashpoints/2019/11/01/armed-drones-to-fly-out-of-niger-air-base-now-operational-after-delayed-completion/>

this base demonstrates our investment in our African partners and mutual security interests in the region.”¹⁸⁶⁸

On 11 November 2019, the UN Secretary-General delivered a report to the UN Security Council on the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel.¹⁸⁶⁹ The report states that the United States provided US\$15 million worth of equipment to Chad, US\$15 million to Mauritania, US\$21 million to Niger.¹⁸⁷⁰ The US also provided “training to troops operating under the Joint Force.”¹⁸⁷¹ This displays the cooperation of the United States with the United Nations.

On 14 November 2019, Secretary of State Michel Pompeo delivered a speech on the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS. The speech stated that “West Africa and Sahel would be a preferred initial area of focus for the Coalition outside of the ISIS core space.”¹⁸⁷²

On 20 December 2019, according to Foreign Policy, the Trump administration is “creating a new special envoy position and task force”¹⁸⁷³ due to the “a growing alarm in Washington about the rise of extremist groups in West Africa.”¹⁸⁷⁴

On 7 March 2020, Reuters reported that the United States has created a special envoy for Africa’s Sahel region to “counter rising violence from groups linked to al Qaeda and Islamic State which are expanding their foothold.”¹⁸⁷⁵ Envoy Peter Pham, who previously served as U.S. Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region of Africa, holds this newly created role.¹⁸⁷⁶

On 7 April 2020, Acting Deputy Permanent Representative US Mission to the United Nations Ambassador Cherith Norman Chalet issued remarks at the Security Council Briefing on the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. US Representative welcomed the progress made in implementation of the Algiers Peace Accord and restated US commitment “to helping bring about peace, security, and a brighter future for the people of Mali, the Sahel, and West Africa.”¹⁸⁷⁷

¹⁸⁶⁸ Armed drones to fly out of Niger air base now operational after delayed completion. Air Force Times (Vienna, United States) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.airforcetimes.com/flashpoints/2019/11/01/armed-drones-to-fly-out-of-niger-air-base-now-operational-after-delayed-completion/>

¹⁸⁶⁹ Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel - Report of the Secretary-General, United Nations. 11 November 2019. Access Date: 14 January 2020. <https://undocs.org/S/2019/868>

¹⁸⁷⁰ Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel - Report of the Secretary-General, United Nations. 11 November 2019. Access Date: 14 January 2020. <https://undocs.org/S/2019/868>

¹⁸⁷¹ Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel - Report of the Secretary-General, United Nations. 11 November 2019. Access Date: 14 January 2020. <https://undocs.org/S/2019/868>

¹⁸⁷² Secretary Michael R. Pompeo At the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS Small Group Ministerial, U.S Embassy to Georgia (Tbilisi). 14 November 2019. Access Date: 20 August 2020. <https://ge.usembassy.gov/secretary-michael-r-pompeo-at-the-global-coalition-to-defeat-isis-small-group-ministerial-november-14/>

¹⁸⁷³ U.S. to Ramp Up Counterterrorism Efforts in Sahel Region, Foreign Policy. (Washington DC) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/12/20/us-ramp-up-counterterrorism-sahel-africa/>

¹⁸⁷⁴ U.S. to Ramp Up Counterterrorism Efforts in Sahel Region, Foreign Policy (Washington DC) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/12/20/us-ramp-up-counterterrorism-sahel-africa/>

¹⁸⁷⁵ U.S. creates new envoy position to counter rising terrorism in Sahel, Reuters. 7 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-sahel/u-s-creates-new-envoy-position-to-counter-rising-terrorism-in-sahel-idUSKBN20T2ZJ>

¹⁸⁷⁶ U.S. creates new envoy position to counter rising terrorism in Sahel, Reuters. 7 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-sahel/u-s-creates-new-envoy-position-to-counter-rising-terrorism-in-sahel-idUSKBN20T2ZJ>

¹⁸⁷⁷ Remarks at a UN Security Council Briefing on the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (via VTC), United States Mission to the United Nations (New York). 7 April 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. https://usun.usmission.gov/remarks-at-a-un-security-council-briefing-on-the-un-multidimensional-integrated-stabilization-mission-in-mali-via-rtc/?_ga=2.37053536.1526610288.1598976781-618746497.1598976781

On 9 April 2020, US Ambassador Dennis Hankins and the Malian Minister of Defense and Veterans Affairs Major General Ibrahim Dahirou Dembélé signed an agreement “to facilitate an in-kind fuel donation to the Malian military.”¹⁸⁷⁸ This donation aims to support Malian Air Force “operations for the G5 Sahel Joint Force.”¹⁸⁷⁹

On 11 May 2020, the US Embassy in Chad provided 33,000 litres of diesel and 8,400 of gas to the Chad’s Special Anti-Terrorism Group.¹⁸⁸⁰ This fuel assistance aims to “help government’s cross-border counter-terrorism operations.”¹⁸⁸¹

On 5 June 2020, Ambassador Chalet delivered remarks at the Security Council Briefing on the G5 Sahel Joint Force and reiterated the US commitment “supporting the Joint Force by providing equipment, training, and advisory support to fill critical capability gaps on a bilateral basis and continue to call on other countries to do the same.”¹⁸⁸² He underlined that Joint Force alone is not sufficient as “root cause on the conflict must be addressed through coordinated humanitarian aid and long-term assistance in health, agriculture, citizen-responsive governance, democracy, and human rights.”¹⁸⁸³

On 11 June 2020, Ambassador Kelly Craft, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United States, stated at the Security Council Briefing on the Situation in Mali that “the United States is committed to establishing peace, security, and a brighter future for the people of Mali, the Sahel, and West Africa” and remained that US is “the largest financial contributor on MINUSMA and the and the largest supporter of pre-deployment training for its contingents.”¹⁸⁸⁴ Ambassador Craft also restated US commitment “to supporting the G5 Sahel Joint Force by providing equipment, training, and advisory support to fill critical capability gaps on a bilateral basis, and continue to call on other countries to do the same.”¹⁸⁸⁵

On 12 June 2020, Deputy Secretary Stephen E. Beigun participated in the International Coalition for the Sahel ministerial. He “expressed [US] support for the Coalition’s objectives ... and noted that a secure, stable Sahel is in the best interest of the United States and the world”¹⁸⁸⁶

¹⁸⁷⁸ United States and Mali Sign Agreement for Fuel Donation, U.S. Embassy in Mali (Bamako). 9 April 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://ml.usembassy.gov/united-states-and-mali-sign-agreement-for-fuel-donation/>

¹⁸⁷⁹ United States and Mali Sign Agreement for Fuel Donation, U.S. Embassy in Mali (Bamako). 9 April 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://ml.usembassy.gov/united-states-and-mali-sign-agreement-for-fuel-donation/>

¹⁸⁸⁰ U.S. Embassy provides fuel assistance to Chadian Military, U.S. Embassy in Chad (Ndjamena). 11 May 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://td.usembassy.gov/us-embassy-provides-fuel-assistance-to-chadian-military/>

¹⁸⁸¹ U.S. Embassy provides fuel assistance to Chadian Military, U.S. Embassy in Chad (Ndjamena). 11 May 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://td.usembassy.gov/us-embassy-provides-fuel-assistance-to-chadian-military/>

¹⁸⁸² Remarks at a UN Security Council Briefing on the G5 Sahel Joint Force (via VTC), United States Mission to the United Nations (New York). 5 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://usun.usmission.gov/remarks-at-a-un-security-council-briefing-on-the-g5-sahel-joint-force-via-vtc/>

¹⁸⁸³ Remarks at a UN Security Council Briefing on the G5 Sahel Joint Force (via VTC), United States Mission to the United Nations (New York). 5 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://usun.usmission.gov/remarks-at-a-un-security-council-briefing-on-the-g5-sahel-joint-force-via-vtc/>

¹⁸⁸⁴ Remarks at a UN Security Council Briefing on the Situation in Mali (via VTC), United States Mission to the United Nations (New York). 11 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://usun.usmission.gov/remarks-at-a-un-security-council-briefing-on-the-situation-in-mali-via-vtc/>

¹⁸⁸⁵ Remarks at a UN Security Council Briefing on the Situation in Mali (via VTC), United States Mission to the United Nations (New York). 11 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://usun.usmission.gov/remarks-at-a-un-security-council-briefing-on-the-situation-in-mali-via-vtc/>

¹⁸⁸⁶ Deputy Secretary Beigun’s Participation in the International Coalition for the Sahel Virtual Ministerial, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.). 12 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/deputy-secretary-beiguns-participation-in-the-international-coalition-for-the-sahel-virtual-ministerial/>

On 3 July 2020, the United States provided USD8.5 million in material aid to Chad's Special Anti-Terrorism Group.¹⁸⁸⁷ This aid is designated for Chad's troops contributing to the G5 Sahel forces and aims to support G5 forces with addressing "growing security concerns in the Sahel."¹⁸⁸⁸

On 9 July 2020, a US State Department spokesperson issued a statement on human rights abuses in the Sahel region.¹⁸⁸⁹ She underlined that "the United States has made clear that ... [US] assistance to the region must not be used in any way that contributes to violations or abuses of human rights and that without prompt and thorough action to address these allegations, U.S. security assistance may be at risk."¹⁸⁹⁰

On 9 July 2020, Ambassador Chalet stated at the Security Council Briefing on the Situation in West Africa and the Sahel that the Sahel region countries are "grappling with significant threats to peace, security, and stability due to the confluence of internal political tensions, the COVID-19 pandemic, violence by armed groups, and a worsening food security and humanitarian situation" and highlighted US concern over "increasing instability across the Sahel and specifically in parts of Nigeria."¹⁸⁹¹ Ambassador Chalet called on UN Security Council members to urge "signatory parties of the Algiers Accord to meet the implementation benchmarks in the recently-renewed MINUSMA mandate."¹⁸⁹²

The efforts of the United States to engage with G5 Sahel countries, in partnership with the United Nations, are evidence of its commitment to build more efficient police and defence capabilities. However, there is no evidence that US has cooperated with INTERPOL on these matters.

Thus, the United States receive a score of 0.

Analyst: Shamsbir Malik

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to work with the United Nations and INTERPOL in order to provide appropriate support to G5 countries in building more efficient G5 Sahel police and defence capabilities.

¹⁸⁸⁷ The United States Provides \$8.5 Million in Materiel Aid to Chad in Support of G5 Sahel, U.S. Embassy in Chad (Ndjamena). 3 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://td.usembassy.gov/the-united-states-provides-8-5-million-in-materiel-aid-to-chad-in-support-of-g5-sahel/>

¹⁸⁸⁸ The United States Provides \$8.5 Million in Materiel Aid to Chad in Support of G5 Sahel, U.S. Embassy in Chad (Ndjamena). 3 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://td.usembassy.gov/the-united-states-provides-8-5-million-in-materiel-aid-to-chad-in-support-of-g5-sahel/>

¹⁸⁸⁹ U.S. warns aid at risk unless alleged abuses in West Africa's Sahel region addressed, Reuters (Washington D.C.). 9 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-sahel-security-usa/u-s-says-alleged-human-rights-abuses-in-sahel-must-be-addressed-idUSKBN24A223>

¹⁸⁹⁰ U.S. warns aid at risk unless alleged abuses in West Africa's Sahel region addressed, Reuters (Washington D.C.). 9 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-sahel-security-usa/u-s-says-alleged-human-rights-abuses-in-sahel-must-be-addressed-idUSKBN24A223>

¹⁸⁹¹ Remarks at a UN Security Council Briefing on the Situation in West Africa and the Sahel (via VTC), United States Mission to the United Nations (New York). 9 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://usun.usmission.gov/remarks-at-a-un-security-council-briefing-on-the-situation-in-west-africa-and-the-sahel-via-rtc/>

¹⁸⁹² Remarks at a UN Security Council Briefing on the Situation in West Africa and the Sahel (via VTC), United States Mission to the United Nations (New York). 9 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://usun.usmission.gov/remarks-at-a-un-security-council-briefing-on-the-situation-in-west-africa-and-the-sahel-via-rtc/>

On 17-18 October 2019, EU representatives met with researchers, Sahel experts, and representatives from other Sahel partner members to share security and stability analyses for the Sahel region.¹⁸⁹³ Representatives also discussed the difficulty of border management and possible solutions.¹⁸⁹⁴

On 12 November 2019, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini spoke at a conference after a meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council in Defense Formation.¹⁸⁹⁵ She announced that the EU decided to increase its presence and support given to Sahel partners in fighting terrorism and organized crime, especially Mali, through the support of security forces and diplomatic efforts.¹⁸⁹⁶

On 12 November 2019, the European Council formally adopted 13 new projects under the Permanent Structured Cooperation on Defence and Security (PESCO), including a new EUR10.5 billion “peace facility” proposed by Representative Mogherini.¹⁸⁹⁷ The purpose of the facility would be to pay for military equipment, including lethal weaponry, for crisis zones such as the Sahel region.¹⁸⁹⁸

On 11–17 November 2019, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC), the INTERPOL Firearms Programme, and 110 “police, customs, border police and prosecution services” from Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire and Mali conducted operation KAFO.¹⁸⁹⁹ This operation “permitted law enforcement to intercept illicit firearms and identify potential links with other criminal activity across the region and beyond, including terrorism.”¹⁹⁰⁰ KAFO is “part of joint efforts to strengthen the criminal justice chain” through training “in the use of operation tools ... [and] techniques to support the fight against illicit firearms trafficking.”¹⁹⁰¹ In particular, training scope of KAFO includes “UNODC’s training on detection and investigation of firearms trafficking at land border crossing points as well as on INTERPOL global policing capabilities, including iARMS and the INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table (IFRT).”¹⁹⁰² KAFO “was made possible with

¹⁸⁹³ 7th special envoys for the Sahel and partners meeting, West Africa Brief (Paris) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 29 December 2019. <http://www.west-africa-brief.org/content/en/7th-special-envoys-sahel-and-partners-meeting>

¹⁸⁹⁴ 7th special envoys for the Sahel and partners meeting, West Africa Brief (Paris) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 29 December 2019. <http://www.west-africa-brief.org/content/en/7th-special-envoys-sahel-and-partners-meeting>

¹⁸⁹⁵ EU to ‘increase presence and improve support’ for Sahel partners fighting terrorism, 13 November 2019. Access Date: 29 December 2019. <https://thedefensepost.com/2019/11/13/eu-support-sahel-terrorism-mali/>

¹⁸⁹⁶ EU to ‘increase presence and improve support’ for Sahel partners fighting terrorism, 13 November 2019. Access Date: 29 December 2019. <https://thedefensepost.com/2019/11/13/eu-support-sahel-terrorism-mali/>

¹⁸⁹⁷ EU launches 13 new PESCO defense cooperation projects, 12 November 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://thedefensepost.com/2019/11/12/new-pesco-projects-eu-defense-cooperation/>

¹⁸⁹⁸ EU launches 13 new PESCO defense cooperation projects, 12 November 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <https://thedefensepost.com/2019/11/12/new-pesco-projects-eu-defense-cooperation/>

¹⁸⁹⁹ A joint INTERPOL-UNODC operation against illicit firearms trafficking in West Africa has seen arrests and the seizure of firearms and ammunition, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (New York). 23 December 2019. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/firearms-protocol/news/kafo-operation.html>

¹⁹⁰⁰ A joint INTERPOL-UNODC operation against illicit firearms trafficking in West Africa has seen arrests and the seizure of firearms and ammunition, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (New York). 23 December 2019. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/firearms-protocol/news/kafo-operation.html>

¹⁹⁰¹ A joint INTERPOL-UNODC operation against illicit firearms trafficking in West Africa has seen arrests and the seizure of firearms and ammunition, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (New York). 23 December 2019. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/firearms-protocol/news/kafo-operation.html>

¹⁹⁰² A joint INTERPOL-UNODC operation against illicit firearms trafficking in West Africa has seen arrests and the seizure of firearms and ammunition, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (New York). 23 December 2019. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/firearms-protocol/news/kafo-operation.html>

the support from Germany, Japan, and the European Union.¹⁹⁰³ In addition, the EU funds the INTERPOL's illicit Arms Records and tracing Management System.¹⁹⁰⁴

On 25 November 2019, Finda Koroma, Vice President of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the EU Special Representative Ambassador Angel Losada met in Nigeria to discuss regional security in West Africa.¹⁹⁰⁵ Parties discussed the importance of signing a Memorandum of Understanding to promote cooperation on G5 Sahel, especially protecting citizens living in areas affected by terrorism.¹⁹⁰⁶

On 17 January 2020, European Union provide 13 armed vehicles to the G5 Sahel Joint Force.¹⁹⁰⁷ These vehicles will be used by two Malian battalions and are part of 46 armored vehicle that EU committed to provide to the G5 Sahel forces.¹⁹⁰⁸

On 20 January 2020, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borell announced that the EU Foreign Affairs Council would increase strategic cooperation with Sahel members as the leading partner and donor in the region.¹⁹⁰⁹ The Council expressed support for expanding the existing Sahel Strategy to increase security, stability and development in the region with maximum cooperation between actors involved in the Sahel region.¹⁹¹⁰

On 25 February 2020, Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen attended the G5 Sahel Summit in Mauritania.¹⁹¹¹ Commissioner Urpilainen donated seven armoured vehicles to the Mauritanian battalion of the G5 Sahel Joint Force and emphasized the EU's commitment to the stabilization and recovery of the Sahel region.¹⁹¹²

¹⁹⁰³ A joint INTERPOL-UNODC operation against illicit firearms trafficking in West Africa has seen arrests and the seizure of firearms and ammunition, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (New York). 23 December 2019. Acces Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/firearms-protocol/news/kafo-operation.html>

¹⁹⁰⁴ A joint INTERPOL-UNODC operation against illicit firearms trafficking in West Africa has seen arrests and the seizure of firearms and ammunition, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (New York). 23 December 2019. Acces Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/firearms-protocol/news/kafo-operation.html>

¹⁹⁰⁵ ECOWAS Commission and European Union Discuss Regional Security, Economic Community of West African States (Abuja) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.ecowas.int/ecowas-commission-and-european-union-discuss-regional-security/>

¹⁹⁰⁶ ECOWAS Commission and European Union Discuss Regional Security, Economic Community of West African States (Abuja) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.ecowas.int/ecowas-commission-and-european-union-discuss-regional-security/>

¹⁹⁰⁷ The European Union continues to support the G5 Sahel Joint Force with the supply of 13 armored vehicles, European Union External Action (Brussels). 17 January 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020.

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/73170/union-europ%C3%A9enne-poursuit-son-appui-%C3%A0-la-force-conjointe-du-g5-sahel-avec-la-fournitue-de-13_en

¹⁹⁰⁸ The European Union continues to support the G5 Sahel Joint Force with the supply of 13 armored vehicles, European Union External Action (Brussels). 17 January 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020.

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/73170/union-europ%C3%A9enne-poursuit-son-appui-%C3%A0-la-force-conjointe-du-g5-sahel-avec-la-fournitue-de-13_en

¹⁹⁰⁹ Foreign Affairs Council, 20 January 2020, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2020/01/20/>

¹⁹¹⁰ Foreign Affairs Council, 20 January 2020, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2020/01/20/>

¹⁹¹¹ G5 Sahel Summit: Commissioner Urpilainen underlines importance of continued partnership with Sahel region, European Commission (Brussels) 25 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/g5-sahel-summit-commissioner-urpilainen-underlines-importance-continued-partnership-sahel_en

¹⁹¹² G5 Sahel Summit: Commissioner Urpilainen underlines importance of continued partnership with Sahel region, European Commission (Brussels) 25 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/g5-sahel-summit-commissioner-urpilainen-underlines-importance-continued-partnership-sahel_en

On 23 March 2020, the Council of the EU expanded the scope of the EU military mission contributing to the training of the Malian Armed Forces and increased the mission budget to EUR133.7 million for a four-year period.¹⁹¹³ The Council also prolonged the mission until 18 May 2024.¹⁹¹⁴ The mission will provide military assistance to the G5 Sahel Joint Force and national forces in G5 Sahel members through military advice, training, and mentoring conducted through coordination with the UN and ECOWAS.¹⁹¹⁵

On 24 March 2020, the EU donated 13 armoured vehicles to Niger to strengthen the capacity of Nigerien soldiers fighting against terrorism in the Sahel.¹⁹¹⁶ Minister of National Defence of Niger Issoufou Katambé clarified that donated vehicles will protect deployed units in areas of operation against traps and explosive devices used by armed terrorist groups that seek to destabilize the border regions of Niger.¹⁹¹⁷

On 8 April 2020, President of the European Council Charles Michel co-chaired a EU-G5 Sahel video conference which was attended by the Heads of State of the G5 Sahel, the President of the European Commission, the High Representative of the EU, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of African Union Commission.¹⁹¹⁸ In the Joint Declaration, leaders “reaffirm[ed] their joint commitment to the security, stability and development of the Sahel.”¹⁹¹⁹

On 28 April 2020, the European Council and the Member States of the G5 Sahel held a EU-G5 Sahel video conference and adopted a joint declaration “to reaffirm ... commitment to the security, stability and development of the Sahel.”¹⁹²⁰ The declaration states that this commitment “will drive engagement at regional and international level” in cooperation with the UN, African Union, and

¹⁹¹³ EUTM Mali: Council extends training mission with broadened mandate and increased budget, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/03/23/eutm-mali-council-extends-training-mission-with-broadened-mandate-and-increased-budget/>

¹⁹¹⁴ EUTM Mali: Council extends training mission with broadened mandate and increased budget, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/03/23/eutm-mali-council-extends-training-mission-with-broadened-mandate-and-increased-budget>

¹⁹¹⁵ EUTM Mali: Council extends training mission with broadened mandate and increased budget, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/03/23/eutm-mali-council-extends-training-mission-with-broadened-mandate-and-increased-budget>

¹⁹¹⁶ European Union armored vehicle donation to Niger, Secrétariat Permanent du G5 Sahel (Nouakchott) 24 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.g5sahel.org/nos-activites/infrastructures/1588-don-de-vehicules-blindes-de-l-union-europeenne-au-niger>

¹⁹¹⁷ European Union armored vehicle donation to Niger, Secrétariat Permanent du G5 Sahel (Nouakchott) 24 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.g5sahel.org/nos-activites/infrastructures/1588-don-de-vehicules-blindes-de-l-union-europeenne-au-niger>

¹⁹¹⁸ EU-G5 Sahel video conference, European Council (Brussels). 28 April 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2020/04/28/>

¹⁹¹⁹ Joint declaration of the members of the European Council with the Member States of the G5 Sahel, European Council (Brussels). 28 April 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/04/28/joint-declaration-of-the-members-of-the-european-council-with-the-member-states-of-the-g5-sahel/>

¹⁹²⁰ Joint declaration of the members of the European Council with the Member States of the G5 Sahel, European Council (Brussels). 28 April 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/04/28/joint-declaration-of-the-members-of-the-european-council-with-the-member-states-of-the-g5-sahel/>

ECOWAS.¹⁹²¹ In addition, the European Commission announced that additional EUR194 million will be provided “to support the security, stability and resilience in the Sahel” that includes EUR112 million that will be dedicated to helping strengthening “the security and defence capabilities of the G5 Sahel countries.”¹⁹²²

On 30 June 2020, President Michel delivered a speech to G5 Sahel summit in Nouakchott.¹⁹²³ He outlined the “clear and very tangible progress” that the EU and EU member states achieved since April including more EU members committing to contribute special forces or equipment to the Takuba Task Force, EU adopting “a new programme in support of Niger’s efforts to combat the criminal networks linked to terrorism,” broadening of the mandate and increasing the budget of the EU training mission in Mali, rebuilding the Command Post of the Joint Force, and pledging EUR200 million “in additiona financing ... to strengthen the region’d security, stability and resilience.”¹⁹²⁴

On 26 August 2020, the European Union announced that it was suspending its training missions in Mali due to the military coup in the country.¹⁹²⁵ High Representative Borrell said that none of the “top officers behind the coup” had participated in the EUTM Mali training mission and expressed his hope that the missions “could resume as soon as possible.”¹⁹²⁶

The EU has demonstrated efforts to support G5 members through funding and cooperation, as well as UN and INTEPOL initiatives to counteract terrorism and support G5 police capabilities.

Thus, the EU receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Sofia Shatrova

¹⁹²¹ Joint declaration of the members of the European Council with the Member States of the G5 Sahel, European Council (Brussels). 28 April 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/04/28/joint-declaration-of-the-members-of-the-european-council-with-the-member-states-of-the-g5-sahel/>

¹⁹²² EU announces €194 million additional support to the Sahel, European Commission (Brussels). 28 April 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/eu-announces-eu194-million-additional-support-sahel_en

¹⁹²³ Speech by President Charles Michel to the summit in Nouakchott, European Council (Brussels). 30 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/06/30/aux-cotes-du-g5-sahel-l-union-europeenne-tient-ses-engagements-discours-du-president-charles-michel-au-sommet-de-nouakchott/>

¹⁹²⁴ Speech by President Charles Michel to the summit in Nouakchott, European Council (Brussels). 30 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/06/30/aux-cotes-du-g5-sahel-l-union-europeenne-tient-ses-engagements-discours-president-charles-michel-au-sommet-de-nouakchott/>

¹⁹²⁵ EU freezes Mali training missions after military coup, Deutsche Welle (Bonn). 26 August 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/eu-freezes-mali-training-missions-after-military-coup/a-54710608>

¹⁹²⁶ EU freezes Mali training missions after military coup, Deutsche Welle (Bonn). 26 August 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/eu-freezes-mali-training-missions-after-military-coup/a-54710608>

11. Development: G5 Sahel

“We support facilitating increased access of G5 countries to all available public and private finance.”

Sahel Partnership Action Plan

Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Canada		0	
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union		0	
Average		+0.50 (75%)	

Background

The Sahel region has been a focus of the international community throughout the past decade, facing escalating instability catalyzed by challenges to the region’s agriculture and farming industries. “Since the 1970s, the Sahel has experienced drought conditions on a regular basis,”¹⁹²⁷ which some scientists attribute to climate change.¹⁹²⁸ In 2012, an estimated 19 million people became food insecure due to “late, erratic rainfall, high food prices, displacement and chronic poverty.”¹⁹²⁹ Immediate responses attempted to tackle the most pressing issues: rising food prices and low agricultural production; chronic food insecurity and malnutrition; and rising violence in northern Mali, causing high numbers of internally displaced persons and refugees.¹⁹³⁰ However, mounting conflict has triggered the need for a stronger and more unified international strategy for tackling the profound, multifaceted issues embedded in the Sahel conflict. Adverse conditions are expected to become increasingly complex and severe as the Sahel’s population is predicted to double by 2040, while inequality rises particularly amongst women and youth, and as climate change continues to present unexpected challenges to the region’s agriculture.¹⁹³¹

The international community has since banded together by establishing new platforms to facilitate regional cooperation, cross-sectoral knowledge sharing, and international partnerships between diverse stakeholders with the aim to invest in sustainable development. Countries first took a security approach to establishing long-term peace and development in the region. In 2011, the international community – including all G7 (previously G8) members¹⁹³² – established the Global Counterterrorism Forum to discuss, ideate, and promote strategies to counter terrorism and violent

¹⁹²⁷ Droughts — Case study: the impact of drought in a developing country – the Sahel, BBC. Access date: 17 November 2019. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zt9ncwx/revision/4>.

¹⁹²⁸ Analysis: Understanding the Sahel drought, Steff Gaultier, Al Jazeera, 22 June 2012. Access date: 17 November 2019. <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/spotlight/saheldrought/2012/06/2012616174721352901.html>.

¹⁹²⁹ Sahel Crisis — A Call to Action, Food and Agriculture Association of the United Nations, June 2012. Access date: 17 November 2019. <http://www.fao.org/emergencies/resources/videos/video-detail/en/c/150327>.

¹⁹³⁰ Sahel Regional Strategy 2013, United Nations, December 2012. Access date: 17 November 2019. https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/SahelStrategy2013_Dec2012.pdf.

¹⁹³¹ Joint Paris G7 /G5 Communique, 4 July 2019. Access date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/dev/2019-g7-g5.pdf>.

¹⁹³² Members and Partners, Global Counterterrorism Forum. Access date: 10 November 2019. <https://www.thegctf.org/About-us/Members-and-partners>.

extremism.¹⁹³³ Since the Forum's establishment, it has focused on the Sahel region.¹⁹³⁴ Its current working group for capacity-building in the West Africa Region directly focuses on identifying solutions to issues in the Sahel, such as “enhancing international police cooperation,” “countering terrorist financing,” and “border security management.”¹⁹³⁵

In 2012, leaders at the Camp David Summit highlighted the need to improve food security and nutrition in collaboration with African partners.¹⁹³⁶ By increasing public policy and investment in sustainable agriculture, as well as attracting more private capital, G8 leaders hoped to support the global need for sustainable development through agricultural investment.¹⁹³⁷ This mission led to the launch of the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa, through which participating African countries shared their policy commitments and future private investment partners through a ‘country cooperation framework’.¹⁹³⁸

The 2013 Lough Erne Summit focused on economic strategies as agents of change to drive international prosperity by engaging private finance.¹⁹³⁹ Former British Prime Minister David Cameron advocated to “unleash the power of the private sector” in order to “support the development of open economies, open governments and open societies” by “advancing trade, ensuring tax compliance, and promoting greater transparency.”¹⁹⁴⁰ Among the Summit's commitments include: reducing “global imbalances” through macroeconomic policy; collaborating with the private sector, international financial institutions, and other international partners to facilitate the finance of “bankable trade-related infrastructure projects,” particularly in Africa; and enhancing counter-terrorism efforts by tackling recruitment and radicalization, as well as providing support for vulnerable communities.¹⁹⁴¹ Prior to the Summit, G8 Foreign Ministers highlighted the Sahel as a focal region in need of support during a meeting to discuss international issues impacting foreign peace and security.¹⁹⁴²

After the unexpected magnitude of the 2014 Ebola crisis, G7 members drafted an agenda “in close cooperation with the African Union and other African regional organisations (EAC [East African Community], ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States], IGAD [Intergovernmental Authority on Development])” to strengthen and expand upon pre-existing security frameworks.¹⁹⁴³

¹⁹³³ Background and Mission, Global Counterterrorism Forum. Access date: 10 November 2019. <https://www.thegctf.org/About-us/Background-and-Mission>.

¹⁹³⁴ Capacity-building in the West Africa Region, Global Counterterrorism Forum. Access date: 10 November 2019. <https://www.thegctf.org/Working-Groups/Sahel-Region-Capacity-Building>.

¹⁹³⁵ Capacity-building in the West Africa Region, Global Counterterrorism Forum. Access date: 10 November 2019. <https://www.thegctf.org/Working-Groups/Sahel-Region-Capacity-Building>.

¹⁹³⁶ Camp David Declaration, 19 May 2019. Access date 19 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2012campdavid/g8-declaration.html>.

¹⁹³⁷ Camp David Declaration, 19 May 2019. Access date 19 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2012campdavid/g8-declaration.html>.

¹⁹³⁸ The New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2015. Access date: 24 November 2019. <http://www.fao.org/family-farming/detail/en/c/384055/>.

¹⁹³⁹ A G8 Meeting That Goes Back to First Principles, David Cameron, 21 November 2012. Access date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2013lougherne/121121-cameron.html>.

¹⁹⁴⁰ A G8 Meeting That Goes Back to First Principles, David Cameron, 21 November 2012. Access date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2013lougherne/121121-cameron.html>.

¹⁹⁴¹ 2013 Lough Erne G8 Summit Final Compliance Report, G8 Research Group, 5 June 2018. Access date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2013compliance-final/2013-g8-compliance-final.pdf>.

¹⁹⁴² G8 Foreign Ministers' meeting statement, G8 UK United Kingdom 2013, 11 April 2013. Access date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/formin130411.html>.

¹⁹⁴³ Beyond Ebola: a G7 agenda to help prevent future crises and enhance security in Africa, G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting Lübeck, 15 April 2015. Access date: 10 November 2019. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/150415-G7_Africa_Agenda.pdf.

The Ebola crisis, which instigated “the first UN Mission to tackle a health security challenge,” generated widespread support from nations, non-governmental agencies, international financial institutions, and private sector.¹⁹⁴⁴ The agenda “[supported] capacity building with governments, regional bodies, civil societies and the private sector on crisis management and crisis communication as well as awareness-raising” for future epidemics.¹⁹⁴⁵ However, these relationships are necessary to tackle the cross-border, multi-sectoral challenges the Sahel faces beyond health security.

The G5 Sahel Joint Force was established in 2014 as a security strategy in response to the growing instability, threats, and violence in the region.¹⁹⁴⁶ The region’s challenges revolve around porous borders and power vacuums, leading to organized crime and the trafficking of humans, drugs, and arms.¹⁹⁴⁷ The result is forced displacement, which further perpetuates the cycles of instability and crime. As residents flee and illicit activity rises, terrorist organizations can expand their influence and sources of revenue.¹⁹⁴⁸

In a continuation of the security concerns that led to the establishment of the Global Counterterrorism Forum in 2011, the 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit committed to advancing nonproliferation by “strengthening the system of multilateral treaties and ... the Arms Trade Treaty.”¹⁹⁴⁹ Germany partnered with members of the African Union to monitor and control the movement of arms in the Sahel, focusing on small arms and light weapons as well as physical security and stockpile management.¹⁹⁵⁰

At the 2017 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, the foreign ministers of G7 members agreed to “enhance cooperation” and “continue to support the efforts of the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin countries to fight terrorism and organized crime,” particularly against Boko Haram.¹⁹⁵¹ France, Germany, and the European Union launched the Sahel Alliance to provide an effective response through initiatives simultaneously tackling security and sustainable development.¹⁹⁵² Partnering countries, international financial institutions, and non-governmental organizations collaborate on projects targeting priority fields, implementing new modes of action, and focusing on the most vulnerable regions.¹⁹⁵³

The Sahel Alliance has engaged projects on the principle of mutual accountability to help partners tangibly meet and measure their collective goals.¹⁹⁵⁴ Among the Alliance’s biggest projects include

¹⁹⁴⁴ Beyond Ebola: a G7 agenda to help prevent future crises and enhance security in Africa, G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting Lübeck, 15 April 2015. Access date: 10 November 2019. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/150415-G7_Africa_Agenda.pdf.

¹⁹⁴⁵ Beyond Ebola: a G7 agenda to help prevent future crises and enhance security in Africa, G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting Lübeck, G7 Research Group, 15 April 2015. Access date: 10 November 2019. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/150415-G7_Africa_Agenda.pdf.

¹⁹⁴⁶ The G5 Sahel Task Force Gains Traction, Africa Centre for Strategic Studies, 9 February 2019. Access date: 29 November 2019. <https://africacenter.org/spotlight/g5-sahel-joint-force-gains-traction>.

¹⁹⁴⁷ The G5 Sahel Task Force Gains Traction, Africa Centre for Strategic Studies, 9 February 2019. Access date: 29 November 2019. <https://africacenter.org/spotlight/g5-sahel-joint-force-gains-traction>.

¹⁹⁴⁸ G5 Sahel Joint Force, Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations in New York, 5 November 2019. Access date: 29 November 2019. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/G5-Sahel-Joint-Force-10433>.

¹⁹⁴⁹ Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit 2015, G7 Research Group, 8 June 2015. Access date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

¹⁹⁵⁰ 8. Nonproliferation: Arms Trade — 2015 Schloss Elmau G7 Summit Final Compliance Report, G7 Research Group, 23 May 2016. Access date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2015compliance-final/2015-g7-compliance-final-160523.pdf>.

¹⁹⁵¹ 2017 G7 Foreign Ministers’ Commitments, G7 Research Group, 11 April 2017. Access date: 17 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/foreign-commitments-2017.html>.

¹⁹⁵² The Sahel Alliance. Access date: 17 November 2019. <https://www.alliance-sahel.org/en/sahel-alliance>.

¹⁹⁵³ The Sahel Alliance. Access date: 17 November 2019. <https://www.alliance-sahel.org/en/sahel-alliance>.

¹⁹⁵⁴ The Sahel Alliance. Access date: 17 November 2019. <https://www.alliance-sahel.org/en/sahel-alliance>.

bolstering pastoralism throughout the region.¹⁹⁵⁵ Through private-public partnerships, investment in pastoralism can contribute to the perpetuation of regional sustainable agriculture through increased livestock services, resource management, and entrepreneurship among targeted disadvantaged communities.¹⁹⁵⁶ Since its implementation, veterinary services, disease control, and infrastructure have all expanded.¹⁹⁵⁷

World leaders and international stakeholders met in August 2019 to announce the Biarritz Declaration for a G7 and Africa Partnership.¹⁹⁵⁸ The Partnership establishes multilateral commitments to support development by promoting female entrepreneurship, promoting accessible digital transformation, and fighting corruption in public procurement through partnerships between “governments, businesses and civil society organizations.”¹⁹⁵⁹

On July 4, 2019, members from G7 and G5 Sahel countries released the Joint Paris G7/G5 Sahel Communiqué.¹⁹⁶⁰ Prior to the Biarritz Summit, stakeholder representatives from both groups met to discuss the region’s mounting instability and committed to “strong partnerships and coordinated action.”¹⁹⁶¹ The Communiqué asserted the G7’s unanimous commitment to the Sahel by announcing “all G7 members are now part of [the Sahel Alliance], as either members or observers.”¹⁹⁶² The Communiqué highlighted the importance for G5 Sahel countries to first “improve governance, domestic resource mobilization, increase budget expenditures and strengthen institutional capacity for the provision of quality basic services to all, without discrimination,” then called for “the international community, to support these efforts with enhanced, coherent and coordinated support.”¹⁹⁶³ This document offers a clear blueprint for the 18th commitment for development in G5 Sahel countries made at Biarritz weeks later.

Commitment Features

The G7 commitment is to “support facilitating increased access of G5 countries to all available public and private finance.” “Facilitating” is understood as “to help bring about.”¹⁹⁶⁴ In this context, facilitating would mean to provide the resources and/or connections through which G5 Sahel countries could access all available public and private finance. The Sahel Alliance’s Regional Support Project for Sahel Pastoralism demonstrates facilitating private-public partnerships. It is a project implemented by the World Bank that works with Sahel Alliance partners to devise and implement development strategies that create opportunities for private financing. The project incorporated professional organizations into the plan and focused on creating new markets to boost market access.

¹⁹⁵⁵ Regional Support Project for Sahel Pastoralism, Sahel Alliance, 30 June 2019. Access date: 29 November 2019. <https://www.alliance-sahel.org/en/projects/regional-sahel-pastoralism-support-project-praps>.

¹⁹⁵⁶ Regional Support Project for Sahel Pastoralism, Sahel Alliance, 30 June 2019. Access date: 29 November 2019. <https://www.alliance-sahel.org/en/projects/regional-sahel-pastoralism-support-project-praps>.

¹⁹⁵⁷ Regional Support Project for Sahel Pastoralism, Sahel Alliance, 30 June 2019. Access date: 29 November 2019. <https://www.alliance-sahel.org/en/projects/regional-sahel-pastoralism-support-project-praps>.

¹⁹⁵⁸ Biarritz Declaration for a G7 & Africa Partnership, G7 Research Group, 26 August 2019. Access date: 17 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/biarritz-declaration-africa-partnership.html>.

¹⁹⁵⁹ Biarritz Declaration for a G7 & Africa Partnership, G7 Research Group, 26 August 2019. Access date: 17 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/biarritz-declaration-africa-partnership.html>.

¹⁹⁶⁰ Joint Paris G7 /G5 Communiqué, 4 July 2019. Access date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/dev/2019-g7-g5.pdf>.

¹⁹⁶¹ Joint Paris G7 /G5 Communiqué, 4 July 2019. Access date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/dev/2019-g7-g5.pdf>.

¹⁹⁶² Joint Paris G7 /G5 Communiqué, 4 July 2019. Access date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/dev/2019-g7-g5.pdf>.

¹⁹⁶³ Joint Paris G7 /G5 Communiqué, 4 July 2019. Access date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/dev/2019-g7-g5.pdf>.

¹⁹⁶⁴ Facilitate, Merriam-Webster. Access date: 13 October 2019. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/facilitate>.

“Increased access” is understood as further contributing to the efforts of previous G7 commitments¹⁹⁶⁵ to provide G5 countries with “the right to obtain or make use of”¹⁹⁶⁶ public and private finance. In this context, increased access is a reaffirmation of the G7’s commitments to supporting G5 Sahel states by continuing to support productive development initiatives through public and private finance.

“G5 countries” is understood as the group of five countries from the Sahel region formed in 2014, comprising Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Chad.¹⁹⁶⁷

“Public finance” is understood as financial resources and investment from publicly funded institutions, namely governments and government-funded organizations (for example, the International Monetary Fund or World Bank Group). In this context, public finance can be interpreted as financial resources and/or aid potentially accessible and/or available to G5 Sahel countries from G7 governments.

“Private finance” is understood as financial resources and investment from privately owned and/or operated organizations, namely companies. In this context, private finance can be interpreted as resources and/or investment potentially accessible and/or available to G5 Sahel countries from privately owned entities. Examples of private finance could include private investments in the G5 Sahel’s agriculture industry or developments in the Group’s green energy sector (i.e. solar or wind).

To achieve full compliance and a score of +1, G7 members must: 1. facilitate increased access of G5 Sahel countries to all available public finance, and 2. facilitate increased access of G5 Sahel countries to all available private finance.

If only one of two thresholds of this commitment is fulfilled, G7 members will be considered in partial compliance and will thus receive a score of 0. For instance, if a G7 member facilitates increased access of G5 Sahel countries to available public funds, but does not facilitate increased access of G5 Sahel countries to available private funds, the country will be considered in partial compliance.

A country will be considered in no compliance if a no demonstrable action is taken to fulfill neither component of this commitment, and will consequently receive a score of -1.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member does NOT facilitate increased access of G5 Sahel countries to any available public or private finance.
0	The G7 member facilitates increased access of G5 Sahel countries to any available public OR private finance.
+1	The G7 member facilitates increased access of G5 Sahel countries to all available public AND private finance.

*Compliance Director: Philip Schartz
Lead Analyst: Ninar Fawal*

¹⁹⁶⁵ Increased, Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, 27 September 2017. Access date: 13 October 2019.

¹⁹⁶⁶ Access, Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, 27 September 2017. Access date: 13 October 2019.

¹⁹⁶⁷ Le G5 Sahel, Secretariat permanent du G5 Sahel, 29 September 2015. Access date: 13 October 2019. <https://www.g5sahel.org/qui-sommes-nous/le-g5-sahel>.

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to facilitating increased access of G5 Sahel countries to all available public and private finance.

On 10 December 2019, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), of which Canada is a member, adopted the “Support to the Sahel Region” resolution that focused on better coordinating support to the Sahel region.¹⁹⁶⁸ ECOSOC also called on international financial institutions to provide support to the Sahel region in coordination with the United Nations and other organizations.¹⁹⁶⁹ ECOSOC also stressed the need to provide opportunities for young people in the Sahel.¹⁹⁷⁰

On 10 February 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau reaffirmed Canada’s commitment to supporting the African Development Bank, and announced that Canada will contribute CAD355.2 million over three years for the 15th replenishment of the African Development Fund.¹⁹⁷¹ He also announced that Canada will invest CAD4.8 million to ACUMEN, an international non-profit organization, in order to help provide leadership training to 200 youth leaders and support women-led businesses serving conflict-affected communities.¹⁹⁷²

On 10 February 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that Canada will hold the first high-level consultations with the African Union Commission, of which Burkina Faso is a commissioner.¹⁹⁷³ The consultations are set to focus on common priorities including trade policy.¹⁹⁷⁴

On 12 June 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs François-Philippe Champagne and Minister of National Defence Harjit S. Sajjan announced that Canada will join the International Coalition for the Sahel, a group that aims to facilitate coordination and interaction between the various aspects of international action to support the G5 Sahel countries.¹⁹⁷⁵ They also stated that Minister Champagne will participate in the coalition’s Small Group of Foreign Ministers.¹⁹⁷⁶ The two ministers

¹⁹⁶⁸ Economic and Social Council Adopts Resolution on Better Coordinating Support to Sahel Region, Fills Positions in Subsidiary Bodies, UN-Women, United Nations (New York) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019.

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/ecosoc7016.doc.htm>.

¹⁹⁶⁹ Economic and Social Council Adopts Resolution on Better Coordinating Support to Sahel Region, Fills Positions in Subsidiary Bodies, UN-Women, United Nations (New York) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019.

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/ecosoc7016.doc.htm>.

¹⁹⁷⁰ Economic and Social Council Adopts Resolution on Better Coordinating Support to Sahel Region, Fills Positions in Subsidiary Bodies, UN-Women, United Nations (New York) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019.

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/ecosoc7016.doc.htm>.

¹⁹⁷¹ Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>.

¹⁹⁷² Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>.

¹⁹⁷³ Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>.

¹⁹⁷⁴ Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>.

¹⁹⁷⁵ Canada joins International Coalition for the Sahel (Ottawa) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/06/canada-joins-international-coalition-for-the-sahel.html>.

¹⁹⁷⁶ Canada joins International Coalition for the Sahel (Ottawa) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/06/canada-joins-international-coalition-for-the-sahel.html>.

furthermore reiterated Canada's commitment to international assistance in the Sahel, as well as supporting countries in the region in advancing economic and social development.¹⁹⁷⁷

On 20 August 2020, the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative, of which Canada is a founding contributor, announced a funding allocation of USD49.3 million for programs to boost women-led businesses and entrepreneurship in light of the COVID-19 crisis.¹⁹⁷⁸ Among the institutions tasked with the implementation of these programs is the World Bank Group, which received USD16.01 million to implement a digitally enabled access to finance and markets program for women-led businesses in the Sahel region.¹⁹⁷⁹ The program will foster market linkages between suppliers and buyers across the Sahel, and provide services and training to women-led shea butter cooperatives on know-how, managerial capacity, networks, and marketing tools as well as support the digitization of payment systems.¹⁹⁸⁰ The World Bank Group will also implement an early-stage finance program that aims to assist with the skills-building and mentoring of women entrepreneurs, and address finance gaps in the region.¹⁹⁸¹ The programs will be implemented specifically in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Mauritania.¹⁹⁸²

Through its membership to ECOSOC and its support of multilateral cooperation with international financial institutions to promote development in the Sahel region, Canada has partially complied with the commitment.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Ninar Fawal

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to facilitating increased access of G5 Sahel countries to all available public and private finance.

On 17 September 2019, Proparco, the private services arm of the Agence Française de Développement (AFD),¹⁹⁸³ signed a EUR25 million subordinated loan with French multinational bank Société Générale as part of AFD Group's Choose Africa initiative.¹⁹⁸⁴ The loan will allow the bank's Burkina Faso division to continue its financing of local small and medium-sized enterprises

¹⁹⁷⁷ Canada joins International Coalition for the Sahel (Ottawa) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/06/canada-joins-international-coalition-for-the-sahel.html>.

¹⁹⁷⁸ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

¹⁹⁷⁹ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

¹⁹⁸⁰ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

¹⁹⁸¹ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

¹⁹⁸² Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

¹⁹⁸³ A Financial Institution Working for the Private Sector and Sustainable Development, Proparco, Groupe Agence Française de Développement (Paris). Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.proparco.fr/en/financial-institution-working-private-sector-and-sustainable-development>.

¹⁹⁸⁴ Identity, About us, Société Générale (Paris). Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.societegenerale.com/en/about-us/identity>.

(SMEs).¹⁹⁸⁵ These funds will support approximately 10,000 SMEs through tools and financing to develop their businesses in collaboration with local partners.¹⁹⁸⁶

On 9 and 10 October 2019, AFD hosted the “Energy Access in the G5 Sahel Countries” Conference to promote energy access in the Sahel countries and aim to double the access to energy by 2022.¹⁹⁸⁷ The event was hosted in conjunction with the World Bank, the European Union, and the Coordination Unit of the Sahel Alliance.¹⁹⁸⁸

On 10 and 11 October 2019, the Minister of State attached to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne, affirmed France’s commitment to make further investments in human development and stabilization efforts in the Sahel.¹⁹⁸⁹

On 20 November 2019, the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, Nicolas de Rivière, announced France was allocating EUR522 million in funding for the G5 Sahel Priority Investment Programme for 2019 and 2020.¹⁹⁹⁰ The funding was done in conjunction with assurance of increased French security presence in the Sahel region.¹⁹⁹¹

On 11 December 2019, Proparco partnered with Attijari bank Mauritania to provide EUR5.5 million in loans for Mauritanian SMEs.¹⁹⁹² The financing consisted of two types of loans: (1) ARIZ-guaranteed loans¹⁹⁹³ between EUR10,000 to EUR300,000, totaling EUR3 million; and (2) EURIZ-guaranteed loans¹⁹⁹⁴ to societally important sectors ranging from EUR 5,000 to EUR 100,000,

¹⁹⁸⁵ Proparco signs a loan with Société Générale Burkina Faso to support the country’s SMEs, Proparco, Group Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 17 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

<https://www.proparco.fr/en/actualites/proparco-signs-loan-societe-generale-burkina-faso-support-countrys-smes>.

¹⁹⁸⁶ Proparco signs a loan with Société Générale Burkina Faso to support the country’s SMEs, Proparco, Group Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 17 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

<https://www.proparco.fr/en/actualites/proparco-signs-loan-societe-generale-burkina-faso-support-countrys-smes>.

¹⁹⁸⁷ Access to electricity in Sahel doubled by 2022 – Synthesis of the Conference, Agence Française de développement (Paris) November 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.afd.fr/en/ressources/access-electricity-sahel-doubled-2022-synthesis-conference>.

¹⁹⁸⁸ Access to electricity in Sahel doubled by 2022 – Synthesis of the Conference, Agence Française de développement (Paris) November 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.afd.fr/en/ressources/access-electricity-sahel-doubled-2022-synthesis-conference>.

¹⁹⁸⁹ OECD/Development Assistance Committee – Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne attending the Tidewater meeting of development ministers, France Diplomatie (Lyon) 10-11 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/news-2019/article/oecd-development-assistance-committee-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-attending-the>.

¹⁹⁹⁰ Statement by Mr. Nicolas de Rivière, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of France (New York) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/situation-in-the-Sahel-remains-very-precarious>.

¹⁹⁹¹ Statement by Mr. Nicolas de Rivière, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of France (New York) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/situation-in-the-Sahel-remains-very-precarious>.

¹⁹⁹² Proparco and Attijari Bank Mauritania facilitate access to finance for Mauritanian SMEs, Proparco, Groupe Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019.

https://www.proparco.fr/en/actualites/proparco-and-attijari-bank-mauritania-facilitate-access-finance-mauritanian-smes?origin=/en/rechercher?query=Mauritania&size=20&sort=publication_date%2Cdesc&filter%5B0%5D=source_k%3Dproparco&facetOptions%5B0%5D=country_k%2Csize%2C200&type=1.

¹⁹⁹³ Guarantees: an instrument to mobilize local instruments, Agence Française de Développement (Paris). Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/guarantees-instrument-mobilize-local-instruments>.

¹⁹⁹⁴ Launch of the EURIZ guarantee - €181 million to facilitate MSMEs’ access to credit in Africa and the Caribbean, Proparco, Groupe Agence Française de Développement (Paris). Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.proparco.fr/en/actualites/launch-euriz-guarantee-eu181-million-facilitate-msmes-access-credit-africa-and-caribbean>.

totaling in EUR2.5 million.¹⁹⁹⁵ About 140 Mauritanian SMEs are expected to benefit from the loans.¹⁹⁹⁶

On 6 April 2020, Proparco granted ACEP Niger, Niger's second largest microfinance institution, a XOF1.5 billion loan to support entrepreneurs.¹⁹⁹⁷ The loan was distributed with the hopes of helping over 35,000 entrepreneurs.¹⁹⁹⁸

On 8 April 2020, the AFD announced the "COVID-19 – Health in Common" initiative, which will consist of deploying EUR1.2 billion in bilateral resources and funds to support African countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁹⁹⁹ The plan includes EUR150 million in donations, and EUR1 billion in loans to assist partner countries and development banks.²⁰⁰⁰

On 17 April 2020, Minister Lemoyne took part in the meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.²⁰⁰¹ The meeting reviewed the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in developing countries and discussed the USD14 billion plan adopted by the World Bank to fund almost 100 projects globally, a third of which are in sub-Saharan Africa.²⁰⁰² Moreover, the meeting reviewed a plan to put together a USD160 billion package focusing on macro-economic support, and discussed the possibility of a moratorium on debt service for the poorest countries during the pandemic.²⁰⁰³

¹⁹⁹⁵ Proparco and Attijari Bank Mauritania facilitate access to finance for Mauritanian SMEs, Proparco, Groupe Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019.

https://www.proparco.fr/en/actualites/proparco-and-attijari-bank-mauritania-facilitate-access-finance-mauritanian-smes?origin=/en/rechercher?query=Mauritania&size=20&sort=publication_date%2Cdesc&filter%5B0%5D=source_k%3Dproparco&facetOptions%5B0%5D=country_k%2Csize%2C200&type=1.

¹⁹⁹⁶ Proparco and Attijari Bank Mauritania facilitate access to finance for Mauritanian SMEs, Proparco, Groupe Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019.

https://www.proparco.fr/en/actualites/proparco-and-attijari-bank-mauritania-facilitate-access-finance-mauritanian-smes?origin=/en/rechercher?query=Mauritania&size=20&sort=publication_date%2Cdesc&filter%5B0%5D=source_k%3Dproparco&facetOptions%5B0%5D=country_k%2Csize%2C200&type=1.

¹⁹⁹⁷ Proparco and ACEP Niger support entrepreneurs in Niger, Proparco Groupe Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 06 April 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.proparco.fr/en/actualites/proparco-and-acep-niger-support-entrepreneurs-niger>.

¹⁹⁹⁸ Proparco and ACEP Niger support entrepreneurs in Niger, Proparco Groupe Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 06 April 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.proparco.fr/en/actualites/proparco-and-acep-niger-support-entrepreneurs-niger>.

¹⁹⁹⁹ France Launches, via AFD, The "Covid-19 – Health in Common" Initiative to Support African Countries (9 April 2020) (Paris) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2020/article/france-launches-via-afd-the-covid-19-health-in-common-initiative-to-support>.

²⁰⁰⁰ France Launches, via AFD, The "Covid-19 – Health in Common" Initiative to Support African Countries (9 April 2020) (Paris) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2020/article/france-launches-via-afd-the-covid-19-health-in-common-initiative-to-support>.

²⁰⁰¹ World Bank / IMF - Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne taking part in the Development Committee meeting (17 Apr. 2020) (Paris) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2020/article/world-bank-imf-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-taking-part-in-the-development-committee>.

²⁰⁰² World Bank / IMF - Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne taking part in the Development Committee meeting (17 Apr. 2020) (Paris) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2020/article/world-bank-imf-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-taking-part-in-the-development-committee>.

²⁰⁰³ World Bank / IMF - Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne taking part in the Development Committee meeting (17 Apr. 2020) (Paris) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2020/article/world-bank-imf-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-taking-part-in-the-development-committee>.

On 28 May 2020, the World Bank announced that it will be providing USD376 million to the Sahel Women Empowerment and Demographic Dividend project, a regional initiative intended to benefit communities in Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, and Mauritania, as well as Côte d'Ivoire.²⁰⁰⁴ The funding is intended to build human capital and improve human development outcomes in the region.²⁰⁰⁵ AfD will be providing an additional EUR10 million in parallel financing to the initiative.²⁰⁰⁶

On 12 June 2020, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian took part in a ministerial meeting of the International Coalition for the Sahel, the first meeting of its kind.²⁰⁰⁷ The participants affirmed their commitment to support the action of the G5 Sahel and reiterated their plan to support development assistance in the region as one of the four pillars of the Coalition.²⁰⁰⁸

On 23 June 2020, France released its new domestic resources mobilization strategy for low-income countries, which aims to support states in their capacity to raise taxes and distribute funding to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.²⁰⁰⁹ France is providing EUR60 million during 2020-2023 to implement the plan, and will work on supporting the modernization of administrations in low-income countries with a specific emphasis on Sahel states.²⁰¹⁰

On 30 June 2020, President Emmanuel Macron took part in the G5 Sahel Summit in Nouakchott, Mauritania, along with the five heads of state of the G5 Sahel members, the chair of the African Union Commission, and the Secretary-General of the International Organisation of La Francophonie.²⁰¹¹ The heads of state emphasized the importance of the implementation of development programs in the region such as the Priority Investment Program, and invited the

²⁰⁰⁴ Investing in Girls and Women's Empowerment in and Beyond the Sahel (Washington, D.C.) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/05/28/investing-in-girls-and-womens-empowerment-in-and-beyond-the-sahel>.

²⁰⁰⁵ Investing in Girls and Women's Empowerment in and Beyond the Sahel (Washington, D.C.) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/05/28/investing-in-girls-and-womens-empowerment-in-and-beyond-the-sahel>.

²⁰⁰⁶ Investing in Girls and Women's Empowerment in and Beyond the Sahel (Washington, D.C.) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/05/28/investing-in-girls-and-womens-empowerment-in-and-beyond-the-sahel>.

²⁰⁰⁷ Informal conclusions of the first meeting of the International Coalition for the Sahel (12 Jun. 2020) (Paris) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/news/news-about-defence-and-security/article/informal-conclusions-of-the-first-meeting-of-the-international-coalition-for>.

²⁰⁰⁸ Informal conclusions of the first meeting of the International Coalition for the Sahel (12 Jun. 2020) (Paris) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/news/news-about-defence-and-security/article/informal-conclusions-of-the-first-meeting-of-the-international-coalition-for>.

²⁰⁰⁹ Une stratégie française de coopération autour de la mobilisation des ressources intérieures dans les pays en développement (23.06.20) (Paris) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/developpement/mise-en-oeuvre-de-la-politique-de-developpement/le-financement-du-developpement/article/une-strategie-francaise-de-cooperation-autour-de-la-mobilisation-des-ressources?xtor=RSS-1>.

²⁰¹⁰ Une stratégie française de coopération autour de la mobilisation des ressources intérieures dans les pays en développement (23.06.20) (Paris) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/developpement/mise-en-oeuvre-de-la-politique-de-developpement/le-financement-du-developpement/article/une-strategie-francaise-de-cooperation-autour-de-la-mobilisation-des-ressources?xtor=RSS-1>.

²⁰¹¹ G5 Sahel: the coalition is in place (Paris) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/g5-sahel-the-coalition-is-in-place>.

international community to release all the funds previously promised in order to accelerate development efforts in Sahel countries.²⁰¹²

By making public funds available through AFD initiatives, and collaborating with industry leaders to support the development of local private industries in the Sahel region, France has fully complied with the commitment.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Geoffrey Burrows

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to facilitating increased access of G5 Sahel countries to all available public and private finance.

On 10 October 2019, Germany increased its pledge to the Global Fund to EUR1 billion.²⁰¹³ The Global Fund aims to battle HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria with the ultimate goal of “[enhancing] the quality of life for people living with the diseases and [strengthening] national health and community systems.”²⁰¹⁴

On 12 November 2019, Chancellor Angela Merkel met in Berlin with the G20 Compact with Africa countries, including Burkina Faso, “to discuss opportunities to enhance the business environment and increase investment in African countries.”²⁰¹⁵ Chancellor Merkel took this opportunity to highlight Germany’s new investment fund in Africa, which will foster private European investment in Africa, support German companies navigating the legal and economic frameworks of African countries, and facilitate funding for small and medium-sized enterprises in Africa.²⁰¹⁶

On 12 November 2019, at the World Population Summit in Nairobi, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) announced Germany would increase its family planning initiatives and establish new maternity centres in Niger.²⁰¹⁷

On 19 November 2019, Development Minister Gerd Müller reaffirmed Germany’s commitment to supporting African businesses with the goal to create “a better enabling environment for investment

²⁰¹² Communiqué final du sommet de Nouakchott pour le suivi de la feuille de route du sommet de Pau (Nouakchott) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.g5sahel.org/article/communique-final-du-sommet-de-nouakchott-pour-le-suivi-de-la-feuille-de-route-du-sommet-de-pau>.

²⁰¹³ Global Fund raises US\$14.02 billion to end epidemics, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin). Access Date: 29 April 2020. http://health.bmz.de/events/Events_2019/global_fund_raises_14_billion_end_epidemics/index.html.

²⁰¹⁴ Global Fund raises US\$14.02 billion to end epidemics, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin). Access Date: 29 April 2020. http://health.bmz.de/events/Events_2019/global_fund_raises_14_billion_end_epidemics/index.html.

²⁰¹⁵ Compact with Africa High-Level Conference, G20 Compact with Africa. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.compactwithafrica.org/content/compactwithafrica/home/events/CompactwithAfricaHigh-LevelConference.html>.

²⁰¹⁶ Compact with Africa High-Level Conference, G20 Compact with Africa. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.compactwithafrica.org/content/compactwithafrica/home/events/CompactwithAfricaHigh-LevelConference.html>.

²⁰¹⁷ Germany steps up its international efforts for family planning, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 29 April 2020. http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191112_pm_064_Germany-steps-up-its-international-efforts-for-family-planning/index.html.

in our reform partner countries.”²⁰¹⁸ Minister Müller pointed to the implementation of the new investment fund, through which Germany has made a total of EUR1 billion available to private European and African companies to foster increased cooperation and investment between both continents.²⁰¹⁹

Between 20 and 22 November 2019, Germany, as head of the Sahel Alliance’s decentralization group, co-organized a “regional workshop on decentralisation and governance as a vector of peace and stability in Sahel” in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme.²⁰²⁰ The meeting concluded with the commitment to focus on “improving public finance management with a view to increased mobilisation of domestic resources and their better use.”²⁰²¹

On 12 December 2019, an emergency project for border stabilization led by Germany’s development agency, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH,²⁰²² received a further EUR45.23 million.²⁰²³ Following an increase in armed attacks in the region between Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, the funds will be directed to improving living conditions, such as access to water and sanitation, food security, and general social cohesion.²⁰²⁴

In late 2019, GIZ continued its commitment to sustainable economic cooperation with African countries by continuing its AFRIKA KOMMT! program for a 2020-2022 cycle.²⁰²⁵ The program, implemented on behalf of the private sector, trains young professionals and managers from sub-Saharan Africa in Germany.²⁰²⁶ This program enables German companies to increase their

²⁰¹⁸ Minister Müller on the G20 Africa summit: Our offer for the private sector stands, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 29 April 2020.

<http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/>

2019/november/191119_pm_067_Minister-Mueller-on-the-G20-Africa-summit-Our-offer-for-the-private-sector-stands/index.html.

²⁰¹⁹ Minister Müller on the G20 Africa summit: Our offer for the private sector stands, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 29 April 2020.

<http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/>

2019/november/191119_pm_067_Minister-Mueller-on-the-G20-Africa-summit-Our-offer-for-the-private-sector-stands/index.html.

²⁰²⁰ Sahel: collective intelligence serving decentralising and governance, Sahel Alliance, 13 January 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://medium.com/@sahelalliance/sahel-collective-intelligence-serving-decentralising-and-governance-1abfe82f70fc>.

²⁰²¹ Sahel: collective intelligence serving decentralising and governance, Sahel Alliance, 13 January 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://medium.com/@sahelalliance/sahel-collective-intelligence-serving-decentralising-and-governance-1abfe82f70fc>.

²⁰²² Programme d’urgence pour la stabilisation des espaces frontaliers du G5 Sahel (PDU), European Commission (Brussels). Access Date: 29 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/region/sahel-lake-chad/regional/programme-durgence-pour-la-stabilisation-des-espaces-frontaliers-du-g5_en.

²⁰²³ EU Trust Fund for Africa: €70 million to support local communities and protect migrants and refugees in the Sahel, European Commission (Brussels) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 29 April 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/all-news-and-stories/eu-trust-fund-africa-eu70-million-support-local-communities-and-protect_en.

²⁰²⁴ EU Trust Fund for Africa: €70 million to support local communities and protect migrants and refugees in the Sahel, European Commission (Brussels) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 29 April 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/all-news-and-stories/eu-trust-fund-africa-eu70-million-support-local-communities-and-protect_en.

²⁰²⁵ AFRIKA KOMMT! An Initiative of German Industry for Future Leaders from Africa, AFRIKA KOMMT! (Düsseldorf). Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://afrika-kommt.de>.

²⁰²⁶ AFRIKA KOMMT! (Africa is coming!) – a training programme for young managers, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (Düsseldorf) November 2019. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/9611.html>.

cooperation and investment in African industries, learn from diverse perspectives, and support organizations looking to expand in the sub-Saharan markets.²⁰²⁷

On 3 February 2020, Minister Müller announced Germany was working toward a new strategy to stabilize the region and strengthen their missions in the Sahel and surrounding region.²⁰²⁸ “The focus is on modernizing agricultural methods, improving water supply and creating jobs and training opportunities. Only if people can see a future for themselves will we be able to effectively curb radicalization, terrorism, forced displacement and people trafficking.”²⁰²⁹

On 8 April 2020, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas expressed his concern regarding the humanitarian situation in the Sahel region, and announced that Germany has provided EUR10 million to the World Food Programme and the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service this past year.²⁰³⁰ The funding is intended to provide relief and humanitarian assistance to communities in the Sahel, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁰³¹

On 20 August 2020, the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative, of which Germany is a founding contributor, announced a funding allocation of USD49.3 million for programs to boost women-led businesses and entrepreneurship in light of the COVID-19 crisis.²⁰³² Among the institutions tasked with the implementation of these programs is the World Bank Group, which received USD16.01 million to implement a digitally enabled access to finance and markets program for women-led business in the Sahel region.²⁰³³ The program will foster market linkages between suppliers and buyers across the Sahel, and provide services and training to women-led shea butter cooperatives on know-how, managerial capacity, networks, and marketing tools as well as support the digitization of payment systems.²⁰³⁴ The World Bank Group will also implement an early-stage finance program that aims to assist with the skills-building and mentoring of women entrepreneurs, and address finance gaps in the region.²⁰³⁵ The programs will be implemented specifically in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Mauritania.²⁰³⁶

²⁰²⁷ AFRIKA KOMMT! (Africa is coming!) – a training programme for young managers, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (Düsseldorf) November 2019. Access Date: 29 April 2020.

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/9611.html>

²⁰²⁸ Development Minister Gerd Müller on the eve of his tour of Nigeria, Sudan and Egypt, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/februar/200203_Development-Minister-Gerd-Mueller-on-the-eve-of-his-tour-of-Nigeria-Sudan-and-Egypt/index.html.

²⁰²⁹ Development Minister Gerd Müller on the eve of his tour of Nigeria, Sudan and Egypt, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/februar/200203_Development-Minister-Gerd-Mueller-on-the-eve-of-his-tour-of-Nigeria-Sudan-and-Egypt/index.html.

²⁰³⁰ Statement by Foreign Minister Maas on food aid for people in the Sahel region (Berlin) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-wfp-sahel/2331716>.

²⁰³¹ Statement by Foreign Minister Maas on food aid for people in the Sahel region (Berlin) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-wfp-sahel/2331716>.

²⁰³² Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

²⁰³³ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

²⁰³⁴ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

²⁰³⁵ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

²⁰³⁶ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

Other German-led projects currently targeting G5 Sahel countries include: Promotion of productive agriculture²⁰³⁷; Vocational training for start-ups in Niger (ProEMPLOI)²⁰³⁸; Promotion of national decentralization and good governance²⁰³⁹; Green Innovation Centres for the Agriculture and Food Sector (GIC)²⁰⁴⁰; More fish and income from sustainable fisheries and aquaculture²⁰⁴¹; and, Promotion of employment and occupational integration in rural areas.²⁰⁴²

By financing programs that foster increased collaboration and investment between Germany and African countries, as well as investing in projects to improve quality of life in the Sahel region, Germany has fully complied with the commitment.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Philip Schwarz

Italy: 0

Italy partially complied with its commitment to facilitating increased access of G5 Sahel countries to all available public and private finance.

On 10 November 2019, the Italian Development Bank Cassa Depositi e Prestiti signed a EUR30 million financial guarantee agreement with the European Commission and the African Development Bank.²⁰⁴³ This guarantee, called “Archipelagos One4A – One Platform for Africa” will generate 50,000 jobs and support 1,500 small African businesses by enabling financing partners to divide the risk of investments.²⁰⁴⁴ Along with the FMO Ventures Programme, the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica stated that the agreements “will help to boost access o finance for small businesses, notably in the tech sector – and create up to 175,000 jobs directly and indirectly.”²⁰⁴⁵

Italy has taken some action towards facilitating increased access of G5 Sahel countries to all available public and private finance.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Philip Schwarz

²⁰³⁷ Promotion of productive agriculture, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin). Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/23343.html>.

²⁰³⁸ Improving employment and income opportunities, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin). Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/57419.html>.

²⁰³⁹ Promotion of national decentralisation and good governance, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin). Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/23276.html>.

²⁰⁴⁰ Green Innovation Centres for the Agriculture and Food Sector (GIC), Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin). Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/32209.html>.

²⁰⁴¹ More fish and income from sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin). Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/78737.html>.

²⁰⁴² Promotion of employment and occupational integration in rural areas, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin). Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/62597.html>.

²⁰⁴³ Africa-Europe Alliance: two new financial guarantees under the EU External Investment Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 10 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6244.

²⁰⁴⁴ Africa-Europe Alliance: two new financial guarantees under the EU External Investment Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 10 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6244.

²⁰⁴⁵ Africa-Europe Alliance: two new financial guarantees under the EU External Investment Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 10 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6244.

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to facilitating increased access of G5 Sahel countries to all available public and private finance.

Between 28 and 30 August 2019, Japan held the seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in Yokohama aimed at improving political, economic, and cultural relations between Japan and African states.²⁰⁴⁶ The Special Conference of Peace and Stability in the Sahel Region took place on the first day and addressed several key areas, including development assistance, global cooperation, and assistance for refugees and internally displaced persons.²⁰⁴⁷ During this conference, Japan “shared the importance of effective support from donor countries and international organizations” to support development efforts in such areas as health, education, and infrastructure.²⁰⁴⁸ Japan also renewed its commitments to contributing to the Sahel Partnership Action Plan, and “strengthening the coordination of their efforts” to enhance peace and stability in the Sahel region.²⁰⁴⁹

On 28 August 2019, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met with Mauritanian Prime Minister Ismail Ould Bedda Ould Cheikh Sidiya. During the exchange, Abe commented on “his intention to support countermeasures against terrorism and illegal immigrants as well as improving food security in Mauritania, with the aim of assisting the G5 Sahel’s efforts.”²⁰⁵⁰ Abe reaffirmed his commitment to investment in the Mauritanian fisheries industry,²⁰⁵¹ mentioning a grant aid both countries signed in February 2019.²⁰⁵² Furthermore, Sidiya noted his expectations for Japan’s contributions toward creating an improved environment for business and investment in Mauritania.²⁰⁵³

On 29 August 2019, Prime Minister Abe met with the President of Burkina Faso Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, whereby Japan pledged to support the West Africa “Growth Ring” network through better road infrastructure to improve connectivity between West African states including the G5 Sahel.²⁰⁵⁴

²⁰⁴⁶ A New Stage in Japan-Africa Partnership, *Les Echos* (Paris) 27 August 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019.

<https://www.lesechos.fr/idees-debats/cercle/vers-une-nouvelle-etape-du-partenariat-japon-afrique-1126885>.

²⁰⁴⁷ Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Sahel Region on the Margins of TICAD7 Co-chairs’ Summary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan 29 August 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019.

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/000511802.pdf>.

²⁰⁴⁸ Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Sahel Region on the Margins of TICAD7 Co-chairs’ Summary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan 29 August 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019.

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/000511802.pdf>.

²⁰⁴⁹ Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Sahel Region on the Margins of TICAD7 Co-chairs’ Summary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan 29 August 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019.

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/000511802.pdf>.

²⁰⁵⁰ Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Sahel Region on the Margins of TICAD7 Co-chairs’ Summary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan 29 August 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019.

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/000511802.pdf>.

²⁰⁵¹ Japan-Mauritania Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan 29 August 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/mr/page3e_001076.html

²⁰⁵² Signing of Grant Agreement with Mauritania: Contributing to enhancing capacity of sanitary inspection and analysis of fishery and aquaculture product through the construction of a sanitary inspection and analysis laboratory and the provision of equipment, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 28 February 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2018/190228_01.html.

²⁰⁵³ Japan-Mauritania Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan 29 August 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/mr/page3e_001076.html.

²⁰⁵⁴ Japan-Burkina Faso Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan 29 August 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/bf/page25e_000323.html.

On 29 August 2019, Foreign Minister Taro Kono and Minister of Economy and Development Planning Issa Doubragne of Chad, held a meeting where Japan expressed its intention to promote private Japanese companies' investment in Chad to strengthen economic relations between the two nations.²⁰⁵⁵

On 29 August 2019, Prime Minister Abe held a summit meeting with Nigerian President Issoufou Mahamadou, where Prime Minister Abe expressed his intention to support counter-terrorism as well as irrigation agriculture and food security through humanitarian and development assistance within the context of G5 Sahel aid.²⁰⁵⁶

On 30 August 2019, at the conclusion of the TICAD7, the Yokohama Declaration was put forward.²⁰⁵⁷ This encouraged the promotion of sustainable and inclusive trade within the newly established African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), an agreement that includes all 55 member states of the African Union.²⁰⁵⁸ Highlights of the declaration include promoting advocacy platforms that improve the visibility of the AfCFTA internationally and within the private sector, as well as accelerating economic growth and improving the business environment through innovation and private sector engagement.²⁰⁵⁹

On 30 August 2019, following the Yokohama Declaration, a plan of action was created that outlined three key pillars of sustainable development across the continent including the Sahel, the first being “accelerating economic transformation and improving business environment through innovation and private sector engagement.”²⁰⁶⁰ The document highlights several recommended initiatives undertaken by both Japan as well as in partnership with organizations such as the World Bank and United Nations Development Programme.²⁰⁶¹ Such initiatives are intended to foster greater market access in crucial areas of development including infrastructure, education, and healthcare through the provision of both monetary funds and resources.²⁰⁶² A key initiative recommends the creation of the Japan Business Council for Africa to encourage cooperation between the Japanese private sector and the government in development projects.²⁰⁶³

On 20 October 2019, a meeting between Prime Minister Abe and Nigeria's President Mahamadou took place. An exchange of notes was signed for an aid grant worth approximately JPY1.3 billion to improve irrigation farming as well as a package for JPY300 million towards food assistance.²⁰⁶⁴

²⁰⁵⁵ Meeting between Foreign Minister Kono and Doubragne, Minister of Economy and Development Planning of the Republic of Chad, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan 29 August 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/td/page3e_001090.html.

²⁰⁵⁶ Japan-Niger Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan 29 August 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/ne/page3e_001087.html.

²⁰⁵⁷ Yokohama Declaration 2019, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan 30 August 2019. Access Date: 14 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/yokohama_declaration_en.pdf.

²⁰⁵⁸ Yokohama Declaration 2019, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan 30 August 2019. Access Date: 14 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/yokohama_declaration_en.pdf.

²⁰⁵⁹ Yokohama Declaration 2019, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan 30 August 2019. Access Date: 14 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/yokohama_declaration_en.pdf.

²⁰⁶⁰ Yokohama Plan of Actions, 2019, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan 30 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/yokohama_action_plan_en.pdf.

²⁰⁶¹ Yokohama Plan of Actions, 2019, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan 30 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/yokohama_action_plan_en.pdf.

²⁰⁶² Yokohama Plan of Actions, 2019, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan 30 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/yokohama_action_plan_en.pdf.

²⁰⁶³ Yokohama Plan of Actions, 2019, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan 30 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/yokohama_action_plan_en.pdf.

²⁰⁶⁴ Japan-Niger Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan 20 October 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/ne/page4e_001113.html.

On 21 October 2019, Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi met with his counterpart from Burkina Faso, Alpha Barry, yielding an exchange of notes for grant aid to develop road infrastructure and food assistance.²⁰⁶⁵ A memorandum of understanding on cooperation and promotion of private sector investment in Burkina Faso between the Japan External Trade Organization and the Promotion Agency of Burkina Faso was also signed.²⁰⁶⁶

On 12 February 2020, a United Nations Framework on Climate Change report noted that the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Japanese government's official institution pertaining to overseas development assistance, was the second largest source of revenue for the African Development Bank.²⁰⁶⁷

On 10 March 2020, Japan extended Emergency Grant Aid to Chad, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mali, totalling USD23.7 million.²⁰⁶⁸ The funds have been targeted towards refugees and internally displaced persons in the Sahel region, through the provision of tents, shelter, food, sanitation services, as well as the implementation of educational programs and long-term employment opportunities for citizens.²⁰⁶⁹

On 11 March 2020, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations Kimihiro Ishikane affirmed that “inclusive development remains essential” with respect to the Sahel region, and that “for its part, Japan has placed African-led capacity-building at the core of its engagement, particularly in the security and justice sectors.”²⁰⁷⁰

On 9 April 2020, the Government of Japan announced a total of USD11.7 million in funding through the World Food Programme to provide food assistance to populations in the Sahel made vulnerable by armed conflict and climate change.²⁰⁷¹ The aid is intended to be distributed among Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger, and is aimed at refugees, internally displaced persons, children, and pregnant women.²⁰⁷²

On 26 May 2020, Prime Minister Abe met with President of the European Council Charles Michel and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen via videoconference.²⁰⁷³ The leaders

²⁰⁶⁵ Japan-Burkina Faso Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan 21 October 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002657.html.

²⁰⁶⁶ Japan-Burkina Faso Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan 21 October 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002657.html.

²⁰⁶⁷ African Development Bank-Finance instruments for North African countries, United Nations Framework on Climate Change (Cairo) 12 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/NBFArabStates_Session4_Phillips.pdf.

²⁰⁶⁸ Emergency Grant Aid in Response to the humanitarian crisis in the Sahel region, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002744.html.

²⁰⁶⁹ Emergency Grant Aid in Response to the humanitarian crisis in the Sahel region, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002744.html.

²⁰⁷⁰ Security Council Issues Presidential Statement Calling for Greater Efforts to Help Africa Fight Terrorism, as Delegates Denounce 'Insufficient' Current Approaches, United Nations Security Council (New York) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2020/sc14140.doc.htm>.

²⁰⁷¹ Japan contributes US\$11.7 million to assist the most vulnerable populations in central Sahel, World Food Programme (Yokohama) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.wfp.org/news/japan-contributes-us117-million-assist-most-vulnerable-populations-central-sahel>.

²⁰⁷² Japan contributes US\$11.7 million to assist the most vulnerable populations in central Sahel, World Food Programme (Yokohama) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.wfp.org/news/japan-contributes-us117-million-assist-most-vulnerable-populations-central-sahel>.

²⁰⁷³ Joint press release: Japan-EU Leaders' meeting (Brussels) 26 May 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_942.

reaffirmed their commitment to global collaboration and coordination in order to resolve regional issues, including the Sahel.²⁰⁷⁴

On 20 August 2020, the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative, of which Japan is a founding contributor, announced a funding allocation of USD49.3 million for programs to boost women-led businesses and entrepreneurship in light of the COVID-19 crisis.²⁰⁷⁵ Among the institutions tasked with the implementation of these programs is the World Bank Group, which received USD16.01 million to implement a digitally enabled access to finance and markets program for women-led business in the Sahel region.²⁰⁷⁶ The program will foster market linkages between suppliers and buyers across the Sahel, and provide services and training to women-led shea butter cooperatives on know-how, managerial capacity, networks, and marketing tools as well as support the digitization of payment systems.²⁰⁷⁷ The World Bank Group will also implement an early-stage finance program that aims to assist with the skills-building and mentoring of women entrepreneurs, and address finance gaps in the region.²⁰⁷⁸ The programs will be implemented specifically in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Mauritania.²⁰⁷⁹

Through its direct partnerships with G5 Sahel countries, collaboration with international organizations, investment in G5 Sahel industry, and action to accelerate growth and development through private engagement, Japan has fully complied with the commitment.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Malhaar Moharir

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to facilitating increased access of G5 Sahel countries to all available public and private finance.

On 27 September 2019, Secretary of State for International Development Alok Sharma announced GBP90 million in aid funds to Africa intended to generate over GBP500 million of private investment in financial markets,” as well as plans for a UK-Africa Investment Summit in early 2020.²⁰⁸⁰

On 30 September 2019, the Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters project which included investment from the United Kingdom terminated.²⁰⁸¹ These projects were implemented to improve adaptability and resiliency in the face of climate change in developing

²⁰⁷⁴ Joint press release: Japan-EU Leaders' meeting (Brussels) 26 May 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_942.

²⁰⁷⁵ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

²⁰⁷⁶ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

²⁰⁷⁷ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

²⁰⁷⁸ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

²⁰⁷⁹ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

²⁰⁸⁰ The Private Sector Can Unlock Africa's Promise, City A.M. (London) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.cityam.com/the-private-sector-can-unlock-africas-promise/>.

²⁰⁸¹ Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters, Development Tracker 17 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-202921>.

countries across the world, including the G5 Sahel member states.²⁰⁸² The United Kingdom spent approximately GBP134 million through the Department for International Development, as well as donating grants to civil society organizations to implement innovative technological practices in the Sahel region.²⁰⁸³

On 14 October 2019, Trade Commissioner for Africa Emma Wade-Smith announced that the United Kingdom was currently re-evaluating trading and aid relationships with African states in light of Britain's impending departure from the European Union.²⁰⁸⁴ Wade-Smith noted that the United Kingdom "sees opportunities in infrastructure and clean energy, and wants to form stronger, long-term partnerships in the region."²⁰⁸⁵

On 4 November 2019, it was announced that EUR15 million were provided for the Archipelago programme, a cross-border initiative aimed at improving the employability of youth in small and medium enterprises around the Sahel region.²⁰⁸⁶ A call for proposals was announced by the European Union Emergency Trust Fund (EUTF) whereby EUR400,000-500,000 would be provided in funding for projects to be implemented in the Sahel region.²⁰⁸⁷

On 20 November 2019, a United Nations Security Council Meeting was held in response to increased armed group attacks in the Sahel region.²⁰⁸⁸ President of the Security Council for the month of November and Deputy Permanent Representative of the UK Mission to the UN Jonathan Guy Allen noted the contribution of the UK towards the security issues at hand, but emphasized that the "leading role must be played by the countries involved."²⁰⁸⁹ He further noted that the UK has provided development aid as well as resources to improve security, both bilaterally with the G5 Sahel nations in addition to through the European Union.²⁰⁹⁰

²⁰⁸² Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters, Development Tracker 17 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-202921>.

²⁰⁸³ Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters, Development Tracker 17 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-202921>.

²⁰⁸⁴ U.K. Seeks to Be Largest G-7 Investor in Africa, Bloomberg (London) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-10-14/u-k-seeks-to-be-largest-g-7-investor-in-africa>.

²⁰⁸⁵ U.K. Seeks to Be Largest G-7 Investor in Africa, Bloomberg (London) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-10-14/u-k-seeks-to-be-largest-g-7-investor-in-africa>.

U.K. Seeks to Be Largest G-7 Investor in Africa, Bloomberg (London) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-10-14/u-k-seeks-to-be-largest-g-7-investor-in-africa>.

²⁰⁸⁶ Archipealgo-2nd call for proposals launched!, EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa 4 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/all-news-and-stories/archipelago-2eme-appel-propositions-lance_en.

²⁰⁸⁷ Archipealgo-2nd call for proposals launched!, EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa 4 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/all-news-and-stories/archipelago-2eme-appel-propositions-lance_en

²⁰⁸⁸ Amid Increased Terrorist Activity in Sahel Region, Speakers Tell Security Council Greater Commitment Needed for Joint Force, United Nations Security Council 20 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc14027.doc.htm>

²⁰⁸⁹ Amid Increased Terrorist Activity in Sahel Region, Speakers Tell Security Council Greater Commitment Needed for Joint Force, United Nations Security Council 20 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc14027.doc.htm>

²⁰⁹⁰ Amid Increased Terrorist Activity in Sahel Region, Speakers Tell Security Council Greater Commitment Needed for Joint Force, United Nations Security Council 20 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc14027.doc.htm>

As of 20 November 2019, 12 programmes in Burkina Faso were implemented through funding by the EUTF and local organizations aimed at preserving social cohesion and facilitating dialogue between various ethnic and religious groups.²⁰⁹¹

On 16 December 2019, Ambassador James Roscoe presented a briefing on peace and security in Africa at the United Nations Security Council.²⁰⁹² The Ambassador highlighted the contributions of the United Kingdom, in particular USD6.6 million in bilateral funding to support the operations of the Multinational Joint Task Force, as well as USD2.4 million to the G5 Sahel Joint Force.²⁰⁹³ Additionally, the Ambassador highlighted that the UK was one of the biggest supporters to the Peacebuilding Fund, in particular focusing on Mali, with approximately USD43 million in aid provided to the organization in 2018.²⁰⁹⁴

On 8 January 2020, Ambassador Roscoe delivered a speech acknowledging the security and humanitarian concerns that continue to affect the Sahel region.²⁰⁹⁵ He reaffirmed the United Kingdom's release of GBP20 million in humanitarian aid in addition to the GBP50 million already given to address such concerns.²⁰⁹⁶

On 20 January 2020, the United Kingdom hosted the UK-Africa Investment Summit, with representation from 21 African nations including Mauritania.²⁰⁹⁷ Over GBP2 billion were pledged from the Commonwealth Development Corporation to support African businesses over the next two years.²⁰⁹⁸ Furthermore, the UK reaffirmed its commitment towards funding the AfCFTA and the African Development Bank, as well as GBP397 million to fund new programmes across the continent.²⁰⁹⁹

²⁰⁹¹ Au Burkina Faso, préserver la paix et la cohésion sociale est une priorité pour le FFU, EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa 22 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/all-news-and-stories/au-burkina-faso-preserver-la-paix-et-la-cohesion-sociale-est-une-priorite-pour_en

²⁰⁹² Statement by Ambassador James Roscoe at the Security Council briefing on peace and security in Africa, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (United Kingdom) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/identifying-underlying-drivers-of-the-conflict-in-africa>

²⁰⁹³ Statement by Ambassador James Roscoe at the Security Council briefing on peace and security in Africa, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (United Kingdom) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/identifying-underlying-drivers-of-the-conflict-in-africa>

²⁰⁹⁴ Statement by Ambassador James Roscoe at the Security Council briefing on peace and security in Africa, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (United Kingdom) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/identifying-underlying-drivers-of-the-conflict-in-africa>

²⁰⁹⁵ Statement by Ambassador James Roscoe at the Security Council briefing on the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 9 January 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/preparing-for-elections-and-addressing-root-causes-of-conflict-in-west-africa>.

²⁰⁹⁶ Statement by Ambassador James Roscoe at the Security Council briefing on the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 9 January 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/preparing-for-elections-and-addressing-root-causes-of-conflict-in-west-africa>.

²⁰⁹⁷ All the news from the UK-Africa Investment Summit, Devex International Development (London) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.devex.com/news/all-the-news-from-the-uk-africa-investment-summit-96394>.

²⁰⁹⁸ UK Government Statement, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/859314/2020_01_20_AIS_-_UK_Government_Statement_-_Final_Version.pdf.

²⁰⁹⁹ UK Government Statement, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/859314/2020_01_20_AIS_-_UK_Government_Statement_-_Final_Version.pdf.

On 20 January 2020, Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani spoke at the UK-Africa Investment Summit and reaffirmed the importance of key economic sectors such as mining, fisheries, and agriculture.²¹⁰⁰ He also highlighted the steps Mauritania had taken to promote a more sustainable investment environment, namely: improving security nationwide, infrastructure modernization, and encouragement of greater private-sector investment.²¹⁰¹

On 1 March 2020, Minister Duddridge met with G5 Sahel nations' leaders at the General Assembly of the Sahel Alliance and Sixth Summit of the Leaders of the G5.²¹⁰² Topics of discussion predominantly involved the use of funding for girls' education programs in the G5 countries.²¹⁰³ He also stated that the United Kingdom was in close collaboration with the World Bank to finance development projects in the Sahel region.²¹⁰⁴

On 7 April 2020, Ambassador Roscoe delivered a speech concerning the stability of Mali following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.²¹⁰⁵ He outlined the United Kingdom's pledge of USD6 million through the United Nations to strengthen the government of Mali's response to the pandemic.²¹⁰⁶

On 13 April 2020, the International Monetary Fund announced that the United Kingdom contributed USD185 million as debt service relief to the countries of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, and Niger in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.²¹⁰⁷

On 20 August 2020, the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative, of which the United Kingdom is a founding contributor, announced a funding allocation of USD49.3 million for programs to boost women-led businesses and entrepreneurship in light of the COVID-19 crisis.²¹⁰⁸ Among the institutions tasked with the implementation of these programs is the World Bank Group, which received USD16.01 million to implement a digitally enabled access to finance and markets program

²¹⁰⁰ Address by President Mohammed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani, Department for International Development (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vz43FAea7W0>.

²¹⁰¹ Address by President Mohammed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani, Department for International Development (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vz43FAea7W0>.

²¹⁰² Africa Minister champions UK leadership to help educate girls and end preventable deaths, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/africa-minister-champions-uk-leadership-to-help-educate-girls-and-end-preventable-deaths--2>.

²¹⁰³ Africa Minister champions UK leadership to help educate girls and end preventable deaths, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/africa-minister-champions-uk-leadership-to-help-educate-girls-and-end-preventable-deaths--2>.

²¹⁰⁴ Africa Minister champions UK leadership to help educate girls and end preventable deaths, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/africa-minister-champions-uk-leadership-to-help-educate-girls-and-end-preventable-deaths--2>.

²¹⁰⁵ Commitment from all parties is necessary for sustainable peace in Mali, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/commitment-from-all-parties-is-necessary-for-sustainable-peace-in-mali>.

²¹⁰⁶ Commitment from all parties is necessary for sustainable peace in Mali, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/commitment-from-all-parties-is-necessary-for-sustainable-peace-in-mali>.

²¹⁰⁷ IMF Executive Board Approves Immediate Debt Relief for 25 Countries (Washington, D.C.) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/04/13/pr20151-imf-executive-board-approves-immediate-debt-relief-for-25-countries>.

²¹⁰⁸ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

for women-led business in the Sahel region.²¹⁰⁹ The program will foster market linkages between suppliers and buyers across the Sahel, and provide services and training to women-led shea butter cooperatives on know-how, managerial capacity, networks, and marketing tools as well as support the digitization of payment systems.²¹¹⁰ The World Bank Group will also implement an early-stage finance program that aims to assist with the skills-building and mentoring of women entrepreneurs, and address finance gaps in the region.²¹¹¹ The programs will be implemented specifically in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Mauritania.²¹¹²

Through its foreign aid contributions and its investments in the African private sector, the United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment.

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

Analyst: Malhaar Moharir

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to facilitating increased access of G5 Sahel countries to all available public and private finance.

On 12 November 2019, the United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and the African Development Bank Group signed an agreement to “mobilize private capital in support of development in Africa.”²¹¹³ The agreement aims to invest a combined USD2 billion alongside an additional USD3 billion from the private sector.²¹¹⁴ The DFC and the African Development Bank Group aim to prioritize critical infrastructure, power and energy, financial services, and agriculture through this agreement.²¹¹⁵

On 16 December 2019, the representative of the United States at the United Nations Security Council meeting called on countries to step up their assistance to countries in the Sahel region.²¹¹⁶

²¹⁰⁹ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

²¹¹⁰ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

²¹¹¹ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

²¹¹² Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

²¹¹³ Africa Investment Forum 2019: African Development Bank U.S. International Development Finance Corporation team up to mobilise private capital for Africa’s development, African Development Bank Group (Abidjan) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 1 January 2020. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/africa-investment-forum-2019-african-development-bank-us-international-development-finance-corporation-team-mobilise-private-capital-africas-development-32625>.

²¹¹⁴ Africa Investment Forum 2019: African Development Bank U.S. International Development Finance Corporation team up to mobilise private capital for Africa’s development, African Development Bank Group (Abidjan) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 1 January 2020. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/africa-investment-forum-2019-african-development-bank-us-international-development-finance-corporation-team-mobilise-private-capital-africas-development-32625>.

²¹¹⁵ Africa Investment Forum 2019: African Development Bank U.S. International Development Finance Corporation team up to mobilise private capital for Africa’s development, African Development Bank Group (Abidjan) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 1 January 2020. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/africa-investment-forum-2019-african-development-bank-us-international-development-finance-corporation-team-mobilise-private-capital-africas-development-32625>.

²¹¹⁶ Special Representative Stresses Urgent Need to Address Causes of Conflict between Farmers, Herders, as Security Council Considers West Africa, United Nations (New York) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc14050.doc.htm>.

The representative also stated that the United States has built the capacity of young people in the region and provides support for livelihoods.²¹¹⁷ She continued to affirm that all pressing issues in the region can be confronted if governments work alongside their international partners, regional organizations, and the Security Council.²¹¹⁸

On 22 January 2020, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the U.S. African Development Foundation announced that they will be awarding USD400,000 in grant funding, with support from Citi Foundation, to 42 young African social entrepreneurs across 22 sub-Saharan African countries.²¹¹⁹ Each winner will receive at least USD10,000 in seed capital to support the growth of their businesses.²¹²⁰

On 20 August 2020, the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative, of which the United States is a founding contributor, announced a funding allocation of USD49.3 million for programs to boost women-led businesses and entrepreneurship in light of the COVID-19 crisis.²¹²¹ Among the institutions tasked with the implementation of these programs is the World Bank Group, which received USD16.01 million to implement a digitally enabled access to finance and markets program for women-led business in the Sahel region.²¹²² The program will foster market linkages between suppliers and buyers across the Sahel, and provide services and training to women-led shea butter cooperatives on know-how, managerial capacity, networks, and marketing tools as well as support the digitization of payment systems.²¹²³ The World Bank Group will also implement an early-stage finance program that aims to assist with the skills-building and mentoring of women entrepreneurs, and address finance gaps in the region.²¹²⁴ The programs will be implemented specifically in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Mauritania.²¹²⁵

By collaborating with government agencies to provide funding toward relief and investment in the Sahel region, the United States partially complies with the commitment.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Ninar Fawal

²¹¹⁷ Special Representative Stresses Urgent Need to Address Causes of Conflict between Farmers, Herders, as Security Council Considers West Africa, United Nations (New York) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc14050.doc.htm>.

²¹¹⁸ Special Representative Stresses Urgent Need to Address Causes of Conflict between Farmers, Herders, as Security Council Considers West Africa, United Nations (New York) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc14050.doc.htm>.

²¹¹⁹ USAID, USADF, and Citi Foundation Team Up to Invest in Young African Social Entrepreneurs, USAID (Washington, D.C.) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/jan-22-2020-usaid-usadf-citi-foundation-team-invest-young-african-social-entrepreneurs>.

²¹²⁰ USAID, USADF, and Citi Foundation Team Up to Invest in Young African Social Entrepreneurs, USAID (Washington, D.C.) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/jan-22-2020-usaid-usadf-citi-foundation-team-invest-young-african-social-entrepreneurs>.

²¹²¹ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

²¹²² Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

²¹²³ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

²¹²⁴ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

²¹²⁵ Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative invests in over 15,000 women-led businesses amidst COVID-19 crisis (Washington, D.C.) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://we-fi.org/third-funding-allocation/>.

European Union: 0

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to support facilitating increased access of G5 countries to all available public and private finance.

On 10 November 2019, the European Commission launched the “FMO Ventures Programme” in partnership with the Dutch development bank Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO).²¹²⁶ The programme is a EUR40 million financial guarantee agreement that targets Sub-Saharan African start-up companies, specifically ones led by youth, that use technological solutions to lower costs of products and services that were previously unaffordable to the public.²¹²⁷ It will support up to 125,000 new jobs directly and indirectly.²¹²⁸

On 10 November 2019, the European Commission signed a EUR30 million financial guarantee agreement with the Italian Development Bank Cassa Depositi e Prestiti and the African Development Bank.²¹²⁹ This guarantee, called “Archipelagos One4A – One Platform for Africa” will generate 50,000 jobs and support 1,500 small African businesses by enabling financing partners to divide the risk of investments.²¹³⁰ Along with the FMO Ventures Programme, the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica stated that the agreements “will help to boost access o finance for small businesses, notably in the tech sector – and create up to 175,000 jobs directly and indirectly.”²¹³¹

On 12 December 2019, the European Commission “adopted additional funding worth EUR70.23 million from the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa to improve resilience, stability and migration management in countries of the Sahel and Lake Chad region.”²¹³² The majority of the funds will be directed to stabilizing the border areas between Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger through the Emergency Programme for the Stabilisation of G5 Sahel Border Areas.²¹³³ The remaining funds will

²¹²⁶ Africa-Europe Alliance: two new financial guarantees under the EU External Investment Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 10 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6244.

²¹²⁷ Africa-Europe Alliance: two new financial guarantees under the EU External Investment Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 10 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6244.

²¹²⁸ Africa-Europe Alliance: two new financial guarantees under the EU External Investment Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 10 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6244.

²¹²⁹ Africa-Europe Alliance: two new financial guarantees under the EU External Investment Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 10 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6244.

²¹³⁰ Africa-Europe Alliance: two new financial guarantees under the EU External Investment Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 10 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6244.

²¹³¹ Africa-Europe Alliance: two new financial guarantees under the EU External Investment Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 10 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6244.

²¹³² EU Trust Fund for Africa: €70 million to support local communities and protect migrants and refugees in the Sahel, European Commission (Brussels) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 29 April 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/all-news-and-stories/eu-trust-fund-africa-eu70-million-support-local-communities-and-protect_en.

²¹³³ EU Trust Fund for Africa: €70 million to support local communities and protect migrants and refugees in the Sahel, European Commission (Brussels) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 29 April 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/all-news-and-stories/eu-trust-fund-africa-eu70-million-support-local-communities-and-protect_en.

go toward protecting and assisting refugees across the region, facilitating resettlement, and managing reintegration.²¹³⁴

On 26 February 2020, the European Investment Bank, the bank of the European Union, announced that it will be joining the Sahel Alliance in order to contribute support for challenges facing the Sahel region.²¹³⁵ European Investment Bank Vice President Ambroise Fayolle stated that the European Union is committed to increasing investment in the region, accelerating private sector growth to create economic opportunities, and ultimately contributing to sustainable development in the Sahel.²¹³⁶

On 28 February 2020, the European Commission announced that the European Trust Fund for Africa's investment in Niger, through the European Union-financed ProGEM program, is facilitating resident and migrant communities' access basic services and infrastructure while strengthening social cohesion.²¹³⁷

On 28 April 2020, the President of the European Council, HE Charles Michel, co-chaired a video conference with the President in office of the G5 Sahel, the heads of state of the G5 Sahel, the President of the European Commission, and the High Representative of the EU.²¹³⁸ During the meeting, which was held to address the consequences of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis on G5 Sahel countries, "the President of the European Council reiterated that the European Union will do its utmost to help countries and communities ... strengthen the sustainability of global integrated value and supply chains in order to adapt them to demand."²¹³⁹

On 28 April 2020, the European Commission announced EUR194 million to support the security, stability, and resilience in the Sahel.²¹⁴⁰ EUR82 million of those funds will be dedicated to intensifying development efforts in the region and help improve living conditions, resilience, and social cohesion of vulnerable populations.²¹⁴¹ In order to reduce the economic impact of the COVID-19 on G5 countries, Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen stated

²¹³⁴ EU Trust Fund for Africa: €70 million to support local communities and protect migrants and refugees in the Sahel, European Commission (Brussels) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 29 April 2020.
https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/all-news-and-stories/eu-trust-fund-africa-eu70-million-support-local-communities-and-protect_en.

²¹³⁵ EIB joins Sahel Alliance (Kirchberg) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020.
<https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-068-european-investment-bank-joins-sahel-alliance>.

²¹³⁶ EIB joins Sahel Alliance (Kirchberg) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020.
<https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-068-european-investment-bank-joins-sahel-alliance>.

²¹³⁷ A Zinder, le FFU améliore l'accès des populations résidentes et des migrants aux services et infrastructures de base pour favoriser le vivre-ensemble., European Commission (Brussels) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020.
https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/all-news-and-stories/zinder-le-ffu-ameliore-lacces-des-populations-residentes-et-des-migrants-aux_en.

²¹³⁸ Press release by President Charles Michel following the EU-G5 Sahel video conference, European Council: Council of the European Union (Brussels) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020.
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/04/28/president-charles-michel-after-the-eu-g5-sahel-video-conference>.

²¹³⁹ Press release by President Charles Michel following the EU-G5 Sahel video conference, European Council: Council of the European Union (Brussels) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020.
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/04/28/president-charles-michel-after-the-eu-g5-sahel-video-conference>.

²¹⁴⁰ EU announces €194 million additional support to the Sahel (Brussels) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020.
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_768.

²¹⁴¹ EU announces €194 million additional support to the Sahel (Brussels) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020.
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_768.

that the EU welcomes the call on debt relief by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund for most vulnerable countries, including in the Sahel region, during the pandemic.²¹⁴²

On 26 May 2020, President Michel and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen met with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe by videoconference.²¹⁴³ The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to global collaboration and coordination in order to resolve regional issues, including the Sahel.²¹⁴⁴

Through its collaboration with various member countries and development banks to provide aid via public financing, the European Union has partially complied with the commitment.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Philip Schwarz and Nicole Shi

²¹⁴² EU announces €194 million additional support to the Sahel (Brussels) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_768.

²¹⁴³ Joint press release: Japan-EU Leaders' meeting (Brussels) 26 May 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_942.

²¹⁴⁴ Joint press release: Japan-EU Leaders' meeting (Brussels) 26 May 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_942.

12. Development: Sustainable Development Goals

“We are determined to work together to address global challenges, in line with Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda and taking into account the African Union Agenda 2063.”

Biarritz Declaration for a G7 and Africa Partnership

Assessment

Member	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.88 (94%)	

Background

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted in 2015 at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in New York.²¹⁴⁵ Here the UN General Assembly “acknowledge[d] the need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions.”²¹⁴⁶ The 17 SDGs are interconnected while providing a guideline with multiple targets for tackling the root causes of poverty and environmental degradation, thereby offering an opportunity for all people to enjoy peace and prosperity.²¹⁴⁷ These 17 goals prioritize economic, social, and environmental progress, including in areas such as economic inequality, education, and sustainable consumption among others.²¹⁴⁸

The SDGs are the successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).²¹⁴⁹ On 8 September 2000, the MDGs were established as the United Nations General Assembly first adopted the UN Millennium Declaration which reaffirmed their “collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level.”²¹⁵⁰ Fifteen years later the UN published the MDG Report 2015, which illustrated the MDGs’ achievements and shortfalls.²¹⁵¹ During this period,

²¹⁴⁵ Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Development Programme (New York). Access date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>

²¹⁴⁶ Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Development Programme (New York). Access date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>

²¹⁴⁷ Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Development Programme (New York). Access date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>

²¹⁴⁸ Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Development Programme (New York). Access date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>

²¹⁴⁹ United Nations Millennium Declaration, United Nations (New York). Access Date: 13 October 2019. <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/Millennium.aspx>

²¹⁵⁰ United Nations Millennium Declaration, United Nations (New York). Access Date: 13 October 2019. <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/Millennium.aspx>

²¹⁵¹ The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015, United Nations Development Programme (New York). Access date: 13 October 2019.

([https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf))

global efforts had produced profound achievements, however, progress was uneven, with the poorest and most vulnerable left behind.²¹⁵²

On 25 September 2015, world leaders at the UN Sustainable Development Summit adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This 15-year agenda centres on the SDGs, that stated to be developed in 2012, and that built upon the MDGs. This ambitious agenda aims to eliminate poverty, decrease inequality, and added new issues such as energy access and sustainable consumption.²¹⁵³

On 16 May 2016, at the G7 Toyama environment ministers' meeting, ministers welcomed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.²¹⁵⁴ The ministers recognized that the "SDGs will be critical to the people, planet and prosperity for the upcoming 15 years and beyond" and that within their "mandate as G7 environment ministers, [they] have important active roles in implementing the SDGs so that all dimensions are addressed in a [they] have important active roles in implementing the SDGs so that all dimensions are addressed in a balanced manner."²¹⁵⁵

In 2017 at Taormina, G7 leaders reaffirmed their desire to promote sustainable development as envisaged by the 2030 Agenda for Development.²¹⁵⁶ Additionally, in Charlevoix 2019, leaders innovative financing frameworks in order to work towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.²¹⁵⁷

The Africa Union Agenda 2063 meanwhile was produced in 2013 after the African Union celebrated its 50th anniversary and began the development for its new 50-year agenda.²¹⁵⁸ The African Union Commission (AUC), supported by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Planning and Coordinating Agency, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa created Agenda 2063, which the AU adopted in 2015.²¹⁵⁹

Within the long-term vision of Agenda 2063, the AUC also developed the First Ten Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 (2013-2023).²¹⁶⁰ This is the first in a series of five ten-year programs to provide attainable development objectives in areas such as infrastructure and technology. Included are 12 Flagship Projects, such as the creation of an Integrated High-Speed Train Network, near-term national and Regional Economic Communities, development priorities to

²¹⁵² The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015, United Nations Development Programme (New York). Access date: 13 October 2019.

[https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf)

²¹⁵³ World leaders adopt Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Development Programme (New York) Sep 25, 2015. Access Date 13 October 2019.

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2015/09/24/undp-welcomes-adoption-of-sustainable-development-goals-by-world-leaders.html>

²¹⁵⁴ Communiqué G7 Toyama Environment Ministers' Meeting, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) May 16, 2016. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2016-environment.html>

²¹⁵⁵ Communiqué G7 Toyama Environment Ministers' Meeting, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) May 16, 2016. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2016-environment.html>

²¹⁵⁶ G7 Taormina Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>

²¹⁵⁷ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 13 October 2019. (<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>)

²¹⁵⁸ Agenda 2063: First Ten-Year Implementation Plan 2014-2023, tralac (Stellenbosch) 31 March 2016. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <https://www.tralac.org/news/article/9370-agenda-2063-first-ten-year-implementation-plan-2014-2023.html>.

²¹⁵⁹ Agenda 2063: First Ten-Year Implementation Plan 2014-2023, tralac (Stellenbosch) 31 March 2016. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <https://www.tralac.org/news/article/9370-agenda-2063-first-ten-year-implementation-plan-2014-2023.html>.

²¹⁶⁰ Agenda 2063: First Ten-Year Implementation Plan 2014-2023, tralac (Stellenbosch) 31 March 2016. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <https://www.tralac.org/news/article/9370-agenda-2063-first-ten-year-implementation-plan-2014-2023.html>

ensure the successful completion of long-term development aspirations, and continental frameworks such as the Science Technology Innovation Strategy for Africa, in order to support state development efforts.²¹⁶¹

The G7 has been governing on development, including in Africa, since its start. Notably, at the 2002 Kananaskis Summit, the G8 members created the Action Plan for Africa in response to the outcomes to the NEPAD economic development program summit in 2001.²¹⁶² The G8 leaders agreed to partner with NEPAD countries to address issue areas such as health care, economic projects, debt relief, and water management.²¹⁶³

In 2005, G8 members agreed to increase aid to developing countries by USD50 billion, in addition to debt cancellation for the 18 poorest states in the African continent.²¹⁶⁴ Furthermore, G8 members committed to expanding Aids treatment, providing new resources for peacekeeping forces, a strengthening democracy and good governance on the continent.²¹⁶⁵

In 2011, at the Deauville Summit, the G8 members agreed to support the economic communities of Africa and the Minimum Integration Programme of the African Union.²¹⁶⁶ Members committed to improving infrastructure and strengthening economic resilience, in line with the economic pillar of the SDGs.²¹⁶⁷ The G7 leaders reaffirmed this commitment, and was discussed at the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, and the 2017 Taormina Summit.

In the 2018 Charlevoix Summit Communiqué, the G7 members reiterated their commitment to realizing Africa's potential through Agenda 2063 and outlined new priorities for security, stability, and sustainable development.²¹⁶⁸ Additionally, the G7 leaders agreed to the Charlevoix Commitment on Innovative Financing for Development to promote economic growth in developing economies and foster greater equality of opportunity within and between countries.²¹⁶⁹

Commitment Features

This commitment refers to a larger set of development goals outlined in both the African Union Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through Agenda 2063, African leaders pledged to accelerate growth, development, and prosperity across the continent, reinforced by a pan-African vision of self-reliance and socioeconomic enhancement.

²¹⁶¹ Agenda 2063: First Ten-Year Implementation Plan 2014-2023, tralac (Stellenbosch) 31 March 2016. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <https://www.tralac.org/news/article/9370-agenda-2063-first-ten-year-implementation-plan-2014-2023.html>

²¹⁶² G8 Summit 2007, The Press and Information Office of the Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 2009. Access Date: 13 October 2019. https://www.g-8.de/nn_92160/Content/EN/Lexikon/G8/N/neue-partnerschaft-f_C3_BCrafrikas-entwicklung.html

²¹⁶³ G8 Summit 2007, The Press and Information Office of the Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 2009. Access Date: 13 October 2019. https://www.g-8.de/nn_92160/Content/EN/Lexikon/G8/N/neue-partnerschaft-f_C3_BCrafrikas-entwicklung.html

²¹⁶⁴ G8 leaders agree \$50bn aid boost, BBC News (London) 8 July 2005. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/4662297.stm>.

²¹⁶⁵ G8 leaders agree \$50bn aid boost, BBC News (London) 8 July 2005. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/4662297.stm>.

²¹⁶⁶ Deauville G8 Summit Final Compliance Report, G8 Research Group (Toronto) 18 May 2012. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g8live.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/2011g8finalcompliance.pdf>

²¹⁶⁷ Deauville G8 Summit Final Compliance Report, G8 Research Group (Toronto) 18 May 2012. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g8live.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/2011g8finalcompliance.pdf>

²¹⁶⁸ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 13 October 2019. (<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>)

²¹⁶⁹ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 13 October 2019. (<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>)

Agenda 2063 has seven key aspirations, including:

- Sustainable development to modernize infrastructure, preserve the environment, improve education, and eradicate poverty
- A united continent free from colonialism, oppression, and restrictive border policies
- A democratic Africa supportive of human rights, the rule of law, justice, and good governance
- A peaceful Africa
- Entrenched pan-Africanism promoting the cultural diversity and heritage of the region
- People-driven development aimed at empowering women and youth
- A globally influential and self-reliant Africa²¹⁷⁰

The 2030 Agenda has three key pillars:

- Social dimension of sustainable development: implies that “the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized – in both developed and developing countries – should be assured a minimum level of social and environmental protection, and a basic standard of living.”²¹⁷¹
- Environmental dimension of sustainable development: suggests that people must “live within our means and achieve greater prosperity in an inclusive manner within the capacity of the Earth’s life support system.”²¹⁷²
- Economic dimension of sustainable development: indicates the need to increase “natural, social and economic capital to achieve greater resilience and secure future generations’ livelihoods.”²¹⁷³

At the core of this commitment is the recognition that G7 members must work together to address global challenges in line with the 2030 Agenda. This refers to embracing actions that tackle social, economic, and environmental issues outlined throughout the Agenda. For instance, policies that reduce poverty, end gender inequalities, and promote clean energy all fall under the scope of the agenda. Additionally, the commitment states that G7 members must work together to address these global challenges, thereby actions must be in coordination to achieve compliance.

The second part of this commitment states that G7 members must take into account the African Union Agenda 2063. Thereby, the G7 must align their actions with the aforementioned seven priorities in their support for Agenda 2063, in order to score compliance in the second portion of this commitment.

In this context, to achieve full compliance G7 members must work in partnership to implement multiple sustainable development actions that achieve the goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda. Additionally, these actions must support the African Union Agenda 2063 in a manner consistent with the seven priorities of this continental blueprint. Therefore, these G7 actions must aim to promote

²¹⁷⁰ Agenda 2063, African Union Foundation (Addis Ababa) 2015. Access Date: 13 October 2019.
https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/36204-doc-agenda2063_popular_version_en.pdf.

²¹⁷¹ The Three Dimensions of Sustainable Development, UNEP (New York) 2015. Access Date 13 October 2019.
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/3782unep2.pdf>

²¹⁷² The Three Dimensions of Sustainable Development, UNEP (New York) 2015. Access Date 13 October 2019.
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/3782unep2.pdf>

²¹⁷³ The Three Dimensions of Sustainable Development, UNEP (New York) 2015. Access Date 13 October 2019.
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/3782unep2.pdf>

sustainable development throughout Africa. Actions include enacting policies and financing investments that aim to end inequalities, promote inclusive growth, and tackle the climate challenge, for instance. Thereby given actions must consider the economic, social, and environmental pillars of the SDGs.

If the G7 members demonstrate action towards implementing the 2030 Agenda, but without consideration for Africa in accordance with the Agenda 2063, then they will receive only partial compliance.

Non-compliance, or -1, is assigned to any G7 member who fails to implement any actions in accordance with the 2030 Agenda.

The G7 member works to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and takes into account the African Union Agenda 2063.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G7 member NEITHER takes any actions towards the 2030 Agenda, NOR takes actions that support the African Union Agenda 2063.
0	G7 member takes action towards implementing the 2030 Agenda, but takes NO action that supports the African Union Agenda 2063.
+1	G7 member takes action implementing multiple sustainable development actions that achieve the goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda AND takes actions that support the African Union Agenda 2063.

*Compliance Direction: David Manocchio
Lead Analyst: Ally Johnson*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to the development goals outlined in both the African Union Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

On 26 August 2019, the Government of Canada announced that Canada will provide CAD1 million in funding to support the 2020 elections in Ethiopia.²¹⁷⁴ The objective of this project is to help Ethiopia's electoral management body increase its capacity, put in place transparency measures and build trust with the electorate.²¹⁷⁵ The project will have a special focus on ensuring the inclusive participation in the electoral process of women, youth and ethnic groups in all regions of the country.²¹⁷⁶

On 28 August 2019, the Government of Canada announced up to CAD20 million over the next five years to help improve access to quality health and reproductive services for women and girls in Mali.²¹⁷⁷ The funding is provided to train more than 2,300 health professionals, managers and trainers

²¹⁷⁴ Canada provides electoral funding support to strengthen democracy in Ethiopia, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/08/canada-provides-electoral-funding-support-to-strengthen-democracy-in-ethiopia.html>.

²¹⁷⁵ Canada provides electoral funding support to strengthen democracy in Ethiopia, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/08/canada-provides-electoral-funding-support-to-strengthen-democracy-in-ethiopia.html>.

²¹⁷⁶ Canada provides electoral funding support to strengthen democracy in Ethiopia, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/08/canada-provides-electoral-funding-support-to-strengthen-democracy-in-ethiopia.html>.

²¹⁷⁷ Canada increases access to gender-sensitive health services for women and girls in Mali, Global Affairs Canada (Quebec) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/08/canada-increases-access-to-gender-sensitive-health-services-for-women-and-girls-in-mali.html>

in the Bamako, Kayes, Koulikoro, Ségou and Sikasso regions on gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights.²¹⁷⁸ The project will also aid capacity building of managers responsible for the Malian government’s human resources management to improve the performance of the health system.²¹⁷⁹

On 28 November 2019, the Government of Canada reaffirmed its commitment to the Ottawa Convention and announced CAD8.3 million to support mine-affected communities, including CAD2 million for landmine clearance in northern Sri Lanka, where women will comprise 50 per cent of the workforce.²¹⁸⁰ The project aims to ensure “gender equality in decision-making processes, as well as in implementation and universalization of the convention.”²¹⁸¹

On 9 December 2019, the Government of Canada announced that the Healthy Families Pakistan initiative, led by the United Nations Population Fund in partnership with the Aga Khan Development Network, would receive federal funding of up to CAD21 million over the next five years to support gender-sensitive approach to women’s reproductive health services in Pakistan.²¹⁸² The project aims to provide women and adolescent girls with “safe and accessible family planning resources” and address underlying “social and cultural barriers” to accessing health services.²¹⁸³

On 10 December 2019, the Government of Canada, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Madrid, reaffirmed its commitment to ambitious climate action, including exceeding current 2030 targets and reaching net-zero emissions by 2050.²¹⁸⁴ The Government of Canada also welcomed new endorsees of the Ocean Plastics Charter²¹⁸⁵ and new members of the Powering Past Coal Alliance.²¹⁸⁶ Canada also announced a contribution of CAD5 million in support of the

²¹⁷⁸ Canada increases access to gender-sensitive health services for women and girls in Mali, Global Affairs Canada (Quebec) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/08/canada-increases-access-to-gender-sensitive-health-services-for-women-and-girls-in-mali.html>

²¹⁷⁹ Canada increases access to gender-sensitive health services for women and girls in Mali, Global Affairs Canada (Quebec) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/08/canada-increases-access-to-gender-sensitive-health-services-for-women-and-girls-in-mali.html>

²¹⁸⁰ Canada underscores ongoing commitment to mine action under the Ottawa Convention, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 29 November 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/11/canada-underscores-ongoing-commitment-to-mine-action-under-the-ottawa-convention.html>

²¹⁸¹ Canada underscores ongoing commitment to mine action under the Ottawa Convention, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 29 November 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/11/canada-underscores-ongoing-commitment-to-mine-action-under-the-ottawa-convention.html>

²¹⁸² Minister Gould announces new support for women’s reproductive health services in Pakistan, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/12/minister-gould-announces-new-support-for-womens-reproductive-health-services-in-pakistan.html>

²¹⁸³ Minister Gould announces new support for women’s reproductive health services in Pakistan, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/12/minister-gould-announces-new-support-for-womens-reproductive-health-services-in-pakistan.html>

²¹⁸⁴ Canada advanced climate action and remains committed to ambitious global action as United Nations Climate Change Conference concludes, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-advanced-climate-action-and-remains-committed-to-ambitious-global-action-as-united-nations-climate-change-conference-concludes.html>

²¹⁸⁵ Canada spearheads global action to reduce plastic pollution at COP25, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-spearheads-global-action-to-reduce-plastic-pollution-at-cop25.html>

²¹⁸⁶ Canada welcomes new members to the Powering Past Coal Alliance at COP25, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-welcomes-new-members-to-the-powering-past-coal-alliance-at-cop25.html>

Partnership for Market Implementation at the World Bank, to provide technical assistance to developing countries to design, pilot and implement carbon pricing and market instruments.²¹⁸⁷ The Partnership is expected to begin in July 2020, with anticipated USD100 million in capitalization.²¹⁸⁸

On 16 December 2019, the Government of Canada announced it will be providing a repayable contribution in the amount of CAD1.7 million dollars under the Regional Economic Growth Through Innovation program, in cooperation with the Government of Quebec for a total of CAD4.7 million in financial assistance to Coop Agri-Énergie Warwick to develop a cooperative agricultural biomethanizer and the production of renewable energy.²¹⁸⁹ This project is a local initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the agricultural sector, while also reducing emissions resulting from the use of fossil-based natural gas and synthetic fertilizers.²¹⁹⁰

On 17 December 2019, the Government of Canada announced up to CAD8.5 million in funding to the University of Calgary to support energy-savings project including retrofits at the University's Foothills Campus and Main Campus.²¹⁹¹ The project aims to reduce energy consumption in laboratories and medical buildings.²¹⁹² The funding is part of the Government of Canada's Low Carbon Economy Challenge, which invests in projects that reduce carbon pollution, save money, and create jobs.²¹⁹³

On 19 December 2019, the Government of Canada participated in the G7 High Level (Labour and Employment) meeting in Paris, France.²¹⁹⁴ At the meeting, labour and employment representatives of G7 members, along with international social partners and international organizations, discussed the importance of reducing inequalities and working together to address the opportunities and changes generated by technological transformation and their impact on the future of work.²¹⁹⁵ The

²¹⁸⁷ Canada announces support for new carbon-pricing initiative at COP25, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-announces-support-for-new-carbon-pricing-initiative-at-cop25.html>

²¹⁸⁸ At COP25, the World Bank Announces Global Partnership for Implementing Carbon Markets, The World Bank (Madrid) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/12/10/at-cop25-the-world-bank-announces-global-partnership-for-implementing-carbon-markets>

²¹⁸⁹ Québec and Ottawa provide \$4.7M in financial assistance to develop a cooperative agricultural biomethanizer, Canada Economic Development for Quebec Region (Quebec) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-quebec-regions/news/2019/12/quebec-and-ottawa-provide-47m-in-financial-assistance-to-develop-a-cooperative-agricultural-biomethanizer.html>

²¹⁹⁰ Government Announces Climate Action Incentive Payment Amounts for 2020, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n19/19-107-eng.asp>

²¹⁹¹ Government of Canada announces support for energy savings at University of Calgary, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Alberta) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-energy-savings-at-university-of-calgary.html>

²¹⁹² Government of Canada announces support for energy savings at University of Calgary, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Alberta) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-energy-savings-at-university-of-calgary.html>

²¹⁹³ Government of Canada announces support for energy savings at University of Calgary, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Alberta) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-energy-savings-at-university-of-calgary.html>

²¹⁹⁴ Minister Qualtrough concludes successful G7 High Level (Labour and Employment) meeting in France, Newswire (New York) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/minister-qualtrough-concludes-successful-g7-high-level-labour-and-employment-meeting-in-france-813918972.html>

²¹⁹⁵ Minister Qualtrough concludes successful G7 High Level (Labour and Employment) meeting in France, Newswire (New York) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/minister-qualtrough-concludes-successful-g7-high-level-labour-and-employment-meeting-in-france-813918972.html>

Government of Canada is committed to achieving concrete results on gender equality, reducing wage gaps and ending violence and harassment in the workplace.²¹⁹⁶

On 14 January 2020, the Government of Canada announced CAD250,000 in funding would be provided to the World Food Programme and CAD40,000 to Caritas to assist the most vulnerable people affected by floods in the Republic of Congo.²¹⁹⁷ Activities will include distributing food where there is no longer any access to food, providing cash vouchers where the price of food has soared, and increasing screening and treatment of malnutrition in children.²¹⁹⁸ Caritas will provide emergency kits of essential household items to 500 families affected by the floods in Brazzaville.²¹⁹⁹

On 15 January 2020, the Government of Canada announced CAD56 million in funding to help Control the Ebola epidemic address the humanitarian needs of the country's most vulnerable people and strengthen its local health system.²²⁰⁰ CAD10 million is allocated to development assistance, CAD45 million is allocated to trusted humanitarian partners working in the Democratic Republic of Congo to response to Ebola-specific and other humanitarian needs.²²⁰¹ And CAD991,699 is allocated to the Peace and Stabilization Operations Program aimed at reducing the spread of Ebola.²²⁰²

On 17 January 2020, the Government of Canada announced funding for several Canada-Africa projects. Funding includes: CAD18 million over five years for Mozambican Rural Women's and Girls' Participatory Economic Empowerment project focused on fostering the economic empowerment of women and girl members of agricultural associations and stimulate agri-food production through field

²¹⁹⁶ Minister Qualtrough concludes successful G7 High Level (Labour and Employment) meeting in France, Newswire (New York) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/minister-qualtrough-concludes-successful-g7-high-level-labour-and-employment-meeting-in-france-813918972.html>

²¹⁹⁷ Canada announces funding to provide humanitarian assistance to flood-affected people in the Republic of Congo and to fight Ebola and other crises in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 6 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/canada-announces-funding-to-provide-humanitarian-assistance-to-flood-affected-people-in-the-republic-of-congo-and-to-fight-ebola-and-other-crises-i.html>

²¹⁹⁸ Canada announces funding to provide humanitarian assistance to flood-affected people in the Republic of Congo and to fight Ebola and other crises in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 6 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/canada-announces-funding-to-provide-humanitarian-assistance-to-flood-affected-people-in-the-republic-of-congo-and-to-fight-ebola-and-other-crises-i.html>

²¹⁹⁹ Canada announces funding to provide humanitarian assistance to flood-affected people in the Republic of Congo and to fight Ebola and other crises in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 6 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/canada-announces-funding-to-provide-humanitarian-assistance-to-flood-affected-people-in-the-republic-of-congo-and-to-fight-ebola-and-other-crises-i.html>

²²⁰⁰ Canada announces funding to provide humanitarian assistance to flood-affected people in the Republic of Congo and to fight Ebola and other crises in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 6 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/canada-announces-funding-to-provide-humanitarian-assistance-to-flood-affected-people-in-the-republic-of-congo-and-to-fight-ebola-and-other-crises-i.html>

²²⁰¹ Canada announces funding to provide humanitarian assistance to flood-affected people in the Republic of Congo and to fight Ebola and other crises in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 6 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/canada-announces-funding-to-provide-humanitarian-assistance-to-flood-affected-people-in-the-republic-of-congo-and-to-fight-ebola-and-other-crises-i.html>

²²⁰² Canada announces funding to provide humanitarian assistance to flood-affected people in the Republic of Congo and to fight Ebola and other crises in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 6 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/canada-announces-funding-to-provide-humanitarian-assistance-to-flood-affected-people-in-the-republic-of-congo-and-to-fight-ebola-and-other-crises-i.html>

training focused on climate-smart agriculture, and CAD10 million over five years to Action for Girls and Young Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Mozambique, which aims to improve gender equality in Mozambique.²²⁰³

On 10 February 2020, the Government of Canada announced CAD200,000 in funding through the federal government's Climate Action Fund to the Youth Climate Lab.²²⁰⁴ This funding will support the creation of the FutureXChange program designed to equip fifteen young Canadians with the tools they need to create their own climate projects around Traditional Knowledge and climate policy, and raise awareness about climate change through digital outreach, community workshops, and conferences.²²⁰⁵

On 10 April 2020, the Government of Canada and the Government of Jamaica chaired the UN Group of Friends on SDG Financing videoconference, bringing together Ambassadors from across the entire membership of the United Nations with high-level representatives from the United Nations, G20, International Monetary Fund, World Bank Group and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to discuss ways to mitigate the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially on developing countries in Africa.²²⁰⁶

On 12 June 2020, Canada joined the International Coalition for the Sahel, which helps countries in the Sahel advance "their priorities for peace and security, economic and social development, inclusive governance, gender equality and climate change."²²⁰⁷ Foreign Minister François-Philippe Champagne will be a part of the coalition's Small Group of Foreign Ministers.²²⁰⁸

On 17 June 2020, Minister Champagne and the other G7 foreign ministers issued a statement condemning China's sudden security law in Hong Kong.²²⁰⁹ They urged China to reconsider their decision, as they said that these laws go against previous declarations and pose a threat to the fundamental rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong.²²¹⁰

On 27 June 2020, Karina Gould, the Minister of International Development, announced a commitment of CAD120 million to support the Access to COVID-19 (ACT) Accelerator, with

²²⁰³ Canada-Africa project announcements, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 6 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/canada-africa-project-announcements.html>

²²⁰⁴ Government of Canada announces support for Youth Climate Lab, Government of Canada (Vancouver) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 6 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-youth-climate-lab.html>

²²⁰⁵ Government of Canada announces support for Youth Climate Lab, Government of Canada (Vancouver) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 6 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-youth-climate-lab.html>

²²⁰⁶ Joint statement by Canadian and Jamaican Foreign Ministers, following their chairing of a historic meeting of the UN Group of Friends on SDG Financing, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-by-canadian-and-jamaican-foreign-ministers-following-their-chairing-of-a-historic-meeting-of-the-un-group-of-friends-on-sdg-financing.html>

²²⁰⁷ Canada joins International Coalition for the Sahel, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/06/canada-joins-international-coalition-for-the-sahel.html>

²²⁰⁸ Canada joins International Coalition for the Sahel, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/06/canada-joins-international-coalition-for-the-sahel.html>

²²⁰⁹ G7 Foreign ministers' Statement on Hong Kong, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/06/g7-foreign-ministers-statement-on-hong-kong.html>

²²¹⁰ G7 Foreign ministers' Statement on Hong Kong, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/06/g7-foreign-ministers-statement-on-hong-kong.html>

CAD20 million of that intended for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).²²¹¹ Canada joined ACT in collaboration with other countries in May to help “accelerate the development, production and equitable distribution of new COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines.”²²¹² In this announcement, Gould announced an additional CAD180 million “to address the immediate humanitarian and development impacts” of the coronavirus crisis and to help developing countries mitigate and address the challenges of this crisis including essential food security, nutrition and education.²²¹³

On 3 July 2020, Minister Champagne issued a statement announcing new measures in response to the passage of National Security Legislation in Hong Kong.²²¹⁴ He denounced the passage of the legislation in defiance of Hong Kong’s Basic Law and stated that Canada would begin to “treat exports of sensitive goods to Hong Kong in the same way as those destined for China” and would “not permit the export of sensitive military items to Hong Kong.”²²¹⁵

On 15 July 2020, Global Affairs Canada issued a statement calling for a “swift and transparent conclusion to the Guyanese election process” which had lasted more than four months since elections were held.²²¹⁶ The agency stated that it would continue to work with partners in the international community to demand respect for the democratic rights of the people of Guyana and results from the election.²²¹⁷

On 5 August 2020, Minister Champagne announced that Canada would provide an additional CAD5 million in humanitarian assistance in response to the explosion in Beirut on top of the initial CAD1.5 million that was sent to trusted humanitarian partners.²²¹⁸

On 9 August 2020, the foreign ministers of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States Secretary of State issued a statement expressing concern over the Hong Kong government’s disqualification of candidates and postponement of Legislative Council elections.²²¹⁹

²²¹¹ Canada announces support for equitable access to new COVID-19 medical solutions, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/06/g7-foreign-ministers-statement-on-hong-kong.html>

²²¹² Canada announces support for equitable access to new COVID-19 medical solutions, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/06/g7-foreign-ministers-statement-on-hong-kong.html>

²²¹³ Canada announces support for equitable access to new COVID-19 medical solutions, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/06/g7-foreign-ministers-statement-on-hong-kong.html>

²²¹⁴ Canada takes action following passage of National Security Legislation for Hong Kong, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 July 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/07/canada-takes-action-following-passage-of-national-security-legislation-for-hong-kong.html>

²²¹⁵ Canada takes action following passage of National Security Legislation for Hong Kong, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 July 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/07/canada-takes-action-following-passage-of-national-security-legislation-for-hong-kong.html>

²²¹⁶ Canada calls for a swift and transparent conclusion to the Guyanese election process, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/07/canada-calls-for-a-swift-and-transparent-conclusion-to-the-guyanese-election-process.html>

²²¹⁷ Canada calls for a swift and transparent conclusion to the Guyanese election process, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/07/canada-calls-for-a-swift-and-transparent-conclusion-to-the-guyanese-election-process.html>

²²¹⁸ Canada providing humanitarian assistance in response to Beirut explosion, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/08/canada-providing-humanitarian-assistance-in-response-to-beirut-explosion.html>

²²¹⁹ Statement on the Erosion of Rights in Hong Kong, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 9 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/08/statement-on-the-erosion-of-rights-in-hong-kong.html>

The ministers stated that the new National Security Law was “eroding the Hong Kong people’s fundamental rights and liberties” and called on the Hong Kong government to reinstate the eligibility of disqualified candidates.²²²⁰

On 17 August 2020, Minister Champagne issued a statement condemning the crackdown on protesters following the presidential election in Belarus.²²²¹ The statement called for a thorough investigation to be conducted through the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, stated that the Government of Canada stood with the people of Belarus and promised to work with international partners to ensure their voices were heard.²²²²

On 19 August 2020, Minister Coull announced that the Government of Canada would allocate CAD13.5 million of its funding in response to the explosion in Beirut towards UN humanitarian agencies and the Lebanese Red Cross.²²²³ Additionally, it would increase its contribution to the Humanitarian Coalition’s Lebanon Matching fund by CAD3 million, bringing its total contribution to CAD8 million.²²²⁴

On 19 August 2020, Minister Champagne issued a statement condemning the coup d’etat in Mali, which ousted a democratically elected leader.²²²⁵ The Minister stated that Canada would work with the Economic Community of West African States, African Union and United Nations to help ensure a return to a state of constitutional order.²²²⁶

Through involvement in sustainable initiatives, such as the Climate Action Incentive Payment, and engagement and aid with African Union members, like reproductive health projects in Mali, Canada has taken action towards both the Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union Agenda 2063.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Marjila Yousof

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to support the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda and taking into account the African Union Agenda 2063.

²²²⁰ Statement on the Erosion of Rights in Hong Kong, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 9 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/08/statement-on-the-erosion-of-rights-in-hong-kong.html>

²²²¹ Statement by Minister Champagne on Belarusian presidential elections, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/08/statement-by-minister-champagne-on-belarusian-presidential-elections.html>

²²²² Statement by Minister Champagne on Belarusian presidential elections, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/08/statement-by-minister-champagne-on-belarusian-presidential-elections.html>

²²²³ Canada’s humanitarian response in Beirut, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 August 2020. Access Date: <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/08/canadas-humanitarian-response-in-beirut.html>

²²²⁴ Canada’s humanitarian response in Beirut, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 August 2020. Access Date: <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/08/canadas-humanitarian-response-in-beirut.html>

²²²⁵ Statement by Minister Champagne on coup d’etat in Mali, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/08/statement-by-minister-champagne-on-coup-detat-in-mali.html>

²²²⁶ Statement by Minister Champagne on coup d’etat in Mali, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/08/statement-by-minister-champagne-on-coup-detat-in-mali.html>

On 10 October 2019, President Emmanuel Macron pledged a total of USD1.4 billion at the Global Fund's Sixth Replenishment Conference.²²²⁷ The president also made a "stirring appeal" at the conference, inducing other donors to "[make] last minute-minute increases on top of their original pledges" in order to reach the Global Fund target of at least USD14 billion.²²²⁸ These funds will go towards efforts to end AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.²²²⁹

On 22 October 2019, Minister of State attached to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Baptiste Lemoine launched France's new international strategy for food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture at its launch event.²²³⁰ This new strategy is designed to "focus France's international development activities for the period of 2019-2024 on this issue, in particular by supporting more sustainable, nutritious food and agricultural systems and by developing a type of agriculture that is more productive from an economic, social, and environmental standpoint."²²³¹

On 4-9 November 2019, France signed the Rome Declaration in support of the "transition [to] a more sustainable cold chain in order to limit food losses and waste" and the movement towards a low-carbon economy.²²³² Concrete measures include a new tax on hydrofluorocarbons to be introduced on 1 January 2021 and a reinforced energy savings certificate system on 1 March 2021.²²³³

On 6 November 2019, President Macron and China's President Xi Jinping committed to fulfilling "the commitments by developed countries to provide and mobilize USD100 billion each year for climate finance by 2020 and set a new collective quantified goal from a floor of USD100 billion per year by 2025."²²³⁴ This was part of the Beijing Call for Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change in which both presidents expressed "their full support for multilateralism in international

²²²⁷ Pledges at Global Fund Sixth Replenishment Conference, The Global Fund (Geneva) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 13 December 2019.

https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/8882/replenishment_2019sixthreplenishmentconferencepledges_list_en.pdf.

²²²⁸ Global Fund Donors Pledge US\$14 Billion in Fight to End Epidemics, The Global Fund (Geneva) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 13 December 2019. <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/news/2019-10-10-global-fund-donors-pledge-usd14-billion-in-fight-to-end-epidemics/>.

²²²⁹ World AIDS Day (1 December 2019), France Diplomatie Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 1 December 2019. Access Date: 13 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/health/news/article/world-aids-day-1-dec-2019>.

²²³⁰ Food security - Jean-Baptiste Lemoine launches France's new international strategy on food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture, France Diplomatie Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 22 October 2019. Access date: 13 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/health-food-security-nutrition-sustainable-agriculture/events/article/food-security-jean-baptiste-lemoine-launches-france-s-new-international>.

²²³¹ Food security - Jean-Baptiste Lemoine launches France's new international strategy on food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture, France Diplomatie Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 22 October 2019. Access date: 13 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/health-food-security-nutrition-sustainable-agriculture/events/article/food-security-jean-baptiste-lemoine-launches-france-s-new-international>.

²²³² Refrigeration systems: France supports a more sustainable cold chain by signing the Rome Declaration, Ministry of the Ecological and Inclusive Transition (Paris) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/systemes-refrigeration-france-soutient-chaine-froid-plus-durable-en-signant-declaration-rome>

²²³³ Refrigeration systems: France supports a more sustainable cold chain by signing the Rome Declaration, Ministry of the Ecological and Inclusive Transition (Paris) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/systemes-refrigeration-france-soutient-chaine-froid-plus-durable-en-signant-declaration-rome>

²²³⁴ Beijing Call for Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change (06 November 2019), France Diplomatie Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 13 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/climate-and-environment/news/article/beijing-call-for-biodiversity-conservation-and-climate-change-06-nov-19>.

environmental governance” and committed to other actions against biodiversity loss and degradation of terrestrial ecosystems.²²³⁵

On 12 November 2019, Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian and German Minister for Foreign Affairs Heiko Maas wrote a joint article published in *Le Figaro* titled “No, multilateralism is not outdated!”²²³⁶ The purpose of this article was to encourage multilateral actions and collaborations in synchrony with the meeting of the Alliance for Multilateralism at the Paris Peace Forum.²²³⁷

On November 20 2019, 27 Yezidi women accompanied by their children arrived in France by from Erbil.²²³⁸ These women, along with others who also arrived in 2019, fulfilled the pledge by President Macron to “welcome 100 Yezidi families – the victims of crimes committed by Daesh – to France.”²²³⁹

On 28 November 2019, Chief Executive Officer of the Agence Française de Développement (Afd) Rémy Rioux and Group Chief Executive Director of the African Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Félix Bikpo signed a sub-participation agreement of USD30 million.²²⁴⁰ This action seeks to “improve access to credit to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) throughout the African continent” by increasing the capacity of the African Guarantee Fund to offer loans to small African businesses.²²⁴¹²²⁴²

On 2 December 2019, Minister of State attached to the Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition Brune Poirson and the President of the Inter-American Bank of Development Alberto

²²³⁵ Statement of UNCCD Executive Secretary Ibrahim Thiaw in response to the Beijing Call for Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (Bonn) 7 November 2019. Access Date: 13 December 2019. <https://www.unccd.int/news-events/statement-unccd-executive-secretary-ibrahim-thiaw-response-beijing-call-biodiversity>.

²²³⁶ Joint article by Jean-Yves Le Drian and Heiko Maas: “No, multilateralism is not outdated!” (published in *Le Figaro* newspaper - 12 November 2019), France Diplomatie Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 13 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/alliance-for-multilateralism-63158/article/joint-article-by-jean-yves-le-drian-and-heiko-maas-no-multilateralism-is-not>.

²²³⁷ Joint article by Jean-Yves Le Drian and Heiko Maas: “No, multilateralism is not outdated!” (published in *Le Figaro* newspaper - 12 November 2019), France Diplomatie Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 13 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/alliance-for-multilateralism-63158/article/joint-article-by-jean-yves-le-drian-and-heiko-maas-no-multilateralism-is-not>.

²²³⁸ Joint press release - 27 Yezidi families, previously victims of Daesh, welcomed in France (20 November 2019), France Diplomatie Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 13 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/iraq/news/article/joint-press-release-27-yezidi-families-previously-victims-of-daesh-welcomed-in>.

²²³⁹ France to take in 100 Yazidi women stranded in Iraqi Kurdistan, France 24 (Paris) 25 October 2018. Access Date: 13 December 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20181025-france-take-100-yazidi-women-iraqi-kurdistan>.

²²⁴⁰ The French Development Agency Supports African SMEs via a Counter-Guarantee of USD 30 Million to the African Guarantee Fund, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 13 December 2019. <https://www.afd.fr/en/french-development-agency-supports-african-smes-counter-guarantee-usd-30-million-african-guarantee-fund>.

²²⁴¹ The French Development Agency Supports African SMEs via a Counter-Guarantee of USD 30 Million to the African Guarantee Fund, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 13 December 2019. <https://www.afd.fr/en/french-development-agency-supports-african-smes-counter-guarantee-usd-30-million-african-guarantee-fund>.

²²⁴² French Development Agency Supports African SMEs via a Counter-Guarantee of USD 30 Million to the African Guarantee Fund, African Guarantee Fund (Nairobi) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 13 December 2019. <https://africanguaranteefund.com/french-development-agency-supports-african-smes-via-a-counter-guarantee-of-usd-30-million-to-the-african-guarantee-fund/>.

Moreno signed the agreement to create a new trust fund devoted to biodiversity and committed EUR24 million.²²⁴³

On 9 December 2019, the AfD launched a EUR15 million seed fund in Africa as part of a “growing commitment to expanding the continent’s digital ecosystem.”²²⁴⁴ This is part of EMERGING Valley, an international summit organized by the agency to “provide support and financing for African start-ups” as well as a “platform for emerging innovations and partnerships between Europe and Africa.”²²⁴⁵

On 9 December 2019, Secretary of State to the Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition Emmanuelle Wargon announced the deployment of a second version of the national geographic information system for compensatory measures against biodiversity.²²⁴⁶ This was done in conjunction with the Agence Française de la Biodiversité towards the objective of “not net loss, or even gain in biodiversity” following past decreases by facilitating environmental assessments and compensatory measures.²²⁴⁷

On 11 December 2019, AfD Regional Director for Senegal, the Gambia, Cape Verde and Guinea Bissau Alexandre Pointier and the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Mambureh Njie signed an agreement formalizing budget support worth EUR2 million for Gambia.²²⁴⁸

On 17 December 2019, Minister Le Drian and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic Saleumxay Kommasith met and discussed prospects for increasing economic cooperation, particularly in the renewable energy sector through projects such as the Nam Theun 2 dam project.²²⁴⁹

On 19 December 2019, Minister Le Drian and the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the United Mexican States Marcelo Luis Ebrard Casaubo issued the French-Mexican Declaration for Effective Multilateralism.²²⁵⁰ The two countries committed to jointly hosting the Generation Equality Forum in 2020 and promoting cooperation on global issues with a focus on the environment, technology, international peace, human rights, and the economy.²²⁵¹

²²⁴³ Biodiversity – COP25 – Press release issued by the Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, France in the United Kingdom French Embassy in London (London) 02 December 2019. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <https://uk.ambafrance.org/France-helps-create-biodiversity-fund>.

²²⁴⁴ AfD Group: Driver for African Startups, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 13 December 2019. <https://www.afd.fr/en/afd-group-driver-african-start-ups>.

²²⁴⁵ AfD Group: Driver for African Startups, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 13 December 2019. <https://www.afd.fr/en/afd-group-driver-african-start-ups>.

²²⁴⁶ Biodiversity: new version of GéoMCE, Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition (Paris) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/biodiversite-nouvelle-version-geomce>.

²²⁴⁷ Biodiversity: new version of GéoMCE, Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition (Paris) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/biodiversite-nouvelle-version-geomce>.

²²⁴⁸ Gambia: French Development Agency Grants Budget Support to Government, allAfrica (Kanifing) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 13 December 2019. <https://allafrica.com/stories/201912110900.html>.

²²⁴⁹ Laos – Meeting between Jean-Yves Le Drian and his Laotian counterpart (17 December 2019), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 17 December 2019. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/laos/events/article/laos-meeting-between-jean-yves-le-drian-and-his-laotian-counterpart-17-dec-2019>.

²²⁵⁰ French-Mexican Declaration for Effective Multilateralism (19 December 2019), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/mexico/news/article/french-mexican-declaration-for-effective-multilateralism-19-dec-2019>.

²²⁵¹ French-Mexican Declaration for Effective Multilateralism (19 December 2019), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/mexico/news/article/french-mexican-declaration-for-effective-multilateralism-19-dec-2019>.

On 13 January 2020, President Macron attended the Pau Summit with the heads of state of the G5 Sahel region and took part in the creation of the Coalition for the Sahel, a new framework bringing together the participating countries and any outside countries and organizations that wish to contribute.²²⁵² The four pillars of the plan are “military engagement, capacity-building of the G5 armed forces, support for the restoration of state and local authority, stabilization and development.”²²⁵³

On 20 January 2020, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe confirmed the closures of Fessenheim 1 and 2, the two oldest operating nuclear reactors in France, on 22 February 2020 and 30 June 2020 respectively.²²⁵⁴ The two closures are part of France’s energy-climate strategy which holds the “diversification of sources of production and supply of electricity” as one of its major axes.²²⁵⁵

On 22 January 2020, the Afd, the German Ministry for the Environment, BlackRock, and the Hewlett and Grantham foundations announced the Climate Finance Partnership, an investment fund aimed to “direct capital into climate-related projects in developing countries,” such as in Africa. France will contribute USD30 million and AFD will “provide knowledge of climate issues in emerging countries and expertise in the field.”²²⁵⁶

On 30 January 2020, the Afd board of directors approved the Indicative Funding Program for loans related to development projects in order to achieve the targets set for public aid by 2022 by the French state.²²⁵⁷ The target of the funding program is set at EUR7.5 billion.²²⁵⁸

On 6 February 2020, Afd’s Rémy Rioux and President of the Organising Committee for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic games Tony Estanguet signed an agreement to cooperate on “sports and development projects” in developing countries.²²⁵⁹ Projects over the 2020-2023 include entrepreneurship support programs and funding for projects in which sports are used to promote development.²²⁶⁰

²²⁵² G5 Sahel – Pau Summit – Statement by the Heads of State (13 Jan. 2020), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/news/news-about-defence-and-security/article/g5-sahel-pau-summit-statement-by-the-heads-of-state-13-jan-2020>.

²²⁵³ Sahel - Jean-Yves Le Drian’s participation in the General Assembly of the Sahel Alliance and the G5 Sahel Summit (Nouakchott, 25 Feb. 20), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 25 February 2020. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/mauritania/news/article/sahel-jean-yves-le-drian-s-participation-in-the-general-assembly-of-the-sahel>.

²²⁵⁴ Fessenheim closure confirmed for 2020, Nuclear Engineering International (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <https://www.neimagazine.com/news/newsfessenheim-closure-confirmed-for-2020-7609762>.

²²⁵⁵ Closure of the Fessenheim power station, Ministry of the Ecological and Inclusive Transition (Paris) 21 February 2020. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/fermeture-centrale-fessenheim>.

²²⁵⁶ A Partnership with Blackrock to Direct Investment into Greener Finance in Developing Countries, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/blackrock-climate-finance-partnership>.

²²⁵⁷ AFD approves Indicative Funding Program 2020, Development Aid (Nicosia) 07 February 2020. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <https://www.developmentaid.org/#!/news-stream/post/58685/afd-approves-indicative-funding-program-2020>.

²²⁵⁸ AFD approves Indicative Funding Program 2020, Development Aid (Nicosia) 07 February 2020. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <https://www.developmentaid.org/#!/news-stream/post/58685/afd-approves-indicative-funding-program-2020>.

²²⁵⁹ Sports and Sustainable Development: AFD and Paris 2024, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 06 February 2020. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/sports-and-sustainable-development-afd-and-paris-2024>.

²²⁶⁰ Sports and Sustainable Development: AFD and Paris 2024, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 06 February 2020. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/sports-and-sustainable-development-afd-and-paris-2024f>.

On 7 February 2020, the AfD announced the selection of 12 cities across East and West Africa to take part in the African Smart Towns Network (ASToN).²²⁶¹ The initiative places emphasis on using new technologies to create smart cities by providing services that are well-suited to local contexts and the needs of residents. This support includes EUR2.995 million over two-and-a-half years to be managed directly by the cities for the accomplishment of a specific priority with relation to digital transition.²²⁶²

On 10 February 2020, President Macron signed Law No. 2020-105 Regarding a Circular Economy and the Fight Against Waste as part of efforts to help change the French society model “from a linear economy to a circular economy.”²²⁶³ The law also contains provisions to phase out single-use implements such as paper receipts and plastic bags and aims for “all plastic to be recyclable by 2025 and a 50 [per cent] reduction in the use of single-use plastic bottles in the next decade.”²²⁶⁴

On 25 February 2020, Minister Le Drian chaired the meeting of the General Assembly of the Sahel Alliance, a group aimed at “ensuring high-level international mobilisation in support of the joint commitments to promote development in the region.”²²⁶⁵

On 28 February 2020, Minister of the Ecological and Inclusive Transition Élisabeth Borne attended the Salon International de l’Agriculture.²²⁶⁶ At the show, she announced the mobilisation of EUR150 million by water agencies in order to promote good practices in farming as well as the installation of photovoltaics on agricultural buildings.²²⁶⁷

On 6 March 2020, Minister Poirson signed the European Plastics Pact, which requires the signatories to individually and collectively contribute to “achieving better management of the life cycle of single use plastic products and packaging.”²²⁶⁸

On 10 March 2020, the French government adopted an international water and sanitation strategy from 2020-2030 aimed at universal access to water and sanitation services and sustainable water management.²²⁶⁹

²²⁶¹ 12 African Cities Making the Digital Transition, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 07 February 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/12-african-cities-making-digital-transition?origin=/en/actualites>.

²²⁶² 12 African Cities Making the Digital Transition, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 07 February 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/12-african-cities-making-digital-transition?origin=/en/actualites>.

²²⁶³ France: New Anti-waste Law Adopted, Library of Congress (Washington DC) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <http://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/france-new-anti-waste-law-adopted/>.

²²⁶⁴ Landmark French law will stop unsold goods being thrown away, The Guardian (London) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jan/30/france-passes-landmark-law-to-stop-unsold-goods-being-thrown-away>.

²²⁶⁵ Sahel - Jean-Yves Le Drian’s participation in the General Assembly of the Sahel Alliance and the G5 Sahel Summit (Nouakchott, 25 Feb. 20), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 25 February 2020. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/mauritania/news/article/sahel-jean-yves-le-drian-s-participation-in-the-general-assembly-of-the-sahel>.

²²⁶⁶ For efficient and environmentally friendly agriculture, Ministry of the Ecological and Inclusive Transition (Paris) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/agriculture-performante-et-respectueuse-lenvironnement>.

²²⁶⁷ For efficient and environmentally friendly agriculture, Ministry of the Ecological and Inclusive Transition (Paris) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/agriculture-performante-et-respectueuse-lenvironnement>.

²²⁶⁸ A European Pact to control use of plastic and promote a circular economy, Government of France (Paris) 06 March 2020. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>.

On 11 March 2020, Minister Le Drian met with the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde to discuss future cooperations between their respective countries. More specifically, the ministers agreed to intensified cooperation on emerging technologies, gender equality, and actions in the Sahel.²²⁷⁰

On 12 March 2020, the AfD signed an agreement with the Indonesian Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries aimed at “[raising] awareness of the causes of marine debris, its effects at sea, and ways to reduce pollution.” Additionally, the project will help to protect wildlife such as the sea turtle by tracing their travels and examining where they may encounter floating plastic. The AfD will provide a grant of EUR500 000 in support of the project.²²⁷¹

On 20 March 2020, the AfD signed a public policy loan agreement with the Mexican Finance Ministry pertaining to green finance.²²⁷² The objective of the loan is to help Mexico “help Mexico channel public and private funds into low-carbon, inclusive growth, in line with the commitments of the Paris Agreement” and to “pursue work on risk management and resilience, particularly as it pertains to infrastructure.”²²⁷³

On 8 August 2020, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs issued a communique outlining various measures taken to help the Lebanese people in the wake of the explosion in Beirut.²²⁷⁴ These measures included an air and sea bridge to transport personnel medical material, medicine and food to Lebanon and the mobilization of domestic resources to expedite the provision of these supplies.²²⁷⁵

On 19 August 2020, the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs issued a statement calling for the release of the President of Mali following the military coup the previous day.²²⁷⁶ Additionally, the

²²⁶⁹ France’s International Strategy for Water and Sanitation (2020-2030), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 24 February 2020. Access Date: April 04 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/photos-publications-and-graphics/publications/article/france-s-international-strategy-for-water-and-sanitation-2020-2030>.

²²⁷⁰ Joint press statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Sweden and France (Paris, 11 March 20), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/sweden/events/article/joint-press-statement-by-the-ministers-for-foreign-affairs-of-sweden-and-france>.

²²⁷¹ Indonesia: Tackling Plastic and Marine Debris, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 22 March 2020. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/indonesia-ocean-plastic-debris?origin=/en/actualites>.

²²⁷² “Mexico Is on Its Way to a Major Climate Transition” – Jean-Baptiste Sabatié, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <https://burundi.afd.fr/en/actualites/mexico-its-way-major-climate-transition-jean-baptiste-sabatie>.

²²⁷³ “Mexico Is on Its Way to a Major Climate Transition” – Jean-Baptiste Sabatié Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 04 April 2020. <https://burundi.afd.fr/en/actualites/mexico-its-way-major-climate-transition-jean-baptiste-sabatie>.

²²⁷⁴ Explosion in Beirut – France is taking action to help Beirut and the Lebanese people, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/lebanon/news/article/explosion-in-beirut-france-is-taking-action-to-help-beirut-and-the-lebanese>

²²⁷⁵ Explosion in Beirut – France is taking action to help Beirut and the Lebanese people, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/lebanon/news/article/explosion-in-beirut-france-is-taking-action-to-help-beirut-and-the-lebanese>

²²⁷⁶ Mali – Statement by Jean-Yves Le Drian, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 18 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/mali/news/article/mali-statement-by-jean-yves-le-drian-minister-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-18>

statement urged a return to civilian rule through engaging in a dialogue to solve the crisis in the country.²²⁷⁷

On 21 August 2020, the government of France called for a cessation of hostilities and engagement in “good faith in efforts to conclude a lasting ceasefire” between the parties involved in the ongoing conflict in Libya.²²⁷⁸ The statement outlined one goal to be the return of the political process in Libya and the end of all foreign interference in the country.²²⁷⁹

France has engaged in numerous actions to further the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in alignment with the African Union’s Agenda 2063 by engaging in economic development projects with members of the African Union and by supporting global efforts around these goals. Specifically, France has maintained a consistently high level of engagement with environmental efforts as well as support for developing nations and democracy.

Thus, France has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Yu Xin (Daisy) Liu

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to address global challenges, in line with Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda and taking into account the African Union Agenda 2063.

On 9 September 2019, Federal Minister of Development Gerd Müller launched the “Green Button” textile certification mark.²²⁸⁰ This mark certifies that textile manufacturers meet a series of 26 minimum social and environmental standards.²²⁸¹

On 23 September 2019, Minister Müller committed EUR200 million to a global forest conservation program in partnership with the World Bank.²²⁸² Additionally, Minister Müller committed EUR30 million to the Central African Forest Initiative.²²⁸³

²²⁷⁷ Mali – Statement by Jean-Yves Le Drian, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 18 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/mali/news/article/mali-statement-by-jean-yves-le-drian-minister-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-18>

²²⁷⁸ Libya, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 21 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/libya/news/2020/article/libya-21-aug-20>

²²⁷⁹ Libya, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 21 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/libya/news/2020/article/libya-21-aug-20>

²²⁸⁰ Minister Gerd Müller introduces the "Green Button", a publicly endorsed textile label, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/september/190909_pm_048_Minister-Gerd-Mueller-introduces-the-Green-Button-a-publicly-endorsed-textile-label/index.html

²²⁸¹ Minister Gerd Müller introduces the "Green Button", a publicly endorsed textile label, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/september/190909_pm_048_Minister-Gerd-Mueller-introduces-the-Green-Button-a-publicly-endorsed-textile-label/index.html

²²⁸² Germany provides 200 million euros in seed funding for World Bank loan programme for forest conservation, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/september/190923_pm_051_Germany-provides-200-million-euros-in-seed-funding-for-World-Bank-loan-programme-for-forest-conservation/index.html

²²⁸³ Germany provides 200 million euros in seed funding for World Bank loan programme for forest conservation, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/september/190923_pm_051_Germany-provides-200-million-euros-in-seed-funding-for-World-Bank-loan-programme-for-forest-conservation/index.html

On 12 November 2019, Minister Müller announced the expansion of family planning and maternity ward stations in Cameroon, Malawi, and Niger.²²⁸⁴ The contribution will help further the realization of sexual rights and reproductive health goals including the continuation of "self-determined family planning and maternal health."²²⁸⁵

On 19 November 2019, Chancellor Angela Merkel committed EUR20 million to the G20 Compact with Africa Facility, which will support local green businesses in Africa.²²⁸⁶ The facility will work to create an enabling environment for investment through 1) Policy dialogue and creation of enabling environments; 2) Capacity development and technical assistance; 3) Design of blended finance instruments for the private sector.²²⁸⁷

On 9 December 2020, Minister Müller committed EUR500 million to expand international protection against climate change.²²⁸⁸ The announcement was made at the COP 25 conference in Madrid, and included funds for natural disaster relief in developing countries – including in Africa – and for helping coastal communities adapt to climate change.²²⁸⁹

On 10 December 2019, Federal Minister for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety Svenja Schulze committed EUR30 million to the Adaptation Fund.²²⁹⁰ The Adaptation Fund finances sustainable climate change adaptation projects in developing countries.²²⁹¹

²²⁸⁴ Deutschland steigert internationales Engagement für Familienplanung, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019.

http://www.bmz.de/de/presse/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191112_pm_064_Deutschland-steigert-internationales-Engagement-fuer-Familienplanung/index.html

²²⁸⁵ Deutschland steigert internationales Engagement für Familienplanung, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019.

http://www.bmz.de/de/presse/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191112_pm_064_Deutschland-steigert-internationales-Engagement-fuer-Familienplanung/index.html

²²⁸⁶ G20 Compact with Africa Facility supports green business, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/g20-compact-with-africa-facility-supports-green-business-1/>

²²⁸⁷ G20 Compact with Africa Facility supports green business, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/g20-compact-with-africa-facility-supports-green-business-1/>

²²⁸⁸ At the climate conference in Madrid, the Federal Development Ministry announces new projects to protect against climate risks and protect the oceans, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 7 April 2020.

https://www.bmz.de/de/presse/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/dezember/191209_pm_067_BMZ-kuendigt-auf-der-Klimakonferenz-in-Madrid-neue-Projekte-zur-Absicherung-von-Klimarisiken-und-zum-Schutz-der-Ozeane-an/index.html

²²⁸⁹ At the climate conference in Madrid, the Federal Development Ministry announces new projects to protect against climate risks and protect the oceans, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 7 April 2020.

https://www.bmz.de/de/presse/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/dezember/191209_pm_067_BMZ-kuendigt-auf-der-Klimakonferenz-in-Madrid-neue-Projekte-zur-Absicherung-von-Klimarisiken-und-zum-Schutz-der-Ozeane-an/index.html

²²⁹⁰ UN Climate Change Conference: Germany supports Adaptation Fund with 30 million euros, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/un-climate-change-conference-germany-supports-adaptation-fund-with-30-million-euros/>

²²⁹¹ UN Climate Change Conference: Germany supports Adaptation Fund with 30 million euros, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/un-climate-change-conference-germany-supports-adaptation-fund-with-30-million-euros/>

On 11 December 2019, Minister Schulze committed EUR20 million to support 12 developing countries in implementing climate targets in land use and agricultural sectors.²²⁹² A key focus is to support partner countries in implementing their obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.²²⁹³

On 17 January 2020, Minister Schulze committed EUR10 million to protecting extremely rare insect species.²²⁹⁴ The funds will develop insect-friendly grassland, and demonstrate Germany's commitment to preserving life on land, a Sustainable Development Goal. The scope of the projects ranges from the rescue of an extremely rare insect species through the development of an insect-friendly grassland to model processes for the protection and promotion of the insect fauna in biosphere reserves.²²⁹⁵

On 2 February 2020, Minister Müller committed EUR15 million to support cultural industries in Africa.²²⁹⁶ The initiative will target African start-ups, for example in the film and fashion industry, which will be supported with advice and further training in management, product development and sales.²²⁹⁷

On 27 March 2020, the German Federal Council adopted amendments to the Fertilizer Law, intended to increase the protection of groundwater. The amendments will reduce nitrate pollution, and prevent erosion-related flooding.²²⁹⁸

On 7 May 2020, the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development announced that it was supporting efforts to convert a Volkswagen production plant in South Africa into a medical facility to treat COVID-19 patients.²²⁹⁹ The Ministry made EUR5.2 million available for the

²²⁹² BMU promotes climate action in farming, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Bonn) 12 December 2019.

Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/bmu-promotes-climate-action-in-farming/>

²²⁹³ BMU promotes climate action in farming, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Bonn) 12 December 2019.

Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/bmu-promotes-climate-action-in-farming/>

²²⁹⁴ Praxisprojekte zum Insektenschutz: Schulze übergibt Förderbescheide, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020.

<https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/praxisprojekte-zum-insektenschutz-schulze-uebergibt-foerderbescheide/>

²²⁹⁵ Praxisprojekte zum Insektenschutz: Schulze übergibt Förderbescheide, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020.

<https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/praxisprojekte-zum-insektenschutz-schulze-uebergibt-foerderbescheide/>

²²⁹⁶ Bundesentwicklungsministerium startet neue Initiative zur Förderung der Kreativwirtschaft in Afrika, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 12 February 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020.

https://www.bmz.de/de/presse/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/februar/200212_pm_03_Bundesentwicklungsministerium-startet-neue-Initiative-zur-Foerderung-der-Kreativwirtschaft-in-Afrika/index.html

²²⁹⁷ Bundesentwicklungsministerium startet neue Initiative zur Förderung der Kreativwirtschaft in Afrika, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 12 February 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020.

https://www.bmz.de/de/presse/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/februar/200212_pm_03_Bundesentwicklungsministerium-startet-neue-Initiative-zur-Foerderung-der-Kreativwirtschaft-in-Afrika/index.html

²²⁹⁸ Schulze: Neues Düngerecht sorgt für besseren Schutz des Grundwassers, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020.

<https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/schulze-neues-duengerecht-sorgt-fuer-besseren-schutz-des-grundwassers/>

²²⁹⁹ Development Ministry and Volkswagen provide 4,000 additional hospital beds in South Africa, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 7 May 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020.

http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/mai/200507_pm_010_Corona-crisis-Development-Ministry-and-Volkswagen-provide-4000-additional-hospital-beds-in-South-Africa/index.html

conversion of the plant, which would provide an additional 4000 hospital beds and 800 ventilators to help South Africa address the crisis.²³⁰⁰

On 13 May 2020, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety released a statement outlining the efforts and goals of the Global Ocean Alliance.²³⁰¹ Germany joined the alliance at the beginning of May, supporting its goal to protect at least 30 percent of the world's seas and oceans by 2030.²³⁰²

On 15 May 2020, the German Federal Foreign Office announced an additional EUR300 million to curb the spread of the pandemic in humanitarian emergencies.²³⁰³ This aid will be used to expand testing, access to water, and improve sanitation.²³⁰⁴

On 26 May 2020, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas announced EUR22 million in additional aid to help in the Venezuelan refugee crisis amid the global pandemic.²³⁰⁵ Of this aid, EUR18 million will be going to neighbouring countries that have accepted Venezuelan refugees and EUR4 million will go to development projects in Venezuela.²³⁰⁶

On 16 June 2020, the German government announced that it would assume premium payments of about EUR19 million for drought insurance offered by the African Risk Capacity.²³⁰⁷ These payments would help to reliably protect up to 20 million vulnerable people in Africa against drought in the next agricultural season, helping to mitigate the risk of a compounding crisis.²³⁰⁸

²³⁰⁰ Development Ministry and Volkswagen provide 4,000 additional hospital beds in South Africa, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 7 May 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020.

http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/mai/200507_pm_010_Corona-crisis-Development-Ministry-and-Volkswagen-provide-4000-additional-hospital-beds-in-South-Africa/index.html

²³⁰¹ Germany joins Global Ocean Alliance for marine protection, Federal Ministry for the Environment and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germany-joins-global-ocean-alliance-for-marine-protection/>

²³⁰² Germany joins Global Ocean Alliance for marine protection, Federal Ministry for the Environment and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germany-joins-global-ocean-alliance-for-marine-protection/>

²³⁰³ "People around the world are in need of our solidarity": Humanitarian assistance and human rights, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/humanitaerehilfe/maas-humanitarian-assistance-corona/2342390>

²³⁰⁴ "People around the world are in need of our solidarity": Humanitarian assistance and human rights, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/humanitaerehilfe/maas-humanitarian-assistance-corona/2342390>

²³⁰⁵ Germany increases assistance for Venezuela to more than 50 million euro, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 26 May 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/venezuela-node/venezuela-donors-conference/2344744>

²³⁰⁶ Germany increases assistance for Venezuela to more than 50 million euro, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 26 May 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/venezuela-node/venezuela-donors-conference/2344744>

²³⁰⁷ Germany helps African countries maintain drought insurance in view of COVID-19, Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/juni/200616_Germany-helps-African-countries-maintain-drought-insurance-in-view-of-COVID-19/index.html

²³⁰⁸ Germany helps African countries maintain drought insurance in view of COVID-19, Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/juni/200616_Germany-helps-African-countries-maintain-drought-insurance-in-view-of-COVID-19/index.html

On 23 June 2020, the German Development Ministry sent a team of expert and laboratory materials to Peru to help the country fight against the ongoing coronavirus outbreaks.²³⁰⁹ The German Epidemic Preparedness Teams help countries with outbreaks in their outbreak identification and mitigation of the spread of the virus.²³¹⁰

On 26 June 2020, the German Development Ministry announced that it would resume their development cooperation with Sudan.²³¹¹ The ministry committed to making EUR150 million available to Sudan in 2020 to address water, food security and training and support for refugees and poor families during the coronavirus crisis.²³¹²

On 30 June 2020, at the conference on supporting Syria and the region, the German government committed EUR1.58 billion in assistance.²³¹³ This aid is intended to help provide basic necessities in the region, as well as strengthen work programmes and education in the region to prevent a “lost generation from growing up” in the civil war.²³¹⁴

On 17 July 2020, the Federal Environment Ministry adopted a support package for developing and newly industrialising economies to support them in a climate-friendly economic recovery from the pandemic and to increase resilience against future pandemics.²³¹⁵ The package aims to support economic recovery by adding funds to projects linked to jobs and by paying for economic advisors to support governments in creating climate- and biodiversity-friendly recovery packages.²³¹⁶

²³⁰⁹ German team of experts assists Peru, Ministry for economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020.

http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/juni/200623_pm_032_German-team-of-experts-assists-Peru-in-COVID-19-crisis/index.html

²³¹⁰ German team of experts assists Peru, Ministry for economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020.

http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/juni/200623_pm_032_German-team-of-experts-assists-Peru-in-COVID-19-crisis/index.html

²³¹¹ Minister Müller: Germany commits 150 million euros for cooperation with Sudan’s reform-oriented government, Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020.

http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/juni/200625_pm_017_Minister-Mueller-Germany-commits-150-million-euros-for-cooperation-with-Sudans-reform-oriented-government/index.html

²³¹² Minister Müller: Germany commits 150 million euros for cooperation with Sudan’s reform-oriented government, Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020.

http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/juni/200625_pm_017_Minister-Mueller-Germany-commits-150-million-euros-for-cooperation-with-Sudans-reform-oriented-government/index.html

²³¹³ Minister Müller: Refugee and crisis region around Syria still needs our support, Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020.

http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/juni/200630_Minister-Mueller-Refugee-and-crisis-region-around-Syria-still-needs-our-support/index.html

²³¹⁴ Minister Müller: Refugee and crisis region around Syria still needs our support, Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020.

http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/juni/200630_Minister-Mueller-Refugee-and-crisis-region-around-Syria-still-needs-our-support/index.html

²³¹⁵ Global green recovery and the International Climate Initiative, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020.

<https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/global-green-recovery-and-the-international-climate-initiative/>

²³¹⁶ Global green recovery and the International Climate Initiative, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020.

<https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/global-green-recovery-and-the-international-climate-initiative/>

On 29 July 2020, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development handed over the first substantial donation of COVID-19 supplies to the African Union.²³¹⁷ The African Union was given about 1.4 million COVID-19 tests to help fight the pandemic as a part of the ministry's Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme.²³¹⁸

Germany has committed funds to a variety of environmental and economic sustainability projects in Germany and worldwide, including projects in line with the African Union Agenda 2063.

Thus, Germany has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Sterling Mancuso

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to the development goals outlined in both the African Union Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

On 18 September 2019, the Government of Italy presented the project entitled "Mediterranean Diet's principles for Agenda 2030," a multi-day event focused on carrying out scientific studies, considerations and analyses on the Mediterranean Diet.²³¹⁹ The project aims to promote and disseminate knowledge of the principles underlying the Mediterranean Diet, benefits to community health and wellbeing, and benefits to the environment and to the planet's resources.²³²⁰ It will also dedicate days to "protecting biodiversity, respecting the environment, nutritional aspects, less food waste, the role of women" – to assure a sustainable agricultural and nutritional development model.²³²¹

On 3 October 2019, the Government of Italy signed an intergovernmental agreement with Jordan under which Italian Cooperation will contribute EUR85 million to the education and training of children and young people in Jordan.²³²² The agreement part of the 2016-2025 Jordanian national

²³¹⁷ German Epidemic Preparedness Team hands over 1.4 million tests to the African Union, Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 29 July 2020.

http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/juli/200729_pm-22_COVID-19-pandemic-German-Epidemic-Preparedness-Team-hands-over-1_4-million-tests-to-the-African-Union/index.html

²³¹⁸ German Epidemic Preparedness Team hands over 1.4 million tests to the African Union, Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 29 July 2020.

http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/juli/200729_pm-22_COVID-19-pandemic-German-Epidemic-Preparedness-Team-hands-over-1_4-million-tests-to-the-African-Union/index.html

²³¹⁹ Italy presents the project "Mediterranean Diet's principles for Agenda 2030", Ministero degli Affari Esteri e Della Cooperazione Internazionale (Roma) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/2019/09/l-italia-presenta-il-progetto-mediterranean-diet-s-principles-for-agenda-2030.html

²³²⁰ Italy presents the project "Mediterranean Diet's principles for Agenda 2030", Ministero degli Affari Esteri e Della Cooperazione Internazionale (Roma) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/2019/09/l-italia-presenta-il-progetto-mediterranean-diet-s-principles-for-agenda-2030.html

²³²¹ Italy presents the project "Mediterranean Diet's principles for Agenda 2030", Ministero degli Affari Esteri e Della Cooperazione Internazionale (Roma) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/2019/09/l-italia-presenta-il-progetto-mediterranean-diet-s-principles-for-agenda-2030.html

²³²² Italy-Jordan: 85 million euros for education and training, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e Della Cooperazione Internazionale (Roma) 03 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/italia-giordania-85-mln-di-euro-per-istruzione-e-formazione.html

human resources development strategy to achieve the Agenda 2030 sustainable development goals.²³²³ The project aims to fulfill two goals by 2025: ensure that all boys and girls have access to quality education, and all young adults who have technical and professional skills, have access to jobs.²³²⁴

On 15 October 2019, the Government of Italy donated 10 ambulances and three water tankers to the Government of Niger to enable the authorities to provide assistance to migrants and tackle human trafficking, through the Fund for Africa.²³²⁵

On 23 October 2019, the Government of Italy reaffirmed its commitment to partnering with African Countries for inclusive and sustainable development towards the UN 2030 Agenda and the Agenda 2063 of the African Union during a debate chaired by the President of the United Nations General Assembly.²³²⁶ The Government of Italy also expressed strong support for the African Architecture of Peace and Security, for strengthening the trilateral cooperation between the UN, African Union and European Union, and welcomed the entry into force of the African continental Free Trade Area, which represents a big step towards an integrated and peaceful Africa.²³²⁷

On 29 October 2019, the Government of Italy co-sponsored an unanimously adopted resolution on Women, Peace and Security Agenda at the Security Council meeting.²³²⁸ The next step will be the organization in Rome on 3 and 4 December at an international seminar on the responsibility of States to promote the participation of women in peace processes, in collaboration with UN Women, and the third edition of the Women's Forum.²³²⁹

On 30 October 2019, the Government of Italy spoke at the meeting of the UN Commission for the Consolidation of Peace dedicated to the situation in Central Africa, reaffirming its commitment to promoting the full implementation of the Bangui peace agreement, and calling upon the UN and the international community to support the 2020/2021 elections in the Central African Republic, which “represents an important step for democracy in the country.”²³³⁰

²³²³ Italy-Jordan: 85 million euros for education and training, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e Della Cooperazione Internazionale (Roma) 03 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/italia-giordania-85-mln-di-euro-per-istruzione-e-formazione.html

²³²⁴ Italy-Jordan: 85 million euros for education and training, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e Della Cooperazione Internazionale (Roma) 03 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/italia-giordania-85-mln-di-euro-per-istruzione-e-formazione.html

²³²⁵ Italy donates 10 ambulances to the Niger Government, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e Della Cooperazione Internazionale (Roma) 15 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2019/10/l-italia-dona-10-ambulanze-al-governo-del-niger.html

²³²⁶ Zappia: Italy is among the top donor countries for Africa, and is ready to do more, Onu Italia (New York) 23 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.onuitalia.com/zappia-italy-is-among-the-top-donor-countries-for-africa-and-is-ready-to-do-more/>

²³²⁷ Zappia: Italy is among the top donor countries for Africa, and is ready to do more, Onu Italia (New York) 23 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.onuitalia.com/zappia-italy-is-among-the-top-donor-countries-for-africa-and-is-ready-to-do-more/>

²³²⁸ Women, peace and security: Italy co-sponsor resolution reaffirms its commitment, Onu Italia (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.onuitalia.com/women-peace-and-security-italy-co-sponsors-new-resolution-and-reaffirms-its-support/>

²³²⁹ Women, peace and security: Italy co-sponsor resolution reaffirms its commitment, Onu Italia (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.onuitalia.com/women-peace-and-security-italy-co-sponsors-new-resolution-and-reaffirms-its-support/>

²³³⁰ Central Africa: Italy to Peacebuilding Commission, commitment for Bangui agreement facilitated by Sant'Egidio, Onu Italia (New York) 30 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.onuitalia.com/central-african-republic-italy-at-the-peacebuilding-commission-support-for-the-bangui-agreement-to-be-facilitated-by-santegidio/>

On 4 November 2019, the Government of Italy announced that state schools will begin incorporating sustainability and climate crisis into as many compulsory subjects for school children as possible.²³³¹ Other subjects including geography, mathematics and physics will be taught from the perspective of sustainability, with one hour a week dedicated to the themes of global heating and humans' influence on the planet.²³³² Starting in September 2020, a 33-hour-a-year lesson will be used as a pilot program to ultimately incorporate the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into the entire curriculum.²³³³

On 21 November 2019, the Government of Italy and UNESCO, signed the MAECI-UNESCO agreement in Doha for the implementation of a joint cooperation project aimed at ensuring access to education for children in Iraq who currently cannot go to school, with the Government of Italy committing EUR1 million to the project.²³³⁴ The funds will be used by UNESCO to restart ten schools, conduct campaigns to promote enrollment and provide school kits to about 17,000 boys and girls of the Governorships of Salah al-Din and Baghdad.²³³⁵

On 26 November 2019, the Government of Italy opened the Italy-Africa Business Week in Milan, designed to boost business relations and economic cooperation with the African continent.²³³⁶ Deputy Minister Emanuela Del Re met the Somali Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Mohamed and the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Handicrafts of Burkina Faso, highlighting the growing trade volume with Africa.²³³⁷

On 5 December 2019, the Italian Embassy in Nairobi and the Italian Cultural Institute in Kenya in association with World Agroforestry Centre, Centre for International Forestry Research, and Bioversity International, held a symposium on "Climate Change, Forests and Food Security" in Nairobi.²³³⁸ The main goal of the event was for Kenya and Italy to exchange ideas on best practices,

²³³¹ Italy to put sustainability at heart of learning in schools, The Guardian (London) 06 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/nov/06/italy-to-school-students-in-sustainability-and-climate-crisis>

²³³² Italy's Students Will Get a Lesson in Climate Change. Many Lessons, in Fact, The New York Times (New York) 05 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/05/world/europe/italy-schools-climate-change.html>

²³³³ Italy's Students Will Get a Lesson in Climate Change. Many Lessons, in Fact, The New York Times (New York) 05 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/05/world/europe/italy-schools-climate-change.html>

²³³⁴ Doha: Signing of the MAECI-UNESCO Agreement on children's education in Iraq, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e Della Cooperazione Internazionale (Roma) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/firmato-a-doha-accordo-maeci-unesco-per-istruzione-infantile-in-iraq.html

²³³⁵ Doha: Signing of the MAECI-UNESCO Agreement on children's education in Iraq, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e Della Cooperazione Internazionale (Roma) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/firmato-a-doha-accordo-maeci-unesco-per-istruzione-infantile-in-iraq.html

²³³⁶ Heading: Del Re opens Italy-Africa Business Week in Milan, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e Della Cooperazione Internazionale (Roma) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2019/11/del-re-apre-lavori-di-italia-africa-business-week-di-milano.html

²³³⁷ Heading: Del Re opens Italy-Africa Business Week in Milan, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e Della Cooperazione Internazionale (Roma) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2019/11/del-re-apre-lavori-di-italia-africa-business-week-di-milano.html

²³³⁸ Symposium on climate change and forests in Kenya, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e Della Cooperazione Internazionale (Roma) 05 December 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2019/12/in-kenya-un-simposio-su-cambiamenti-climatici-e-foreste.html

and to discuss the integrated management of the territory, taking into account the current climate change and food security challenges.²³³⁹

On 9 December 2019, the Government of Italy, at the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, made an open pledge to take all the necessary steps to assure that children may live safely and enjoy their fundamental rights also in situations of conflict. Italy's pledge aims to prevent violence against children, through continuity of education, access of humanitarian operations to children in conflict zones, and awareness raising campaigns against the recruitment and deployment of children in armed conflicts.²³⁴⁰

On 13 December 2019, the Government of Italy in coordination with the Food and Agriculture Organization) and Future Food Institute announced the second edition of international training bootcamps to train a new class of "Climate Shapers" to address and mitigate the climate crisis through the regeneration of agri-food systems, with three Italian stops in Marettimo (Sicily), Rome and Bologna.²³⁴¹ The project aims to address four themes, "Climate Smart Cities," "Climate Smart Farms," "Climate Smart Oceans," and "Climate Smart Kitchen."²³⁴²

On 18 December 2019, the Government of Italy hosted the sixth annual meeting of the Joint Committee for Development Cooperation.²³⁴³ The Joint Committee approved a package of initiatives for a total value of over 69 million euros, of which 30 million for African countries, and 10 for the territorial implementation of the 2030 Agenda.²³⁴⁴ The programs confirm Italy's priority attention to the Mediterranean and to sub-Saharan Africa.²³⁴⁵

On 4 March 2020, the Government of Italy reaffirmed Italy's support for a democratic and peaceful transition process, as well as Prime Minister Handok's vision of economic and social progress in Sudan during an institutional visit to Sudan.²³⁴⁶ The Government of Italy reiterated the commitment

²³³⁹ Symposium on climate change and forests in Kenya, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e Della Cooperazione Internazionale (Roma) 05 December 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2019/12/in-kenya-un-simposio-su-cambiamenti-climatici-e-foreste.html

²³⁴⁰ International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent: Italy makes an open pledge, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e Della Cooperazione Internazionale (Roma) 09 December 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2019/12/conferenza-croce-rossa-e-mezzaluna-rossa-impegno-italiano.html

²³⁴¹ Fao and Future Food Institute promote boot-camps to form "Climate Shapers"; three stops in Italy, Onu Italia (New York) 13 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.onuitalia.com/fao-and-future-food-institute-promote-boot-camps-to-form-climate-shapers-three-stops-in-italy/>

²³⁴² Fao and Future Food Institute promote boot-camps to form "Climate Shapers"; three stops in Italy, Onu Italia (New York) 13 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.onuitalia.com/fao-and-future-food-institute-promote-boot-camps-to-form-climate-shapers-three-stops-in-italy/>

²³⁴³ Sixth Session of the Joint Committee for Development Cooperation (Roma) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 6 March 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2019/12/vi-seduta-annuale-del-comitato-congiunto-per-la-cooperazione-allo-sviluppo.html

²³⁴⁴ Sixth Session of the Joint Committee for Development Cooperation (Roma) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 6 March 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2019/12/vi-seduta-annuale-del-comitato-congiunto-per-la-cooperazione-allo-sviluppo.html

²³⁴⁵ Sixth Session of the Joint Committee for Development Cooperation (Roma) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 6 March 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2019/12/vi-seduta-annuale-del-comitato-congiunto-per-la-cooperazione-allo-sviluppo.html

²³⁴⁶ Visit by Vice Minister Del Re in Sudan (Roma) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/03/visita-della-vice-ministra-del-re-in-sudan.html

to enhance its advocacy within the Group of friends of Sudan to facilitate the removal of Sudan from the list of countries sponsoring terrorism.²³⁴⁷

On 1 July 2020, on the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Italy released a statement reaffirming its commitment to security in the Congo.²³⁴⁸ In particular, it committed to working with Italian associations and non-governmental organisations to help improve living conditions in the eastern provinces that have been victim to escalating violence in the past year.²³⁴⁹

On 4 July 2020, the first of three flights organized by the Italian Cooperation left to provide aid in Somalia as a part of the “European Humanitarian Air Bridge.”²³⁵⁰ The government stated that the whole operation had a total load of 42 tons of humanitarian aid.²³⁵¹ The Air Bridge is an example of cooperation between European Union member states to deliver effective and efficient aid abroad.²³⁵²

On 21 July 2020, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation provided funding in support of the International Organization for Migration in Tunisia to facilitate voluntary return to vulnerable migrants stranded in Tunisia.²³⁵³ The program provides support for migrant workers who have lost jobs and do not have safe options for returning home and helps facilitate a transition back to their countries of origin.²³⁵⁴

²³⁴⁷ Visit by Vice Minister Del Re in Sudan (Roma) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/03/visita-della-vice-ministra-del-re-in-sudan.html

²³⁴⁸ Note by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Democratic Republic of Congo, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/nota-farnesina-repubblica-democratica-del-congo.html

²³⁴⁹ Note by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Democratic Republic of Congo, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/nota-farnesina-repubblica-democratica-del-congo.html

²³⁵⁰ Somalia. Humanitarian flight in the framework of the “European Air Bridge,” Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 4 July 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/somalia-volo-umanitario-nel-quadro-del-ponte-aereo-umanitario-europeo.html

²³⁵¹ Somalia. Humanitarian flight in the framework of the “European Air Bridge,” Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 4 July 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/somalia-volo-umanitario-nel-quadro-del-ponte-aereo-umanitario-europeo.html

²³⁵² Somalia. Humanitarian flight in the framework of the “European Air Bridge,” Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 4 July 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/somalia-volo-umanitario-nel-quadro-del-ponte-aereo-umanitario-europeo.html

²³⁵³ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs alongside the IOM in Tunisia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 21 July 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/la-farnesina-a-fianco-dell-oim-in-tunisia.html

²³⁵⁴ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs alongside the IOM in Tunisia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 21 July 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/la-farnesina-a-fianco-dell-oim-in-tunisia.html

On 6 August 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation sent a flight to Beirut to deliver 8.5 tons of medical equipment in the wake of the August 4 explosion.²³⁵⁵ Deputy Minister Del Re stated that the initiative aimed to contribute to “alleviate the suffering of the Lebanese population” who were struggling with the large explosion and ongoing coronavirus pandemic.²³⁵⁶

On 11 August 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation released a statement condemning the response to unrest in Belarus following the elections.²³⁵⁷ The Italian government called on the Minsk authorities to enter a dialogue with the opposition and to take necessary measures to defuse tensions and work towards a “stable and democratic Belarus.”²³⁵⁸

On 20 August 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation released a statement of concern over the coup in Mali.²³⁵⁹ The government reaffirmed their commitment to “peace, stability, the protection of the rule of law and the fight against terrorism in Mali and throughout the Sahel region.”²³⁶⁰

Italy has taken action to both support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as well as specifically support the African Union’s Agenda 2063 through general development aid and targeted engagement with members of the African Union.

Thus, Italy has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Marjila Yousof

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to take action to support the goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and support the African Union Agenda 2063.

On 27 August 2019, the Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry inaugurated two bodies under the Strategic Policy Committee of the Advisory Committee for Natural Resources and Energy: (1) the Subcommittee on System Reform for Renewable Energy as Main Power Source and the

²³⁵⁵ Lebanon: humanitarian flight with medical supplies to Beirut, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 6 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/08/libano-volo-umanitario-con-materiale-sanitario-partito-per-beirut.html

²³⁵⁶ Lebanon: humanitarian flight with medical supplies to Beirut, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 6 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/08/libano-volo-umanitario-con-materiale-sanitario-partito-per-beirut.html

²³⁵⁷ Belarus: deep concern about the suppression of key civil rights and fundamental democratic freedoms, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 11 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/08/bielorussia-profonda-preoccupazione-per-la-compressione-dei-principali-diritti-civili-e-delle-fondamentali-liberta-democratiche.html

²³⁵⁸ Belarus: deep concern about the suppression of key civil rights and fundamental democratic freedoms, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 11 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/08/bielorussia-profonda-preoccupazione-per-la-compressione-dei-principali-diritti-civili-e-delle-fondamentali-liberta-democratiche.html

²³⁵⁹ Note of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Mali, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/08/nota-farnesina-mali.html

²³⁶⁰ Note of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Mali, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/08/nota-farnesina-mali.html

Subcommittee for Sustainable Power Systems.²³⁶¹ This was done in response to past large-scale blackouts with the goal of advancing the development of technologies for “making renewable energy become a main power source against the backdrop of increasing demand for decarbonization.”²³⁶²

On 28 August 2019, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe presented many initiatives during his keynote speech at the Tokyo International Conference for Africa’s Development, including ABE Initiative 3.0, further promotion of UHC including through launch of the Africa Health and Wellbeing Initiative, and support to measures for Africa’s own peace and stability.²³⁶³

On 29 August 2019, Prime Minister Abe met with Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed Ali and pledged support for Ethiopian development through two grant aids for elections and improvement of Ethiopian health and medical services respectiveness as well as the dispatchment of an agricultural expert to improve agricultural productivity in Ethiopia.²³⁶⁴

On 30 August 2019, Prime Minister Abe “announced Japan’s decision to provide emergency grant aid of USD5 million and the dispatch of the Japan Disaster Relief Team/Infectious Disease Response Team” in response to the recent Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.²³⁶⁵

On 30 August 2019, Japan and the African Union member states along with the representatives of Intergovernmental African, international, regional organizations and partner countries as well as the private sector and civil society organizations from Japan and Africa committed to the Yokohama Declaration 2019. Japan committed to the “Yokohama Plan of Actions 2019” with the overarching theme of “Advancing Africa’s Development through People, Technology and Innovation.”²³⁶⁶ The three main pillars are “accelerating economic transformation and improving business environment through innovation and private sector engagement,” “deepening sustainable and resilient society,” and strengthening peace and stability.²³⁶⁷

On 30 August 2019, Japanese State Minister of Finance Keisuke Suzuki announced a joint grant of USD3.5 billion with the African Development Bank (AfDB) under the Enhanced Private Sector

²³⁶¹ Two Bodies Inaugurated: Subcommittee on System Reform for Renewable Energy as Main Power Source and Subcommittee for Sustainable Power Systems, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo), 27 August 2019. Access Date: December 11 2019. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2019/0827_004.html.

²³⁶² Two Bodies Inaugurated: Subcommittee on System Reform for Renewable Energy as Main Power Source and Subcommittee for Sustainable Power Systems, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo), 27 August 2019. Access Date: December 11 2019. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2019/0827_004.html.

²³⁶³ Tokyo International Conference on African Development 7 (TICAD7) was held on August 28, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 29 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/page4e_001088.html

²³⁶⁴ Japan-Ethiopia Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af2/et/page3e_001079.html.

²³⁶⁵ Japan-Democratic Republic of the Congo Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 8 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/d_congo/page6e_000210_00002.htm.

²³⁶⁶ Yokohama Declaration 2019, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 11 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/yokohama_declaration_en.pdf.

²³⁶⁷ Yokohama Declaration 2019, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 11 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/yokohama_declaration_en.pdf.

Assistance for Africa initiative (EPSA4).²³⁶⁸ The funds are expected to “enhance the fourth phase of EPSA to spur private-sector-led sustainable and inclusive growth in Africa.”²³⁶⁹

On 6 September 2019, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) committed to an additional investment of up to USD30 million in the Japan Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Women Empowerment Fund.²³⁷⁰ The objective of the funds is to expand financing to micro-finance institutions and promote gender equality by empowering low-income women through the “improvement of women’s access to funds for economic activities.”²³⁷¹

On 11 September 2019, Japan’s Ambassador to Burundi Takayuki Miyashita signed and exchanged a note with Burundian Foreign Minister Ezekiel Nibigira on a gift of food aid consisting of 3,700 tons of rice.²³⁷² The sale of the donated rice within the country is expected to generate USD3 million to be used in development projects in accordance with the National Development Plan.²³⁷³

On 25 September 2019, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan Isshu Sugawara announced the “Carbon Recycling 3C Initiative” and also signed the Memorandum of Cooperation on Carbon Recycling between Japan and Australia.²³⁷⁴ The initiative is aimed towards the use of carbon dioxide as a fuel and material and includes three specific actions: (1) Promotion of mutual exchange (Caravan); (2) establishment of R&D and demonstration base (Center of Research); and (3) Promotion of international joint research (Collaboration).²³⁷⁵

On 26 September 2019, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of the Environment established a joint meeting between the Working Group for the Study for Introducing Fee-incurred Plastic Checkout Bags, and the Subcommittee on the Study for Introducing Fee-incurred Plastic Checkout Bags of the Working Group for a Circular Economy of the Central Environment of the Council.²³⁷⁶ The goal of this meeting was to further discuss the application of fees to plastic checkout bags

²³⁶⁸ Japan and African Development Bank announce \$3.5 billion in support of Africa’s development, RegionWeek (Burundi) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 05 April 2020. <https://regionweek.com/japan-and-african-development-bank-announce-3-5-billion-in-support-of-africas-development/>.

²³⁶⁹ Japan, AfDB Announce \$3.5 billion to Support Africa’s Private Sector Development, Liberian Observer (Monrovia) 02 September 2019. Access Date: 05 April 2020. <https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/japan-afdb-announce-3-5-billion-to-support-africas-private-sector-development/>.

²³⁷⁰ Additional fund investment for microfinance institutions targeting women's empowerment -Contributing to the improvement of financial access and poverty reduction for women in Asia-, Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 04 September 2019. Access Date: 06 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20190904_10_en.html.

²³⁷¹ Additional fund investment for microfinance institutions targeting women's empowerment -Contributing to the improvement of financial access and poverty reduction for women in Asia-, Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 04 September 2019. Access Date: 06 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20190904_10_en.html.

²³⁷² Japan donates 3 million dollars aid to Burundi Government, RegionWeek (Burundi) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 05 April 2020. <https://regionweek.com/japan-donates-3-million-dollars-aid-to-burundi-government/>.

²³⁷³ Japan donates 3 million dollars aid to Burundi Government, RegionWeek (Burundi) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 05 April 2020. <https://regionweek.com/japan-donates-3-million-dollars-aid-to-burundi-government/>.

²³⁷⁴ Carbon Recycling 3C Initiative, Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2019/pdf/0925_001.pdf.

²³⁷⁵ Carbon Recycling 3C Initiative, Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2019/pdf/0925_001.pdf.

²³⁷⁶ First Joint Meeting to be Held between: the Working Group for the Study for Introducing Fee-incurred Plastic Checkout Bags under the Waste and Recycling Subcommittee of the Committee on Industrial Science and Technology Policy and Environment of the Industrial Structure Council, METI; and the Subcommittee on the Study for Introducing Fee-incurred Plastic Checkout Bags of the Working Group for a Circular Economy of the Central Environment Council, MOE, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo), 19 September 2019. Access Date: December 11 2019. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2019/0919_002.html.

and to hold interviews with a wide variety of stakeholders including both consumers and companies involved in the distribution of such bags.²³⁷⁷

On 10 October 2019, Chair of the TCF Consortium and Professor at Hitotsubashi University Kunio Ito announced the Guidance for Utilizing Climate-related Information to promote Green Investment (Green Invest Guidance).²³⁷⁸ This effort aims to realize a “virtuous cycle of environment and growth.” The three basic approaches are to: (1) “promote constructive dialogue (engagement) with companies, leading to enhanced corporate value”; (2) “identify and assess the risks and opportunities posed by climate change”; (3) “promote innovation for decarbonization, and to create mechanisms for appropriate flow of funds.”²³⁷⁹

On 10 October 2019, JICA signed a grant agreement with the Government of Lao People’s Democratic Republic to provide aid of up to JPY1.9 billion for the Project for the Expansion of Water Supply System in Luang Prabang City.²³⁸⁰ The project will target the water purification plant and distribution facilities in Luang Prabang city and is expected to contribute to sustainable development through the establishment of a safe and stable water supply.²³⁸¹

On 31 October 2019, the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Japan Toshimitsu Motegi took part in the Joint Declaration on Cooperation in the Pacific Islands Region with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand Winston Peters.²³⁸² The declaration outlined the implementation of actions such as the Annual Japan-New Zealand Pacific Policy Dialogue and various projects in support of ocean conservation, preventing climate change, and promoting regional connectivity through airports, ports, and information and communication technology.²³⁸³

On 4 November 2019, Prime Minister Abe attended the 14th East Asia Summit and took part in the East Asian Summit Leaders’ Statement on Partnership for Sustainability.²³⁸⁴ This declaration required all affiliated countries to take actions towards goals such as to “enhance efforts at reducing poverty, promoting food and water security, [and] ensuring access to safe water and sanitation” as well as “collaboration on energy efficiency and conservation [and] promotion of renewable energy and effective use of all energy sources” among others.²³⁸⁵ In regards to these goals, Minister Abe

²³⁷⁷ First Joint Meeting to be Held between: the Working Group for the Study for Introducing Fee-incurring Plastic Checkout Bags under the Waste and Recycling Subcommittee of the Committee on Industrial Science and Technology Policy and Environment of the Industrial Structure Council, METI; and the Subcommittee on the Study for Introducing Fee-incurring Plastic Checkout Bags of the Working Group for a Circular Economy of the Central Environment Council, MOE, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo), 19 September 2019. Access Date: December 11 2019. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2019/0919_002.html.

²³⁷⁸ The Inaugural TCFD Summit Held in Japan, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2019/1010_004.html.

²³⁷⁹ The Inaugural TCFD Summit Held in Japan, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2019/1010_004.html.

²³⁸⁰ Signing of Grant Agreement with Laos: Contributing to the improvement of the urban environment through a stable water supply by expansion of the water supply system, Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 05 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191010_10_en.html.

²³⁸¹ Signing of Grant Agreement with Laos: Contributing to the improvement of the urban environment through a stable water supply by expansion of the water supply system, Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 05 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191010_10_en.html.

²³⁸² Japan-New Zealand Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) 31 October 2019. Access Date: 11 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002667.html.

²³⁸³ Japan-New Zealand Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) 31 October 2019. Access Date: 11 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002667.html.

²³⁸⁴ East Asian Summit Leaders’ Statement on Partnership for Sustainability, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/a_o/rp/page3e_001123.html.

²³⁸⁵ East Asian Summit Leaders’ Statement on Partnership for Sustainability, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/a_o/rp/page3e_001123.html.

specifically stated that Japan will “promote improvements in energy access and resilience, diversification of energy resources, and cleaner energy technologies.”²³⁸⁶

On 4 November 2019, Japan launched an initiative aimed at mobilizing USD3 billion from public and private sectors from 2020 to 2022, USD1.2 billion of which were specifically dedicated as an overseas loan and investment for ASEAN by JICA.²³⁸⁷ These funds will be targeted towards “quality infrastructure development, improving financial access and supporting women, and green investment.”²³⁸⁸

From 23-24 November 2019, Minister of the Environment of Japan Shinjiro Koizumi partook in the 21st Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM) with Minister of the Environment of Korea Cho Myungrae and Minister of Ecology and Environment of the People’s Republic of China Li Ganjie.²³⁸⁹ At the meeting, Minister Koizumi adopted the new priorities for the period from 2020-2024, including air quality improvement, transition to Green Economy, and marine and water environment management and pledged to work with the other ministers to develop the Tripartite Joint Action Plan around the aforementioned pillars.²³⁹⁰

On 25 November 2019, the Government of Japan provided humanitarian aid by way of emergency relief goods through the Japan International Cooperation Agency as well as further emergency assistance to the government of Djibouti, which was done in response to recent heavy rain and flood.²³⁹¹

On 26 November 2019, the Government of Japan implemented the International Disaster Relief Operation by a part of Self-Defense-Forces unit in response in the Gulf of Aden off the coast of Somalia.²³⁹² This was done in coordination with the government of Djibouti in response to the damage caused by recent heavy flooding in order to provide humanitarian aid.²³⁹³

On 27 November 2019, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Shuji Miyamoto met with Secretary of the Department of Energy, Philippines H.E. Alfonso G. Cusi in the First Government-Private Forum on Cleaner Energy Future Initiative for ASEAN (CEFIA) and

²³⁸⁶ The 14th East Asian Summit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/a_o/rp/page3e_001123.html.

²³⁸⁷ Foreign Policy Speech by Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu on the occasion of The 1st Tokyo Global Dialogue(provisional translation), Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) December 2 2019. Access Date: 11 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/pp/page3e_001133.html.

²³⁸⁸ Foreign Policy Speech by Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu on the occasion of The 1st Tokyo Global Dialogue(provisional translation), Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) December 2 2019. Access Date: 11 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/pp/page3e_001133.html.

²³⁸⁹ Joint Communiqué The 21st Tripartite Environment Ministers’ Meeting among Japan, Korea and China 23-24 November 2019, Kitakyushu Japan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) 24 November 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.env.go.jp/press/files/jp/112838.pdf>.

²³⁹⁰ Joint Communiqué The 21st Tripartite Environment Ministers’ Meeting among Japan, Korea and China 23-24 November 2019, Kitakyushu Japan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) 24 November 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.env.go.jp/press/files/jp/112838.pdf>.

²³⁹¹ Emergency Assistance to Djibouti in Response to the Heavy Rain and Flood Disaster, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) 26 November 2019. Access date: 10 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002708.html.

²³⁹² Dispatch of the Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Team (Japan Self-Defense Force Units) in Response to the Heavy Rain and Flood Disaster in Djibouti, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002709.html.

²³⁹³ Dispatch of the Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Team (Japan Self-Defense Force Units) in Response to the Heavy Rain and Flood Disaster in Djibouti, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002709.html.

confirmed future Japan-Philippines cooperation.²³⁹⁴ Specifically, this will be focused on certain subjects such as “improving electrification accessible by people on islands and low carbonization in the transport sector.”²³⁹⁵

On 10 December 2019, the Government of Japan extended Emergency Grant Aid of USD14 million to Syria in response to the humanitarian crisis in its north-eastern region.²³⁹⁶ The goal of the grant is to “provide humanitarian assistance in the areas of WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), health, provision of shelter, blankets and tents, and coordination through four international organizations.”²³⁹⁷

On 9 January 2020, the JICA signed a loan agreement with the Government of Indonesia for up to JPY27.97 billion for the Infrastructure Reconstruction Sector Loan.²³⁹⁸ The project is an extension of JICA’s ongoing work in Central Sulawesi after the 2018 earthquake and contributes to “rebuilding and constructing infrastructure based on the Build Back Better concept aiming at building disaster-resilient communities.”²³⁹⁹

On 21 January 2020, JICA signed loan agreements with with the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to support socioeconomic development through various infrastructure projects.²⁴⁰⁰

On 22 January 2020, with the support of JICA and the World Bank with funding from the Ministry of Finance of Japan, the Kenyan Ministry of Health launched the report of the Kenya Harmonised Health Facility Assessment, the Kenya Health Research Observatory, the Kenya Health Research Observatory, and Primary Healthcare Vital Statistics Profile.²⁴⁰¹ The new expansion of scope and real-time available health data is expected to facilitate the assessment and creation of feedback loops for programs put in place to support universal health coverage.²⁴⁰²

²³⁹⁴ METI Parliamentary Vice-Minister Miyamoto Attends the First CEFIA Government-Private Forum, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 11 December 2019. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2019/1128_001.html.

²³⁹⁵ METI Parliamentary Vice-Minister Miyamoto Attends the First CEFIA Government-Private Forum, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 11 December 2019. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2019/1128_001.html.

²³⁹⁶ Emergency Grant Aid in response to the humanitarian crisis in North-eastern Syria, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002726.html.

²³⁹⁷ Emergency Grant Aid in response to the humanitarian crisis in North-eastern Syria, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002726.html.

²³⁹⁸ Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Indonesia: Building disaster-resilient communities in Central Sulawesi by supporting infrastructure reconstruction, Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 05 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200108_10_en.html.

²³⁹⁹ Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Indonesia: Building disaster-resilient communities in Central Sulawesi by supporting infrastructure reconstruction, Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 05 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200108_10_en.html.

²⁴⁰⁰ Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreements with Myanmar: Comprehensive Support for Economic and Social Development, Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200121_10_en.html

²⁴⁰¹ Launch of the Report of the Kenya Harmonized Health Facility Assessment and the Kenya Health and Research Observatory, Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 05 April 2020. <https://www.jica.go.jp/kenya/english/office/topics/200122.html>.

²⁴⁰² Launch of the Report of the Kenya Harmonized Health Facility Assessment and the Kenya Health and Research Observatory, Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 05 April 2020. <https://www.jica.go.jp/kenya/english/office/topics/200122.html>.

On 10 February 2020, the JICA Digital Transformation Task Force co-hosted the Estonia-JICA Networking Seminar on Digital Ecosystem Building for International Development: Extending "Society 5.0 for SDGs" Beyond Borders with the Government of Estonia.²⁴⁰³ The objective of the event was to strengthen Estonian-Japanese stakeholder partnerships to “enhance digital transformation in developing countries through international cooperation.”²⁴⁰⁴

On 14 February 2020, JICA signed a loan agreement with the Republic of Ghana’s Cocoa Board for the provision of USD600 million in co-financing by development finance institutions and private financial institutions.²⁴⁰⁵ The JICA and Asian Development Bank, specifically, will jointly provide USD350 million from 2020-2022 in support of the development of Africa’s private sector.²⁴⁰⁶

On 19 February 2020, JICA signed a Limited Partnership Agreement to provide financing for “Women’s World Banking Capital Partners II,” a fund that will finance institutions who deliver financial services to women in developing countries.²⁴⁰⁷

On 21 February 2020, JICA signed a grant agreement with the Government of Vietnam for up to JPY1.882 billion for the Project for Trenchless Sewerage Pipe Rehabilitation.²⁴⁰⁸ The funds are expected to contribute to urgent development of urban environmental infrastructure.²⁴⁰⁹

On 24 February 2020, JICA signed a grant agreement with the Palestinian Authority to provide grant aid of up to JPY1.955 billion for the Project for the Improvement of Medical Equipment.²⁴¹⁰ The project aims to “strengthen the capacity for diagnosis and treatment of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) at core hospitals ... through the supply of medical equipment.”²⁴¹¹

On 27 February 2020, JICA signed a loan agreement with the Government of Kenya to provide a Japanese ODA loan of up to JPY37.09 billion for the Mombasa Economic Zone Development

²⁴⁰³ Estonia - JICA Networking Seminar on Digital Ecosystem Building for International Development: Extending "Society 5.0 for SDGs" Beyond Borders, Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 06 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2019/20200210_01.html.

²⁴⁰⁴ Estonia - JICA Networking Seminar on Digital Ecosystem Building for International Development: Extending "Society 5.0 for SDGs" Beyond Borders, Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 06 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2019/20200210_01.html.

²⁴⁰⁵ Signing of Loan Agreement for “Cocoa Value Chain Enhancement Project” in Ghana: Contributing to Enhancement of the Agricultural Value Chain and Related Industries, Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 21 February 2020. Access Date: 05 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200221_10_en.html.

²⁴⁰⁶ Signing of Loan Agreement for “Cocoa Value Chain Enhancement Project” in Ghana: Contributing to Enhancement of the Agricultural Value Chain and Related Industries, Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 21 February 2020. Access Date: 05 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200221_10_en.html.

²⁴⁰⁷ JICA Signs Limited Partnership Agreement to Support Women’s World Banking in Expanding Women’s Access to Financial Services and Contributing to Empowerment of Women in Developing Countries, Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200219_10_en.html.

²⁴⁰⁸ Signing of Grant Agreement with Viet Nam: Improvement of water environment by rehabilitating the old drainage and sewer pipes with the trenchless technology, Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 21 February 2020. Access Date: 06 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200221_12_en.html.

²⁴⁰⁹ Signing of Grant Agreement with Viet Nam: Improvement of water environment by rehabilitating the old drainage and sewer pipes with the trenchless technology, Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 21 February 2020. Access Date: 06 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200221_12_en.html.

²⁴¹⁰ Signing of Grant Agreement with Palestine: Contributing to the improvement of medical care services and health finance through the provision of medical equipment, Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 05 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200226_41.html.

²⁴¹¹ Signing of Grant Agreement with Palestine: Contributing to the improvement of medical care services and health finance through the provision of medical equipment, Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 05 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200226_41.html.

Project.²⁴¹² The objective of the project is to improve the investment environment of the area through the enhancement of transportation capacity and the stabilization of the power supply to the area.²⁴¹³

On 3 March 2020, Ambassador of Japan to the Federal Republic of Nigeria Yutaka Kikuta signed the Exchange of Notes with Country Representative for Nigeria Comfort Lamptey for approximately USD3.3 million in assistance for the Lake Chad region.²⁴¹⁴ The multi-year grant is expected to promote “gender equality and women’s empowerment across disaster risk reduction, humanitarian and peace and security with focus on promoting women’s leadership, livelihoods and protection from violence in conflict contexts amplified by climate change.”²⁴¹⁵

On 04 March 2020, Ambassador Kikuta and Nigeria’s Minister of State for Budget and National Planning Clem Agba signed an agreement for USD18.2 million from the Japanese government to strengthen the capacity of network laboratories of Nigeria Centre of Disease Control (NCDC).²⁴¹⁶ The funds are part of the commitments made by Prime Minister Abe at the TICAD 7 conference and are expected to “strengthen [NCDC’s] surveillance system of infectious diseases and improve capacities for early response to public concerns in the country” through the construction of new laboratories and procurement of new equipment.²⁴¹⁷

On 10 March 2020, the Government of Japan extended a total of USD23.7 million through the United Nations High Commission for Refugees to the Republic of Chad, Burkina Faso, the Republic of Niger, and the Republic of Mali as host communities in the Sahel region of refugees and internally displaced persons.²⁴¹⁸ The funds are expected to provide humanitarian assistance and the opportunity of education for displaced children.²⁴¹⁹

On 12 March 2020, Japanese Ambassador to Ghana Himeno Tsutomu and UNICEF representative in Ghana Anne-Claire Dufay signed a memorandum of understanding for the Project for Improving Nurturing Care through the use of Maternal and Child Health Record Book with Ghana’s Health Minister Kwaku Agyeman-Manu as witness.²⁴²⁰ The project will contribute to “the realisation of

²⁴¹² Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with the Republic of Kenya: Contributing to the establishment of a Special Economic Zone at Mombasa, a gateway to East Africa, Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 05 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200228_41.html.

²⁴¹³ Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with the Republic of Kenya: Contributing to the establishment of a Special Economic Zone at Mombasa, a gateway to East Africa, Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 05 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200228_41.html.

²⁴¹⁴ JAPAN EXTENDS GRANT AID OF USD 2.3 MILLION FOR SUPPORTING WOMEN AND GIRLS TO WITHSTAND CRISES, RECOVERY FROM THE IMPACT OF CRISES AND INCREASE THEIR RESILIENCE IN NIGERIA AND CAMEROON, Embassy of Japan in Nigeria (Abuja) 03 March 2020. Access Date: 06 April 2020. <https://www.ng.emb-japan.go.jp/files/100018832.pdf>.

²⁴¹⁵ Project: Strengthening Resilience Of Women And Girls Affected By Conflicts, Violent Extremism And Climate Change In The Lake Chad Region, United Nations Cameroon (Yaoundé) 05 March 2020. Access Date: 06 April 2020. <https://cameroon.un.org/en/36948-project-strengthening-resilience-women-and-girls-affected-conflicts-violent-extremism-and>.

²⁴¹⁶ FG, Japan sign \$18.2m agreement to strengthen NCDC labs, Pulse (Lekki) 04 March 2020. Access Date: 06 April 2020. <https://www.pulse.ng/news/local/fg-japan-sign-dollar182m-agreement-to-strengthen-ncdc-labs/3yvkd6b>.

²⁴¹⁷ FG, Japan sign \$18.2m agreement to strengthen NCDC labs, Pulse (Lekki) 04 March 2020. Access Date: 06 April 2020. <https://www.pulse.ng/news/local/fg-japan-sign-dollar182m-agreement-to-strengthen-ncdc-labs/3yvkd6b>.

²⁴¹⁸ Emergency Grant Aid in response to the humanitarian crisis in the Sahel region, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 06 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002744.html.

²⁴¹⁹ Emergency Grant Aid in response to the humanitarian crisis in the Sahel region, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 06 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002744.html.

²⁴²⁰ UNICEF, Japan Embassy sign MoU to improve maternal and child healthcare, Business Financial Times (Accra) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 05 April 2020. <https://thebftonline.com/2020/business/companies/unicef-japan-embassy-sign-mou-to-improve-maternal-and-child-healthcare/>.

Ghana's Universal Coverage roadmap and in addressing the remaining health and nutrition challenges facing young children and mothers."²⁴²¹

On 24 March 2020, JICA established the Facility for Accelerating Financial Inclusion in Asia, a credit line of up to USD500 million in order to "improve formal financial access mainly in the ASEAN regions, and of empowering women, low-income earners and micro, small and medium enterprises."²⁴²² The objective of the funding is to empower low-income earners by ensuring secure access to financing during the development of their businesses.²⁴²³

On 26 March 2020, the Government of Japan provided a total of USD3.2 million in donations to the World Food Programme (WFP) to support families in Syria against hunger and increase their food security through irrigation rehabilitation and emergency food assistance.²⁴²⁴

On 23 June 2020, the Government of Japan announced that it would extend Emergency Grant Aid of USD4.5 million in response to damages caused by locusts in South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda.²⁴²⁵ The grant was to provide humanitarian assistance in the area through the WFP in hopes of alleviating food crises caused by the damages.²⁴²⁶

On 30 June 2020, Japan released a statement expressing its disapproval of the enactment of the national security law in Hong Kong.²⁴²⁷ The government stated that it would continue to observe developments surrounding the law and try to ensure the continued activity and rights of Japanese people and companies in Hong Kong.²⁴²⁸

On 7 August 2020, the Government of Japan announced that it would provide emergency relief goods to Lebanon in response to the explosion in Beirut.²⁴²⁹ The relief was to be provided through the Japan International Cooperation Agency and would consist of tents, sleeping pads, blankets and other items.²⁴³⁰

²⁴²¹ UNICEF, Japan Embassy sign MoU to improve maternal and child healthcare, Business Financial Times (Accra) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 05 April 2020. <https://thebftonline.com/2020/business/companies/unicef-japan-embassy-sign-mou-to-improve-maternal-and-child-healthcare/>.

²⁴²² The establishment of "Facility for Accelerating Financial Inclusion in Asia (FAIA)" (Private Sector Investment and Finance): Improving financial access for developing Asian countries and promoting empowerment of women, low-income earners and micro, small and medium enterprises, Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 06 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200327_10_en.html.

²⁴²³ Japan contributions support WFP food assistance in Syria, World Food Programme (Rome) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 05 April 2020. <https://www.wfp.org/news/japan-contributions-support-wfp-food-assistance-syria>.

²⁴²⁴ Japan contributions support WFP food assistance in Syria, World Food Programme (Rome) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 05 April 2020. <https://www.wfp.org/news/japan-contributions-support-wfp-food-assistance-syria>.

²⁴²⁵ Emergency Grant Aid in response to the damage caused by desert locusts in South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002847.html

²⁴²⁶ Emergency Grant Aid in response to the damage caused by desert locusts in South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002847.html

²⁴²⁷ The Situation surrounding Hong Kong, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/danwa/press6e_000230.html

²⁴²⁸ The Situation surrounding Hong Kong, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/danwa/press6e_000230.html

²⁴²⁹ Emergency Assistance to Lebanon in Response to the explosion in Beirut, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 7 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002876.html

²⁴³⁰ Emergency Assistance to Lebanon in Response to the explosion in Beirut, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 7 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002876.html

On 7 August 2020, the Government of Japan extended USD4.8 million in Emergency Grant Aid to help individuals who became refugees due to deteriorated security conditions and the host communities of these people in Burkina Faso, Chad and Niger.²⁴³¹ The grant is to provide humanitarian assistance through various aid organizations and to help alleviate the impact of COVID-19 in this situation through supporting the health sector.²⁴³²

On 11 August 2020, Japan released a statement expressing concern over clashes in Minsk following the Belarusian presidential election. The government urged the authorities of Belarus to “ensure principles of democracy and refrain from acts of violence.”

On 19 August 2020, Japan condemned the arrest of the Malian president and the coup led by soldiers in Mali.²⁴³³ Japan called on parties involved in the unrest in Mali to restore constitutional order, halt violence and work on a peaceful solution to the current unrest.²⁴³⁴

Japan has taken action to support both the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through their aid and contributions to green initiatives and development projects. These actions contribute to the African Union Agenda 2063, as they are in partnerships with members of the African Union. Specifically, Japan has made multiple official development assistance grants to African countries and has consistently shared new Japanese technology in order to further accelerate and facilitate the achievement of the seven key aspirations of the 2030 Agenda.

Thus, Japan is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Yu Xin (Daisy) Liu

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitments to multiple sustainable development actions that achieve the goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and takes actions that support the African Union Agenda 2063.

On 30 August 2019, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced GBP14 billion funding package for primary and secondary education between from 2019 to 2023, beginning with GBP2.6 billion for the 2020/21 year in order to guarantee quality education as a right to the youth.²⁴³⁵ This funding package ensures that every secondary school will receive a minimum of GBP5,000 per pupil starting 2019/20 year. In addition, the package includes GBP700 million extra for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in 2020/21.²⁴³⁶

On 10 September 2019, the Head of Office for the UK’s Department of International Development (DFID) signed an agreement with the government of Somaliland and Denmark to support the

²⁴³¹ Emergency Grant Aid in response to the humanitarian crisis in Burkina Faso, Chad and Niger, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 7 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002875.html

²⁴³² Emergency Grant Aid in response to the humanitarian crisis in Burkina Faso, Chad and Niger, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 7 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002875.html

²⁴³³ The Situation in the Republic of Mali, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 19 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002882.html

²⁴³⁴ The Situation in the Republic of Mali, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 19 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002882.html

²⁴³⁵ Prime Minister boosts schools with £14 billion package, Government of UK (London) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 1 Dec 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-boosts-schools-with-14-billion-package>

²⁴³⁶ Prime Minister boosts schools with £14 billion package, Government of UK (London) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 1 Dec 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-boosts-schools-with-14-billion-package>

implementation of Phase II of the Somaliland Development Fund programme, which aims to improve lives of local people through the delivery of essential public services, through building of critical infrastructure, such as roads, water systems and agricultural facilities, and capacity-building within Somaliland's institutions.²⁴³⁷ The UK and Somaliland also signed a renewed Memorandum of Understanding to support the implementation of the Energy Security and Resource Efficiency in Somaliland Programme that aims to provide a clean, affordable renewable energy in Somaliland.²⁴³⁸

On 17 September 2019, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and International Development Minister Baroness Sugg announced a new UK aid of GBP220 million at the Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) NGO [Non-governmental Organization] Network Conference.²⁴³⁹ The aid aims to tackle five NTDs, lymphatic filariasis (also known as elephantiasis); onchocerciasis; schistosomiasis; visceral leishmaniasis and trachoma, which can cause disability, death and disfigurement and trap victims in a cycle of poverty, across Southern and Eastern Africa, and South Asia.²⁴⁴⁰

On 23 September 2019, Prime Minister Johnson announced the United Nations General Assembly to double the UK's international climate finance (ICF) funds.²⁴⁴¹ The ICF refers to UK aid to poorer countries to address the causes of climate change, such as preventing deforestation and reducing carbon emissions, and to deliberate its repercussions, such as developing climate-resilient crops or implementing early-warning systems in areas vulnerable to flooding.²⁴⁴² Prime Minister Johnson launched the Ayrton Fund as part of the ICF, which offers GBP1 billion of aid to British scientists to develop technologies that can help the poorer countries to reduce emissions and meet global climate change targets.²⁴⁴³

On 23 September 2019, Prime Minister Johnson announced GBP100 million investment in the new Bio-diverse Landscapes Fund to slow, stop, and reverse biodiversity loss in some of the world's most valuable habitats such as forests and mangroves.²⁴⁴⁴

On 24 September 2019, Prime Minister Johnson announced GBP515 million to fund quality education for 12 million children – half of them girls – to improve women's rights in some of the poorest countries in the world.²⁴⁴⁵

²⁴³⁷ British government signs agreements worth £31 million to support development in Somaliland, Government of UK (London) 11 September. Access Date: 1 Dec 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/british-government-signs-agreements-worth-31m-to-support-development-in-somaliland>

²⁴³⁸ British government signs agreements worth £31 million to support development in Somaliland, Government of UK (London) 11 September. Access Date: 1 Dec 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/british-government-signs-agreements-worth-31m-to-support-development-in-somaliland>

²⁴³⁹ New UK aid support to protect 200 million people from debilitating diseases, Government of UK (London) 17 September 2019. Access Date: 1 Dec 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-aid-support-to-protect-200-million-people-from-debilitating-diseases>

²⁴⁴⁰ New UK aid support to protect 200 million people from debilitating diseases, Government of UK (London) 17 September 2019. Access Date: 1 Dec 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-aid-support-to-protect-200-million-people-from-debilitating-diseases>

²⁴⁴¹ UK aid to double efforts to tackle climate change, Government of UK (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 1 Dec 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-double-efforts-to-tackle-climate-change>

²⁴⁴² UK aid to double efforts to tackle climate change, Government of UK (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 1 Dec 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-double-efforts-to-tackle-climate-change>

²⁴⁴³ UK aid to double efforts to tackle climate change, Government of UK (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 1 Dec 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-double-efforts-to-tackle-climate-change>

²⁴⁴⁴ Prime Minister announces ambitious package of support to protect and restore the world's forests, Government of UK (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-announces-ambitious-package-of-support-to-protect-and-restore-the-worlds-forests>

On 27 September 2019, International Development Secretary Alok Sharma announced a UK aid package will help mobilise GBP500 million in private sector investment and create 50,000 jobs across sub-Saharan Africa to give 12.5 million people across Africa better access to financial services, with a specific focus on providing benefits to women.²⁴⁴⁶

On 15 October 2019, the UK government introduced a new environment bill to create a framework for legally binding targets, to move towards a circular resource and waste economy, and to improve air quality, water service, green space, and waste management.²⁴⁴⁷

On 1 November 2019, Chancellor of the Exchequer Sajid Javid announced GBP250 million in funding for the Housing Infrastructure Fund to ensure over 20 000 new homes nationwide have access to the vital infrastructure they need.²⁴⁴⁸

On 5 November 2019, Secretary Sharma pledged UK aid support to help vaccinate more than 400 million children a year against polio, with up to GBP400 million funded through the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.²⁴⁴⁹

On 16 January 2020, Secretary Sharma committed GBP 3.5 million in aid for women's economic empower to extend the SheTrades Commonwealth Programme from the Department for International Development.²⁴⁵⁰ As an initiative of the international Trade Center (ITC), a joint agency of the United Nations and World Trade Organization, the SheTrades Programme supports African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets, creates up to 3,000 jobs in female-run businesses, and empowers women in Ghana, Nigeria, and Kenya.²⁴⁵¹

On 20 January 2020, Secretary Sharma announced that the UK is partnering with five African countries to mobilize private sector investment in quality, environmentally-friendly infrastructure projects with low carbon emissions and projects that will be resilient to a changing climate.²⁴⁵²

On 22 January 2020, DFID provided GBP3 million to the United Nations World Food Programme to help improve food security of Burundian refugees in Mahama Camp in Eastern Rwanda.²⁴⁵³

²⁴⁴⁵ PM steps up UK effort to get every girl in the world into school, Government of UK (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 1 Dec 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-effort-to-get-every-girl-in-the-world-into-school>

²⁴⁴⁶ UK aid to boost access to finance for sub-Saharan Africa, Government of UK (London) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 1 Dec 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-boost-access-to-finance-for-sub-saharan-africa>

²⁴⁴⁷ Environment Bill 2019, Government of UK (London) 15 October 2019. Access Date: 7 Dec 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-bill-2019>

²⁴⁴⁸ Infrastructure revolution to unlock thousands of new homes, Government of UK (London) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 14 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/infrastructure-revolution-to-unlock-thousands-of-new-homes>

²⁴⁴⁹ UK Aid to help vaccinate more than 400 million children a year against polio, Government of UK (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 14 Dec 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-help-vaccinate-more-than-400-million-children-a-year-against-polio>

²⁴⁵⁰ UK Aid Boosts Support for African Women Entrepreneurs to Expand Businesses into Global Markets, Government of UK (London) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-boosts-support-for-african-women-entrepreneurs-to-expand-businesses-into-global-markets>

²⁴⁵¹ UK Aid Boosts Support for African Women Entrepreneurs to Expand Businesses into Global Markets, Government of UK (London) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-boosts-support-for-african-women-entrepreneurs-to-expand-businesses-into-global-markets>

²⁴⁵² International Development Secretary launches new venture to create rich pipeline of infrastructure projects across Africa, Government of UK (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-development-secretary-launches-new-venture-to-create-rich-pipeline-of-infrastructure-projects-across-africa>

On 3 March 2020, International Development Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan announced a new GBP89 million UK aid package to help protect people at increasing risk of violence as the conflict in Syria escalates.²⁴⁵⁴ This package will provide basic necessities, facilities to protect women and girls from sexual attacks, emergency access to education facilities, emergency obstetric care, and access to contraception and ‘dignity kits’ for girls, pregnant women, and new mothers.²⁴⁵⁵

On 11 March 2020, the UK government pledged up to GBP150 million of UK aid towards the International Monetary Fund’s Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT) to help developing countries mitigate economic challenges caused by coronavirus.²⁴⁵⁶ Eligible countries will receive support if they experience severe decline in national income or government revenues as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.²⁴⁵⁷

On 15 May 2020, the United Kingdom announced new COVID-19 response services for developing countries to help mitigate the impact of the virus on international trade.²⁴⁵⁸ The first service is through the Trade and Investment Advocacy Fund to help eligible countries better understand the trade impacts of coronavirus and engage with World Trade Organization measures and meetings.²⁴⁵⁹ Additionally, the UK will help countries tackle this crisis by facilitating trade through the World Bank Trade Facilitation Support Programme.²⁴⁶⁰

On 25 June 2020, the government of the United Kingdom announced that it would help Sudan rebuild its economy and “take the next steps towards establishing peace and democracy.”²⁴⁶¹ The Minister for Africa also announced an investment of GBP150 million to help with economic reform, stabilizing inflation and relieving poverty.²⁴⁶²

²⁴⁵³ UK Aid Contributes GBP3 Million to Help Feed Burundian Refugees in Rwanda, Government of UK (London) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-contributes-3-million-to-help-feed-burundian-refugees-in-rwanda>

²⁴⁵⁴ UK Aid Protects Victims of Violence as Syrian Regime increases Attacks in Idlib, Government of UK (London) 4 March 2020. Access Date 8 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-protects-victims-of-violence-as-syrian-regime-increases-attacks-in-idlib>

²⁴⁵⁵ UK Aid Protects Victims of Violence as Syrian Regime increases Attacks in Idlib, Government of UK (London) 4 March 2020. Access Date 8 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-protects-victims-of-violence-as-syrian-regime-increases-attacks-in-idlib>

²⁴⁵⁶ UK Helps World’s Poorest Countries Withstand the Economic Disruption of Coronavirus, Government of UK (London) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-helps-worlds-poorest-countries-withstand-the-economic-shock-of-coronavirus>

²⁴⁵⁷ UK Helps World’s Poorest Countries Withstand the Economic Disruption of Coronavirus, Government of UK (London) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-helps-worlds-poorest-countries-withstand-the-economic-shock-of-coronavirus>

²⁴⁵⁸ The United Kingdom announces two COVID-19 response services for eligible developing countries to help combat the impact of the virus on international trade, UK Mission to the WTO (London) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-united-kingdom-announces-two-covid-19-response-services-for-eligible-developing-countries-to-help-combat-the-impact-of-the-virus-on-international>

²⁴⁵⁹ The United Kingdom announces two COVID-19 response services for eligible developing countries to help combat the impact of the virus on international trade, UK Mission to the WTO (London) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-united-kingdom-announces-two-covid-19-response-services-for-eligible-developing-countries-to-help-combat-the-impact-of-the-virus-on-international>

²⁴⁶⁰ The United Kingdom announces two COVID-19 response services for eligible developing countries to help combat the impact of the virus on international trade, UK Mission to the WTO (London) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-united-kingdom-announces-two-covid-19-response-services-for-eligible-developing-countries-to-help-combat-the-impact-of-the-virus-on-international>

²⁴⁶¹ The UK commits to support Sudan’s future, Department for International Development (London) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-commits-to-support-sudans-future>

²⁴⁶² The UK commits to support Sudan’s future, Department for International Development (London) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-commits-to-support-sudans-future>

On 30 June 2020, the United Kingdom pledged at least GBP300 million to “support vulnerable Syrians with education, healthcare, food and economic recovery.”²⁴⁶³ The funding is also intended to help stop the spread of the coronavirus by supporting the health system and working through training, medical supplies and sanitation.²⁴⁶⁴

On 4 August 2020, the United Kingdom announced an aid package to help control locust swarms in East Africa, Yemen and South West Asia.²⁴⁶⁵ In response to the growing locust swarms, Secretary Trevelyan announced KES2.5 billion in aid, which will be used on spraying for locusts, controlling the increase of locusts and improving early warning and forecasting systems for locusts.²⁴⁶⁶

On 9 August 2020, the United Kingdom announced an aid package of GBP20 million to help provide food to people in Lebanon affected by the Beirut explosion.²⁴⁶⁷ This aid was in addition to GBP5 million that was put towards the response by the UK for the emergency relief effort.²⁴⁶⁸

On 19 August 2020, the United Kingdom sent a team of experts to Mauritius to help the country’s response to an oil spill.²⁴⁶⁹ The team was sent to assess the scale of the damage and help Mauritius to identify the best ways to restore and protect its coastline.²⁴⁷⁰

The United Kingdom has complied with its commitments to multiple sustainable development actions that achieve the goals outlined in the 2030 agenda and takes actions that support the African Union Agenda 2063, in the economic, social, and environmental aspects of the goals.

Thus, the United Kingdom has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Hillary (Hyunji) Song

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to uphold the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals while supporting the African Union’s Agenda 2063.

²⁴⁶³ UK pledges support for Syrians facing twin threat of conflict and coronavirus, Department for International Development (London) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-pledges-support-for-syrians-facing-twin-threat-of-conflict-and-coronavirus>

²⁴⁶⁴ UK pledges support for Syrians facing twin threat of conflict and coronavirus, Department for International Development (London) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-pledges-support-for-syrians-facing-twin-threat-of-conflict-and-coronavirus>

²⁴⁶⁵ New UK support to tackle devastating locust swarms in East Africa, British High Commission Nairobi (Nairobi) 4 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-support-to-tackle-devastating-locust-swarms-in-east-africa>

²⁴⁶⁶ New UK support to tackle devastating locust swarms in East Africa, British High Commission Nairobi (Nairobi) 4 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-support-to-tackle-devastating-locust-swarms-in-east-africa>

²⁴⁶⁷ UK pledges more aid for Beirut crisis at global summit, Department for International Development (London) 9 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-pledges-more-aid-for-beirut-crisis-at-global-summit>

²⁴⁶⁸ UK pledges more aid for Beirut crisis at global summit, Department for International Development (London) 9 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-pledges-more-aid-for-beirut-crisis-at-global-summit>

²⁴⁶⁹ British experts help Mauritius protect coral reefs from oil spill, Department for International Development (London) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/british-experts-help-mauritius-protect-coral-reefs-from-oil-spill>

²⁴⁷⁰ British experts help Mauritius protect coral reefs from oil spill, Department for International Development (London) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/british-experts-help-mauritius-protect-coral-reefs-from-oil-spill>

On 5 September 2019, Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan met with the Argentine Foreign Minister Jorge Faurie to discuss their shared interest in women’s empowerment and small business promotion.²⁴⁷¹ Minister Faurie welcomed the Overseas Private Investment Corporation approval of USD400 million in financing to restore and expand the Corredor C Toll Road, an “essential trade route for Argentina’s economy.”²⁴⁷²

On 25 September 2019, the United States and the LEGO Foundation announced joint contributions of USD24.5 million to the global fund Education Cannot Wait (ECW). ECW aims to provide “safe, free and quality education to crisis-affected youth.”²⁴⁷³ Through the partnership with the LEGO Foundation, the United States committed USD12 million and the LEGO Foundation provided a private-sector match of USD12.5 million.²⁴⁷⁴

On 3 November 2019, the State Department announced the formation of the Indo-Pacific Transparency Fund as a part of the Indo-Pacific Transparency Initiative that had been created in November 2018.²⁴⁷⁵ The Transparency Fund will support “projects that promote the rule of law, civic space, and transparent and accountable governance in the advancement of a shared vision of an Indo-Pacific that is secure, open, inclusive, and rules-based.”²⁴⁷⁶

On 20 February 2020, the White House, State Department and US African Development Foundation announced funding for the Academy for Women entrepreneurs.²⁴⁷⁷ In 2020, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs plans on doubling the size of the program, which is aimed at economically empowering women in the developing world. The additional USD10 million in funding will “provide select AWE graduates in Africa with seed funding to start and scale their enterprises.”²⁴⁷⁸

On 4 June 2020, the United States announced USD194 million in new assistance to aid in the global pandemic response.²⁴⁷⁹ This funding included USD180 million to support the purchase of ventilators

²⁴⁷¹ Deputy Secretary Sullivan’s Meeting with Argentine Foreign Minister Faurie, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 6 September 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.state.gov/deputy-secretary-sullivans-meeting-with-argentine-foreign-minister-faurie-2/>

²⁴⁷² Deputy Secretary Sullivan’s Meeting with Argentine Foreign Minister Faurie, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 6 September 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.state.gov/deputy-secretary-sullivans-meeting-with-argentine-foreign-minister-faurie-2/>

²⁴⁷³ The U.S. Government and The LEGO Foundation Join Hands to Support Education Cannot Wait, USAID (Washington, D.C.) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.edu-links.org/announcements/us-government-and-lego-foundation-support-education-cannot-wait>

²⁴⁷⁴ The U.S. Government and The LEGO Foundation Join Hands to Support Education Cannot Wait, USAID (Washington, D.C.) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.edu-links.org/announcements/us-government-and-lego-foundation-support-education-cannot-wait>

²⁴⁷⁵ Indo-Pacific Transparency Initiative, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 3 November 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.state.gov/indo-pacific-transparency-initiative/>

²⁴⁷⁶ Indo-Pacific Transparency Initiative, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 3 November 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.state.gov/indo-pacific-transparency-initiative/>

²⁴⁷⁷ White House, State Department, and U.S. African Development Foundation Announce Funding for the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. <https://www.state.gov/white-house-state-department-and-u-s-african-development-foundation-announce-funding-for-the-academy-for-women-entrepreneurs/>

²⁴⁷⁸ White House, State Department, and U.S. African Development Foundation Announce Funding for the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. <https://www.state.gov/white-house-state-department-and-u-s-african-development-foundation-announce-funding-for-the-academy-for-women-entrepreneurs/>

²⁴⁷⁹ Fulfilling the President’s Generous Commitment to Provide Critical Medical Supplies Across the Globe, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.state.gov/fulfilling-the-presidents-generous-commitment-to-provide-critical-medical-supplies-across-the-globe/>

and another USD14 million in humanitarian assistance to support refugees, vulnerable migrants and host communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁴⁸⁰

On 24 June 2020, the United States announced its intent to provide USD252 million in foreign assistance to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.²⁴⁸¹ This aid is intended to help make the countries “more secure and prosperous by enabling private sector-led economic opportunity and provide critical, lifesaving assistance.”²⁴⁸²

On 30 June 2020, at the Brussels Conference on “Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region,” Ambassador James Jeffery announced USD696 million in humanitarian assistance to Syria.²⁴⁸³ This funding is to aid in providing “food, nutrition, education, medical care, livelihoods, safe drinking water” and other essential services to Syrians in need.²⁴⁸⁴

On 5 August 2020, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced USD53 million in humanitarian and economic assistance to help countries fight COVID-19 around the world.²⁴⁸⁵ This assistance is both to help enhance the ability of countries to provide basic necessities to their citizens and to help address the second order effects of the pandemic in sectors such as democracy, human rights, trade and agriculture.²⁴⁸⁶

On 7 August 2020, the Department of State released a statement outlining their humanitarian response to the explosion in Beirut.²⁴⁸⁷ The United States pledged over USD17 million in disaster aid for Lebanon, which was in addition to USD41.6 million previously given for COVID response.²⁴⁸⁸

On 9 August 2020, in a joint statement with other world leaders, the United States expressed concern over Hong Kong’s unjust disqualification of candidates and postponement of Legislative Council

²⁴⁸⁰ Fulfilling the President’s Generous Commitment to Provide Critical Medical Supplies Across the Globe, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.state.gov/fulfilling-the-presidents-generous-commitment-to-provide-critical-medical-supplies-across-the-globe/>

²⁴⁸¹ United States Provides Additional U.S. Foreign Assistance for El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.state.gov/united-states-provides-additional-u-s-foreign-assistance-for-el-salvador-guatemala-and-honduras/>

²⁴⁸² United States Provides Additional U.S. Foreign Assistance for El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.state.gov/united-states-provides-additional-u-s-foreign-assistance-for-el-salvador-guatemala-and-honduras/>

²⁴⁸³ The United States Announces Additional Humanitarian Assistance for the Syrian People, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-announces-additional-humanitarian-assistance-for-the-syrian-people/>

²⁴⁸⁴ The United States Announces Additional Humanitarian Assistance for the Syrian People, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-announces-additional-humanitarian-assistance-for-the-syrian-people/>

²⁴⁸⁵ U.S. Economic and Humanitarian Assistance Boost U.S. Leadership in Continued Global COVID-19 Response Efforts, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 5 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-economic-and-humanitarian-assistance-boost-u-s-leadership-in-continued-global-covid-19-response-efforts/>

²⁴⁸⁶ U.S. Economic and Humanitarian Assistance Boost U.S. Leadership in Continued Global COVID-19 Response Efforts, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 5 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-economic-and-humanitarian-assistance-boost-u-s-leadership-in-continued-global-covid-19-response-efforts/>

²⁴⁸⁷ U.S. Government Response to the Explosion in Beirut, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 7 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-government-response-to-the-explosion-in-beirut/>

²⁴⁸⁸ U.S. Government Response to the Explosion in Beirut, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 7 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-government-response-to-the-explosion-in-beirut/>

elections.²⁴⁸⁹ The countries also expressed concern over the new National Security Law and its impact on Hong Kong people's fundamental rights.²⁴⁹⁰

On 10 August 2020, the Department of State released a statement expressing concern over the presidential elections in Belarus.²⁴⁹¹ The department condemned the lack of free elections and the violence against protesters, and called on the Belarusian government to respect the rights of its people and their protests.²⁴⁹²

On August 19 2020, the Department of State released a statement condemning the military coup in Mali.²⁴⁹³ They joined other international partners in calling for political and military actors to work towards a restoration of constitutional government.²⁴⁹⁴

The United States taken some action to implement the 2030 Agenda and support the Africa 2063 Agenda through its support of women's economic empowerment in Africa, but has failed to adequately fulfill all dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thus, the United State has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Alexandra Johnston

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to address global challenges, in line with Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda and taking into account the African Union Agenda 2063.

On 25 September 2019, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica committed EUR60 million to assist the Central African Republic implement its peace plan and re-establish basic services for its population.²⁴⁹⁵

On 3 October 2019, the European Commission committed EUR27.5 million to assist Senegal with renewable energy projects and sustainable economic development.²⁴⁹⁶ The programmes aims to support development of renewable energies; and support technical cooperation to improve the implementation fo EU cooperation programmes.²⁴⁹⁷

²⁴⁸⁹ Joint Statement on the Erosion of Rights in Hong Kong, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 9 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.state.gov/joint-statement-on-the-erosion-of-rights-in-hong-kong/>

²⁴⁹⁰ Joint Statement on the Erosion of Rights in Hong Kong, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 9 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.state.gov/joint-statement-on-the-erosion-of-rights-in-hong-kong/>

²⁴⁹¹ Presidential Elections in Belarus, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 10 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.state.gov/presidential-elections-in-belarus/>

²⁴⁹² Presidential Elections in Belarus, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 10 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.state.gov/presidential-elections-in-belarus/>

²⁴⁹³ Mutiny in Mali, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 19 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.state.gov/mutiny-in-mali/>

²⁴⁹⁴ Mutiny in Mali, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 19 August 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. <https://www.state.gov/mutiny-in-mali/>

²⁴⁹⁵ Central African Republic: EU mobilises additional 60 million euros, European Commission (Brussels) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_19_5813

²⁴⁹⁶ The European Union is strengthening its partnership with Senegal with €27.5 million, European Commission (Brussels) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_19_5980

²⁴⁹⁷ The European Union is strengthening its partnership with Senegal with €27.5 million, European Commission (Brussels) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_19_5980

On 27 October 2019, Commissioner Mimica committed EUR53 million to support health care services in Zimbabwe and to promote equal access to health services, especially from a gender perspective.²⁴⁹⁸ Additionally, the new package will also support households and communities that are facing recurrent environmental and economic stresses by building their capacities to respond to food and nutrition security shocks.²⁴⁹⁹

On 6 November 2019, the European Commission adopted an EUR79 million aid package to support development in Yemen.²⁵⁰⁰ The package will help Yemeni communities such as local councils to improve health services, access to drinking water and food, primary and hospital care sanitation and invest in education.²⁵⁰¹ It will also stimulate the private sector, especially small-scale economic actors, for example in the sector of agri-businesses.²⁵⁰²

On 1 December 2019, European Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen committed EUR50 million to assist the Democratic Republic of Congo fight Ebola and malnutrition.²⁵⁰³ The bulk of the funding will provide access to free and quality health care, including for malnutrition, for those living in Ebola affected areas. The remaining amount will help tackle the food security crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo.²⁵⁰⁴

On 6 December 2019, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen committed EUR170 million to assist Ethiopia improve healthcare and create sustainable investment and jobs.²⁵⁰⁵ This funding will aim to support key economic reforms in the transport and logistic sectors, support the Government of Ethiopia's Health Transformation Plan for three additional years, support accountability and transparency during the 2020 elections in Ethiopia, and improve the business climate in the country.²⁵⁰⁶

²⁴⁹⁸ EU to step up its support to Zimbabwe with a new package of €53 million, European Commission (Brussels) 27 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/eu-step-its-support-zimbabwe-new-package-eu53-million_en

²⁴⁹⁹ EU to step up its support to Zimbabwe with a new package of €53 million, European Commission (Brussels) 27 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/eu-step-its-support-zimbabwe-new-package-eu53-million_en

²⁵⁰⁰ EU supports Yemen with €79 million to sustain public services and generate job opportunities, European Commission (Brussels) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/eu-supports-yemen-eu79-million-sustain-public-services-and-generate-job_en

²⁵⁰¹ EU supports Yemen with €79 million to sustain public services and generate job opportunities, European Commission (Brussels) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/eu-supports-yemen-eu79-million-sustain-public-services-and-generate-job_en

²⁵⁰² EU supports Yemen with €79 million to sustain public services and generate job opportunities, European Commission (Brussels) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/eu-supports-yemen-eu79-million-sustain-public-services-and-generate-job_en

²⁵⁰³ EU allocates €50 million to fight Ebola and malnutrition in the Democratic Republic of Congo, European Commission (Brussels) 1 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6653

²⁵⁰⁴ EU allocates €50 million to fight Ebola and malnutrition in the Democratic Republic of Congo, European Commission (Brussels) 1 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6653

²⁵⁰⁵ EU strengthens cooperation with Ethiopia, European Commission (Brussels) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6679

²⁵⁰⁶ EU strengthens cooperation with Ethiopia, European Commission (Brussels) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6679

On 8 December 2019, Commissioner Urpilainen committed EUR31 million to assist Kenya create jobs, promote economic stability, and tackle poverty.²⁵⁰⁷ The funding will be directed at reforms of Kenya's public finances to promote economic stability, improve service delivery and tackle poverty, and will target economic cooperation and national policy reforms.²⁵⁰⁸

On 18 December 2020, the European Commission committed EUR30 million for the “AfricaConnect” project, which seeks to provide affordable high-speed internet across Africa for education and research.²⁵⁰⁹

On 22 January 2020, Commissioner Urpilainen committed EUR216 million to support renewable energy, urban infrastructure, and start-up firm in Africa, in partnership with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the European Investment Bank.²⁵¹⁰

On 4 February 2020, European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevičius committed EUR75 million to the “BlueInvest Fund,” which provides financing to businesses involved in maritime renewable energy and sustainable seafood.²⁵¹¹

On 17 February 2020, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission Frans Timmermans committed EUR101.2 million for environmental and climate projects in Cyprus, Estonia, France, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Slovakia, Czechia, and Spain.²⁵¹²

On 17 March 2020, European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms committed EUR1.4 billion for infrastructure projects in Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Romania, and Spain.²⁵¹³ These infrastructure projects collectively demonstrate commitments preserving the environment, combating climate change, and creating employment and economic growth.²⁵¹⁴

On 29 May 2020, the European Union announced a grant of EUR50.8 million to help Mongolia's efforts to boost employment and improve transparency in public finances.²⁵¹⁵ An upfront

²⁵⁰⁷ EU steps up economic partnership with Kenya to boost job creation, European Commission (Brussels) 8 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/eu-steps-economic-partnership-kenya-boost-job-creation_en

²⁵⁰⁸ EU steps up economic partnership with Kenya to boost job creation, European Commission (Brussels) 8 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/eu-steps-economic-partnership-kenya-boost-job-creation_en

²⁵⁰⁹ Africa-Europe Alliance: EU boosts pan-African Internet connectivity with €30 million, European Commission (Brussels) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6789

²⁵¹⁰ Africa-Europe Alliance: Four new financial guarantees worth €216 million signed under the EU External Investment Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_96

²⁵¹¹ European Commission and European Investment Fund launch €75 million BlueInvest Fund, European Commission (Brussels) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_167

²⁵¹² EU invests more than €100 million in new LIFE Programme projects to promote a green and climate-neutral Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_251

²⁵¹³ EU Cohesion Policy invests over €1.4 billion in green projects in 7 Member States, European Commission (Brussels) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_462

²⁵¹⁴ EU Cohesion Policy invests over €1.4 billion in green projects in 7 Member States, European Commission (Brussels) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_462

²⁵¹⁵ EU supports Mongolia in boosting employment and transparency amid COVID-19 pandemic, European Commission (Ulaanbaatar) 29 May 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/eu-supports-mongolia-boosting-employment-and-transparency-amid-covid-19-pandemic_en

disbursement of EUR16 million will be given to support the efforts of the Mongolian government in addressing the socio-economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.²⁵¹⁶

On 4 June 2020, the European Commission announced a pledge of EUR300 million to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.²⁵¹⁷ This money will be used from 2021 to 2025 to help immunise 300 million children around the world and finance vaccine stockpiles to shield against outbreaks of infectious diseases.²⁵¹⁸

On 17 June 2020, the European Union announced a EUR60 million to help address the health and socio-economic impact of COVID-19 and coordinate a national response in the Horn of Africa.²⁵¹⁹ The funding will focus on helping vulnerable groups and delivering medical supplies. The program will also help ensure that borders and supply chains are safe for trade.²⁵²⁰

On 18 June 2020, the European Commission decided to grant EUR54 million to the Central African Republic to aid in public expenditure affected by the fight against COVID-19.²⁵²¹ The aid will be used in two budget programmes that will help consolidate the State and reform the security and governance sector.²⁵²²

On 8 July 2020, the European Union mobilized EUR15 million to address the impacts of the locust outbreaks in East Africa.²⁵²³ The funding will go towards the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization's response plan and support broader development and humanitarian assistance in the region.²⁵²⁴

On 17 July 2020, the European Union announced a EU10.4 million program “to promote digital solutions to fight the coronavirus pandemic and to improve the resilience of health and education

²⁵¹⁶ EU supports Mongolia in boosting employment and transparency amid COVID-19 pandemic, European Commission (Ulaanbaatar) 29 May 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/eu-supports-mongolia-boosting-employment-and-transparency-amid-covid-19-pandemic_en

²⁵¹⁷ Coronavirus Global Response: European Commission pledges 300 million to Gavi, European Commission (Brussels) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/coronavirus-global-response-european-commission-pledges-eu300-million-gavi_en

²⁵¹⁸ Coronavirus Global Response: European Commission pledges 300 million to Gavi, European Commission (Brussels) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/coronavirus-global-response-european-commission-pledges-eu300-million-gavi_en

²⁵¹⁹ Coronavirus: EU supports with 60 million a regional response to the pandemic in the Horn of Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/coronavirus-eu-supports-eu60-million-regional-response-pandemic-horn-africa_en

²⁵²⁰ Coronavirus: EU supports with 60 million a regional response to the pandemic in the Horn of Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/coronavirus-eu-supports-eu60-million-regional-response-pandemic-horn-africa_en

²⁵²¹ Coronavirus: EU supports Central African Republic with 54 million to limit socio-economic risks, European Commission (Brussels) 18 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/coronavirus-eu-supports-central-african-republic-eu54-million-limit-socio-economic-risks_en

²⁵²² Coronavirus: EU supports Central African Republic with 54 million to limit socio-economic risks, European Commission (Brussels) 18 June 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/coronavirus-eu-supports-central-african-republic-eu54-million-limit-socio-economic-risks_en

²⁵²³ European Union increases its support to fight the severe desert locust outbreak in East Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/european-union-increases-its-support-fight-severe-desert-locust-outbreak-east-africa_en

²⁵²⁴ European Union increases its support to fight the severe desert locust outbreak in East Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/european-union-increases-its-support-fight-severe-desert-locust-outbreak-east-africa_en

systems.”²⁵²⁵ The program will operate in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi and will be extended across Africa and the Indian Ocean at a later date.²⁵²⁶

On 22 July 2020, the European Commission announced EUR112.2 million to “strengthen health and services in Tajikistan and support the country in its coronavirus response.”²⁵²⁷ The funding will be dispersed among three interlinked programs to directly support the emergency response to the pandemic and to improve the accessibility and quality of integrated healthcare in Tajikistan.

The European Union has committed funds to a variety of sustainable development projects worldwide, especially projects in line with the African Union Agenda 2063.

Thus, the European Union has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Sterling Mancuso

²⁵²⁵ Covid-19: EU programme promotes digital solutions to the crisis in Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/covid-19-eu-programme-promotes-digital-solutions-crisis-africa_en

²⁵²⁶ Covid-19: EU programme promotes digital solutions to the crisis in Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/covid-19-eu-programme-promotes-digital-solutions-crisis-africa_en

²⁵²⁷ Coronavirus: European Commission strengthens health and other key services in Tajikistan with 112 million, European Commission (Brussels) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 3 September 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/coronavirus-european-commission-strengthens-health-and-other-key-services-tajikistan-eu112_en

13. Development: Entrepreneurship in Africa

2019-28: “We reiterate our willingness to continue to develop entrepreneurship and private sector youth employment in Africa through multilateral initiatives, such as the G20 Compact with Africa and other bilateral initiatives supported by individual G7 members.”

Biarritz Declaration for a G7 and Africa Partnership

Assessment

Member	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy	-1		
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.63 (81%)	

Background

With the youngest population in the world, 11 million youth without work and millions more considered to be “working poor,” African youth unemployment threatens economic growth prospects of the continent.²⁵²⁸ According to the International Labour Organization, of the 38.1 percent estimated total working poor in sub-Saharan Africa, young people account for 23.5 percent.²⁵²⁹ Coupled with the fact that Africa also has the fastest growing population in the world, G7 members recognise that “fighting inequality, strengthening governance and promoting inclusive sustainable economic growth, in the framework of a prosperous global economy, and social development are key elements of stability and peace, and are fundamental to ensuring a shared and prosperous future” for all citizens.²⁵³⁰ Within this context, G7 members reiterate their commitment to support Africa’s priorities based on equal partnership and common goals, taking into account improved competitiveness and business environments across Africa.²⁵³¹

In July 2005 during the Gleneagles Summit, former UK Prime Minister, Tony Blair, stated in the final press conference the G8 support pledged to African states through the African Partners Forum and a Joint Action Plan.²⁵³² Furthermore, G8 members agreed further measures to promote better governance, stability and peace that is needed for the private sector to grow and create jobs. In addition, members pledged to “support investment, enterprise development and innovation” as well as “youth employment, including vocational education and training relevant to market demands.”²⁵³³

²⁵²⁸ Youth employment in Africa, International Labour Organization, Geneva, Switzerland. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <https://www.ilo.org/africa/areas-of-work/youth-employment/lang--en/index.htm>

²⁵²⁹ Youth employment in Africa, International Labour Organization, Geneva, Switzerland. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <https://www.ilo.org/africa/areas-of-work/youth-employment/lang--en/index.htm>

²⁵³⁰ Biarritz Declaration for a G7 & Africa Partnership, European Council. 25 August 2019. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/40532/biarritz-declaration-for-a-g7-and-africa-partnership.pdf>

²⁵³¹ Biarritz Declaration for a G7 & Africa Partnership, European Council. 25 August 2019. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/40532/biarritz-declaration-for-a-g7-and-africa-partnership.pdf>

²⁵³² Chair’s Summary, Final Press Conference, Gleneagles Summit, 8 July 8, 2005. Access Date: 17 November 2019. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/summary.html>

²⁵³³ Joint Africa Plan, Gleneagles Summit, 8 July 2005. Access Date: 17 November 2019. http://data.unaids.org/topics/universalaccess/postg8_gleneagles_africa_en.pdf

In May 2007, at the Heiligendamm Summit, this was again underscored in the Summit declaration on Africa, whereby it stated G8 commitment to investing in private sector growth, SMEs, and in efforts to reduce the cost of doing business on the continent.²⁵³⁴

In May 2017 during the Taormina Summit, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres stated to G7 leaders that “High levels of youth unemployment are not only a tragedy for young people themselves, but can also undermine development and generate frustration and alienation that, in turn, can become a threat to global peace and security.”²⁵³⁵ He stressed the need to educate women and girls and called for “moving manufacturing and traditional activities, such as agriculture, higher up the global value chain, as well as investing in infrastructure that links regions, countries and communities.”²⁵³⁶ According to Guterres, the international community needs to help the continent adapt as it heads for a new wave of industrialization.²⁵³⁷

In July 2017, under the G20 presidency of Germany, the G20 Compact for Africa was launched with the aim to increase of private investment through substantial improvements of the macro, business and financing frameworks.²⁵³⁸ Furthermore, the G20 Compact brings together “reform-minded African countries, international organizations and bilateral partners to coordinate country-specific reform agendas, support respective policy measures and advertise investment opportunities to private investors.”²⁵³⁹

Commitment Features

At Biarritz, G7 members pledged their continued commitment to develop entrepreneurship and private sector youth employment in Africa through multilateral and bilateral initiatives. In this regard, the commitment is seen to have four parts, which will measure final compliance.

The first two parts both involve “entrepreneurship” in Africa. Entrepreneurship is defined “as the effort an individual or group of individuals makes to initiate an economic activity under a legal form of business within the formal sector.”²⁵⁴⁰ The G7 leaders have committed to “developing” entrepreneurship. This will be understood as helping African countries to create a business environment that is conducive to entrepreneurship.²⁵⁴¹ One aspect of this environment is whether there is a stable macroeconomic environment. Sound fiscal and monetary policies are necessary so that firms can predictably make the long-term investments necessary for expanding a firm. A second aspect of the environment are the policies and regulations. This can include competition policies

²⁵³⁴ Summit Declaration on Africa, G8 Summit Heiligendamm, 17 May 2007. Access Date: 17 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2007heiligendamm/2007-leaked-africa.pdf>

²⁵³⁵ With Africa in spotlight at G7 summit, Secretary-General Guterres urges investment in youth, UN News, 27 May 2017. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/05/558282-africa-spotlight-g7-summit-secretary-general-guterres-urges-investment-youth>

²⁵³⁶ With Africa in spotlight at G7 summit, Secretary-General Guterres urges investment in youth, UN News, 27 May 2017. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/05/558282-africa-spotlight-g7-summit-secretary-general-guterres-urges-investment-youth>

²⁵³⁷ With Africa in spotlight at G7 summit, Secretary-General Guterres urges investment in youth, UN News, 27 May 2017. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/05/558282-africa-spotlight-g7-summit-secretary-general-guterres-urges-investment-youth>

²⁵³⁸ G20 Compact with Africa, 8 July 2017. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <https://www.compactwithafrica.org/content/compactwithafrica/home/about.html>

²⁵³⁹ G20 Compact with Africa, 8 July 2017. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <https://www.compactwithafrica.org/content/compactwithafrica/home/about.html>

²⁵⁴⁰ Entrepreneurship Viewpoint, Financial and Private Sector Development Vice Presidency, World Bank, November 2006. Access Date: 16 November 2019. http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTEXPOMNET/Resources/FIAS_Note_313.pdf

²⁵⁴¹ Promoting Entrepreneurship and Innovative SMEs in a Global Economy, OECD. Access Date: 30 November 2019. <https://www.oecd.org/cfe/smes/31919590.pdf>

which protect entry firms from unfair competition by incumbent firms, financial market regulations that ensure entrepreneurs have access to financing, and labor policies that ensure entrepreneurs have ready access to the labor force. By designing them with entrepreneurs in mind, these policies and regulations should avoid becoming a burden that adversely affects entrepreneurial activity. A third aspect of this environment is education and training. The formal education system could provide access to information, skills and expertise relating to entrepreneurship. There can also be training programs outside of the formal education system that provides similar access. A final aspect of the environment are programmes introduced specifically to promote entrepreneurship.²⁵⁴²

What divides the commitment to “develop entrepreneurship” into two parts is whether the development is achieved through multilateral initiatives or bilateral initiatives. Multilateral initiatives involve more than two countries.²⁵⁴³ One example is the G20 Compact with Africa. This initiative brings together governments, would-be-investors, and international organizations to tackle impediments to private investment in Africa. Interested African countries choosing to participate first engage with international organizations to discuss objectives and possible national priorities and contributions. In the second step, countries work with international organizations to create individual Investment Prospectuses for reform and measures to better mobilize private investment.²⁵⁴⁴ In both these steps, countries work with international organizations, which are formed by more than two participating countries. Bilateral initiatives on the other hand involve only two countries, one being at G7 member and the other being an African country.

The latter two parts both involve private sector youth employment in Africa. “Private sector” is defined as businesses owned or controlled by individuals rather than by the government.²⁵⁴⁵ The goal is to encourage such businesses to provide meaningful employment for African youth, those aged 15-24.²⁵⁴⁶ Measures designed to address short-term issues could include tackling weak aggregate demand, tackle demand-side barriers such as high labor costs, and encouraging employers to expand quality apprenticeship and internship programmes. Measures designed to address long-term issues can include strengthening the education system to prepare young people for the labor market, strengthening vocational education and training for youth already in the labor market, assisting the transition from education to work, and by introducing policies that provide employment protection.²⁵⁴⁷ Similar to the commitment to “develop entrepreneurship,” the commitment to “develop private sector youth employment” is divided into two parts. Development can occur through multilateral initiatives or bilateral initiatives.

To achieve full compliance, a G7 member must take strong action in most aspects of these compliance. Specifically, they need to strongly meet at least three of the four parts of this commitment (>75%). For example, a G7 member that introduces both multilateral and bilateral initiatives to promote entrepreneurship along with bilateral initiatives to promote private sector youth employment would be fully complying with its commitment. Compliance does not require new

²⁵⁴² Promoting Entrepreneurship and Innovative SMEs in a Global Economy, OECD. Access Date: 30 November 2019. <https://www.oecd.org/cfe/smes/31919590.pdf>

²⁵⁴³ Meaning of multilateral in English, Cambridge Dictionary. Access Date: 30 November 2019. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/multilateral>

²⁵⁴⁴ G20 Compact with Africa, 8 July 2017. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <https://www.compactwithafrica.org/content/compactwithafrica/home/about.html>

²⁵⁴⁵ Types of Business Organisations, BBC. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zpx7gdm/revision/1>

²⁵⁴⁶ World Youth Report, United Nations. 2018. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2018/12/WorldYouthReport-2030Agenda.pdf>

²⁵⁴⁷ The OECD Action Plan for Youth – Giving Youth a Better Start in the Labour Market, OECD. Access Date: 30 November 2019. <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/Action-plan-youth.pdf>

initiatives as the wording of the commitment includes the word “continue.” A member will receive partial compliance is they meet two of the four parts of this commitment (50%). For example, a G7 member that introduces both multilateral and bilateral initiatives to promote entrepreneurship but no initiatives on private sector youth employment would be partially complying with the commitment. Finally, no compliance will be given to a G7 member that introduces initiatives on only one or two of the four parts of this commitment (<50%).

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member has helped to develop in Africa FEWER THAN TWO of the following four parts: entrepreneurship through bilateral actions, entrepreneurship in through multilateral actions, private sector youth employment in through bilateral actions, and private sector youth employment through multilateral actions.
0	The G7 member has helped to develop in Africa TWO of the following four parts: entrepreneurship through bilateral actions, entrepreneurship in through multilateral actions, private sector youth employment in through bilateral actions, and private sector youth employment through multilateral actions.
+1	The G7 member has helped to develop in Africa MORE THAN TWO of the following four parts: entrepreneurship through bilateral actions, entrepreneurship in through multilateral actions, private sector youth employment in through bilateral actions, and private sector youth employment through multilateral actions.

*Compliance Director: Laila Kanji
Lead Analyst: Amanda Burns*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to take bilateral or multilateral action to support both youth employment and entrepreneurship in Africa.

On 26 August 2019, the Canadian government announced it will invest CAD9.5 million to Mozambique for the initiative, Empowering Adolescent Girls to Learn and Earn (EAGLE).²⁵⁴⁸ This project is located throughout six districts of the Manica and Sofala provinces in Mozambique.²⁵⁴⁹ EAGLE is designed to increase economic empowerment through expanding literacy, numeracy and skills development of 3,000 adolescent mothers and girls with HIV/AIDS or disabilities.²⁵⁵⁰

On 26 August 2019, Canada announced that it will invest CAD12.5 million to the African Guarantee Fund towards Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA).²⁵⁵¹ Canada’s investment in AFAWA will improve access to finance for women entrepreneurs in Africa.²⁵⁵² AFAWA is led by the African Development Bank, and seeks to change the banking and financial climate for women entrepreneurs in Africa.²⁵⁵³

²⁵⁴⁸ Creating a better future, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>

²⁵⁴⁹ Creating a better future, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>

²⁵⁵⁰ Creating a better future, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>

²⁵⁵¹ Creating a better future, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>

²⁵⁵² Is Canada Missing the Big Picture? Trudeau and Sustainable Development at G7 Summits (Ottawa) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.mcleodgroup.ca/2019/09/is-canada-missing-the-big-picture/>

²⁵⁵³ Is Canada Missing the Big Picture? Trudeau and Sustainable Development at G7 Summits (Ottawa) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.mcleodgroup.ca/2019/09/is-canada-missing-the-big-picture/>

On 10 April 2020, the Government of Canada announced an investment of CAD4.8 million to ACUMEN, an international non-profit organization. ACUMEN invests in companies at early stages through patient capital and provides business support to assist entrepreneurs in reducing poverty.²⁵⁵⁴ Canada's investment will help provide leadership training to 200 youths and support businesses led by women in communities affected by conflict.²⁵⁵⁵

On 10 April 2020, the Government of Canada announced a CAD15 million contribution to TradeMark East Africa (TMEA).²⁵⁵⁶ TMEA is an organization working to reduce trade barriers and increase business competitiveness in East Africa.²⁵⁵⁷ Canada's contribution will provide increased economic opportunities for 150,000 women trading cross-border in East Africa.²⁵⁵⁸

On 10 April 2020, the Government of Canada announced a CAD8.5 million contribution to RENEW and a CAD12.9 million contribution to Digital Opportunity Trust.²⁵⁵⁹ These contributions will focus on supporting youth and women entrepreneurs as well as small and medium-sized businesses in Ethiopia.²⁵⁶⁰

On August 11, 2020, Canada's International Development Research Centre put out a call for proposals, "Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women – East Africa."²⁵⁶¹

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to support both youth employment and entrepreneurship in Africa. Canada took action to support youth employment in Africa through its contribution to ACUMEN.²⁵⁶² Canada supported entrepreneurship in Africa through investing in RENEW, Digital Opportunity Trust, and TMEA to support women entrepreneurs in Africa.²⁵⁶³

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Lisa Hub

²⁵⁵⁴ About ACUMEN. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://acumen.org/about/>

²⁵⁵⁵ Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities (Ottawa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>

²⁵⁵⁶ Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities (Ottawa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>

²⁵⁵⁷ About our organization. 2019. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.trademarkea.com/who-we-are/>

²⁵⁵⁸ Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities (Ottawa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>

²⁵⁵⁹ Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities (Ottawa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>

²⁵⁶⁰ Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities (Ottawa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>

²⁵⁶¹ Call for Proposals: Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women – East Africa, International Development Research Centre (Ottawa), 11 August 2020. Date Accessed: 26 August 2020. <https://www.idrc.ca/en/news/call-proposals-growth-and-economic-opportunities-women-east-africa>

²⁵⁶² Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities (Ottawa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>

²⁵⁶³ Canada working with partners in Africa to advance shared priorities (Ottawa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/02/10/canada-working-partners-africa-advance-shared-priorities>

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to work with the African continent in supporting youth employment and entrepreneurship in Africa.

On 24 August 2019, French President Emmanuel Macron and G7 members leaders approved a financial package totalling USD251 million to support the African Development Bank (AfDB)'s Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) initiative to support women entrepreneurs in Africa.²⁵⁶⁴ The AFAWA programme aims to work with African banks to establish a financing mechanism for African women entrepreneurs.²⁵⁶⁵

On 28 October 2019, AfDB partnered with the Association for the Right to Economic Initiatives to support a study on informal workers in the neighbourhoods of New Caledonia.²⁵⁶⁶ It aims to quantify the informal economy and promote entrepreneurship in the region.²⁵⁶⁷

On 9 December 2019, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) launched a new EUR15 million seed fund to expand Africa's digital ecosystem and support African start-ups.²⁵⁶⁸ This Digital Africa seed fund is part of the Choose Africa initiative through which AFD Group has committed to allocating EUR2.5 billion to African start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises by 2022.²⁵⁶⁹ The Digital Africa seed will finance six programs, including two professionalization and capacity building programs, to accompany and fund digital start-ups and will also permit youth employment in the private sector.²⁵⁷⁰

On 31 January 2020, France, along with Digital Africa, gave 1,000 African entrepreneurs the opportunity to participate in the Africa-France Summit in Bordeaux, France, from 4 to 6 June 2020.²⁵⁷¹ The summit will enable African entrepreneurs to present their projects and solutions for sustainable cities and territories.²⁵⁷²

²⁵⁶⁴ G20 – Jean-Baptiste Lemoine's participation in the G20 Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers (Nagoya, 22-23 November 2019), France Diplomatie Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 23 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/g20-jean-baptiste-lemoine-s-participation-in-the-g20-meeting-of-foreign-affairs>

²⁵⁶⁵ G20 – Jean-Baptiste Lemoine's participation in the G20 Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers (Nagoya, 22-23 November 2019), France Diplomatie Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 23 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/g20-jean-baptiste-lemoine-s-participation-in-the-g20-meeting-of-foreign-affairs>

²⁵⁶⁶ AFD and ADIE launching a study to promote entrepreneurship in New Caledonia, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 28 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/afd-and-adie-launch-study-promote-entrepreneurship-new-caledonia>

²⁵⁶⁷ AFD and ADIE launching a study to promote entrepreneurship in New Caledonia, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 28 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/afd-and-adie-launch-study-promote-entrepreneurship-new-caledonia>

²⁵⁶⁸ AFD Group: Driver for African Start-Ups, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/afd-group-driver-african-start-ups>

²⁵⁶⁹ AFD Group: Driver for African Start-Ups, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/afd-group-driver-african-start-ups>

²⁵⁷⁰ AFD Group: Driver for African Start-Ups, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/afd-group-driver-african-start-ups>

²⁵⁷¹ Africans Entrepreneurs: Take part in Challenge of 1,000 at the Africa-France 2020 Summit. 20 November 2019. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://ke.ambafrance.org/Africans-entrepreneurs-take-part-in-Challenge-of-1-000-at-the-Africa-France>

²⁵⁷² Africans Entrepreneurs: Take part in Challenge of 1,000 at the Africa-France 2020 Summit. 20 November 2019. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://ke.ambafrance.org/Africans-entrepreneurs-take-part-in-Challenge-of-1-000-at-the-Africa-France>

On 3 April 2020, applications opened for the French-African Foundation Young Leaders Program in France and Senegal.²⁵⁷³ The Young Leaders program was created to support new generations of leaders in Africa.²⁵⁷⁴ The program will be held under the double patronage of President Macron, and the President Nana Akufo-Addo of Ghana.²⁵⁷⁵

France has fully complied with its commitment as it has supported entrepreneurship through both bilateral and multilateral actions, as well as private sector youth employment.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Minh-Anh (Mia) Nguyen

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to work with the African continent in supporting youth employment and entrepreneurship in Africa.

On 18 November 2019, BMZ launched the Africa Cloud initiative, which offers e-learning opportunities to young people in remote and rural areas of Africa.²⁵⁷⁶ The content of these courses, aimed at vocational trainers, young farmers and digital entrepreneurs, will be developed locally and can be downloaded onto a computer or smartphone, with local partners and a coach offering learners support.²⁵⁷⁷

On 19 November 2019, Development Minister Gerd Müller announced the signing of new reform partnership agreements with Senegal and Ethiopia, focussed on ownership, private investment, vocational education and employment, so as to make sure that Africa's young people have a future in Africa.²⁵⁷⁸ Funding under this agreement will be disbursed once agreed reforms have been implemented.²⁵⁷⁹

On 7 December 2019, Enpact, a Berlin-headquartered non-profit organization, announced the launch of a special edition of the organization's mentoring programme, dedicated to supporting high potential technology businesses in scaling and creating strategic international partnerships in Europe

²⁵⁷³ French-African Foundation Young Leaders Program in France and Senegal (Ghana). 23 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.mladiinfo.eu/2020/03/23/french-african-foundation-young-leaders-program-france-senegal/>

²⁵⁷⁴ French-African Foundation Young Leaders Program in France and Senegal (Ghana). 23 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.mladiinfo.eu/2020/03/23/french-african-foundation-young-leaders-program-france-senegal/>

²⁵⁷⁵ French-African Foundation Young Leaders Program in France and Senegal (Ghana). 23 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.mladiinfo.eu/2020/03/23/french-african-foundation-young-leaders-program-france-senegal/>

²⁵⁷⁶ Minister Müller announces launch of Africa Cloud initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin). 18 November 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118_pm_065_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html

²⁵⁷⁷ Minister Müller announces launch of Africa Cloud initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin). 18 November 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118_pm_065_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html

²⁵⁷⁸ Minister Müller on the G20 Africa summit: Our offer for the private sector stands, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin). 19 November 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191119_pm_067_Minister-Mueller-on-the-G20-Africa-summit-Our-offer-for-the-private-sector-stands/index.html

²⁵⁷⁹ Minister Müller on the G20 Africa summit: Our offer for the private sector stands, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin). 19 November 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191119_pm_067_Minister-Mueller-on-the-G20-Africa-summit-Our-offer-for-the-private-sector-stands/index.html

and Africa.²⁵⁸⁰ The initiative is under the Strategy Partnership Digital Africa (SPDA), funded by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development and coordinated by the GIZ GmbH.²⁵⁸¹

On 19 December 2019, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Egypt and Enpact Egypt held the Demo Day for the first cycle of their entrepreneurial support program, Founders' Support, at Startup Haus Cairo.²⁵⁸² Founders' Support is an entrepreneurial program that provides financial support and mentoring for entrepreneurs in Egypt in their first year of business.²⁵⁸³

On 24 January 2020, the German Federal Government together with the African Union Commission launched the second open call for project proposals under the African-German Youth Initiative Innovation Fund.²⁵⁸⁴ The aim of the fund is to improve and innovate youth exchange and mobility between African countries and Germany and to develop competencies and skills among young talents from African countries.²⁵⁸⁵

On 19 February 2020, BET Ghana organized the 8th annual conference on "Universities, Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development in Africa."²⁵⁸⁶ The conference aims to increase knowledge transfer between entrepreneurship in Africa and private sector academic to support African and German small and medium-sized enterprises in Africa.²⁵⁸⁷ The conference and BET Ghana project are funded by BMZ.²⁵⁸⁸

On 29 February 2020, GIZ and BMZ supported the WeCode programming academy and #eSkills4Girls initiative through launching eight digital projects in eight African countries.²⁵⁸⁹ These include the WeCode programming academy in Rwanda, where women learn to develop their own apps and other solutions.²⁵⁹⁰ WeCode also employs graduating women for six months following program completion.²⁵⁹¹

²⁵⁸⁰ International Mentoring 2020: Apply Now! (Berlin). 7 December 2019. Access Date: 10 April 2020.

<https://www.enpact.org/blog/news/international-mentoring-apply/#/>

²⁵⁸¹ International Mentoring 2020: Apply Now! (Berlin). 7 December 2019. Access Date: 10 April 2020.

<https://www.enpact.org/blog/news/international-mentoring-apply/#/>

²⁵⁸² Founder' Support program concludes pilot cycle with ten-enabled startups in Egypt (Egypt). 19 December 2019. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.enpact.org/blog/news/founders-support-program-concludes-pilot-cycle-with-ten-tech-enabled-startups-in-egypt/#/>

²⁵⁸³ Founder' Support program concludes pilot cycle with ten-enabled startups in Egypt (Egypt). 19 December 2019. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.enpact.org/blog/news/founders-support-program-concludes-pilot-cycle-with-ten-tech-enabled-startups-in-egypt/#/>

²⁵⁸⁴ Call for Proposal: African-German Youth Initiative (AGYI) Innovation Fund 2020 (12,000 Euros). 24 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.opportunitiesforafricans.com/agyi-innovation-fund-2020/>

²⁵⁸⁵ Call for Proposal: African-German Youth Initiative (AGYI) Innovation Fund 2020 (12,000 Euros). 24 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.opportunitiesforafricans.com/agyi-innovation-fund-2020/>

²⁵⁸⁶ 8th Conference "Universities, Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development in Africa" (19-20 February 2020). 19 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.h-brs.de/en/entrepreneurship-conference>

²⁵⁸⁷ 8th Conference "Universities, Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development in Africa" (19-20 February 2020). 19 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.h-brs.de/en/entrepreneurship-conference>

²⁵⁸⁸ 8th Conference "Universities, Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development in Africa" (19-20 February 2020). 19 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.h-brs.de/en/entrepreneurship-conference>

²⁵⁸⁹ Digital Equality: GIZ promotes women in Africa's tech industry. 28 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.giz.de/en/press/83548.html>

²⁵⁹⁰ Digital Equality: GIZ promotes women in Africa's tech industry. 28 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.giz.de/en/press/83548.html>

²⁵⁹¹ Digital Equality: GIZ promotes women in Africa's tech industry. 28 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.giz.de/en/press/83548.html>

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to work with the African continent in supporting youth employment and entrepreneurship in Africa through both bilateral and multilateral initiatives.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Minh-Anh (Mia) Nguyen

Italy: -1

Italy has failed to comply with its commitment to take bilateral or multilateral action to support both youth employment and entrepreneurship in Africa.

No bilateral nor multilateral action has been taken to support either youth employment or entrepreneurship in Africa.

Thus, Italy has been awarded a score of -1.²⁵⁹²

Analyst: Matthew Kieffer

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to take bilateral or multilateral action to support both youth employment and entrepreneurship in Africa.

On 30 August 2019, Japan announced in the Yokohama Declaration that the country will continue to provide business training through the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE Initiative), in order to strengthen micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in Africa for job creation and entrepreneurship.²⁵⁹³ Japan also announced its support to African students in Japan and ABE Initiative graduates in finding employment in Japanese companies.²⁵⁹⁴

On 30 August 2019, Japan announced in the Yokohama Declaration that the country will continue to develop Africa's private sector prioritizing youth and women's entrepreneurship at the 2019 Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7).²⁵⁹⁵

On 30 August 2019, Japan confirmed its contribution to the African Guarantee Fund towards Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA), through Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative and Japanese International Cooperation Agency private-sector investment.²⁵⁹⁶ Japan's investment in AFAWA will improve access to finance for women entrepreneurs in Africa.²⁵⁹⁷

²⁵⁹² This non-compliance was determined after research through the following websites: www.governo.it, www.lavoro.gov.it, www.esteri.it, www.senato.it, www.camera.it, www.finanze.gov, www.italcomm.com, www.iai.it, www.agi.it, www.parlamento.it, www.palazzochigi.it.

²⁵⁹³ Yokohama Declaration 2019, Advancing Africa's Development through People, Technology and Innovation (Tokyo) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/yokohama_declaration_en.pdf

²⁵⁹⁴ TICAD7: Japan's Contribution for Africa (Tokyo) August 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/ticad7_torikumi_en.pdf

²⁵⁹⁵ TICAD7: Japan's Contribution for Africa (Tokyo) August 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/ticad7_torikumi_en.pdf

²⁵⁹⁶ Yokohama Declaration 2019, Advancing Africa's Development through People, Technology and Innovation (Tokyo) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/yokohama_declaration_en.pdf

²⁵⁹⁷ Yokohama Declaration 2019, Advancing Africa's Development through People, Technology and Innovation (Tokyo) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/yokohama_declaration_en.pdf

On 24 February 2020, Japan's Ambassador Masahiro Imai and Yuko Yokomizo signed a grant contract with the project coordinator for Community Road Empowerment (CORE) for the "Sustainable Youth Employment through Road Improvement using Locally Available Material Based Approach (3rd Phase)" project.²⁵⁹⁸ The contract indicates up to a USD288,566 provision from the Embassy of Japan to CORE for training on-site road repair and creating non-agricultural employment opportunities for Rwandan youth.²⁵⁹⁹

In July 2020, the Japan International Cooperation Agency announced the launch of the NINJA Business Plan Competition, targeting startups and organizations from Africa in order to encourage emerging businesses.²⁶⁰⁰

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to support both youth employment and entrepreneurship in Africa. Japan supported youth employment in Africa through the ABE Initiative and supported entrepreneurship in Africa through investing in AFAWA to finance women entrepreneurs in Africa and through its TICAD7 commitments.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Lisa Hub

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitments to support entrepreneurship and youth employment in Africa.

On 5 August 2019, the Department for International Development (DFID) reinforced its group of "sector development" initiatives, including the ongoing Kenya Market Assistance Programme, which has a budget of GBP48.2 million from 2012-2020.²⁶⁰¹ One of the programme's components is youth employment.²⁶⁰²

On 28 August 2019, DFID announced that Unilever is receiving aid from the United Kingdom to support female entrepreneurs in Africa to start their own businesses.²⁶⁰³

On 27 September 2019, the UK announced that it would invest GBP90 million into Financial Sector Deepening Africa, a non-profit that informs the poorest Africans about how to handle their

²⁵⁹⁸ The Signing Ceremony for the project of "Sustainable Youth Employment through Road Improvement taking Locally Available Material Based Approach (3rd Phase)" (Tokyo) March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. https://www.rw.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/11_000001_00012.html

²⁵⁹⁹ The Signing Ceremony for the project of "Sustainable Youth Employment through Road Improvement taking Locally Available Material Based Approach (3rd Phase)" (Tokyo) March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. https://www.rw.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/11_000001_00012.html

²⁶⁰⁰ JICA's 2020 NINJA Business Plan Competition in response to COVID-19 for African Startups, OFA, July 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020. <https://www.jica.go.jp/kenya/english/office/topics/200708.html>

²⁶⁰¹ Overview of sector transformation programmes funded by DFID, Institute of Development Studies (Falmer) 05 August 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/dfid-research-outputs/overview-of-sector-transformation-programmes-funded-by-dfid>.

²⁶⁰² Overview of sector transformation programmes funded by DFID, Institute of Development Studies (Falmer) 05 August 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5d9b4e97e5274a5a29d7c22a/617_Sector_Transformation_Programmes.pdf.

²⁶⁰³ International Development Secretary to boost infrastructure in the poorest countries with UK aid, Department for International Development (London) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://dfidnews.blog.gov.uk/2019/08/28/international-development-secretary-to-boost-infrastructure-in-the-poorest-countries-and-help-create-our-future-trading-partners/>.

money.²⁶⁰⁴ The money being invested by the UK will mobilize GBP500 million in private sector investment.²⁶⁰⁵ Both the aid package and private investment will allow for small financial services businesses and entrepreneurs to expand their companies.²⁶⁰⁶

On 4 October 2019, the UK announced it would continue its majority funding to GuarantCo, which offers “innovative local currency contingent credit solutions.”²⁶⁰⁷ An example of these credit solutions is providing “guarantees” to investor groups if they offer support to “local capital markets.”²⁶⁰⁸ This is an example of the UK providing financial support to small and medium enterprises by encouraging private sector investment.²⁶⁰⁹

On 20 January 2020, the UK government hosted the UK-Africa Investment Summit, which brought together key stakeholders, including senior bureaucrats of various African governments, African and British businesses, investors, and international organisations.²⁶¹⁰ Minister of State for Africa Andrew Stephenson mentioned that the summit was meant to encourage investment in Africa²⁶¹¹

On 20 January 2020, at the UK-Africa Summit, the UK pledged to provide GBP3.5 million for the SheTrades programme.²⁶¹² This program helps female entrepreneurs with developing their business.²⁶¹³ The SheTrades programme expansion will include “specialist business training” for the female entrepreneurs.²⁶¹⁴

²⁶⁰⁴ UK aid to boost access to finance for sub-Saharan Africa, Department for International Development (London) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-boost-access-to-finance-for-sub-saharan-africa>.

²⁶⁰⁵ UK aid to boost access to finance for sub-Saharan Africa, Department for International Development (London) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-boost-access-to-finance-for-sub-saharan-africa>.

²⁶⁰⁶ UK aid to boost access to finance for sub-Saharan Africa, Department for International Development (London) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-boost-access-to-finance-for-sub-saharan-africa>.

²⁶⁰⁷ Kenya closes its first ever green bond, British High Commissioner of Nairobi (Nairobi) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/kenya-closes-its-first-ever-green-bond>.

²⁶⁰⁸ Kenya closes its first ever green bond, British High Commissioner of Nairobi (Nairobi) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/kenya-closes-its-first-ever-green-bond>.

²⁶⁰⁹ Kenya closes its first ever green bond, British High Commissioner of Nairobi (Nairobi) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/kenya-closes-its-first-ever-green-bond>.

²⁶¹⁰ UK-Africa Summit 2020 - UK Government Statement, UK Government (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/859314/2020_01_20_AIS_-_UK_Government_Statement_-_Final_Version.pdf.

²⁶¹¹ Minister for Africa's speech at UN Global Compact event, Department for International Development (London) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/minister-of-state-speech-at-un-global-compact-event>.

²⁶¹² UK-Africa Summit 2020 - UK Government Statement, UK Government (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/859314/2020_01_20_AIS_-_UK_Government_Statement_-_Final_Version.pdf.

²⁶¹³ UK-Africa Summit 2020 - UK Government Statement, UK Government (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/859314/2020_01_20_AIS_-_UK_Government_Statement_-_Final_Version.pdf.

²⁶¹⁴ UK aid boosts support for African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets, Department for International Development (London) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-boosts-support-for-african-women-entrepreneurs-to-expand-businesses-into-global-markets>.

On 21 January 2020, the UK and Kenya issued a joint statement on a new strategic partnership from 2020-2025 that will focus on five areas, and has EUR400 million ready to be dispersed.²⁶¹⁵ Under the fifth pillar, called people to people, the UK and Kenya will work together to invigorate new innovation and entrepreneurship.²⁶¹⁶

On 1 March 2020, the UK government received proposals from businesses that had the potential to offer many jobs in the future.²⁶¹⁷ Each business proposal that was accepted would receive “grant funding and technical assistance.”²⁶¹⁸ The funding, worth GBP5 million in total, will be distributed through the Kenya Catalytic Jobs Fund.²⁶¹⁹ The goal of this Fund is to help enterprises that could provide employment for youth and vulnerable populations.²⁶²⁰ The program is four years in length.²⁶²¹

On 27 July 2020, the United Kingdom Department for International Trade announced the “Tech for Growth” programme, aimed at enhancing the role of technology in African trading markets, thus addressing existing market barriers for private sector companies.²⁶²²

The UK has multilaterally promoted entrepreneurship through the UK-Africa Investment Summit, and bilaterally through the strategic partnership with Kenya. The UK has bilaterally promoted private sector youth employment through the Kenya Catalytic Jobs Fund.

Thus, the UK receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Mark Edwards

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to take bilateral or multilateral action to support both youth employment and entrepreneurship in Africa.

On 26 September 2019, Senator Lindsey Graham introduced S.2583, the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2020.²⁶²³ The Department of State,

²⁶¹⁵ UK-Kenya Strategic Partnership 2020-2025: joint statement, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-kenya-strategic-partnership-2020-2025>.

²⁶¹⁶ UK-Kenya Strategic Partnership 2020-2025: joint statement, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-kenya-strategic-partnership-2020-2025>.

²⁶¹⁷ UK launches second call for proposals for Business Innovation Challenge in Kenya, British High Commissioner (Nairobi) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-launches-second-call-for-proposals-for-business-innovation-challenge-in-kenya>.

²⁶¹⁸ UK launches second call for proposals for Business Innovation Challenge in Kenya, British High Commissioner (Nairobi) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-launches-second-call-for-proposals-for-business-innovation-challenge-in-kenya>.

²⁶¹⁹ UK launches second call for proposals for Business Innovation Challenge in Kenya, British High Commissioner (Nairobi) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-launches-second-call-for-proposals-for-business-innovation-challenge-in-kenya>.

²⁶²⁰ About Us, Kenya Catalytic Jobs. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://kenyacatalyticjobsfund.org/about-us/>.

²⁶²¹ UK launches second call for proposals for Business Innovation Challenge in Kenya, British High Commissioner (Nairobi) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-launches-second-call-for-proposals-for-business-innovation-challenge-in-kenya>.

²⁶²² 'Tech for Growth' designed to increase financial services access, Department for International Trade (London), 27 July 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tech-for-growth-designed-to-increase-financial-services-access>

Foreign Operations and Related Programs Fiscal Year 2020 Congressional Budget Justification shows the congressional appropriation to the United States African Development Foundation (USADF) dropping from USD30 million in 2018 to USD4.628 million in 2020.²⁶²⁴

On 27 September 2019, the USADF and Nigeria signed a memorandum of understanding agreeing to a five-year partnership.²⁶²⁵ The partnership commits both countries to invest USD1 million annually towards the development of small and medium sized enterprises in the Niger State, with an emphasis on youth and women.²⁶²⁶

On 23 January 2020, the USADF, in conjunction with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced plans to award a total of USD400 thousand in grant funding to young African social entrepreneurs in 22 Sub-Saharan countries.²⁶²⁷

On 10 February 2020, the USADF and Kebbi State, Nigeria pledged a collective USD10 million over five years to provide seed capital and technical assistance to local agribusinesses.²⁶²⁸ The partnership will focus on the development of small and medium sized enterprises and increase their competitiveness in regional, national, and international markets.²⁶²⁹

On 12 February 2020, the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund partnered with the USADF and awarded grants to 11 Vocational Training Centres (VTCs).²⁶³⁰ These VTCs will provide necessary skills to 15,000 youth in Lagos State over the next five years, allowing them to take advantage of employment opportunities.²⁶³¹

²⁶²³ S.2583 — Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2020, United States Congress (Washington) 26 September 2019. Access Date: 8 December 2019. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2583/summary/00?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22Department+of+State%2C+Foreign+Operations%2C+and+Related+Programs%22%5D%7D&r=1>.

²⁶²⁴ FY 2020 Congressional Budget Justification — Foreign Operations, U.S. Agency for International Development (Washington) 11 March 2019. Access Date: 8 December 2019. <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1881/FY-2020-CBJ-State-and-USAID-Appendix-2.pdf>.

²⁶²⁵ USADF and the Government of Niger State (Nigeria) Announce \$10 Million Co-Funding Agreement During UNGA, United States African Development Foundation (New York) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 8 December 2019. <https://www.usadf.gov/pressreleases/2019/9/27/usadf-and-government-of-niger-state-nigeria-announce-co-funding-agreement>.

²⁶²⁶ USADF and the Government of Niger State (Nigeria) Announce \$10 Million Co-Funding Agreement During UNGA, United States African Development Foundation (New York) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 8 December 2019. <https://www.usadf.gov/pressreleases/2019/9/27/usadf-and-government-of-niger-state-nigeria-announce-co-funding-agreement>

²⁶²⁷ USADF, USAID, and Citi Foundation Team up to Invest in Young African Social Entrepreneurs, United States African Development Foundation (New York) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.usadf.gov/pressreleases?offset=1582038120558>

²⁶²⁸ USADF and the Governor of Kebbi State, Nigeria kickoff 10 Million Dollar Partnership to Support Local Agribusiness, United States African Development Foundation (New York) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.usadf.gov/pressreleases?offset=1583954220043>

²⁶²⁹ USADF and the Governor of Kebbi State, Nigeria kickoff 10 Million Dollar Partnership to Support Local Agribusiness, United States African Development Foundation (New York) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.usadf.gov/pressreleases?offset=1583954220043>

²⁶³⁰ LSETF, USADF Award Grants to 11 Vocational Training Centres for Youth Capacity Building , United States African Development Foundation (New York) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.usadf.gov/pressreleases?offset=1582740218369>

²⁶³¹ LSETF, USADF Award Grants to 11 Vocational Training Centres for Youth Capacity Building , United States African Development Foundation (New York) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.usadf.gov/pressreleases?offset=1582740218369>

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to take bilateral and multilateral action to support both youth employment and entrepreneurship in Africa, noting that it has reduced congressional appropriation to the USADF for supporting these initiatives.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Matthew Kieffer

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitments to support entrepreneurship and youth employment in Africa.

On 11 September 2019, the EU and African Union (AU) alliance invested EUR17.6 million in Erasmus+, a program which allows for university exchanges between many African and European countries.²⁶³² The goal of the alliance's partnership is "investing in people by investing in education and skills."²⁶³³

On 19 September 2019, the EU independently announced an initiative, called BEE-LIEVE to help women and landless youth who are considered "smallholder" beekeepers.²⁶³⁴ This initiative works on "improving the technical, business and entrepreneurial skills of small producers and other value chain actors and supporters" and offers capacity building for entrepreneurs.²⁶³⁵

On 18 December 2019, the EU stated that it will be entering the third phase of a project that creates quality Internet for research institutes and student groups.²⁶³⁶ This third phase will have EUR30 million in funding.²⁶³⁷ The press release backgrounder outlined how "research and innovation environments" can better the job prospects and enhance the work abilities of youth.²⁶³⁸

²⁶³² Erasmus+: EU boosts participation of African students and staff in 2019, The Africa-EU Partnership (Brussels). 19 September 2019. Access Date: 13 December 2019.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_5547.

²⁶³³ Erasmus+: EU boosts participation of African students and staff in 2019, The Africa-EU Partnership (Brussels). 19 September 2019. Access Date: 13 December 2019.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_5547.

²⁶³⁴ Beekeepers Economic Empowerment through long-Term Investments in Entrepreneurship and Value chain in Ethiopia, European Union External Action (Brussels). 19 September 2019. Access Date: 13 December 2019.

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67604/beekeepers-economic-empowerment-throughlong-term-investments-entrepreneurship-and-value-chain_en.

²⁶³⁵ Beekeepers Economic Empowerment through long-Term Investments in Entrepreneurship and Value chain in Ethiopia, European Union External Action (Brussels). 19 September 2019. Access Date: 13 December 2019.

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67604/beekeepers-economic-empowerment-throughlong-term-investments-entrepreneurship-and-value-chain_en.

²⁶³⁶ Africa-Europe Alliance: EU boosts pan-African Internet connectivity with €30 million, Delegation of the European Union to the African Union (Brussels) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 16 April 2020.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/african-union-au/72341/africa-europe-alliance-eu-boosts-pan-african-internet-connectivity-€30-million_en.

²⁶³⁷ Africa-Europe Alliance: EU boosts pan-African Internet connectivity with €30 million, Delegation of the European Union to the African Union (Brussels) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 16 April 2020.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/african-union-au/72341/africa-europe-alliance-eu-boosts-pan-african-internet-connectivity-€30-million_en.

²⁶³⁸ Africa-Europe Alliance: EU boosts pan-African Internet connectivity with €30 million, Delegation of the European Union to the African Union (Brussels) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 16 April 2020.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/african-union-au/72341/africa-europe-alliance-eu-boosts-pan-african-internet-connectivity-€30-million_en.

On 21 January 2020, the EU announced EUR5 million for the Babban Gona, which is a Nigerian cooperative of farmers.²⁶³⁹ The Babban Gona offers “education and training in sustainable farming practices, provision of high quality affordable agricultural inputs, provision of storage facilities, as well as marketing and distribution support.”²⁶⁴⁰ The Babban Gona is intended to generate employment for youth and limit “insecurity.”²⁶⁴¹

On 28 January 2020, the EU held an awards ceremony for the Women Entrepreneurs Contest, providing each winning contestant with EUR5000.²⁶⁴² During the contest the participants were given mentoring, seed funding, and capacity building.²⁶⁴³

On 30 January 2020, the EU, Somaliland, and the Municipality of Berbera presented the Berbera Urban Development Project.²⁶⁴⁴ This initiative gives EUR7.5 million to “support inclusive and sustainable development of the coastal city.”²⁶⁴⁵ One of the ways that this will be accomplished is by encouraging entrepreneurship and new jobs.²⁶⁴⁶ The EU Ambassador emphasized the Project’s importance in providing “improved decent work and business activity” for youth and other groups.²⁶⁴⁷

On July 9 2020, the EU granted Rwanda EUR10 million for the purpose of promoting private sector development, and jobs within this sector, specifically for its youth.²⁶⁴⁸

The EU has multilaterally promoted private sector youth employment by supporting Internet development for research and education networks in Africa, and bilaterally through the Babban Gona partnership and the Berbera Urban Development Project. The EU has bilaterally promoted entrepreneurship through the Berbera Urban Development Project and multilaterally through the Women Entrepreneurs Contest.

²⁶³⁹ EU's EDFI AgriFI invests €5 million in Babban Gona to bring entrepreneurship to Nigerian agriculture, Delegation of the European Union to South Africa (Brussels) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/south-africa/73265/eus-edfi-agrifi-invests-€5-million-babban-gona-bring-entrepreneurship-nigerian-agriculture_en.

²⁶⁴⁰ EU's EDFI AgriFI invests €5 million in Babban Gona to bring entrepreneurship to Nigerian agriculture, Delegation of the European Union to South Africa (Brussels) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/south-africa/73265/eus-edfi-agrifi-invests-€5-million-babban-gona-bring-entrepreneurship-nigerian-agriculture_en.

²⁶⁴¹ EU's EDFI AgriFI invests €5 million in Babban Gona to bring entrepreneurship to Nigerian agriculture, Delegation of the European Union to South Africa (Brussels) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020.

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/south-africa/73265/eus-edfi-agrifi-invests-€5-million-babban-gona-bring-entrepreneurship-nigerian-agriculture_en.

²⁶⁴² Awards Ceremony of the Women Entrepreneurs Contest, Delegation of the European Union to the African Union (Tunis) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/african-union-au/73566/awards-ceremony-women-entrepreneurs-contest_en.

²⁶⁴³ Awards Ceremony of the Women Entrepreneurs Contest, Delegation of the European Union to the African Union (Tunis) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/african-union-au/73566/awards-ceremony-women-entrepreneurs-contest_en.

²⁶⁴⁴ Berbera Urban Development Project, Delegation of the European Union to South Africa (Nairobi) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/south-africa/73681/blank_.

²⁶⁴⁵ Berbera Urban Development Project, Delegation of the European Union to South Africa (Nairobi) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/south-africa/73681/blank_.

²⁶⁴⁶ Berbera Urban Development Project, Delegation of the European Union to South Africa (Nairobi) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/south-africa/73681/blank_.

²⁶⁴⁷ Berbera Urban Development Project, Delegation of the European Union to South Africa (Nairobi) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/south-africa/73681/blank_.

²⁶⁴⁸ EU grants Rwanda 10 mln euros for private sector dev't, job creation, Sarah Mukabana for CGTN Africa (Beijing), 9 July 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020. <https://africa.cgtn.com/2020/07/09/eu-grants-rwanda-10-mln-euros-for-private-sector-devt-job-creation/>

Thus, the EU receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Mark Edwards

14. Trade: World Trade Organization Reform

“[Therefore, the G7 wishes to overhaul the WTO [World Trade Organization] to improve effectiveness of eliminating] unfair trade practices.”

G7 Biarritz Leaders' Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada		0	
France		0	
Germany		0	
Italy	-1		
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average	+0.25 (63%)		

Background

In October 1947, the first international trade regulation agreement was signed, known as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).²⁶⁴⁹ The agreement came into effect on January 1948 and regulated international trade until January 1995, when it was replaced by an institution with wider breadth: the World Trade Organization (WTO).²⁶⁵⁰ While GATT focused on reciprocal reductions in tariffs on manufactured goods, the WTO also included measures relating to non-tariff trade barriers, such as subsidy policies and regulatory standards.²⁶⁵¹ At the Uruguay Round in 1994, the WTO introduced new measures and policies intended to mitigate unfair trade practices and allow countries to fight against unfair trade practices within WTO framework through a dispute settlement process.²⁶⁵² These policies included the Anti-Dumping Agreement, Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, Safeguards, Trade Policy Review Mechanism, Dispute Settlement Understanding, and several industry-specific measures to ensure fair practices across all industries around the world.²⁶⁵³

Discussions regarding unfair trade practices first appeared in the 1982 G7 summit in Versailles, where leaders pledged to “rule out the use of [their] exchange rates to gain unfair competitive advantages.”²⁶⁵⁴ After the Versailles Summit, “unfair trade practices” were not mentioned again at G7 summits until the 2009 L’Aquila Summit, where the term “level playing field” was first applied in an economic context.²⁶⁵⁵ However, since the L’Aquila Summit, the terms “level playing field” or “unfair

²⁶⁴⁹ The GATT years: from Havana to Marrakesh, World Trade Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 7 September 2018. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/fact4_e.htm.

²⁶⁵⁰ The GATT years: from Havana to Marrakesh, World Trade Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 7 September 2018. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/fact4_e.htm.

²⁶⁵¹ The Uruguay Round, World Trade Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 7 September 2018. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/fact5_e.htm.

²⁶⁵² WTO Legal Texts, World Trade Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 10 November 2018. https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/legal_e.htm#a#antidump.

²⁶⁵³ WTO Legal Texts, World Trade Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 10 November 2018. https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/legal_e.htm#a#antidump.

²⁶⁵⁴ Declaration of the Seven Heads of State and Government and Representatives of the European Communities, G7 Research Group (Toronto). Access Date: 12 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1982versailles/communique.html>.

²⁶⁵⁵ Responsible leadership for a sustainable future, G7 Research Group (Toronto). Access Date: 12 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-declaration.pdf>.

trade practices” have been mentioned in every communiqué, except for the 2010 Muskoka Summit. At the 2017 Taormina Summit leaders pledged to “[stand] firm against all unfair trade practices.”²⁶⁵⁶ The Taormina Summit also marked a shift in the G7’s prioritization of eliminating unfair trade practices, with the communiqué listing out for the first time in detail the types of practices that the G7 considers to be unfair, including protectionism, dumping, barriers to trade, forced technology transfers, subsidies, and other practices that would “distort markets.”²⁶⁵⁷ At the Biarritz Summit, inequality was a primary focus across all topics discussed. G7 members called for “open and fair world trade” and for “the stability of the global economy.”²⁶⁵⁸ The validity and effectiveness of certain WTO rulings has been called into question recently, particularly with regards to the recent U.S.-China trade war.²⁶⁵⁹ As such, the topic of trade at Biarritz was focused on revitalizing the WTO to improve effectiveness on multiple fronts, including intellectual property protection, dispute resolution, and unfair trade practices.²⁶⁶⁰

Commitment Features

G7 members wish to overhaul the WTO in efforts to combat unfair trade practices. Examples of unfair trade practices included in the 2017 Taormina communiqué include “dumping, discriminatory non-tariff barriers, forced technology transfers, subsidies, and other support by governments and related institutions that distort markets.”²⁶⁶¹ Not included in the 2017 Taormina communiqué, but also considered as unfair trade practices are tariffs, quotas, and countervailing duties not permitted by the WTO.

By committing to “overhaul,” G7 members are expressing a desire to change the structure and/or rules of the WTO. One example of an overhaul could be to change the consensus principle on which governance of the WTO relies. With a membership of 160 countries with varying stages of economic, social, and political development, it is difficult to get all 160 countries to agree on issues. An alternative could be a majoritarian or representative decision-making process. Another could be to allow plurilateral agreements involving subset of members within the WTO structure.²⁶⁶² A second example of an overhaul could be to change the bodies and rules involved in the dispute resolution process.

The G7 members have specified in their commitment that the overhaul should “improve the effectiveness” of eliminating unfair trade practices. For evaluating this commitment, to “improve the effectiveness” will be understood in two primary ways. The first is to expand the set of unfair trade practices that are regulated under the WTO. An example could be to introduce new WTO rules on the trade of agricultural products. The second is to increase the speed and success rates with which unfair trade practices are sanctioned by the WTO and subsequently removed by the country imposing them. This could involve changing the rules of the dispute settlement mechanism so that cases are conducted

²⁶⁵⁶ G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto). Access Date: 12 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

²⁶⁵⁷ G7 Taormina Leaders’; Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto). Access Date: 12 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

²⁶⁵⁸ G7 Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Research Group (Toronto). Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-of-leaders.html>.

²⁶⁵⁹ G7 Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Research Group (Toronto). Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-of-leaders.html>.

²⁶⁶⁰ G7 Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Research Group (Toronto). Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-of-leaders.html>.

²⁶⁶¹ G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto). Access Date: 12 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

²⁶⁶² The End of Bretton Woods and the Future of the International Trading System, Edward Elgar (Cheltenham). Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://elgar.blog/2015/01/22/the-end-of-bretton-woods-and-the-future-of-the-international-trading-system-by-michael-trebilcock/>.

on a faster timeline. Regardless of whether it is the first or second method, the goal is to “eliminate” unfair trade practices, which means “to put an end to.” However, when “eliminate” is understood together with “improve the effectiveness,” the measures adopted by a G7 member do not need to completely put an end to unfair trade practices, but must work towards that goal.

The extent to which a G7 member fulfills this commitment will be measured by a depth analysis. A G7 member “fully wishing” to overhaul the WTO’s effectiveness of eliminating unfair trade practice will have publicly put forward proposals and engaged in multilateral negotiations in pursuit of this goal. A G7 member “partially wishing” to overhaul the WTO to improve effectiveness with regard to eliminating unfair trade practice will have publicly put forward proposals, but not have engaged in multilateral negotiations in pursuit of this goal. Successful negotiation of a multilateral agreement that changes WTO rules is not necessary for demonstrating “fully wishing” or “partially wishing,” as success depends on multiple countries reaching an agreement, including non-G7 members who have not made such a commitment.

In order for the G7 member to achieve full compliance score, it must have publicly put forward proposals and engaged in multilateral negotiations to change the rules and/or structure of the WTO to more effectively eliminate unfair trade practices. To earn a score of partial compliance, the G7 member must have publicly put forward proposals to change the rules and/or structure of the WTO to more effectively eliminate unfair trade practices, but not have engaged in multilateral negotiations. Non-compliance, or a score of -1, refers to G7 members who have not taken any action to more effectively eliminate unfair trade practices through the WTO.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member has NEITHER publicly put forward proposals NOR engaged in multilateral negotiations to change the rules and/or structure of the World Trade Organization to more effectively eliminate unfair trade practices.
0	The G7 member has publicly put forward proposals OR has engaged in multilateral negotiations to change the rules and/or structure of the World Trade Organization to more effectively eliminate unfair trade practices.
+1	The G7 member has publicly put forward proposals AND has engaged in multilateral negotiations to change the rules and/or structure of the World Trade Organization to more effectively eliminate unfair trade practices.

*Compliance Director: Ian Stansbury
Lead Analyst: Jessica Rapson*

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to overhaul the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve effectiveness of eliminating unfair trade practices.

On 10 December 2019, International Trade Minister Mary Ng said that Canada would work with all member states of the WTO in order to address and resolve the breakdown of the organization’s dispute resolution system.²⁶⁶³ Minister Ng also reiterated Canada’s commitment to WTO reform through the Ottawa Group and the Canada-European Union interim bilateral agreement, and that Canada is open to interim agreements until the situation is fully resolved.

²⁶⁶³ Canada will work to resolve WTO impasse, says trade minister, Radio Canada International (Ottawa). 10 December 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.rcinet.ca/en/2019/12/10/canada-will-work-to-resolve-wto-impasse-says-trade-minister/>

On 27 March 2020, International Trade Minister Mary Ng stated that the Government of Canada is taking strong action to strengthen the rules-based trading system with the WTO.²⁶⁶⁴ Mary Ng announced that following statements by ministers at Davos, Switzerland, Canada and 15 other members of the WTO have put in place the Multi-party Interim Arrangement (MPIA) for allowing appeals of panel reports in trade disputes.²⁶⁶⁵ The arrangement will allow WTO members to solve trade disputes amongst themselves and will be in place until the WTO Appellate Body is fully operational.²⁶⁶⁶

Canada has engaged in multilateral negotiations to address issues within the WTO, however, has not publicly put forward any proposals on WTO reform.

Thus, Canada has received a score of 0.

Analysts: Adarsh Addepalli and Ian Stansbury

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to overhaul the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve effectiveness of eliminating unfair trade practices.

On 19 September 2019, Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire met with German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz and German Economics Affairs Minister at the 50th Franco-German Economic and Financial Council in Paris.²⁶⁶⁷ Both countries aim to preserve the multilateral rules-based trading system with the WTO at its centre and leading its reform, focusing on issues of dispute settlement, industrial subsidies, and forced transfer of technologies.²⁶⁶⁸

On 10 October 2019, France and Canada co-host a session on trade and climate change as part of the WTO Public Forum with International Chamber of Commerce.²⁶⁶⁹ The French delegation, along with the Canadian delegation and the ICC, advocate that new international trade rules can foster and amplify research and innovation efforts in the private sector, and promote the reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers.²⁶⁷⁰

On 16 October 2019, President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel met for a Franco-German Council of Ministers meeting in Toulouse and reaffirmed the two countries'

²⁶⁶⁴ Statement on Multi-party Interim Arrangement for appealing trade disputes through the WTO, Government of Canada (Ottawa). 27 March 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/statement-on-multi-party-interim-arrangement-for-appealing-trade-disputes-through-wto.html>.

²⁶⁶⁵ Statement on Multi-party Interim Arrangement for appealing trade disputes through the WTO, Government of Canada (Ottawa). 27 March 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/statement-on-multi-party-interim-arrangement-for-appealing-trade-disputes-through-wto.html>.

²⁶⁶⁶ Statement on Multi-party Interim Arrangement for appealing trade disputes through the WTO, Government of Canada (Ottawa). 27 March 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/statement-on-multi-party-interim-arrangement-for-appealing-trade-disputes-through-wto.html>.

²⁶⁶⁷ 50th Franco-German Economic and Financial Council, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 19 September 2019. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Europe/Articles/2019-09-19-D-F-ECOFIN.html>.

²⁶⁶⁸ 50th Franco-German Economic and Financial Council, The Portal for the Economy, Finance, Action and Public Accounts (Paris) 19 September 2019. Access Date: 13 April 2020. https://www.economie.gouv.fr/recherche-resultat?search_api_views_fulltext=wto+&sort_by=search_api_relevance&afficher_extraits=oui&gid=.

²⁶⁶⁹ ICC Launches consultations series to discuss nexus between trade and climate, International Chamber of Commerce (Paris, Geneva, New York) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 24 November 2019. <https://iccwbo.org/media-wall/news-speeches/icc-launches-consultation-series-to-discuss-the-nexus-between-trade-and-climate/>.

²⁶⁷⁰ Public Forum 2019, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 8 Dec 2019.

willingness to protect and strengthen the multilateral trading system based on a reformed WTO.²⁶⁷¹ The two countries are looking to preserve the multilateralism objectives and procedures of this WTO reform.²⁶⁷²

On 6 November 2019, President Macron met with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang to discuss economic cooperation between France and China. The two leaders also agreed to improve bilateral coordination with regards to policy stance on WTO reform, in an effort to “better safeguard free trade and multilateralism.”²⁶⁷³

On 11 November 2019, Secretary of State to the Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Baptiste LeMoyne attending a meeting of EU trade ministers, where he reiterated the need for “ambitious reform” of the WTO and said that France supported the European Commission’s efforts towards WTO reform.²⁶⁷⁴

On 12 November 2019, Minister Le Maire spoke at the Paris Peace Forum panel on “The Future of Trade Rules,” expressing that no WTO reform can be carried out without reshaping economic and capitalistic development models which have brought about serious inequalities and environmental damages.²⁶⁷⁵ Further, that new political and economic principles need to be redefined before rebuilding a multilateral trading system.²⁶⁷⁶

On 7 January 2020, Minister Le Maire met with EU Trade Commissioner Phil Hogan to discuss reforms to the WTO, among other financial topics.²⁶⁷⁷ Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said that “WTO reform is one of France’s top priorities,” and that “France is ready to support all efforts allowing a jump-start of WTO reform negotiations and the solving of the problems affecting its dispute settlement body.”²⁶⁷⁸

France has taken steps to overhaul the WTO to improve effectiveness in eliminating unfair trade practices as they have engaged in multilateral negotiations but has not put forward any substantial proposals.

Thus, France has received a score of 0.

Analysts: Tirtha Shah and Ian Stansbury

²⁶⁷¹ France-Germany: What ambition for Europe? Institut Montaigne (France). Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.institutmontaigne.org/en/blog/france-germany-what-ambition-europe>.

²⁶⁷² France-Germany: What ambition for Europe? Institut Montaigne (France). Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.institutmontaigne.org/en/blog/france-germany-what-ambition-europe>.

²⁶⁷³ Li Keqiang Meets with President Emmanuel Macron of France, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1714263.shtml.

²⁶⁷⁴ EU - Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne attending Foreign Affairs Council in trade format (Brussels, 21 November 2019), France Diplomatie (Paris) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/european-union/news/article/eu-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-attending-foreign-affairs-council-in-trade-format>.

²⁶⁷⁵ The Future of Trade, Paris Peace Forum (Paris) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://parispeaceforum.org/publication/the-future-of-trade-rules/>.

²⁶⁷⁶ The Future of Trade, Paris Peace Forum (Paris) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://parispeaceforum.org/publication/the-future-of-trade-rules/>.

²⁶⁷⁷ France, US set two-week target for resolving digital tax spat, Reuters (Paris) 7 January 2020. Access Date: 9 January 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-usa-tax/france-us-set-two-week-target-for-resolving-digital-tax-spat-idUSKBN1Z60SM>.

²⁶⁷⁸ France, US set two-week target for resolving digital tax spat, Reuters (Paris) 7 January 2020. Access Date: 9 January 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-usa-tax/france-us-set-two-week-target-for-resolving-digital-tax-spat-idUSKBN1Z60SM>.

Germany: 0

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to overhaul the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve effectiveness of eliminating unfair trade practices.

On 16 October 2019, Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron met for a Franco-German Council of Ministers meeting in Toulouse and reaffirmed the two countries' willingness to protect and strengthen the multilateral trading system based on a reformed WTO.²⁶⁷⁹ The two countries are looking to preserve the multilateralism objectives and procedures of this WTO reform.²⁶⁸⁰

On 1 November 2019, Germany and India released a joint statement during Chancellor Merkel's visit to India, reiterating both countries' strong support for a rules-based trading system, restoration of the WTO dispute settlement system and reformation of the WTO without undermining the organization fundamental principles.²⁶⁸¹

Germany has engaged in multilateral negotiations to eliminate unfair trade practices. However, it has not put forward any public proposals to change the rules or structure of the WTO.

Thus, Germany has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Wing Ka Tsang

Italy: -1

Italy has not complied with its commitment to overhaul the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve effectiveness of eliminating unfair trade practices.

Currently, Italy has stated support for the removal of fisheries subsidies as well as the initiatives to refine the rules of digital commerce.²⁶⁸² Additionally, Italy supports the two-level dispute resolution system and Appellate Body.²⁶⁸³ However, Italy has not put forward proposals nor have engaged in multilateral negotiations on WTO reform. No actions were found for this report after searching publicly available online sources published by the government, relevant ministries and international organizations.²⁶⁸⁴

Thus, Italy has received a score of -1.

Analyst: Ayaka Behro

²⁶⁷⁹ France-Germany: What ambition for Europe? Institut Montaigne (France). Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.institutmontaigne.org/en/blog/france-germany-what-ambition-europe>.

²⁶⁸⁰ France-Germany: What ambition for Europe? Institut Montaigne (France). Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.institutmontaigne.org/en/blog/france-germany-what-ambition-europe>.

²⁶⁸¹ Joint statement during the visit of Chancellor of Germany to India, Ministry of External Affairs (India). Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/31991/Joint_Statement_during_the_visit_of_Chancellor_of_Germany_to_India..

²⁶⁸² World Trade Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 25 April 2020. https://italiarappginevra.esteri.it/rappginevra/en/italia_e_onu/omc/diritti-umani.html.

²⁶⁸³ World Trade Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 25 April 2020. https://italiarappginevra.esteri.it/rappginevra/en/italia_e_onu/omc/diritti-umani.html.

²⁶⁸⁴ This non-compliance was determined after research through the following websites: www.bbc.com, www.nytimes.com, www.governo.it, www.esteri.it/mae/en, <https://www.repubblica.it/>, <https://www.corriere.it/>, <https://www.wto.org/>, <https://www.oecd.org/italy/>, <https://www.mise.gov.it/> and www.ansa.it.

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to overhaul the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve effectiveness of eliminating unfair trade practices.

On December 11, 2019, Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a press release stating the country's position to reform the WTO Appellate Body.²⁶⁸⁵ Japan has contributed to stimulating negotiations at the WTO by presenting a concrete proposal by April 2020.²⁶⁸⁶ With the country co-chairing negotiations on the trade aspects of electronic commerce at the WTO to progress international regulation of the digital economy.²⁶⁸⁷

On January 14, 2020, in a joint statement by the European Union, United States and Japan, the countries announced their continued cooperation on WTO reform to include increased compliance with existing WTO notification obligations.²⁶⁸⁸ The three countries agreed that the current list of prohibited subsidies under WTO guidelines is insufficient in undertaking market distorting subsidization in certain jurisdiction.²⁶⁸⁹ Additionally, the three countries concluded that new types of unconditionally prohibited subsidies must be added to the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.²⁶⁹⁰

Japan has put forward several proposals and has engaged in multilateral negotiations on WTO reform.

Thus, Japan has received a score of +1.

Analysts: Ayaka Behro and Ian Stansbury

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to overhaul the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve effectiveness of eliminating unfair trade practices.

On 9 October 2019, International Trade Secretary Liz Truss reiterated the UK's commitment to reforming the WTO at her first WTO address at the International Chamber of Commerce Global dialogue on Trade Reform. In her speech, she put forward the factors the UK would like to see reformed, namely, the dispute settlement system and the Appellate Body.²⁶⁹¹ More specifically, Truss said that the UK wants to resolve the Appellate Body Crisis and change the time limits for Appellate

²⁶⁸⁵ Paralysis of the WTO's Appellate Body and WTO Reform (Statement by Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu). December 11, 2019. Access Date: 25 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000140.html

²⁶⁸⁶ Paralysis of the WTO's Appellate Body and WTO Reform (Statement by Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu). December 11, 2019. Access Date: 25 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000140.html

²⁶⁸⁷ Paralysis of the WTO's Appellate Body and WTO Reform (Statement by Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu). December 11, 2019. Access Date: 25 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000140.html

²⁶⁸⁸ Joint Statement of the Trilateral Meeting of the Trade Ministers of Japan, the United States and the European Union. January 14, 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/january/joint-statement-trilateral-meeting-trade-ministers-japan-united-states-and-european-union>

²⁶⁸⁹ Joint Statement of the Trilateral Meeting of the Trade Ministers of Japan, the United States and the European Union. January 14, 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/january/joint-statement-trilateral-meeting-trade-ministers-japan-united-states-and-european-union>

²⁶⁹⁰ Joint Statement of the Trilateral Meeting of the Trade Ministers of Japan, the United States and the European Union. January 14, 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/january/joint-statement-trilateral-meeting-trade-ministers-japan-united-states-and-european-union>

²⁶⁹¹ International Trade Secretary WTO address (London). 9 October 2019. Access Date: 27 November 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/international-trade-secretary-wto-address>

Body adjudication on appeals to avoid further future unauthorised overrunning of cases.²⁶⁹² She also indicated that there is “an urgent need to strengthen the rules on industrial subsidies, state-owned enterprises and forced technology transfer.”²⁶⁹³

On October 9 2019, Secretary Truss reaffirmed that the UK will take concrete steps to change the rules and/or structure of the WTO to effectively eliminate unfair trade practices after Britain’s exit from the European Union (Brexit) is formalized.²⁶⁹⁴ Currently, the European Commission speaks for all EU member States at almost all WTO meetings.²⁶⁹⁵ After Brexit negotiations are finalised, Britain will have its own independent seat at the WTO.²⁶⁹⁶ Trade Minister Liz Truss indicated that: “when we take our independent seat around the WTO table, I can assure you we will be unapologetic in fighting the forces of protectionism, in favour of genuinely free trade.”²⁶⁹⁷

The United Kingdom has put forward public proposals and has engaged in multilateral negotiations related to WTO reforms.

Thus, the United Kingdom has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Amira Higazy

United States: 0

The United States has not complied with its commitment to overhaul the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve effectiveness of eliminating unfair trade practices.

On 15 October 2019, Permanent Representative to the WTO Dennis Shea delivered a statement to the WTO General Council, outlining concerns that the United States has with the WTO, and put forward several reformative proposals.²⁶⁹⁸ Representative Shea also mentioned the US’s dissatisfaction with the WTO’s dispute mechanism, saying that if changes were not made to address unfair trade practices, the US would continue blocking appointments of judges to the Appellate Body.²⁶⁹⁹

On 10 December 2019, the United States allowed the WTO dispute mechanism to stop functioning.²⁷⁰⁰ The United States began blocking new appointments of the Appellate Body, reducing

²⁶⁹² International Trade Secretary WTO address (London). 9 October 2019. Access Date: 27 November 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/international-trade-secretary-wto-address>.

²⁶⁹³ International Trade Secretary WTO address (London). 9 October 2019. Access Date: 27 November 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/international-trade-secretary-wto-address>.

²⁶⁹⁴ UK will back WTO reform after Brexit, trade minister says (Geneva). 9 October 2019. Access Date: 27 November 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-wto-britain/uk-will-back-wto-reform-after-brexit-trade-minister-says-idUSKBN1WO1RB>.

²⁶⁹⁵ Member Information The European Union and the WTO. Access Date: 9 December 2019. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/countries_e/european_communities_e.htm.

²⁶⁹⁶ International Trade Secretary WTO address (London). 9 October 2019. Access Date: 27 November 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/international-trade-secretary-wto-address>.

²⁶⁹⁷ International Trade Secretary WTO address (London). 9 October 2019. Access Date: 27 November 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/international-trade-secretary-wto-address>.

²⁶⁹⁸ Statements Delivered to the General Council by Ambassador Dennis Shea U.S. Permanent Representative to the World Trade Organization, US Missions to International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 15 October 2019. Access Date: 7 January 2019. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2019/10/15/statements-by-the-united-states-at-the-wto-general-council-meeting/>.

²⁶⁹⁹ Free trade groups urge Trump administration to push forward WTO reform, Xinhua Net (China). Access Date: 19 December 2019. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/24/c_138497458.htm.

²⁷⁰⁰ Trump blocks global trade referee powers just ahead of planned China escalation, Market Insider (United States). Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/trump-blocks-global-trade-referee-wto-china-tariff-fights-escalate-2019-12-1028752979>.

its seven members to three, and preventing the organization from issuing binding rulings on trade disagreements.²⁷⁰¹

On 15 January 2020, the United States, including the European Union and Japan, proposed limiting industrial subsidies by adding four new “unconditionally prohibited subsidies” to the current WTO list of prohibited subsidies.²⁷⁰² The countries also explored ways to regulate forced technology transfer. Currently, WTO rules prohibit subsidies linked to export performance and dependent on the use of excessively imported domestic goods.²⁷⁰³ The propose subsidies will improve WTO regulatory rules by requiring the subsidizing country to demonstrate that there is no serious negative effect on trade.²⁷⁰⁴

On 28 February 2020, the United States trade representative delivered President Trump’s 2020 Trade Policy Agenda and Annual Report to Congress.²⁷⁰⁵ The agenda highlighted the State’s efforts to change WTO practices, including tabling a transparency proposal that establish appropriate consequences for chronic non-compliance with notification obligations.²⁷⁰⁶ Another proposal was made to update Members’ special and differential designations to better reflect WTO current economic realities.²⁷⁰⁷ This caused several WTO members to halt seeking special and differential treatment in trade negotiations.²⁷⁰⁸

On 3 March 2020, Ambassador Dennis Shea from the United States delivered a statement to the WTO General Council Meeting.²⁷⁰⁹ The U.S. proposed setting objective criteria to determine whether a WTO member may continue to have special and differential treatment.²⁷¹⁰ The U.S. stated

²⁷⁰¹ Trump blocks global trade referee powers just ahead of planned China escalation, Market Insider (United States). Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/trump-blocks-global-trade-referee-wto-china-tariff-fights-escalate-2019-12-1028752979>.

²⁷⁰² Current trade matters, Newsboard, AmCham Germany (Frankfurt) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.amcham.de/newsboard/news/current-trade-matters>.

²⁷⁰³ Current trade matters, Newsboard, AmCham Germany (Frankfurt) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.amcham.de/newsboard/news/current-trade-matters>.

²⁷⁰⁴ Current trade matters, Newsboard, AmCham Germany (Frankfurt) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.amcham.de/newsboard/news/current-trade-matters>.

²⁷⁰⁵ Factsheet: The President’s 2020 Trade Agenda and Annual Report, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 15 March 15, 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/fact-sheets/2020/february/fact-sheet-presidents-2020-trade-agenda-and-annual-report>.

²⁷⁰⁶ Factsheet: The President’s 2020 Trade Agenda and Annual Report, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 15 March 15, 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/fact-sheets/2020/february/fact-sheet-presidents-2020-trade-agenda-and-annual-report>.

²⁷⁰⁷ Factsheet: The President’s 2020 Trade Agenda and Annual Report, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 15 March 15, 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/fact-sheets/2020/february/fact-sheet-presidents-2020-trade-agenda-and-annual-report>.

²⁷⁰⁸ Factsheet: The President’s 2020 Trade Agenda and Annual Report, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 15 March 15, 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/fact-sheets/2020/february/fact-sheet-presidents-2020-trade-agenda-and-annual-report>.

²⁷⁰⁹ Statement by Ambassador Dennis Shea at the March 3, 2020 General Council Meeting, U.S. Mission to International Organization in Geneva (Geneva) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2020/03/03/statements-by-ambassador-dennis-shea-at-the-march-3-2020-general-council-meeting/>.

²⁷¹⁰ Statement by Ambassador Dennis Shea at the March 3, 2020 General Council Meeting, U.S. Mission to International Organization in Geneva (Geneva) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2020/03/03/statements-by-ambassador-dennis-shea-at-the-march-3-2020-general-council-meeting/>.

that certain WTO members were inappropriately seeking special and differential treatment in WTO negotiations, and that the proposed criteria would adequately address this issue.²⁷¹¹

The United States has publicly put forward proposals to reform the WTO. However, it has not participated in multilateral negotiations to change the rules or structure of the WTO.

Thus, the United States has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Wing Ka Tsang

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to overhaul the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve effectiveness of eliminating unfair trade practices.

On 21 October 2019, the European Union agreed on a second interim appeal system with Norway as a means to “secure an effective and binding dispute settlement for any potential trade disputes” in the case that the Appellate Body fails to be operational.²⁷¹²

On 21 November 2019, the Foreign Affairs Council held a meeting between EU foreign ministers, where ministers reiterated the importance of the WTO and that reform was required in order to maintain a stable international trade system.²⁷¹³

On 12 December 2019, the European Commission released a proposal that would allow for the EU to enforce international trade rules in the case that the WTO is no longer able to.²⁷¹⁴ The proposal was released in response to the WTO Appellate Body being unable to elect new judges in order to make binding decisions on trade disputes.²⁷¹⁵ The proposal was made as an effort to maintain the continuity of the international trade system while ongoing negotiations regarding WTO reform continue.²⁷¹⁶

On 7 January 2020, Trade Commissioner Phil Hogan met with French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire to discuss reforms to the WTO, among other financial topics.²⁷¹⁷ Commissioner Hogan said

²⁷¹¹ Statement by Ambassador Dennis Shea at the March 3, 2020 General Council Meeting, U.S. Mission to International Organization in Geneva (Geneva) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2020/03/03/statements-by-ambassador-dennis-shea-at-the-march-3-2020-general-council-meeting/>.

²⁷¹² EU and Norway agree on interim appeal system in wake of World Trade Organization Appellate Body Blockage, European Commission (Brussels) 21 October 2019. Date of Access: 21 December 2019. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2074>.

²⁷¹³ Trade Ministers Discussed WTO Reform, EU-US Trade Relations and Implementation of Free Trade Agreements, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 7 January 2020. https://eu2019.fi/en/article/-/asset_publisher/kauppaministerien-agendalla-wto-n-uudistustyo-eu-n-ja-yhdysvaltojen-kauppasuhteet-seka-kauppasopimusten-toimeenpano.

²⁷¹⁴ Commission proposes new tools to enforce Europe's rights in international trade, European Commission (Brussels) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 7 January 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/QANDA_19_6757.

²⁷¹⁵ Commission proposes new tools to enforce Europe's rights in international trade, European Commission (Brussels) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 7 January 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/QANDA_19_6757.

²⁷¹⁶ Commission proposes new tools to enforce Europe's rights in international trade, European Commission (Brussels) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 7 January 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/QANDA_19_6757.

²⁷¹⁷ France, US set two-week target for resolving digital tax spat, Reuters (Paris) 7 January 2020. Access Date: 9 January 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-usa-tax/france-us-set-two-week-target-for-resolving-digital-tax-spat-idUSKBN1Z60SM>.

that the European Commission will “stand by France” in its digital tax dispute with the US, and that the EU “want[s] to see a reform of the WTO” and that the EU “share[s] the US analysis” on reforms.²⁷¹⁸

On 24 January 2020, the European Union, agreed to create a temporary mechanism in order to settle trade disputes following the collapse of the Appellate Body, due to lack of support from the US.²⁷¹⁹ This is a means to continue to the appeal system which had been a means to settle trade disputes with Norway.²⁷²⁰ This, takes those mechanisms and applies it to a total of 15 other countries.²⁷²¹

On 15 April 2020, the European Union approved the creation of the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement to allow WTO members to solve trade disputes while the WTO Appellate Body is suspended.²⁷²²

The European Union has participated in multilateral negotiations on WTO reform and has put forth proposals that would allow for trade system continuity as other WTO reforms continue to be negotiated and implemented.

Thus, the European Union has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Adarsh Addepalli

²⁷¹⁸ France, US set two-week target for resolving digital tax spat, Reuters (Paris) 7 January 2020. Access Date: 9 January 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-usa-tax/france-us-set-two-week-target-for-resolving-digital-tax-spat-idUSKBN1Z60SM>.

²⁷¹⁹ EU and Norway agree on interim appeal system in wake of World Trade Organization Appellate Body Blockage, European Commission (Brussels) 21 October 2019. Date of Access: 21 December 2019. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2074>.

²⁷²⁰ EU and Norway agree on interim appeal system in wake of World Trade Organization Appellate Body Blockage, European Commission (Brussels) 21 October 2019. Date of Access: 21 December 2019. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2074>.

²⁷²¹ EU, China and 15 others agree temporary fix to WTO crisis (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Date of Access: 13 April 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-trade-wto/eu-china-and-15-others-agree-temporary-fix-to-wto-crisis-idUSKBN1ZN0WM>.

²⁷²² Council approves a multi-party interim appeal arbitration arrangement to solve trade disputes, Council of the European Union (Brussels). 15 April 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/04/15/council-approves-a-multi-party-interim-appeal-arbitration-arrangement-to-solve-trade-disputes/>.

15. Trade: Tax Policy

“The G7 commits to reaching in 2020 an agreement to simplify regulatory barriers and modernize international taxation within the framework of the OECD [Organisation for Economic Co-operation Development].”

G7 Biarritz Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France		0	
Germany			+1
Italy		0	
Japan		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States	-1		
European Union		0	
Average		+0.25 (75%)	

Background

This commitment deals with international taxation in the context of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The OECD is an organization of 36 countries that formed in 1961 and was preceded by the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation, founded in 1948.²⁷²³ It works on numerous topics, including tax, trade, and regulatory reform through more than 300 committees and expert groups, and holds an annual Ministerial Council Meeting.²⁷²⁴ Within its work on tax, OECD areas of focus include “aggressive tax planning,” which refers to tax avoidance and evasion,²⁷²⁵ consumption taxes, transfer pricing, financial crime, fiscal federalism, and tax certainty and assurance. Throughout these areas, domestic tax base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS), whereby businesses “artificially shift profits” to jurisdiction with less taxation, is a particular concern since it is estimated to cause the loss of four to ten per cent of global corporate tax revenue annually. This is being addressed by the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS, a collaboration of over 135 countries and jurisdictions.²⁷²⁶

On 8 June 2015, the G7 Schloss Elmau Leaders’ Declaration reaffirmed the members’ commitment to “finalize concrete and feasible recommendations for the G20/OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Action Plan” by the end of that year in G7 Summit Leaders’ Declaration. They recognized “the importance of beneficial ownership transparency” and committed to “strive to improve existing international information networks and cross-border cooperation on tax matters,

²⁷²³ Who we are, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) No publication date. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.oecd.org/about/history/>.

²⁷²⁴ Organizational Structure, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) No publication date. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <https://www.oecd.org/about/structure/>.

²⁷²⁵ Aggressive Tax Planning, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) No publication date. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/aggressive/>.

²⁷²⁶ Base Erosion and Profit Shifting, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) No publication date. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/>.

including through a commitment to establish binding mandatory arbitration in order to ensure that the risk of double taxation does not act as a barrier to cross-border trade and investment.”²⁷²⁷

On 27 May 2016, the G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration stated that leaders “remain committed to lead the [implementation of the G20/OECD BEPS package] by example.” Leaders reaffirmed the “G20’s call on all relevant countries including all financial centres and jurisdictions to implement the standard on automatic exchange of information by committed deadline and to sign the Multilateral Convention, as well as the request to the OECD to establish the ‘objective criteria to identify non-cooperative jurisdictions with respect to tax transparency.’”²⁷²⁸

On 27 May 2017, the G7 Taormina Leaders' Communiqué stated that leaders “commit to tackling all forms of corruption and tax evasion, as a means of reinforcing public trust in governments and fostering sustainable global growth.”²⁷²⁹

On 9 June 2018, the Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué stated that leaders committed to “exchange approaches and support international efforts to deliver fair, progressive, effective and efficient tax systems” and to “continue to fight tax evasion and avoidance by promoting the global implementation of international standards and addressing base erosion and profit shifting.”²⁷³⁰

Also on 9 June 2018, the Charlevoix Commitment on Equality and Economic Growth similarly stated that leaders committed to “share approaches and support global efforts to make the tax system fair to everyone and facilitate tax collection by addressing base erosion and profit shifting and other forms of tax avoidance and continuing to work on tax capacity building to advance sustainable development.” As well, it is stated that leaders “will promote the global implementation of international standards regarding financial accounts and beneficial ownership in order to fight tax evasion.”²⁷³¹

On 18 July 2019, international taxation concerns were discussed in the Chair's Summary of the G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting in Chantilly, France. Finance ministers “agreed that it is urgent to address the tax challenges raised by the digitalization of the economy and the shortcomings of the current transfer pricing system” and “fully supported a two-pillar solution to be adopted by 2020 through the work programme endorsed by the G20 Leaders.” The first pillar would develop “administrable and simple” rules to address new business models to reinforce tax certainty and limit aggressive tax planning, complemented by “robust and effective tax dispute resolution through mandatory arbitration,” while the second pillar would develop a minimum level of effective taxation similar to the United States' Global Intangible Low-Taxed Income regime.²⁷³²

Commitment Features

At the 2019 Biarritz Summit, the G7 members committed to “[reach] in 2020 an agreement to simplify regulatory barriers and modernize international taxation within the framework of the OECD,” where “regulatory barriers” refers to restrictions on international commerce imposed by

²⁷²⁷ Leaders' Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

²⁷²⁸ G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

²⁷²⁹ G7 Taormina Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communiqu.html>.

²⁷³⁰ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqu.html>.

²⁷³¹ Charlevoix Commitment on Equality and Economic Growth, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/growth-commitment.html>.

²⁷³² Chair's Summary: G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 18 July 2019. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/finance/190718-summary.html>.

state institutions and “international taxation” refers to the global system of taxing transactions and entities that transcend national boundaries. Since this specific commitment is about a future action that is difficult to measure, this commitment will be interpreted in a similar manner to the “Financial Regulation: International Taxation” commitment from the G20 Research Group’s Buenos Aires Summit Compliance Report, for which the specific commitment was “We will continue our work for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system based, in particular on tax treaties and transfer pricing rules.”²⁷³³ That commitment from the Buenos Aires Summit Compliance Report focused on the G20 members’ actions to address BEPS under the OECD/G20 BEPS package.²⁷³⁴

There are three component areas for this commitment: the first two include either national-focused or international-focused actions to build a fairer and more modern international tax system under the OECD/G20 BEPS package, and the third includes actions taken as part of the process of adopting the OECD’s “Unified Approach” to deal with Pillar One BEPS issues. Pillar One issues include those surrounding solutions for determining where tax should be paid and on what basis, as well as the portion of profits that should be payable in the consumer’s jurisdiction.²⁷³⁵

Examples of the first component include actions taken to improve national tax systems by making them fairer and more modern and actions taken to simplify regulatory barriers in accordance with the principles of BEPS. Examples of the second component include any actions taken in cooperation with other countries, either bilaterally or multilaterally, to jointly improve tax systems, including by sharing financial information and best practices, and jointly simplify regulatory barriers. The third component consists of actions that directly support the adoption of or participate in the consultation process surrounding the new BEPS “Unified Approach.”

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G7 member takes action in one or none of the three areas of improving national tax systems OR improving international tax systems OR cooperating in the adoption of the new OECD “Unified Approach.”
0	G7 member takes action in at least two of the three commitment areas of improving national tax systems OR improving international tax systems OR cooperating in the adoption of the new OECD “Unified Approach.”
+1	G7 member takes action in all three commitment areas of improving national tax systems AND improving international tax systems AND cooperating in the adoption of the new OECD “Unified Approach.”

*Compliance Director: Christopher Sims
Lead Analyst: Zhenglin Liu with Sinnie Lao*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment “to simplify regulatory barriers and modernize international taxation within the framework of the OECD [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development].”

²⁷³³ Buenos Aires Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>.

²⁷³⁴ 2018 G20 Buenos Aires Summit Compliance Report, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 26 June 2019. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/compliance/2018buenosaires-final/16-2018-g20-compliance-tax.pdf>.

²⁷³⁵ Action 1: Tax Challenges Arising from Digitalisation. Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) No publication date. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/beps-actions/action1/>.

On 29 August 2019, Canada deposited its instrument of ratification for the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (MLI).²⁷³⁶ The MLI is a multilateral convention intended to simplify the process of amending bilateral tax treaties in accordance with the principles of base erosion and profit shifting and has already been ratified by 85 jurisdictions.²⁷³⁷

On 9 December 2019, Finance Minister Bill Morneau confirmed plans to impose a three per cent digital services tax on digital companies with worldwide revenues of at least CAD1 billion and Canadian revenues of more than CAD40 million.²⁷³⁸ The tax is designed to combat tax avoidance by international digital companies and is planned to take effect on 1 April 2020.²⁷³⁹

On 23 January 2020, Canada undertook a global day of action in conjunction with the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, and the Netherlands to investigate an international financial institution suspected of facilitating money laundering and tax evasion.²⁷⁴⁰ The coordinated day of action involved interviews and the use of subpoenas and search warrants, and is expected to lead to criminal, civil, and regulatory action in each participating country.²⁷⁴¹ This was the first major operation of the Joint Chiefs of Global Tax Enforcement (J5), an organization of tax enforcement leaders from each of the five participating countries, formed to combat tax crime and money laundering.²⁷⁴²

On 30 January 2020, the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS, of which Canada is a member, released a statement on the OECD's Two-Pillar Approach.²⁷⁴³ The statement includes an affirmation

²⁷³⁶ Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting coming into force in Canada, Ernst and Young LLC (Ottawa) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://assets.ey.com/content/dam/ey-sites/ey-com/en_ca/topics/tax/tax-alerts/2019/ey-taxalert2019no40.pdf.

²⁷³⁷ Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting coming into force in Canada, Ernst and Young LLC (Ottawa) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://assets.ey.com/content/dam/ey-sites/ey-com/en_ca/topics/tax/tax-alerts/2019/ey-taxalert2019no40.pdf.

²⁷³⁸ Canada to move ahead with digital services tax plan -finance minister, Reuters (Ottawa) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/canada-to-move-ahead-with-digital-services-tax-plan-finance-minister-2019-12-09>.

²⁷³⁹ Canada to move ahead with digital services tax plan -finance minister, Reuters (Ottawa) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/canada-to-move-ahead-with-digital-services-tax-plan-finance-minister-2019-12-09>.

²⁷⁴⁰ Global tax chiefs undertake unprecedented multi-country day of action to tackle international tax evasion, Canada Revenue Agency (Ottawa) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2020/01/global-tax-chiefs-undertake-unprecedented-multi-country-day-of-action-to-tackle-international-tax-evasion.html>.

²⁷⁴¹ Global tax chiefs undertake unprecedented multi-country day of action to tackle international tax evasion, Canada Revenue Agency (Ottawa) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2020/01/global-tax-chiefs-undertake-unprecedented-multi-country-day-of-action-to-tackle-international-tax-evasion.html>.

²⁷⁴² Global tax chiefs undertake unprecedented multi-country day of action to tackle international tax evasion, Canada Revenue Agency (Ottawa) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2020/01/global-tax-chiefs-undertake-unprecedented-multi-country-day-of-action-to-tackle-international-tax-evasion.html>.

²⁷⁴³ Statement by the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS on the Two-Pillar Approach to Address the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy – January 2020, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/statement-by-the-oecd-g20-inclusive-framework-on-beps-january-2020.pdf>.

of commitment by members to reach an agreement on a consensus-based solution and an outline of the architecture of a Unified Approach on Pillar One.²⁷⁴⁴

On 16 July 2020, Canada joined the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting and released a communique that includes a reaffirmation of commitment by members towards building a "modern international tax system," to reaching a "global and consensus-based solution" by the end of the year, and the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS through advancement on both pillars.²⁷⁴⁵ The ministers and bank governors stated that they will submit a report on the outline for each pillar to the next G20 virtual finance meeting to be held in October 2020.²⁷⁴⁶

Canada has taken action to improve national tax systems by implementing a digital services tax; has taken action to improve international tax systems by ratifying the MLI, modernizing CIFTA, and acting with the J5 to combat offshore tax evasion; and has cooperated in the adoption of the new OECD "Unified Approach" through its statement as part of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Tony Xun

France: 0

France has partially complied with the commitment "to simplify regulatory barriers and modernize international taxation within the framework of the OECD [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development]."

On 26 August 2019, President Emmanuel Macron stated that France's digital services tax (DST) would be eliminated during a conference with U.S. President Donald Trump.²⁷⁴⁷ President Macron also declared that if the OECD framework recommends the implementation of a new international digital services tax system then any DST that has been paid by multinational companies would be refunded.²⁷⁴⁸

On 27 September 2019, the French government released its draft Finance Bill for 2020, which reduces a proposed French corporate income tax rate decrease for large companies.²⁷⁴⁹ The draft Finance Bill also proposes several steps to implement the European Union Anti-Tax Avoidance

²⁷⁴⁴ Statement by the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS on the Two-Pillar Approach to Address the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy – January 2020, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/statement-by-the-oecd-g20-inclusive-framework-on-beps-january-2020.pdf>.

²⁷⁴⁵ G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors Meeting Communique, G20 (Riyadh) 18 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/Final%20G20%20FMCBG%20Communique%C3%A9%20-%20July%202020.pdf>.

²⁷⁴⁶ G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors Meeting Communique, G20 (Riyadh) 18 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/Final%20G20%20FMCBG%20Communique%C3%A9%20-%20July%202020.pdf>.

²⁷⁴⁷ G7 leaders' declaration addresses international tax, France discusses future of French Digital Services Tax, EY Tax Insights (Paris) No publication date. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://taxinsights.ey.com/archive/archive-news/g7-leader%E2%80%99s-declaration-addresses-international-tax-france.aspx>.

²⁷⁴⁸ G7 leaders' declaration addresses international tax, France discusses future of French Digital Services Tax, EY Tax Insights (Paris) No publication date. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://taxinsights.ey.com/archive/archive-news/g7-leader%E2%80%99s-declaration-addresses-international-tax-france.aspx>.

²⁷⁴⁹ French Government releases draft Finance Bill for 2020, EY Global Tax Alert (Paris) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.ey.com/gl/en/services/tax/international-tax/alert--french-government-releases-draft-finance-bill-for-2020>.

Directives and decreases a domestic research and development tax credit.²⁷⁵⁰ Following a decision by the Court of Justice of the European Union, the bill proposes to allow entities in certain jurisdictions in a tax loss position to claim refunds on some French withholding taxes.²⁷⁵¹ On 19 December 2019, the French Parliament approved the Bill.²⁷⁵² Under it, executives of large French corporations whose annual turnover exceeds EUR250 million will be considered as tax residents of France.²⁷⁵³

On 20 November 2019, the French Council of Economic Analysis, an official French organization that analyzes, tracks and offers proposals on French tax policy in line with the stance of the French government, proposed to “impose a minimum tax rate on the profits of multinationals, as well “as require that a portion of the profits of multinationals be taxed where their consumers or internet users are located.”²⁷⁵⁴

On 26 November 2019, French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire defended the proposal for a 12.5 per cent minimum global tax rate in a speech at the OECD.²⁷⁵⁵ This is in line with the rate at which foreign profits by American companies are taxed in the United States, but substantially lower than the average effective tax rate faced by large companies in France.²⁷⁵⁶

On 6 December 2019, Minister Le Maire rejected a United States proposal for a “safe harbor regime” in the context of OECD negotiations on international tax reform.²⁷⁵⁷ According to Minister Le Maire, the proposal would enable companies to opt out of the proposed reforms, which include moves away from such structures as arms’-length transfer pricing.²⁷⁵⁸

On 11 December 2019, the French government unveiled details of a planned pension system overhaul. President Macron has expressed his desire to replace the current complex system with a unified scheme, so that all workers have similar pension rights.²⁷⁵⁹ According to the Associated Press, the current pension plan in France is complex, and the new one aims to “to adapt to a more flexible

²⁷⁵⁰ French Government releases draft Finance Bill for 2020, EY Global Tax Alert (Paris) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.ey.com/gl/en/services/tax/international-tax/alert--french-government-releases-draft-finance-bill-for-2020>.

²⁷⁵¹ French Government releases draft Finance Bill for 2020, EY Global Tax Alert (Paris) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.ey.com/gl/en/services/tax/international-tax/alert--french-government-releases-draft-finance-bill-for-2020>.

²⁷⁵² France – 2020 Finance Law Adopted, Some Changes to Budget Measures, KPMG GMS Flash Alert (Paris) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/01/flash-alert-2020-015.html>.

²⁷⁵³ France – 2020 Finance Law Adopted, Some Changes to Budget Measures, KPMG GMS Flash Alert (Paris) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/01/flash-alert-2020-015.html>.

²⁷⁵⁴ International Corporate tax, Government of France (Paris) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/international-corporate-tax>.

²⁷⁵⁵ La France pour un impôt mondial minimum de 12,5 % sur les entreprises, Les Echos (Paris) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.lesechos.fr/monde/enjeux-internationaux/la-france-pour-un-impot-mondial-minimum-de-125-sur-les-entreprises-1150934>.

²⁷⁵⁶ La France pour un impôt mondial minimum de 12,5 % sur les entreprises, Les Echos (Paris) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.lesechos.fr/monde/enjeux-internationaux/la-france-pour-un-impot-mondial-minimum-de-125-sur-les-entreprises-1150934>.

²⁷⁵⁷ France rejects U.S. proposal on international tax reform, NASDAQ (Paris) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/france-rejects-u.s.-proposal-on-international-tax-reform-2019-12-06>.

²⁷⁵⁸ France rejects U.S. proposal on international tax reform, NASDAQ (Paris) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/france-rejects-u.s.-proposal-on-international-tax-reform-2019-12-06>.

²⁷⁵⁹ France’s pension overhaul: a look at the planned changes, Associated Press News (Paris) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://apnews.com/2b83ffd527798d28e31bc61b898fafc7>.

labor market,” as well as make “the new system financially sustainable in the long-term.”²⁷⁶⁰ On 17 March 2020, however, Minister Le Maire announced that these reforms have been suspended.²⁷⁶¹

On 21 January 2020, a French government official told the BBC that France has agreed to delay implementing its new digital tax on multinational technology firms until the end of 2020.²⁷⁶² The United States had previously threatened a possible tariff war between the United States and France where the United States would raise taxes on certain imports, hindering uniform global taxation.²⁷⁶³

On 30 January 2020, the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS, of which France is a member, released a statement on the OECD’s Two-Pillar Approach.²⁷⁶⁴ The statement includes an affirmation of commitment by members to reach an agreement on a consensus-based solution and an outline of the architecture of a Unified Approach on Pillar One.²⁷⁶⁵

On 9 March 2020, the French Tax Authorities published guidelines to the ordinance that implemented the EU DAC 6 directive on the exchange of taxation information into French law.²⁷⁶⁶ The guidelines reflect elements of the OECD’s BEPS work on the mandatory disclosure of potentially aggressive tax planning.²⁷⁶⁷

On 3 April 2020, the French government announced that it has allowed companies in need to defer social security contributions and direct taxes originally due on 15 March.²⁷⁶⁸ Additionally, companies facing extreme financial difficulties may be considered for a tax refund, which is limited to corporate income tax and related taxes.²⁷⁶⁹

²⁷⁶⁰ France’s pension overhaul: a look at the planned changes, Associated Press News (Paris) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://apnews.com/2b83ffd527798d28e31bc61b898fafc7>.

²⁷⁶¹ France scraps pension reform plan, budget, Pensions & Investments (New York) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.pionline.com/legislation/france-scraps-pension-reform-plan-budget>.

²⁷⁶² France agrees to delay new tax on tech giants, BBC Business (London) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-51192369>.

²⁷⁶³ US could impose 100% tariffs on French goods following France’s tax on tech giants, Tech Crunch (San Francisco) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://techcrunch.com/2019/12/03/us-could-impose-100-tariffs-on-french-goods-following-frances-tax-on-tech-giants/>.

²⁷⁶⁴ Statement by the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS on the Two-Pillar Approach to Address the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy – January 2020, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/statement-by-the-oecd-g20-inclusive-framework-on-beps-january-2020.pdf>.

²⁷⁶⁵ Statement by the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS on the Two-Pillar Approach to Address the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy – January 2020, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/statement-by-the-oecd-g20-inclusive-framework-on-beps-january-2020.pdf>.

²⁷⁶⁶ DAC 6: First FTA guidelines published, Deloitte Tax@hand (Paris) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://www.taxathand.com/article/13113/France/2020/DAC-6-First-FTA-guidelines-published>.

²⁷⁶⁷ DAC 6: First FTA guidelines published, Deloitte Tax@hand (Paris) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://www.taxathand.com/article/13113/France/2020/DAC-6-First-FTA-guidelines-published>.

²⁷⁶⁸ Prolongement des possibilités de report des cotisations sociales et impôts directs des entreprises pour tout le mois d’avril, Government of France (Paris) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/prolongement-possibilites-report-cotisations-sociales-impots-directs-entreprises>.

²⁷⁶⁹ Prolongement des possibilités de report des cotisations sociales et impôts directs des entreprises pour tout le mois d’avril, Government of France (Paris) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/prolongement-possibilites-report-cotisations-sociales-impots-directs-entreprises>.

On 24 June 2020, France and Luxembourg agreed to extend their cross-border worker tax residency accord until 31 August 2020.²⁷⁷⁰ The accord was implemented to avoid double taxation of French cross-border workers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁷⁷¹

On 16 July 2020, France joined the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting to release a communique that includes a reaffirmation of commitment by members towards building a "modern international tax system," to reaching a "global and consensus-based solution" by the end of the year, and the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS through advancement on both pillars.²⁷⁷² The ministers and bank governors stated that they will submit a report on the outline for each pillar to the next G20 virtual finance meeting to be held in October 2020.²⁷⁷³

On 16 July 2020, the Government of France signed an agreement with Italy clarifying their double taxation tax treaty in regards to cross-border workers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁷⁷⁴ The agreement states that cross-border workers working at home in their state of residence, during which time they would usually work across the border at their state of employment, will continue to be taxed as cross-border workers in their state of residence as stated under Article 15 paragraph 4 of the tax treaty.²⁷⁷⁵

On 25 August 2020, the Government of France and the Government of Luxembourg agreed to extend the validity of their cross-border worker tax residency accord to 31 December 2020.²⁷⁷⁶

France has taken action to improve national tax systems, including through legislation and proposing or defending minimum tax rates, and has cooperated in the adoption of the new OECD "Unified Approach," but has taken no action in improving international tax systems.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Qiyu Zhou

²⁷⁷⁰ France, Luxembourg Extend Taxation Accord for Cross-Border Workers, Bloomberg Tax (Luxembourg City) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report-international/france-luxembourg-extend-taxation-accord-for-cross-border-workers>.

²⁷⁷¹ France, Luxembourg Extend Taxation Accord for Cross-Border Workers, Bloomberg Tax (Luxembourg City) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report-international/france-luxembourg-extend-taxation-accord-for-cross-border-workers>.

²⁷⁷² G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors Meeting Communique, G20 (Riyadh) 18 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/Final%20G20%20FMCBG%20Communique%C3%A9%20-%20July%202020.pdf>.

²⁷⁷³ G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors Meeting Communique, G20 (Riyadh) 18 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/Final%20G20%20FMCBG%20Communique%C3%A9%20-%20July%202020.pdf>

²⁷⁷⁴ Interpretive agreement on the tax treatment of border crossings during the emergency Covid-19 with France, Ministry of Finance (Rome) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.finanze.gov.it/export/sites/finanze/it/.content/Documenti/Varie/Accordo-frontalieri-Covid-19-Italia-Francia.pdf>.

²⁷⁷⁵ Interpretive agreement on the tax treatment of border crossings during the emergency Covid-19 with France, Ministry of Finance (Rome) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.finanze.gov.it/export/sites/finanze/it/.content/Documenti/Varie/Accordo-frontalieri-Covid-19-Italia-Francia.pdf>.

²⁷⁷⁶ France, Luxembourg Extend Cross-Border Worker Tax Deal, Tax-News (Brussels) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. https://www.tax-news.com/news/France_Luxembourg_Extend_CrossBorder_Worker_Tax_Deal____97801.html.

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment “to simplify regulatory barriers and modernize international taxation within the framework of the OECD [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development].”

On 9 October 2019, the federal cabinet approved the draft Act Introducing a Reporting Obligation for Cross-Border Tax Arrangements. The new act enables the fiscal administration and lawmakers to identify base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) practices at an early stage and to close unintended loopholes rapidly.²⁷⁷⁷ The new reporting obligation includes a variety of measures, following the BEPS process, to be implemented by the German government to increase transparency, prevent harmful tax competition, and combat tax fraud and avoidance.²⁷⁷⁸

On 18 November 2019, the German Ministry of Finance set up a new task force to combat tax fraud and tax avoidance.²⁷⁷⁹ This new special unit will detect illicit tax schemes and large-scale tax fraud attempts like the Cum-Ex arrangement, a large tax fraud case in which billions of euros of tax revenue was lost because of the practice of claiming multiple tax refunds on the same security.²⁷⁸⁰

On 9 December 2019, Germany and Singapore amended the 28 June 2004 Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation to bring the agreement in line with the principles of BEPS.²⁷⁸¹ The amendments reduce the withholding tax rate charged for cross-border dividends, the withholding tax rate on interest, and updates exchange of information provisions in line with international standards.²⁷⁸²

On 10 December 2019, German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz sent his plans for a new financial transaction tax to ministers from nine other EU member states. The draft sought to levy a tax of 0.2 per cent of the transaction value of purchases of shares in large registered European companies at over EUR1 billion. The proposed financial transaction tax is intended to make financial markets more stable by discouraging excessive risk-taking and to raise tax revenue.²⁷⁸³

On 10 December 2019, the German Ministry of Finance issued a draft bill as part of the implementation of the EU Anti-tax Avoidance Directive (ATAD), which came into force in January 2020.²⁷⁸⁴ The proposed law changes the day-to-day transfer pricing method used in Germany,

²⁷⁷⁷ New reporting obligation will create greater fairness in taxation, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2019/2019-10-09-fair-taxation.html>.

²⁷⁷⁸ New reporting obligation will create greater fairness in taxation, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2019/2019-10-09-fair-taxation.html>.

²⁷⁷⁹ Germany To Launch Special Anti-Tax Fraud Unit, Tax-News (Sussex) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://www.tax-news.com/news/Germany_To_Launch_Special_AntiTax_Fraud_Unit____97426.html.

²⁷⁸⁰ Task force to combat tax fraud and tax avoidance: frequently asked questions, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/FAQ/faq-tax-fraud-tax-avoidance.html>.

²⁷⁸¹ Singapore, Germany Add BEPS to DTA, Tax-News (Sussex) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://www.tax-news.com/news/Singapore_Germany_Add_BEPS_Amendments_To_DTA____97449.html.

²⁷⁸² Singapore, Germany Add BEPS to DTA, Tax-News (Sussex) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://www.tax-news.com/news/Singapore_Germany_Add_BEPS_Amendments_To_DTA____97449.html.

²⁷⁸³ Germany's Plans for a Financial Transaction Tax, Tax Foundation (Washington) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.mof.gov.sg/policies/tax-policies/international-tax/Press-Releases-and-Announcements-on-Singapores-bilateral-tax-treaties/singapore-and-germany-sign-protocol-amending-the-agreement-for-avoidance-of-double-taxation>.

²⁷⁸⁴ Draft German tax law has big implications for transfer pricing, Multinational Group Tax & Transfer Pricing News (Washington) 6 January 2019. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://mnetax.com/draft-german-tax-law-has-big-implications-for-transfer-pricing-37290>.

aligning it with the OECD transfer pricing guidelines for multinational enterprises and tax administrations.²⁷⁸⁵

On 23 January 2020, the German Ministry of Finance published a consultation agreement between the competent authorities of Germany and the Kingdom of the Netherlands on the implementation of the Mutual Agreement Procedure (MAP) under the 2012 Germany-Netherlands Double Taxation Agreement (DTA).²⁷⁸⁶ The consultation agreement aims to seek specific solutions to avoid double taxation between two countries.²⁷⁸⁷

On 30 January 2020, the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS, of which Germany is a member, released a statement on the OECD's Two-Pillar Approach.²⁷⁸⁸ The statement includes an affirmation of commitment by members to reach an agreement on a consensus-based solution and an outline of the architecture of a Unified Approach on Pillar One.²⁷⁸⁹

On 3 April 2020, the German Ministry of Finance signed a mutual agreement for cross-border worker taxation with Luxembourg under the 2012 Double Taxation Agreement due to the coronavirus pandemic.²⁷⁹⁰

On 16 July 2020, Germany joined the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting to release a communique that includes a reaffirmation of commitment by members towards building a "globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system," to reaching a "global and consensus-based solution" by the end of the year, and the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS through advancement on both pillars.²⁷⁹¹ The ministers and bank governors stated that they will submit a report on the outline for each pillar to the next G20 virtual finance meeting to be held in October 2020.²⁷⁹²

Germany has taken actions to improve national tax systems and international tax systems and has cooperated in the adoption of the new OECD "Unified Approach."

²⁷⁸⁵ Germany publishes draft ATAD implementation law, EY Global (London) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 10 April 2020. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20191220uzb.htm.

²⁷⁸⁶ Germany MOF Announces Consultation Agreement MAP Under DTA with Netherlands, Bloomberg Tax (Arlington) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report-international/germany-mof-announces-consultation-agreement-on-map-under-dta-with-netherlands>.

²⁷⁸⁷ Germany Publishes Consultation Agreement on MAP with the Netherlands on DTA, TPA Global (Amsterdam) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <http://www.transferpricingassociates.com/nieuws/2020-01-31/germany-publishes-consultation-agreement-on-map-with-the-netherlands-on-dta>.

²⁷⁸⁸ Statement by the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS on the Two-Pillar Approach to Address the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy – January 2020, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/statement-by-the-oecd-g20-inclusive-framework-on-beps-january-2020.pdf>.

²⁷⁸⁹ Statement by the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS on the Two-Pillar Approach to Address the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy – January 2020, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/statement-by-the-oecd-g20-inclusive-framework-on-beps-january-2020.pdf>.

²⁷⁹⁰ Germany MOF Announces Mutual Agreement for Cross-Border Worker Taxation With Luxembourg Due to Coronavirus, Bloomberg Tax (Arlington) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report-international/germany-mof-announces-mutual-agreement-for-cross-border-worker-taxation-with-luxembourg-due-to-coronavirus>.

²⁷⁹¹ G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors Meeting Communique, G20 (Riyadh) 18 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/Final%20G20%20FMCBG%20Communique%20C3%A9%20-%20July%202020.pdf>.

²⁷⁹² G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors Meeting Communique, G20 (Riyadh) 18 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/Final%20G20%20FMCBG%20Communique%20C3%A9%20-%20July%202020.pdf>.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Gongjun (Katie) Gao

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with the commitment “to simplify regulatory barriers and modernize international taxation within the framework of the OECD [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development].”

On 16 December 2019 the Italian upper chamber approved the Budget Law 2020, which was sent to the Lower Chamber for approval.²⁷⁹³ On 27 December 2019 Parliament approved the 2020 Budget Law.²⁷⁹⁴ The law includes an amendment to the digital services tax, which was introduced by the Budget Law 2019 but had not been implemented.²⁷⁹⁵ The law stipulates that a three per cent tax will be imposed on certain business-to-consumer and business-to-business digital services.²⁷⁹⁶ It also stipulates increased measures to fight tax evasion through higher prison sentences, sanctions for retailers who do not accept credit cards, and stronger restriction on the use of cash in transactions.²⁷⁹⁷ The law came into effect on 1 January 2020.²⁷⁹⁸

On 30 January 2020, the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS, of which Italy is a member, released a statement on the OECD’s Two-Pillar Approach.²⁷⁹⁹ The statement includes an affirmation of commitment by members to reach an agreement on a consensus-based solution and an outline of the architecture of a Unified Approach on Pillar One.²⁸⁰⁰

On 16 July 2020, Italy joined the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors’ meeting to release a communique that includes a reaffirmation of commitment by members towards building a “modern international tax system,” to reaching a “global and consensus-based solution” by the end of the year, and the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS through advancement on both

²⁷⁹³ Italy: Digital services tax, changes made during legislative process, KPMG (Amstelveen) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2019/12/tnf-italy-digital-services-tax-changes-made-during-legislative-process.html>.

²⁷⁹⁴ The Latest on BEPS and Beyond – January 2020, Ernst and Young (New York) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/beps-tracker/the-latest-on-beps-and-beyond---january-2020.

²⁷⁹⁵ Italy: Digital services tax proposed to apply beginning 1 January 2020, KPMG (Amstelveen) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2019/10/tnf-italy-digital-services-tax-apply-beginning-1-january-2020.html>.

²⁷⁹⁶ Italy: Digital services tax proposed to apply beginning 1 January 2020, KPMG (Amstelveen) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2019/10/tnf-italy-digital-services-tax-apply-beginning-1-january-2020.html>.

²⁷⁹⁷ Factbox: Key tax and spending measures in Italy's 2020 budget, Reuters (Rome) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-italy-budget-factbox/factbox-key-tax-and-spending-measures-in-italys-2020-budget-idUSKBN1XE1M1>.

²⁷⁹⁸ The Latest on BEPS and Beyond – January 2020, Ernst and Young (New York) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/beps-tracker/the-latest-on-beps-and-beyond---january-2020.

²⁷⁹⁹ Statement by the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS on the Two-Pillar Approach to Address the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy – January 2020, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/statement-by-the-oecd-g20-inclusive-framework-on-beps-january-2020.pdf>.

²⁸⁰⁰ Statement by the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS on the Two-Pillar Approach to Address the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy – January 2020, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/statement-by-the-oecd-g20-inclusive-framework-on-beps-january-2020.pdf>.

pillars.²⁸⁰¹ The ministers and bank governors stated that they will submit a report on the outline for each pillar to the next G20 virtual finance meeting to be held in October 2020.²⁸⁰²

On 24 June 2020, the Government of Italy signed an agreement with Austria clarifying their double taxation tax treaty in regards to cross-border workers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁸⁰³ The agreement states that cross-border workers working at home in their state of residence, during which time they would usually work across the border at their state of employment, will continue to be taxed as cross-border workers in their state of residence as stated under Article 15 paragraph 4 of the tax treaty.²⁸⁰⁴

On 23 July 2020, the Government of Italy signed an agreement with France clarifying their double taxation tax treaty in regards to cross-border workers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁸⁰⁵ The agreement states that cross-border workers working at home in their state of residence, during which time they would usually work across the border at their state of employment, will continue to be taxed as cross-border workers in their state of residence as stated under Article 15 paragraph 4 of the tax treaty.²⁸⁰⁶

Italy has taken actions to improve national tax systems and cooperate in the adoption of the new OECD “Unified Approach” but has taken no action towards improving international tax systems.²⁸⁰⁷

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Sarah Howe

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with the commitment “to simplify regulatory barriers and modernize international taxation within the framework of the OECD [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development].”

²⁸⁰¹ G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors Meeting Communique, G20 (Riyadh) 18 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/Final%20G20%20FMCBG%20Communique%20July%202020.pdf>.

²⁸⁰² G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors Meeting Communique, G20 (Riyadh) 18 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/Final%20G20%20FMCBG%20Communique%20July%202020.pdf>.

²⁸⁰³ Interpretive agreement on the tax treatment of border crossings during the emergency Covid-19 with Austria, Ministry of Finance (Rome) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.finanze.gov.it/export/sites/finanze/it/.content/Documenti/Varie/ACCORDO-ITALIA-AUSTRIA-FRONTALIERI-Covid-19.pdf>.

²⁸⁰⁴ Interpretive agreement on the tax treatment of border crossings during the emergency Covid-19 with Austria, Ministry of Finance (Rome) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.finanze.gov.it/export/sites/finanze/it/.content/Documenti/Varie/ACCORDO-ITALIA-AUSTRIA-FRONTALIERI-Covid-19.pdf>.

²⁸⁰⁵ Interpretive agreement on the tax treatment of border crossings during the emergency Covid-19 with France, Ministry of Finance (Rome) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.finanze.gov.it/export/sites/finanze/it/.content/Documenti/Varie/Accordo-frontalieri-Covid-19-Italia-Francia.pdf>.

²⁸⁰⁶ Interpretive agreement on the tax treatment of border crossings during the emergency Covid-19 with France, Ministry of Finance (Rome) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.finanze.gov.it/export/sites/finanze/it/.content/Documenti/Varie/Accordo-frontalieri-Covid-19-Italia-Francia.pdf>.

²⁸⁰⁷ Non-compliance was determined after searching news.google.com, factiva.com, theguardian.com, bloomberg.com, and reuters.com, and mef.gov.it.

On 30 August 2019, the Governments of Japan and the United States exchanged instruments of ratification for the entry into force of the Protocol Amending Tax Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income.²⁸⁰⁸

On 10 September 2019, the Governments of Japan and Uzbekistan initiated the first round of negotiations for the amendment of the current tax convention in Tokyo.²⁸⁰⁹

On 13 September 2019, the Governments of Japan and Uruguay signed a tax convention clarifying the scope of taxable income in the two countries so as to eliminate double taxation arising between the two countries and prevent international tax evasion and avoidance.²⁸¹⁰

On 20 September 2019, the Governments of Japan and Uzbekistan agreed in principle to implement a new tax convention replacing their existing convention.²⁸¹¹ The new convention seeks to reinforce and introduce provisions for clarifying the scope of taxation in the two countries.²⁸¹² On 19 December 2019, the two governments signed the new convention to eliminate double taxation and prevent international tax evasion and tax avoidance.²⁸¹³

On 1 October 2019, the Governments of Japan and Morocco agreed in principle to implement a tax convention between the two countries to eliminate international double taxation and prevent tax evasion and avoidance.²⁸¹⁴ On 8 January 2020, the two governments signed the convention to eliminate double taxation and prevent international tax evasion and tax avoidance.²⁸¹⁵ This is the first tax convention between Japan and Morocco and aims to enhance economic relations and mutual investments between the two countries.²⁸¹⁶

On 18 November 2019, the Governments of Japan and Peru signed a tax convention to eliminate double taxation and prevent international tax evasion and tax avoidance.²⁸¹⁷ The convention covers business profits, investment income, and gains from company shares, and contains provisions to

²⁸⁰⁸ Protocol Amending Tax Convention with the United States Entered into Force, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20190830usa.htm.

²⁸⁰⁹ Negotiations for Tax Convention with Uzbekistan will be Initiated, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/190909uzb.htm.

²⁸¹⁰ Tax Convention with Uruguay was Signed, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 17 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20190917urg.htm.

²⁸¹¹ New Tax Convention with Uzbekistan Agreed in Principle, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20190920uzb.htm.

²⁸¹² New Tax Convention with Uzbekistan Agreed in Principle, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20190920uzb.htm.

²⁸¹³ New Tax Convention with Uzbekistan was Signed, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 10 April 2020. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20191220uzb.htm.

²⁸¹⁴ Tax Convention with Morocco Agreed in Principle, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20191001mor.htm

²⁸¹⁵ Tax Convention with Morocco was Signed, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 9 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20200109mor.htm.

²⁸¹⁶ Tax Convention with Morocco was Signed, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 9 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20200109mor.htm.

²⁸¹⁷ Tax Convention with Peru was Signed, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20191119per.htm.

prevent abuse of the convention and promote information exchange and mutual assistance in enforcement.²⁸¹⁸

On 28 November 2019, the Governments of Japan and Ecuador exchanged diplomatic notes regarding the tax convention between them, which will come into force on 28 December 2019 and cover taxes levied on or after 1 January 2020.²⁸¹⁹ The convention covers business profits and investment income.²⁸²⁰ It contains provisions to prevent abuse of the convention, to enable information exchange and mutual assistance in enforcement, and to establish a procedure of mutual agreement to address taxation contrary to the convention.²⁸²¹

On 6 December 2019, the Governments of Japan and Serbia agreed in principle to implement a tax convention between the two countries to eliminate international double taxation and prevent tax evasion and avoidance.²⁸²² It is expected that provisions of the convention will clarify the scope of taxation in the two countries.²⁸²³

On 12 December 2019, the Governments of Japan and Jamaica signed a tax convention to eliminate double taxation and prevent international tax evasion and tax avoidance.²⁸²⁴ The convention covers business profits and investment income.²⁸²⁵ It contains provisions to prevent abuse of the convention, to enable information exchange and mutual assistance in enforcement, and to establish a procedure of mutual agreement or arbitration to address taxation contrary to the convention.²⁸²⁶

On 29 January 2020, the Government of Japan announced new measures to prevent base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) under its tax convention with Saudi Arabia, aligning with the framework of the OECD.²⁸²⁷ The two countries will add their tax treaty to the list of existing treaties covered by the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (MLI).²⁸²⁸

²⁸¹⁸ Key Points of Tax Convention with Peru, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 1 May 2020. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20191119per_pt.htm.

²⁸¹⁹ Tax Convention with Ecuador will Enter into Force, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 29 November 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20191129ecu.htm.

²⁸²⁰ Key Points of Tax Convention with Ecuador, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 16 January 2019. Access Date: 1 May 2020. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20190116ec_pt.htm.

²⁸²¹ Key Points of Tax Convention with Ecuador, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 16 January 2019. Access Date: 1 May 2020. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20190116ec_pt.htm.

²⁸²² Tax Convention with Serbia Agreed in Principle, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20191206ser.htm.

²⁸²³ Tax Convention with Serbia Agreed in Principle, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20191206ser.htm.

²⁸²⁴ Tax Convention with Jamaica was Signed, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20191212jam.htm.

²⁸²⁵ Key Points of Tax Convention with Jamaica, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 1 May 2020. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20191212jam_pt.htm.

²⁸²⁶ Key Points of Tax Convention with Jamaica, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 1 May 2020. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20191212jam_pt.htm.

²⁸²⁷ Tax Treaties Covered by the Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent BEPS will be Increased: Saudi Arabia, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 7 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20200207mli.htm.

²⁸²⁸ Tax Treaties Covered by the Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent BEPS will be Increased: Saudi Arabia, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 7 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20200207mli.htm.

On 30 January 2020, the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS, of which Japan is a member, released a statement on the OECD's Two-Pillar Approach.²⁸²⁹ The statement includes an affirmation of commitment by members to reach an agreement on a consensus-based solution and an outline of the architecture of a Unified Approach on Pillar One.²⁸³⁰

On 14 February 2020, the Government of Japan moved to apply the MLI to the existing tax treaty between Japan and Qatar to prevent BEPS, with changes taking effect by 1 April 2020.²⁸³¹

On 6 March 2020, the Government of Japan announced new measures to prevent BEPS under its tax convention with Portugal, aligning with the framework of the OECD.²⁸³² The two countries will add their tax treaty to the list of existing treaties covered by the MLI.²⁸³³

On 5 June 2020, the Japanese government announced the application of the MLI to an existing tax treaty between Japan and the Czech Republic.²⁸³⁴ The new measures to prevent BEPS are to take effect by 1 September 2020.²⁸³⁵

On 5 June 2020, the Japanese government announced the application of the MLI to an existing tax treaty between Japan and Korea.²⁸³⁶ The new measures to prevent BEPS are to take effect by 1 September 2020.²⁸³⁷

On 3 July 2020, Japan announced new measures to prevent BEPS under its tax convention with Kazakhstan, aligning with the framework of the OECD.²⁸³⁸ The two countries will add their tax treaty to the list of existing treaties covered by the MLI.²⁸³⁹

²⁸²⁹ Statement by the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS on the Two-Pillar Approach to Address the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy – January 2020, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/statement-by-the-oecd-g20-inclusive-framework-on-beps-january-2020.pdf>.

²⁸³⁰ Statement by the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS on the Two-Pillar Approach to Address the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy – January 2020, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/statement-by-the-oecd-g20-inclusive-framework-on-beps-january-2020.pdf>.

²⁸³¹ Tax Treaties Covered by the Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent BEPS will be Increased: Qatar, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 21 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20200221mli.htm.

²⁸³² Tax Treaties Covered by the Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent BEPS will be Increased: Portugal, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20200306mli.htm.

²⁸³³ Tax Treaties Covered by the Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent BEPS will be Increased: Portugal, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20200306mli.htm.

²⁸³⁴ Tax Treaties Covered by the Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent BEPS will be Increased: Czech Republic and Korea, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20200605mli.htm.

²⁸³⁵ Tax Treaties Covered by the Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent BEPS will be Increased: Czech Republic and Korea, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20200605mli.htm.

²⁸³⁶ Tax Treaties Covered by the Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent BEPS will be Increased: Czech Republic and Korea, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20200605mli.htm.

²⁸³⁷ Tax Treaties Covered by the Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent BEPS will be Increased: Czech Republic and Korea, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20200605mli.htm.

On 16 July 2020, Japan joined the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting to release a communique that includes a reaffirmation of commitment by members towards building a "modern international tax system," to reaching a "global and consensus-based solution" by the end of the year, and the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS through advancement on both pillars.²⁸⁴⁰ The ministers and bank governors stated that they will submit a report on the outline for each pillar to the next G20 virtual finance meeting to be held in October 2020.²⁸⁴¹

On 21 July 2020, Japan and Serbia signed a tax convention to eliminate double taxation and prevent international tax evasion and avoidance.²⁸⁴² The convention covers business profits and investment income, and contains provisions to prevent abuse of the convention, to introduce information exchange, and to establish a procedure of mutual agreement to address taxation contrary to the convention.²⁸⁴³ This is the first tax convention between Japan and Serbia and is intended to promote economic relations and mutual investments between the two countries.²⁸⁴⁴

On 22 July 2020, the Government of Japan moved to apply the MLI to the existing tax treaty between Japan and Oman to prevent BEPS, with changes taking effect by 1 November 2020.²⁸⁴⁵

On 17 August 2020, Japan announced that its tax convention with Jamaica to eliminate double taxation and prevent international tax evasion and avoidance has acquired the mutual notification necessary to enter into force, which it will do so on 16 September 2020.²⁸⁴⁶

Japan has taken actions to improve international tax systems and cooperate in the adoption of the new OECD "Unified Approach" but has taken no action toward improving national tax systems.²⁸⁴⁷

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Gongjun (Katie) Gao

²⁸³⁸ Tax Treaties Covered by the Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent BEPS will be Increased: Kazakhstan, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 3 July 2020. Access Date: 29 August 2020.

https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20200703mli.htm.

²⁸³⁹ Tax Treaties Covered by the Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent BEPS will be Increased: Kazakhstan, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 3 July 2020. Access Date: 29 August 2020.

https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20200703mli.htm.

²⁸⁴⁰ G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors Meeting Communique, G20 (Riyadh) 18 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/Final%20G20%20FMCBG%20Communique%C3%A9%20-%20July%202020.pdf>.

²⁸⁴¹ G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors Meeting Communique, G20 (Riyadh) 18 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/Final%20G20%20FMCBG%20Communique%C3%A9%20-%20July%202020.pdf>.

²⁸⁴² Tax Convention with Serbia was Signed, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20200722ser.html.

²⁸⁴³ Tax Convention with Serbia was Signed, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20200722ser.html.

²⁸⁴⁴ Tax Convention with Serbia was Signed, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20200722ser.html.

²⁸⁴⁵ Tax Treaties Covered by the Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent BEPS will be Increased: Oman, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020.

https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20200727mli.htm.

²⁸⁴⁶ Tax Convention with Jamaica will Enter into Force, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 18 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20200818Jam.htm.

²⁸⁴⁷ Non-compliance was determined after searching news.google.com, factiva.com, theguardian.com, bloomberg.com, and reuters.com.

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment “to simplify regulatory barriers and modernize international taxation within the framework of the OECD [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development].”

On 1 October 2019, the United Kingdom signed the UK/Gibraltar Double Taxation Agreement, which entered into force on 24 March 2020.²⁸⁴⁸ The agreement covers UK corporation taxes on payments made on or after 1 April 2020, UK income and capital gains taxes on or after 6 April 2020, both countries’ taxes withheld at the sources on or after 1 May 2020, and Gibraltar income and corporation taxes on or after 1 July 2020.²⁸⁴⁹

On 2 October 2019, an amending protocol to the UK/Cyprus Double Taxation Agreement entered into force.²⁸⁵⁰ The agreement covers taxes withheld at the source starting 1 January 2019 and covers income tax starting 6 April 2019.²⁸⁵¹

On 21 October 2019, the 2016 United Kingdom–United Arab Emirates Double Taxation Convention, which is in force, was modified by Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (MLI).²⁸⁵² The MLI is a multilateral convention intended to simplify the process of amending bilateral tax treaties in accordance with the principles of base erosion and profit shifting and had been ratified by 85 jurisdictions at the time.²⁸⁵³

On 5 November 2019, the 1967 Luxembourg-UK Double Taxation Convention, which is in force, was modified by the MLI.²⁸⁵⁴ The modifications cover both country’s taxes withheld at the sources on amounts paid or credited to non-residents on or after 1 January 2020, UK corporation taxes starting 1 April 2020, UK income and capital gains taxes starting 6 April 2020, and all other taxes levied by Luxembourg for taxable periods beginning on or after 1 February 2020.²⁸⁵⁵

On 15 November 2019, the 2004 UK-Georgia Double Taxation Agreement, the 1978 Canada-UK Double Taxation Convention, and the 1993 India-UK Double Taxation Convention were modified by the MLI.^{2856,2857,2858} On the UK side, the modifications cover taxes withheld at the sources on

²⁸⁴⁸ 2019 Gibraltar-UK Double Taxation Agreement, UK Government (London) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/841182/2019_Gibraltar-UK_Double_Taxation_Agreement___not_in_force.pdf.

²⁸⁴⁹ 2019 Gibraltar-UK Double Taxation Agreement, UK Government (London) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2019. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878661/UK-Gibraltar_in-force_April_2020.pdf.

²⁸⁵⁰ Cyprus: Tax Treaties, UK Government (London) 21 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cyprus-tax-treaties>.

²⁸⁵¹ Protocol to the UK/Cyprus Double Taxation Agreement, UK Government (London) 21 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/839991/in_force.pdf.

²⁸⁵² United Arab Emirates: Tax Treaties, UK Government (London) 21 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/united-arab-emirates-tax-treaties#history>.

²⁸⁵³ Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting coming into force in Canada, Ernst and Young LLC (Ottawa) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://assets.ey.com/content/dam/ey-sites/ey-com/en_ca/topics/tax/tax-alerts/2019/ey-taxalert2019no40.pdf.

²⁸⁵⁴ Luxembourg: Tax Treaties, UK Government (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/luxembourg-tax-treaties#history>.

²⁸⁵⁵ Luxembourg: Tax Treaties, UK Government (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/luxembourg-tax-treaties#history>.

²⁸⁵⁶ Georgia: Tax Treaties, UK Government (London) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/georgia-tax-treaties>.

amounts paid or credited to non-residents on or after 1 January 2020, UK corporation taxes starting 1 April 2020, and UK income and capital gains taxes starting 6 April 2020.^{2859,2860,2861}

On 4 December 2019, Prime Minister Boris Johnson stated that he would press ahead with the planned April 2020 introduction of a two per cent digital services tax despite the backlash French President Emmanuel Macron has received from U.S. President Donald Trump over France's similar tax.²⁸⁶²

On 16 December 2019, the 2016 Colombia-UK Double Taxation Convention came into force.²⁸⁶³ The convention takes effect in the UK on taxes that are withheld at the source on 1 January 2020, on corporation tax on 1 April 2020, and on income and capital gains taxes on 6 April 2020.²⁸⁶⁴

On 6 January 2020, the 2008 Netherlands-UK Double Taxation Convention was modified by the MLI.²⁸⁶⁵ The modifications cover taxes levied by the Netherlands starting 1 January 2020, UK withholding taxes starting 1 January 2020, UK corporation taxes starting 1 April 2020, and UK income and capital gains taxes starting 6 April 2020.²⁸⁶⁶

On 10 January 2020, the 1987 Belgium-UK Double Taxation Convention was modified by the MLI.²⁸⁶⁷ The modifications cover taxes levied by Belgium starting 1 April 2020, UK withholding taxes starting 1 January 2020, UK corporation taxes starting 1 April 2020, and UK income and capital gains taxes starting 6 April 2020.²⁸⁶⁸

On 23 January 2020, the United Kingdom undertook a global day of action in conjunction with Canada, the United States, Australia, and the Netherlands to investigate an international financial institution suspected of facilitating money laundering and tax evasion.²⁸⁶⁹ The coordinated day of action involved interviews and the use of subpoenas and search warrants, and is expected to lead to

²⁸⁵⁷ Canada: Tax Treaties, UK Government (London) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/canada-tax-treaties>.

²⁸⁵⁸ India: Tax Treaties, UK Government (London) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/india-tax-treaties#history>.

²⁸⁵⁹ Georgia: Tax Treaties, UK Government (London) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/georgia-tax-treaties>.

²⁸⁶⁰ Canada: Tax Treaties, UK Government (London) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/canada-tax-treaties>.

²⁸⁶¹ India: Tax Treaties, UK Government (London) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/india-tax-treaties#history>.

²⁸⁶² Boris Johnson sticks with UK digital tax plan despite the risk of US tariffs, CNN (London) 4 December 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.cnn.com/2019/12/04/tech/boris-johnson-digital-tax-trump/index.html>.

²⁸⁶³ Colombia: Tax Treaties, UK Government (London) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/colombia-tax-treaties>.

²⁸⁶⁴ Colombia: Tax Treaties, UK Government (London) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/colombia-tax-treaties>.

²⁸⁶⁵ Netherlands: Tax Treaties, UK Government (London) 6 January 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/netherlands-tax-treaties>.

²⁸⁶⁶ Netherlands: Tax Treaties, UK Government (London) 6 January 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/netherlands-tax-treaties>.

²⁸⁶⁷ Belgium: Tax Treaties, UK Government (London) 10 January 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/belgium-tax-treaties>.

²⁸⁶⁸ Belgium: Tax Treaties, UK Government (London) 10 January 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/belgium-tax-treaties>.

²⁸⁶⁹ Global tax chiefs undertake unprecedented multi-country day of action to tackle international tax evasion, Canada Revenue Agency (Ottawa) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2020/01/global-tax-chiefs-undertake-unprecedented-multi-country-day-of-action-to-tackle-international-tax-evasion.html>.

criminal, civil, and regulatory action in each participating country.²⁸⁷⁰ This was the first major operation of the Joint Chiefs of Global Tax Enforcement (J5), an organization of tax enforcement leaders from each of the five participating countries, formed to combat tax crime and money laundering.²⁸⁷¹

On 30 January 2020, the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS [Base Erosion and Profit Shifting], of which the UK is a member, released a statement on the OECD's Two-Pillar Approach.²⁸⁷² The statement includes an affirmation of commitment by members to reach an agreement on a consensus-based solution and an outline of the architecture of a Unified Approach on Pillar One.²⁸⁷³

On 11 March 2020, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs published a policy paper on the Digital Services Tax.²⁸⁷⁴ It announced that the government of the United Kingdom will introduce a two per cent tax on revenue made from search engines, social media services, and online marketplaces that derive value from users in the country.²⁸⁷⁵ The tax came into force on 1 April 2020.²⁸⁷⁶

On 16 July 2020, the United Kingdom joined the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting to release a communique that includes a reaffirmation of commitment by members towards building a "modern international tax system," to reaching a "global and consensus-based solution" by the end of the year, and the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS through advancement on both pillars.²⁸⁷⁷ The ministers and bank governors stated that they will submit a report on the outline for each pillar to the next G20 virtual finance meeting to be held in October 2020.²⁸⁷⁸

²⁸⁷⁰ Global tax chiefs undertake unprecedented multi-country day of action to tackle international tax evasion, Canada Revenue Agency (Ottawa) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2020/01/global-tax-chiefs-undertake-unprecedented-multi-country-day-of-action-to-tackle-international-tax-evasion.html>.

²⁸⁷¹ Global tax chiefs undertake unprecedented multi-country day of action to tackle international tax evasion, Canada Revenue Agency (Ottawa) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2020/01/global-tax-chiefs-undertake-unprecedented-multi-country-day-of-action-to-tackle-international-tax-evasion.html>.

²⁸⁷² Statement by the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS on the Two-Pillar Approach to Address the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy – January 2020, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/statement-by-the-oecd-g20-inclusive-framework-on-beps-january-2020.pdf>.

²⁸⁷³ Statement by the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS on the Two-Pillar Approach to Address the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy – January 2020, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/statement-by-the-oecd-g20-inclusive-framework-on-beps-january-2020.pdf>.

²⁸⁷⁴ Policy Paper: Digital Services Tax, UK Government (London) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-the-digital-services-tax/digital-services-tax>.

²⁸⁷⁵ Policy Paper: Digital Services Tax, UK Government (London) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-the-digital-services-tax/digital-services-tax>.

²⁸⁷⁶ Policy Paper: Digital Services Tax, UK Government (London) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-the-digital-services-tax/digital-services-tax>.

²⁸⁷⁷ G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors Meeting Communique, G20 (Riyadh) 18 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/Final%20G20%20FMCBG%20Communique%C3%A9%20-%20July%202020.pdf>.

²⁸⁷⁸ G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors Meeting Communique, G20 (Riyadh) 18 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/Final%20G20%20FMCBG%20Communique%C3%A9%20-%20July%202020.pdf>.

On 20 July 2020, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs announced changes to the value-added tax (VAT) treatment of imported goods from outside the United Kingdom.²⁸⁷⁹ Under the new policy, the collection of VAT for imports of goods in consignments GBP135 and under will be shifted from the point of importation to the point of sale.²⁸⁸⁰ The policy, effective from 1 January 2021, ensures that goods from EU and non-EU countries are treated in the same way.²⁸⁸¹

The United Kingdom has taken actions to improve national and international tax systems and cooperate in the adoption of the new OECD "Unified Approach."

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

Analyst: Wayne George

United States: -1

The United States has not complied with the commitment "to simplify regulatory barriers and modernize international taxation within the framework of the OECD [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development]."

On 30 August 2019, the Governments of Japan and the United States exchanged instruments of ratification for the entry into force of the Protocol Amending Tax Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income.²⁸⁸²

On 30 October 2019, the Cypriot Tax Department announced that it was negotiating a Competent Authority Agreement for the exchange of Country by Country reports with the United States.²⁸⁸³ Country by Country reporting involves all large multinational enterprises being required to prepare a country by country report with aggregate data on the global allocation of income, profit, taxes paid, and economic activity among the tax jurisdiction which it operates.²⁸⁸⁴

On 31 October 2019, the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS) added Singapore to the list of countries with which the United States was in negotiations for a Competent Authority Agreement for

²⁸⁷⁹ Policy Paper: Changes to VAT treatment of overseas goods sold to customers from 1 January 2021, UK Government (London) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-vat-treatment-of-overseas-goods-sold-to-customers-from-1-january-2021/changes-to-vat-treatment-of-overseas-goods-sold-to-customers-from-1-january-2021>.

²⁸⁸⁰ Policy Paper: Changes to VAT treatment of overseas goods sold to customers from 1 January 2021, UK Government (London) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-vat-treatment-of-overseas-goods-sold-to-customers-from-1-january-2021/changes-to-vat-treatment-of-overseas-goods-sold-to-customers-from-1-january-2021>.

²⁸⁸¹ Policy Paper: Changes to VAT treatment of overseas goods sold to customers from 1 January 2021, UK Government (London) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-vat-treatment-of-overseas-goods-sold-to-customers-from-1-january-2021/changes-to-vat-treatment-of-overseas-goods-sold-to-customers-from-1-january-2021>.

²⁸⁸² Protocol Amending Tax Convention with the United States Entered into Force, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20190830usa.htm.

²⁸⁸³ Cyprus issues announcement regarding bilateral Competent Authority Agreement with the United States, Ernst and Young (Nicosia) 8 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://globaltaxnews.ey.com/news/2019-6397-cyprus-issues-announcement-regarding-bilateral-competent-authority-agreement-with-the-united-states>.

²⁸⁸⁴ Action 13: Country by Country Reporting, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) No publication date. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/beps-actions/action13/>.

automatic Country by Country reports.²⁸⁸⁵ The IRS is in the process of negotiating Competent Authority Agreements with eight other countries.²⁸⁸⁶

On 2 December 2019, the Office of the United States Trade Representative released a Section 301 Investigation regarding France's digital services tax (DST).²⁸⁸⁷ It proposed to place tariffs on French goods such as champagne, handbags, and cheese in retaliation for the DST, arguing that it unfairly targets technology companies from the United States.²⁸⁸⁸

On 3 December 2019, Secretary of the Treasury Steve Mnuchin announced that the United States no longer supported key elements of the OECD's compromise proposal to overhaul the rules for allocating the profits of multinationals for tax purposes and related issues of countries' taxing rights in the context of the "Unified Approach."²⁸⁸⁹ Rather, Mnuchin proposed creating a "safe-harbor regime" in a letter to OECD Secretary General Ángel Gurría.²⁸⁹⁰

On 21 January 2020, the United States Senate Finance Committee announced that the United States and France had reached a compromise on France's proposed Digital Services Tax (DST).²⁸⁹¹ France agreed to postpone the implementation of the DST while the United States agreed to postpone the tariff retaliation that it had threatened on 2 December 2019.²⁸⁹²

On 23 January 2020, the United States undertook a global day of action in conjunction with Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and the Netherlands to investigate an international financial institution suspected of facilitating money laundering and tax evasion.²⁸⁹³ The coordinated day of action involved interviews and the use of subpoenas and search warrants, and is expected to lead to criminal, civil, and regulatory action in each participating country.²⁸⁹⁴ This was the first major operation of the Joint Chiefs of Global Tax Enforcement (J5), an organization of tax enforcement

²⁸⁸⁵ The Latest on BEPS and Beyond, Ernst and Young (New York) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.ey.com/gl/en/services/tax/international-tax/alert--the-latest-on-beps-and-beyond---november-2019>.

²⁸⁸⁶ Country by Country Reporting Jurisdiction Status Table, Internal Revenue Service (Washington) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/country-by-country-reporting-jurisdiction-status-table>.

²⁸⁸⁷ US vows 100% tariff on French Champagne, cheese, handbags over digital tax, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 2 December 2019. Access Date: 3 December 2019. <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/12/03/us-vows-100percent-tariffs-on-french-champagne-cheese-over-digital-tax.html>.

²⁸⁸⁸ US vows 100% tariff on French Champagne, cheese, handbags over digital tax, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 2 December 2019. Access Date: 3 December 2019. <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/12/03/us-vows-100percent-tariffs-on-french-champagne-cheese-over-digital-tax.html>.

²⁸⁸⁹ Treasury Secretary Mnuchin warns of new global taxes, opposes digital service duty, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 4 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/12/04/treasurys-mnuchin-warns-of-global-taxes-opposes-new-digital-duties.html>.

²⁸⁹⁰ Treasury Letter OECD Digital Services Tax, KPMG (Washington) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://home.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/us/pdf/2019/12/treasury-letter-oecd-digital-services-tax.pdf>.

²⁸⁹¹ Grassley, Wyden Joint Statement on French Digital Services Tax Hiatus, United States Senate Committee on Finance (Washington D.C) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.finance.senate.gov/chairmans-news/grassley-wyden-joint-statement-on-french-digital-services-tax-hiatus>.

²⁸⁹² France will delay controversial tech tax, The Verge (Washington) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.theverge.com/2020/1/23/21078574/france-us-digital-tax-deal-negotiations-tariffs-postponed-trump>.

²⁸⁹³ Global tax chiefs undertake unprecedented multi-country day of action to tackle international tax evasion, Canada Revenue Agency (Ottawa) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2020/01/global-tax-chiefs-undertake-unprecedented-multi-country-day-of-action-to-tackle-international-tax-evasion.html>.

²⁸⁹⁴ Global tax chiefs undertake unprecedented multi-country day of action to tackle international tax evasion, Canada Revenue Agency (Ottawa) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2020/01/global-tax-chiefs-undertake-unprecedented-multi-country-day-of-action-to-tackle-international-tax-evasion.html>.

leaders from each of the five participating countries, formed to combat tax crime and money laundering.²⁸⁹⁵

On 30 January 2020, the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS [Base Erosion and Profit Shifting], of which the United States is a member, released a statement on the OECD's Two-Pillar Approach.²⁸⁹⁶ The statement includes an affirmation of commitment by members to reach an agreement on a consensus-based solution and an outline of the architecture of a Unified Approach on Pillar One.²⁸⁹⁷

On 17 June 2020, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Lighthizer announced that the United States has withdrawn from DST negotiations with European Union finance ministers, citing lack of progression in the discussions.²⁸⁹⁸ Treasury spokeswoman Monica Crowley later stated that the United States had recommended a pause in the negotiations while countries around the world work on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁸⁹⁹

On 10 July 2020, the United States announced that 25 per cent in tariffs will be added on French imports, including cosmetics and handbags, after their Section 301 investigation on France's digital services tax (DST) found the French tax to be discriminatory against US digital businesses.²⁹⁰⁰ However, the American government has agreed to postpone the implementation of the new tariff for 180 days to allow time to reach a compromise.²⁹⁰¹ The postponement also took into consideration France agreement to delay the collection of the DST.²⁹⁰²

On 16 July 2020, the United States joined the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting to release a communique that includes a reaffirmation of commitment by members towards building a "modern international tax system," to reaching a "global and consensus-based solution" by the end of the year, and the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS through advancement on

²⁸⁹⁵ Global tax chiefs undertake unprecedented multi-country day of action to tackle international tax evasion, Canada Revenue Agency (Ottawa) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2020/01/global-tax-chiefs-undertake-unprecedented-multi-country-day-of-action-to-tackle-international-tax-evasion.html>.

²⁸⁹⁶ Statement by the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS on the Two-Pillar Approach to Address the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy – January 2020, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/statement-by-the-oecd-g20-inclusive-framework-on-beps-january-2020.pdf>.

²⁸⁹⁷ Statement by the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS on the Two-Pillar Approach to Address the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy – January 2020, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/statement-by-the-oecd-g20-inclusive-framework-on-beps-january-2020.pdf>.

²⁸⁹⁸ U.S. pulled out of stalled talks on digital services taxes: Lighthizer, Reuters (Washington D.C.) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-digital-idUSKBN23O36B>.

²⁸⁹⁹ U.S. pulled out of stalled talks on digital services taxes: Lighthizer, Reuters (Washington D.C.) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-digital-idUSKBN23O36B>.

²⁹⁰⁰ U.S. slaps French goods with 25% duties in digital tax row, but delays effective date, Reuters (Washington D.C.) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/u.s.-slaps-french-goods-with-25-duties-in-digital-tax-row-but-delays-effective-date-2020>.

²⁹⁰¹ U.S. slaps French goods with 25% duties in digital tax row, but delays effective date, Reuters (Washington D.C.) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/u.s.-slaps-french-goods-with-25-duties-in-digital-tax-row-but-delays-effective-date-2020>.

²⁹⁰² U.S. slaps French goods with 25% duties in digital tax row, but delays effective date, Reuters (Washington D.C.) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/u.s.-slaps-french-goods-with-25-duties-in-digital-tax-row-but-delays-effective-date-2020>.

both pillars.²⁹⁰³ The ministers and bank governors stated that they will submit a report on the outline for each pillar to the next G20 virtual finance meeting to be held in October 2020.²⁹⁰⁴

On 21 August 2020, USTR Lighthizer and the EU Trade Commissioner Phil Hogan announced a joint agreement to mutually reduce tariffs on US and EU imports made on an Most Favoured Nation basis, beginning on 1 August 2020.²⁹⁰⁵ The EU has agreed to eliminate tariffs on imports of US live and frozen lobster products for a five year period, which the European Commission will move to make the tariff changes permanent.²⁹⁰⁶ The US will reduce its tariff rates on certain EU imports by 50 per cent, including cigarette lighters, certain prepared meals, certain crystal glassware, surface preparations, propellant powders, and lighter parts.²⁹⁰⁷ This tariff reduction package is the first US and EU negotiated tariff reductions in over twenty years.²⁹⁰⁸

The United States has taken actions to improve international tax systems but has taken no action towards improving national tax systems and has undermined negotiations surrounding the adoption of the new OECD “Unified Approach.”

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

Analyst: Wayne George

European Union: 0

The European Union has partially complied with the commitment “to simplify regulatory barriers and modernize international taxation within the framework of the OECD [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development].”

On 27 September 2019, European Union commissioner-designate Margrethe Vestager signaled her intention to “act alone” in implementing a EU digital tax if no agreement on the topic is reached by the end of 2020.²⁹⁰⁹ Commissioner-designate for taxation Paolo Gentiloni also commented that he

²⁹⁰³ G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors Meeting Communique, G20 (Riyadh) 18 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/Final%20G20%20FMCBG%20Communique%C3%A9%20-%20July%202020.pdf>.

²⁹⁰⁴ G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors Meeting Communique, G20 (Riyadh) 18 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/Final%20G20%20FMCBG%20Communique%C3%A9%20-%20July%202020.pdf>.

²⁹⁰⁵ Joint Statement of the United States and the European Union on a Tariff Agreement, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington D.C.) 21 August 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/august/joint-statement-united-states-and-european-union-tariff-agreement>.

²⁹⁰⁶ Joint Statement of the United States and the European Union on a Tariff Agreement, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington D.C.) 21 August 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/august/joint-statement-united-states-and-european-union-tariff-agreement>.

²⁹⁰⁷ Joint Statement of the United States and the European Union on a Tariff Agreement, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington D.C.) 21 August 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/august/joint-statement-united-states-and-european-union-tariff-agreement>.

²⁹⁰⁸ Joint Statement of the United States and the European Union on a Tariff Agreement, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington D.C.) 21 August 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/august/joint-statement-united-states-and-european-union-tariff-agreement>.

²⁹⁰⁹ EU ready to act alone on digital tax if no global deal in 2020, Reuters (Brussels) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-eu-economy-gentiloni/eu-ready-to-act-alone-on-digital-tax-if-no-global-deal-in-2020-idUSKBN1WC15D>.

would attempt to prevent individual EU members from vetoing tax decisions as occurred in March 2019 during negotiations over a proposed digital tax.²⁹¹⁰

On 20 January 2020, Commissioner for Internal Market Thierry Breton stated that the EU will take action in the case of failure of OECD-level discussion on taxation for digital companies.²⁹¹¹ Breton added that EU members that had formerly opposed a digital tax were now largely in agreement on the matter.²⁹¹²

On 25 April 2020, Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs Paolo Gentiloni stated that the best solution for the reform of the international corporate tax framework would be a global agreement that is “actively engaged in the work done by the OECD” in a response to a parliamentary question.²⁹¹³

On 16 July 2020, the EU joined the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors’ meeting to release a communique that includes a reaffirmation of commitment by members towards building a “globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system,” to reaching a “global and consensus-based solution” by the end of the year, and the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS through advancement on both pillars.²⁹¹⁴ The ministers and bank governors stated that they will submit a report on the outline for each pillar to the next G20 virtual finance meeting to be held in October 2020.²⁹¹⁵

On 21 July 2020, the General Secretariat of the European Council announced that the European Commission will put forth a new proposal on DST in the first semester of 2021 with the intention to implement the new digital tax by 1 January 2023.²⁹¹⁶

The European Union has taken actions to cooperate in the adoption of the new OECD “Unified Approach” but has taken no actions to improve international tax systems or national tax systems.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Aryan Agarwal

²⁹¹⁰ EU ready to act alone on digital tax if no global deal in 2020, Reuters (Brussels) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-eu-economy-gentiloni/eu-ready-to-act-alone-on-digital-tax-if-no-global-deal-in-2020-idUSKBN1WC15D>.

²⁹¹¹ EU industry chief: EU ready to act on digital tax, if OECD fails, Reuters (Brussels) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-eu-digital-tax-breton/eu-industry-chief-eu-ready-to-act-on-digital-tax-if-oecd-fails-idUSKBN1ZJOTO>.

²⁹¹² EU industry chief: EU ready to act on digital tax, if OECD fails, Reuters (Brussels) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-eu-digital-tax-breton/eu-industry-chief-eu-ready-to-act-on-digital-tax-if-oecd-fails-idUSKBN1ZJOTO>.

²⁹¹³ Parliamentary questions, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 25 April 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-001128-ASW_EN.html.

²⁹¹⁴ G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors Meeting Communique, G20 (Riyadh) 18 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/Final%20G20%20FMCBG%20Communique%C3%A9%20-%20July%202020.pdf>.

²⁹¹⁵ G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors Meeting Communique, G20 (Riyadh) 18 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/Final%20G20%20FMCBG%20Communique%C3%A9%20-%20July%202020.pdf>.

²⁹¹⁶ European Council conclusions, 17-21 July 2020, European Council (Brussels) 21 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/45109/210720-euco-final-conclusions-en.pdf>.

16. Health: Primary Health Care

“We commit to pursuing our efforts to strengthen quality primary health care in Sahel countries, with a specific focus on gender equality and women’s empowerment.”

Sahel Partnership Action Plan

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France	-1		
Germany			+1
Italy	-1		
Japan	-1		
United Kingdom		0	
United States		0	
European Union		0	
Average	-0.13 (44%)		

Background

At the 2005 Gleneagles Summit, the G7 Leaders first committed to partnering with African governments to “deliver free and basic health care ... for all.”²⁹¹⁷ The commitment included training healthcare practitioners; providing resources towards the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis; and supporting local healthcare systems in addition to national healthcare policies.²⁹¹⁸ The G7 Leaders proposed this commitment as a way to realize some of the United Nation’s Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).²⁹¹⁹

At the 2006 St Petersburg Summit, the G7 leaders committed to achieving the health MDGs through combatting infectious diseases, such as malaria, polio, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS.²⁹²⁰ As part of this commitment, the G7 leaders agreed to support capacity-building efforts to strengthen the ability of healthcare systems in developing countries so that they can treat as many patients with these infectious diseases as possible.²⁹²¹

At the 2007 Heiligendamm Summit, the G7 leaders committed to both combatting infectious diseases and strengthening healthcare systems in Africa.²⁹²² The G7 adopted a gender-sensitive approach to treating HIV/AIDS and committed to supporting efforts to educate women and girls on sexual health.²⁹²³ The G7 committed to “enhanc(ing) coordination of bilateral and multilateral health

²⁹¹⁷ Chair’s Summary, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2005. Access Date: 6 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/summary.html>.

²⁹¹⁸ Africa, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2005. Access Date: 6 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/africa.pdf>.

²⁹¹⁹ Africa, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2005. Access Date: 6 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/africa.pdf><http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/africa.pdf>.

²⁹²⁰ Fight Against Infectious Disease, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2006. Access Date: 6 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2006stpetersburg/infdis.html>.

²⁹²¹ Fight Against Infectious Disease, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2006. Access Date: 6 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2006stpetersburg/infdis.html>.

²⁹²² Growth and Responsibility in Africa, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2007. Access Date: 6 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2007heilgendamm/g8-2007-africa.pdf>.

²⁹²³ Growth and Responsibility in Africa, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2007. Access Date: 6 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2007heilgendamm/g8-2007-africa.pdf>.

partnerships with national health strategies” that aimed to mobilize resources for healthcare in Africa.²⁹²⁴ The G7 also expressed support for knowledge-sharing platforms on health financing in poor countries.²⁹²⁵

At the 2008 Toyako Summit, the G7 committed to contribute resources to the fight against infectious diseases in developing countries, especially malaria, tuberculosis, polio, and HIV/AIDS.²⁹²⁶ The G7 also committed to working towards harmonizing “disease-specific” policies and “health systems” policies in their delivery of the MDGs.²⁹²⁷ For example, the G7 agreed to fight “neglected tropical diseases” by “expanding health system coverage, alleviating poverty and social exclusion as well as promoting adequate integrated public health approaches, including through the mass administration of drugs.”²⁹²⁸

At the 2009 L’Aquila Summit, the G7 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen healthcare provision in Africa.²⁹²⁹ The G7 emphasized the need to create knowledge-sharing platforms on “health innovation” between researchers and African healthcare providers.²⁹³⁰ They stressed that the health MDGs required “maximizing synergies between global health initiatives and health systems.”²⁹³¹ For example, the G7 resolved to promote “prevention and integration of services” for HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.²⁹³² The G7 also agreed that it was essential to treat health as “an outcome of all policies” such as nutrition and education.²⁹³³

At the 2010 Muskoka Summit, the G7 launched the G8 Muskoka Initiative: Maternal, Newborn and Under-Five Child Health, an effort to strengthen services for mothers and newborns in developing countries.²⁹³⁴ Through this commitment, the G7 committed to supporting policies such as “antenatal care” and “sexual and reproductive health care and services,” but also “health education” and “basic

²⁹²⁴ Growth and Responsibility in Africa, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2007. Access Date: 6 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2007heiligendamm/g8-2007-africa.pdf>.

²⁹²⁵ Growth and Responsibility in Africa, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2007. Access Date: 6 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2007heiligendamm/g8-2007-africa.pdf>.

²⁹²⁶ G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2008. Access Date: 6 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>

²⁹²⁷ G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2008. Access Date: 6 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>

²⁹²⁸ G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2008. Access Date: 6 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>

²⁹²⁹ Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2009. Access Date: 6 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-declaration.pdf>

²⁹³⁰ Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2009. Access Date: 6 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-declaration.pdf>

²⁹³¹ Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2009. Access Date: 6 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-declaration.pdf>

²⁹³² Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2009. Access Date: 6 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-declaration.pdf>

²⁹³³ Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2009. Access Date: 6 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-declaration.pdf>

²⁹³⁴ Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2010. Access Date: 19 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html>.

nutrition.²⁹³⁵ Once again, G7 leaders framed this commitment in the context of the MDGs.²⁹³⁶ G7 leaders also emphasized the importance of working with local healthcare systems.²⁹³⁷

At the 2014 Brussels Summit, the G7 reaffirmed their commitment to maternal and child health in developing countries.²⁹³⁸ As part of this commitment, the G7 resolved to support initiatives promoting women’s sexual health, improve access to health coverage, and contribute to nutrition and immunization.²⁹³⁹ They also expressed support for the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation and the World Health Organization’s (WHO) International Health Regulations in the context of infectious disease.²⁹⁴⁰

At the 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit, the G7 declared that health was a fundamental human right.²⁹⁴¹ In this context, they committed to “strengthening health systems through bilateral programmes and multilateral structures.”²⁹⁴²

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, the G7 adopted the G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health.²⁹⁴³ In the Vision for Global Health, the G7 acknowledged the importance of “primary prevention,” especially given the ageing populations of the G7 members.²⁹⁴⁴ G7 leaders also expressed support for organizations promoting universal health coverage in Africa.²⁹⁴⁵ At the summit, the G7 also stressed in the Leaders Declaration, the need to provide women and girls with “sexual and reproductive health, rights and services, immunization, better nutrition, and needs-based responses in emergencies and disasters.”²⁹⁴⁶

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, the G7 committed to promoting the health of women and adolescents.²⁹⁴⁷ They also resolved to reinforce health systems to be more robust against public health emergencies.²⁹⁴⁸ At the 2017 G7 Milan Health Ministers Meeting, the G7 health ministers

²⁹³⁵ Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2010. Access Date: 19 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html>.

²⁹³⁶ Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2010. Access Date: 19 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html>.

²⁹³⁷ Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2010. Access Date: 19 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html>.

²⁹³⁸ G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2014. Access Date: 6 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

²⁹³⁹ G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2014. Access Date: 6 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

²⁹⁴⁰ G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2014. Access Date: 6 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

²⁹⁴¹ Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2015. Access Date: 6 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

²⁹⁴² Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2015. Access Date: 6 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

²⁹⁴³ G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2016. Access Date: 19 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/health.html>.

²⁹⁴⁴ G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2016. Access Date: 19 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/health.html>.

²⁹⁴⁵ G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2016. Access Date: 19 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/health.html>.

²⁹⁴⁶ G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2016. Access Date: 19 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html#architecture>.

²⁹⁴⁷ G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2017. Access Date: 19 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

²⁹⁴⁸ G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2017. Access Date: 19 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

endorsed a gender-responsive approach to healthcare policy, especially adolescent females.²⁹⁴⁹ In this declaration, the G7 Health Ministers, during the fifth health ministers meeting, promoted efforts to strengthen mental health, nutrition, and health literacy for young women.²⁹⁵⁰

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, the G7 committed to “sustainable health systems that promote access to quality and affordable healthcare.”²⁹⁵¹ As part of this commitment, the G7 reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen women’s and adolescent’s health, with an emphasis on evidence-based policy.²⁹⁵² The G7 also committed to educating the public on issues relating to mental health.²⁹⁵³

At the 2019 Paris G7 Health Ministers Meeting, the G7 Health Ministers affirmed the need to strengthen primary health care globally.²⁹⁵⁴ They stressed the importance of encouraging primary health care in the Sahel region as well as the gender dimension of primary health care, noting that it was important to improve women’s access to primary health care and to empower women working in the field of primary health care.²⁹⁵⁵ At that meeting, Health Ministers announced that the French government is producing a report on the possibility of a G7 Primary Health Care Universal Knowledge Initiative, an online platform through which G7 members and “low-middle-income countries, such as ... G5 Sahel” could exchange best practices on primary health care.²⁹⁵⁶ WHO, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) the World Bank Group, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance were also producing a report on the topic.²⁹⁵⁷

At the 2019 Biarritz Summit, the G7 leaders committed to taking initiatives to “strengthen quality primary health care in Sahel countries, with a specific focus on gender equality and women’s empowerment.”²⁹⁵⁸

Commitment Features

At the G7 Biarritz Summit in August 2019, G7 leaders committed to “pursuing ... efforts to strengthen quality primary health care in Sahel countries, with a specific focus on gender equality and women’s empowerment.”

The OECD defines primary health care (PHC) as “the first level of contact for the population with the health care system,”²⁹⁵⁹ and the WHO defines it as “meeting the majority of people’s health needs

²⁹⁴⁹ United towards Global Health: Common Strategies for Common Challenges, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2017. Access Date: 6 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/healthmins/2017-milan.html>.

²⁹⁵⁰ United towards Global Health: Common Strategies for Common Challenges, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2017. Access Date: 6 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/healthmins/2017-milan.html>.

²⁹⁵¹ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2018. Access Date: 6 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

²⁹⁵² The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2018. Access Date: 6 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

²⁹⁵³ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2018. Access Date: 6 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

²⁹⁵⁴ G7 Health Ministerial Session, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2019. Access Date: 19 October 2019. https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/declaration_de_l_engagement_des_etats_du_g7_.pdf.

²⁹⁵⁵ G7 Health Ministerial Session, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2019. Access Date: 19 October 2019. https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/declaration_de_l_engagement_des_etats_du_g7_.pdf.

²⁹⁵⁶ G7 Health Ministerial Session, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2019. Access Date: 19 October 2019. https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/declaration_de_l_engagement_des_etats_du_g7_.pdf.

²⁹⁵⁷ G7 Health Ministerial Session, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2019. Access Date: 19 October 2019. https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/declaration_de_l_engagement_des_etats_du_g7_.pdf.

²⁹⁵⁸ Sahel Partnership Action Plan, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2019. Access Date: 6 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/sahel-partnership-action-plan.html>.

through services provided directly in the community where they live.”²⁹⁶⁰ According to the WHO, a PHC approach focuses on “treat(ing) the person rather than the disease.”²⁹⁶¹

The key verb in this commitment is “to strengthen,” which means creation of new initiatives or the expansion of existing ones. We will count research and exploratory programs in primary health as strengthening primary health but will not count simple affirmations of the principles of primary health.

There are several definitions offered for primary health care.²⁹⁶² We will define it, as per the WHO, as services offered in a person’s community that are not designed to treat a specific medical condition but rather to address the wide range of needs for that person’s overall health.

The WHO has classified all primary health care policies into one of three categories, all of which, for the purposes of compliance, will count as primary health care:

1. Meeting people’s health needs through comprehensive promotive, protective, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative care throughout the life course, strategically prioritizing key health care services aimed at individuals and families through primary care and the population through public health functions as the central elements of integrated health services;
2. Systematically addressing the broader determinants of health (including social, economic, environmental, as well as people’s characteristics and behaviours) through evidence-informed public policies and actions across all sectors; and
3. Empowering individuals, families, and communities to optimize their health, as advocates for policies that promote and protect health and well-being, as co-developers of health and social services, and as self-carers and care-givers to others.²⁹⁶³

Based on the G7 Health Ministerial Declaration from 2019, we will take primary health care to include “health promotion, prevention, treatment, immunization ... nutrition ... [and] peoples’ health literacy.”²⁹⁶⁴ As by OECD standards, we will also consider “preventive, curative and rehabilitative services” by “physicians, ... nurses, pharmacists, auxiliaries, and community health workers” to be under the umbrella of primary health care.²⁹⁶⁵ However, we will not count emergency or hospital care as primary health care.

The G5 Sahel countries are Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger. To comply with this commitment, a G7 member can strengthen primary healthcare by partnering with a G5 Sahel country’s government or through organizations operating in the country.

²⁹⁵⁹ Primary Care, OECD (Paris) 2016. Access Date: 19 October 2019. <https://www.oecd.org/health/health-systems/primary-care.htm>.

²⁹⁶⁰ Moving Towards PHC, WHO (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 19 October 2019. <https://www.who.int/activities/moving-towards-phc>.

²⁹⁶¹ Moving Towards PHC, WHO (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 19 October 2019. <https://www.who.int/activities/moving-towards-phc>.

²⁹⁶² Primary Health Care, WHO (Geneva) 2019. Access Date: 19 October 2019. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/primary-health-care>.

²⁹⁶³ Primary Health Care, WHO (Geneva) 2019. Access Date: 19 October 2019. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/primary-health-care>.

²⁹⁶⁴ G7 Health Ministerial Session, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2019. Access Date: 19 October 2019. https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/declaration_de_l_engagement_des_etats_du_g7_.pdf

²⁹⁶⁵ Primary Care, OECD (Paris) 2019. Access Date: 19 October 2019. <https://www.oecd.org/health/health-systems/primary-care.htm>.

The G7 Health Ministerial Declaration stresses the importance of improving women’s access to healthcare, that many workers in the health sector are women and the need to encourage women in leadership positions in the health sector.²⁹⁶⁶ As such, we will consider “a specific focus on gender equality and women’s empowerment” to be any initiative that address healthcare issues affecting primarily women such as reproductive health; are specifically designed to reach the female population of a community; or promotes the interests of women working in primary health care in the Sahel region.

Thus, to achieve a score of full compliance, or +1, a G7 member must pursue efforts to strengthen quality primary health care in Sahel countries, inclusive of efforts that specifically focus on gender equality and women’s empowerment in all three of the WHO defined primary health categories. Actions taken in accordance of the WHO categories can be inclusive of short, and long-term actions, in individual, bilateral or multilateral partnerships. Strengthening the health care system can be taken through providing financial development, health infrastructure creation or development in all areas of the WHO primary health care definition.

To achieve a score of 0, or partial compliance, a G7 member must pursue efforts to strengthen primary health care in Sahel countries, inclusive of efforts that specifically focus on gender equality and women’s empowerment in two of the WHO defined primary health care areas.

Action taken in one or none of the WHO defined categories of primary health care areas will result in a score of -1, or no compliance.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	Member pursues efforts to strengthen quality primary health care in Sahel countries in ONE or NONE of the World Health Organization (WHO) classified primary health care areas.
0	Member pursues efforts to strengthen quality primary health care in Sahel countries in TWO of the WHO defined categories of primary health care areas, which include efforts that focus on gender equality and women’s empowerment.
+1	Member pursues efforts to strengthen quality primary health care in Sahel countries in ALL three categories of WHO classified primary health care areas, which include efforts that focus on gender equality and women’s empowerment.

*Compliance Director: Clara Geddes
Lead Analyst: Lilin Tong*

Canada: +1

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to pursue efforts to strengthen quality primary health care in Sahel countries, with a specific focus on gender equality and women’s empowerment.

On 28 August 2019, the Minister of International Development and Minister for Women and Gender Equality Maryam Monsef, announced that Canada will pledge CAD20 million over the next five years to help improve access to quality health and reproductive services for women and girls and Mali.²⁹⁶⁷ The funding is devoted to train more than 2,800 health professionals, managers, and trainers

²⁹⁶⁶ G7 Health Ministerial Session, The G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2019. Access Date: 19 October 2019. https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/declaration_de_l_engagement_des_etats_du_g7_.pdf

²⁹⁶⁷ Canada increases access to gender-sensitive health services for women and girls in Mali, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/08/canada-increases-access-to-gender-sensitive-health-services-for-women-and-girls-in-mali.html>.

as well as to improve the Malian government's human resources management to improve the performance of the health system.²⁹⁶⁸

On 23 January 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs François-Phillipe Champagne announced CAD78.9 million for eight different projects in Mali.²⁹⁶⁹ These include a CAD20 million pledge for over five years to “improving (the) knowledge and increasing their decision-making power and ability to act on their sexual and reproductive health and rights” of women and girls in the Kayes region.²⁹⁷⁰ Canada also committed to a CAD8 million project towards strengthening health systems that address maternal mortality and morbidity for more than 500,000 women and girls.²⁹⁷¹ The rest of the CAD78.9 million is to go towards food and nutritional security, the promotion of girls' education, and issues of peace and security.²⁹⁷²

On 12 May 2020, Canada announced it would contribute CAD 600 million to the GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance for the 2021-2025 period.²⁹⁷³ Gavi specified that the aid was crucial during the challenges in vaccine distribution during the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁹⁷⁴

On 12 June 2020, Canada announced that it joined the International Coalition for the Sahel to promote peace and security in the region.²⁹⁷⁵ Minister Champagne and Minister of National Defence Harjit S. Sajjan that “gender equality” would be one of the goals they would promote on the Coalition.²⁹⁷⁶

Canada's engagement in Mali represents efforts to improve healthcare services and address broader determinants of health such as education and nutrition. In addition, the contribution towards reproductive health education constitutes an initiative that empowers women and girls in the Sahel region.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Adebisi Akande

²⁹⁶⁸ Canada increases access to gender-sensitive health services for women and girls in Mali, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/08/canada-increases-access-to-gender-sensitive-health-services-for-women-and-girls-in-mali.html>.

²⁹⁶⁹ Minister Champagne concludes visit to Mali, continues on to Morocco, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/minister-champagne-concludes-visit-to-mali-continues-on-to-morocco.html>

²⁹⁷⁰ Canadian supported projects in Mali, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/canadian-supported-projects-in-mali.html>

²⁹⁷¹ Canadian supported projects in Mali, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/canadian-supported-projects-in-mali.html>

²⁹⁷² Canadian supported projects in Mali, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/canadian-supported-projects-in-mali.html>

²⁹⁷³ Canada Commits CAD 600 Million to Gavi, Gavi The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/canada-commits-cad-600-million-gavi>

²⁹⁷⁴ Canada Commits CAD 600 Million to Gavi, Gavi The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/canada-commits-cad-600-million-gavi>

²⁹⁷⁵ Canada joins International Coalition for the Sahel, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/06/canada-joins-international-coalition-for-the-sahel.html>

²⁹⁷⁶ Canada joins International Coalition for the Sahel, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/06/canada-joins-international-coalition-for-the-sahel.html>

France: –1

France has partially complied with its commitment to strengthen quality primary healthcare in Sahel countries, with a focus on gender equality and women’s empowerment.

On 9 October 2019, France’s President Emmanuel Macron, hosted the Sixth Replenishment Conference of the Global Fund.²⁹⁷⁷ At this conference, France committed to increasing its contribution by 20 per cent to reach USD1.429 billion.²⁹⁷⁸ This funding is devoted to strengthening all aspects of the health systems, including communities, hospitals, prevention efforts, and state-of-the-art care, with a priority in the Sahel region.²⁹⁷⁹

On 11 October 2019, the Minister of State attached to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne, participated in the inaugural France-Sahel Decentralized Cooperation Conference.²⁹⁸⁰ The conference, organized with the support of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, aims to help develop decentralized cooperation in Sahel countries in order to promote access to basic services and support local development.²⁹⁸¹ The local and regional authorities of France and the Sahel have launched an approach within the “Sahel Project Group” in order to share their experiences, provide mutual support and promote the pooling of resources and the scaling up of projects.²⁹⁸²

On 25 February 2020, Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, participated in the General Assembly of the Sahel Alliance and G5 Sahel Summit in Nouakchott, Mauritania.²⁹⁸³ The General Assembly of the Sahel Alliance aims to ensure high-level international mobilization in the Sahel region.²⁹⁸⁴ Le Drian underscored France’s continued support for the Sahel Alliance work on stabilization and development in Mauritania, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Chad.²⁹⁸⁵

²⁹⁷⁷ \$14.02 billion to fund the fight against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, France in the United States (Washington D.C.) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 1 January 2020. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9372>.

²⁹⁷⁸ \$14.02 billion to fund the fight against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, France in the United States (Washington D.C.) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 1 January 2020. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9372>.

²⁹⁷⁹ \$14.02 billion to fund the fight against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, France in the United States (Washington D.C.) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 1 January 2020. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9372>.

²⁹⁸⁰ Sahel-Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne’s participation in the France-Sahel Decentralized Cooperation Conference, France Diplomatie (Paris) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/africa/news/article/sahel-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-s-participation-in-the-france-sahel-decentralized>.

²⁹⁸¹ Sahel-Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne’s participation in the France-Sahel Decentralized Cooperation Conference, France Diplomatie (Paris). 10 October 2019 Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/africa/news/article/sahel-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-s-participation-in-the-france-sahel-decentralized>.

²⁹⁸² Sahel—Jean Baptiste Lemoyne’s Participation in the France-Sahel Decentralized Cooperation Conference (Poitiers-October 10-11, 2019), The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Washington) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 1 January 2020. <https://franceintheus.org/IMG/html/briefing/2019/DDB-2019-10-10.html>.

²⁹⁸³ Jean-Yves Le Drian’s participation in the General Assembly of the Sahel Alliance and the G5 Sahel Summit, France Diplomatie (Nouakchott) 25 February 2020. Access Date: 8 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/mauritania/news/article/sahel-jean-yves-le-drian-s-participation-in-the-general-assembly-of-the-sahel>

²⁹⁸⁴ Jean-Yves Le Drian’s participation in the General Assembly of the Sahel Alliance and the G5 Sahel Summit, France Diplomatie (Nouakchott) 25 February 2020. Access Date: 8 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/mauritania/news/article/sahel-jean-yves-le-drian-s-participation-in-the-general-assembly-of-the-sahel>

²⁹⁸⁵ Jean-Yves Le Drian’s participation in the General Assembly of the Sahel Alliance and the G5 Sahel Summit, France Diplomatie (Nouakchott) 25 February 2020. Access Date: 8 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/mauritania/news/article/sahel-jean-yves-le-drian-s-participation-in-the-general-assembly-of-the-sahel>

On 11 March 2020, in a joint press statement with Sweden on security in the Sahel region, Minister Le Drian reaffirmed the need for humanitarian aid and engagement on development issues in the Sahel.²⁹⁸⁶

On 21 April 2020, the Agence Française du Développement (AFD) announced it would spend EUR12 million to partner with non-governmental organizations on six initiatives mainly in sub-Saharan Africa which are to be part of COVID-19 – Health in Common.²⁹⁸⁷ These include EUR2 million towards supporting African countries, including Niger, to “ensure the national and regional COVID-19 laboratory mandate is fulfilled and to help the countries in their fight against the pandemic.”²⁹⁸⁸ The French government also increased their funding for countries that include Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso to “access laboratory reagents so they could perform COVID-19 diagnostics” by EUR1.5 million.²⁹⁸⁹ Finally, one of the projects will be one to “reduce morbidity and mortality, stem the spread of COVID-19 and reinforce health ministries' capacity to respond to the pandemic,” of which Burkina Faso will benefit.²⁹⁹⁰

France's contribution to the “Health in Common” initiative, which will operate in the Sahel region, consists of an effort to meet people's health needs. Moreover, the General Assembly of the Sahel Alliance mobilizes support for development in order to help communities improve health outcomes. However, neither of these initiatives relate specifically to gender. France has also not yet taken any action to begin addressing broader determinants of health in the Sahel region.

Thus, France receives a score of -1 .²⁹⁹¹

Analyst: Alexis Beynon

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to pursue efforts to strengthen quality primary healthcare in Sahel countries, with a specific focus on gender equality and women's empowerment.

On 14 October 2019, the Efficiency by Edification project, a sub-project of the Global Health Protection Program supported by the Federal Ministry of Health, held a workshop on “High Consequence Infectious Diseases (HCIDs)” in Berlin for healthcare professionals from Burkina

²⁹⁸⁶ Joint press statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Sweden and France, France Diplomatie (Paris) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 8 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/sweden/events/article/joint-press-statement-by-the-ministers-for-foreign-affairs-of-sweden-and-france>

²⁹⁸⁷ France launches, via AFD, the “COVID-19 – health in common” initiative to support African countries, French Development Agency (Paris) 09 April 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/france-launches-afd-covid-19-health-common-initiative-support-african-countries>

²⁹⁸⁸ France launches, via AFD, the “COVID-19 – health in common” initiative to support African countries, French Development Agency, AFD (Paris) 09 April 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/france-launches-afd-covid-19-health-common-initiative-support-african-countries>

²⁹⁸⁹ France launches, via AFD, the “COVID-19 – health in common” initiative to support African countries, French Development Agency, AFD (Paris) 09 April 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/france-launches-afd-covid-19-health-common-initiative-support-african-countries>

²⁹⁹⁰ France launches, via AFD, the “COVID-19 – health in common” initiative to support African countries, French Development Agency, AFD (Paris) 09 April 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/france-launches-afd-covid-19-health-common-initiative-support-african-countries>

²⁹⁹¹ Non-compliance was determined after a thorough search of the following websites: <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/press-room/>, <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/communique-de-presse>, <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/actualites-du-ministere/>, <https://www.who.int/news-room/releases/2>; <https://www.worldbank.org>; <https://www.gavi.org/news-resources/media-room/news-releases>; <https://www.theglobalfund.org/>.

Faso.²⁹⁹² The aim of the workshop was to connect regional actors from Burkina Faso and build capacities for HCID detection and treatment.²⁹⁹³

On 12 November 2019, Germany's Minister for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ) Gerd Müller attended the World Population Summit held in Nairobi, Kenya. At this summit, Minister Müller announced that Germany would step up its family planning activities and set up additional maternity centres in Niger, Malawi, and Cameroon.²⁹⁹⁴ Minister Müller announced that the German government would support this initiative with up to EUR100 million a year through the BMZ's Initiative on Rights-based Family Planning and Maternal Health.²⁹⁹⁵

On 23 January 2020, at the World Economic Forum, Germany announced it would contribute EUR600 million to the GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, which was then celebrating its 20th anniversary, between 2021 to 2025.²⁹⁹⁶ The pledge will contribute to Gavi's goal of immunising an additional 300 million children in the world's poorest countries between 2021 and 2025, and strengthening the health care system to extend immunisation capacity and fortify primary health care.²⁹⁹⁷

On 8 April 2020, Federal Foreign Minister Heiko Maas announced that the Federal Foreign Office will pledge EUR10 million to the World Food Programme to deliver essential food supplies to population the Sahel Region at risk of suffering under- and malnourishment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁹⁹⁸ This will be done in partnership with the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service to reach those living in remote regions.²⁹⁹⁹

On 23 April 2020, Germany announced an Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme for developing countries, although they do not specifically mention the Sahel region.³⁰⁰⁰ This funding

²⁹⁹² October 2019: HCID workshop with new cooperation partner Opera Village, Global Health Protection Programme (Berlin) 18 October 2019. Access date: 8 December 2019. <https://ghpp.de/en/projects/effo-efficiency-by-edification/october-2019-hcid-workshop-with-new-cooperation-partner-opera-village/>.

²⁹⁹³ October 2019: HCID workshop with new cooperation partner Opera Village, Global Health Protection Programme (Berlin). 18 October 2019. Access date: 8 December 2019. <https://ghpp.de/en/projects/effo-efficiency-by-edification/october-2019-hcid-workshop-with-new-cooperation-partner-opera-village/>.

²⁹⁹⁴ Germany steps up its international efforts for family planning, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin). Access Date: 11 April 2020. http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191112_pm_064_Germany-steps-up-its-international-efforts-for-family-planning/index.html.

²⁹⁹⁵ Germany steps up its international efforts for family planning, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin). Access Date: 11 April 2020. http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191112_pm_064_Germany-steps-up-its-international-efforts-for-family-planning/index.html.

²⁹⁹⁶ World Leaders Commit to Gavi's Vision to Protect the Next Generation with Vaccines, Gavi Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/world-leaders-commit-gavis-vision-protect-next-generation-vaccines>

²⁹⁹⁷ World Leaders Commit to Gavi's Vision to Protect the Next Generation with Vaccines, Gavi Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/world-leaders-commit-gavis-vision-protect-next-generation-vaccines>

²⁹⁹⁸ Statement by Foreign Minister Maas on food aid for people in the Sahel region, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-wfp-sahel/2331716>

²⁹⁹⁹ Statement by Foreign Minister Maas on food aid for people in the Sahel region, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-wfp-sahel/2331716>

³⁰⁰⁰ German Development Ministry presents Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/april/200423_German-Development-Ministry-presents-Emergency-COVID-19-Support-Programme-We-will-either-beat-the-pandemic-worldwide-or-not-at-all/index.html

includes EUR200 million for “health and pandemic control” and EUR200 million for “food security and basic food services to prevent famines” out of EUR1.15 billion.³⁰⁰¹

On 16 June 2020, Germany announced it would pay approximately EUR19 million to the African Risk Capacity to use to pay drought insurance premiums.³⁰⁰² This insurance should ensure that many uninsured individuals in Africa are not subject to the financial losses from both drought and COVID-19.³⁰⁰³ Part of this fund will allow for the World Food Programme and other humanitarian organizations that form the START Network to set up drought insurance policies in countries that include Mali, Mauritania, and Burkina Faso.³⁰⁰⁴ Financial security is a broader determinant of health so this action addresses the second component of primary healthcare.³⁰⁰⁵

On 29 July 2020, Germany announced that it would deliver approximately 1.4 million COVID-19 tests to the African Union.³⁰⁰⁶ Minister Müller reaffirmed Germany’s commitment to global solidarity in managing the pandemic and stated that testing is a crucial component of controlling the spread of COVID-19.³⁰⁰⁷

It is noted that Germany supports the health sector through the West African Health Organization with regional funding. Evidence, however, cannot be found for this support from August 2019 to present and therefore was not included in this assessment.

Germany has taken action to empower individuals, families, and communities and to promote protective and preventative health services through its contribution to family planning and maternal health centres in Niger. This action has a specific focus on women’s empowerment and is specifically designed to reach the female population of Niger. Additionally, Germany has contributed to strengthening healthcare systems in the Sahel by partnering with local healthcare professionals on

³⁰⁰¹ German Development Ministry presents Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020.

https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/april/200423_German-Development-Ministry-presents-Emergency-COVID-19-Support-Programme-We-will-either-beat-the-pandemic-worldwide-or-not-at-all/index.html

³⁰⁰² Germany Helps African Countries Maintain Drought Insurance in view of COVID-19, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020.

https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/juni/200616_Germany-helps-African-countries-maintain-drought-insurance-in-view-of-COVID-19/index.html

³⁰⁰³ Germany Helps African Countries Maintain Drought Insurance in view of COVID-19, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020.

https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/juni/200616_Germany-helps-African-countries-maintain-drought-insurance-in-view-of-COVID-19/index.html

³⁰⁰⁴ Germany Helps African Countries Maintain Drought Insurance in view of COVID-19, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020.

https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/juni/200616_Germany-helps-African-countries-maintain-drought-insurance-in-view-of-COVID-19/index.html

³⁰⁰⁵ Germany Helps African Countries Maintain Drought Insurance in view of COVID-19, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020.

https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/juni/200616_Germany-helps-African-countries-maintain-drought-insurance-in-view-of-COVID-19/index.html

³⁰⁰⁶ German Epidemic Preparedness Team hands over 1.4 million tests to the African Union, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 29 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020.

https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/juli/200729_pm-22_COVID-19-pandemic-German-Epidemic-Preparedness-Team-hands-over-1_4-million-tests-to-the-African-Union/index.html

³⁰⁰⁷ German Epidemic Preparedness Team hands over 1.4 million tests to the African Union, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 29 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020.

https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/juli/200729_pm-22_COVID-19-pandemic-German-Epidemic-Preparedness-Team-hands-over-1_4-million-tests-to-the-African-Union/index.html

capacity building initiatives. Germany's efforts in climate resilience constitute efforts to address the broader determinants of health.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Katherine Power

Italy: -1

Italy has failed to comply with its commitment to pursue efforts to strengthen quality primary health care in Sahel countries, with a specific focus on gender equality and women's empowerment.

On 15 October 2019, the Italian Ministry of Defence donated ten ambulances and three water tankers to the Government of Niger through the Fund for Africa and the Ministry of Defence.³⁰⁰⁸ These vehicles are supposed to help mitigate human trafficking in the region and provide support to migrants.³⁰⁰⁹

On 7 November 2019, the Italian Embassy in Niamey, Niger hosted a pizza and bread dough making workshop for women as part of Italian Cuisine Week and the Pizza for Peace project.³⁰¹⁰ The workshop was designed to teach entrepreneurial skills and promote nutritional health among women of Niamey.³⁰¹¹

On 6 December 2019, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Emanuela Del Re met with the Foreign Minister of Niger Kalla Ankourau and reaffirmed that Niger and its stabilization were a priority for Italian foreign policy and development aid.³⁰¹² However, given that Italy did not mobilize any new resources as part of this policy, it does not count towards compliance.

On 6 May 2020, Italy announced that it would contribute EUR120 million to the GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance for the 2021-2025 period.³⁰¹³ Deputy Minister Del Re affirmed Italy's support for GAVI's work in child immunisation and its critical work during the ongoing pandemic.³⁰¹⁴

³⁰⁰⁸ Italy donates 10 ambulances to the Niger government, Minister, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 15 October 2019. Access Date: 11 April 2020. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2019/10/l-italia-dona-10-ambulanze-al-governo-del-niger.html.

³⁰⁰⁹ Italy donates 10 ambulances to the Niger government, Minister, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 15 October 2019. Access Date: 11 April 2020. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2019/10/l-italia-dona-10-ambulanze-al-governo-del-niger.html.

³⁰¹⁰ Italian Cuisine Week: 'Pizza for Peace' in Niger, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 7 November 2019. Access Date: 11 April 2020. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/settimana-cucina-italiana-in-niger-la-pizza-per-la-pace.html.

³⁰¹¹ Italian Cuisine Week: 'Pizza for Peace' in Niger, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 7 November 2019. Access Date: 11 April 2020. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/settimana-cucina-italiana-in-niger-la-pizza-per-la-pace.html.

³⁰¹² Med 2019: Del Re meets the Niger Foreign Minister, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 1 January 2020. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2019/12/med-2019-del-re-incontra-il-ministro-degli-esteri-niger.html

³⁰¹³ Italy Pledges New Support to GAVI, GAVI The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/italy-pledges-new-support-gavi>

³⁰¹⁴ Italy Pledges New Support to GAVI, GAVI The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/italy-pledges-new-support-gavi>

Italy's contributions in Niger constitute meeting people's health needs through public health functions and the Pizza for Peace projects is a case of empowering women to optimize their health.³⁰¹⁵ However, the Italian government did not address the broader determinants of health.

Thus, Italy receives a score of -1.³⁰¹⁶

Analyst: Katherine Power

Japan: -1

Japan has failed to comply with its commitment to pursue efforts to strengthen quality primary health care in Sahel countries, with a specific focus on gender equality and women's empowerment.

On 28-30 August 2019, Japan hosted the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) in Yokohama, Japan. During TICAD, the Japanese government mentioned its efforts to "improve primary health care" in Africa.³⁰¹⁷

On 29 August 2019, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met with President Issoufou of Niger. Prime Minister Abe stated his support for supporting food security as well issues relating to "water and sanitation" in Niger.³⁰¹⁸ Although this is not related directly to primary health care, these factors are part of the broader determinants of health.

On 4 October 2019, the Japan International Cooperation Agency signed a grant agreement with the Government of Niger, to provide JPY1.194 billion for a Project of Reinforcement of the Capacity of the National Office of Hydro-Agricultural Development for the Promotion of Irrigated Rice

³⁰¹⁵ No additional information was found in a search of: Press Releases, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome). Access Date: 11 April 2020. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati; Press Releases, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (Rome). Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.aics.gov.it/language/en/>; Italian Ministry of Health (Rome). Access Date: 11 April 2020. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2.html; New Releases, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.who.int/news-room/releases/2>; All News, The World Bank (Washington). Access Date: 13 January 2020. https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/all?displayconttype_exact=Press+Release&lang_exact=English&qterm=; New Releases, Gavi The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva). Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gavi.org/news-resources/media-room/news-releases>; News & Stories, The Global Fund (Geneva). Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/news/?page=3&filter=all>; Press Releases, UNICEF (New York). Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.unicef.org/media/press-releases?page=2#listAnchor>.

³⁰¹⁶ Non-compliance was determined after a thorough search of the following websites: https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati; http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&dataa=2020/12/31&datada=2017/01/01¬izie.page=52; <https://www.who.int/news-room/releases/2>; https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/all?displayconttype_exact=Press+Release&lang_exact=English&qterm=; <https://www.gavi.org/news-resources/media-room/news-releases>; <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/news/?page=3&filter=all>; <https://www.unicef.org/media/press-releases?page=2#listAnchor>.

³⁰¹⁷ The 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) September 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000521256.pdf>

³⁰¹⁸ Japan-Niger Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/ne/page3e_001087.html

Growing.³⁰¹⁹ This project aims to development and maintain irrigation infrastructure and expand the quantity of agricultural product to improve food security.³⁰²⁰

On 14 October 2019, Japan donated JPY3 million to food assistance and JPY3 million to the Economic and Social Development Programme in Burkina Faso.³⁰²¹

On 21 October 2019, Prime Minister Abe met with the Nigerien Prime Minister Mahamadou Issoufou and reaffirmed Japan's commitment to the Sahel region in its New Approach for Peace and Stability (NAPSA). As part of NAPSA, Abe announced a grant aid worth JPY1.3 billion to improve equipment needed for irrigation farming, and another grant aid worth JPY300 million for food assistance.³⁰²²

On 12 November 2019, Japan donated JPY3 million to food assistance and JPY3 million to the Economic and Social Development Programme in Mali.³⁰²³

On 10 March 2020, Japan announced that it would contribute USD23.7 million in Emergency Grant Aid for services for internally displaced people in the Sahel region.³⁰²⁴ This sum includes funds for healthcare, food assistance, and Water Sanitation and Hygiene.³⁰²⁵

On 12 March 2020, Japan pledged JPY200 million to Burkina Faso to enhance adolescent capacity to exercise their sexual and reproductive health and rights.³⁰²⁶

On 27 March 2020, Japan announced that, for the upcoming fiscal year, Japan will contribute USD476 to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria as part of Japan's Sixth Replenishment of the Global Fund.³⁰²⁷

On 8 May 2020, Japan announced that it would contribute USD100 million to the GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance for the 2021-2025 period.³⁰²⁸ Prime Minister Abe reaffirmed Japan's commitment to a global

³⁰¹⁹ Signing of Grant Agreement with Niger: Contributing to the improvement of the living of farmers and food security, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2019.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191011_41.html

³⁰²⁰ Signing of Grant Agreement with Niger: Contributing to the improvement of the living of farmers and food security, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2019.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191011_41.html

³⁰²¹ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2019 Grant Aid by Region, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. N.d. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page22e_000878.html

³⁰²² Japan-Niger Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) October 21, 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/ne/page4e_001113.html

³⁰²³ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2019 Grant Aid by Region, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) N.d. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page22e_000878.html

³⁰²⁴ Emergency Grant Aid in Response to the Humanitarian Crisis in the Sahel Region, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002744.html

³⁰²⁵ Emergency Grant Aid in Response to the Humanitarian Crisis in the Sahel Region, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002744.html

³⁰²⁶ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2019 Grant Aid by Region, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page22e_000878.html

³⁰²⁷ Japan Secures \$476 Million Contribution to the Global Fund, The Global Fund (Geneva) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/news/2020-03-27-japan-secures-usd476-million-contribution-to-the-global-fund/>

³⁰²⁸ Japan Pledges New Support to GAVI, GAVI The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/japan-pledges-new-support-gavi>

response to the COVID-19 pandemic and that vaccines will play a crucial role in this process in the long run.³⁰²⁹

On 7 August 2020, Japan announced it would provide USD4.8 million in emergency aid those displaced by conflict in Burkina Faso, Chad, and Niger and to the communities receiving those individuals.³⁰³⁰ One of the goals of this aid is the “improvement of health service and water” for approximately 82 500 individuals.³⁰³¹ Other components included shelter, care for victims of Sexual and Gender Based Violence, and “livelihood support activities.”³⁰³²

Japan’s initiatives in food assistance and nutrition in the Sahel region address some of the broader determinants of health. Moreover, Japan’s efforts in promoting reproductive health and rights in Burkina Faso address people’s health needs and empower women to be advocates of their own health.

Thus, Japan receives a score of –1.³⁰³³

Analysts: Lilin Tong and Clara Geddes

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom fully complied with its commitment to pursue efforts to strengthen quality primary health care in Sahel countries, with a specific focus on gender equality and women’s empowerment.

On 17 September 2019, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Baroness Sugg announced a new UK aid package of GBP220 million to help tackle five of the world’s worst neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) – including lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, visceral leishmaniasis and trachoma – across southern and eastern Africa and south Asia.³⁰³⁴ This package will deliver 600 million treatments to prevent NTDs, provide treatment or care, and contribute to improving health systems and build greater capacity in governments for sustainable response to these diseases.³⁰³⁵

³⁰²⁹ Japan Pledges New Support to GAVI, GAVI The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/japan-pledges-new-support-gavi>

³⁰³⁰ Emergency Grant Aid in Response to the Humanitarian Crisis in Burkina Faso, Chad and Niger, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 7 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002875.html

³⁰³¹ Emergency Grant Aid in Response to the Humanitarian Crisis in Burkina Faso, Chad and Niger, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 7 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002875.html

³⁰³² Emergency Grant Aid in Response to the Humanitarian Crisis in Burkina Faso, Chad and Niger, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 7 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002875.html

³⁰³³ No additional information was found in a search of: <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/new-info/2019.html>; <https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/index.html>; <https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/news/index.html>; <https://www.who.int/news-room/releases/2>; <https://www.worldbank.org/>; <https://www.gavi.org/news-resources/media-room/news-releases>; <https://www.theglobalfund.org>.

³⁰³⁴ New UK aid support to protect 200 million people from debilitating diseases, Department for International Development (London) 17 September 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-aid-support-to-protect-200-million-people-from-debilitating-diseases>

³⁰³⁵ New UK aid support to protect 200 million people from debilitating diseases, Department for International Development (London) 17 September 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-aid-support-to-protect-200-million-people-from-debilitating-diseases>

On 23 September 2019, UK aid pledged a GBP600 million aid package to improve women, maternal, and newborn health in the developing countries.³⁰³⁶ The package will prioritise access to family planning, fund research and development into new health technologies and diagnostic tests, ensure children have life-saving vaccines, use British and international expertise to provide technical assistance.³⁰³⁷

On 2 October 2019, the United Kingdom announced an investment of GBP600 million to address preventable death amongst women and girls, specifically mothers.³⁰³⁸ This initiative is to operate in “the world’s poorest countries.”³⁰³⁹ The UK government will use this funding to: supporting family planning services; research into technology that addresses the medical needs of developing countries; disseminate vaccines for children; develop better diagnostic methods for developing countries; mobilize international knowledge of efficient health policy; and mobilize the private sector in ensuring access to health technology.³⁰⁴⁰ The UK government will use this funding to “invest in more vaccines for deadly diseases, prioritise access to healthcare for women and girls around the world, and invest in research to diagnose and treat diseases more quickly and effectively.”³⁰⁴¹

On 10 October 2019, the United Kingdom matched GBP100 million of private sector support for the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.³⁰⁴² This fund will help provide mosquito nets to prevent malaria and strengthen the health systems so governments are better equipped to prevent and treat malaria.³⁰⁴³

³⁰³⁶ Alok Sharma speech to UN General Assembly on Universal Health Coverage, Department for International Development (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/alok-sharma-speech-to-un-general-assembly-on-universal-health-coverage>

³⁰³⁷ UK will step up efforts to end preventable deaths of mothers, new-born babies and children in the developing world by 2030, Department for International Development (London) 2 October 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-will-step-up-efforts-to-end-preventable-deaths-of-mothers-new-born-babies-and-children-in-the-developing-world-by-2030>

³⁰³⁸ UK will step up efforts to end preventable deaths of mothers, new-born babies and children in the developing world by 2030, Department for International Development (London) 2 October 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-will-step-up-efforts-to-end-preventable-deaths-of-mothers-new-born-babies-and-children-in-the-developing-world-by-2030>

³⁰³⁹ UK will step up efforts to end preventable deaths of mothers, new-born babies and children in the developing world by 2030, Department for International Development (London) 2 October 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-will-step-up-efforts-to-end-preventable-deaths-of-mothers-new-born-babies-and-children-in-the-developing-world-by-2030>

³⁰⁴⁰ UK will step up efforts to end preventable deaths of mothers, new-born babies and children in the developing world by 2030, Department for International Development (London) 2 October 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-will-step-up-efforts-to-end-preventable-deaths-of-mothers-new-born-babies-and-children-in-the-developing-world-by-2030>

³⁰⁴¹ UK will step up efforts to end preventable deaths of mothers, new-born babies and children in the developing world by 2030, Department for International Development (London) 2 October 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-will-step-up-efforts-to-end-preventable-deaths-of-mothers-new-born-babies-and-children-in-the-developing-world-by-2030>

³⁰⁴² UK aid backs private sector to fight malaria, Department of International Development (London) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-backs-private-sector-to-fight-malaria>

³⁰⁴³ UK aid backs private sector to fight malaria, Department of International Development (London) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-backs-private-sector-to-fight-malaria>

On 8 February 2020, the United Kingdom pledged GBP5 million to the World Health Organization to help developing countries to deal with COVID-19.³⁰⁴⁴ However, the United Kingdom and the World Health Organization did not specify which countries would receive aid.

On 12 April 2020, the UK Department for International Development that they would contribute an additional GBP200 million to NGOs working to reduce the effects of COVID-19.³⁰⁴⁵ GBP65 million of this sum is to go to the WHO.³⁰⁴⁶

On 29 April 2020, the UK announced it would contribute GBP330 million per year to the GAVI Vaccine Alliance during the 2021-2025 period.³⁰⁴⁷ GAVI noted that the UK has been their largest donor since 2000, especially their International Finance Facility for Immunisation.³⁰⁴⁸

On 20 May 2020, the UK announced it would contribute GBP 20 million to the African Union COVID-19 Response Fund.³⁰⁴⁹ A key component of this fund is to “strengthen healthcare systems” so that they can help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.³⁰⁵⁰ To do so, the Fund will be “recruiting African health experts and deploying them where they are needed most, strengthening global tracking of the pandemic, combatting potentially harmful misinformation, providing specialist coronavirus training for health workers and making information about the virus more accessible to the public.”³⁰⁵¹

The United Kingdom has made contributions to address people’s health needs such as NTDs and those addressed by the Global Fund. The United Kingdom’s efforts in reproductive health also consists as such a policy, which is also related to women’s health. The United Kingdom’s aid for economic development and education in Africa, including the Sahel, consist of initiatives that address the broader determinants of health. However, the United Kingdom did not adopt strategies to empower local actors in healthcare policy determinations.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Areej Malik

³⁰⁴⁴ New UK aid to help stop the spread of coronavirus around the world, Department for International Development (London) 8 February 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-aid-to-help-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus-around-the-world>

³⁰⁴⁵ UK Leads Global Fight to Prevent Second Wave of Coronavirus, UK Department for International Development (London) 12 April 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-leads-global-fight-to-prevent-second-wave-of-coronavirus>

³⁰⁴⁶ UK Leads Global Fight to Prevent Second Wave of Coronavirus, UK Department for International Development (London) 12 April 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-leads-global-fight-to-prevent-second-wave-of-coronavirus>

³⁰⁴⁷ GAVI Welcomes UK Funding Pledge, GAVI The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/gavi-welcomes-uk-funding-pledge>

³⁰⁴⁸ GAVI Welcomes UK Funding Pledge, GAVI The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/gavi-welcomes-uk-funding-pledge>

³⁰⁴⁹ UK to Work with African Union to Slow Spread of Coronavirus in Africa, UK Department for International Development (London) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-work-with-african-union-to-slow-spread-of-coronavirus-in-africa>

³⁰⁵⁰ UK to Work with African Union to Slow Spread of Coronavirus in Africa, UK Department for International Development (London) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-work-with-african-union-to-slow-spread-of-coronavirus-in-africa>

³⁰⁵¹ UK to Work with African Union to Slow Spread of Coronavirus in Africa, UK Department for International Development (London) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-work-with-african-union-to-slow-spread-of-coronavirus-in-africa>

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to pursue efforts to strengthen quality primary health care in Sahel countries, with a specific focus on gender equality and women's empowerment

On 10 October 2019, the House of Representatives and the Senate Appropriations Committee approved an increase of 15.6 per cent to USD1.56 billion for the 2020 fiscal year to fund of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.³⁰⁵² The funding model of the Global Fund proposes that in the years 2020-2022 the Sahel region nations will receive funding of USD687 million to combat these three illnesses.³⁰⁵³

On 27 December 2019, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) launched the first of a series of global health awards, named MOMENTUM, for initiatives that reduce maternal, newborn and child deaths and diseases in high-burden countries.³⁰⁵⁴ This award is valued at an estimated USD100 million and supports the Journey to Self-Reliance program, a partnership model that helps low- and middle-income countries to be self-sustaining.³⁰⁵⁵ Specifically, the award supports global technical leaderships and policy dialogue on improving measurement outcomes for maternal, newborn and child health.³⁰⁵⁶ However, this project will not necessarily affect the Sahel so it cannot count towards compliance.

On 10 February 2020, USAID announced a contribution of USD1.16 billion to GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, for 2020 to 2023.³⁰⁵⁷ GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, is committed to immunising an additional 300 million children in the world's poorest countries between 2021 and 2025, and strengthening the health care system to extend immunisation capacity and fortify primary health care.³⁰⁵⁸

On 18 March 2020, USAID announced that it would spend USD62 million of its Emergency Reserve Fund for Contagious Infectious-Disease Outbreaks.³⁰⁵⁹ This funding will go towards "heightened risk-communications and engagement with local communities; the prevention and control of infection in health facilities, including through the provision of personal protective

³⁰⁵² With U.S. Leadership, Global Fund Raises \$14 Billion, Largest Amount Ever Pledged to an International Health Organization, Global Fund Against AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Geneva) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.theglobalfight.org/global-fund-6th-replenishment-press-release/>

³⁰⁵³ The Global Fund Funding Model-Allocation, Global Fund (Geneva) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/funding-model/before-applying/allocation/>

³⁰⁵⁴ USAID announces up to \$130 million to accelerate reductions in maternal, newborn, and child deaths, USAID (Washington D.C.) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/jun-22-2020-usaid-announces-130-million-accelerate-reductions-maternal-newborn>

³⁰⁵⁵ USAID announces up to \$130 million to accelerate reductions in maternal, newborn, and child deaths, USAID (Washington D.C.) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/jun-22-2020-usaid-announces-130-million-accelerate-reductions-maternal-newborn>

³⁰⁵⁶ USAID announces up to \$130 million to accelerate reductions in maternal, newborn, and child deaths, USAID (Washington D.C.) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/jun-22-2020-usaid-announces-130-million-accelerate-reductions-maternal-newborn>

³⁰⁵⁷ United States endorses Gavi with recommendation of US\$ 1.16 billion, four-year commitment, GAVI (Geneva) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/united-states-endorses-gavi-recommendation-us-116-billion-four-year-commitment>

³⁰⁵⁸ United States endorses Gavi with recommendation of US\$ 1.16 billion, four-year commitment, GAVI (Geneva) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/united-states-endorses-gavi-recommendation-us-116-billion-four-year-commitment>

³⁰⁵⁹ Statement by USAID Administrator Mark Green on a Second Funding Tranche of \$62 Million in Assistance to Respond to the Pandemic of COVID-19, USAID (Washington) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/mar-18-2020-statement-administrator-green-second-funding-tranche-62>

equipment and other critical commodities; increasing laboratory, disease-surveillance, and rapid-response capacity; the management of cases of COVID-19; screening at points of entry; and global and regional coordination.”³⁰⁶⁰ However, USAID did not specify which regions would receive this aid, so it cannot count towards compliance.

On 11 June 2020, USAID announced that it had spent USD4.4 million on COVID-19 response projects in Brazil, Liberia, Tanzania, Sénégal, and Mali.³⁰⁶¹ USAID New Partnerships Initiative’s EXPAND project will work in Mali to help “help community-based organizations and communications networks use modern and traditional media to communicate accurate information about how people can protect themselves, their families, and their communities from COVID-19.”³⁰⁶² The project will also “religious and community leaders” to communicate necessary information about COVID-19. By supporting local actors in delivering healthcare information, the U.S. is empowering communities to optimize their health.³⁰⁶³

On 29 May 2020, the U.S. Department of State confirmed that the U.S. Department of State and USAID had committed over USD1 billion for the international response to COVID-19.³⁰⁶⁴ The current estimates indicate that approximately USD34.15 million of this sum is explicitly direct at projects in the Sahel.³⁰⁶⁵ This assistance will go to initiatives relating to areas includes food security, hygiene, infection management in healthcare facilities, disease surveillance, support for migrants, and communications efforts to correct misinformation.³⁰⁶⁶ This action constitutes efforts to strengthen primary healthcare systems.

The United States took action to meet people’s health needs in the Sahel, through its contribution to the Global Fund, and it made an effort to address the broader determinants of health, through its partnership with Mali. However, these initiatives do not address women’s health in particular and it did not adopt policies that empower individuals in the field of health.

³⁰⁶⁰ Statement by USAID Administrator Mark Green on a Second Funding Tranche of \$62 Million in Assistance to Respond to the Pandemic of COVID-19, USAID (Washington) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/mar-18-2020-statement-administrator-green-second-funding-tranche-62>

³⁰⁶¹ Statement by USAID Acting Administrator John Barsa Announcing Funding for Programs in Global Health under the New Partnerships Initiative USAID (Washington) 11 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/jun-11-2020-usaid-aa-john-barsa-announcing-funding-global-health-npi>

³⁰⁶² Statement by USAID Acting Administrator John Barsa Announcing Funding for Programs in Global Health under the New Partnerships Initiative USAID (Washington) 11 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/jun-11-2020-usaid-aa-john-barsa-announcing-funding-global-health-npi>

³⁰⁶³ Statement by USAID Acting Administrator John Barsa Announcing Funding for Programs in Global Health under the New Partnerships Initiative USAID (Washington) 11 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/jun-11-2020-usaid-aa-john-barsa-announcing-funding-global-health-npi>

³⁰⁶⁴ Update: The United States Continues to Lead the Global Response to COVID-19, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 29 May 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/update-the-united-states-continues-to-lead-the-global-response-to-covid-19-2/>

³⁰⁶⁵ Update: The United States Continues to Lead the Global Response to COVID-19, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 29 May 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/update-the-united-states-continues-to-lead-the-global-response-to-covid-19-2/>

³⁰⁶⁶ Update: The United States Continues to Lead the Global Response to COVID-19, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 29 May 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/update-the-united-states-continues-to-lead-the-global-response-to-covid-19-2/>

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.³⁰⁶⁷

Analyst: Dorota Borovsky

European Union: 0

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to pursue efforts to strengthen quality primary health care in Sahel countries, with a specific focus on gender equality and women's empowerment.

On 23 August 2019, the European Union announced at the G7 Biarritz Summit a EUR550 million pledge to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.³⁰⁶⁸ This partnership delivers therapies and preventative measures to decrease the prevalence of these diseases.³⁰⁶⁹ The funding model of the Global Fund proposes that in the years 2020-2022 the Sahel region nations will receive funding of USD687 million to combat these three illnesses.³⁰⁷⁰

On 12 November 2019, the European Commission announced an additional EUR35 million in funding for humanitarian organizations working in the Sahel region to provide these nations with improved health care centres, protection and children's education.³⁰⁷¹ This funding is also being used to support the communities that have been displaced by ongoing conflicts in the region.³⁰⁷²

On 24 February 2020, the European Commission announced that it would contribute EUR232 "to boost global preparedness, prevention and containment" of COVID-19 for the next few months.³⁰⁷³ EUR114 million of this sum will be channeled through the World Health Organization, which will use it "to boost public health emergency preparedness and response work in countries with weak health systems and limited resilience."³⁰⁷⁴ The European Commission will also allocate EUR15

³⁰⁶⁷ No additional information was found in a search of: <https://www.state.gov/press-releases/>, <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases>, <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020-news-releases/index.html>, <https://www.who.int/news-room/releases/2>; <https://www.worldbank.org>; <https://www.gavi.org>; <https://www.theglobalfund.org>.

³⁰⁶⁸ EU announces record €550 million contribution to save 16 million lives from AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, European Commission (Brussels) 23 August 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_5430.

³⁰⁶⁹ EU announces record €550 million contribution to save 16 million lives from AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, European Commission (Brussels) 23 August 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_5430.

³⁰⁷⁰ The Global Fund Funding Model-Allocation, Global Fund (Geneva) 18 December 2019 <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/funding-model/before-applying/allocation/>.

³⁰⁷¹ Humanitarian aid: EU announces additional €35 million for Africa's Sahel region, European Commission (Brussels) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6234.

³⁰⁷² Humanitarian aid: EU announces additional €35 million for Africa's Sahel region, European Commission (Brussels) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6234

³⁰⁷³ COVID-19: EU Working on all Fronts, €232 Million for Global Efforts to Tackle Outbreak, European Commission (Berlin) 24 February 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_316

³⁰⁷⁴ COVID-19: EU Working on all Fronts, €232 Million for Global Efforts to Tackle Outbreak, European Commission (Berlin) 24 February 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_316

million of the EUR232 to the Institute Pasteur Dakar, Senegal.³⁰⁷⁵ The Institute Pasteur Dakar has been working on developing COVID-19 testing for African states.³⁰⁷⁶

On 25 February 2020, Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen took part in the G5 Sahel Summit to emphasize EU's commitment to stabilizing the Sahel region.³⁰⁷⁷ In addition to a contribution of armoured vehicles to the G5 Sahel Joint Force, Urpilainen announced that the European Commission would spend EUR24 million to improve access to quality healthcare in Mauritania.³⁰⁷⁸

On 26 February 2020, the European Investment Bank officially joined the Sahel Alliance — an organization which aims to support challenges faced by the Sahel region nations.³⁰⁷⁹ In accordance with the key goals of the Sahel Alliance, the European Investment Bank aims to provide financing and support structures for projects involved in growing economic opportunities for youth and providing safe water, food security, and education opportunities.³⁰⁸⁰

On 9 March 2020, the European Commission proposed a new Africa partnership strategy.³⁰⁸¹ As part of this document's component on decision making powers, the European Commission states that it will improve African women's healthcare through the promotion of reproductive health and rights.³⁰⁸² The new EU-Africa partnership also aims to improve health care in remote areas and provide basic health care, clean water, housing, and develop infrastructures and capacity to cope with disease outbreaks.³⁰⁸³

On 20 March 2020, the European Union announced a EUR3.2 million contribution to the World Food Programme, which will help provide food assistance to those affected by hunger and violence.³⁰⁸⁴ Specifically, the funding is for food assistance in Maradi, Diffa, Tahoua, and Tillaberi,

³⁰⁷⁵ COVID-19: EU Working on all Fronts, €232 Million for Global Efforts to Tackle Outbreak, European Commission (Berlin) 24 February 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_316

³⁰⁷⁶ Ten-Minute Coronavirus Test for \$1 Could be Game Changer, Bloomberg (New York) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-03-16/ten-minute-coronavirus-test-could-be-game-changer-for-africa>

³⁰⁷⁷ G5 Sahel Summit: Commissioner Urpilainen underlines importance of continued partnership with Sahel region, European Commission International Cooperation and Development (Brussels) 25 February 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/g5-sahel-summit-commissioner-urpilainen-underlines-importance-continued-partnership-sahel_en

³⁰⁷⁸ G5 Sahel Summit: Commissioner Urpilainen underlines importance of continued partnership with Sahel region, European Commission International Cooperation and Development (Brussels) 25 February 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/g5-sahel-summit-commissioner-urpilainen-underlines-importance-continued-partnership-sahel_en

³⁰⁷⁹ EIB joins Sahel Alliance, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-068-european-investment-bank-joins-sahel-alliance>

³⁰⁸⁰ EIB joins Sahel Alliance, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-068-european-investment-bank-joins-sahel-alliance>

³⁰⁸¹ EU paves the way for a stronger, more ambitious partnership with Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_373

³⁰⁸² Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council: Towards a comprehensive Strategy with Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/communication-eu-africa-strategy-join-2020-4-final_en.pdf

³⁰⁸³ Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council: Towards a comprehensive Strategy with Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/communication-eu-africa-strategy-join-2020-4-final_en.pdf

³⁰⁸⁴ EU funding supports WFP's lifesaving operation in Niger, World Food Programme (Rome) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.wfp.org/news/eu-funding-supports-wfps-lifesaving-operation-niger>

which are areas of Niger that have recently seen an inflow of tens of thousands of refugees from conflict close to Niger's southwest border.³⁰⁸⁵

On 8 April 2020, the European Commission announced USD3.5 billion to curb the spread of the coronavirus in Africa, including the Sahel region.³⁰⁸⁶ The funding will be used for “emergency response actions,” “health and water systems,” and methods to “address the economic and social consequences.”³⁰⁸⁷

The European Union's contribution to the Global Fund consists as an effort to meet people's health needs in the Sahel. The European Union also addressed some of the broader determinants of health with its investment in various sectors of policy in the Sahel. However, neither of these policies address women's health in particular. Additionally, the European Union did not take action to empower individuals, families, or communities to advocate their health needs.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Dorota Borovský

³⁰⁸⁵ EU funding supports WFP's lifesaving operation in Niger, World Food Programme (Rome) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.wfp.org/news/eu-funding-supports-wfps-lifesaving-operation-niger>

³⁰⁸⁶ Coronavirus: EU global response to fight the pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_604

³⁰⁸⁷ Coronavirus: EU global response to fight the pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_604

17. Health: Universal Health Coverage

“We recall our commitment to moving towards achieving universal health coverage according to national contexts and priorities, building resilient and sustainable health systems, in order to be able to reach the most affected communities.”

Sabel Partnership Action Plan

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

Background

Universal health coverage (UHC) was first mentioned in the 2000 G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in the context of improving accessibility and affordability of drugs, vaccines, treatments and other preventative measures in developing countries.³⁰⁸⁸ Similarly, G8 members committed to developing equitable and effective health systems at the 2000 G8 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit.³⁰⁸⁹

At the 2005 Gleneagles Summit, members expressed support for African partners’ commitment according to the United Nations Millennium Declaration to ensure all children have access to basic healthcare by 2015 to reduce deaths from preventable causes amongst those most at risk, including women and children.³⁰⁹⁰ To provide support, members agreed to invest in improving health systems in partnership with African governments by helping train doctors, nurses, community health workers and other health professionals.³⁰⁹¹ In light of the aim of AIDS-free generation in Africa, members agreed to work with international organizations such as World Health Organization (WHO) to “develop and implement a package for HIV prevention, treatment and care” to strive for universal access of such packages by 2010.³⁰⁹² Financing needs for HIV/AIDS will be fulfilled by replenishment of Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.³⁰⁹³ To support the Polio Eradication Initiative, members will continue or increase contributions towards the USD829 million target; the funding gap for 2005 was met.³⁰⁹⁴ Members also agreed to contribute an additional

³⁰⁸⁸ G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G8 (Okinawa) 23 July 2000. Access Date: 10 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>.

³⁰⁸⁹ G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G8 (Okinawa) 23 July 2000. Access Date: 10 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>.

³⁰⁹⁰ Africa, G8 (Gleneagles) 8 July 2005. Access Date: 10 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/africa.html>.

³⁰⁹¹ Africa, G8 (Gleneagles) 8 July 2005. Access Date: 10 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/africa.html>.

³⁰⁹² Africa, G8 (Gleneagles) 8 July 2005. Access Date: 10 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/africa.html>.

³⁰⁹³ Africa, G8 (Gleneagles) 8 July 2005. Access Date: 10 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/africa.html>.

³⁰⁹⁴ Africa, G8 (Gleneagles) 8 July 2005. Access Date: 10 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/africa.html>.

USD1.5 billion per year to improve access to malaria prevention interventions such as anti-malaria insecticide treated nets, adequate supplies for combination therapies, household residual spraying to reduce the burden of malaria as one of the major causes of death in sub-Saharan Africa.³⁰⁹⁵ G7 leaders took healthcare off of the agenda until the 2008 Toyako Summit.

At the 2008 Toyako Summit, members expressed that they were on track with fighting various infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and measles. However reaching towards the health Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) remained a challenge.³⁰⁹⁶ Members expressed that they were “determined to honor in full their specific commitments to fight infectious diseases, namely malaria, tuberculosis, polio and working towards the goal of universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care by 2010.”³⁰⁹⁷ Members agreed that a comprehensive approach is needed to address strengthening health systems.³⁰⁹⁸ For sustainable and equitable financing of health systems, members noted they would work with government partners, and welcome the efforts of organizations such as Providing for Health Initiative, International Health Partnership and the Catalytic Initiative to achieve the goal of providing USD60 billion to fight infectious diseases and strengthen health systems.³⁰⁹⁹ Members also stated that they would work with WHO to recruit and retain more health professionals to work towards a ratio of 2.3 health workers per 100 people.³¹⁰⁰ Considering that MDGs were off track for child mortality and maternal health, members agreed to focus on universal reproductive care.³¹⁰¹ Members agreed to continue to fulfil past commitments on malaria by expanding access to insecticide treated nets, with the goal of providing 100 million nets through bilateral and multilateral assistance in partnership with other stakeholders by 2010.³¹⁰² The 2008 Toyako Summit marked the last summit to address Universal Health Coverage issues until the 2014 Brussels Summit.

At the 2014 Brussels Summit, commitment to improving universal access to affordable and equitable health services was made in relation to improving health of women and children.³¹⁰³ Members stated they were committed to improving health of women and children by “ensuring universal access to affordable, quality, essential health services, strengthening health, education and child protection systems and improving nutrition and access to immunisation.”³¹⁰⁴ Members will work with GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance to provide vaccines to 30 million children between 2016 and 2020 and to replenish the GAVI fund with help from other public and private donors.³¹⁰⁵ To address the threat

³⁰⁹⁵ Africa, G8 (Gleneagles) 8 July 2005. Access Date: 10 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/africa.html>.

³⁰⁹⁶ G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G8 (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

³⁰⁹⁷ G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G8 (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

³⁰⁹⁸ G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G8 (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

³⁰⁹⁹ G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G8 (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

³¹⁰⁰ G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G8 (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

³¹⁰¹ G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G8 (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

³¹⁰² G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G8 (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

³¹⁰³ G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7. (Brussels) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

³¹⁰⁴ G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7. (Brussels) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

³¹⁰⁵ G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7. (Brussels) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

of infectious diseases, members noted their support for Global Health Security Agenda and committed to “working with partner countries to strengthen compliance with the WHO’s International Health Regulations (IHR) and enhance health security around the world.”³¹⁰⁶

At the 2015 Elmau Summit, “enjoyment of highest attainable standard of health” was recognized as a fundamental human right of every being for the first time.³¹⁰⁷ Members committed to focus on strengthening health systems, specifically through bilateral programs and multilateral structures.³¹⁰⁸

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 members acknowledged their commitment to ensure well-being of citizens and foster inclusive economic growth by committing to promote UHC.³¹⁰⁹ Members also expressed that they will take leadership in reinforcing response to public health emergencies and antimicrobial resistance and promote research and development in these areas, amongst others.³¹¹⁰

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, G7 members committed to “advancing global health security” and “pursuing policies that advance physical and mental health improvements” across the globe.³¹¹¹ They recognized that healthy well-being is important to various economic, social and security gains.³¹¹² They committed to “strengthening health systems” to prepare for responding to public health emergencies and other long-term challenges.³¹¹³

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, G7 members committed to building “strong, sustainable health systems that promote access to quality and affordable healthcare.”³¹¹⁴ Members recognized that this commitment will enable them to support growth and equal participation that benefits everyone and ensure that citizens lead healthy and productive lives.³¹¹⁵ Members recognized the WHO’s role in health emergencies through avenues such as Contingency Fund for Emergencies and World Bank’s Pandemic Emergency Financing facility amongst others and emphasized their need for further development and continued and sustainable financing.³¹¹⁶ Furthermore, members also recommitted to support 76 partners to strengthen implementation of IHR through development of national action

³¹⁰⁶ G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7. (Brussels) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 10 November 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

³¹⁰⁷ G7 Leaders’ Declaration: Elmau, G7 (Elmau) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

³¹⁰⁸ G7 Leaders’ Declaration: Elmau, G7 (Elmau) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

³¹⁰⁹ G7 Leaders’ Declaration: Ise-Shima Summit, G7 (Ise-Shima) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

³¹¹⁰ G7 Leaders’ Declaration: Ise-Shima Summit, G7 (Ise-Shima) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

³¹¹¹ G7 Leaders’ Communiqué: Taormina Summit, G7 (Taormina) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communiqu.html>.

³¹¹² G7 Leaders’ Communiqué: Taormina Summit, G7 (Taormina) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communiqu.html>.

³¹¹³ G7 Leaders’ Communiqué: Taormina Summit, G7 (Taormina) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communiqu.html>.

³¹¹⁴ G7 Leaders’ Communiqué: Charlevoix Summit, G7 (Charlevoix) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqu.html>.

³¹¹⁵ G7 Leaders’ Communiqué: Charlevoix Summit, G7 (Charlevoix) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqu.html>.

³¹¹⁶ G7 Leaders’ Communiqué: Charlevoix Summit, G7 (Charlevoix) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqu.html>.

plans and use of diverse sources of funding and multi-stakeholder resources.³¹¹⁷ G7 members reaffirmed their support for replenishment of Global Fund 2019.³¹¹⁸

G7 members' ongoing commitment to strengthening health systems and improving universal health coverage demonstrates their commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a resolution unanimously adopted by the UN General Assembly on 25 September 2015.³¹¹⁹ This commitment is in line with SDG 3, which is to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages," particularly SDG 3.8 which is to ensure UHC.³¹²⁰

Commitment Features

The G7 committed to "moving towards achieving universal health coverage according to national contexts and priorities, building resilient and sustainable health systems, in order to be able to reach the most affected communities. This commitment is aimed at moving towards universal health coverage based on national contexts and priorities, building resilient and sustainable health systems. UHC is a key aspect of a resilient and sustainable health system. Hence, full compliance will be defined by the strength of the members' effort to move towards achieving UHC. Within the commitment, the G7 did not specify policies or instruments through which these targets can be met. As such, examples of what actions count towards partial and full compliance are guided by relevant G7 documents and the leading institution on health, the WHO.

To "commit" is understood to mean to do or perform, to pledge or bind (a person or organization) to a certain course or policy.³¹²¹

To "move towards" is understood to mean taking additional steps to implement universal health systems and should include new initiatives in the area. It should not include past compliance efforts or continued fulfilment of old promises.

Part One: Moving Towards Universal Health Coverage

"Universal" is understood to mean all of the intended group. It should not be interpreted to mean a partial or percentage of the whole. It should not be interpreted to mean a small amount or a minority.³¹²²

"Coverage" is defined as the proportion of a population needing an intervention who receive it. Coverage is influenced by supply (provision of services) and by demand from people in need of services.³¹²³

"According to national contexts and priorities" should be understood as taking actions in line with domestic goals and policies.

³¹¹⁷ G7 Leaders' Communiqué: Charlevoix Summit, G7 (Charlevoix) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

³¹¹⁸ G7 Leaders' Communiqué: Charlevoix Summit, G7 (Charlevoix) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

³¹¹⁹ Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development UN (New York) 25 September 2015. Access date: 31 October 2017. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>.

³¹²⁰ Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development UN (New York) 25 September 2015. Access date: 31 October 2017. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>.

³¹²¹ Appendix I: Dictionary, Reference Manual for Summit Commitment and Compliance Coding (Toronto) 2 May 2016.

³¹²² Appendix I: Dictionary, Reference Manual for Summit Commitment and Compliance Coding (Toronto) 2 May 2016.

³¹²³ Appendix I: Dictionary, Reference Manual for Summit Commitment and Compliance Coding (Toronto) 2 May 2016.

The WHO definition of “universal health coverage” is that “all people and communities can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative health services they need, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship.”³¹²⁴ Three components of this definition are: equity in access to health services, quality of health services should be good enough to improve health of service receivers, and cost of services should not pose a risk of financial harm. These three points will be referenced to assess whether an action or initiative is considered compliant.

Examples of compliance include policies or initiatives targeted towards improving universal healthcare, donation of monetary funds or human resources to organizations for universal health coverage, providing state funding for a previous privately funded system and establishing working groups or holding cooperative meetings to ensure progress towards achieving universal healthcare. De-privatizing any component of a health system is considered to demonstrate compliance.

Part Two: Building Resilient and Sustainable Health Systems

WHO defines a “health system” as the activities, people, institutions and resources whose goals are to maintain and improve health and combat ill health under the umbrella of policy.³¹²⁵ Essential components of a strong health system, as defined by WHO, include “a robust financing mechanism; a well-trained and adequately paid workforce; reliable information on which to base decisions and policies; well-maintained facilities and logistics to deliver quality medicines and technologies.”³¹²⁶

“Sustainable” is to be understood as the ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level.³¹²⁷ Policies and initiatives that aim to build more sustainable health systems must specifically target one or more components of a strong health system as outlined by WHO.

“Resilient” is to be understood as the ability to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions.³¹²⁸ Policies and initiatives that aim to build a more resilient health system must demonstrate systemic preparedness to respond to any health crisis, i.e. a difficult situation affecting community health in one or more areas.

“Affected communities” is to be understood as communities whose access to healthcare is disproportionately limited by any geographical, environmental or financial factors. “In order to reach the most affected communities” is to be understood as recognizing the unique challenges faced by such communities and implementing policies or initiatives to target such challenges.

Example of actions that demonstrate compliance include implementation of emergency-preparedness measures, developing crisis-response funds, improving working conditions for healthcare personnel, providing state-funded benefits and/or higher wages to healthcare personnel, and investing in more efficient technology for prevention, diagnosis and treatment. Actions must be targeted towards building resilient and sustainable health systems for affected communities to achieve full compliance.

To achieve full compliance, G7 members must: 1. take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage, and 2. take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

³¹²⁴ What is health financing for universal coverage? WHO. Access date:

https://www.who.int/health_financing/universal_coverage_definition/en/.

³¹²⁵ Health Systems Strengthening Glossary, WHO. Access date: 13 October 2019.

http://www.who.int/healthsystems/hss_glossary/en/index5.html.

³¹²⁶ Health Systems, WHO. Access date: 30 October 2017. http://www.who.int/topics/health_systems/en/.

³¹²⁷ Lexico Oxford Dictionary. Access date: 10 November 2019. <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/sustainable>.

³¹²⁸ Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Access date: 10 November 2019. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/resilience>.

If only one of two thresholds or parts of this commitment is fulfilled, G7 members will receive a score of 0, or partial compliance. For instance, if a G7 member ensures that action is taken aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage, but does not address actions taken aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, it will earn a score of partial compliance.

A score of -1, or no compliance, will be assigned if a G7 member exemplifies no demonstrable compliance with either component of this commitment.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G7 member does NOT take any actions aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage NOR has taken action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.
0	G7 member has taken action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage OR has taken action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.
+1	G7 member has taken action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage AND has taken action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

*Compliance Director: Drishti Thakkar
Lead Analyst: Bianca Meta*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage and to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

On 20 September 2019, Health Canada authorized the use of Lenvima (lenvatinib) and Keytruda (pembrolizumab) for women who have advanced endometrial cancer under Project Orbis.³¹²⁹ Project Orbis is a collaborative project where the regulators from U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Health Canada and the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration, review cancer drugs at the same time to expedite access for patients in Canada, United States of America and Australia.³¹³⁰

On 21 November 2019, Health Canada authorized the use Calquence (acalabrutinib), a new therapy for adults with chronic lymphocytic leukemia under Project Orbis.³¹³¹

On 21 November 2019, the federal Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB) announced that it would launch a 60-day consultation period with stakeholders and members of the public.³¹³²

³¹²⁹ International collaboration among Canadian, U.S. and Australian regulators leads to new options for the treatment of cancer, Health Canada (Ottawa) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2019/12/international-collaboration-among-canadian-us-and-australian-regulators-leads-to-new-options-for-the-treatment-of-cancer.html>.

³¹³⁰ International collaboration among Canadian, U.S. and Australian regulators leads to new options for the treatment of cancer, Health Canada (Ottawa) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2019/12/international-collaboration-among-canadian-us-and-australian-regulators-leads-to-new-options-for-the-treatment-of-cancer.html>.

³¹³¹ International collaboration among Canadian, U.S. and Australian regulators leads to new options for the treatment of cancer, Health Canada (Ottawa) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2019/12/international-collaboration-among-canadian-us-and-australian-regulators-leads-to-new-options-for-the-treatment-of-cancer.html>.

³¹³² Federal watchdog seeks public's opinion on how to protect Canadians from excessively priced, Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (Ottawa) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/patented-medicine-prices-review/news/2019/11/federal-watchdog-seeks-publics-opinion-on-how-to-protect-canadians-from-excessively-priced-patented-medicines.html>.

This consultation is to evaluate the earlier proposed changes to the Patented Medicines Regulations on 9 August 2019.³¹³³ PMPRB also announced new draft guidelines outlining steps taken by PMPRB staff to assess whether a patented drug is excessively priced and information that pharmaceutical companies must provide for PMPRB staff to make that decision. The Patented Medicines Regulations regulates Canada's pricing framework for patented drugs and is meant to protect Canadians from excessively high drug costs.³¹³⁴

On 19 December 2019, Minister of Indigenous Services Marc Miller and Chief Bobby Cameron of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations announced funding of CAD2.5 million over the next two years to support a community-driven Youth Empowerment and Healing Wellness Investment.³¹³⁵ This investment aids the delivery of holistic short-term and long-term solutions focused on the mental, emotional, physical and spiritual well-being of First Nations people.³¹³⁶ Minister of Indigenous Services Marc Miller and Chief Bobby Cameron of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations outlined their support to build the Youth Empowerment and Healing Wellness Investment in Saskatoon, Treaty Six Territory, Saskatchewan.³¹³⁷ Indigenous Services Canada also announced an investment of Approximately CAD425 million towards various initiatives towards life promotion and suicide prevention, including a Hope for Wellness Helpline.³¹³⁸

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³¹³³ Federal watchdog seeks public's opinion on how to protect Canadians from excessively priced, Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (Ottawa) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019.

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³¹³⁴ Federal watchdog seeks public's opinion on how to protect Canadians from excessively priced, Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (Ottawa) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019.

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³¹³⁵ Addressing stigma in Canada's health system is critical for improving health outcomes, Public Health Agency of Canada (Ottawa) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2019/12/addressing-stigma-in-canadas-health-system-is-critical-for-improving-health-outcomes.html>.

³¹³⁶ Youth Empowerment and Healing and Wellness Investment for First Nations Communities, Indigenous Services of Canada (Saskatoon) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2019/12/youth-empowerment-and-healing-and-wellness-investment-for-first-nations-communities.html>.

³¹³⁷ Youth Empowerment and Healing and Wellness Investment for First Nations Communities, Indigenous Services of Canada (Saskatoon) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2019/12/youth-empowerment-and-healing-and-wellness-investment-for-first-nations-communities.html>.

³¹³⁸ Youth Empowerment and Healing and Wellness Investment for First Nations Communities, Indigenous Services of Canada (Saskatoon) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2019/12/youth-empowerment-and-healing-and-wellness-investment-for-first-nations-communities.html>.

³¹³⁹ Addressing stigma in Canada's health system is critical for improving health outcomes, Public Health Agency of Canada (Ottawa) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2019/12/addressing-stigma-in-canadas-health-system-is-critical-for-improving-health-outcomes.html>.

people.³¹⁴⁰ Minister of Indigenous Services Marc Miller and Chief Bobby Cameron of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations also outlined their support to build the Youth Empowerment and Healing Wellness Investment in Saskatoon, Treaty Six Territory, Saskatchewan.³¹⁴¹ Indigenous Services Canada also announced an investment of approximately CAD425 million towards various initiatives focusing on life promotion and suicide prevention, including a Hope for Wellness Helpline.³¹⁴²

On 29 January 2020, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Bill Blair and Executive Director of the Online Therapy Unit at the University of Regina Dr. Heather Hadjistavropoulos announced the launch of an Internet-delivered cognitive behavior therapy pilot project for public safety personnel.³¹⁴³ This project aims to provide access to mental health care and treatment for public safety personnel, especially in rural and remote areas, who are exposed to traumatic incidents on the job.³¹⁴⁴ It will be delivered by the Internet Therapy for Public Safety Personnel team in partnership with the Canadian Institute for Public Safety Research and Treatment.³¹⁴⁵ The program is supported by a CAD10 million federal investment, previously announced as part of the National Action Plan on post-traumatic stress injuries.³¹⁴⁶ The pilot project will be called the PSP Wellbeing course and will give access to free education and guidance on techniques for managing depression, anxiety and post-traumatic injuries.³¹⁴⁷

On 2 March 2020, Minister of Seniors Deb Schulte announced a CAD9 million of investment in projects for seniors in British Columbia through the New Horizons for Seniors Program.³¹⁴⁸ This

³¹⁴⁰ Youth Empowerment and Healing and Wellness Investment for First Nations Communities, Indigenous Services of Canada (Saskatoon) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2019/12/youth-empowerment-and-healing-and-wellness-investment-for-first-nations-communities.html>.

³¹⁴¹ Youth Empowerment and Healing and Wellness Investment for First Nations Communities, Indigenous Services of Canada (Saskatoon) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2019/12/youth-empowerment-and-healing-and-wellness-investment-for-first-nations-communities.html>.

³¹⁴² Youth Empowerment and Healing and Wellness Investment for First Nations Communities, Indigenous Services of Canada (Saskatoon) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 23 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2019/12/youth-empowerment-and-healing-and-wellness-investment-for-first-nations-communities.html>.

³¹⁴³ Launch of New Therapy for Post-Traumatic Stress Injuries, Public Safety Canada (Regina) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 3 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2020/01/launch-of-new-therapy-for-post-traumatic-stress-injuries.html>.

³¹⁴⁴ Launch of New Therapy for Post-Traumatic Stress Injuries, Public Safety Canada (Regina) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 3 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2020/01/launch-of-new-therapy-for-post-traumatic-stress-injuries.html>.

³¹⁴⁵ Launch of New Therapy for Post-Traumatic Stress Injuries, Public Safety Canada (Regina) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 3 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2020/01/launch-of-new-therapy-for-post-traumatic-stress-injuries.html>.

³¹⁴⁶ Launch of New Therapy for Post-Traumatic Stress Injuries, Public Safety Canada (Regina) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 3 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2020/01/launch-of-new-therapy-for-post-traumatic-stress-injuries.html>.

³¹⁴⁷ Launch of New Therapy for Post-Traumatic Stress Injuries, Public Safety Canada (Regina) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 3 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2020/01/launch-of-new-therapy-for-post-traumatic-stress-injuries.html>.

³¹⁴⁸ Minister Schulte announces a \$9.3 million investment in British Columbia seniors through New Horizons for Seniors, Employment and Social Development Canada (Surrey) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 3 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/02/minister-schulte-announces-investments-of-over-9-million-for-seniors-across-british-columbia-at-pics.html>.

funding from the government will ensure that seniors can foster their social inclusion, community engagement and also support healthy aging.³¹⁴⁹

On 3 March 2020, Minister of Health Patty Hajdu and Member of Parliament and Special Representative for the Prairies announced funding of approximately CAD2.9 million to improve access to care and services for people living with chronic pain in Canada.³¹⁵⁰ CAD1.7 million of this funding will be given to the University of Saskatchewan through Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP).³¹⁵¹ Through this investment, pharmacists will receive special training aimed to facilitate care for people living with chronic pain.³¹⁵² CAD1.2 million of this funding will be invested into the Alberta Health Services (AHS) to evaluate and improve opioid prescribing practices by working in conjunction with the Alberta College of Family Physicians and the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health.³¹⁵³

On 18 March 2020, Minister of Health Patty Hajdu announced that an Interim Order was signed.³¹⁵⁴ This order allows for expedited access to COVID-19 diagnostic test kits and related medical devices for use by healthcare providers.³¹⁵⁵ This order made two new diagnostic tests readily accessible in Canada: the Roche Molecular System Inc. cobas SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic device and the ThermoFisher Scientific TaqPath™ COVID-19 Combo Kit.³¹⁵⁶ This Interim Order allows the Government of Canada to make health products available to address larger scale public health emergencies.³¹⁵⁷

³¹⁴⁹ Minister Schulte announces a \$9.3 million investment in British Columbia seniors through New Horizons for Seniors, Employment and Social Development Canada (Surrey) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 3 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/02/minister-schulte-announces-investments-of-over-9-million-for-seniors-across-british-columbia-at-pics.html>.

³¹⁵⁰ Government of Canada announces funding to help people living with chronic pain, Health Canada (Saskatoon) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-announces-funding-to-help-people-living-with-chronic-pain.html>.

³¹⁵¹ Government of Canada announces funding to help people living with chronic pain, Health Canada (Saskatoon) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-announces-funding-to-help-people-living-with-chronic-pain.html>.

³¹⁵² Government of Canada announces funding to help people living with chronic pain, Health Canada (Saskatoon) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-announces-funding-to-help-people-living-with-chronic-pain.html>.

³¹⁵³ Government of Canada announces funding to help people living with chronic pain, Health Canada (Saskatoon) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-announces-funding-to-help-people-living-with-chronic-pain.html>.

³¹⁵⁴ Health Canada expedites access to COVID-19 diagnostic laboratory test kits and other medical devices, Health Canada (Ottawa) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/03/health-canada-expedites-access-to-covid-19-diagnostic-laboratory-test-kits-and-other-medical-devices.html>.

³¹⁵⁵ Health Canada expedites access to COVID-19 diagnostic laboratory test kits and other medical devices, Health Canada (Ottawa) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/03/health-canada-expedites-access-to-covid-19-diagnostic-laboratory-test-kits-and-other-medical-devices.html>.

³¹⁵⁶ Health Canada expedites access to COVID-19 diagnostic laboratory test kits and other medical devices, Health Canada (Ottawa) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/03/health-canada-expedites-access-to-covid-19-diagnostic-laboratory-test-kits-and-other-medical-devices.html>.

³¹⁵⁷ Health Canada expedites access to COVID-19 diagnostic laboratory test kits and other medical devices, Health Canada (Ottawa) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/03/health-canada-expedites-access-to-covid-19-diagnostic-laboratory-test-kits-and-other-medical-devices.html>.

On 26 March 2020, Minister of Indigenous Services Canada Marc Miller announced the details of the Indigenous Community Support Fund of CAD305 million to aid and support the needs in First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation communities related to the COVID-19 pandemic.³¹⁵⁸ The Indigenous Community Support Fund is in addition to the COVID-19 Response Fund, which was announced on 11 March 2020.³¹⁵⁹ This fund will be used for measures such as support for elders & vulnerable community members, addressing food insecurity, educational support, mental health assistance, emergency response service and general preparedness measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.³¹⁶⁰

On 30 March 2020, Indigenous Services Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) agreed to provide and administer CAD2.6 million to help Indigenous families in the Northwest Territories on the land during the COVID-19 pandemic.³¹⁶¹ This federal funding is a part of the “At Home on The Land” initiative and will allow families to maintain safer physical distances in cabins and camps while remaining on their land.³¹⁶² It will also ensure that they can acquire necessary provisions such as wood, fuel, first aid equipment, transportation and other items as needed.³¹⁶³

On 3 April 2020, the Government of Canada announced that it is awarding Amazon Canada a contract to manage the distribution of personal protective equipment such as masks, gloves and other equipment purchased by the government for healthcare workers.³¹⁶⁴ Amazon Canada will be distributing through its Canadian delivery partners, Canada Post and Purolator, to provincial health authorities, hospitals and other government agencies across the country.³¹⁶⁵

On 3 April 2020, Minister of Indigenous Services Marc Miller and Chief Rudy Turtle of the Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (Grassy Narrows First Nation) signed an agreement to

³¹⁵⁸ Addressing urgent needs in Indigenous communities related to COVID-19, Indigenous Services Canada (Ottawa, Algonquin territory) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/03/addressing-urgent-needs-in-indigenous-communities-related-to-covid-19.html>.

³¹⁵⁹ Addressing urgent needs in Indigenous communities related to COVID-19, Indigenous Services Canada (Ottawa, Algonquin territory) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/03/addressing-urgent-needs-in-indigenous-communities-related-to-covid-19.html>.

³¹⁶⁰ Addressing urgent needs in Indigenous communities related to COVID-19, Indigenous Services Canada (Ottawa, Algonquin territory) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/03/addressing-urgent-needs-in-indigenous-communities-related-to-covid-19.html>.

³¹⁶¹ Indigenous, Territorial and Federal leaders mobilize funding to support unique northern physical distancing initiative, Indigenous Services Canada (Yellowknife, Treaty 11 Territory) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 5 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/03/indigenous-territorial-and-federal-leaders-mobilize-funding-to-support-unique-northern-physical-distancing-initiative.html>.

³¹⁶² Indigenous, Territorial and Federal leaders mobilize funding to support unique northern physical distancing initiative, Indigenous Services Canada (Yellowknife, Treaty 11 Territory) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 5 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/03/indigenous-territorial-and-federal-leaders-mobilize-funding-to-support-unique-northern-physical-distancing-initiative.html>.

³¹⁶³ Indigenous, Territorial and Federal leaders mobilize funding to support unique northern physical distancing initiative, Indigenous Services Canada (Yellowknife, Treaty 11 Territory) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 5 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/03/indigenous-territorial-and-federal-leaders-mobilize-funding-to-support-unique-northern-physical-distancing-initiative.html>.

³¹⁶⁴ Government of Canada partners with Amazon to help get personal protective equipment to front-line healthcare workers, Public Services and Procurement Canada (Gatineau) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 5 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2020/04/government-of-canada-partners-with-amazon-to-help-get-personal-protective-equipment-to-frontline-healthcare-workers.html>.

³¹⁶⁵ Government of Canada partners with Amazon to help get personal protective equipment to front-line healthcare workers, Public Services and Procurement Canada (Gatineau) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 5 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2020/04/government-of-canada-partners-with-amazon-to-help-get-personal-protective-equipment-to-frontline-healthcare-workers.html>.

provide federal funding and support to construct a mercury care home in Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (Grassy Narrows First Nation).³¹⁶⁶ Through this agreement, Indigenous Services Canada will provide CAD19.5 million to construct a mercury care home to meet the needs of the community members of Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek who are living with methylmercury poisoning.³¹⁶⁷

On 10 April 2020, the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion Carla Qualtrough issued a statement establishing the COVID-19 Disability Advisory Group (CDAG).³¹⁶⁸ This group will consider real time lived experiences of persons with disabilities during this crisis and provide advice on how to address disability specific issues and how to address systemic gaps and challenges to Minister Carla Qualtrough.³¹⁶⁹

Canada fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems by addressing stigma, investing in health of First Nations communities and with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal healthcare coverage by improving access to alternative cancer therapies, maintaining costs of patented drugs and improving access to care for First Nations communities. Canada is also managing its response to COVID-19 through ensuring people have the right supports in place to treat and prevent the disease.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Arshdeep Anlakh

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage and to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

On 19 September 2019, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe met with pharmaceutical manufacturers in Matignon to discuss the shortages of medications in hospitals. Shortages can be attributed to problems in the supply chain.^{3170,3171}

³¹⁶⁶ The Government of Canada and Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (Grassy Narrows First Nation) sign a framework agreement to build a mercury care home, Indigenous Services Canada (Ottawa, Traditional Algonquin Territory) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 5 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/04/the-government-of-canada-and-asubpeeschoseewagong-netum-anishinabek-grassy-narrows-first-nation-sign-a-framework-agreement-to-build-a-mercury-care-.html>.

³¹⁶⁷ The Government of Canada and Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (Grassy Narrows First Nation) sign a framework agreement to build a mercury care home, Indigenous Services Canada (Ottawa, Traditional Algonquin Territory) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 5 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/04/the-government-of-canada-and-asubpeeschoseewagong-netum-anishinabek-grassy-narrows-first-nation-sign-a-framework-agreement-to-build-a-mercury-care-.html>.

³¹⁶⁸ Statement by Minister Qualtrough on Canada's Disability-Inclusive approach to its COVID-19 pandemic response, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/04/statement-by-minister-qualtrough-on-canadas-disability-inclusive-approach-to-its-covid-19-pandemic-response.html>.

³¹⁶⁹ Statement by Minister Qualtrough on Canada's Disability-Inclusive approach to its COVID-19 pandemic response, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/04/statement-by-minister-qualtrough-on-canadas-disability-inclusive-approach-to-its-covid-19-pandemic-response.html>.

³¹⁷⁰ France medication shortage crisis prompts PM meeting, The Connexion (Paris) 20 September 2019. Access date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/France-medication-hospital-and-pharmacy-shortage-crisis-prompts-PM-meeting>.

On 15 October 2019, the National Assembly passed a bill, as part of a larger bioethics bill, that serves to legalize in vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment for lesbian and single women within the country.³¹⁷² Previously, only infertile heterosexual couple were legally qualified for the treatment.³¹⁷³ IVF is a medically assisted reproduction method through donated sperm.³¹⁷⁴ The bill, pending Senate approval, ensures that the costs of IVF for all women under the age of 43 are fully covered by the healthcare system.³¹⁷⁵ However, clinicians at France’s network of public sperm banks noted that the “current supply just meets the demand” and that France may face shortage.³¹⁷⁶

On 12 November 2019, President of France Emmanuel Macron and President of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Félix Tshisekedi expressed support for the French-Congolese roadmap, developed by Professor Yves Lévy from France and Professor Muyembe from DRC, to fight against the Ebola epidemic.³¹⁷⁷ Three components of the roadmap include: an emergency humanitarian response to provide ground-level support in DRC, strengthening the scientific partnership between French researchers and National Institute for Biomedical Research in Kinshasa and development efforts to strengthen Congolese health system.³¹⁷⁸ France pledged EUR71 million for healthcare in DRC between 2019 and 2021 and will make resources from Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Ministry for the Armed Forces and Ministry of Solidarity and Health available to “put these efforts in practice.”³¹⁷⁹

On 20 November 2019, the French government promised to absorb approximately EUR10 billion worth of public hospital debt in order to end protests led by French medical professionals against

³¹⁷¹ Health: French people worried about drug shortages, Franceinfo (Paris) 19 September 2019. Access date: 27 December 2019. https://www.francetvinfo.fr/sante/medicament/sante-les-francais-inquiets-par-les-penuries-de-medicaments_3623847.html.

³¹⁷² France passes bill legalizing IVF for lesbians, single women, CTV News (Toronto) 15 October 2019. Access date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/france-passes-bill-legalizing-ivf-for-lesbians-single-women-1.4638558>.

³¹⁷³ France passes bill legalizing IVF for lesbians, single women, CTV News (Toronto) 15 October 2019. Access date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/france-passes-bill-legalizing-ivf-for-lesbians-single-women-1.4638558>.

³¹⁷⁴ France passes bill legalizing IVF for lesbians, single women, CTV News (Toronto) 15 October 2019. Access date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/france-passes-bill-legalizing-ivf-for-lesbians-single-women-1.4638558>.

³¹⁷⁵ France passes bill legalizing IVF for lesbians, single women, CTV News (Toronto) 15 October 2019. Access date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/france-passes-bill-legalizing-ivf-for-lesbians-single-women-1.4638558>.

³¹⁷⁶ France may face sperm shortage under Macron plan to ease IVF rules, Reuters (Paris) 24 September 2019. Access date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-reform-ivf/france-may-face-sperm-shortage-under-macron-plan-to-ease-ivf-rules-idUSKBN1W917N>.

³¹⁷⁷ Joint press release - Combating the Ebola epidemic and strengthening the healthcare system in DRC: France and the DRC step up their joint efforts. (21 November 2019) Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 21 November 2019. Access date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/democratic-republic-of-the-congo/events/article/joint-press-release-combating-the-ebola-epidemic-and-strengthening-the>.

³¹⁷⁸ Joint press release - Combating the Ebola epidemic and strengthening the healthcare system in DRC: France and the DRC step up their joint efforts. (21 November 2019) Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 21 November 2019. Access date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/democratic-republic-of-the-congo/events/article/joint-press-release-combating-the-ebola-epidemic-and-strengthening-the>.

³¹⁷⁹ Joint press release - Combating the Ebola epidemic and strengthening the healthcare system in DRC: France and the DRC step up their joint efforts. (21 November 2019) Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 21 November 2019. Access date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/democratic-republic-of-the-congo/events/article/joint-press-release-combating-the-ebola-epidemic-and-strengthening-the>.

multi-billion euro spending cuts in regards to the French healthcare system.³¹⁸⁰ This figure represents nearly one third of total debt.³¹⁸¹ Prime Minister Edouard Philippe also promised an additional EUR1.5 billion over for hospitals, along with an EUR800 bonus for 40,000 nurses and other caretakers who earn less than EUR 1,900 per month.³¹⁸²

On 24 February 2020, Health Minister Olivier Véran announced plans to activate 70 new medical care facilities across the country in order to prepare for possible outbreaks of the coronavirus.³¹⁸³ These facilities are currently used for medical care in conjunction with university hospital centers.³¹⁸⁴ The decision was made amidst the rising number of coronavirus cases in neighboring Italy.³¹⁸⁵

On 21 March 2020, Health Minister Olivier Véran announced that the government has ordered 250 million health masks to protect frontline medical workers in response to current shortages.³¹⁸⁶ The order was placed with both French and foreign suppliers.³¹⁸⁷ Health Minister Olivier Véran also announced that the government plans to launch a review into the shortage of protective gear at a later date.³¹⁸⁸

On 21 March 2020, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe announced that the government has instructed manufacturers and researchers within the country to work on addressing current the current shortage of health masks by finding a means to multiply production lines or by developing alternative health mask prototypes, reusable or otherwise.³¹⁸⁹

On 26 March 2020, France announced that a high-speed train will take COVID19 patients from Alsace, one of the regions experiencing a higher proportion of COVID19 cases, to hospitals in less affected regions.³¹⁹⁰ Each train car will be staffed with a doctor, an intern, an anesthesiologist, and three

³¹⁸⁰ France promises cash, debt reduction for hospitals to quell unrest, National Post (Toronto) 20 November 2019. Access date: December 18, 2019. <https://nationalpost.com/pmn/health-pmn/france-promises-cash-debt-reduction-for-hospitals-to-quell-unrest>.

³¹⁸¹ France promises cash, debt reduction for hospitals to quell unrest, National Post (Toronto) 20 November 2019. Access date: December 18, 2019. <https://nationalpost.com/pmn/health-pmn/france-promises-cash-debt-reduction-for-hospitals-to-quell-unrest>.

³¹⁸² France promises cash, debt reduction for hospitals to quell unrest, National Post (Toronto) 20 November 2019. Access date: December 18, 2019. <https://nationalpost.com/pmn/health-pmn/france-promises-cash-debt-reduction-for-hospitals-to-quell-unrest>.

³¹⁸³ France plans new medical units to handle coronavirus, Anadolu Agency (Turkey) 24 February 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/france-plans-new-medical-units-to-handle-coronavirus-/1743307>.

³¹⁸⁴ France plans new medical units to handle coronavirus, Anadolu Agency (Turkey) 24 February 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/france-plans-new-medical-units-to-handle-coronavirus-/1743307>.

³¹⁸⁵ France plans new medical units to handle coronavirus, Anadolu Agency (Turkey) 24 February 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/france-plans-new-medical-units-to-handle-coronavirus-/1743307>.

³¹⁸⁶ France orders 250 million masks to ease coronavirus shortage, National Post (Toronto) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://nationalpost.com/pmn/health-pmn/france-orders-250-million-masks-to-ease-coronavirus-shortage>.

³¹⁸⁷ France orders 250 million masks to ease coronavirus shortage, National Post (Toronto) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://nationalpost.com/pmn/health-pmn/france-orders-250-million-masks-to-ease-coronavirus-shortage>.

³¹⁸⁸ France orders 250 million masks to ease coronavirus shortage, National Post (Toronto) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://nationalpost.com/pmn/health-pmn/france-orders-250-million-masks-to-ease-coronavirus-shortage>.

³¹⁸⁹ French government orders '250 million masks' against coronavirus, France 24 (Paris) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200321-french-government-orders-250-million-masks-against-coronavirus-olivier-v%C3%A9ran-says>.

³¹⁹⁰ France to use medicalised high-speed trains to transport Covid-19 victims to hospital, rfi (Paris) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. <http://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20200326-france-to-use-medicalised-high-speed-trains-to-transport-covid-19-victims-to-hospital>.

nurses.³¹⁹¹ Trains will be transformed so that stretchers are laid over seats and other essential medical equipment is onboard the train.³¹⁹²

On 8 April 2020, Health Minister Olivier Véran and the Secretary of State for Digital Cédric O officially announced plans to develop a smartphone application to track the spread of the coronavirus during an interview with Le Monde.³¹⁹³ The “StopCovid” project has been launched in an attempt to design an application that would act to limit the spread of the virus by identifying chains of transmission.³¹⁹⁴ The application would warn users when they have come into contact with an individual who has tested positive for the coronavirus.³¹⁹⁵ The application would be installed on a voluntary basis.³¹⁹⁶

On 16 April 2020, President Emmanuel Macron announced that healthcare workers on the frontlines of the COVID19 crisis will receive a bonus of tax-free EUR 500-EUR 1500 per person.³¹⁹⁷ Workers from departments that were the most affected will receive more compensation than administrative workers or those in less-affected departments.³¹⁹⁸ Overtime wages for healthcare workers will also increase by 50%; this increase will remain tax free.³¹⁹⁹

France has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems by absorbing public hospital debts, responding to COVID19 crisis by addressing masks shortage and developing StopCovid and with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal healthcare coverage by expanding access to assisted reproductive services.

³¹⁹¹ France to use medicalised high-speed trains to transport Covid-19 victims to hospital, rfi (Paris) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. <http://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20200326-france-to-use-medicalised-high-speed-trains-to-transport-covid-19-victims-to-hospital>.

³¹⁹² France to use medicalised high-speed trains to transport Covid-19 victims to hospital, rfi (Paris) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. <http://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20200326-france-to-use-medicalised-high-speed-trains-to-transport-covid-19-victims-to-hospital>.

³¹⁹³ “The StopCovid application will retrace the history of social relations”: the government’s tracks for the digital tracking of patients, Le Monde (Paris) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2020/04/08/stopcovid-l-application-sur-laquelle-travaille-le-gouvernement-pour-contrer-l-epidemie_6035927_3244.html.

³¹⁹⁴ “The StopCovid application will retrace the history of social relations”: the government’s tracks for the digital tracking of patients, Le Monde (Paris) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2020/04/08/stopcovid-l-application-sur-laquelle-travaille-le-gouvernement-pour-contrer-l-epidemie_6035927_3244.html.

³¹⁹⁵ “The StopCovid application will retrace the history of social relations”: the government’s tracks for the digital tracking of patients, Le Monde (Paris) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2020/04/08/stopcovid-l-application-sur-laquelle-travaille-le-gouvernement-pour-contrer-l-epidemie_6035927_3244.html.

³¹⁹⁶ “The StopCovid application will retrace the history of social relations”: the government’s tracks for the digital tracking of patients, Le Monde (Paris) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2020/04/08/stopcovid-l-application-sur-laquelle-travaille-le-gouvernement-pour-contrer-l-epidemie_6035927_3244.html.

³¹⁹⁷ France to give €150-€1500 to key staff and families, The Connexion (Paris) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/France-confirms-grants-of-150-1-500-to-key-frontline-healthcare-staff-and-low-income-families>.

³¹⁹⁸ France to give €150-€1500 to key staff and families, The Connexion (Paris) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/France-confirms-grants-of-150-1-500-to-key-frontline-healthcare-staff-and-low-income-families>.

³¹⁹⁹ France to give €150-€1500 to key staff and families, The Connexion (Paris) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/France-confirms-grants-of-150-1-500-to-key-frontline-healthcare-staff-and-low-income-families>.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Madison Leisk

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage and to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

On 21 September 2019, Health Minister Jens Spahn travelled to Mexico in order to speak with healthcare workers and offer a speedy visa process to those willing to move to Germany.³²⁰⁰ These actions are aimed at addressing a shortage of nurses and ancillary staff within German care homes as the government faces the struggles of an aging population.³²⁰¹ Minister Spahn also announced that the recognition of professional qualifications would be accelerated for Mexican workers.³²⁰² These efforts are to meet the goal of finding 10 per cent more care workers to address the care worker crisis and growing need for care workers.³²⁰³

On 7 November 2019, the Digital Supply Act was approved by Parliament, which aims to increasingly digitalize many of Germany's healthcare services.³²⁰⁴ As a result of the new law, doctors will be able to prescribe digital health apps to their patients, which can be reimbursed by the country's statutory health insurance and receive payments for online consultations.³²⁰⁵ The Act also aims to phase out the use of paper by promoting e-prescriptions and providing higher rates of compensation to doctors who send electronic medical letters in comparison to other more traditional methods, such as faxes.³²⁰⁶ The government claims that patient health records for those with statutory insurance will be completely electronic by 2021.³²⁰⁷ The Act will also enable patient data from health insurance funds to be used by authorities as well as research institutes and university

³²⁰⁰ Germany looks to Mexico to help tackle nursing-care crisis, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 21 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-looks-to-mexico-to-help-tackle-nursing-care-crisis/a-50528445>.

³²⁰¹ Germany looks to Mexico to help tackle nursing-care crisis, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 21 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-looks-to-mexico-to-help-tackle-nursing-care-crisis/a-50528445>.

³²⁰² Germany looks to Mexico to help tackle nursing-care crisis, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 21 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-looks-to-mexico-to-help-tackle-nursing-care-crisis/a-50528445>.

³²⁰³ Germany looks to Mexico to help tackle nursing-care crisis, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 21 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-looks-to-mexico-to-help-tackle-nursing-care-crisis/a-50528445>.

³²⁰⁴ Germany introduces Digital Supply Act to digitalise healthcare, Healthcare IT News (Chicago) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/europe/germany-introduces-digital-supply-act-digitalise-healthcare>.

³²⁰⁵ Germany introduces Digital Supply Act to digitalise healthcare, Healthcare IT News (Chicago) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/europe/germany-introduces-digital-supply-act-digitalise-healthcare>.

³²⁰⁶ Germany introduces Digital Supply Act to digitalise healthcare, Healthcare IT News (Chicago) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/europe/germany-introduces-digital-supply-act-digitalise-healthcare>.

³²⁰⁷ Germany introduces Digital Supply Act to digitalise healthcare, Healthcare IT News (Chicago) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/europe/germany-introduces-digital-supply-act-digitalise-healthcare>.

hospitals without consent.³²⁰⁸ Data for research use will be anonymized and used to gain “better insight into patients with chronic diseases,” according to Minister Spahn.³²⁰⁹

On 14 November 2019, the Measles Protection Act was passed by Parliament, which aims to increase immunization rates by instituting compulsory measles vaccinations.³²¹⁰ As of March 2020, parents who fail to give their children the measles vaccination will be met with fines of up to EUR2500.³²¹¹ Additionally, unvaccinated children will risk being banned from their nursery or school.³²¹² The law will also require staff in childcare facilities to be vaccinated and to provide proof of vaccination.³²¹³ The new law aims to address increasingly high rates of vaccine hesitancy fueled by the anti-vaccination movement and protect against rising rates of measles outbreaks.³²¹⁴

On 29 November 2019, the Act to Improve Healthcare Provision through Digitalization and Innovation was passed by Parliament, which is continuation of Germany’s efforts to become a world leader in the digitalization of healthcare.³²¹⁵ The Act includes measures aimed at making healthcare apps available to patients more quickly, continuing to promote innovation in healthcare by investing EUR 200 million per year until 2024 in the innovation fund, making it mandatory for pharmacies and hospitals to be connected with the growing digital infrastructure, making online video consultations commonplace, mandating health insurance funds to offer members opportunities to improve their digital health skills, creating a streamlined process for information collection, storage and exchange within hospital networks, and achieving optimal conditions for patient data protection by adapting provisions of the Fifth Book of Social Code.³²¹⁶

On 18 December 2019, Parliament passed a bill that will effectively place a ban on conversion therapy, which includes any practices aimed at “curing” individuals of their homosexuality.³²¹⁷ Starting in 2020, any individuals found in violation of this law, whether by offering or advertising such services, will be sentenced with up to a year in prison and subject to fines of up to EUR

³²⁰⁸ Germany introduces Digital Supply Act to digitalise healthcare, Healthcare IT News (Chicago) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/europe/germany-introduces-digital-supply-act-digitalise-healthcare>.

³²⁰⁹ Germany introduces Digital Supply Act to digitalise healthcare, Healthcare IT News (Chicago) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/europe/germany-introduces-digital-supply-act-digitalise-healthcare>.

³²¹⁰ German parliament approves compulsory measles vaccinations, The Guardian (London) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/14/german-parliament-approves-compulsory-measles-vaccinations>.

³²¹¹ German parliament approves compulsory measles vaccinations, The Guardian (London) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/14/german-parliament-approves-compulsory-measles-vaccinations>.

³²¹² German parliament approves compulsory measles vaccinations, The Guardian (London) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/14/german-parliament-approves-compulsory-measles-vaccinations>.

³²¹³ German parliament approves compulsory measles vaccinations, The Guardian (London) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/14/german-parliament-approves-compulsory-measles-vaccinations>.

³²¹⁴ German parliament approves compulsory measles vaccinations, The Guardian (London) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/14/german-parliament-approves-compulsory-measles-vaccinations>.

³²¹⁵ Digital Healthcare Act (DVG), Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/digital-healthcare-act.html>.

³²¹⁶ Digital Healthcare Act (DVG), Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/digital-healthcare-act.html>.

³²¹⁷ Germany moves to ban gay ‘conversion therapy’, France 24 (Paris) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20191218-germany-moves-to-ban-gay-conversion-therapy>.

30,000.³²¹⁸ According to Minister Spahn, the new law seeks to recognize that homosexuality is not an illness and that these misleading practices cause undo harm, particularly to those who may be struggling with their sexuality.³²¹⁹

On 17 March 2020, the Senate of Berlin approved plans to build a new hospital in advance of an expected increase in coronavirus cases.³²²⁰ The new hospital will be equipped with 1,000 hospital beds and will be used in the event that there is a shortage elsewhere in the state and/or country.³²²¹ It will be built with the assistance of the German armed forces.³²²² No deadline was set for the completion of the new hospital.³²²³

On 25 March 2020, a coronavirus aid package was passed by Parliament in order to mitigate the economic damage caused in the wake of the coronavirus.³²²⁴ The aid package commits a total of EUR750 billion to address the current crisis in Germany.³²²⁵ Importantly, the aid package includes the COVID-19 Hospital Relief Act and the Law for the Protection of the Population in an Epidemic Situation of National Importance.³²²⁶ The COVID-19 Hospital Relief Act aims to lessen the economic burden felt by both hospitals and other health care facilities, such as nursing homes.³²²⁷ The Act will enable hospitals to increase their care capacity as the number of patients with the coronavirus infection continues to rise.³²²⁸ The Law for the Protection of the Population in an Epidemic Situation of National Importance aims to improve the government's responsiveness to epidemics such as the coronavirus by granting the federal government additional competencies for a limited period of time.³²²⁹

³²¹⁸ Germany moves to ban gay 'conversion therapy', France 24 (Paris) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20191218-germany-moves-to-ban-gay-conversion-therapy>.

³²¹⁹ Germany moves to ban gay 'conversion therapy', France 24 (Paris) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20191218-germany-moves-to-ban-gay-conversion-therapy>.

³²²⁰ Berlin to build 1,000-bed coronavirus hospital, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/berlin-to-build-1000-bed-coronavirus-hospital/a-52811671>.

³²²¹ Berlin to build 1,000-bed coronavirus hospital, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/berlin-to-build-1000-bed-coronavirus-hospital/a-52811671>.

³²²² Berlin to build 1,000-bed coronavirus hospital, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/berlin-to-build-1000-bed-coronavirus-hospital/a-52811671>.

³²²³ Berlin to build 1,000-bed coronavirus hospital, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/berlin-to-build-1000-bed-coronavirus-hospital/a-52811671>.

³²²⁴ Coronavirus: German parliament passes historic aid package, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/coronavirus-german-parliament-passes-historic-aid-package/a-52908339>.

³²²⁵ Coronavirus: German aid package gets final approval, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/coronavirus-german-aid-package-gets-final-approval/a-52941219>.

³²²⁶ Federal Council approves legislative packages to support the healthcare system in coping with the corona epidemic, Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/1-quartal/corona-gesetzespaket-im-bundesrat.html>.

³²²⁷ Federal Council approves legislative packages to support the healthcare system in coping with the corona epidemic, Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/1-quartal/corona-gesetzespaket-im-bundesrat.html>.

³²²⁸ Federal Council approves legislative packages to support the healthcare system in coping with the corona epidemic, Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/1-quartal/corona-gesetzespaket-im-bundesrat.html>.

³²²⁹ Federal Council approves legislative packages to support the healthcare system in coping with the corona epidemic, Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/1-quartal/corona-gesetzespaket-im-bundesrat.html>.

Germany has fully complied with their commitment to build a more resilient and sustainable health system, particularly through its efforts to digitalize healthcare services and address the coronavirus. Furthermore, Germany has also taken steps towards the achievement of universal health coverage by implementing the COVID-19 Hospital Relief Act and investing to expand access of healthcare apps for patients and health service providers.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Madison Leisk

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage and to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

On 30 August 2019, the Italy-China visit by delegations from the Italian Ministry of Health ended, with the discussions focused closely on avian influenza, swine vesicular disease and scientific cooperation as Italy expressed willingness to receive and host Chinese researchers at their institutes to collaborate on food virology research.³²³⁰ Italy also noted that it aims to work with China to prevent another avian flu outbreak.³²³¹

On 17 September 2019, Minister of Health Roberto Speranza promoted patient equality, and safe use of medicines as national and global healthy priorities during a workshop organized by the Ministry of Health.³²³² Topics including National Health Service financing, training of healthcare providers and involvement of citizens to work together and improve patient safety levels across the country were discussed.³²³³

On 29 September 2019, Italy celebrated World Health Day and the Ministry of Health presented at the Cardio Race with an information to raise awareness on the importance of cardiovascular disease prevention, airway management in infants and young children and offered free electrocardiograms and ultrasound requisition for all participants.³²³⁴

On 14 October 2019, the epidemiological surveillance for the 2019-2020 flu season began through the Influnet system, with surveys and biological samples collected by a sentinel of general

³²³⁰ Export Italy-China, the visit of the Ministry of Health delegation ended, Ministry of Health (Rome), 30 August 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020.

http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=3872.

³²³¹ Export Italy-China, the visit of the Ministry of Health delegation ended, Ministry of Health (Rome), 30 August 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020.

http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=3872.

³²³² Security of care, Minister Speranza: "It is a priority to be tackled together", Ministry of Health (Rome), 17 September 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020.

http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=3890.

³²³³ Security of care, Minister Speranza: "It is a priority to be tackled together", Ministry of Health (Rome), 17 September 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020.

http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=3890.

³²³⁴ World heart day 2019, the Ministry of Health at the Cardio Race, Ministry of Health (Rome), 27 September 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020.

http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=3901.

practitioners and pediatricians to produce weekly reports of influenza outbreaks.³²³⁵ The flu vaccination was offered actively and free of charge until the end of December 2019 to subjects aged 65 or over, children over the 6 months of age, all individuals suffering from disease with increased risk of flu complication, pregnant woman, individual admitted to long-term care facilities, healthcare personnel and subjects who are at high risk of exposure.³²³⁶

On 25 January 2020, the Ministry of Health Task Force on COVID-19 met with the Minister of Health Roberto Speranza and other authorities to ensure adequate availability medical and nursing staff in hospitals and on major airports (Rome and Milan).³²³⁷

On 1 March 2020, Economy Minister Roberto Gualtieri announced EUR3.6 billion would be “injected into the economy,” part of which will go towards funding the National Health System.³²³⁸

On 17 March 2020, University Minister Gaetano Manfredi announced that he would allow 10,000 medical students into the National Health System and scrap their final examinations to cope with the shortage of medical staff amidst the COVID-19 outbreak.³²³⁹ These graduates will be expected to work in general practitioners’ clinics and old age homes so that more experienced doctors can work in hospitals burdened with COVID-19 patients.

Italy has demonstrated efforts to fully comply with its commitment to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems by strategizing to prevent avian flu outbreak, allowing student doctors to join the workforce early and cope with staff shortage, funding National Health System to cope with COVID-19 and discussing training of healthcare providers, patient safety and patient equality. Italy has also demonstrated efforts to fully comply with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal healthcare coverage by providing free electrocardiogram and ultrasounds assessing cardiac health and free flu vaccines to vulnerable populations to avoid an outbreak.

Thus, Italy has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Zixuan (Maggie) Xiao

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage and to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

³²³⁵ Flu season 2019-2020, Influnet vaccination and surveillance is underway, Ministry of Health, 18 October 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020.

http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3933.

³²³⁶ Flu season 2019-2020, Influnet vaccination and surveillance is underway, Ministry of Health (Rome), 18 October 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020.

http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3933.

³²³⁷ New Coronavirus, the Ministry's task force at work, Ministry of Health (Rome) 26 January 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4023.

³²³⁸ Italy's hospitals reach breaking point as Rome boosts funding to help virus-hit economy, CNBC (Rome) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 24 April 2020. <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/03/03/italy-to-spend-3point6-billion-euros-to-help-virus-hit-economy.html>.

³²³⁹ Italy rushes new doctors into service as coronavirus deaths rise above 2,500, Reuters (Rome) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 24 April 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-italy/italy-rushes-to-promote-new-doctors-to-relieve-coronavirus-crisis-idUSKBN214245>.

On 28 August 2019, at the 7th edition of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced that the Japanese government will support Kenya's Universal Health Coverage programme.³²⁴⁰

On 29 August 2019, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe also pledged JPY12 million to support the Nigerian government's public health sector.³²⁴¹

On 1 October 2019, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare implemented major medical, nursing care and welfare related changes in response to the consumption tax hike.³²⁴² The Elderly Health Bureau invested public funds to reduce insurance premiums for persons 65 years old or older who are exempt from municipal tax, with specific reduction rate prescribed by individual insurer according to regulation.³²⁴³ Over the full year, the government will also invest JPY100 billion to expand experienced and skilled staff for improving nursing home care.³²⁴⁴ For welfare recipients and persons with disabilities, the Social Affairs Bureau Protection Division reports a remuneration reform for disability welfare services focusing on improving the experience and skills of staff.³²⁴⁵

On 5 November 2019, a digital healthcare company MORE Health with an integrated network of physician specialists announced its collaboration with Japan's Integrity Healthcare, a government-funded company engaged with medical infrastructure, to offer international patients the best medical resources in Japan through Co-Diagnosis, a collaborative diagnosis serviced through a cloud-based platform.³²⁴⁶

On 7 November 2019, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare released the schedule and venue for 21 free seminars, to be held in 14 cities nationwide between 6 December 2019 and 23 January 2020.³²⁴⁷ The seminars will disseminate and explain the work style reform of medical staff as they shift to a non-equity medical system under the Revised Medical Law for healthcare professionals.³²⁴⁸

³²⁴⁰ Kevin Rotich, "Japanese PM backs rollout of Kenya's universal health cover", Business Daily (Kenya). 28 August 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. <https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/news/Japanese-PM-backs-kenya-healthcare/539546-5252556-vjeadz/index.html>.

³²⁴¹ Dennis Erezi, "Japanese PM pledges \$412,740 for Nigeria's defence college, healthcare", The Guardian (Nigeria). 29 August 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. <https://guardian.ng/news/japanese-pm-pledges-412740-for-nigerias-defence-college-healthcare/>.

³²⁴² About main system change (Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare relations in October, the first year of Reiwa), Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 26 September 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000198659_00005.html.

³²⁴³ About main system change (Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare relations in October, the first year of Reiwa), Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 26 September 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000198659_00005.html.

³²⁴⁴ About main system change (Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare relations in October, the first year of Reiwa), Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 26 September 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000198659_00005.html.

³²⁴⁵ About main system change (Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare relations in October, the first year of Reiwa), Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 26 September 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000198659_00005.html.

³²⁴⁶ MORE Health Announces Collaboration with Japan's Integrity Healthcare, PR News Wire (San Mateo). 5 November 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/more-health-announces-collaboration-with-japans-integrity-healthcare-300949505.html>.

³²⁴⁷ We hold "seminar about system about medical corporation" in the first year of Reiwa, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 7 November 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_07679.html.

³²⁴⁸ We hold "seminar about system about medical corporation" in the first year of Reiwa, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 7 November 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_07679.html.

On 18 November 2019, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare held a “Skilled Medical Care” Ambassador Appointment Event to appoint Mr. Nakamura and His Excellency Demon as “good medical care” ambassadors, following a round-table conference to address physician burnout and long wait times during weekend consultations, with aims of alleviating excessive burden on healthcare providers.³²⁴⁹

On 29 November 2019, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare approved of the “BRACAnalysis” genetic test to screen for breast cancer patients for Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer syndrome so as to enable earlier treatment.³²⁵⁰

On 1 December 2019, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in cooperation with the AIDS Prevention Foundation and other related non-governmental organizations held various public awareness events for “World AIDS day” across Japan to counter discrimination and prejudice against AIDS patients and take initiative to educate health centres and relevant organizations on correct knowledge of AIDS.³²⁵¹ The event outline included street campaigns, performances by artists who support the advocacy cause, and free HIV testing.³²⁵²

On 28 February 2020, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare released a summary sheet of the various efforts implemented by the relevant ministries, local governments, and related organizations to strengthen suicide prevention measures for the month of March.³²⁵³ Actions include the expansion of dial-in mental health counseling lines, extension of operating hours and widespread dissemination of information about mental health consultation and support via YouTube videos, banners, and search-linked ads.³²⁵⁴

On 4 March 2020, the Department of Economic Affairs addressed in a press release that masks will be distributed preferentially to Nakafurano Town and Kitami City, two of the most affected regions from COVID-19, within a few days to secure about 40 masks per household in order to protect as many residents as possible.³²⁵⁵

On 5 March 2020, the Food Monitoring and Safety Division held its 23rd technical review meeting on food hygiene and management, releasing draft hygiene management guidelines for brown sugar, frozen tofu, chikuwabu, garlic and fuji production.³²⁵⁶

³²⁴⁹ “Skilled Medical Care” Ambassador Appointment Event will be held on November 18, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 14 November 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020.

https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_07884.html.

³²⁵⁰ Dana Dovey “Japan Approves Genetic Testing For Breast Cancer Treatment”, Forbes 29 November 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/danadovey/2019/11/29/japan-approves-genetic-testing-for-breast-cancer-treatment/#4129148837f4>.

³²⁵¹ We carry out spread enlightenment event for World AIDS Day, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/0000183582_00005.html.

³²⁵² We carry out spread enlightenment event for World AIDS Day, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. 1 November 2019. Access Date: 02 January 2020. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/0000183582_00005.html

³²⁵³ About main approach of suicide measures reinforcement month in the first year of Reiwa, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 28 February 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2020.

<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/jisatsutaisakugekkan2020.html>.

³²⁵⁴ About main approach of suicide measures reinforcement month in the first year of Reiwa, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 28 February 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2020.

<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/jisatsutaisakugekkan2020.html>.

³²⁵⁵ About priority distribution of masks to Nakafurano Town and Kitami City, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 4 March 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2020. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_09967.html.

³²⁵⁶ About holding of the 23rd technical review meeting on food hygiene management, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 5 March 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2020. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_09975.html.

On 6 March 2020, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare announced that COVID-19 testing will be included under national health insurance system.³²⁵⁷ Prior to this, individuals could only get tested when recommended by public health centres.³²⁵⁸ After this announcement, patients will be able to request testing for themselves from public hospitals or private testing companies without referral from a public health centre.³²⁵⁹ Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has also announced that they will take efforts to develop faster testing kits; current testing kits deliver results within a few hours.³²⁶⁰

On 9 March 2020, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced a COVID-19 aid package totalling JPY430.8 billion.³²⁶¹ Part of this package will be allocated towards hospitals to improve medical facilities and stockpile on masks and other personal protective equipment.³²⁶²

On 11 March 2020, the Mental and Disability Health Division held its first meeting to discuss implementation of a community-based comprehensive care system for mental illness.³²⁶³

On 24 March 2020, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) announced the launch of a free remote health consultation service with doctors in partnership with Mediplat.³²⁶⁴ This service will enable doctors to advise patients based on their symptoms while providing an effective way of triaging potential cases and keeping frontline medical safe unless there is an urgent need for medical treatment.³²⁶⁵

On 3 April 2020, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare advised local governments to accommodate COVID-19 patients with mild symptoms in hotels instead of hospitals to ease the shortage of healthcare facilities, especially in urban areas with high number of COVID-19 cases.³²⁶⁶

³²⁵⁷ Japan to include COVID-19 testing in national health insurance, Insurance Business Asia (Tokyo). 6 March 2020. Access Date: 24 April 2020. <https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/asia/news/breaking-news/japan-to-include-covid19-testing-in-national-health-insurance-216048.aspx>.

³²⁵⁸ Japan to include COVID-19 testing in national health insurance, Insurance Business Asia (Tokyo). 6 March 2020. Access Date: 24 April 2020. <https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/asia/news/breaking-news/japan-to-include-covid19-testing-in-national-health-insurance-216048.aspx>.

³²⁵⁹ Japan to include COVID-19 testing in national health insurance, Insurance Business Asia (Tokyo). 6 March 2020. Access Date: 24 April 2020. <https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/asia/news/breaking-news/japan-to-include-covid19-testing-in-national-health-insurance-216048.aspx>.

³²⁶⁰ Japan to include COVID-19 testing in national health insurance, Insurance Business Asia (Tokyo). 6 March 2020. Access Date: 24 April 2020. <https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/asia/news/breaking-news/japan-to-include-covid19-testing-in-national-health-insurance-216048.aspx>.

³²⁶¹ Japan announces \$4 billion coronavirus package, not yet eyeing extra budget, Reuters (Tokyo). 9 March 2020. Access Date: 24 April 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-healthcare-coronavirus-japan-package/japan-unveils-4-billion-coronavirus-package-not-yet-eyeing-extra-budget-idUSKBN20X04B>.

³²⁶² Japan announces \$4 billion coronavirus package, not yet eyeing extra budget, Reuters (Tokyo). 9 March 2020. Access Date: 24 April 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-healthcare-coronavirus-japan-package/japan-unveils-4-billion-coronavirus-package-not-yet-eyeing-extra-budget-idUSKBN20X04B>.

³²⁶³ We will hold the 1st "Study Meeting on the Construction of Community-based Comprehensive Care System for Mental Illness, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo). 11 March 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_10017.html.

³²⁶⁴ Japanese Ministry, METI, launches free remote health consultation service to address COVID-19 related concerns, Healthcare IT News (Tokyo). 3 April 2020. Access Date: 24 April 2020. <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/asia-pacific/japanese-ministry-meti-launches-free-remote-health-consultation-service-address>.

³²⁶⁵ Japanese Ministry, METI, launches free remote health consultation service to address COVID-19 related concerns, Healthcare IT News (Tokyo). 3 April 2020. Access Date: 24 April 2020. <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/asia-pacific/japanese-ministry-meti-launches-free-remote-health-consultation-service-address>.

³²⁶⁶ Japan to house Covid-19 patients in hotels as hospitals feel strain, The Star (Tokyo). 3 April 2020. Access Date: 24 April 2020. <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/regional/2020/04/03/japan-to-house-covid-19-patients-in-hotels-as-hospitals-feel-strain>.

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems by addressing physician burnout and long wait times, improving diagnosis and treatment for Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer syndrome, providing training to medical professionals to understand reform of working style and improving access to mental health care options. Japan has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal healthcare coverage by providing free HIV testing and raising HIV awareness, investing in senior citizens' care, providing more comprehensive healthcare options to international travelers and implementing community-based comprehensive care system for mental illness.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Zixuan (Maggie) Xiao

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage and to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

On 3 September 2019, British High Commissioner to Kenya Jane Marriott presented to the President of the Republic of Kenya Uhuru Kenyatta.³²⁶⁷ Marriott indicated the UK government's support of Kenya's Big Four objectives of affordable housing, food security, manufacturing, and universal healthcare.³²⁶⁸

On 5 September 2019, Minister for Care Caroline Dinenage announced that the second phase of an adult social care recruitment campaign is underway.³²⁶⁹ The campaign, titled "When you care, every day makes a difference" aims to increase interest in adult social care as a career, given the shortage of 122,000 workers.³²⁷⁰ The campaign is geared towards people between ages 20 and 39 who have expressed significant interest in adult social care as a vocation through a survey administered in England.³²⁷¹ The aim of the campaign is to fulfil the need of 580,000 more social care workers by 2035 to support the ageing population.³²⁷²

³²⁶⁷ New British High Commissioner to Kenya presents credentials: speech by Jane Marriott, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/speech-by-the-new-british-high-commissioner>.

³²⁶⁸ New British High Commissioner to Kenya presents credentials: speech by Jane Marriott, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/speech-by-the-new-british-high-commissioner>.

³²⁶⁹ Next phase of adult social care recruitment campaign begins, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-phase-of-adult-social-care-recruitment-campaign-begins>.

³²⁷⁰ Next phase of adult social care recruitment campaign begins, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-phase-of-adult-social-care-recruitment-campaign-begins>.

³²⁷¹ Next phase of adult social care recruitment campaign begins, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-phase-of-adult-social-care-recruitment-campaign-begins>.

³²⁷² Next phase of adult social care recruitment campaign begins, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-phase-of-adult-social-care-recruitment-campaign-begins>.

On 8 September 2019, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock announced EUR1 million funding to expand the cost-recovery team at the National Health Service (NHS).³²⁷³ Cost-recovery experts serve to reclaim debts of overseas visitors when they receive care in the UK as solely UK residents are eligible for free healthcare.³²⁷⁴ Experts will aide cost-recovery managers in easing administrative burden by helping identify patients that need to be charged, standardizing and implementing rules and exemptions across the country, and improving reporting of income and debt collection.³²⁷⁵ The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) reassures their commitment to protecting the most vulnerable people in society, including refugees, victims of modern slavery, asylum seekers and children cared for by local authorities.³²⁷⁶ Improved debt recollection from tourists will enable reallocation of funds to maintain delivery of high-quality front-line patient care at NHS.³²⁷⁷ DHSC also notes that emergent care will be provided to tourists and other non-residents without full payment with debt being recollected after treatment.³²⁷⁸

On 9 September 2019, the government announced EUR130 million of funding in healthcare innovations for cancer and debilitating illnesses, such as dementia and Parkinson's.³²⁷⁹ EUR50 million will be allocated to NHS diagnostic services and artificial intelligence technology at Centres of Excellence.³²⁸⁰ EUR7.5 million will be used for adult social care, while EUR14 million will be used for bioscience initiatives such as developing treatments for diseases and developing vaccines.³²⁸¹ EUR69.5 million investment through UK Research and Innovation will be directed towards four British projects – 1. Nucleic Acid Therapy Accelerator to develop genetic therapies for various diseases; 2. The Advanced Pain Discovery Platform to better understand pain; 3. UK Centre of Evidence Implantation in Adult Social Care to implement innovations that enable more people to

³²⁷³ £1 million to help NHS reclaim debts from overseas visitors, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 8 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-to-help-nhs-reclaim-debts-from-overseas-visitors>.

³²⁷⁴ £1 million to help NHS reclaim debts from overseas visitors, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 8 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-to-help-nhs-reclaim-debts-from-overseas-visitors>.

³²⁷⁵ £1 million to help NHS reclaim debts from overseas visitors, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 8 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-to-help-nhs-reclaim-debts-from-overseas-visitors>.

³²⁷⁶ £1 million to help NHS reclaim debts from overseas visitors, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 8 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-to-help-nhs-reclaim-debts-from-overseas-visitors>.

³²⁷⁷ £1 million to help NHS reclaim debts from overseas visitors, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 8 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-to-help-nhs-reclaim-debts-from-overseas-visitors>.

³²⁷⁸ £1 million to help NHS reclaim debts from overseas visitors, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 8 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-to-help-nhs-reclaim-debts-from-overseas-visitors>.

³²⁷⁹ Government to invest over £130 million in new tech to tackle cancer and debilitating illnesses, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-invest-over-130-million-in-new-tech-to-tackle-cancer-and-debilitating-illnesses>.

³²⁸⁰ Government to invest over £130 million in new tech to tackle cancer and debilitating illnesses, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-invest-over-130-million-in-new-tech-to-tackle-cancer-and-debilitating-illnesses>.

³²⁸¹ Government to invest over £130 million in new tech to tackle cancer and debilitating illnesses, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-invest-over-130-million-in-new-tech-to-tackle-cancer-and-debilitating-illnesses>.

receive care at home; and 4. Tackling Multimorbidity to propel drug development and enable earlier diagnosis and lesser progression.³²⁸²

On 10 September 2019, Public Health England (PHE) published a five-year infectious diseases strategy to “prevent, detect, respond to and reduce the impact of infectious diseases.”³²⁸³ PHE will be working alongside the NHS and local authorities to integrate diagnostic mechanisms and surveillance systems that enable infection prevention and control, be a global leader in tackling antimicrobial resistance by reducing use of antibiotic treatments, and strengthen England’s and global health protection systems.³²⁸⁴

On 10 September 2019, the Department of Health in Northern Ireland published the “Protect Life 2” suicide prevention strategy.³²⁸⁵ Northern Ireland has the highest suicide rates when compared to other UK nations.³²⁸⁶ The strategy received an additional EUR1.35 million in funding through the transformation programme and will require additional funding to be fully implemented.³²⁸⁷

On 11 September 2019, the DHSC announced they were accepting proposals to make the pensions of doctors and nurses more flexible.³²⁸⁸ The government indicated that health care professionals do not take on extra shifts due to facets of the NHS Pension Scheme and pension tax rules as they currently stand.³²⁸⁹ Changes in the pension scheme will allow healthcare professionals more flexibility to choose individual pension plans, enabling them to maximize clinical work without high taxes.³²⁹⁰

On 11 September 2019, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a new immigration route that would permit international students to remain in the UK for two years after graduation while looking for a job.³²⁹¹ The intention is to encourage international talent, including individuals the Science,

³²⁸² Government to invest over £130 million in new tech to tackle cancer and debilitating illnesses, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-invest-over-130-million-in-new-tech-to-tackle-cancer-and-debilitating-illnesses>.

³²⁸³ Public Health England launches new infectious disease strategy, Public Health England (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-health-england-launches-new-infectious-disease-strategy>.

³²⁸⁴ Public Health England launches new infectious disease strategy, Public Health England (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-health-england-launches-new-infectious-disease-strategy>.

³²⁸⁵ Action plan to fight suicide epidemic that claims a life in Northern Ireland every day, Belfast Telegraph (Belfast) 10 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/action-plan-to-fight-suicide-epidemic-that-claims-a-life-in-northern-ireland-every-day-38481802.html>.

³²⁸⁶ Suicides: Plan revealed to reduce number of deaths, BBC News (London) 10 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-49639583>.

³²⁸⁷ Suicides: Plan revealed to reduce number of deaths, BBC News (London) 10 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-49639583>.

³²⁸⁸ Seniors clinicians’ pensions: government asks for views on new proposals, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/senior-clinicians-pensions-government-asks-for-views-on-new-proposals>.

³²⁸⁹ Seniors clinicians’ pensions: government asks for views on new proposals, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/senior-clinicians-pensions-government-asks-for-views-on-new-proposals>.

³²⁹⁰ Seniors clinicians’ pensions: government asks for views on new proposals, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/senior-clinicians-pensions-government-asks-for-views-on-new-proposals>.

³²⁹¹ World’s largest genetics research project to fight deadly diseases and new offer for international students, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-genetics-research-project-to-fight-deadly-diseases-and-offer-new-offer-for-international-students>.

Technology, Engineering, and Math fields (STEM), to remain in the UK and potentially become more involved in breakthroughs in STEM fields, particularly genomics.³²⁹² One EUR200 million project in which graduates can become involved is the world's largest whole genome sequencing project that aims to improve prevention, diagnosis and treatment of various diseases.³²⁹³ Another project by Genomics England in collaboration with NHS has enabled 25 per cent patients with rare diseases to receive a diagnosis for the first time.³²⁹⁴

On 12 September 2019, eight new female genital mutilation support clinics were opened in communities in England where there is the greatest need with the aim of reaching women before they reach to NHS with life-threatening complications.³²⁹⁵ Clinic sites include Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, and five London boroughs.³²⁹⁶ The clinics aim to address the physical and psychological impact of female genital mutilation through treatment, support, and education on prevention.³²⁹⁷ Funding comes from the EUR33.9 billion the UK government invested in the NHS.³²⁹⁸

On 23 September 2019, International Development Secretary Alok Sharma delivered a speech in New York at the United Nations General Assembly political declaration on universal health coverage.^{3299,3300} He announced funding of EUR600 million over 2020-2025 towards Reproductive Health Supplies programme aimed at providing access to family planning resources to more than 20 million women and girls, preventing unplanned pregnancies and unsafe abortions and reducing

³²⁹² World's largest genetics research project to fight deadly diseases and new offer for international students, Prime Minister's Office (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-genetics-research-project-to-fight-deadly-diseases-and-offer-new-offer-for-international-students>.

³²⁹³ World's largest genetics research project to fight deadly diseases and new offer for international students, Prime Minister's Office (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-genetics-research-project-to-fight-deadly-diseases-and-offer-new-offer-for-international-students>.

³²⁹⁴ World's largest genetics research project to fight deadly diseases and new offer for international students, Prime Minister's Office (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-genetics-research-project-to-fight-deadly-diseases-and-offer-new-offer-for-international-students>.

³²⁹⁵ We must work together to end FGM for good, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/we-must-work-together-to-end-fgm-for-good>.

³²⁹⁶ We must work together to end FGM for good, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/we-must-work-together-to-end-fgm-for-good>.

³²⁹⁷ We must work together to end FGM for good, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/we-must-work-together-to-end-fgm-for-good>.

³²⁹⁸ We must work together to end FGM for good, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/we-must-work-together-to-end-fgm-for-good>.

³²⁹⁹ Achieving Universal Health Coverage by 2030 Hinges on 'Bold National Leadership, Secretary-General Tells General Assembly, as World Leaders Commit to Declaration, United Nations (New York) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/ga12181.doc.htm>.

³³⁰⁰ Healthcare for everyone must prioritise women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, says UK at UN General Assembly, Department for International Development (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/healthcare-for-everyone-must-prioritise-womens-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights-says-uk-at-un-general-assembly>.

pregnancy and childbirth complications.³³⁰¹ Secretary Sharma stated that “We cannot achieve Universal Health Coverage without Universal Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.”³³⁰²

On 23 September 2019, Secretary Hancock confirmed that the UK government will fund healthcare for 180,000 UK nationals in the European Union after Brexit in a no-deal scenario.³³⁰³ Healthcare costs will be covered for six months, or up to one year for individuals who are currently undergoing treatment.³³⁰⁴ The UK government will also cover costs while individuals turn to local healthcare as to avoid gaps in coverage.³³⁰⁵

On 24 September 2019, at the 74th United Nations General Assembly, Chief Medical Officer for England Professor Dame Sally Davies announced funding to combat antimicrobial resistance and noted that universal healthcare coverage cannot be achieved without tackling antimicrobial resistance.³³⁰⁶ EUR6.2 million will be used to strengthen surveillance systems in Africa and Asia that can inform policy decisions and EUR12 million will be used for research collaborations between the UK and low and middle income countries.³³⁰⁷ Funding will be provided by the Fleming Fund and the National Institute of Health Research Global Health Research program.³³⁰⁸

On 27 September 2019, Prime Minister Johnson pledged EUR200 million to the NHS to improve cancer screening equipment, including magnetic resonance imaging, computerized tomography scanners, and breast screening equipment, which can enable earlier diagnoses.³³⁰⁹ The investment was

³³⁰¹ Healthcare for everyone must prioritise women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights, says UK at UN General Assembly, Department for International Development (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/healthcare-for-everyone-must-prioritise-womens-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights-says-uk-at-un-general-assembly>.

³³⁰² Alok Sharma speech to UN General Assembly on Universal Health Coverage, Department for International Development (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/alok-sharma-speech-to-un-general-assembly-on-universal-health-coverage>.

³³⁰³ Government takes steps to protect healthcare access for UK nationals living in the EU after 31 October, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-takes-steps-to-protect-healthcare-access-for-uk-nationals-living-in-the-eu-after-31-october>.

³³⁰⁴ Government takes steps to protect healthcare access for UK nationals living in the EU after 31 October, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-takes-steps-to-protect-healthcare-access-for-uk-nationals-living-in-the-eu-after-31-october>.

³³⁰⁵ Government takes steps to protect healthcare access for UK nationals living in the EU after 31 October, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-takes-steps-to-protect-healthcare-access-for-uk-nationals-living-in-the-eu-after-31-october>.

³³⁰⁶ IVI-led Consortium Awarded Fleming Fund Regional Grant to Improve Data Sharing in Fight against Antimicrobial Resistance, International Vaccine Institute (Seoul) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.ivi.int/ivi-consortium-awarded-fleming-fund-regional-grant/>.

³³⁰⁷ UK to invest in new research against evolving global health threats, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-invest-in-new-research-against-evolving-global-health-threats>.

³³⁰⁸ UK to invest in new research against evolving global health threats, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-invest-in-new-research-against-evolving-global-health-threats>.

³³⁰⁹ Prime Minister pledges funding for cancer screening overhaul, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-pledges-funding-for-cancer-screening-overhaul>.

made in efforts to increase efficiency and patient safety.³³¹⁰ On 20 October 2019, the government announced the 78 NHS trusts that will receive funding.³³¹¹

On 30 September 2019, the DHSC published the Health Infrastructure Plan.³³¹² The plan provides capital to build new hospitals, invest in technology, modernize facilities, and ensure the safety of estates.³³¹³ Specifically, EUR2.8 billion was allocated to build six new hospitals by 2025 and 21 other hospitals were provided with seed funding.³³¹⁴ Overall, 40 schemes for new hospitals fall under the Health Infrastructure Plan.³³¹⁵

On 3 October 2019, the DHSC placed hormone replacement therapy products, which currently face shortage, on the list of medicines that face restrictions and cannot be parallel exported to tackle supply shortages.³³¹⁶ Shortage protocols for the antidepressant fluoxetine were also introduced for the antidepressant fluoxetine.³³¹⁷ Measures were put in place to address shortages.³³¹⁸

On 4 October 2019, PHE announced that 30 million people will receive the flu vaccine for free.³³¹⁹ For the first time, all students in primary schools are eligible to receive the free vaccine.³³²⁰

On 9 October 2019, Secretary Hancock delivered a speech in Manchester at the NHS Providers Annual Conference.³³²¹ He reiterated features of the Long Term Plan Bill, Health Infrastructure Plan,

³³¹⁰ Prime Minister pledges funding for cancer screening overhaul, Prime Minister's Office (London) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-pledges-funding-for-cancer-screening-overhaul>.

³³¹¹ 78 NHS trusts to receive new cancer screening machines, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 30 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/78-nhs-trusts-to-receive-new-cancer-screening-machines>.

³³¹² New hospital building programme announced, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 29 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-hospital-building-programme-announced>.

³³¹³ New hospital building programme announced, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 29 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-hospital-building-programme-announced>.

³³¹⁴ New hospital building programme announced, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 29 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-hospital-building-programme-announced>.

³³¹⁵ New hospital building programme announced, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 29 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-hospital-building-programme-announced>.

³³¹⁶ New restrictions on parallel exports to tackle HRT shortages, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-restrictions-on-parallel-exports-to-tackle-hrt-shortages>.

³³¹⁷ New restrictions on parallel exports to tackle HRT shortages, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-restrictions-on-parallel-exports-to-tackle-hrt-shortages>.

³³¹⁸ New restrictions on parallel exports to tackle HRT shortages, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-restrictions-on-parallel-exports-to-tackle-hrt-shortages>.

³³¹⁹ Biggest NHS flu campaign under way, BBC News (London) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-49895681>; Flu vaccination: The main things to know about the 2019 programme, Public Health England (London) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2019/10/04/flu-vaccination-the-main-things-to-know-about-the-2019-programme/>.

³³²⁰ Flu vaccination: The main things to know about the 2019 programme, Public Health England (London) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2019/10/04/flu-vaccination-the-main-things-to-know-about-the-2019-programme/>.

and the health technology body NHSX.³³²² He also discussed the upcoming release of the People Plan, which addresses the need for more health care workers.³³²³

On 10 October 2019, Department for International Development Ghana Director Philip Smith delivered a speech indicating UK government's support for mental health care initiatives in Ghana.³³²⁴ Specifically, Smith discussed improving access to services, and issuing a UK Aid programme aimed at reducing stigma among Ghanaian youth.³³²⁵ Mental healthcare delivery is indicated as an important component of universal health coverage.³³²⁶

On 19 October 2019, Prime Minister Johnson addressed speculation regarding trade negotiations over the NHS.³³²⁷ In the House of Commons, Johnson stated "And our first decision, on which I believe there will be unanimity is that in any future trade negotiations with any country our NHS will not be on the table."³³²⁸

On 19 October 2019, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Prevention, Public Health and Primary Care Jo Churchill announced the roll-out of electronic prescription services across England in November 2019.³³²⁹ The electronic prescription service is intended to increase efficiency in the NHS for patients and staff.³³³⁰

On 22 October 2019, the UK government awarded a EUR1.9 million Rough Sleeping Grant to projects that aim to improve access to healthcare for individuals who sleep rough, considering that people experiencing rough sleeping have poorer health than the general population.³³³¹ The six

³³²¹ How we build an NHS that's there for every member of society, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/how-we-build-an-nhs-thats-there-for-every-member-of-society>.

³³²² How we build an NHS that's there for every member of society, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/how-we-build-an-nhs-thats-there-for-every-member-of-society>.

³³²³ How we build an NHS that's there for every member of society, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/how-we-build-an-nhs-thats-there-for-every-member-of-society>.

³³²⁴ DFID Ghana Director's Speech on World Mental Health Day, DFID Ghana (Accra) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dfid-ghana-directors-speech-on-world-mental-health-day-2019>.

³³²⁵ DFID Ghana Director's Speech on World Mental Health Day, DFID Ghana (Accra) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dfid-ghana-directors-speech-on-world-mental-health-day-2019>.

³³²⁶ DFID Ghana Director's Speech on World Mental Health Day, DFID Ghana (Accra) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dfid-ghana-directors-speech-on-world-mental-health-day-2019>.

³³²⁷ PM statement in the House of Commons: 19 October 2019, Prime Minister's Office (London) 19 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-in-the-house-of-commons-19-october-2019>.

³³²⁸ PM statement in the House of Commons: 19 October 2019, Prime Minister's Office (London) 19 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-in-the-house-of-commons-19-october-2019>.

³³²⁹ National roll-out of electronic prescription service, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 19 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-roll-out-of-electronic-prescription-service>.

³³³⁰ National roll-out of electronic prescription service, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 19 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-roll-out-of-electronic-prescription-service>.

³³³¹ Grant awarded to improve the health of people sleeping rough, Public Health England (London) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/grant-awarded-to-improve-the-health-of-people-sleeping-rough>.

projects involved are located in Lambeth, Newcastle, West Sussex, Portsmouth, and Leeds.³³³² The Rough Sleeping Grant aligns with the Rough Sleeping Strategy published by the UK in August 2018.³³³³

On 22 October 2019, Secretary Hancock approved a EUR184 million capital loan fund for urgent hospital upgrades.³³³⁴ 13 trusts will receive funding for upgrades to areas such as equipment, infrastructure, and general safety.³³³⁵

On 22 October 2019, the Women and Equalities Committee appointed by the House of Commons and chaired by Member of Parliament Maria Miller released a report indicating that LGBT health needs are not being adequately met as LGBT individuals are treated as straight and cisgender when interacting with the healthcare system.³³³⁶ The report recommends mandated monitoring of sexual orientation and gender identity within the next 12 months.³³³⁷ The report also suggests that the NHS Long Term Care Plan should highlight explicit inequalities that the NHS must address.³³³⁸

On 23 October 2019, the Health and Social Care Committee released on report on drugs policy that advocates for a harm reduction approach that would benefit drug users and reduce harm and cost to surrounding communities.³³³⁹ Among their recommendations include shifting responsibility for drug policy from the Home Office to the DHSC and decriminalize drug possession for personal use so as to treat possession for personal use as a civil matter rather than a criminal one.³³⁴⁰ Decriminalization will enable the criminal justice department to reduce costs, funds of which can be reallocated to prevention and treatment programs that save lives of users and provide better protection for

³³³² Grant awarded to improve the health of people sleeping rough, Public Health England (London) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/grant-awarded-to-improve-the-health-of-people-sleeping-rough>.

³³³³ Grant awarded to improve the health of people sleeping rough, Public Health England (London) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/grant-awarded-to-improve-the-health-of-people-sleeping-rough>.

³³³⁴ £184 million loan funding for urgent hospital upgrades, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/184-million-loan-funding-for-urgent-hospital-upgrades>.

³³³⁵ £184 million loan funding for urgent hospital upgrades, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/184-million-loan-funding-for-urgent-hospital-upgrades>.

³³³⁶ “Unacceptable inequalities in health outcomes” for LGBT people “glare out wherever you look”, Women and Equalities Committee (London) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/women-and-equalities-committee/news-parliament-2017/lgbt-health-social-care-report-published-19-20/>.

³³³⁷ “Unacceptable inequalities in health outcomes” for LGBT people “glare out wherever you look”, Women and Equalities Committee (London) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/women-and-equalities-committee/news-parliament-2017/lgbt-health-social-care-report-published-19-20/>.

³³³⁸ “Unacceptable inequalities in health outcomes” for LGBT people “glare out wherever you look”, Women and Equalities Committee (London) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/women-and-equalities-committee/news-parliament-2017/lgbt-health-social-care-report-published-19-20/>.

³³³⁹ Radical change needed in approach to UK drug policy, Health and Social Care Committee (London) 23 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/health-and-social-care-committee/news/drugs-policy-report-published-19-20/>.

³³⁴⁰ Radical change needed in approach to UK drug policy, Health and Social Care Committee (London) 23 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/health-and-social-care-committee/news/drugs-policy-report-published-19-20/>.

communities.³³⁴¹ On 4 November 2019, the Scottish Affairs Committee published a report on “Problem drug use in Scotland” with conclusions similar to that of the Health and Social Care committee.³³⁴²

On 24 October 2019, Secretary Hancock delivered a speech at the Royal College of General Practitioners annual conference and stated his priorities as people, structures, and technology.³³⁴³ He reiterated the UK government’s commitments to recruit 20,000 primary care clinical staff and provide an extra EUR4.5 billion for primary and community care each year by 2023-2024.³³⁴⁴ Secretary Hancock also referenced the previous launch of the Clinical Negligence Scheme for General Practice in April 2019 that limits personal liabilities for professionals, and plans to rely on healthcare technology such as digitized paper records and electronic prescribing in the future.³³⁴⁵

On 28 October 2019, the DHSC announced that a EUR1,082,000 fund will be used for personalized bereavement support at 10 NHS areas in England.³³⁴⁶ Individuals who have lost a family member or friend can receive counselling support and mental health services.³³⁴⁷

On 28 October 2019, the UK government announced a EUR3.5 million investment to treat gonorrhoea globally.³³⁴⁸ Gonorrhoea particularly impacts women and vulnerable groups.³³⁴⁹ The government is working in partnership with the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Innovation Fund and the Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership.³³⁵⁰

On 31 October 2019, the UK parliament laid legislation to provide personal health budgets to 10,000 individuals eligible for a wheelchair or requiring mental health support under section 117 of the

³³⁴¹ Radical change needed in approach to UK drug policy, Health and Social Care Committee (London) 23 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/health-and-social-care-committee/news/drugs-policy-report-published-19-20/>.

³³⁴² Health and Social Care Committee Chair comment on Scottish Affairs Committee report on drugs policy, Health and Social Care Committee (London) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/health-and-social-care-committee/news/drugs-policy-scottish-committee-report-chairs-comments-2019/>.

³³⁴³ General practice is the bedrock of the NHS, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 24 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/general-practice-is-the-bedrock-of-the-nhs>.

³³⁴⁴ General practice is the bedrock of the NHS, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 24 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/general-practice-is-the-bedrock-of-the-nhs>.

³³⁴⁵ General practice is the bedrock of the NHS, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 24 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/general-practice-is-the-bedrock-of-the-nhs>.

³³⁴⁶ Suicide bereavement support to be made available across England, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 27 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/suicide-bereavement-support-to-be-made-available-across-england>.

³³⁴⁷ Suicide bereavement support to be made available across England, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 27 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/suicide-bereavement-support-to-be-made-available-across-england>.

³³⁴⁸ Government invests in global partnership to treat gonorrhoea, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 28 October 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-invests-in-global-partnership-to-treat-gonorrhoea>.

³³⁴⁹ Government invests in global partnership to treat gonorrhoea, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 28 October 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-invests-in-global-partnership-to-treat-gonorrhoea>.

³³⁵⁰ Government invests in global partnership to treat gonorrhoea, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 28 October 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-invests-in-global-partnership-to-treat-gonorrhoea>.

Mental Health Act.³³⁵¹ On 2 December 2019, the change in law will come into effect.³³⁵² Personal health budgets are used in efforts to personalize care and provide patients with greater control over their health.³³⁵³

On 1 November 2019, the DHSC announced that EUR26 million in funding will be allocated to 25 trusts to support implementation of digital prescription technology.³³⁵⁴ The upgrade is in efforts to reduce medication errors, increase the speed of access, and ensure that information is stored in a single electronic record.³³⁵⁵ EUR26 million is the second installment of EUR78 million for the implementation of electronic prescribing systems over the next three years.³³⁵⁶

On 5 November 2019, the DHSC and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency added the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine to the list of medications that cannot be parallel exported from the UK.³³⁵⁷ The restriction was added in efforts to stop medication shortages for individuals that do not receive coverage from the national immunisation programme and must purchase the vaccine privately, such as overseas workers.³³⁵⁸

On 5 November 2019, Secretary Hancock announced that 2,250 inpatients with learning disabilities and autism that are situated in a mental health hospital will have their cases reviewed.³³⁵⁹ This decision was made to reduce the number of patients in restrictive settings in accordance with recommendations by the Care Quality Commission.³³⁶⁰ Additional measures include increasing transparency regarding inpatients with mental health conditions and providing mandatory training to

³³⁵¹ 100,000 more people to be given personal health budgets, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 31 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/100-000-more-people-to-be-given-personal-health-budgets>.

³³⁵² 100,000 more people to be given personal health budgets, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 31 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/100-000-more-people-to-be-given-personal-health-budgets>.

³³⁵³ 100,000 more people to be given personal health budgets, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 31 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/100-000-more-people-to-be-given-personal-health-budgets>.

³³⁵⁴ £26 million to help hospitals introduce digital prescriptions, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/26-million-to-help-hospitals-introduce-digital-prescriptions>.

³³⁵⁵ £26 million to help hospitals introduce digital prescriptions, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/26-million-to-help-hospitals-introduce-digital-prescriptions>.

³³⁵⁶ £26 million to help hospitals introduce digital prescriptions, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/26-million-to-help-hospitals-introduce-digital-prescriptions>.

³³⁵⁷ Medicines that cannot be parallel exported from the UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/medicines-that-cannot-be-parallel-exported-from-the-uk>

³³⁵⁸ New measures to secure MMR vaccine for private patients, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-secure-mmr-vaccine-for-private-patients>.

³³⁵⁹ All inpatients with learning disability or autism to be given case reviews, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-inpatients-with-learning-disability-or-autism-to-be-given-case-reviews>.

³³⁶⁰ All inpatients with learning disability or autism to be given case reviews, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-inpatients-with-learning-disability-or-autism-to-be-given-case-reviews>.

NHS and social care workers.³³⁶¹ EUR1.4 million government funds will be used to provide the necessary training.³³⁶²

On 9 November 2019, Secretary Hancock apologized to Bethany, a young girl with autism that was locked up for nearly three years based on terms set forth in the Mental Health Act.³³⁶³ Hancock indicated that the situation is under a serious case review and recommendations will be made going forward.³³⁶⁴

On 16 December 2019, the Scottish government published “An Integrated Health and Social Workforce Plan for Scotland,” in partnership with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities.³³⁶⁵ The plan presents ideas to planners and employers in local authorities, NHS, third and independent sector to meet health and social care needs by planning resources needed to build sustainable health systems.³³⁶⁶

On 18 December 2019, Secretary Hancock delivered a speech at Policy Exchange indicating his prioritization of prevention, people, technology, and infrastructure.³³⁶⁷ Hancock reiterated commitments made leading up to the UK general election on 12 December 2019.³³⁶⁸ Commitments included building 40 new hospitals in the next decade, establishing 50 million more general practitioner appointments, and recruiting more healthcare professionals.³³⁶⁹ Recruitment targets include 50,000 nurses, 6,000 general practitioners, and 6,000 primary care professionals.³³⁷⁰ Hancock

³³⁶¹ All inpatients with learning disability or autism to be given case reviews, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-inpatients-with-learning-disability-or-autism-to-be-given-case-reviews>.

³³⁶² All inpatients with learning disability or autism to be given case reviews, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-inpatients-with-learning-disability-or-autism-to-be-given-case-reviews>.

³³⁶³ Bethany: Health secretary sorry over care for locked-up autistic girl, Sky News (London) 9 November 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://news.sky.com/story/autistic-bethany-will-be-moved-before-christmas-says-health-secretary-matt-hancock-11857982>; ‘My autistic daughter was held in a cell for two years’, BBC News (London) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/education-50252079>.

³³⁶⁴ Bethany: Health secretary sorry over care for locked-up autistic girl, Sky News (London) 9 November 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://news.sky.com/story/autistic-bethany-will-be-moved-before-christmas-says-health-secretary-matt-hancock-11857982>.

³³⁶⁵ Health and social care: integrated workforce plan, Health Workforce, Leadership and Service Transformation Directorate (Edinburgh) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-health-social-care-integrated-workforce-plan/>.

³³⁶⁶ Health and social care: integrated workforce plan, Health Workforce, Leadership and Service Transformation Directorate (Edinburgh) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-health-social-care-integrated-workforce-plan/>.

³³⁶⁷ What record NHS investment means for each of my priorities, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/what-record-nhs-investment-means-for-each-of-my-priorities>.

³³⁶⁸ What record NHS investment means for each of my priorities, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/what-record-nhs-investment-means-for-each-of-my-priorities>.

³³⁶⁹ What record NHS investment means for each of my priorities, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/what-record-nhs-investment-means-for-each-of-my-priorities>.

³³⁷⁰ What record NHS investment means for each of my priorities, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/what-record-nhs-investment-means-for-each-of-my-priorities>.

also announced EUR2 billion to support trainee nurses.³³⁷¹ Students will receive at least EUR5,000 extra per year and up to EUR3,000 under certain conditions.³³⁷²

On 19 December 2019, newly re-elected Prime Minister Johnson delivered the Queen's Speech.³³⁷³ Johnson promised to dedicate EUR34 billion in the new NHS Funding Bill.³³⁷⁴

On 4 January 2020, the UK government announced EUR40 million of funding for frontline technology in the NHS.³³⁷⁵ The goal is to reduce the amount of time staff spend logging into computer systems and increase the amount of time dedicated to patients.³³⁷⁶ Also, EUR4.5 million of funding will be directed towards digital adult social care projects to help vulnerable populations live independently.³³⁷⁷

On 13 January 2020, Chair of NHS England Lord Prior announced a collaboration with pharmaceutical company Novartis at the J.P. healthcare conference in San Francisco.³³⁷⁸ NHS England, the National Institute for Health Research, and Oxford University are involved in the partnership that aims to reduce heart disease among NHS patients.³³⁷⁹ The partnership will offer Inclisiran to patients at risk of heart disease which will help them reduce cholesterol levels.³³⁸⁰ The partnership also aims to increase the accessibility of NHS infrastructure and technology.³³⁸¹

³³⁷¹ Nursing students to receive £5,000 payment a year, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nursing-students-to-receive-5-000-payment-a-year>.

³³⁷² Nursing students to receive £5,000 payment a year, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nursing-students-to-receive-5-000-payment-a-year>.

³³⁷³ NHS PRIORITY Queen's Speech: Boris Johnson to enshrine in law his £34 billion NHS spending pledge, The Sun (London) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/10586993/queens-speech-boris-johnson-nhs-pledge-law/>.

³³⁷⁴ NHS PRIORITY Queen's Speech: Boris Johnson to enshrine in law his £34 billion NHS spending pledge, The Sun (London) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/10586993/queens-speech-boris-johnson-nhs-pledge-law/>.

³³⁷⁵ €40 million investment to reduce NHS staff login times, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 4 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/40-million-investment-to-reduce-nhs-staff-login-times>.

³³⁷⁶ €40 million investment to reduce NHS staff login times, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 4 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/40-million-investment-to-reduce-nhs-staff-login-times>.

³³⁷⁷ €40 million investment to reduce NHS staff login times, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 4 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/40-million-investment-to-reduce-nhs-staff-login-times>.

³³⁷⁸ New heart disease drug to be made available for NHS patients, NHS England (London) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-heart-disease-drug-to-be-made-available-for-nhs-patients>.

³³⁷⁹ New heart disease drug to be made available for NHS patients, NHS England (London) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-heart-disease-drug-to-be-made-available-for-nhs-patients>.

³³⁸⁰ UK Government tackles heart disease with new partnership, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-tackles-heart-disease-with-new-partnership>.

³³⁸¹ UK Government tackles heart disease with new partnership, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-tackles-heart-disease-with-new-partnership>.

On 15 January 2020, Secretary Hancock introduced the NHS Long Term Plan Funding Bill to Parliament.³³⁸² The bill mandates that the government provide EUR33.9 billion to the NHS every year by 2024, resulting in a total of EUR148.5 billion by 2024.³³⁸³ The bill will place a “double-lock commitment,” legal obligation on Secretary of State and Treasury to uphold this minimum level of funding for the next 4 years.³³⁸⁴

On 22 January 2020, the DHSC and PHE stated there would be enhanced monitoring on direct flights from Wuhan to the UK.³³⁸⁵ A Port Health team, composed of a port medical inspector, port health doctor, administrative support, and team leader, will be present.³³⁸⁶ The team will provide advice and support for travellers that feel unwell, and check for symptoms of COVID-19.³³⁸⁷

On 3 February 2020, the UK government announced EUR20 million in funding for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations.³³⁸⁸ The funding will be used to develop vaccines and diagnostics to fight COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.³³⁸⁹ Currently, there are three new programs aimed at developing a vaccine against coronavirus.³³⁹⁰

On 4 February 2020, PHE scientists fully sequenced the coronavirus genome.³³⁹¹ The sequence can aid the scientific community in understanding viral mutations and methods of virus transmission.³³⁹²

On 6 February 2020, the UK government and NHS announced EUR1.5 billion in funding over the next four years for general practice.³³⁹³ The funding will be used to reach the government's goal of 50

³³⁸² NHS funding bill enters Parliament, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-funding-bill-enters-parliament>.

³³⁸³ NHS funding bill enters Parliament, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-funding-bill-enters-parliament>.

³³⁸⁴ NHS funding bill enters Parliament, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-funding-bill-enters-parliament>.

³³⁸⁵ DHSC and PHE statement on coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England (London) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dhsc-and-phe-statement-on-coronavirus>.

³³⁸⁶ DHSC and PHE statement on coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England (London) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dhsc-and-phe-statement-on-coronavirus>.

³³⁸⁷ DHSC and PHE statement on coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England (London) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dhsc-and-phe-statement-on-coronavirus>.

³³⁸⁸ €20m announced to fund vaccines for coronavirus and other infectious diseases, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/20m-announced-to-fund-vaccines-for-coronavirus-and-other-infectious-diseases>.

³³⁸⁹ €20m announced to fund vaccines for coronavirus and other infectious diseases, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/20m-announced-to-fund-vaccines-for-coronavirus-and-other-infectious-diseases>.

³³⁹⁰ €20m announced to fund vaccines for coronavirus and other infectious diseases, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/20m-announced-to-fund-vaccines-for-coronavirus-and-other-infectious-diseases>.

³³⁹¹ PHE reaches crucial step in fully sequencing novel coronavirus, Public Health England (London) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/phe-reaches-crucial-step-in-fully-sequencing-novel-coronavirus>.

³³⁹² PHE reaches crucial step in fully sequencing novel coronavirus, Public Health England (London) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/phe-reaches-crucial-step-in-fully-sequencing-novel-coronavirus>.

³³⁹³ €1.5 billion to deliver Government commitment for 50 million more general practice appointments, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/15-billion-to-deliver-government-commitment-for-50-million-more-general-practice-appointments>.

million more general practice appointments by 2024.³³⁹⁴ The funding will be used to recruit 6,000 primary care professionals. Another goal is to develop initiatives for recruiting and retaining doctors.³³⁹⁵ The General Practice Contract for 2020/21 was also updated to include measures such as a greater number of check-ups for new mothers, an increase of 26,000 new staff, more health checks for vaccinations and learning disabilities, expanded referrals for social prescribing, and better safety checks for prescriptions.³³⁹⁶

On 8 February 2020, Secretary Sharma pledged EUR5 million in funding to the World Health Organization (WHO) to support the Emergency Flash Appeal.³³⁹⁷ The funding will be used to train medical personnel and rapid response teams to prevent the spread of COVID-19.³³⁹⁸ The UK will also send experts to the WHO Regional Office for Africa to assist with the international response.³³⁹⁹

On 10 February 2020, COVID-19 diagnostic tests developed by PHE were introduced across the UK.³⁴⁰⁰ The rollout expands the number of diagnostic laboratories from one to twelve.³⁴⁰¹ The goal is to increase testing capacity across the UK, with the number of tests in England increasing from 100 to 1,000 people each day.³⁴⁰²

On 10 February 2020, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock announced that the Health Protection (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020 were in effect to reduce the spread of COVID-19.³⁴⁰³ The regulations state that individuals can be restricted if they are deemed a public health threat

³³⁹⁴ €1.5 billion to deliver Government commitment for 50 million more general practice appointments, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/15-billion-to-deliver-government-commitment-for-50-million-more-general-practice-appointments>.

³³⁹⁵ €1.5 billion to deliver Government commitment for 50 million more general practice appointments, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/15-billion-to-deliver-government-commitment-for-50-million-more-general-practice-appointments>.

³³⁹⁶ €1.5 billion to deliver Government commitment for 50 million more general practice appointments, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/15-billion-to-deliver-government-commitment-for-50-million-more-general-practice-appointments>.

³³⁹⁷ New UK aid to help stop the spread of coronavirus around the world, Department for International Development (London) 8 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-aid-to-help-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus-around-the-world>.

³³⁹⁸ New UK aid to help stop the spread of coronavirus around the world, Department for International Development (London) 8 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-aid-to-help-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus-around-the-world>.

³³⁹⁹ New UK aid to help stop the spread of coronavirus around the world, Department for International Development (London) 8 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-aid-to-help-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus-around-the-world>.

³⁴⁰⁰ PHE novel coronavirus diagnostic test rolled out across UK, Public Health England (London) 7 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/phe-novel-coronavirus-diagnostic-test-rolled-out-across-uk>.

³⁴⁰¹ PHE novel coronavirus diagnostic test rolled out across UK, Public Health England (London) 7 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/phe-novel-coronavirus-diagnostic-test-rolled-out-across-uk>.

³⁴⁰² PHE novel coronavirus diagnostic test rolled out across UK, Public Health England (London) 7 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/phe-novel-coronavirus-diagnostic-test-rolled-out-across-uk>.

³⁴⁰³ Health Secretary announces strengthened legal powers to bolster public health protections against coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-secretary-announces-strengthened-legal-powers-to-bolster-public-health-protections-against-coronavirus>.

by health professionals.³⁴⁰⁴ Regulation 3 indicates that COVID-19 is a serious public health threat.³⁴⁰⁵ In accordance with Regulation 2, Hancock also designated the following locations as isolation facilities: Arrowe Park Hospital and Kents Hill Park.³⁴⁰⁶ On 25 February 2020, Heathrow Ariel Hotel was added as an isolation facility.³⁴⁰⁷

On 11 February 2020, the DHSC announced that the impact of coronavirus on medical supply will be monitored.³⁴⁰⁸ The government asked medical suppliers to conduct business risk assessments to indicate the level of impact.³⁴⁰⁹ Also, companies were urged to hold existing medical supplies when possible to ensure an adequate supply upon leaving the European Union.³⁴¹⁰

On 13 February 2020, the Medicines and Medical Devices bill was introduced for NHS hospitals.³⁴¹¹ The bill permits a greater range of professionals to prescribe low risk medicines and introduces new safety regulations for medical devices.³⁴¹² Also, the bill allows hospitals to personalize treatments for patients with unique diseases.³⁴¹³

On 17 February 2020, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) launched a social media awareness campaign regarding polypharmacy.³⁴¹⁴ Individuals can report suspected side effects using the Yellow Card Scheme to inform safe medication usage and regulation.³⁴¹⁵

³⁴⁰⁴ Health Secretary announces strengthened legal powers to bolster public health protections against coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-secretary-announces-strengthened-legal-powers-to-bolster-public-health-protections-against-coronavirus>.

³⁴⁰⁵ Secretary of State makes new regulations on coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/secretary-of-state-makes-new-regulations-on-coronavirus#history>.

³⁴⁰⁶ Secretary of State makes new regulations on coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/secretary-of-state-makes-new-regulations-on-coronavirus#history>.

³⁴⁰⁷ Secretary of State makes new regulations on coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/secretary-of-state-makes-new-regulations-on-coronavirus#history>.

³⁴⁰⁸ Government to monitor impact of coronavirus on UK medicine supply, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-monitor-impact-of-coronavirus-on-uk-medicine-supply>.

³⁴⁰⁹ Government to monitor impact of coronavirus on UK medicine supply, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-monitor-impact-of-coronavirus-on-uk-medicine-supply>.

³⁴¹⁰ Government to monitor impact of coronavirus on UK medicine supply, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-monitor-impact-of-coronavirus-on-uk-medicine-supply>.

³⁴¹¹ New bill gives hospitals power to develop personalised treatment, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-bill-gives-hospitals-power-to-develop-personalised-treatment>.

³⁴¹² New bill gives hospitals power to develop personalised treatment, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-bill-gives-hospitals-power-to-develop-personalised-treatment>.

³⁴¹³ New bill gives hospitals power to develop personalised treatment, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-bill-gives-hospitals-power-to-develop-personalised-treatment>.

³⁴¹⁴ Taking multiple medicines? Support the Yellow Card scheme by reporting suspected side effects, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (London) 17 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/taking-multiple-medicines-support-the-yellow-card-scheme-by-reporting-suspected-side-effects>.

On 20 February 2020, the UK government announced EUR10 million in funding for medical research.³⁴¹⁶ Life Sciences Minister Nadhim Zahawi launched the Innovation Scholars Scheme to generate new technologies and treatments for NHS patients.³⁴¹⁷ UK researchers and businesses can use the funding to develop treatments for life-threatening conditions.³⁴¹⁸

On 26 February 2020, PHE and the NHS launched a new COVID-19 surveillance system to prevent the spread of coronavirus.³⁴¹⁹ The system will be implemented in some NHS hospital intensive care units and severe respiratory failure centres.³⁴²⁰ The goal of the surveillance strategy is to quickly detect the spread of coronavirus across England.³⁴²¹

On 3 March 2020, Prime Minister Johnson announced the coronavirus action plan.³⁴²² An official document was published online to highlight the government's plans as well as preventative measures citizens can implement.³⁴²³ The plan has four stages: contain, delay, research, and mitigate.³⁴²⁴ The plan also discusses measures that should be implemented in the case that the virus becomes a pandemic.³⁴²⁵

On 2 March 2020, the MHRA implemented changes to import restrictions on cannabis-based medicines.³⁴²⁶ The changes will allow licensed wholesalers to import larger quantities and hold

³⁴¹⁵ Taking multiple medicines? Support the Yellow Card scheme by reporting suspected side effects, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (London) 17 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/taking-multiple-medicines-support-the-yellow-card-scheme-by-reporting-suspected-side-effects>.

³⁴¹⁶ €10 million boost to improve patient care with new technologies, Office for Life Sciences (London) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/10-million-boost-to-improve-patient-care-with-new-technologies>.

³⁴¹⁷ €10 million boost to improve patient care with new technologies, Office for Life Sciences (London) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/10-million-boost-to-improve-patient-care-with-new-technologies>.

³⁴¹⁸ €10 million boost to improve patient care with new technologies, Office for Life Sciences (London) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/10-million-boost-to-improve-patient-care-with-new-technologies>.

³⁴¹⁹ New surveillance system for early detection of COVID-19, Public Health England (London) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-surveillance-system-for-early-detection-of-covid-19>.

³⁴²⁰ New surveillance system for early detection of COVID-19, Public Health England (London) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-surveillance-system-for-early-detection-of-covid-19>.

³⁴²¹ New surveillance system for early detection of COVID-19, Public Health England (London) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-surveillance-system-for-early-detection-of-covid-19>.

³⁴²² Coronavirus action plan launched, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-action-plan-launched>.

³⁴²³ Coronavirus action plan launched, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-action-plan-launched>.

³⁴²⁴ Coronavirus action plan launched, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-action-plan-launched>.

³⁴²⁵ Coronavirus action plan launched, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-action-plan-launched>.

³⁴²⁶ Faster access to cannabis-based medicines as import restrictions are changed, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/faster-access-to-cannabis-based-medicines-as-import-restrictions-are-changed>.

supplies.³⁴²⁷ These changes will ensure that treatment is not delayed for individuals with rare and serious epilepsy or multiple sclerosis.³⁴²⁸

On 2 March 2020, the E3 committed EUR3 million to Iran through the WHO or United Nations agencies.³⁴²⁹ The financial support will be used to aid Iran in their fight against the coronavirus.³⁴³⁰ The E3 consists of France, Germany, and the UK.³⁴³¹ The E3 also committed material support, such as equipment for laboratory tests, protective body suits, and gloves.³⁴³²

On 3 March 2020, the DHSC announced the next phase of the “We Are The NHS” multimedia recruitment campaign, aimed at recruiting healthcare professionals to the NHS.³⁴³³ The latest phase aims to recruit paramedics, radiographers, and nurses.³⁴³⁴ Efforts are aligned with the government’s goal of recruiting 50,000 more nurses and 26,000 primary care professionals to the NHS by 2024/25.³⁴³⁵

On 3 March 2020 to 10 March 2020, the MHRA Enforcement Team and UK Border Force participated in Operation Pangea XIII which spanned 90 countries.³⁴³⁶ Police and health authorities took part in Operation Pangea XIII which aimed to stop online sales of medical and hygiene products to prevent exploitation of high market demand.³⁴³⁷

³⁴²⁷ Faster access to cannabis-based medicines as import restrictions are changed, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/faster-access-to-cannabis-based-medicines-as-import-restrictions-are-changed>.

³⁴²⁸ Faster access to cannabis-based medicines as import restrictions are changed, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/faster-access-to-cannabis-based-medicines-as-import-restrictions-are-changed>.

³⁴²⁹ €5 million to help fight coronavirus in Iran: E3 statement, Department for International Development (London) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/e3-statement-on-5-million-to-help-fight-coronavirus-in-iran-02-march-2020>.

³⁴³⁰ €5 million to help fight coronavirus in Iran: E3 statement, Department for International Development (London) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/e3-statement-on-5-million-to-help-fight-coronavirus-in-iran-02-march-2020>.

³⁴³¹ €5 million to help fight coronavirus in Iran: E3 statement, Department for International Development (London) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/e3-statement-on-5-million-to-help-fight-coronavirus-in-iran-02-march-2020>.

³⁴³² €5 million to help fight coronavirus in Iran: E3 statement, Department for International Development (London) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/e3-statement-on-5-million-to-help-fight-coronavirus-in-iran-02-march-2020>.

³⁴³³ National recruitment campaign for paramedics, radiographers and nurses begins, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-recruitment-campaign-for-paramedics-radiographers-and-nurses-begins>.

³⁴³⁴ National recruitment campaign for paramedics, radiographers and nurses begins, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-recruitment-campaign-for-paramedics-radiographers-and-nurses-begins>.

³⁴³⁵ National recruitment campaign for paramedics, radiographers and nurses begins, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-recruitment-campaign-for-paramedics-radiographers-and-nurses-begins>.

³⁴³⁶ Coronavirus: global crackdown sees a rise in unlicensed medical products related to COVID-19, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (London) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-global-crackdown-sees-a-rise-in-unlicensed-medical-products-related-to-covid-19>.

³⁴³⁷ Coronavirus: global crackdown sees a rise in unlicensed medical products related to COVID-19, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (London) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-global-crackdown-sees-a-rise-in-unlicensed-medical-products-related-to-covid-19>.

On 5 March 2020, Universal Mental Health Day, the DHSC announced EUR1 million in funding for innovative student mental health projects.³⁴³⁸ The funding will be focused on reaching students at risk of mental health concerns, as well as individuals that face barriers in accessing resources.³⁴³⁹

On 5 March 2020, the UK government listed COVID-19 as a notifiable disease, requiring general practitioners to report any cases to PHE by law.³⁴⁴⁰

On 11 March 2020, Chancellor Rishi Sunak announced EUR5 billion for the COVID-19 fund.³⁴⁴¹ EUR1.6 billion will be directed to local authorities to assist with the COVID-19 response.³⁴⁴² Funds will support adult social care workers and services for vulnerable individuals.³⁴⁴³ EUR1.3 billion will support a safe and fast NHS discharge process for patients that no longer require urgent care.³⁴⁴⁴ Such actions will help vacate 15,000 NHS beds in England.³⁴⁴⁵

On 15 March 2020, the DHSC announced EUR16 million in funding in 2020/21 to increase the availability of the drug PrEP across England.³⁴⁴⁶ The goal is to provide PrEP at sexual health clinics for individuals at high risk of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).³⁴⁴⁷ Such actions align with the government's aim to end HIV transmission by 2030.³⁴⁴⁸

³⁴³⁸ €1 million for innovative student mental health projects, Department of Health and Social Care and Department for Education (London) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-for-innovative-student-mental-health-projects>.

³⁴³⁹ €1 million for innovative student mental health projects, Department of Health and Social Care and Department for Education (London) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-for-innovative-student-mental-health-projects>.

³⁴⁴⁰ Coronavirus (COVID-19) listed as a notifiable disease, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-listed-as-a-notifiable-disease>.

³⁴⁴¹ Support for those affected by COVID-19, HM Treasury (London) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-those-affected-by-covid-19>.

³⁴⁴² €2.9 billion funding to strengthen care for the vulnerable, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2-9-billion-funding-to-strengthen-care-for-the-vulnerable>.

³⁴⁴³ €2.9 billion funding to strengthen care for the vulnerable, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2-9-billion-funding-to-strengthen-care-for-the-vulnerable>.

³⁴⁴⁴ €2.9 billion funding to strengthen care for the vulnerable, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2-9-billion-funding-to-strengthen-care-for-the-vulnerable>.

³⁴⁴⁵ €2.9 billion funding to strengthen care for the vulnerable, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2-9-billion-funding-to-strengthen-care-for-the-vulnerable>.

³⁴⁴⁶ HIV drug PrEP to be available across England, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hiv-drug-prep-to-be-available-across-england>.

³⁴⁴⁷ HIV drug PrEP to be available across England, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hiv-drug-prep-to-be-available-across-england>.

³⁴⁴⁸ HIV drug PrEP to be available across England, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hiv-drug-prep-to-be-available-across-england>.

On 16 March 2020, Prime Minister Johnson called on leading manufacturers in the UK to increase production of ventilators among other vital medical equipment to help the NHS.³⁴⁴⁹ Contributions can be made on several levels, including: design, procurement, assembly, testing, and shipping.³⁴⁵⁰ On 26 March 2020, Prime Minister Johnson asked suppliers and manufacturers to increase ventilator production.³⁴⁵¹

On 17 March 2020, the UK government announced new ministerial structures to combat COVID-19 across the government.³⁴⁵² Prime Minister Johnson will chair daily COVID-19 meetings that involve four new implementation committees.³⁴⁵³ The Health Secretary chairs the healthcare committee, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster chairs the general public sector committee, the Chancellor chairs the economic and business committee, and the Foreign Secretary chairs the international committee.³⁴⁵⁴

On 17 March 2020, NHS England announced efforts to free up 20,000 of 100,000 hospital beds to cope with COVID-19 patients burdening hospitals.³⁴⁵⁵ Efforts include postponing non-urgent operations and greater reliance on community care.³⁴⁵⁶

On 18 March 2020, Prime Minister Johnson outlined UK foreign aid during a press conference on COVID-19.³⁴⁵⁷ He stated that the UK pledged EUR91 million to international efforts, and EUR150 million to the International Monetary Fund's "Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust" to stop transmission and aid countries in managing the effects of the outbreak.³⁴⁵⁸

On 18 March 2020, the UK government announced plans to increase PHE COVID-19 testing to 25,000 hospital patients each day.³⁴⁵⁹ Point-of-care swab tests will be developed to test suspected patients outside of the hospital.³⁴⁶⁰

³⁴⁴⁹ PM call with UK's leading manufacturers, Prime Minister's Office (London) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-call-with-uks-leading-manufacturers-16-march-2020>.

³⁴⁵⁰ PM call with UK's leading manufacturers, Prime Minister's Office (London) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-call-with-uks-leading-manufacturers-16-march-2020>.

³⁴⁵¹ PM call with ventilator manufacturers and suppliers, Prime Minister's Office (London) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-call-with-ventilator-manufacturers-and-suppliers-26-march-2020>.

³⁴⁵² New government structures to coordinate response to coronavirus, Prime Minister's Office (London) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-government-structures-to-coordinate-response-to-coronavirus>.

³⁴⁵³ New government structures to coordinate response to coronavirus, Prime Minister's Office (London) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-government-structures-to-coordinate-response-to-coronavirus>.

³⁴⁵⁴ New government structures to coordinate response to coronavirus, Prime Minister's Office (London) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-government-structures-to-coordinate-response-to-coronavirus>.

³⁴⁵⁵ Coronavirus: Thousands of extra hospital beds and staff, BBC News (London) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-51989183>.

³⁴⁵⁶ Coronavirus: Thousands of extra hospital beds and staff, BBC News (London) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-51989183>.

³⁴⁵⁷ UK takes drastic measures to tackle COVID-19, British Embassy Beijing (Beijing) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-takes-drastic-measures-to-tackle-covid-19>.

³⁴⁵⁸ UK takes drastic measures to tackle COVID-19, British Embassy Beijing (Beijing) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-takes-drastic-measures-to-tackle-covid-19>.

³⁴⁵⁹ Testing for coronavirus (COVID-19) will increase to 25,000 a day, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/testing-for-coronavirus-covid-19-will-increase-to-25-000-a-day>.

On 20 March 2020, the UK government announced a parallel export ban for more than eighty medicines relevant to COVID-19.³⁴⁶¹ The ban will ensure that there is no shortage for coronavirus patients.³⁴⁶² Companies that violate the ban can face consequences by the MHRA.³⁴⁶³

On 20 March 2020, the United States Food and Drug Administration awarded PHE scientists USD500,000 for vaccine and treatment development.³⁴⁶⁴ The funding supports the international response to COVID-19.³⁴⁶⁵

On 20 March 2020, schools, colleges, and early year settings were closed to reduce the spread of COVID-19 to all students except children of key workers and vulnerable children.³⁴⁶⁶ Entertainment, hospitality, and indoor leisure premises were also closed across England.³⁴⁶⁷ Measures were implemented to reduce the spread of COVID-19.³⁴⁶⁸

On 21 March 2020, Secretary Hancock enacted the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Business Closure) (England) Regulations 2020.³⁴⁶⁹ The measures include prohibition of food and drink sales on various premises.³⁴⁷⁰

On 21 March 2020, the NHS made a deal with private hospitals to provide 8,000 extra hospital beds in England, 1,200 ventilators, and 20,000 staff to aid the coronavirus response.³⁴⁷¹

On 23 March 2020, the UK government announced EUR20 million in funding for the COVID-19 Genomics UK Consortium.³⁴⁷² The NHS, PHE, UK Research and Innovation, Wellcome Sanger

³⁴⁶⁰ Testing for coronavirus (COVID-19) will increase to 25,000 a day, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/testing-for-coronavirus-covid-19-will-increase-to-25-000-a-day>.

³⁴⁶¹ Crucial medicines protected for coronavirus (COVID-19) patients, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/crucial-medicines-protected-for-coronavirus-covid-19-patients>.

³⁴⁶² Crucial medicines protected for coronavirus (COVID-19) patients, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/crucial-medicines-protected-for-coronavirus-covid-19-patients>.

³⁴⁶³ Crucial medicines protected for coronavirus (COVID-19) patients, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/crucial-medicines-protected-for-coronavirus-covid-19-patients>.

³⁴⁶⁴ PHE plays crucial role in hunt for COVID-19 vaccine, Public Health England (London) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/phe-plays-crucial-role-in-hunt-for-covid-19-vaccine>.

³⁴⁶⁵ PHE plays crucial role in hunt for COVID-19 vaccine, Public Health England (London) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/phe-plays-crucial-role-in-hunt-for-covid-19-vaccine>.

³⁴⁶⁶ Schools, colleges and early years settings to close, Department of Education (Manchester) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/schools-colleges-and-early-years-settings-to-close>.

³⁴⁶⁷ Government announces further measures on social distances, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (London) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-further-measures-on-social-distancing>.

³⁴⁶⁸ Government announces further measures on social distances, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (London) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-further-measures-on-social-distancing>.

³⁴⁶⁹ New regulations created by Secretary of State for business closure (COVID-19), Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-regulations-created-by-secretary-of-state-for-business-closure-covid-19>.

³⁴⁷⁰ New regulations created by Secretary of State for business closure (COVID-19), Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-regulations-created-by-secretary-of-state-for-business-closure-covid-19>.

³⁴⁷¹ Coronavirus: Thousands of extra hospital beds and staff, BBC News (London) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-51989183>.

Institute, and other institutions, will work together to facilitate whole genome sequencing of COVID-19 in order to understand spreading patterns and mutations.³⁴⁷³

On 23 March 2020, the NHSX launched the Techforce19 challenge which can award EUR500,000 in funding overall for technology companies.³⁴⁷⁴ The goal is to provide digital solutions for individuals who must remain at home due to COVID-19.³⁴⁷⁵

On 23 March 2020, Business Secretary Alok Sharma announced EUR20 million of government investment in six coronavirus research projects aimed at vaccine development and treatment.³⁴⁷⁶ Other projects involve repurposing existing therapies, using antibodies to target the virus, drug testing, and collecting data regarding infected patients.³⁴⁷⁷

On 24 March 2020, Secretary Hancock stated that the government is seeking 250,000 volunteers to aid the NHS during COVID-19.³⁴⁷⁸ The NHS Volunteer Responders will help 1.5 million people with tasks such as medicine delivery.³⁴⁷⁹

On 24 March 2020, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock stated that the ExCel center will be converted to an intensive care unit named NHS Nightingale.³⁴⁸⁰ The temporary hospital will have 4,000 available beds for potential COVID-19 patients.³⁴⁸¹

On 25 March 2020 the Coronavirus Bill became an Act of Parliament.³⁴⁸² The bill allows the UK government to implement emergency measures in response to COVID-19 for two years.³⁴⁸³ The bill

³⁴⁷² UK launches whole genome sequence alliance to map spread of coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-launches-whole-genome-sequence-alliance-to-map-spread-of-coronavirus>.

³⁴⁷³ UK launches whole genome sequence alliance to map spread of coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-launches-whole-genome-sequence-alliance-to-map-spread-of-coronavirus>.

³⁴⁷⁴ New technology challenge to support people who are isolating, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-technology-challenge-to-support-people-who-are-isolating>.

³⁴⁷⁵ New technology challenge to support people who are isolating, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-technology-challenge-to-support-people-who-are-isolating>.

³⁴⁷⁶ Vaccine trials among recipients of €20 million coronavirus research investment, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vaccine-trials-among-recipients-of-20-million-coronavirus-research-investment>.

³⁴⁷⁷ Vaccine trials among recipients of €20 million coronavirus research investment, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vaccine-trials-among-recipients-of-20-million-coronavirus-research-investment>.

³⁴⁷⁸ UK asks for 250,000 volunteers to help its health service cope with the coronavirus outbreak, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 24 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/03/24/uk-asks-for-250000-volunteers-to-help-its-health-service-cope-with-the-coronavirus-outbreak.html>.

³⁴⁷⁹ UK asks for 250,000 volunteers to help its health service cope with the coronavirus outbreak, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 24 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/03/24/uk-asks-for-250000-volunteers-to-help-its-health-service-cope-with-the-coronavirus-outbreak.html>.

³⁴⁸⁰ UK races to convert a convention hall into hospital for coronavirus patients, CNN (London) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/01/health/nightingale-hospital-london-coronavirus-intl-gbr/index.html>.

³⁴⁸¹ UK races to convert a convention hall into hospital for coronavirus patients, CNN (London) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/01/health/nightingale-hospital-london-coronavirus-intl-gbr/index.html>.

³⁴⁸² Lords examines emergency Covid-19 legislation, UK Parliament (London) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2020/march/lords-debates-emergency-covid-19-legislation/>.

forbids group gatherings and allows the government to order suspected COVID-19 cases to self-isolate, among other measures.³⁴⁸⁴

On 25 March 2020, the UK government launched the free coronavirus Information Service on WhatsApp.³⁴⁸⁵ The service is designed to offer information to the public regarding COVID-19, reducing the burden for the NHS.³⁴⁸⁶ The service will include information about prevention and symptoms, latest statistics, and general advice.³⁴⁸⁷

On 25 March 2020, the Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) announced an Open Call for Innovation for industry members interested in developing sanitizing technology for ambulances and other settings.³⁴⁸⁸ Such measures would reduce the amount of time required to clean ambulances after attending to an individual suspected of COVID-19.³⁴⁸⁹ DASA is working with the Welsh Government, The Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) Centre of Excellence, the Welsh Ambulance Service, Innovate UK, and the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory.³⁴⁹⁰

On 26 March 2020, Secretary Hancock announced that 15,266 former professionals in England offered to help the NHS with COVID-19.³⁴⁹¹ Also, 5,750 final year medics and 17,000 final year nursing students would be approached to consider assisting the NHS in the following week.³⁴⁹²

On 27 March 2020, the UK government pledged EUR210 million to fund a vaccine for the coronavirus.³⁴⁹³ The announcement was made following a virtual summit of G20 leaders.³⁴⁹⁴ The

³⁴⁸³ Emergency coronavirus legislation passed by MPs without opposition, The Guardian (London) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/23/mps-to-review-coronavirus-emergency-laws-every-six-months>.

³⁴⁸⁴ Emergency coronavirus legislation passed by MPs without opposition, The Guardian (London) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/23/mps-to-review-coronavirus-emergency-laws-every-six-months>.

³⁴⁸⁵ Government launches Coronavirus Information Service on WhatsApp, Cabinet Office (London) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-coronavirus-information-service-on-whatsapp>.

³⁴⁸⁶ Government launches Coronavirus Information Service on WhatsApp, Cabinet Office (London) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-coronavirus-information-service-on-whatsapp>.

³⁴⁸⁷ Government launches Coronavirus Information Service on WhatsApp, Cabinet Office (London) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-coronavirus-information-service-on-whatsapp>.

³⁴⁸⁸ COVID-19: Call for rapid sanitising technology for ambulances, Defence and Security Accelerator (London) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-call-for-rapid-sanitising-technology-for-ambulances>.

³⁴⁸⁹ COVID-19: Call for rapid sanitising technology for ambulances, Defence and Security Accelerator (London) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-call-for-rapid-sanitising-technology-for-ambulances>.

³⁴⁹⁰ COVID-19: Call for rapid sanitising technology for ambulances, Defence and Security Accelerator (London) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-call-for-rapid-sanitising-technology-for-ambulances>.

³⁴⁹¹ Health and Social Care Secretary responds to NHS workforce statistics, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-and-social-care-secretary-responds-to-nhs-workforce-statistics>.

³⁴⁹² Health and Social Care Secretary responds to NHS workforce statistics, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-and-social-care-secretary-responds-to-nhs-workforce-statistics>.

³⁴⁹³ UK pledges €544 million to find coronavirus vaccine, British High Commission New Delhi (New Delhi) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-pledges-544-million-to-find-coronavirus-vaccine>.

funds were allocated for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, bringing the UK total to EUR544 million.³⁴⁹⁵ The total funding involves EUR210 million for vaccine development, EUR40 million for treatment development, and EUR23 million for testing devices.³⁴⁹⁶

On 27 March 2020, the DHSC launched the new COVID-19 testing program for frontline NHS workers.³⁴⁹⁷ The program will involve both government and industry to increase COVID-10 testing.³⁴⁹⁸ Involved parties include Thermo Fisher Scientific, Amazon, Boots, Royal Mail and Randox, Wellcome Trust, and UK universities.³⁴⁹⁹ The goal is to inform NHS staff whether they need to self-isolate.³⁵⁰⁰

On 28 March 2020, Secretary Sharma temporarily suspended regulations to bring personal protective equipment and hand sanitizers to NHS staff more quickly.³⁵⁰¹ The intention is to protect healthcare workers on the frontline.³⁵⁰²

On 28 March 2020, Prime Minister Johnson wrote a letter to every household in the UK.³⁵⁰³ The intention advised individuals to stay home to protect the NHS and help the public at large.³⁵⁰⁴ The letters will be delivered to 30 million households across the UK to remind individuals to maintain social distancing to limit the spread of COVID-19.³⁵⁰⁵

³⁴⁹⁴ UK pledges €544 million to find coronavirus vaccine, British High Commission New Delhi (New Delhi) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-pledges-544-million-to-find-coronavirus-vaccine>.

³⁴⁹⁵ UK pledges €544 million to find coronavirus vaccine, British High Commission New Delhi (New Delhi) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-pledges-544-million-to-find-coronavirus-vaccine>.

³⁴⁹⁶ UK pledges €544 million to find coronavirus vaccine, British High Commission New Delhi (New Delhi) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-pledges-544-million-to-find-coronavirus-vaccine>.

³⁴⁹⁷ Government launches new drive on coronavirus tests for frontline NHS staff, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-drive-on-coronavirus-tests-for-frontline-nhs-staff>.

³⁴⁹⁸ Government launches new drive on coronavirus tests for frontline NHS staff, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-drive-on-coronavirus-tests-for-frontline-nhs-staff>.

³⁴⁹⁹ Government launches new drive on coronavirus tests for frontline NHS staff, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-drive-on-coronavirus-tests-for-frontline-nhs-staff>.

³⁵⁰⁰ Coronavirus: Health workers on frontline to be tested in England, BBC News (London) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-52070199>.

³⁵⁰¹ Regulations temporarily suspended to fast-track supplies of PPE to NHS staff and protect companies hit by COVID-19, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 28 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/regulations-temporarily-suspended-to-fast-track-supplies-of-ppe-to-nhs-staff-and-protect-companies-hit-by-covid-19>.

³⁵⁰² Regulations temporarily suspended to fast-track supplies of PPE to NHS staff and protect companies hit by COVID-19, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 28 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/regulations-temporarily-suspended-to-fast-track-supplies-of-ppe-to-nhs-staff-and-protect-companies-hit-by-covid-19>.

³⁵⁰³ PM letter to nation on coronavirus, Prime Minister's Office (London) 28 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pm-letter-to-nation-on-coronavirus>.

³⁵⁰⁴ PM letter to nation on coronavirus, Prime Minister's Office (London) 28 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pm-letter-to-nation-on-coronavirus>.

³⁵⁰⁵ PM letter to nation on coronavirus, Prime Minister's Office (London) 28 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pm-letter-to-nation-on-coronavirus>.

On 29 March 2020, Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick announced that the UK government delivered the first of 50,000 free food boxes along with medications supplied by community pharmacies to vulnerable populations.³⁵⁰⁶

On 29 March 2020, Mental Health Minister Nadine Dorries announced that the PHE published mental health guidance for individuals during the COVID-19 outbreak.³⁵⁰⁷ Mental health charities donated EUR5 million to help expand service and the guidance is supported by the NHS.³⁵⁰⁸

On 30 March 2020, Secretary Hancock temporarily approved two measures for early medical abortions: early abortion pills up to ten weeks without the need to visit a hospital or clinic, and prescription of pills by registered medical practitioners.³⁵⁰⁹ The measures were introduced to encourage individuals to stay at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵¹⁰

On 31 March 2020, the MHRA approved a breathing aid for COVID-19 patients.³⁵¹¹ The MHRA guided the University College London and Mercedes Formula One in the development of an adapted Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) device.³⁵¹² The device functions by providing the lungs with oxygen, reducing the need for a ventilator.³⁵¹³ Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Michael Gove stated that the 10,000 CPAP devices will be provided to patients.³⁵¹⁴

On 31 March 2020, Chancellor Sunak removed import taxes on medical equipment such as ventilators, coronavirus testing kits, face masks, protective garments, and eye protectors.³⁵¹⁵ The

³⁵⁰⁶ First food parcels delivered to clinically vulnerable people, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (London) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-food-parcels-delivered-to-clinically-vulnerable-people>.

³⁵⁰⁷ New advice to support mental health during coronavirus outbreak, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-advice-to-support-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak>.

³⁵⁰⁸ New advice to support mental health during coronavirus outbreak, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-advice-to-support-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak>.

³⁵⁰⁹ Temporary approval of home use for both stages of early medical abortion, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-approval-of-home-use-for-both-stages-of-early-medical-abortion--2>.

³⁵¹⁰ Temporary approval of home use for both stages of early medical abortion, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-approval-of-home-use-for-both-stages-of-early-medical-abortion--2>.

³⁵¹¹ MHRA approves new life-saving breathing aid to help keep coronavirus (COVID-19) patients out of intensive care, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mhra-approves-new-life-saving-breathing-aid-to-help-keep-coronavirus-covid-19-patients-out-of-intensive-care>.

³⁵¹² MHRA approves new life-saving breathing aid to help keep coronavirus (COVID-19) patients out of intensive care, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mhra-approves-new-life-saving-breathing-aid-to-help-keep-coronavirus-covid-19-patients-out-of-intensive-care>.

³⁵¹³ MHRA approves new life-saving breathing aid to help keep coronavirus (COVID-19) patients out of intensive care, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mhra-approves-new-life-saving-breathing-aid-to-help-keep-coronavirus-covid-19-patients-out-of-intensive-care>.

³⁵¹⁴ Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster opens the coronavirus press conference, Cabinet Office (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/chancellor-of-the-duchy-of-lancaster-opens-the-coronavirus-press-conference-31-march-2020>.

³⁵¹⁵ Chancellor waives duties and VAT on vital medical imports, HM Treasury (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-waives-duties-and-vat-on-vital-medical-imports>.

items will not be taxed according to customs duty or import VAT to increase the import of essential items during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵¹⁶

On 31 March 2020, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Michael Gove announced the first Penlon ventilators from the government's challenge will be delivered to the NHS in the following week.³⁵¹⁷ More ventilators are expected in the coming weeks.³⁵¹⁸

On 1 April 2020, the UK government provided EUR200 million to community pharmacies.³⁵¹⁹ An additional EUR100 million will be provided on 1 May 2020.³⁵²⁰ The funding will be used to help pharmacies continue delivering essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵²¹

On 2 April 2020, Secretary Hancock pledged that 100,000 COVID-19 tests will take place each day by the end of April.³⁵²² This pledge was part of the 5-pillar plan to increase testing capacity, which states the intention to increase swab testing, deliver increased commercial swab testing, develop blood testing, conduct UK wide surveillance, and create a national testing effort.³⁵²³

On 2 April 2020, Secretary Hancock announced EUR13.4 billion of NHS debt will be written off.³⁵²⁴ This intention is to provide the NHS with financial support to maintain services and improve infrastructure during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵²⁵

On 3 April 2020, the DHSC announced the Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 Therapy (RECOVERY).³⁵²⁶ RECOVERY will be the largest randomized clinical trial project in the world.³⁵²⁷

³⁵¹⁶ Chancellor waives duties and VAT on vital medical imports, HM Treasury (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-waives-duties-and-vat-on-vital-medical-imports>.

³⁵¹⁷ First new ventilators to roll off production line this weekend as industry answers call to step up manufacturing, Cabinet Office (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-new-ventilators-to-roll-off-production-line-this-weekend-as-industry-answers-call-to-step-up-manufacturing>.

³⁵¹⁸ First new ventilators to roll off production line this weekend as industry answers call to step up manufacturing, Cabinet Office (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-new-ventilators-to-roll-off-production-line-this-weekend-as-industry-answers-call-to-step-up-manufacturing>.

³⁵¹⁹ €300 million announced for community pharmacies to support them during coronavirus outbreak, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/300-million-announced-for-community-pharmacies-to-support-them-during-coronavirus-outbreak>.

³⁵²⁰ €300 million announced for community pharmacies to support them during coronavirus outbreak, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/300-million-announced-for-community-pharmacies-to-support-them-during-coronavirus-outbreak>.

³⁵²¹ €300 million announced for community pharmacies to support them during coronavirus outbreak, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/300-million-announced-for-community-pharmacies-to-support-them-during-coronavirus-outbreak>.

³⁵²² Health Secretary sets out plan to carry out 100,000 coronavirus tests a day, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-secretary-sets-out-plan-to-carry-out-100000-coronavirus-tests-a-day>.

³⁵²³ Health Secretary sets out plan to carry out 100,000 coronavirus tests a day, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-secretary-sets-out-plan-to-carry-out-100000-coronavirus-tests-a-day>.

³⁵²⁴ NHS to benefit from €13.4 billion debt write-off, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-to-benefit-from-13-4-billion-debt-write-off>.

³⁵²⁵ NHS to benefit from €13.4 billion debt write-off, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-to-benefit-from-13-4-billion-debt-write-off>.

³⁵²⁶ World's largest trial of potential coronavirus treatments rolled out across the UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-trial-of-potential-coronavirus-treatments-rolled-out-across-the-uk>.

³⁵²⁷ World's largest trial of potential coronavirus treatments rolled out across the UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-trial-of-potential-coronavirus-treatments-rolled-out-across-the-uk>.

1,000 patients across 132 hospitals were recruited thus far to test treatments including Lopinavir-Ritonavir, Dexamethasone, and Hydroxychloroquine.³⁵²⁸ The project received EUR2.1 million from the EUR20 million dedicated for research.³⁵²⁹ Funding sources include the UK Research and Innovation and the DHSC.³⁵³⁰

On 4 April 2020, Secretary Hancock launched the Coronavirus Status Checker on the NHS website.³⁵³¹ People with coronavirus symptoms can fill out the status checker and answer a questionnaire about their experience with the NHS.³⁵³² The purpose of the Coronavirus Status Checker is to collect information that can inform improvements to the NHS coronavirus response.³⁵³³

On 5 April 2020, the UK government pledged EUR200 million for global COVID-19 response efforts.³⁵³⁴ Of the EUR200 million, EUR130 million is for the United Nations, EUR65 million is for the World Health Organization, and EUR50 million is for the Red Cross.³⁵³⁵ The goal is to minimize the spread of COVID-19 during the second wave.³⁵³⁶

On 9 April 2020, Secretary Hancock launched a diagnostic lab network in Milton Keynes.³⁵³⁷ The lab is the largest in British history and will work to increase national testing.³⁵³⁸ Two other Lighthouse Labs will open in Alderley Park and Glasgow.³⁵³⁹

³⁵²⁸ World's largest trial of potential coronavirus treatments rolled out across the UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-trial-of-potential-coronavirus-treatments-rolled-out-across-the-uk>.

³⁵²⁹ World's largest trial of potential coronavirus treatments rolled out across the UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-trial-of-potential-coronavirus-treatments-rolled-out-across-the-uk>.

³⁵³⁰ World's largest trial of potential coronavirus treatments rolled out across the UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-trial-of-potential-coronavirus-treatments-rolled-out-across-the-uk>.

³⁵³¹ NHS asks people to share their coronavirus symptoms to help others, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 4 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-asks-people-to-share-their-coronavirus-symptoms-to-help-others>.

³⁵³² NHS asks people to share their coronavirus symptoms to help others, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 4 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-asks-people-to-share-their-coronavirus-symptoms-to-help-others>.

³⁵³³ NHS asks people to share their coronavirus symptoms to help others, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 4 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-asks-people-to-share-their-coronavirus-symptoms-to-help-others>.

³⁵³⁴ UK pledges 200 million pounds in aid to help stop second coronavirus wave, New York Times (London) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2020/04/11/world/europe/11reuters-health-coronavirus-britain-aid.html>.

³⁵³⁵ UK pledges 200 million pounds in aid to help stop second coronavirus wave, New York Times (London) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2020/04/11/world/europe/11reuters-health-coronavirus-britain-aid.html>.

³⁵³⁶ UK pledges 200 million pounds in aid to help stop second coronavirus wave, New York Times (London) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2020/04/11/world/europe/11reuters-health-coronavirus-britain-aid.html>.

³⁵³⁷ Health Secretary launches biggest diagnostic lab network in British history to test for coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-secretary-launches-biggest-diagnostic-lab-network-in-british-history-to-test-for-coronavirus>.

³⁵³⁸ Health Secretary launches biggest diagnostic lab network in British history to test for coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-secretary-launches-biggest-diagnostic-lab-network-in-british-history-to-test-for-coronavirus>.

On 9 April 2020, the UK government launched a campaign advising the public to remain at home over the Easter weekend.³⁵⁴⁰ The multimedia campaign aims to minimize the spread of COVID-19.³⁵⁴¹

On 10 April 2020, Secretary Hancock published a plan regarding personal protective equipment with three strands: guidance, distribution, and future supply.³⁵⁴² The purpose is to ensure that the equipment reaches individuals who are most in need.³⁵⁴³ Other existing measures include a 24-hour helpline for emergency equipment drops to healthcare providers and military intervention to help supply equipment.³⁵⁴⁴ There is also an impending website to aid healthcare providers.³⁵⁴⁵

On 10 April 2020, the British Medical Association called on the government to investigate the disproportionate death of black, Asian, and minority ethnic (BAME) doctors.³⁵⁴⁶ The first ten doctors who died from the virus in the UK were BAME, in addition to three of six nurses who have died.³⁵⁴⁷

On 13 April 2020, Chancellor Sunak announced that EUR14 billion will be allocated to public services from the coronavirus emergency response fund.³⁵⁴⁸ The NHS and local authorities will receive funding.³⁵⁴⁹

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems through investments in personnel, infrastructure, technology,

³⁵³⁹ Health Secretary launches biggest diagnostic lab network in British history to test for coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-secretary-launches-biggest-diagnostic-lab-network-in-british-history-to-test-for-coronavirus>.

³⁵⁴⁰ Coronavirus: Government launches campaign urging people to stay at home this easter, Prime Minister's Office (London) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-government-launches-campaign-urging-people-to-stay-at-home-this-easter>.

³⁵⁴¹ Coronavirus: Government launches campaign urging people to stay at home this easter, Prime Minister's Office (London) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-government-launches-campaign-urging-people-to-stay-at-home-this-easter>.

³⁵⁴² Coronavirus (COVID-19): personal protective equipment (PPE) plan, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe-plan>.

³⁵⁴³ Government sets out plan for national effort on PPE, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-plan-for-national-effort-on-ppe>.

³⁵⁴⁴ Government sets out plan for national effort on PPE, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-plan-for-national-effort-on-ppe>.

³⁵⁴⁵ Government sets out plan for national effort on PPE, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-plan-for-national-effort-on-ppe>.

³⁵⁴⁶ UK government urged to investigate coronavirus deaths of BAME doctors, The Guardian (London) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/apr/10/uk-coronavirus-deaths-bame-doctors-bma>.

³⁵⁴⁷ UK government urged to investigate coronavirus deaths of BAME doctors, The Guardian (London) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/apr/10/uk-coronavirus-deaths-bame-doctors-bma>.

³⁵⁴⁸ Chancellor provides over €14 billion for our NHS and vital public services, HM Treasury (London) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-provides-over-14-billion-for-our-nhs-and-vital-public-services>.

³⁵⁴⁹ Chancellor provides over €14 billion for our NHS and vital public services, HM Treasury (London) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-provides-over-14-billion-for-our-nhs-and-vital-public-services>.

research, as well as introducing unique strategies, programs, and funding for affected communities. The United Kingdom has also fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal healthcare coverage through providing aid to overseas British nationals and international citizens, increasing access to vaccines and treatments, introducing supportive services for the public, and contributing additional funding to the National Health Service.

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

Analyst: Jessica Saini

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage and to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

On 3 September 2019, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) will award USD170 million to Emergent BioSolutions of Gaithersburg, Maryland to purchase the smallpox vaccine for people at high risk for smallpox infection over the next decade.³⁵⁵⁰ This will build and replenish the Strategic National Stockpile in order to enhance biodefense preparedness.³⁵⁵¹ ASPR remains committed to the commitment of developing two additional vaccines and treatments for smallpox; Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, a component of ASPR, is still continuing to collaborate with federal and private partners to develop additional smallpox vaccines that can be administered to people at a high risk of infection or reaction to traditional vaccines and to develop antiviral drugs.³⁵⁵²

On 3 September 2019, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at HHS issued guidance on how to ensure equal access to services for all segments of the community during emergency circumstances, particularly Hurricane Dorian.³⁵⁵³ OCR has also declared a public health emergency and waived certain provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act within disaster areas for 72 hours so that patient information can be shared with family members and friends who may assist in their care and between covered entities for treatment purposes, public health activities and to prevent or lessen serious threat to health and safety.³⁵⁵⁴

³⁵⁵⁰ HHS Purchase Smallpox Vaccine to Enhance Biodefense Preparedness (Washington) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/03/hhs-purchases-smallpox-vaccine-to-enhance-biodefense-preparedness.html>.

³⁵⁵¹ HHS Purchase Smallpox Vaccine to Enhance Biodefense Preparedness (Washington) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/03/hhs-purchases-smallpox-vaccine-to-enhance-biodefense-preparedness.html>.

³⁵⁵² HHS Purchase Smallpox Vaccine to Enhance Biodefense Preparedness (Washington) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/03/hhs-purchases-smallpox-vaccine-to-enhance-biodefense-preparedness.html>.

³⁵⁵³ OCR Issues Guidance to Help Ensure Equal Access to Emergency Services and the Appropriate Sharing of Medical Information during Hurricane Dorian (Washington) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/03/ocr-issues-guidance-to-help-ensure-equal-access-during-hurricane-dorian.html>

³⁵⁵⁴ OCR Issues Guidance to Help Ensure Equal Access to Emergency Services and the Appropriate Sharing of Medical Information during Hurricane Dorian (Washington) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/03/ocr-issues-guidance-to-help-ensure-equal-access-during-hurricane-dorian.html>.

On 4 September 2019, HHS announced USD1.8 billion in funding would be going towards states so that they are able to expand access to treatment for the opioid crisis and support gathering of real-time overdose data.³⁵⁵⁵

On 10 September 2019, the HHS Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology provided funding for two Leading Edge Acceleration Projects in Health Information Technology to improve health care for all Americans. Projects aim to develop health information technology infrastructure to focus on consent management, population health research, enhancement of engagement with health research and care amongst underrepresented populations, appropriate data sharing between patients, researchers and clinicians and patient security and privacy.³⁵⁵⁶

On 10 September 2019, HHS through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded almost USD9 million to launch Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies pilot program. This program aims to improve access to and continuity of maternal obstetric care in rural communities specifically Missouri, New Mexico and Texas.³⁵⁵⁷ The unique aspect of this program is that network requirements provide a detailed outline of specific stakeholder involvement to focus on developing sustainable strategies at a regional level by focusing on financial stability in care, introducing telehealth and a network-based approach to ensure continuum of care.³⁵⁵⁸

On 11 September 2019, HHS through the HRSA awarded USD50 million for funding 77 health centres to support new organizations and existing health centres in improving access to quality healthcare in both rural and urban communities for vulnerable populations where financial, geographical or cultural barriers to affordable health care exist.³⁵⁵⁹

On 12 September 2019, HHS allocated USD351 million to states, territories and non-profit organizations through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Visiting Program, that provides voluntary, evidence-based home visiting to pregnant women and parents with young children up to kindergarten to enable many families, especially families considered at-risk, raise healthy children.³⁵⁶⁰ An additional USD18,7 million funding towards State Maternal Health Innovation through nine cooperative agreements will aid states to improve maternal health outcomes, particularly reduce maternal mortality.³⁵⁶¹ USD2.6 million will be allocated to Supporting Maternal Health Innovation to aid HRSA maternal health grantees and stakeholders in developing innovative and evidence-based

³⁵⁵⁵ Trump Administration Announces \$1.8 Billion in Funding to States to Continue Combating Opioid Crisis (Washington) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/04/trump-administration-announces-1-8-billion-funding-states-combating-opioid.html>.

³⁵⁵⁶ HHS Announces Health IT Awardees Focused on Innovative Interoperability Solutions (Washington) 10 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/10/hhs-announces-health-it-awardees-innovative-interoperability-solutions.html>.

³⁵⁵⁷ HHS Awards \$9 Million to Develop New Models to Improve Obstetrics Care in Rural Communities (Washington) 10 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/10/hhs-awards-9-million-new-models-obstetrics-care-rural-communities.html>.

³⁵⁵⁸ HHS Awards \$9 Million to Develop New Models to Improve Obstetrics Care in Rural Communities (Washington) 10 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/10/hhs-awards-9-million-new-models-obstetrics-care-rural-communities.html>.

³⁵⁵⁹ HHS Awards More than \$50 Million to Establish New Health Center Sites (Washington) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/11/hhs-awards-more-than-50-million-establish-new-health-center-sites.html>.

³⁵⁶⁰ HHS Awards \$374 Million to Programs Supporting Maternal and Child Health (Washington) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/12/hhs-awards-374-million-programs-supporting-maternal-child-health.html>

³⁵⁶¹ HHS Awards \$374 Million to Programs Supporting Maternal and Child Health (Washington) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/12/hhs-awards-374-million-programs-supporting-maternal-child-health.html>.

strategies to reduce maternal mortality.³⁵⁶² USD1.8 million will be allocated to Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) to build upon AIM's foundational work to expand reach by addressing preventable maternal mortality outside of hospital and birthing facility settings.³⁵⁶³

On 18 September 2019, HHS through the HRSA awarded USD85 million to 298 health centres for affordable and accessible oral health services to be used towards the support of new infrastructure which includes equipment purchases, mobile units for inaccessible communities and training of staff to integrate oral health within overall systemic health services.³⁵⁶⁴

On 24 September 2019, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that on average premiums would decline 23 per cent from 2018 for Medicare Advantage while benefits and enrollment are expected to increase.³⁵⁶⁵ Secretary Alex Azar of HHS indicated that this would mean "lower costs, more options and benefits tailored to patients' needs."³⁵⁶⁶

On 30 September 2019, HHS through the Office of Population Affairs (OPA) allocated USD33.6 million to 50 current Title X grantees for the supplementation of family services through prioritizing unserved and underserved areas and low-income individuals.³⁵⁶⁷ Grantees that did not comply with statutory and regulatory requirements that did not allow federal funding to be used towards abortion services as a method of family planning relinquished funds.³⁵⁶⁸ OPA aided in mitigating interruption of services due to voluntary relinquishment of funds.³⁵⁶⁹

On 2 October 2019, HHS through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention awarded USD13.5 million for community involvement for the federal initiative "Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for Americans," which aims to reduce new HIV infections through investing in locally tailored plans for each community and increasing local health department capacity.³⁵⁷⁰

³⁵⁶² HHS Awards \$374 Million to Programs Supporting Maternal and Child Health (Washington) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/12/hhs-awards-374-million-programs-supporting-maternal-child-health.html>.

³⁵⁶³ HHS Awards \$374 Million to Programs Supporting Maternal and Child Health (Washington) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/12/hhs-awards-374-million-programs-supporting-maternal-child-health.html>

³⁵⁶⁴ HHS Awards over \$85 Million to Help Health Centers Expand Access to Oral Health Care (Washington) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/18/hhs-awards-over-85-million-help-health-centers-expand-access-oral-healthcare.html>.

³⁵⁶⁵ HHS Secretary Azar Statement on 2020 Medicare Advantage Rate Decrease (Washington) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/24/secretary-azar-statement-2020-medicare-advantage-rate-decrease.html>.

³⁵⁶⁶ HHS Secretary Azar Statement on 2020 Medicare Advantage Rate Decrease (Washington) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/24/secretary-azar-statement-2020-medicare-advantage-rate-decrease.html>.

³⁵⁶⁷ HHS Issues Supplemental Grant Awards to Title X Recipients (Washington) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/30/hhs-issues-supplemental-grant-awards-to-title-x-recipients.html>.

³⁵⁶⁸ HHS Issues Supplemental Grant Awards to Title X Recipients (Washington) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/30/hhs-issues-supplemental-grant-awards-to-title-x-recipients.html>.

³⁵⁶⁹ HHS Issues Supplemental Grant Awards to Title X Recipients (Washington) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/30/hhs-issues-supplemental-grant-awards-to-title-x-recipients.html>.

³⁵⁷⁰ HHS Awards \$13.5 Million to Accelerate State and Local Planning Efforts for Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America (Washington) 2 October 2019. Date Access: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/02/hhs-awards-13.5-million-dollars-to-accelerate-state-and-local-planning-efforts.html>.

On 10 October 2019, HHS published “Guide for Clinicians on the Appropriate Dosage Reduction or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Analgesics” to provide clinicians with a guide when contemplating or initiating a change in opioid dosage.³⁵⁷¹ HHS recommends clinicians to not suddenly discontinue or rapidly decrease dosage due to significant risks of opioid withdrawal barring life-threatening circumstances.³⁵⁷² The guide includes issues to consider when changing dosage that include need to treat symptoms of withdrawal and provide behavioural support.³⁵⁷³

On 16 October 2019, HHS Secretary Alex Azar stated that the all-time high approval of generic drugs by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) contributed to lower drug prices, promoting health and improved access to prescription to drugs.³⁵⁷⁴

On 22 October 2019, HHS through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality announced USD16 million for initiatives to enable over 700 primary care practices to address patients’ unhealthy alcohol use.³⁵⁷⁵

On 23 October 2019, HHS through the HRSA announced USD319 million for awards to clinicians and students through the National Health Service Corps, to provide quality care to Americans in rural, urban and tribal communities.³⁵⁷⁶ HHS Secretary Alex Azar said that there is a particular focus on improving healthcare in rural communities through building “a strong, sustainable rural healthcare workforce.”³⁵⁷⁷

On 25 October 2019, HHS through the HRSA announced USD2.27 billion for Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program grants to support HIV primary medical care, medication, and essential support services to Americans to increase access to treatment and medical advances, especially for low income people in hard-to-reach areas.³⁵⁷⁸

³⁵⁷¹ HHS Announces Guide for Appropriate Tapering or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Use (Washington) 10 October 2019. Date Accessed: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/10/hhs-announces-guide-appropriate-tapering-or-discontinuation-long-term-opioid-use.html>.

³⁵⁷² HHS Announces Guide for Appropriate Tapering or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Use (Washington) 10 October 2019. Date Accessed: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/10/hhs-announces-guide-appropriate-tapering-or-discontinuation-long-term-opioid-use.html>.

³⁵⁷³ HHS Announces Guide for Appropriate Tapering or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Use (Washington) 10 October 2019. Date Accessed: 22 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/10/hhs-announces-guide-appropriate-tapering-or-discontinuation-long-term-opioid-use.html>.

³⁵⁷⁴ Secretary Azar Statement on FDA’s 2019 Generic Drug Approval Record (Washington) 16 October 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/16/secretary-azar-statement-on-fda-2019-generic-drug-approval-record.html>.

³⁵⁷⁵ HHS Awards \$16 Million to Help Primary Care Practices Address Patients’ Unhealthy Alcohol Use (Washington) 22 October 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/22/hhs-awards-16-million-help-primary-care-practices-address-unhealthy-alcohol-use.html>.

³⁵⁷⁶ HHS Awards \$319 Million to Support Health Workforce Providers Caring for the Underserved (Washington) 23 October 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/23/hhs-awards-319-million-support-health-workforce-providers-caring-underserved.html>.

³⁵⁷⁷ HHS Awards \$319 Million to Support Health Workforce Providers Caring for the Underserved (Washington) 23 October 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/23/hhs-awards-319-million-support-health-workforce-providers-caring-underserved.html>.

³⁵⁷⁸ HHS Awards \$2.27 Billion in Grants to Help Americans Access HIV/AIDS Care, Support Services and Medication (Washington) 25 October 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/25/hhs-awards-2-billion-grants-help-americans-access-hiv-care-services-medications.html>.

On 30 October 2019, HHS and Mental Health Services Administration launched “FindTreatment.gov” to connect Americans with substance abuse treatment locations to improve access to treatment, prevention and recovery.³⁵⁷⁹

On 1 November 2019, the CMS finalized Medicare policies to increase choice through eliminating payment differences between services, encouraging medical innovation and increasing access of them, and empowering senior patients.³⁵⁸⁰

On 4 November 2019, HHS, the American Society of Nephrology, and National Kidney Foundation signed a memorandum of understanding to create a campaign on kidney disease to increase education, awareness and prevention of chronic kidney disease to improve health.³⁵⁸¹

On 14 November 2019, th HHS will provide advanced development support from the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority to test diagnostic technology that distinguishes between viral and bacterial infection through reading gene expressions under a USD6 million contract with Inflammatrix Inc.³⁵⁸² Funding will also enable Inflammatrix Inc. to apply for FDA clearance.³⁵⁸³ Development of this rapid diagnostic tool will allow clinicians to make a decision on whether antibiotics are required to treat the infection based on identification of the infection as bacterial.³⁵⁸⁴ Tests will also enable clinicians to determine the risk of death from organ failure and identify susceptibility to antibiotics, ultimately promoting antimicrobial stewardship and tackling antimicrobial resistance.³⁵⁸⁵

On 15 November 2019, th HHS announced that CMS issued two rules to increase healthcare price transparency to the public, empowering patients and increasing competition between health

³⁵⁷⁹ HHS Secretary Azar, SAMHSA Assistant Secretary McCance-Katz Statements on Launch of FindTreatment.Gov (Washington) 30 October 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/30/statements-on-launch-of-findtreatment-gov.html>.

³⁵⁸⁰ CY 2020 Medicare Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment System Final Rule (CMS-1717-FC) (Washington) 1 November 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/cy-2020-medicare-hospital-outpatient-prospective-payment-system-and-ambulatory-surgical-center-0>.

³⁵⁸¹ HHS Secretary Azar Statment on Step Forward in President Trump’s Kidney Health Initiative (Washington) 4 November 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/04/hhs-secretary-azar-statement-step-forward-president-trump-s-kidney-health-initiative.html>.

³⁵⁸² HHS Advances Development of Tests to Distinguish Bacterial from Viral Infections across Multiple Healthcare Settings (Washington) 14 November 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/14/hhs-advances-development-tests-distinguish-bacterial-viral-infections.html>.

³⁵⁸³ HHS Advances Development of Tests to Distinguish Bacterial from Viral Infections across Multiple Healthcare Settings (Washington) 14 November 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/14/hhs-advances-development-tests-distinguish-bacterial-viral-infections.html>.

³⁵⁸⁴ HHS Advances Development of Tests to Distinguish Bacterial from Viral Infections across Multiple Healthcare Settings (Washington) 14 November 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/14/hhs-advances-development-tests-distinguish-bacterial-viral-infections.html>.

³⁵⁸⁵ HHS Advances Development of Tests to Distinguish Bacterial from Viral Infections across Multiple Healthcare Settings (Washington) 14 November 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/14/hhs-advances-development-tests-distinguish-bacterial-viral-infections.html>.

providers and health coverage to decrease healthcare costs for Americans.³⁵⁸⁶ The Transparency in Coverage Rule will require health plans to provide consumers access to cost-sharing information such as an estimation of liability and disclose rates for in-network providers and amounts paid to out-of-network providers.³⁵⁸⁷ The other rule will require hospitals to make all hospital standard charges and the minimum and maximum amounts chargeable for common shoppable services, such as X-rays, publicly accessible.³⁵⁸⁸ CMS will also be provided with enforcement tools such as monitoring, auditing and corrective action plans and the ability to impose a civil fine of USD300.³⁵⁸⁹ The rules will be finalized by 2021.³⁵⁹⁰

On 3 December 2019, HHS launched “Ready, Set, PrEP,” a national program that makes medications for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), taken daily to prevent HIV, available at no cost to people without prescription drug insurance coverage.³⁵⁹¹ This program is a component of ‘Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America’ that aims to reduce the number of new HIV infections by 90% in the next ten years.³⁵⁹²

On 5 December 2019, the Indian Health Services (IHS) and the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Native American Child Health released clinical recommendations for IHS, tribal, and urban Indian organizations for neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome and standards of care for screening, diagnosing, and treatment at health care facilities.³⁵⁹³ These standards will improve the quality of care for mothers and their infants that are impacted by the opioid crisis.³⁵⁹⁴

³⁵⁸⁶ Trump Administration Announces Historic Price Transparency Requirements to Increase Competition and Lower Healthcare Costs for All Americans (Washington) 15 November 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/15/trump-administration-announces-historic-price-transparency-and-lower-healthcare-costs-for-all-americans.html>.

³⁵⁸⁷ Trump Administration Announces Historic Price Transparency Requirements to Increase Competition and Lower Healthcare Costs for All Americans (Washington) 15 November 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/15/trump-administration-announces-historic-price-transparency-and-lower-healthcare-costs-for-all-americans.html>.

³⁵⁸⁸ Trump Administration Announces Historic Price Transparency Requirements to Increase Competition and Lower Healthcare Costs for All Americans (Washington) 15 November 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/15/trump-administration-announces-historic-price-transparency-and-lower-healthcare-costs-for-all-americans.html>.

³⁵⁸⁹ Trump Administration Announces Historic Price Transparency Requirements to Increase Competition and Lower Healthcare Costs for All Americans (Washington) 15 November 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/15/trump-administration-announces-historic-price-transparency-and-lower-healthcare-costs-for-all-americans.html>.

³⁵⁹⁰ Trump Administration Announces Historic Price Transparency Requirements to Increase Competition and Lower Healthcare Costs for All Americans (Washington) 15 November 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/11/15/trump-administration-announces-historic-price-transparency-and-lower-healthcare-costs-for-all-americans.html>.

³⁵⁹¹ Ready, Set, PrEP Expands Access to Medication to Prevent HIV, Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/03/ready-set-prep-expands-access-to-medication-to-prevent-hiv.html>.

³⁵⁹² Ready, Set, PrEP Expands Access to Medication to Prevent HIV, Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/03/ready-set-prep-expands-access-to-medication-to-prevent-hiv.html>.

³⁵⁹³ IHS and AAP Release Clinical Recommendations to Improve Care of American Indian, Alaska Native Women and Infants Impacted by Prenatal Opioid Exposure (Washington) 5 December 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/05/ihs-and-aap-release-clinical-recommendations-to-improve-care-of-american-indian-alaska-native-women-and-infants-impacted-by-prenatal-opioid-exposure.html>.

³⁵⁹⁴ IHS and AAP Release Clinical Recommendations to Improve Care of American Indian, Alaska Native Women and Infants Impacted by Prenatal Opioid Exposure (Washington) 5 December 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/05/ihs-and-aap-release-clinical-recommendations-to-improve-care-of-american-indian-alaska-native-women-and-infants-impacted-by-prenatal-opioid-exposure.html>.

On 17 December 2019, HHS through CMS proposed removing financial disincentives to living organ donors through expanding reimbursable expenses for living donors including lost wages, as well as child or elder care so that recipients can receive better quality organs.³⁵⁹⁵ This measure was taken in response to the shortage in available kidney donors considering the national waiting list consists of 96,000 people.³⁵⁹⁶ Proposed changes will be in effect starting 2022.³⁵⁹⁷

On 18 December 2019, HHS, the FDA, and President Trump proposed allowing certain prescription drugs to be imported from Canada.³⁵⁹⁸ This would allow for lower U.S. drug prices and improve access to medication for Americans.³⁵⁹⁹

On 4 February 2020, HHS and Office of Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), announced that they are collaborating with Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. to expand on a previous agreement to develop treatment for COVID-19.³⁶⁰⁰

On 10 February 2020, HHS started the first foundry for American Biotechnology in the nation, which serves to protect and respond to health security threats through the production of technological solutions.³⁶⁰¹ This will also enable biotechnologies to become a part of daily medical care and emergency response more efficiently and increase the bioeconomy in the United States.³⁶⁰² A commercialization program that will be developed and managed by the Foundry will enable for private sector industries to more efficiently adopt technologies while reducing the need of stockpiling medical equipment, supplies and medications for federal and state governments.³⁶⁰³

³⁵⁹⁵ Trump Administration Proposes New Rules to Increase Accountability and Availability of the Organ Supply (Washington) 17 December 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/17/trump-administration-proposes-new-rules-increase-accountability-availability-organ-supply.html>.

³⁵⁹⁶ Trump Administration Proposes New Rules to Increase Accountability and Availability of the Organ Supply (Washington) 17 December 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/17/trump-administration-proposes-new-rules-increase-accountability-availability-organ-supply.html>.

³⁵⁹⁷ Trump Administration Proposes New Rules to Increase Accountability and Availability of the Organ Supply (Washington) 17 December 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/17/trump-administration-proposes-new-rules-increase-accountability-availability-organ-supply.html>.

³⁵⁹⁸ Trump Administration Takes Historic Steps to Lower U.S. Prescription Drug Prices (Washington) 18 December 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/18/trump-administration-takes-historic-steps-to-lower-us-prescription-drug-prices.html>.

³⁵⁹⁹ Trump Administration Takes Historic Steps to Lower U.S. Prescription Drug Prices (Washington) 18 December 2019. Date Access: 23 December 2019. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/12/18/trump-administration-takes-historic-steps-to-lower-us-prescription-drug-prices.html>.

³⁶⁰⁰ HHS, Regeneron Collaborate to Develop 2019-nCoV Treatment, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/04/hhs-regeneron-collaborate-to-develop-2019-ncov-treatment.html>.

³⁶⁰¹ HHS Pioneers First Foundry For American Bioethnology, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/10/hhs-pioneers-first-foundry-for-american-biotechnology.html>.

³⁶⁰² HHS Pioneers First Foundry For American Bioethnology, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/10/hhs-pioneers-first-foundry-for-american-biotechnology.html>.

³⁶⁰³ HHS Pioneers First Foundry For American Bioethnology, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/10/hhs-pioneers-first-foundry-for-american-biotechnology.html>.

On 11 February 2020, HHS and the Office of ASPR announced that they are collaborating with Janssen Research and Development to expand the existing partnership to accelerate the development of a vaccine for COVID19 to assist with public health response.³⁶⁰⁴

On 18 February 2020, component of ASPR called Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) announced that they will provide expertise and allocate funding to Sanofi Pasteur to support a licensed vaccine for the COVID19 vaccine using Sanofi's recombinant DNA platform, with the aim to ensure health security and prevent future outbreaks.³⁶⁰⁵

On 18 February 2020, HHS and BARDA announced that they are collaborating with Janssen Research and Development through an existing partnership to develop treatments for coronavirus that reduce the severity of symptoms as well as treat the infection.³⁶⁰⁶ BARDA is also collaborating with Janssen to develop a vaccine for COVID19, and has worked with Janssen in the past to develop vaccines for infectious diseases such as Ebola and influenza.³⁶⁰⁷

On 26 February 2020, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the HHS awarded USD 117 million as part of the "Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America (EHE)" initiative towards expanding access to care, treatment, medication, and prevention services for HIV.³⁶⁰⁸ The aim of EHE is to reduce the number of new HIV infections in the United States by 90 per cent.³⁶⁰⁹

On 4 March 2020, HHS planned to purchase 500 million N95 respirators to protect healthcare workers through the upcoming 18 months to ensure the Strategic National Stockpile can meet the needs during the COVID-19 outbreak.³⁶¹⁰

On 4 March 2020, HHS and the Center for Disease Control Prevention (CDC) announced funding to support states and local jurisdictions in their COVID-19 response.³⁶¹¹ USD 25 million will be

³⁶⁰⁴ HHS, Janssen Join Forces On Coronavirus Vaccin, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/11/hhs-janssen-join-forces-on-coronavirus-vaccine.html>.

³⁶⁰⁵ HHS Engages Sanofi's Recombinant Technology for 2019 Novel Coronavirus Vaccine, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 18 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/18/hhs-engages-sanofis-recombinant-technology-for-2019-novel-coronavirus-vaccine.html>.

³⁶⁰⁶ HHS, Janssen Collaborate to Develop Coronavirus Therapeutics, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 18 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/18/hhs-janssen-collaborate-to-develop-coronavirus-therapeutics.html>.

³⁶⁰⁷ HHS, Janssen Collaborate to Develop Coronavirus Therapeutics, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 18 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/18/hhs-janssen-collaborate-to-develop-coronavirus-therapeutics.html>.

³⁶⁰⁸ HHS Awards \$117 Million to End the HIV Epidemic in the United States, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/26/hhs-awards-117-million-to-end-hiv-epidemic-in-the-united-states.html>.

³⁶⁰⁹ HHS Awards \$117 Million to End the HIV Epidemic in the United States, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/26/hhs-awards-117-million-to-end-hiv-epidemic-in-the-united-states.html>.

³⁶¹⁰ HHS to Procure N95 Respirators to Support Healthcare Workers in COVID-19 Outbreaks, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/04/hhs-to-procure-n95-respirators-to-support-healthcare-workers-in-covid-19-outbreaks.html>.

³⁶¹¹ HHS Announces Initial Funding to Jurisdictions Supporting COVID-19 Response, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/04/hhs-announces-initial-funding-jurisdictions-supporting-covid-19-response.html>.

awarded to the states and local jurisdictions with the largest burden of response and preparedness and USD10 million for coronavirus surveillance across the United States.³⁶¹²

On 6 March 2020, President Donald Trump signed Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act 2020 which consists of USD 8.3 billion of federal funding for states and territories to aid them in preparing to respond to COVID-19 outbreak and in streamlining efforts for more efficient communication between state and federal public health departments.³⁶¹³

On 9 March 2020, HHS finalized two rules to provide patients with their health data in order for them to make informed decisions and manage their care.³⁶¹⁴ These rules will enable patients to access information within their electronic health records integrated with their health insurance through a smartphone app of their choice and will require more aspects of clinical data, as outlined in US Core Data for Interoperability, to be a part of electronic health records for more efficient transmission of information between different healthcare facilities.³⁶¹⁵

On 9 March 2020, HHS announced that they will support Hologic in developing high-throughput COVID19 diagnostic tests to detect the SARS-CoV-2 genetic material and have results ready for clinicians in under three hours.³⁶¹⁶ According to BARDA Director Rick Bright, early detection and rapid testing will enable clinicians to properly treat infections, ultimately mitigating the spread of COVID-19.³⁶¹⁷

On 11 March 2020, CDC announced that they will provide over USD 560 million to state and local health departments to support COVID19 preparedness and response.³⁶¹⁸

³⁶¹² HHS Announces Initial Funding to Jurisdictions Supporting COVID-19 Response, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020.
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/04/hhs-announces-initial-funding-jurisdictions-supporting-covid-19-response.html>.

³⁶¹³ CDC to Award Over \$560 Million to State and Local Jurisdictions in Support of COVID-19 Response, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 11 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020.
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/11/cdc-to-award-over-560-million-to-state-local-jurisdictions-in-support-of-covid-19-response.html>.

³⁶¹⁴ HHS Finalizes Historic Rules to Provide Patients More Control of Their Health Data, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020.
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/09/hhs-finalizes-historic-rules-to-provide-patients-more-control-of-their-health-data.html>.

³⁶¹⁵ HHS Finalizes Historic Rules to Provide Patients More Control of Their Health Data, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020.
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/09/hhs-finalizes-historic-rules-to-provide-patients-more-control-of-their-health-data.html>.

³⁶¹⁶ HHS Supports Development of First High-Throughput COVID-19 Diagnostic Test, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 9 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020.
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/09/hhs-supports-development-of-first-high-throughput-covid-19-diagnostic-test.html>.

³⁶¹⁷ HHS Supports Development of First High-Throughput COVID-19 Diagnostic Test, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 9 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020.
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/09/hhs-supports-development-of-first-high-throughput-covid-19-diagnostic-test.html>.

³⁶¹⁸ CDC to Award Over \$560 Million to State and Local Jurisdictions in Support of COVID-19 Response, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 11 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020.
<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/11/cdc-to-award-over-560-million-to-state-local-jurisdictions-in-support-of-covid-19-response.html>.

On 13 March 2020, HHS announced that they will support DiaSorin Molecular with USD 679,000 and Qiagen with USD 598,000 to aid them in developing diagnostic tests for COVID-19 to detect the virus in approximately one hour.³⁶¹⁹

On 17 March 2020, HHS and the Trump Administration announced that Medicare coverage for telehealth visits would be expanded to include telehealth services during the COVID-19 outbreak in order for Americans to access care remotely.³⁶²⁰

On 18 March 2020, HHS, through the HRSA, announced that they will be collecting information from HRSA-funded health centres to assess their involvement in COVID-19 response and support the overall response to the pandemic.³⁶²¹

On 18 March 2020, HHS announced that they will support Mesa Bioetech with technical expertise and USD 561,330 to develop rapid diagnostic test for COVID-19 to detect and reduce the spread of the virus.³⁶²²

On 18 March 2020, HHS announced that they are working towards developing high-volume emergency drug packaging and awarded Apject Systems America with USD 456 million towards research development to ensure low-cost prefilled syringes for a consortium for Rapid Aseptic Packaging of Injectable Drugs (RAPID) to deliver vaccines and therapeutic drugs.³⁶²³

On 20 March 2020, HHS announced that the CDC would be providing funding of USD 80 million to tribes, tribal organizations, and Urban Indian Organizations to increase public health capacities in order to support COVID19 outbreak management efforts.³⁶²⁴

On 24 March 2020, HHS awarded USD 100 million across 1,381 health centres for screening, testing, medical supplies, and improving telehealth capacities in response to COVID-19.³⁶²⁵

On 24 March 2020, HHS provided USD 100 million for healthcare systems in response to increasing COVID-19 patients to benefit the National Special Pathogen System.³⁶²⁶ The National Special

³⁶¹⁹ HHS funds development of COVID-19 diagnostic tests, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 13 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/13/hhs-funds-development-covid-19-diagnostic-tests.html>

³⁶²⁰ Secretary Azar Announces Historic Expansion of Telehealth Access to Combat COVID-19, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 17 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/17/secretary-azar-announces-historic-expansion-of-telehealth-access-to-combat-covid-19.html>.

³⁶²¹ HHS Takes New Action to Cut Red Tape to Support COVID-19 Response, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 18 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/18/hhs-takes-new-action-to-cut-red-tape-to-support-covid-19-response.html>

³⁶²² HHS Supports Mesa Biotech to Develop a Rapid Diagnostic to Detect Novel Coronavirus Infections, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 18 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/18/hhs-supports-mesa-biotech-develop-rapid-diagnostic-detect-novel-coronavirus-infections.html>.

³⁶²³ HHS Announces New Public-Private Partnership to Develop U.S.-Based, High-Speed Emergency Drug Packaging Solutions, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 18 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/18/hhs-announces-new-public-private-partnership-to-develop-us-based-high-speed-emergency-drug-packaging-solutions.html>.

³⁶²⁴ HHS announces upcoming action to provide funding to tribes for COVID-19 response, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 20 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/20/hhs-announces-upcoming-action-to-provide-funding-to-tribes-for-covid-19-response.html>.

³⁶²⁵ HHS Awards \$100 Million to Health Centres for COVID-19 Response, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 24 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/24/hhs-awards-100-million-to-health-centers-for-covid-19-response.html>.

Pathogen System leverages a pre-established infrastructure to manage the Ebola outbreak and will apply that approach to treat trauma, burn, cardiac and stroke patients.³⁶²⁷ The National Special Pathogen System includes ten regional Ebola facilities amongst other healthcare facilities, one in each HHS region, which have enhanced capability to treat patients infected with special pathogens such as coronavirus and will use training and curriculum provided by National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Centre to help other health centres prepare to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak.³⁶²⁸

On 24 March 2020, HHS announced USD 250 million funding towards providing meals for older adults in the community through grants from the Administration for Community Living as older adults are more vulnerable to COVID-19.³⁶²⁹

On 27 March 2020, President Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, with investments in over USD 100 billion for hospitals and healthcare providers, in addition to USD 27 billion for vaccines, therapeutics, and personal protective equipment.³⁶³⁰

On 2 April 2020, HHS and the Department of Justice announced that approximately 192,000 N95 respirator masks would be distributed from those who were hoarding the masks and price gouging previously to frontline workers in New York and New Jersey for the COVID-19 efforts.³⁶³¹

On 6 April 2020, HHS announced the CDC would provide USD 186 million to state and local jurisdictions to support COVID-19 response.³⁶³² This will go towards supplementing existing agreements with lab equipment, supplies, staffing, shipping, infection control, monitoring individuals, and data management in areas that have the highest reported COVID-19 cases.³⁶³³ The funding will

³⁶²⁶ HHS Provides \$100 Million to Help U.S. Healthcare System Prepare for COVID-19 Patients, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 24 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/24/hhs-provides-100-million-to-help-us-healthcare-systems-prepare-for-covid-19-patients.html>.

³⁶²⁷ HHS Provides \$100 Million to Help U.S. Healthcare System Prepare for COVID-19 Patients, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 24 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/24/hhs-provides-100-million-to-help-us-healthcare-systems-prepare-for-covid-19-patients.html>.

³⁶²⁸ HHS Provides \$100 Million to Help U.S. Healthcare System Prepare for COVID-19 Patients, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 24 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/24/hhs-provides-100-million-to-help-us-healthcare-systems-prepare-for-covid-19-patients.html>.

³⁶²⁹ HHS Announces Grants to Provide Meals for Older Adults, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 24 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/24/hhs-announces-grants-to-provide-meals-for-older-adults.html>.

³⁶³⁰ Secretary Azar Statement on President Trump's Signing of the CARES Act, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 27 March 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/27/secretary-azar-statement-on-president-trumps-signing-of-the-cares-act.html>.

³⁶³¹ DOJ and HHS Partner to Distribute More than Half a Million Medical Supplies Confiscated from Price Gougers, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 2 April 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/02/doj-and-hhs-partner-to-distribute-more-than-half-a-million-medical-supplies-confiscated-from-price-gougers.html>.

³⁶³² HHS Announces Upcoming Funding Action to Provide \$186 Million for COVID-19 Response, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 6 April 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/06/hhs-announces-upcoming-funding-action-provide-186-million-covid19-response.html>.

³⁶³³ HHS Announces Upcoming Funding Action to Provide \$186 Million for COVID-19 Response, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 6 April 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/06/hhs-announces-upcoming-funding-action-provide-186-million-covid19-response.html>.

also go towards supplementing the Emerging Infections Program (EIP) with increasing surveillance capabilities.³⁶³⁴

On 6 April 2020, HHS announced that they will support the state, territorial and tribal public health labs in all places, including remote and rural populations with “ID NOW COVID-19 rapid point of care test,” which provides results in under 13 minutes.³⁶³⁵ On 8 April 2020, HHS announced a contract with General Motors for USD 489 million for 30,000 ventilators under the Defense Production Act (DPA) to combat COVID-19.³⁶³⁶

On 8 April 2020, HHS announced an agreement with DuPont for 450,000 TYVEK suits to be delivered to frontline healthcare workers that week to protect them from COVID-19, with an additional 2.25 million in the upcoming five weeks, with the option of purchasing up to 4.5 million.³⁶³⁷

On 8 April 2020, HHS awarded USD 1.3 billion to 1,387 health centers to be used towards detection, prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of COVID-19 in addition to maintaining or increasing health capacity and staffing in response to the pandemic.³⁶³⁸

On 8 April 2020, Indian Health Services (IHS) announced they would be expanding telehealth for American Indians and Alaska Natives to access healthcare from home during the COVID-19 pandemic across IHS federal facilities.³⁶³⁹

On 8 April 2020, HHS announced a contract with Philips for USD 646.7 million for 43,000 ventilators under the DPA to combat COVID-19.³⁶⁴⁰

On 8 April 2020, HHS announced that licensed pharmacists could administer COVID-19 tests to make them more accessible, under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act.³⁶⁴¹

³⁶³⁴ HHS Announces Upcoming Funding Action to Provide \$186 Million for COVID-19 Response, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 6 April 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/06/hhs-announces-upcoming-funding-action-provide-186-million-covid19-response.html>.

³⁶³⁵ HHS Supports State, Territorial and Tribal Public Health Labs with COVID-19 Rapid Point-of-Care Tests, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 6 April 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/06/hhs-supports-state-territorial-and-tribal-public-health-labs-with-covid-19-rapid-point-of-care-test.html>.

³⁶³⁶ HHS Announces Ventilator Contract with GM under Defense Production Act, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 8 April 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/08/hhs-announces-ventilator-contract-with-gm-under-defense-production-act.html>.

³⁶³⁷ HHS to Provide Millions of TYVEK Protective Suits for U.S. Healthcare Workers, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 8 April 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/08/hhs-provide-millions-tyvek-protective-suits-us-healthcare-workers.html>.

³⁶³⁸ HHS Awards \$1.3 Billion to Health Centers in Historic U.S. Response to COVID-19, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/08/hhs-awards-billion-to-health-centers-in-historic-covid19-response.html>.

³⁶³⁹ Indian Health Service Expands Telehealth Services During COVID-19 Response, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 8 April 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/08/indian-health-service-expands-telehealth-services-during-covid-19-response.html>.

³⁶⁴⁰ HHS Announces Ventilator Contract with Philips under Defense Production Act, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 8 April 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/08/hhs-announces-ventilator-contract-with-philips-under-defense-production-act.html>.

On 10 April 2020, HHS will begin to deliver relief funding from the CARES Act, with USD 30 billion going towards supporting healthcare-related expenses or lost revenue from coronavirus, such as testing and treatment for uninsured Americans.³⁶⁴²

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems through improving transparency of hospital costs, proposing programs to combat health crises such as HIV/AIDS, maternal mortality, opioid overuse and antimicrobial resistance. The United States has also demonstrated efforts to fully comply with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal healthcare coverage through providing free or lower cost medication, investing in rural healthcare, and reducing Medicaid premiums. The United States has worked towards providing access to care for all during the COVID-19 pandemic through the allocation of funding for testing, research and development, telehealth options to receive healthcare, and purchasing personal protective equipment.

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1

Analyst: Sophia DiNicolò

European Union: +1

European Union has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal health coverage and to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems, especially aimed at reaching the most affected communities.

On 12 September 2019, the European Commission partnered with the World Health Organization (WHO) to host a Global Vaccination Summit, in order to spread awareness about the efficacy of vaccines in fighting against preventable diseases.³⁶⁴³ They specifically targeted vaccine misinformation, and the inequity in vaccine coverage rates, as threats to universal health coverage.³⁶⁴⁴

On 23 September 2019, the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Vytenis Andriukaitis released a statement emphasizing the necessity of increasing efforts towards Universal Health Coverage, if the European Union is to reach the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.³⁶⁴⁵ In order to do so, the European Union must support partner countries in building resilient health systems and continue to support in improvement of primary healthcare services.³⁶⁴⁶ Vytenis Andriukaitis also noted the EU aims to promote a ‘health in all policies’ approach to ensure that all

³⁶⁴¹ HHS Statements on Authorizing Licensed Pharmacists to Order and Administer COVID-19 Tests, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 8 April 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/08/hhs-statements-on-authorizing-licensed-pharmacists-to-order-and-administer-covid-19-tests.html>.

³⁶⁴² HHS to Begin Immediate Delivery of Initial \$30 Billion of CARES Act Provider Relief Funding, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 10 April 2020. Access Date 13 April 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/10/hhs-to-begin-immediate-delivery-of-initial-30-billion-of-cares-act-provider-relief-funding.html>.

³⁶⁴³ Global Vaccination Summit, World Health Organization (Brussels) 12 September 2019. Access date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2019/09/12/default-calendar/global-vaccination-summit>.

³⁶⁴⁴ Global Vaccination Summit, World Health Organization (Brussels) 12 September 2019. Access date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2019/09/12/default-calendar/global-vaccination-summit>.

³⁶⁴⁵ EU Statement by Commissioner Andriukaitis – United Nations General Assembly: High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage, EU External Action (New York) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67764/eu-statement-commissioner-andriukaitis-%E2%80%93-united-nations-general-assembly-high-level-meeting_en.

³⁶⁴⁶ EU Statement by Commissioner Andriukaitis – United Nations General Assembly: High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage, EU External Action (New York) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67764/eu-statement-commissioner-andriukaitis-%E2%80%93-united-nations-general-assembly-high-level-meeting_en.

determinants of health are addressed beyond the health sector including water, sanitation, gender equality and nutrition education. The Commissioner also promoted an investment of EUR100 million into the WHO's Partnership Programme made in June 2019, which aims to both strengthen health systems and universal health coverage.³⁶⁴⁷

On 10 October 2019, the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations released a statement in support of the United Nations resolution to realize universal health coverage.³⁶⁴⁸ They emphasized the European Union's rights-based approach to health by protecting human rights, including sexual and reproduction rights and affirmed their commitment to striving for universal health coverage in Europe and beyond.³⁶⁴⁹

On 17 October 2019, the European Union's Health Policy Platform hosted its annual meeting focused on establishing the health priorities within Europe.³⁶⁵⁰ Various health stakeholders and interest groups attended the meeting which consisted of award presentations to cities, non-governmental organizations and schools for efforts in prevention and reduction of obesity, interactive roundtable discussing promotion of healthy weight in young adults, joint statements by stakeholder organizations discussing various health priorities and thematic network proposals to rally support for projects in the upcoming year. The joint statement of one of the stakeholder groups, Nobody Left Outside, focused on the need to expand coverage to reach the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in Europe.³⁶⁵¹

On 10 November 2019, the European Union provided Yemen with EUR79 million in order to sustain their health services amidst a violent conflict.³⁶⁵² This includes access to sanitation, food, water, and healthcare centres.³⁶⁵³ This is part of a wider European Union project in Yemen, which has to date provided EUR440 million in funds to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis.³⁶⁵⁴

³⁶⁴⁷ EU Statement by Commissioner Andriukaitis – United Nations General Assembly: High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage, EU External Action (New York) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019.

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67764/eu-statement-commissioner-andriukaitis-%E2%80%93-united-nations-general-assembly-high-level-meeting_en.

³⁶⁴⁸ EU Explanation of Position – United Nations General Assembly Universal Health Coverage, EU External Action (New York) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/68759/eu-explanation-position-%E2%80%93-united-nations-general-assembly-universal-health-coverage_en.

³⁶⁴⁹ EU Explanation of Position – United Nations General Assembly Universal Health Coverage, EU External Action (New York) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/68759/eu-explanation-position-%E2%80%93-united-nations-general-assembly-universal-health-coverage_en.

³⁶⁵⁰ EU Health Policy Platform annual meeting, European Commission (Brussels) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/health/policies/events/ev_20191017_en.

³⁶⁵¹ EU Health Policy Platform annual meeting, European Commission (Brussels) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/health/policies/events/ev_20191017_en.

³⁶⁵² EU supports Yemen with €79 million to sustain public services and generate job opportunities, EU External Action (Brussels) 10 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/70193/eu-supports-yemen-%E2%82%AC79-million-sustain-public-services-and-generate-job-opportunities_en.

³⁶⁵³ EU supports Yemen with €79 million to sustain public services and generate job opportunities, EU External Action (Brussels) 10 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/70193/eu-supports-yemen-%E2%82%AC79-million-sustain-public-services-and-generate-job-opportunities_en.

³⁶⁵⁴ EU supports Yemen with €79 million to sustain public services and generate job opportunities, EU External Action (Brussels) 10 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/70193/eu-supports-yemen-%E2%82%AC79-million-sustain-public-services-and-generate-job-opportunities_en.

On 28 November 2019, the European Commission published health reports analyzing the health systems of its thirty Member States.³⁶⁵⁵ The reports outline how vaccination hesitance, lack of access to mobile health services, and continued healthcare inequities are the main challenges faced by the EU Member States.³⁶⁵⁶ The reports demonstrate that health systems of Member States have been shifting towards preventative healthcare and health promotion.³⁶⁵⁷ Furthermore, a key finding noted that task shifting, by enhancing the roles of health professionals such as nurses and pharmacists, have demonstrated strong potential in improving the resilience of health systems.³⁶⁵⁸ Results of the reports will be used to “encourage mutual learning and exchange of good practices.”³⁶⁵⁹

On 5 December 2019, EU provided a EUR 297 million assistance package to refugees in Jordan and Lebanon.³⁶⁶⁰ EUR 70 million of these funds are to be used for improving healthcare for vulnerable populations in Lebanon, and EUR 39 million are to be dedicated to improving waste management and health conditions for Syrian refugee camps in Jordan.³⁶⁶¹

On 10 December 2019, EU Health and Safety Commissioner Kyriakides announced a plan, entitled the Europe Beats Cancer Plan to tackle access to cancer treatment for 2020.³⁶⁶² This strategy will rely on emphasis on preventative measures, an expansion in screening processes, increased access to treatments, and e-health data expansion to optimize healthcare delivery.³⁶⁶³

On 18 December 2019, the European Investment Bank granted the biotech company MolMed with a line of credit of up to EUR 15 million in order to spur research and innovation into cancer and rare disease treatments.³⁶⁶⁴

³⁶⁵⁵ State of Health in the EU: shift to prevention and primary care is the most important trend across countries, European Commission (Brussels) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 8 April 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6336.

³⁶⁵⁶ State of Health in the EU: shift to prevention and primary care is the most important trend across countries, European Commission (Brussels) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 8 April 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6336.

³⁶⁵⁷ State of Health in the EU: shift to prevention and primary care is the most important trend across countries, European Commission (Brussels) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 4 April 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6336.

³⁶⁵⁸ State of Health in the EU: shift to prevention and primary care is the most important trend across countries, European Commission (Brussels) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 4 April 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6336.

³⁶⁵⁹ State of Health in the EU: shift to prevention and primary care is the most important trend across countries, European Commission (Brussels) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 4 April 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6336.

³⁶⁶⁰ The EU adopted 297 million in concrete actions for refugees and local communities in Jordan and Lebanon, European Commission (Brussels) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 16 April 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6659.

³⁶⁶¹ The EU adopted 297 million in concrete actions for refugees and local communities in Jordan and Lebanon, European Commission (Brussels) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 16 April 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6659.

³⁶⁶² Keynote speech by Commissioner Kyriakides at the conference on “Better Access to Cancer Treatment,” European Commission (Brussels) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 8 April 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech_19_6737.

³⁶⁶³ Keynote speech by Commissioner Kyriakides at the conference on “Better Access to Cancer Treatment,” European Commission (Brussels) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 8 April 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech_19_6737.

³⁶⁶⁴ Italy: the EIB supports MolMed investment in research, development, and manufacturing for cancer and rare diseases innovative treatments, European Commission (Milan) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 17 April 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6807.

On 31 January 2019, the EU launched a EUR10 million funding program for COVID-19 research projects, specifically relating to public health preparedness and resilience.³⁶⁶⁵ This was part of their Horizons 2020 research and innovation programming.³⁶⁶⁶

On 4 February 2020, the European Commission launched a consultation plan about its Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, in order to allow European residents to help shape health policies.³⁶⁶⁷ The next steps entail consultations with stakeholders until July, and the plan is expected to be unveiled by the end of 2020.³⁶⁶⁸

On 1 March 2020, the EU provided EUR 30 million in assistance to Sudan, with the aid package specifically targeting the expansion of emergency healthcare services, nutrition, and access to clean water.³⁶⁶⁹

On 6 March 2020, the EU increased funding (an additional EUR37.5 million) from the Horizons 2020 Research and Innovation programming to be used for vaccine development, treatment, and public health preparedness and resilience, to effectively manage the COVID-19 crisis.³⁶⁷⁰

On 19 March 2020, the European Commission announced the creation of a stockpile of medical supplies (masks, ventilators, vaccines, medicine), financed up to 90 per cent by the EU.³⁶⁷¹ This stockpile is in response to supply shortages due to the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶⁷²

On 3 April 2020, the EU put forth guidelines to facilitate cross-border treatments and medical services in response to the extra burden on the healthcare system due to COVID-19.³⁶⁷³ In order to provide support to healthcare systems of its member states, the EU will be reimbursing all costs of health travel and initiating a Clinical Management Support System as a forum for the distribution of information amongst healthcare professionals.³⁶⁷⁴

³⁶⁶⁵ Coronavirus: EU mobilises 10 million for research, European Commission (Brussels) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/coronavirus-eu-mobilises-eur10-million-for-research-2020-jan-31_en.

³⁶⁶⁶ Coronavirus: EU mobilises 10 million for research, European Commission (Brussels) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/coronavirus-eu-mobilises-eur10-million-for-research-2020-jan-31_en.

³⁶⁶⁷ European Commission launches EU-wide public consultation on Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_154.

³⁶⁶⁸ European Commission launches EU-wide public consultation on Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_154.

³⁶⁶⁹ Sudan: European Union provides 30 million in humanitarian assistance, European Commission (Brussels) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_359.

³⁶⁷⁰ COVID-19: Commission steps up research funding and selects 17 projects in vaccine development, treatment, and diagnostics, European Commission (Brussels) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_386.

³⁶⁷¹ COVID-19: Commission creates first ever rescEU stockpile of medical equipment, European Commission (Brussels) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_476.

³⁶⁷² COVID-19: Commission creates first ever rescEU stockpile of medical equipment, European Commission (Brussels) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_476.

³⁶⁷³ Coronavirus: Commission encourages and facilitates cross-border treatment of patients and deployment of medical staff, European Commission (Brussels) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_590.

³⁶⁷⁴ Coronavirus: Commission encourages and facilitates cross-border treatment of patients and deployment of medical staff, European Commission (Brussels) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_590.

On 8 April 2020, the European Commission requested that its member states ensure the availability of medications, by avoiding national stockpiles and rationing supplies to essential uses, in response to COVID-19.³⁶⁷⁵

On 8 April 2020, the EU put forth their plan for addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶⁷⁶ Part of this plan permits the delivery of funds to partner countries in order to strengthen health systems to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, allocating EUR15.6 billion to these actions.³⁶⁷⁷

On 17 April 2020, the EU allocated EUR2.7 billion in order to strengthen the healthcare sector in the face of COVID-19.³⁶⁷⁸ These funds are to be allocated to building emergency health services, such as mobile health units, in addition to funding for medical supplies (masks, ventilators).³⁶⁷⁹ Additionally, EUR 3.6 million will be allocated to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control to enhance their abilities to identify health threats.³⁶⁸⁰

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to take action aimed at building resilient and sustainable health systems through investments in strengthening health systems by improving primary care services and investments within partner countries and globally. It has also taken efforts to strengthen the healthcare services of its member states in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The European Union has also demonstrated efforts to fully comply with its commitment to take action aimed at moving towards the achievement of universal healthcare coverage through committing to spread awareness about vaccines, supporting partner countries in expanding universal health coverage, discussing health policy priorities through reflection and goal setting.

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

Analyst: Nora Moid

³⁶⁷⁵ Coronavirus: Commission calls on Member States to optimise supply and availability of medicines, European Commission (Brussels) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_622.

³⁶⁷⁶ Coronavirus: EU global response to fight the pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_604.

³⁶⁷⁷ Coronavirus: EU global response to fight the pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_604.

³⁶⁷⁸ Coronavirus: Commission welcomes Parliament's quick green light for proposed new resources to protect lives and livelihoods, European Commission (Brussels) April 17 2020. Access Date: April 17 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_685.

³⁶⁷⁹ Coronavirus: Commission welcomes Parliament's quick green light for proposed new resources to protect lives and livelihoods, European Commission (Brussels) April 17 2020. Access Date: April 17 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_685.

³⁶⁸⁰ Coronavirus: Commission welcomes Parliament's quick green light for proposed new resources to protect lives and livelihoods, European Commission (Brussels) April 17 2020. Access Date: April 17 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_685.

18. Health: Mental Health

“We will continue to support efforts to promptly respond to ongoing cases of victims’ specific medical, psychological and social needs while making those responsible accountable.”

Declaration on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada	-1		
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy	-1		
Japan	-1		
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average	+0.13 (56%)		

Background

At Biarritz in 2019, the G7 Leaders, in their Declaration on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, committed to “support efforts to promptly respond to ongoing cases of victims’ specific medical, psychological and social needs while making those responsible accountable.”³⁶⁸¹ They made this commitment in the context of the Dinard Declaration on Women, Peace and Security from the Foreign Ministers’ meeting of that year.³⁶⁸² The Dinard Declaration promoted a “victim-centered approach” to the “justice” and the “relief” component of the response to sexual violence in conflict (SVC).³⁶⁸³ Both documents place particular emphasis on the contribution of non-state actors such as Nobel Peace Prize Winners Nadia Murad and Denis Mukwege, who are in the process of creating the International Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence.³⁶⁸⁴

In the past few decades, in conflict-ridden regions such as Myanmar, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, and South Sudan, we have witnessed the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and terrorism, often against particular ethnic and religious groups.³⁶⁸⁵ In these cases, SVC often contributed to conflict-driven migration crises.³⁶⁸⁶ These atrocities are nothing new. There is a long history of states or armed groups using sexual violence to “punish, terrorize and destroy populations,” “pursue (strategic) objectives,” or reward soldiers.³⁶⁸⁷ Usually, the victims of conflict-based sexual

³⁶⁸¹ Declaration on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, 2019 Biarritz Summit (Biarritz) 26 August 2019.

Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-on-gender-equality.pdf>

³⁶⁸² Declaration on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, 2019 Biarritz Summit (Biarritz) 26 August 2019.

Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-on-gender-equality.pdf>

³⁶⁸³ Dinard Declaration on Women, Peace and Security, 2019 Biarritz Summit (Saint Malo) 6 April 2019. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/190406-women.html>

³⁶⁸⁴ Declaration on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, 2019 Biarritz Summit (Biarritz) 26 August 2019.

Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-on-gender-equality.pdf>; Dinard Declaration on Women, Peace and Security, 2019 Biarritz Summit (Saint Malo) 6 April 2019. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/190406-women.html>

³⁶⁸⁵ Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, UN Security Council (New York) 23 March 2018. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/N1808325-1.pdf>

³⁶⁸⁶ Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, UN Security Council (New York) 23 March 2018. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/N1808325-1.pdf>

³⁶⁸⁷ Rape as a Weapon of War, Mukwege Foundation (The Hague) n.d. Access Date: 15 October 2019.

<https://www.mukwegefoundation.org/the-problem/rape-as-a-weapon-of-war/>

violence are “politically and economically marginalized women and girls.”³⁶⁸⁸ However, in 2008, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1820, a landmark decision to treat SVC as central to issues of peace and security³⁶⁸⁹ which stated that SVC “constitute[s] a war crime, a crime against humanity, or a constitutive act with respect to genocide.”³⁶⁹⁰

As the international community increasingly recognized the severity of SVC, the G7 added the issue to their agenda in a major way in 2013 in Aylesbury when the G7 Foreign Ministers adopted the Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict.³⁶⁹¹ In the Declaration, there was a clear dual concern with holding perpetrators to account as well as providing a wide variety of services for victims such as “health, psychosocial, legal and economic support.”³⁶⁹²

However, in the Leaders’ Declaration of the summit in the following year, there was little mention of SVC, with only a general commitment from the Foreign Ministers in Aylesbury to empower women in conflict zones and the statement that they “look[ed] forward to the [upcoming] Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict.”³⁶⁹³

At their meeting in 2015 in Lübeck, however, the G7 Foreign Ministers reaffirmed the Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict.³⁶⁹⁴ In Elmau in 2015, the G7 leaders “condemn[ed] in the strongest terms all forms of sexual violence in conflict.”³⁶⁹⁵

Preventing and responding to SVC was also a key component of the Ise-Shima summit of 2016. In Hiroshima that year, the Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the G7 Report on the Implementation of the G8 Declaration on the Prevention of Sexual Violence in Conflict, paying special attention to their dual responsibility of “supporting victims while holding perpetrators to account.”³⁶⁹⁶ In the Leaders’ Declaration of that summit, the G7 condemned “gender-based violence ... including sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations,” with a focus on “holding perpetrators to account” including UN personnel. G7 leaders framed this commitment in the context of the UN’s Women, Peace and Security Agenda which is largely associated with UN Security Council Resolution 1325 from 2000³⁶⁹⁷ that promotes greater responsiveness in peacebuilding operations to women affected by conflict in a particular region.³⁶⁹⁸ Of particular emphasis at that summit was strengthening peacekeepers’ abilities to respond to sexual violence in regions where they

³⁶⁸⁸ Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, UN Security Council (New York) 23 March 2018. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/N1808325-1.pdf>

³⁶⁸⁹ Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, UN Security Council (New York) 23 March 2018. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/N1808325-1.pdf>

³⁶⁹⁰ Resolution 1820, UN Security Council (New York) 19 June 2008. Access Date: 15 October 2019. [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1820\(2008\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1820(2008))

³⁶⁹¹ Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, G8 Foreign Ministers Meeting (Aylesbury) 11 April 2013. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/formin130411-psvi.html>

³⁶⁹² Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, G8 Foreign Ministers Meeting (Aylesbury) 11 April 2013. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/formin130411-psvi.html>

³⁶⁹³ G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Brussels Summit (Brussels) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>

³⁶⁹⁴ G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué, G7 Foreign Ministers Meeting (Lübeck) 15 April 2015. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/formin150415.html>

³⁶⁹⁵ Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, 2015 Elmau Summit (Elmau) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

³⁶⁹⁶ Joint Communiqué, G7 Foreign Ministers at Hiroshima (Hiroshima) 11 April 2016. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/formin160411-communique.html>

³⁶⁹⁷ Women, Peace and Security, United Nations n.d. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <https://dppa.un.org/en/women-peace-and-security>

³⁶⁹⁸ Resolution 1325, UN Security Council (New York) 31 October 2000. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/1325%282000%29>

are operating.³⁶⁹⁹ Notably, they also committed to support “increasing access to protection and to justice for those affected by sexual and gender-based violence, enhancing the full range of medical, legal and psychosocial and livelihood services, and strengthening their abilities and economic self-reliance through education and training for refugees of conflict regions.”³⁷⁰⁰

At the Charlevoix summit of 2018, SVC was also discussed in the context of including women in regional security deliberations, with the assertion that “Gender-sensitive measures that include women’s participation and perspectives to prevent and eradicate terrorism are vital to effective and sustainable results, protection from sexual and gender-based violence, and preventing other human rights abuses and violations.”³⁷⁰¹ They stated that they needed to “work together to address sexual violence in conflict zones.”³⁷⁰² At the Foreign Ministers’ Meeting of that year, the G7 also expressed concern over “sexual and gender-based violence,” especially minority victims.³⁷⁰³ The G7 Foreign Ministers placed particular emphasis on “(coordinating) efforts” to assist victims of sexual violence in Myanmar and holding UN personnel accountable for “sexual exploitation” in conflict areas.³⁷⁰⁴

Commitment Features

G7 members agreed to “continue to support efforts to promptly respond to ongoing cases of victims’ specific medical, psychological, and social needs while making those responsible accountable.”

The key part of this commitment is the promise “to continue to support efforts to promptly respond to ongoing cases of victims’ specific medical, psychological and social needs.” Based on the verb “continue,” continued support of past initiatives is included as evidence of compliance. “Support” is defined to mean a contribution of resources, which can include an increase in government funding or the establishment of a new initiative that is related to one that a G7 member has supported in the past. Verbal affirmations are not counted as support. “Efforts” can come from previous domestic policy, the policy of foreign governments, international organizations, or civil society. Notably, these must also be efforts to “promptly respond.” “Respond” is interpreted broadly, as any initiative relevant to “ongoing cases of victims’ specific medical, psychological, and social needs.” However, given the use of the adverb “promptly” and the phrase “ongoing cases,” compliance requires that these responses be attempts to intensify or supplement efforts responding to instances of SVC that are currently occurring. The UN has identified the “conflict-affected settings” as Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan (Darfur), the Syrian Arab Republic, and Yemen.³⁷⁰⁵ The UN has also identified post-conflict areas in which victims’ needs are also a concern. These are: Bosnia

³⁶⁹⁹ G7 Guiding Principles for Capacity Building of Women and Girls: Towards Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Growth and Peace, 2016 Ise-Shima Summit Documents (Ise-Shima) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/principles-women.html>

³⁷⁰⁰ G7 Guiding Principles for Capacity Building of Women and Girls: Towards Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Growth and Peace, 2016 Ise-Shima Summit Documents (Ise-Shima) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/principles-women.html>

³⁷⁰¹ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, 2018 Charlevoix Summit (La Malbaie) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

³⁷⁰² Building a More Peaceful and Secure World: G7 Public Engagement Paper, 2018 Charlevoix Summit n.d. Access Date: 15 October 2019. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/G7_public_engagement_paper_peace_security.pdf

³⁷⁰³ G7 Foreign Ministers Joint Communiqué, 2018 Charlevoix Summit (Toronto) 23 April 2018. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/180423-communique.html>

³⁷⁰⁴ G7 Foreign Ministers Joint Communiqué, 2018 Charlevoix Summit (Toronto) 23 April 2018. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/180423-communique.html>

³⁷⁰⁵ Conflict Related Sexual Violence: Report of the United Nations Secretary-General, United Nations (New York) 29 March 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/report/s-2019-280/Annual-report-2018.pdf>

and Herzegovina, Côte d'Ivoire, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Burundi, and Nigeria.³⁷⁰⁶ Efforts in all of these regions will count as compliance. Others may also count based on changing regional conditions.

Victims of SVC are anyone who has suffered one of the eight forms of sexual violence agreed upon by the UN and other international legal bodies: “rape; sexual slavery; forced pregnancy; forced abortion; enforced sterilization; forced marriage; and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity.”³⁷⁰⁷ Those responsible are to be defined as individuals, who could have acted on behalf of a state or a non-state militant group during the conflict.

This Commitment has four distinctive elements: medical needs of mental health, psychological needs of mental health, social needs of mental health, and making those responsible accountable. To support efforts in any of these four elements, a G7 member must either commit to an initiative which addresses these issues in a conflict area or contribute additional funds to a project which does so.

1. Medical needs of mental health can be seen as the problems SVC can cause victims’ physical health. According to the Mukwege Foundation, most medical needs will involve fistula repair, sexually transmitted diseases, or other injuries sustained during other injuries from SVC.³⁷⁰⁸ The UN also reports unwanted pregnancy and HIV prevention as key to medical treatment for SVC victims.³⁷⁰⁹
2. Psychological needs of mental health can be seen as policies that ease the emotional distress of victims. The UN notes that psychological support can also be “life-saving” in cases of SVC.³⁷¹⁰ The Mukwege Foundation lists the two main types of psychological treatment as psychotherapy and “psychological support activities,” which can be either as part of a group or one-on-one.³⁷¹¹ In addition to the provision of medical and psychological services specifically designed for SVC victims, the UN notes that there now exists “sensitization training” for “medical and psychosocial professionals.”³⁷¹² Intensification of such training as well as increases in services counts as compliance.
3. Social needs can be seen as needs related to the way SVC changes their victims’ position within their community. The UN notes that victims are often ostracized by their communities and

³⁷⁰⁶ Conflict Related Sexual Violence: Report of the United Nations Secretary-General, United Nations (New York) 29 March 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/report/s-2019-280/Annual-report-2018.pdf>

³⁷⁰⁷ Rape as a Weapon of War, Mukwege Foundation (The Hague) n.d. Access Date: 15 October 2019. <https://www.mukwegefoundation.org/the-problem/rape-as-a-weapon-of-war/>

³⁷⁰⁸ Handbook: Holistic Care for Survivors of Sexual Violence in Conflict, dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation (The Hague) 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

https://www.mukwegefoundation.org/wpcontent/uploads/2019/07/Handbook-Care_for_SV_Survivors-ENG-screen.pdf

³⁷⁰⁹ Conflict Related Sexual Violence: Report of the United Nations Secretary-General, United Nations (New York) 29 March 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

<https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wpcontent/uploads/2019/04/report/s-2019-280/Annual-report-2018.pdf>

³⁷¹⁰ Conflict Related Sexual Violence: Report of the United Nations Secretary-General, United Nations (New York) 29 March 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

<https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wpcontent/uploads/2019/04/report/s-2019-280/Annual-report-2018.pdf>

³⁷¹¹ Handbook: Holistic Care for Survivors of Sexual Violence in Conflict, dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation (The Hague) 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

https://www.mukwegefoundation.org/wpcontent/uploads/2019/07/Handbook-Care_for_SV_Survivors-ENG-screen.pdf

³⁷¹² Conflict Related Sexual Violence: Report of the United Nations Secretary-General, United Nations (New York) 29 March 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

<https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wpcontent/uploads/2019/04/report/s-2019-280/Annual-report-2018.pdf>

families.³⁷¹³ In particular, they note the challenges faced by survivors of wartime rape, and their children, which include “risk of abuse, abandonment and marginalization.”³⁷¹⁴ In response to these social needs, the Mukwege Foundation proposes initiatives such as support for the education of survivors; training to assist rehabilitation; and economic measures such as “emergency grant, vocational training, job placement, or access to micro-finance programmes.”³⁷¹⁵

4. Making those responsible accountable is an action that strengthens efforts at legal prosecution against the perpetrators of SVC in a current conflict area (as listed above). Complying to this part of the commitment could include leadership within the UN and the International Criminal Court to prosecute perpetrators of SVC; initiatives to improve the mechanisms for monitoring and prosecuting SVC, either by regional actors or UN personnel; or support of domestic law enforcement and the judicial system as concerns SVC.

In order for G7 members to achieve a full compliance score, they must continue to support efforts to promptly respond to ongoing cases of at least two of victims’ specific 1. Medical needs; 2. Psychological needs; 3. Social needs, while making those responsible accountable or they must continue to support efforts to promptly respond to ongoing cases of all three of victims’ specific 1. Medical needs; 2. Psychological needs; 3. Social needs. To earn a partial compliance score, they need to address only two parts of the commitment, which would mean either continuing to support efforts to promptly respond to ongoing cases of two of victims’ specific 1. Medical needs; 2. Psychological needs; 3. Social needs or continuing to support efforts to promptly respond to ongoing cases of one of victims’ specific 1. Medical needs; 2. Psychological needs; 3. Social needs while making those responsible accountable. Non-compliance, or a score of -1, refers to G7 members who have acted on only one of the four parts of this commitment, thus one of the three of victims’ specific needs or making those responsible accountable.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member either took efforts to promptly respond to ongoing cases of one of victims’ specific 1. Medical needs; 2. Psychological needs; 3. Social needs or the G7 member continued to support efforts to make those responsible accountable.
0	The G7 member continued to support efforts to promptly respond to ongoing cases in at least one of three of victims’ specific 1. Medical needs; 2. Psychological needs; 3. Social needs while continuing to support efforts to make those responsible accountable or the G7 member continued to support efforts to promptly respond to ongoing cases in two of victims’ specific 1. Medical needs; 2. Psychological needs; 3. Social needs but took no action to make those responsible accountable.
+1	The G7 member continued to support efforts to promptly respond to ongoing cases in at least two of victims’ specific 1. Medical needs; 2. Psychological needs; 3. Social needs while making those responsible accountable or the G7 member continued to support efforts to promptly respond to ongoing cases in all three of victims’ specific 1. Medical needs; 2. Psychological needs; 3. Social needs.

³⁷¹³ 9 Conflict Related Sexual Violence: Report of the United Nations Secretary-General, United Nations (New York) 29 March 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

<https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wpcontent/uploads/2019/04/report/s-2019-280/Annual-report-2018.pdf>

³⁷¹⁴ Conflict Related Sexual Violence: Report of the United Nations Secretary-General, United Nations (New York) 29 March 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

<https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wpcontent/uploads/2019/04/report/s-2019-280/Annual-report-2018.pdf>

³⁷¹⁵ Handbook: Holistic Care for Survivors of Sexual Violence in Conflict, dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation (The Hague) 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

https://www.mukwegefoundation.org/wpcontent/uploads/2019/07/Handbook-Care_for_SV_Survivors-ENG-screen.pdf

*Compliance Director: Clara Geddes
Lead Analyst: Jae Yoon Mary Nob*

Canada: -1

Canada has not complied with its commitment to support efforts to promptly respond to ongoing cases of victims' specific medical, psychological, and social issues while making those responsible accountable.

In September 2019, the Canadian embassy in Côte d'Ivoire, along with the Côte d'Ivoire Chapter of the Women's Peace and Security Network in the Economic Community of West African States, organized a panel discussion on the implementation of United Nations Resolution 1325, that emphasized protecting women from gender-based violence in conflict and providing support to victims.³⁷¹⁶

On 29 October 2019, the Government of Canada delivered a statement at the UN Security Council, where it supported the full implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. It emphasized sexual and reproductive health rights in fighting global gender-based violence and discrimination.³⁷¹⁷ The Canadian government also announced that it will co-chair the Women, Peace and Security Focal Points Network with Uruguay in 2020.³⁷¹⁸

On 30 October 2019, the Canadian government issued a statement on the anniversary of the UN's Mandate on Sexual Violence in Conflict, where it condemned sexual violence as a weapon of war and asserted that, "that survivors must have access to comprehensive support."³⁷¹⁹

On 4 November 2019, at the 4th Committee of the UN General Assembly's review of peacekeeping operations, the Canadian delegation highlighted the need to "(address) cases of sexual exploitation" on the part of UN personnel.³⁷²⁰

On 11 November 2019, the Canadian government expressed its support of Gambia's application to the International Court of Justice to hold the government of Myanmar accountable for "sexual and gender-based violence," among other genocidal acts.³⁷²¹

³⁷¹⁶ Women at the table: Peace and security in Côte d'Ivoire, Government of Canada (Ottawa) September 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/stories-histoires/2019/cotedivoire-peace-paix.aspx?lang=eng>

³⁷¹⁷ Canada National Statement - Women, Peace and Security Open Debate UN Security Council, Government of Canada (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 23 March 2020. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2019-10-women-femmes.aspx?lang=eng

³⁷¹⁸ Canada National Statement - Women, Peace and Security Open Debate UN Security Council, Government of Canada (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 23 March 2020. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2019-10-women-femmes.aspx?lang=eng

³⁷¹⁹ Member-States Statements at the 10-Year Anniversary Event to Commemorate the Establishment of the Mandate on Sexual Violence in Conflict, UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, 30 October 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/member-states-statements-10-year-anniversary-event-to-commemorate-the-establishment-of-the-mandate-on-sexual-violence-in-conflict/>

³⁷²⁰ Top Officials Highlight Progress of United Nations African Union Partnership, as Fourth Committee Starts General Debate on Peacekeeping Operations, United Nations General Assembly (New York) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/gaspd706.doc.htm>

On 25 November 2019, Minister of Foreign Affairs François-Philippe Champagne and Minister of International Development Karina Gould delivered a statement for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women where they declared that, “Sexual assault, also used in too many instances as a weapon of war, is a violation of human rights and one of the main barriers to achieving gender equality” and that, “Too often, the victims are silenced while the perpetrators go unpunished.”³⁷²²

On 6 May 2020, Canada participated in a joint statement on the gender implications of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁷²³ With regards to displaced women, the statement sets out that “Sexual and reproductive health needs, including psychosocial support services, and protection from gender-based violence, must be prioritized to ensure continuity.”³⁷²⁴

On 6 June 2020, the United Nations published the Handbook for United Nations Field Missions on Preventing and Responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence with the financial contributions from the Government of Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States.³⁷²⁵ The Handbook aims to serve as a practical guide for United Nations Field Missions to implement the conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) mandate and support practices, models, and tools to address CRSV.³⁷²⁶ The Handbook outlines approaches such as providing medical, sexual, psychological and legal services for victims as well as ensuring victims’ participations in accountability processes.³⁷²⁷

On 17 July 2020, the Government of Canada made a statement in the Security Council Open VTC [Videoconference] on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence.³⁷²⁸ In the statement, Canada reaffirmed its support in addressing sexual violence through a survivor-centered approach.³⁷²⁹ It emphasized the

³⁷²¹ Joint Statement of Canada and the Kingdom of the Netherlands Regarding the Gambia’s Action to Address Accountability in Myanmar, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/12/joint-statement-of-canada-and-the-kingdom-of-the-netherlands-regarding-the-gambias-action-to-address-accountability-in-myanmar.html>

³⁷²² Statement to Mark International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/11/statement-to-mark-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women.html>

³⁷²³ Official speeches and statements - May 11, 2020, French Embassy U.S. May 11 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://fr.franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9739>

³⁷²⁴ Official speeches and statements - May 11, 2020, French Embassy U.S. May 11 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://fr.franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9739>

³⁷²⁵ Handbook for United Nations Field Missions on United Nations Field Missions on Preventing and Responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, United Nations (New York) 6 June 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020.08-UN-CRSV-Handbook.pdf>

³⁷²⁶ Handbook for United Nations Field Missions on United Nations Field Missions on Preventing and Responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, United Nations (New York) 6 June 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020.08-UN-CRSV-Handbook.pdf>

³⁷²⁷ Handbook for United Nations Field Missions on United Nations Field Missions on Preventing and Responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, United Nations (New York) 6 June 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020.08-UN-CRSV-Handbook.pdf>

³⁷²⁸ Canada’s National Statement, Security Council Open VTC on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2020-07-17-VTC_conflict-conflits_visio.aspx?lang=eng

³⁷²⁹ Canada’s National Statement, Security Council Open VTC on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2020-07-17-VTC_conflict-conflits_visio.aspx?lang=eng

Murad Code which seeks to increase accountability for conflict-related sexual violence and support the needs and rights of victims.³⁷³⁰

On 17 July 2020, the Government of Canada submitted a statement on behalf of 62 UN member states at the Security Council Open VTC on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence.³⁷³¹ In the statement, Canada urged ensuring accountability as well as providing “the full range of mental health and psychosocial support, livelihood, legal, and non-discriminatory health services” for survivors.³⁷³²

The Canadian government has delivered several statements affirming its resolve to support victims of sexual violence in conflict and ensure accountability for those responsible. However, it has not provided any resources to address the medical, psychological, or social services for victims. It has also not taken any concrete action to bring the perpetrators to justice.³⁷³³

Thus, Canada receives a score of -1.

Analysts: Suthandira Arulkumar and Sheeriza Azeez

France: +1

France has partially complied with its commitment to support efforts to promptly respond to ongoing cases of victims’ specific medical, psychological, and social issues while making those responsible accountable.

On 11 October 2019, in its statement on the International Day of the Girl Child, the French government acknowledged that girls often suffer sexual exploitation and are particularly affected by regional conflicts.³⁷³⁴

On 29 October 2019, the Mukwege Foundation announced that the French government was contributing EUR6 million to their International Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence within a three-year time frame.³⁷³⁵

³⁷³⁰ Canada’s National Statement, Security Council Open VTC on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2020-07-17-VTC_conflict-conflits_visio.aspx?lang=eng

³⁷³¹ Statement on behalf of 62 Member States and the European Union, Security Council Open VTC on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2020-07-17-conflict-conflits.aspx

³⁷³² Statement on behalf of 62 Member States and the European Union, Security Council Open VTC on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2020-07-17-conflict-conflits.aspx

³⁷³³ This non-compliance was determined after a deep search of the following websites: <https://www.canada.ca/en/news.html>, <https://www.international.gc.ca/gac-amc/index.aspx?lang=eng>, <https://cfc-swc.gc.ca/med/news-nouvelles/index-en.html>, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/minusca>, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/minusma>, <https://monusco.unmissions.org/en>, <https://unamid.unmissions.org/>, <https://unmiss.unmissions.org/>, <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/media/press-releases/>, <https://www.mukwegefoundation.org/>, <https://www.cbc.ca/>, <https://globalnews.ca/>, <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/>

³⁷³⁴ International Day of the Girl Child, French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/international-day-of-the-girl-child-11-oct-19>

On 29 October 2019, the French government announced its support for the United Nations Security Council's Women Peace, and Security agenda.³⁷³⁶ The French government reaffirmed its support of the UN Secretary-General's "zero tolerance policy" towards sexual exploitation in conflict settings and argued that the process of involving women in peace-building should address issues relating to the "medical, psychological and social support provided to victims of sexual violence."³⁷³⁷

On 25 November 2019, the French government reaffirmed its commitment for the Dinard Declaration on Women, Peace and Security.³⁷³⁸ It commended the European Union for taking action to comply with the Dinard Declaration, especially as concerns the development of a universal framework for response to sexual violence in conflict.³⁷³⁹

On 29 November 2019, upon the adoption of UN Resolution 2493, the French delegation declared that the UN Security Council needed to "act more vigorously to combat conflict-related sexual violence."³⁷⁴⁰ The delegation commended the Sudanese army and the "Group of Five for the Sahel" in working to hold perpetrators accountable.³⁷⁴¹ The French delegation also committed to "(continuing) to support a wide range of health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health services, for victims of sexual and gender-based violence."³⁷⁴²

On 6 May 2020, France was one of 59 countries to be part of a joint statement on the gender implications of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁷⁴³ With regards to displaced women, the statement sets out that "Sexual and reproductive health needs, including psychosocial support services, and protection from gender-based violence, must be prioritized to ensure continuity."³⁷⁴⁴

On 17 July 2020, the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations Nicolas de Rivière presented a speech regarding conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) at the Security Council.³⁷⁴⁵ He

³⁷³⁵ On the 30th October, Dr. Denis Mukwege and Ms. Nadia Murad, 2018 Corecipients of the Nobel Peace Prize will Officially Launch the Global Survivors Fund in New York City at UN Headquarters at the Commemoration of the 10- year Anniversary of the Mandate on Sexual Violence in Conflict, dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation (The Hague) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.mukwegefoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/SurvivorsFUNDlaunch-30th-October.pdf>

³⁷³⁶ Women, Peace and Security, Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations in New York (New York) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/Women-Peace-and-Security-10451>

³⁷³⁷ Women, Peace and Security, Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations in New York (New York) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/Women-Peace-and-Security-10451>

³⁷³⁸ France Committed to Fighting Violence Against Women Internationally, Embassy of France in Washington, D.C. (Washington) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9448>

³⁷³⁹ France Committed to Fighting Violence Against Women Internationally, Embassy of France in Washington, D.C. (Washington) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9448>

³⁷⁴⁰ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2493, United Nations Security Council (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13998.doc.htm>

³⁷⁴¹ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2493, United Nations Security Council (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13998.doc.htm>

³⁷⁴² Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2493, United Nations Security Council (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13998.doc.htm>

³⁷⁴³ Official speeches and statements - May 11, 2020, French Embassy U.S. May 11 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://fr.franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9739>

³⁷⁴⁴ Official speeches and statements - May 11, 2020, French Embassy U.S. May 11 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://fr.franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9739>

³⁷⁴⁵ Statement by Mr. Nicolas De Riviere Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations at the Security Council, Permanent mission of France to the United Nations in New York (New York) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/Open-debate-on-sexual-violence>

cited France's EUR6.2 million grant to the Mukwege/Murad Global Fund as well as France's EUR5 million funding to a project that tackles sexual violence in Chad as evidence of France's commitment in fighting sexual violence in conflict.³⁷⁴⁶ He also announced that France will continue their commitment by organizing partnership with the Government of Mexico, UN Women, and civil society regarding CRSV.³⁷⁴⁷

France's contribution to the International Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence consists of an effort to support the medical, psychological, and social needs of victims. Therefore, France has fulfilled three of the four requirements from the commitment.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavlina Faltynek

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to continue to support efforts to promptly respond to ongoing cases of victims' specific medical, psychological, and social needs while making those responsible accountable.

On 23 September 2019, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Denis Mukwege confirmed to the United Nations General Assembly that Germany was to contribute EUR400,000 to the International Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence within a two-year time frame.³⁷⁴⁸

On 25 September 2019, at the General Debate of the 74th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas condemned sexual violence in conflict and reaffirmed the need for better support for survivors.³⁷⁴⁹

On 29 October 2019, upon the adoption of UN Resolution 2493, the German delegation declared that Germany was complying with 10 out of the 12 points on the Women, Peace, and Security agenda, particularly with regards to the fact that "survivors of sexual violence receive little or no psychosocial care, counselling or health care."³⁷⁵⁰

On 24 November 2019, in his speech for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the German Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and

³⁷⁴⁶ Statement by Mr Nicolas De Riviere Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations at the Security Council, Permanent mission of France to the United Nations in New York (New York) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/Open-debate-on-sexual-violence>

³⁷⁴⁷ Statement by Mr Nicolas De Riviere Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations at the Security Council, Permanent mission of France to the United Nations in New York (New York) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/Open-debate-on-sexual-violence>

³⁷⁴⁸ Nobel laureate seeks backing for new funds to aid women raped in war, REUTERS (New York) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-women-violence-fund/nobel-laureate-seeks-backing-for-new-fund-to-aid-women-raped-in-war-idUSKBN1W82PF>

³⁷⁴⁹ Speech by Foreign Minister Heiko Maas at the General Debate of the 74th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-general-assembly/2250142>

³⁷⁵⁰ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2493, United Nations Security Council (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13998.doc.htm>

Humanitarian Assistance acknowledged that conflict can dramatically exacerbate violence against women and reaffirmed Germany's commitment to holding perpetrators accountable.³⁷⁵¹

Germany's contribution to the International Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence consists of an effort to support the medical, psychological, and social needs of victims. Furthermore, their prosecution of Raslan and al-Gharib represent efforts to hold those responsible for sexual violence in conflict accountable.

On 4 March 2020, the Government of Germany released an article on Germany's priority of protecting women in its foreign and security policy.³⁷⁵² The article stated that "women, peace and security" is one of Germany's focuses in its Security Council membership and is taking several measures to push this agenda including its commitment to the Federal Government Action Plan (2017-2020) to implement the Resolution 1325 which contains measures to protect women and girls against violence in armed conflicts.³⁷⁵³

On 6 May 2020, Germany was one of 59 countries to be part of a joint statement on the gender implications of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁷⁵⁴ With regards to displaced women, the statement sets out that "Sexual and reproductive health needs, including psychosocial support services, and protection from gender-based violence, must be prioritized to ensure continuity."³⁷⁵⁵

On 19 June 2020, the Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Assistance at the Federal Foreign Office Barbel Kofler issued statement regarding sexual violence in conflict.³⁷⁵⁶ Commissioner Kofler stated that the Government of Germany is currently working in conflict regions and in the UN Security Council to fight sexual violence in conflict and its root causes.³⁷⁵⁷ He also stated that Germany will continue to work on the implementation of Resolution 2467.³⁷⁵⁸

On 15 July 2020, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) announced that the Government of Germany has increased its funding by EUR30 million to support the UNFPA's response to the

³⁷⁵¹ Statement by Human Rights Commissioner Kofler on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 24 November 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/kofler-voilence-against-women/2281266>

³⁷⁵² Women, peace and security, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/menschenrechte/05-frauen/women-conflict-prevention/291532>

³⁷⁵³ Women, peace and security, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/menschenrechte/05-frauen/women-conflict-prevention/291532>

³⁷⁵⁴ Official speeches and statements - May 11, 2020, French Embassy U.S. May 11 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://fr.franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9739>

³⁷⁵⁵ Official speeches and statements - May 11, 2020, French Embassy U.S. May 11 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://fr.franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9739>

³⁷⁵⁶ Human Rights Commissioner Kofler on the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/kofler-sexual-violence-in-conflict/2354890>

³⁷⁵⁷ Human Rights Commissioner Kofler on the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/kofler-sexual-violence-in-conflict/2354890>

³⁷⁵⁸ Human Rights Commissioner Kofler on the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/kofler-sexual-violence-in-conflict/2354890>

COVID-19 crisis.³⁷⁵⁹ The financial contribution is expected to “support a wide-range of live-saving sexual and reproductive health services to women and girls affected by the pandemic” and respond to rising gender-based violence under lockdown.³⁷⁶⁰

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Maria Anna Staszkievicz

Italy: -1

Italy has not complied with its commitment to continue to support efforts to promptly respond to ongoing cases of victims’ specific medical, psychological, and social needs while making those responsible accountable.

On 13 April 2020, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) announced that they will provide sexual and reproductive health support for nearly 60,000 vulnerable migrants in Sudan with the funding from the Government of Italy.³⁷⁶¹ This initiative will focus on providing medical support for female migrants and aim to support female migrants at high risk of gender-based violence.³⁷⁶²

On 6 May 2020, Italy was one of 59 countries to be part of a joint statement on the gender implications of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁷⁶³ With regards to displaced women, the statement sets out that “Sexual and reproductive health needs, including psychosocial support services, and protection from gender-based violence, must be prioritized to ensure continuity.”³⁷⁶⁴

On 17 July 2020, the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations Mariangela Zappia presented a speech regarding conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) at the Security Council.³⁷⁶⁵ Ambassador Zappia called for holding perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict accountable as a deterrent for future violations. She additionally promoted a survivor-centered approach of providing survivors services such as medical, legal and psychological support.³⁷⁶⁶

Italy has promoted ongoing efforts in responding to the needs of the victims of sexual violence in conflict by providing medical support to female migrants at risk of gender-based violence in conflict

³⁷⁵⁹ COVID-19: Germany commits additional EUR30 million to uphold women’s sexual and reproductive health, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 15 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.unfpa.org/press/covid-19-germany-commits-additional-%E2%82%AC30-million-uphold-womens-sexual-and-reproductive-health%C2%A0>

³⁷⁶⁰ COVID-19: Germany commits additional EUR30 million to uphold women’s sexual and reproductive health, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 15 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.unfpa.org/press/covid-19-germany-commits-additional-%E2%82%AC30-million-uphold-womens-sexual-and-reproductive-health%C2%A0>

³⁷⁶¹ Italian assistance helps UNFPA protect vulnerable migrant women, youth in Sudan, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.unfpa.org/updates/italian-assistance-helps-unfpa-protect-vulnerable-migrant-women-youth-sudan>

³⁷⁶² Italian assistance helps UNFPA protect vulnerable migrant women, youth in Sudan, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.unfpa.org/updates/italian-assistance-helps-unfpa-protect-vulnerable-migrant-women-youth-sudan>

³⁷⁶³ Official speeches and statements - May 11, 2020, French Embassy U.S. May 11 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://fr.franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9739>

³⁷⁶⁴ Official speeches and statements - May 11, 2020, French Embassy U.S. May 11 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://fr.franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9739>

³⁷⁶⁵ Security Council - Open Debate, Permanent Representatives of Italy to the United Nations (New York) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. https://italyun.esteri.it/rappresentanza_onu/en/comunicazione/archivio-news/2020/07/consiglio-di-sicurezza-dibattito_58.html

³⁷⁶⁶ Security Council - Open Debate, Permanent Representatives of Italy to the United Nations (New York) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. https://italyun.esteri.it/rappresentanza_onu/en/comunicazione/archivio-news/2020/07/consiglio-di-sicurezza-dibattito_58.html

but has not provided psychological and social support. It has also demonstrated action in making perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict responsible.

Italy has not promoted ongoing efforts in responding to the needs of the victims of sexual violence in conflict by condemning acts of sexual violence in conflict. It has also not made an effort to make perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict responsible.

Thus, Italy receives a score of -1.³⁷⁶⁷

Analyst: Micaela (Mica) Pacheco

Japan: -1

Japan has not complied with its commitment to continue to support efforts to promptly respond to ongoing cases of victims' specific medical, psychological, and social needs while making those responsible accountable.

On 24 September 2019, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe exchanged a call with Nadia Murad at the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.³⁷⁶⁸ During the call, Prime Minister Abe outlined Japan's support to rebuild regions emancipated by ISIL in Iraq, with an emphasis on victims of sexual violence.³⁷⁶⁹ In this context, Abe committed Japan to supplying Iraq's Sinjar Hospital with medical equipment.³⁷⁷⁰

On 27 September 2019, the Japanese government submitted the Second Edition of its National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, which outlines the government's plans to protect women and girls for the years 2019-2022.³⁷⁷¹ In it, the Japanese government presents its goal to "provide victims of sexual and gender-based violence under humanitarian crisis with comprehensive support, including physical, medical, psychosocial, legal, and economic assistance."³⁷⁷² It plans to accomplish this goal by reinforcing the mechanisms that currently support victims of sexual violence in conflict; providing training to Japanese officials and peacekeepers in regions of humanitarian crises; contributing to efforts in "rehabilitation and empowerment" for victims; and supporting international organizations that aim to achieve this goal.³⁷⁷³ The report also outlines the Japanese government's goal to hold perpetrators of sexual exploitation and gender-based violence accountable,

³⁷⁶⁷ This non-compliance was determined after a deep search of the following websites: <https://www.esteri.it/mae/en>, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/minusca>, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/minusma>, <https://monusco.unmissions.org/en>, <https://unamid.unmissions.org/>, <https://unmiss.unmissions.org/>, <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/media/press-releases/>, <https://www.mukwegefoundation.org/>, <https://www.agi.it/>, <https://www.ilmessaggero.it/ricerca/sexual-violence/>, <https://www.repubblica.it/>.

³⁷⁶⁸ Prime Minister Abe Attends the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (New York) 28 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/unp_a/page3e_001114.html

³⁷⁶⁹ Prime Minister Abe Attends the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (New York) 28 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/unp_a/page3e_001114.html

³⁷⁷⁰ Prime Minister Abe Attends the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (New York) 28 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/unp_a/page3e_001114.html

³⁷⁷¹ 8 National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000521395.pdf>

³⁷⁷² 8 National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000521395.pdf>

³⁷⁷³ 8 National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000521395.pdf>

with particular emphasis on atrocities committed by aid workers and dispatched personnel.³⁷⁷⁴ The Japanese government intends to achieve this goal by implementing a prosecution and punishment mechanism in the event of sexual violence committed during deployment; participating in initiatives by the international community for ending sexual and gender-based violence; and “(providing) human resource and financial contributions to UN Women, UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy on Sexual Violence in Conflict, and the International Criminal Court.”³⁷⁷⁵ If the Japanese government does follow through with some of these actions and applies them to current conflicts, such policies will count towards compliance. However, the report as it is now will not as it does not consist of any new initiatives nor does it consist of a contribution towards ongoing initiatives.

On 8 October 2019, Japan attended the United Nations Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee meeting, and participated in a discussion among members on the topic of sexual violence experienced by children in conflict situations.³⁷⁷⁶ In this discussion, Japan reinforced the urgency that the committee must take to end violence against children, and that a “comprehensive approach and collaboration among various sections” is the way to achieve this.³⁷⁷⁷ Akane Miyazaki, Special Advisor to the Government of Japan outlines that 2019 is the 25th anniversary of Japan’s ratification of Conventions on the Rights of the Child.³⁷⁷⁸ Mr. Miyazaki continues to outline the country’s intention to implement a National Action Plan to end violence against children and intends on releasing it in 2020, and re-iterates Japan’s enactment of the Child Welfare Act, its contribution of USD5.9 million to the End Violence Fund – which supported humanitarian projects in Uganda and Nigeria – to end sexual violence against children in conflict.³⁷⁷⁹

On 30 October 2019, Yasuhisa Kawamura, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, made a statement at the 10th Anniversary of the Mandate on Sexual Violence in Conflict.³⁷⁸⁰ Kawamura outlined Japan’s consistent efforts to enhance the work of the Special Representative. Ambassador Kawamura reinforces Japan’s efforts by announcing its support for the International Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, and Prime Minister Abe’s

³⁷⁷⁴ 8 National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000521395.pdf>

³⁷⁷⁵ 8 National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000521395.pdf>

³⁷⁷⁶ Children Exposed to ‘Unimaginable’ Violence during Conflict, Expert Tells Third Committee as Delegates Call for Accountability, Legal Reforms, United Nations – Meetings Coverage and Press Releases (New York) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/gashc4263.doc.htm>

³⁷⁷⁷ Children Exposed to ‘Unimaginable’ Violence during Conflict, Expert Tells Third Committee as Delegates Call for Accountability, Legal Reforms, United Nations – Meetings Coverage and Press Releases (New York) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/gashc4263.doc.htm>

³⁷⁷⁸ Children Exposed to ‘Unimaginable’ Violence during Conflict, Expert Tells Third Committee as Delegates Call for Accountability, Legal Reforms, United Nations – Meetings Coverage and Press Releases (New York) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/gashc4263.doc.htm>

³⁷⁷⁹ Children Exposed to ‘Unimaginable’ Violence during Conflict, Expert Tells Third Committee as Delegates Call for Accountability, Legal Reforms, United Nations – Meetings Coverage and Press Releases (New York) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/gashc4263.doc.htm>

³⁷⁸⁰ Statement by H.E. Ambassador Yasuhisa Kawamura, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, at the Event to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Mandate on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (New York) 30 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://www.un.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/kawamura103019.html

direct communication with Nobel Laureates linked to this initiative, Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad.³⁷⁸¹

On 23 March 2019, Japan hosted the World Assembly for Women (WAW! W20), which included a panel on "Women's Participation in Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Post Conflict Recovery" that included input from Japanese and British government officials, UN officials, and members of civil society.³⁷⁸² The Panel on Women's Participation in Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding, and Post-Conflict Recovery included discussion on the role of legal systems in reparations for victims of sexual violence in conflict.³⁷⁸³ Japan also confirmed that they had updated their National Action Plan on Women to promote the role of women in the peacebuilding process.³⁷⁸⁴

On 15 January 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs published "Promoting Efforts to Address Global Issues and People-centered Development," as part of their White Paper on Development Cooperation 2018, on Japan's initiatives relating to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. In it, they reaffirm Japan's strong working relationship with the United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC), and intention to "secure women's participation in all stages of conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peace building."³⁷⁸⁵

Japan's commitment to contribute to the Sinjar Hospital constitutes an effort to meet the medical needs of victims. However, the Japanese government has not taken efforts to address survivors' psychological or social needs nor has it taken efforts to hold those responsible accountable, despite making statements affirming Japan's support of such actions.³⁷⁸⁶

On 10 March 2020, the Government of Japan announced that it will extend the Emergency Grant Aid of USD23.7 million for refugees and internally displaced persons in the Sahel region.³⁷⁸⁷ Through the grant, Japan will provide provision of protection for approximately 157,000 vulnerable people and children suffering from conflict-related gender-based violence in the Republic of Niger.³⁷⁸⁸ Japan

³⁷⁸¹ Statement by H.E. Ambassador Yasuhisa Kawamura, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, at the Event to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Mandate on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (New York) 30 October 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://www.un.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/kawamura103019.html

³⁷⁸² World Assembly for Women, WAW!/W20, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 23 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000547076.pdf>

³⁷⁸³ World Assembly for Women, WAW!/W20, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 23 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000547076.pdf>

³⁷⁸⁴ World Assembly for Women, WAW!/W20, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 23 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000547076.pdf>

³⁷⁸⁵ Promoting Efforts to Address Global Issues and People-Centered Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/00054948.pdf>

³⁷⁸⁶ Non-compliance was determined after reviewing www.mofa.go.jp, <https://www.mod.go.jp/e/press/>, http://www.gender.go.jp/english_contents/, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/minusca>, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/minusma>, <https://monusco.unmissions.org/en>, <https://unamid.unmissions.org/>, <https://unmiss.unmissions.org/>,

<https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/media/press-releases/>, <https://www.mukwegefoundation.org/>, <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/>, <http://www.asahi.com/ajw/>, <https://mainichi.jp/english/>.

³⁷⁸⁷ Emergency Grant Aid in response to the humanitarian crisis in the Sahel Region, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002744.html

³⁷⁸⁸ Emergency Grant Aid in response to the humanitarian crisis in the Sahel Region, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002744.html

will also provide provisions of protection and legal assistance for approximately 66,000 people suffering from conflict-related gender-based violence in the Republic of Mali.³⁷⁸⁹

On 6 May 2020, Japan was one of 59 countries to be part of a joint statement on the gender implications of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁷⁹⁰ With regards to displaced women, the statement sets out that “Sexual and reproductive health needs, including psychosocial support services, and protection from gender-based violence, must be prioritized to ensure continuity.”³⁷⁹¹

On 27 May 2020, the Ambassador to the United Nations Kimihiro Ishikane stated that people affected by armed conflict such as women are the most vulnerable in the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁷⁹² Japan reiterated its commitment to promote public awareness of the international humanitarian law (IHL) in order to combat sexual violence in armed conflicts and pressed parties to armed conflict to comply with IHL.³⁷⁹³

On 7 August 2020, the Government of Japan announced that it will extend the Emergency Grant Aid of USD4.8 million for refugees and internally displaced persons that are affected by the deteriorated security conditions in Burkina Faso, Chad and Niger.³⁷⁹⁴ Through the grant, Japan will provide provision of mental care to approximately 1,000 people including survivors of sexual based violence in Burkina Faso and provide provision of health service and livelihood support activities for approximately 89,000 people in the Republic of Chad.³⁷⁹⁵ Japan will also provide shelter and protection for approximately 1,000 households as a response to sexual based violence in conflict.³⁷⁹⁶

Thus, Japan receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Margaret de Leon

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to continue to support efforts to promptly respond to ongoing cases of victims’ specific medical, psychological, and social needs while making those responsible accountable.

³⁷⁸⁹ Emergency Grant Aid in response to the humanitarian crisis in the Sahel Region, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002744.html

³⁷⁹⁰ Official speeches and statements - May 11, 2020, French Embassy U.S. May 11 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://fr.franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9739>

³⁷⁹¹ Official speeches and statements - May 11, 2020, French Embassy U.S. May 11 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://fr.franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9739>

³⁷⁹² Statement by H.E. Ambassador ISHIKANE Kimihiro, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, United Nations Security Council Open VTC on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (New York) 27 May 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. https://www.un.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/ishikane052720.html

³⁷⁹³ Statement by H.E. Ambassador ISHIKANE Kimihiro, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, United Nations Security Council Open VTC on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (New York) 27 May 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. https://www.un.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/ishikane052720.html

³⁷⁹⁴ Emergency Grant Aid in response to the humanitarian crisis in Burkina Faso, Chad and Niger, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 7 August 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002875.html

³⁷⁹⁵ Emergency Grant Aid in response to the humanitarian crisis in Burkina Faso, Chad and Niger, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 7 August 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002875.html

³⁷⁹⁶ Emergency Grant Aid in response to the humanitarian crisis in Burkina Faso, Chad and Niger, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 7 August 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002875.html

On 11 September 2019, the British Embassy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo released an application for projects aimed at responding to sexual violence in the region.³⁷⁹⁷ The United Kingdom announced that it would provide between USD10,000 and USD309,000 for initiatives aimed at either improving the legal process in holding perpetrators accountable or challenging the stigma faced by survivors of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.³⁷⁹⁸

On 18 September 2019, at the United Nations Security Council briefing on South Sudan, the UK Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Jonathan Allen insisted that the international community needed to take action to end impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence in this conflict.³⁷⁹⁹

On 25 September 2019, at the 42nd session of the UN Human Rights Council, the British Ambassador for Human Rights Rita French commended the government for the Democratic Republic of the Congo for its “efforts to combat impunity and sexual violence.”³⁸⁰⁰

On 25 September 2019, at the 42nd session of the UN Human Rights Council, the British Ambassador to the UN Julian Braithwaite condemned “sexual and gender-based violence” in the current conflict in Libya.³⁸⁰¹

On 5 November 2019, at a UN Security Council briefing on Bosnia and Herzegovina, UK Permanent Representative to the UN Karen Pierce expressed the United Kingdom’s support for Trial International’s efforts to “secure justice for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.”³⁸⁰²

On 17 October 2019, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office selected the first Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Survivor Champions.³⁸⁰³ The Survivor Champions will lead a network for survivors and members of the government to adequately tackle the issue of sexual violence in conflict.³⁸⁰⁴ The Prime Minister’s Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Lord Ahmad, promoted this initiative, stating that “survivors must remain at the heart of

³⁷⁹⁷ DRC: Call for Bids to do Projects on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/call-for-bids-preventing-sexual-violence-in-drc-in-201920>

³⁷⁹⁸ DRC: Call for Bids to do Projects on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/call-for-bids-preventing-sexual-violence-in-drc-in-201920>

³⁷⁹⁹ Boosting the efforts of the South Sudanese people’s push for peace, UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/boosting-the-efforts-of-the-south-sudanese-peoples-push-for-peace>

³⁸⁰⁰ UN Human Rights Council 42: Interactive Dialogue on the Democratic Republic of Congo, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/un-human-rights-council-42-interactive-dialogue-on-the-democratic-republic-of-congo>

³⁸⁰¹ UN Human Rights Council 42 - Interactive Dialogue with the UN High Commissioner on Libya, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/un-human-rights-council-42-interactive-dialogue-with-the-un-high-commissioner-on-libya>

³⁸⁰² Securing justice and maintaining peace for Bosnian citizens, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/securing-justice-and-maintaining-peace-for-bosnian-citizens>

³⁸⁰³ UK announces Survivor Champions to help end sexual violence in conflict, GOV.UK (London) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-survivor-champions-to-help-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict>

³⁸⁰⁴ UK announces Survivor Champions to help end sexual violence in conflict, GOV.UK (London) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-survivor-champions-to-help-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict>

international efforts to end sexual violence in conflict.”³⁸⁰⁵ However, the United Kingdom created this position before the compliance period began.³⁸⁰⁶ As such, this action cannot count toward compliance.

On 29 October 2019, at the UN Security Council briefing on Women, Peace and Security, Pierce expressed the UK’s support of Resolution 1325 and insisted that the UN needed to take more action to ensure that it can deliver “an effective response to conflict-related sexual violence.”³⁸⁰⁷

On 31 October 2019, at the Security Council briefing on the United Nations Mission in Kosovo, UK Political Coordinator at the UN David Clay commended the joint declaration of religious groups in Kosovo on the topic of “survivors of sexual violence.”³⁸⁰⁸ He also expressed the UK’s commitment to “supporting victims” of sexual violence from regional conflict in Kosovo, specifying that this applied to victims of all ethnic backgrounds.³⁸⁰⁹

On 4 November 2019, at the Security Council briefing on Peace and Security in Africa, Ambassador Pierce highlighted the importance of “[addressing] sexual and gender-based violence” in Somalia.³⁸¹⁰

On 18 February 2020, Ambassador Pierce referred to “instances of intimidation and sexual violence against women in Houthi-controlled areas (of Yemen)” as “deeply troubling” when she spoke at the Security Council briefing on Yemen.³⁸¹¹

On 20 February 2020, the UK government responded to the Independent Commission for Aid Impact’s recommendations on the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative.³⁸¹² The UK fully accepted three of the four proposals including one to “ensure that its work on preventing conflict-related sexual violence is founded on survivor-led design, which has clear protocols in place founded in ‘do no harm’ principles.”³⁸¹³

³⁸⁰⁵ UK announces Survivor Champions to help end sexual violence in conflict, GOV.UK (London) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-survivor-champions-to-help-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict>

³⁸⁰⁶ UK announces PSVI Survivor Champion role to end sexual violence in conflict, GOV.UK (London) 19 June 2019. Access Date: 29 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-psvi-survivor-champion-role-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict>

³⁸⁰⁷ Pushing for real implementation of women in the peace and security agenda, UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pushing-for-real-implementation-of-women-in-the-peace-and-security-agenda>

³⁸⁰⁸ Commitment to peace in Kosovo for future generations, UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 31 October 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/commitment-to-peace-in-kosovo-for-future-generations>

³⁸⁰⁹ Commitment to peace in Kosovo for future generations, UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 31 October 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/commitment-to-peace-in-kosovo-for-future-generations>

³⁸¹⁰ Placing women's rights and representation at the heart of peacemaking in Africa, UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/placing-womens-rights-and-representation-at-the-heart-of-peacemaking-in-africa>

³⁸¹¹ Violence and Suffering in Yemen Must Stop if Peace is to Thrive, UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 18 February 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/violence-and-suffering-in-yemen-must-stop-if-peace-is-to-thrive>

³⁸¹² HMG Response, HM Government and UK Aid (London) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/867067/Independent_Commission_for_Aid_Impact_review_on_PSVI.pdf

³⁸¹³ HMG Response, HM Government and UK Aid (London) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/867067/Independent_Commission_for_Aid_Impact_review_on_PSVI.pdf

On 27 February 2020, Ambassador French delivered a statement at the Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner on Rohingya and other minorities in Myanmar in which she expressed the UK's disapproval of "the Tatmadaw's culture of impunity for acts of sexual violence" among other concerns.³⁸¹⁴

On 3 March 2020, the UK announced it will spend GBP110 million on aid to Syrian refugee camps, including the building of "facilities where women and girls can be protected from sexual attacks."³⁸¹⁵ However, this action does not address survivors of sexual violence in conflict and, thus, does not count toward compliance.

On 4 March 2020, Ambassador Allen, in his speech at the Security Council briefing on South Sudan, listed "sexual and gender based violence used as a weapon of war" as one of the reasons the UK is committed to supporting humanitarian efforts in South Sudan.³⁸¹⁶

On 9 March 2020, Ambassador French listed "ongoing sexual and gender-based violence" as one of the UK's concerns at the Interactive Dialogue with the UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan.³⁸¹⁷

On 11 March 2020, at the Security Council Debate on peace and security in Africa: countering terrorism and extremism in Africa, Allen expressed the UK's support for the UN's "holistic approach" that addressed "the use of sexual violence as a tactic of terrorism and that tackling that, and the importance of building inclusive and meaningful partnerships to counter-terrorism to bring perpetrators to justice and prevent violent extremism."³⁸¹⁸

On 24 April 2020, Ambassador Clay stated that the UK commended the Government of Kosovo's prosecution of some cases of sexual violence as a war crime and the work of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo in "supporting survivors to share their stories and encouraging the Government of Kosovo to prioritise addressing sexual violence." The UK reaffirmed its support to provide services to victims of sexual violence using its 'Be My Voice Campaign' in Kosovo as an example.³⁸¹⁹

On 6 May 2020, the United Kingdom was one of 59 countries to be part of a joint statement on the gender implications of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁸²⁰ With regards to displaced women, the statement

³⁸¹⁴ UN Human Rights Council 43: UK Statement for the Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner on Rohingya and Other Minorities in Myanmar, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 27 February 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/un-human-rights-council-43-uk-statement-for-the-interactive-dialogue-with-the-high-commissioner-on-rohingya-and-other-minorities-in-myanmar>

³⁸¹⁵ UK Aid Protects Victims of Violence as Syrian Regime Increases Attacks in Idlib, Department for International Development and Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-protects-victims-of-violence-as-syrian-regime-increases-attacks-in-idlib>

³⁸¹⁶ Ensuring Genuine Change and Implementation of Commitments in South Sudan, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/ensuring-genuine-change-and-implementation-of-commitments-in-south-sudan>

³⁸¹⁷ UN Human Rights Council 43: UK Statement for the Interactive Dialogue with the UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/un-human-rights-council-43-uk-statement-for-the-interactive-dialogue-with-the-un-commission-on-human-rights-in-south-sudan>

³⁸¹⁸ Countering Terrorism and Extremism in Africa, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/countering-terrorism-and-extremism-in-africa>

³⁸¹⁹ Delivering on Health, Safety and Justice in Kosovo, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/delivering-on-health-safety-and-justice-in-kosovo>

³⁸²⁰ Official speeches and statements - May 11, 2020, French Embassy U.S. May 11 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://fr.franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9739>

sets out that “Sexual and reproductive health needs, including psychosocial support services, and protection from gender-based violence, must be prioritized to ensure continuity.”³⁸²¹

On 20 May 2020, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) announced that it along with the European Union, the United Kingdom, and Poland will host a panel discussion to discuss the needs of people with disabilities exposed to conflicts.³⁸²² The discussion will focus on women and girls and their additional risks such as sexual violence.³⁸²³

On 6 June 2020, the United Nations published the Handbook for United Nations Field Missions on Preventing and Responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence with the financial contributions from the Government of Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States.³⁸²⁴ The Handbook aims to serve as a practical guide for United Nations Field Missions to implement the conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) mandate and support practices, models, and tools to address CRSV.³⁸²⁵ The Handbook outlines approaches such as providing medical, sexual, psychological and legal services for victims as well as ensuring victims’ participations in accountability processes.³⁸²⁶

On 18 June 2020, Ambassador Neil Bush delivered a speech at the Permanent Council of the Organisation for Co-operation and Security in Europe regarding the elimination of sexual violence in conflict. Ambassador Bush announced that the United Kingdom will launch the draft ‘Murad Code’, a survivor-centered code of conduct, for global consultations.³⁸²⁷ The Murad Code will aim to prevent the re-traumatization of survivors when documenting sexual violence in conflict and strengthen investigation into sexual violence crimes.³⁸²⁸

On 17 July 2020, the Prime Minister’s Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Tariq Ahmad presented a speech at the Security Council open debate on Women, Peace and Security: Conflict-related sexual violence.³⁸²⁹ Ahmad announced that the United Kingdom will

³⁸²¹ Official speeches and statements - May 11, 2020, French Embassy U.S. May 11 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020.

<https://fr.franceintheus.org/spip.php?article9739>

³⁸²² Persons with disabilities in armed conflict, United Nations Mine Action Service (New York) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://unmas.org/en/persons-with-disabilities-armed-conflict>

³⁸²³ Persons with disabilities in armed conflict, United Nations Mine Action Service (New York) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://unmas.org/en/persons-with-disabilities-armed-conflict>

³⁸²⁴ Handbook for United Nations Field Missions on United Nations Field Missions on Preventing and Responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, United Nations (New York) 6 June 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020.

<https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020.08-UN-CRSV-Handbook.pdf>

³⁸²⁵ Handbook for United Nations Field Missions on United Nations Field Missions on Preventing and Responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, United Nations (New York) 6 June 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020.

<https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020.08-UN-CRSV-Handbook.pdf>

³⁸²⁶ Handbook for United Nations Field Missions on United Nations Field Missions on Preventing and Responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, United Nations (New York) 6 June 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020.

<https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020.08-UN-CRSV-Handbook.pdf>

³⁸²⁷ International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict: UK Statement, Government of United Kingdom (London) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/international-day-for-the-elimination-of-sexual-violence-in-conflict-uk-statement>

³⁸²⁸ International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict: UK Statement, Government of United Kingdom (London) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/international-day-for-the-elimination-of-sexual-violence-in-conflict-uk-statement>

³⁸²⁹ Putting survivors first when combatting conflict-related sexual violence, Government of United Kingdom (London) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/putting-survivors-first-when-combatting-conflict-related-sexual-violence>

contribute GBP1.3 million to the Mukwege Global Survivors Fund.³⁸³⁰ The funding is intended to support victims of sexual violence in conflict through a survivor-centered approach.³⁸³¹

The United Kingdom's initiative in the Democratic Republic of the Congo demonstrates its support for the social needs of victims as well as accountability to perpetrators. The United Kingdom's contribution to the International Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence also consists of an effort to support the medical, psychological, and social needs of victims, completing three out of four of the requirements from the commitment.

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

Analyst: Janine Alhadidi

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to continue to support efforts to promptly respond to ongoing cases of victims' specific medical, psychological, and social needs while making those responsible accountable.

On 25 November 2019, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, delivered a press statement on International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.³⁸³² Secretary Pompeo reinforced the government's commitment to protecting the rights of women and girls against sexual and gender-based violence – “for the sake of national security, global prosperity, and the rights and dignity of women and girls worldwide.”³⁸³³

On 29 October 2019, Ambassador Cherith Norman Chalet, U.S. Representative for United Nations Management and Reform, delivered remarks at the United Nations Security Council Open Debate on the 10-Year Anniversary of the Sexual Violence and Conflict Mandate.³⁸³⁴ Ambassador Chalet stated that the U.S. government was committed to “preventing conflict-related sexual violence, holding perpetrators accountable, and supporting survivors.” Ambassador Chalet also stated that the United States contributed USD1.7 million in September 2019 to the UN's Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict in support of “treatment and restorative programs for survivors of sexual violence and conflict, and funding for further research.”³⁸³⁵ Chalet reinforced the implementation of U.S. government policies and programs to support sexual violence prevention,

³⁸³⁰ Putting survivors first when combatting conflict-related sexual violence, Government of United Kingdom (London) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/putting-survivors-first-when-combatting-conflict-related-sexual-violence>

³⁸³¹ Putting survivors first when combatting conflict-related sexual violence, Government of United Kingdom (London) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/putting-survivors-first-when-combatting-conflict-related-sexual-violence>

³⁸³² On International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.state.gov/on-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women/?fbclid=IwAR3fGDOS8MhT4XfG5L7opSKUQJh_mXT5FgOVE1JVvIKtN8IBFT-0hY5YUog

³⁸³³ On International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.state.gov/on-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women/?fbclid=IwAR3fGDOS8MhT4XfG5L7opSKUQJh_mXT5FgOVE1JVvIKtN8IBFT-0hY5YUog

³⁸³⁴ Remarks at UN Security Council Open Debate on the 10 Year Anniversary of the Sexual Violence in Conflict Mandate, United States Mission to the United Nations (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://usun.usmission.gov/remarks-at-a-un-security-council-open-debate-on-the-10-year-anniversary-of-the-sexual-violence-in-conflict-mandate/>

³⁸³⁵ Remarks at UN Security Council Open Debate on the 10 Year Anniversary of the Sexual Violence in Conflict Mandate, United States Mission to the United Nations (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://usun.usmission.gov/remarks-at-a-un-security-council-open-debate-on-the-10-year-anniversary-of-the-sexual-violence-in-conflict-mandate/>

including the U.S. Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security announced by President Donald Trump in June of 2019.³⁸³⁶ The strategy acknowledges that women and girls experience distinct and disproportionate atrocities in situations of conflict, and calls for the government to discover the innate causes of sexual violence in order to achieve effective implementation.³⁸³⁷

On 27 May 2020, the Ambassador to the United Nations Kelly Craft stated that the United States is working towards assisting civilians in armed conflict by supporting local strategies “to mitigate COVID-19’s acute risks to women and girls, including conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence.”³⁸³⁸ This initiative will be consistent with the United States’ strategy on Women, Peace and Security.³⁸³⁹

On 6 June 2020, the United Nations published the Handbook for United Nations Field Missions on Preventing and Responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence with the financial contributions from the Government of Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States.³⁸⁴⁰ The Handbook aims to serve as a practical guide for United Nations Field Missions to implement the conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) mandate and support practices, models, and tools to address CRSV.³⁸⁴¹ The Handbook outlines approaches such as providing medical, sexual, psychological and legal services for victims as well as ensuring victims’ participations in accountability processes.³⁸⁴²

On 19 June 2020, the U.S. Mission to the United Nations and the Secretary of State’s Office of Global Women’s Issues released a statement regarding the elimination of sexual violence in conflict.³⁸⁴³ In the statement, the United States reaffirmed its commitment “at the highest levels to

³⁸³⁶ Remarks at UN Security Council Open Debate on the 10 Year Anniversary of the Sexual Violence in Conflict Mandate, United States Mission to the United Nations (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://usun.usmission.gov/remarks-at-a-un-security-council-open-debate-on-the-10-year-anniversary-of-the-sexual-violence-in-conflict-mandate/>

³⁸³⁷ Remarks at UN Security Council Open Debate on the 10 Year Anniversary of the Sexual Violence in Conflict Mandate, United States Mission to the United Nations (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://usun.usmission.gov/remarks-at-a-un-security-council-open-debate-on-the-10-year-anniversary-of-the-sexual-violence-in-conflict-mandate/>

³⁸³⁸ Remarks at a UN Security Council Briefing on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (via VTC), United States Mission to the United Nations (New York) 27 May 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://usun.usmission.gov/remarks-at-a-un-security-council-briefing-on-the-protection-of-civilians-in-armed-conflict-via-rtc/>

³⁸³⁹ Remarks at a UN Security Council Briefing on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (via VTC), United States Mission to the United Nations (New York) 27 May 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://usun.usmission.gov/remarks-at-a-un-security-council-briefing-on-the-protection-of-civilians-in-armed-conflict-via-rtc/>

³⁸⁴⁰ Handbook for United Nations Field Missions on United Nations Field Missions on Preventing and Responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, United Nations (New York) 6 June 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020.08-UN-CRSV-Handbook.pdf>

³⁸⁴¹ Handbook for United Nations Field Missions on United Nations Field Missions on Preventing and Responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, United Nations (New York) 6 June 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020.08-UN-CRSV-Handbook.pdf>

³⁸⁴² Handbook for United Nations Field Missions on United Nations Field Missions on Preventing and Responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, United Nations (New York) 6 June 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020.08-UN-CRSV-Handbook.pdf>

³⁸⁴³ Statement by the U.S. Mission to the United Nations and the Secretary of State’s Office of Global Women’s Issues on the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/statement-by-the-u-s-mission-to-the-united-nations-and-the-secretary-of-states-office-of-global-womens-issues-on-the-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-sexual-violence-in-conf/>

prevent sexual violence in conflict, hold perpetrators accountable, and support survivors.”³⁸⁴⁴ The United States stated that it is currently politically and financially supporting the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict.³⁸⁴⁵ It also stated that it is supporting CRSV elimination efforts in Burma, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.³⁸⁴⁶

On 17 July 2020, Ambassador Craft delivered a speech at the UN Security Council High-Level Annual Open Debate on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence.³⁸⁴⁷ Ambassador Craft stated that the United States supports a survivor-centered and rights-based approach to CRSV in which “survivors have access to appropriate, accessible, and quality services including health care, psychological and social support, security, and legal assistance.”³⁸⁴⁸ Ambassador Craft also stated that the United States is currently training personnel from the judicial system in the Central African Republic to initiate investigations and prosecutions of gender-based violence crimes, an initiative aiming to hold perpetrators of SVC accountable.³⁸⁴⁹

The United States has promoted ongoing efforts in responding to the needs of the victims of sexual violence in conflict by condemning acts of sexual violence in conflict by contributing to the United Nations’ Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict. However, it has not made an effort to make perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict responsible.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Margaret Constance de Leon

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to support efforts to promptly respond to ongoing cases of victims’ specific medical, psychological, and social issues while making those responsible accountable.

³⁸⁴⁴ Statement by the U.S. Mission to the United Nations and the Secretary of State’s Office of Global Women’s Issues on the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/statement-by-the-u-s-mission-to-the-united-nations-and-the-secretary-of-states-office-of-global-womens-issues-on-the-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-sexual-violence-in-conf/>

³⁸⁴⁵ Statement by the U.S. Mission to the United Nations and the Secretary of State’s Office of Global Women’s Issues on the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/statement-by-the-u-s-mission-to-the-united-nations-and-the-secretary-of-states-office-of-global-womens-issues-on-the-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-sexual-violence-in-conf/>

³⁸⁴⁶ Statement by the U.S. Mission to the United Nations and the Secretary of State’s Office of Global Women’s Issues on the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <https://www.state.gov/statement-by-the-u-s-mission-to-the-united-nations-and-the-secretary-of-states-office-of-global-womens-issues-on-the-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-sexual-violence-in-conf/>

³⁸⁴⁷ Remarks at the UN Security Council High-Level Annual Open Debate on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (via VTC), United States Mission to the United Nations (New York) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <https://usun.usmission.gov/remarks-at-the-un-security-council-high-level-annual-open-debate-on-conflict-related-sexual-violence-via-rtc/>

³⁸⁴⁸ Remarks at the UN Security Council High-Level Annual Open Debate on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (via VTC), United States Mission to the United Nations (New York) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <https://usun.usmission.gov/remarks-at-the-un-security-council-high-level-annual-open-debate-on-conflict-related-sexual-violence-via-rtc/>

³⁸⁴⁹ Remarks at the UN Security Council High-Level Annual Open Debate on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (via VTC), United States Mission to the United Nations (New York) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <https://usun.usmission.gov/remarks-at-the-un-security-council-high-level-annual-open-debate-on-conflict-related-sexual-violence-via-rtc/>

On 23 September 2019, the Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica announced that the European Union will contribute EUR2 million to the International Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence.³⁸⁵⁰

On 29 November 2019, at the United Nations Security Council Open Debate, Towards the Implementation of the Women, Peace, Security agenda, EU Ambassador Mara Marinaki stressed the need for “the urgency of ensuring full access to comprehensive, coordinated and quality services, including sexual and reproductive health care, psychological support, legal counselling” in the context of “sexual and gender-based violence.”³⁸⁵¹ She also insisted that further action is required to ensure perpetrators are brought to justice, including through the enforcement of a “zero tolerance policy” towards sexual abuse on the part of UN personnel.³⁸⁵²

On 3 December 2019, the Nigerien Prime Minister Brigi Rafini announced the beginning of the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative.³⁸⁵³ The EU-UN Spotlight Initiative is to focus on “eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, with a focus on ending sexual violence and harmful practices that have a negative impact on women’s sexual and reproductive health” and “[protecting] the rights of women and girls through a multisectoral approach including education, justice, health.”³⁸⁵⁴ The EU also intends for the Initiative to “[strengthen] the legal framework to adequately address Gender Based Violence ... and harmful practices.” The EU is investing USD17 million in the project.³⁸⁵⁵

On 19 December 2019, European Union External Action issued a statement stressing the need for further action regarding the sexual abuse of children in Afghanistan.³⁸⁵⁶ The EU spokesperson stated that European Union External Action had recently held a policy debate on this topic and currently has a Policy Advisory Project on the subject of “cases of abuses (of minors) inside the armed forces,” with particular attention paid to the gender component of the issue.³⁸⁵⁷

³⁸⁵⁰ European Union supports survivors of Sexual Violence in conflict, European Commission (Brussels) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 14 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_5791.

³⁸⁵¹ EU Statement – United Nations Security Council: Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security, European Commission (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/69606/eu-statement-%E2%80%93-united-nations-security-council-open-debate-women-peace-and-security_en

³⁸⁵² EU Statement – United Nations Security Council: Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security, European Commission (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/69606/eu-statement-%E2%80%93-united-nations-security-council-open-debate-women-peace-and-security_en

³⁸⁵³ Niger, the European Union and the United Nations Join Forces to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://wcaro.unfpa.org/en/news/niger-european-union-and-united-nations-join-forces-eliminate-violence-against-women-and-girls>

³⁸⁵⁴ Niger, the European Union and the United Nations Join Forces to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://wcaro.unfpa.org/en/news/niger-european-union-and-united-nations-join-forces-eliminate-violence-against-women-and-girls>

³⁸⁵⁵ Niger, the European Union and the United Nations Join Forces to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. <https://wcaro.unfpa.org/en/news/niger-european-union-and-united-nations-join-forces-eliminate-violence-against-women-and-girls>

³⁸⁵⁶ Afghanistan: Remarks by High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell at the European Parliament Plenary Session Debate on Violations of Human Rights, European External Action Service (Strasbourg) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/72400/afghanistan-remarks-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell-european-parliament_en

³⁸⁵⁷ Afghanistan: Remarks by High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell at the European Parliament Plenary Session Debate on Violations of Human Rights, European External Action Service (Strasbourg) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/72400/afghanistan-remarks-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell-european-parliament_en

The European Union contributed to the International Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, which addresses the medical, psychological, and social needs of survivors. As well, the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative in Niger includes an effort to make those responsible for sexual violence accountable in the context of an ongoing conflict. Therefore, the EU has taken efforts to address the medical, psychological, and social needs of victims and make those responsible accountable.

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

Analyst: Micaela (Mica) Pacheco

19. Environment: Biodiversity

“Leaders endorsed the G7 Metz Charter on Biodiversity and committed to take swift action on biodiversity, either individually or jointly, in the run up to COP15 [15th Conference of the Parties] of the Convention on Biological Diversity.”

Metz Charter on Biodiversity

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.88 (94%)	

Background

Biodiversity loss is amongst the most serious risks facing the globe today due to land-use change, over-exploitation of natural resources, pollution, invasive alien species and climate change. Between 2010 and 2015, natural forests declined by 6.5 million hectares per year, and natural wetlands declined by 35 per cent between 1970 and 2015.³⁸⁵⁸ In addition, over 30 per cent of corals are now at risk from bleaching, and 60 per cent of vertebrate populations have disappeared since 1970.³⁸⁵⁹ The Germany Presidency in 2007 elevated biodiversity on the G8 agenda through the Potsdam Initiative – Biological Diversity 2010, which outlined specific activities concerning science, industry, trade, funding and marine protection to reduce significantly the loss of biodiversity to 2010. This initiative developed and implemented national targets and strategies to achieve the 2010 target and beyond.³⁸⁶⁰

In 2008 the Japanese G8 presidency ensured, through its Kobe Call for Action, that biodiversity remained high on the political agenda. Building on this, G8 Environment Ministers released the Carta di Siracusa on Biodiversity during their meeting in Sicily in 2009, which pledged to consider investments in green infrastructure and highlighted the initial elements for a post-2010 biodiversity target.³⁸⁶¹

In May 2019, G7 members acknowledged the importance of biodiversity in “playing a vital role in maintaining life-sustaining systems” and released the Metz Charter on Biodiversity, building upon

³⁸⁵⁸ Biodiversity: Finance and the Economic and Business Case for Action, OECD (2019), Report prepared for the G7 Environment Ministers’ Meeting, 5-6May 2019. Access Date: 24 November 2019.

<https://www.oecd.org/environment/resources/biodiversity/G7-report-Biodiversity-Finance-and-the-Economic-and-Business-Case-for-Action.pdf>

³⁸⁵⁹ Biodiversity: Finance and the Economic and Business Case for Action, OECD (2019), Report prepared for the G7 Environment Ministers’ Meeting, 5-6May 2019. Access Date: 24 November 2019.

<https://www.oecd.org/environment/resources/biodiversity/G7-report-Biodiversity-Finance-and-the-Economic-and-Business-Case-for-Action.pdf>

³⁸⁶⁰ Potsdam Initiative – Biological Diversity 2010, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety, Government of Germany, March 2007. Access Date: 24 November 2019.

https://www.bmu.de/fileadmin/bmu-import/files/english/pdf/application/pdf/potsdam_initiative_en.pdf

³⁸⁶¹ A boost for biodiversity from the G8, International Union for Conservation for Nature, 27 April 2009. Access Date: 24 November 2019. <https://www.iucn.org/content/boost-biodiversity-g8>

previous initiatives, including the outcomes of 14th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Sharm El Sheik in 2018 and the Sharm El Sheik Declaration. It noted that most of the CBD's Aichi Biodiversity Targets were not on track to be achieved by 2020, and would jeopardize the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and the UN 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals, emphasizing that urgent action was required.³⁸⁶²

Commitment Features

The Metz Charter is a broad document that incorporates a number of aspects linked to pressures on biodiversity. This includes habitat change, deforestation and forest degradation, the spread of invasive alien species, terrestrial and marine pollution (including by microplastics and nutrients), over exploitation of natural resources (including overfishing, illegal logging, poaching and illegal trade in wildlife) and climate change.³⁸⁶³ Given this, there are numerous policies and actions related to the above that can be counted towards compliance for this commitment such as efforts at reforestation and habitat protection. Actions can also be within the scope of the Paris climate agreement to address climate mitigation and resilience, the G7 Oceans Plastics Charter to address marine litter or any others seen to address biodiversity loss through nature or science-based solutions, governance and law enforcement, planning, conservation policies, ecosystem-based management and knowledge development and sharing.³⁸⁶⁴

Swift implementation denotes actions and tools that are implemented in an ambitious manner that are in line with 2030 Agenda and take into account the speed and scale of biodiversity loss, climate change, natural disasters and threats to the ecosystem. These actions can be taken in partnership with other countries and stakeholders or individually in order to be considered compliant.³⁸⁶⁵ Actions that count towards compliance can be a policy framework, or a policy working group aimed at biodiversity policy implementation. Individual or joint financial, or policy implementation efforts to take swift action to enhance, or improve current biodiversity strategies, policies, action plans and research programs. Financial allocation, and fiscal policy action is also able to count towards compliance. For compliance efforts towards policies that offer co-benefits to other global challenges are included, such as those regarding climate change, ecosystem protection and disaster risk reduction.

To achieve full compliance, G7 members must take action in three main areas. The first is to take efforts to strengthen and improve current biodiversity strategies. The second is to take efforts to address the main pressures of biodiversity. The final area is to take efforts that offer co-benefits to another global challenge, such as climate change, ecosystem degradation and natural disasters.

To achieve a score of 0, or partial compliance, G7 members must take action towards two of the three aforementioned areas of strengthening and improving current biodiversity strategies, taking efforts to address the main pressures of biodiversity, and taking efforts that offer co-benefits to another global challenge, such as climate change, ecosystem degradation and natural disasters

A score of -1, or non-compliance will be assigned to a G7 member who takes action in one of the three aforementioned areas. A score of non-compliance will also be assigned if a G7 member fails to take any action towards any of the three aforementioned areas.

³⁸⁶² Metz Charter on Biodiversity, 6 May 2019. Access Date: 14 October 2019. https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2019.05.06_EN_Biodiversity_Charter.pdf

³⁸⁶³ Metz Charter on Biodiversity, 6 May 2019. Access Date: 14 October 2019. https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2019.05.06_EN_Biodiversity_Charter.pdf

³⁸⁶⁴ Metz Charter on Biodiversity, 6 May 2019. Access Date: 14 October 2019. https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2019.05.06_EN_Biodiversity_Charter.pdf

³⁸⁶⁵ Metz Charter on Biodiversity, 6 May 2019. Access Date: 14 October 2019. https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2019.05.06_EN_Biodiversity_Charter.pdf

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G7 member has taken action in only one of the three components of strengthening and improving current biodiversity strategies, addressing the main pressures of biodiversity offering co-benefits to another global challenge.
0	G7 member has taken action in two of the three components of strengthening and improving current biodiversity strategies, addressing the main pressures of biodiversity offering co-benefits to another global challenge.
+1	G7 member has taken action in all three components of strengthening and improving current biodiversity strategies, addressing the main pressures of biodiversity offering co-benefits to another global challenge.

*Compliance Director: Laila Kanji
Lead Analyst: Vibhor Robatgi*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to take swift action on biodiversity in the run-up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties [COP] to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

On 4 September 2019, then Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna announced CAD3 million in funding for the Centre de Traitement de la Biomasse de la Montérégie Inc.³⁸⁶⁶ The funding will enable the company to implement new equipment to transform waste into biofertilizer and renewable energy.³⁸⁶⁷ The funding comes from the Government of Canada's Low Carbon Economy Fund which supports projects that contribute to generate jobs, fuel clean growth and reduce emissions in Canada and is part of Canada's Climate Action Plan.³⁸⁶⁸

In October 2019, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau committed to plant two billion trees and reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.³⁸⁶⁹ To attain and measure progress towards the latter, Prime Minister Trudeau claims that his government would enact five-year targets.³⁸⁷⁰

From December 2 to 13, at COP25 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson announced CAD5 million to support World Bank's Partnership for Market Implementation.³⁸⁷¹ This funding will

³⁸⁶⁶ News Release: Government of Canada supports climate action by the Centre de Traitement de la Biomasse de la Montérégie Inc, Government of Canada (Saint-Pie) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-the-centre-de-traitement-de-la-biomasse-de-la-monteregie-inc.html>

³⁸⁶⁷ News Release: Government of Canada supports climate action by the Centre de Traitement de la Biomasse de la Montérégie Inc, Government of Canada (Saint-Pie) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-the-centre-de-traitement-de-la-biomasse-de-la-monteregie-inc.html>

³⁸⁶⁸ News Release: Government of Canada supports climate action by the Centre de Traitement de la Biomasse de la Montérégie Inc, Government of Canada (Saint-Pie) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-the-centre-de-traitement-de-la-biomasse-de-la-monteregie-inc.html>

³⁸⁶⁹ The Carbon Brief Profile: Canada, The Carbon Brief (London) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019.

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/the-carbon-brief-profile-canada>

³⁸⁷⁰ The Carbon Brief Profile: Canada, The Carbon Brief (London) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019.

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/the-carbon-brief-profile-canada>

³⁸⁷¹ News Release: Canada announces support for new carbon-pricing initiative at COP25, Government of Canada (Madrid) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-announces-support-for-new-carbon-pricing-initiative-at-cop25.html>

support developing countries in the development and implementation of carbon pricing tools.³⁸⁷² This funding is part of Canada's CAD2.65 billion commitment to help developing countries adapt to climate change.³⁸⁷³

On 10 December 2019, at COP25, Minister Wilkinson welcomed six new members to the Powering Past Coal Alliance, including governments from the Philippine Province of Ilocos Norte, Greece and New Taipei City, and financial-sector actors.³⁸⁷⁴ The Powering Past Coal Alliance aims to encourage the phase out of traditional coal power.³⁸⁷⁵

On 11 December 2019, at COP25, Minister Wilkinson welcomed the newest endorsees of the Ocean's Plastic Charter Chile, Finland, Rwanda, and Sitra, the Finnish Innovation Fund.³⁸⁷⁶ The Plastics Charter brings together businesses, civil society organizations, and governments who are committed to take action against plastic pollution.³⁸⁷⁷

On 16 December 2019, the Government of Canada announced funding of CAD1.4 million to support efforts to safeguard the threatened Eastern Hemlock forests in the Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site.³⁸⁷⁸

On 20 December 2019, Minister Wilkinson, in collaboration with Natural Resources Minister Seamus O'Regan, announced plans for a strategic assessment process for new thermal coal mine projects under the Impact Assessment Act.³⁸⁷⁹

In January 2020, Canada has protected approximately 12 percent of inland waters and terrestrial areas has exceeded the target of protecting 10 percent of coastal and marine areas.³⁸⁸⁰ Thus, Canada is close to fulfilling Target 1 of the 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets set in 2015 in response to the

³⁸⁷² News Release: Canada announces support for new carbon-pricing initiative at COP25, Government of Canada (Madrid) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-announces-support-for-new-carbon-pricing-initiative-at-cop25.html>

³⁸⁷³ News Release: Canada announces support for new carbon-pricing initiative at COP25, Government of Canada (Madrid) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-announces-support-for-new-carbon-pricing-initiative-at-cop25.html>

³⁸⁷⁴ News Release: Canada welcomes new members to the Powering Past Coal Alliance at COP25, Government of Canada (Madrid) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-welcomes-new-members-to-the-powering-past-coal-alliance-at-cop25.html>

³⁸⁷⁵ News Release: Canada welcomes new members to the Powering Past Coal Alliance at COP25, Government of Canada (Madrid) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-welcomes-new-members-to-the-powering-past-coal-alliance-at-cop25.html>

³⁸⁷⁶ News Release: Canada spearheads global action to reduce plastic pollution at COP25, Government of Canada (Madrid) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-spearheads-global-action-to-reduce-plastic-pollution-at-cop25.html>

³⁸⁷⁷ News Release: Canada spearheads global action to reduce plastic pollution at COP25, Government of Canada (Madrid) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-spearheads-global-action-to-reduce-plastic-pollution-at-cop25.html>

³⁸⁷⁸ News Release: Government of Canada invests to protect Eastern Hemlock forests in Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site, Government of Canada (Maitland Bridge) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/parks-canada/news/2019/12/government-of-canada-invests-to-protect-eastern-hemlock-forests-in-kejimikujik-national-park-and-national-historic-site.html>

³⁸⁷⁹ News Release: Canada launches strategic assessment of thermal coal mining, Government of Canada (Gatineau) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-launches-strategic-assessment-of-thermal-coal-mining.html>

³⁸⁸⁰ Meeting Canada's 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets, National Environmental Treasure (Ottawa) n.d. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.oursafetynet.org/2020/01/27/meeting-canadas-biodiversity-goals-and-targets/>

Aichi Biodiversity Targets and United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)'s Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.³⁸⁸¹

On 18 January 2020, the Government of Canada announced an investment of CAD16.1 million to enable the Purcell Mountain Range to become a protected area by 2022-2023.³⁸⁸² The funding is part of the Government of Canada's Canada Nature Fund that supports Indigenous organizations, not for profits, territories and provinces that are protecting Canada's landscapes, ecosystems and biodiversity such as Species at Risk.³⁸⁸³

On 20 January 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced a funding of CAD100,000 for Assiniboine Park Conservancy and CAD100,000 for Eco-West Canada.³⁸⁸⁴ The funding will enable youth to raise develop skills and raise awareness of climate change and will allow small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to support communities in developing climate action plans.³⁸⁸⁵ The funding is part of the Government of Canada's Climate Action Fund which annually provides up to CAD3 million to fund climate action and climate awareness projects by youth, students, indigenous peoples and organizations, small and medium sized-organizations and not for profits.³⁸⁸⁶

On 10 February 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced CAD200,000 to finance the inception of the FutureXChange program that supports 15 young Canadians to develop climate projects featuring climate policy and Indigenous Traditional Knowledge.³⁸⁸⁷ The funding is part of the Government of Canada's Climate Action Fund to the Youth Climate Lab.³⁸⁸⁸

On 11 February 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced funding of up to CAD6 million that will finance the development of a composting centre in the City of Peterborough.³⁸⁸⁹ The composting

³⁸⁸¹ 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada, biodivcanada (Ottawa) n.d. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://biodivcanada.chm-cbd.net/2020-biodiversity-goals-and-targets-canada>

³⁸⁸² News Release: BC's Central Purcell Mountains part of Canada's largest investment in nature in Canadian history, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 18 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/01/bcs-central-purcell-mountains-part-of-canadas-largest-investment-in-nature-in-canadian-history.html>

³⁸⁸³ Canada Nature Fund, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/nature-legacy/fund.html>

³⁸⁸⁴ News Release: New Climate Action Funding Announced for Youth and Businesses in Manitoba, Government of Canada (Winnipeg) 20 January 2020. Access date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/01/new-climate-action-funding-announced-for-youth-and-businesses-in-manitoba.html>

³⁸⁸⁵ News Release: New Climate Action Funding Announced for Youth and Businesses in Manitoba, Government of Canada (Winnipeg) 20 January 2020. Access date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/01/new-climate-action-funding-announced-for-youth-and-businesses-in-manitoba.html>

³⁸⁸⁶ News Release: New Climate Action Funding Announced for Youth and Businesses in Manitoba, Government of Canada (Winnipeg) 20 January 2020. Access date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/01/new-climate-action-funding-announced-for-youth-and-businesses-in-manitoba.html>

³⁸⁸⁷ News Release: Government of Canada Announces Support for Youth Climate Lab, Government of Canada (Vancouver) 10 February 2020. Access date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-youth-climate-lab.html>

³⁸⁸⁸ News Release: Government of Canada Announces Support for Youth Climate Lab, Government of Canada (Vancouver) 10 February 2020. Access date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-youth-climate-lab.html>

³⁸⁸⁹ News Release: Government of Canada announces support for the City of Peterborough's Climate Action Initiatives, Government of Canada (Peterborough) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-the-city-of-peterboroughs-climate-action-initiatives.html>

centre will divert 32,000 tonnes of organic debris and create jobs in the city.³⁸⁹⁰ The funding is part of Government of Canada's Low Carbon Economy Fund³⁸⁹¹.

On 18 February 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced funding of CAD250,000 that will enable the Assembly of First Nations Yukon Region convene a meeting to raise awareness among and empower First Nations to lead climate action efforts in Yukon.³⁸⁹² The funding is part of the Climate Action Fund.³⁸⁹³

On 20 February 2020, Minister Wilkinson and Prince Edward Island's Minister of Environment, Water and Climate Change Brad Trivers announced an investment of CAD1.4 million to conserve the 4400 hectares of forests, wetlands and other important habitat, expand protected areas and create more conservation areas in Prince Edward Island.³⁸⁹⁴ Notably, the funding will go towards protecting the province's old-growth forest that is home to many species at risk such as rusty blackbird and Canada warbler.³⁸⁹⁵ The funding is part of the Government of Canada's Canada Nature Fund.³⁸⁹⁶

On 21 February 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced signed two agreements with the province of British Columbia and the West Moberly and Sauleau First Nations that will enables measures such as recreational management, habitat restoration and protection, and maternal penning to be implemented to recover and stabilize populations of the Southern Mountain Caribou.³⁸⁹⁷ The

³⁸⁹⁰ News Release: Government of Canada announces support for the City of Peterborough's Climate Action Initiatives, Government of Canada (Peterborough) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-the-city-of-peterboroughs-climate-action-initiatives.html>

³⁸⁹¹ News Release: Government of Canada announces support for the City of Peterborough's Climate Action Initiatives, Government of Canada (Peterborough) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-the-city-of-peterboroughs-climate-action-initiatives.html>

³⁸⁹² News Release: Government of Canada supports climate action by the Assembly of First Nations Yukon Region, Government of Canada (Whitehorse) 18 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-the-assembly-of-first-nations-yukon-region.html>

³⁸⁹³ News Release: Government of Canada supports climate action by the Assembly of First Nations Yukon Region, Government of Canada (Whitehorse) 18 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-the-assembly-of-first-nations-yukon-region.html>

³⁸⁹⁴ News Release: The Government of Canada invests in protected areas in Prince Edward Island, Government of Canada (Charlottetown) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/the-government-of-canada-invests-in-protected-areas-in-prince-edward-island.html>

³⁸⁹⁵ News Release: The Government of Canada invests in protected areas in Prince Edward Island, Government of Canada (Charlottetown) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/the-government-of-canada-invests-in-protected-areas-in-prince-edward-island.html>

³⁸⁹⁶ News Release: The Government of Canada invests in protected areas in Prince Edward Island, Government of Canada (Charlottetown) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/the-government-of-canada-invests-in-protected-areas-in-prince-edward-island.html>

³⁸⁹⁷ News Release: New conservation agreements signed to protect Southern Mountain Caribou in British Columbia, Government of Canada (Vancouver) 21 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/new-conservation-agreements-signed-to-protect-southern-mountain-caribou-in-british-columbia.html>

agreements are part of Section 11 of the Species at Risk Act and establish cooperation between Canada and British Columbia to recover the Southern Mountain Caribou.³⁸⁹⁸

On 21 February 2020, the Minister of Health Patty Hajdu, on behalf of the Minister Wilkinson, announced CAD100,000 in funding to enable 2900 students to attend events and participate in school programs that increase understanding and awareness of climate change.³⁸⁹⁹ The funding is part of the Government of Canada's Climate Action Fund to Science North.³⁹⁰⁰

On 4 March 2020, MP for Windsor-Tecumseh Irek Kusmierczyk, on behalf of the Minister Wilkinson, announced funding of CAD125,000 to enable University of Windsor law students to organize two conferences in which members of the community and youth will learn legal features of climate change mitigation in municipalities.³⁹⁰¹ The funding is part of the Government of Canada's Climate Action Fund.³⁹⁰²

On 4 March 2020, MP for Saint John-Rochesay Wayne Long, on behalf of Minister Wilkinson, announced an investment of CAD4 million that will fund the development of a heating and cooling system that uses renewable energy in a commercial complex in Saint John and enable energy retrofits to take place in 50 municipal buildings.³⁹⁰³ The funding is part of the Government of Canada's Low Carbon Economy Fund.³⁹⁰⁴

On 4 March 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced funding of up to CAD2.3 million that will enable the expansion of a biomass heating system to two additional buildings.³⁹⁰⁵ The funding is part of the Government of Canada's Low Carbon Economy Fund.³⁹⁰⁶

³⁸⁹⁸ News Release: New conservation agreements signed to protect Southern Mountain Caribou in British Columbia, Government of Canada (Vancouver) 21 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/new-conservation-agreements-signed-to-protect-southern-mountain-caribou-in-british-columbia.html>

³⁸⁹⁹ News Release: New Climate Action Funding Announced for Science North, Government of Canada (Thunder Bay) 21 February 2020. Access date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/new-climate-action-funding-announced-for-science-north.html>

³⁹⁰⁰ News Release: New Climate Action Funding Announced for Science North, Government of Canada (Thunder Bay) 21 February 2020. Access date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/new-climate-action-funding-announced-for-science-north.html>

³⁹⁰¹ News Release: New climate action funding announced for Windsor law students, Government of Canada (Windsor) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/03/new-climate-action-funding-announced-for-windsor-law-students.html>

³⁹⁰² News Release: New climate action funding announced for Windsor law students, Government of Canada (Windsor) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/03/new-climate-action-funding-announced-for-windsor-law-students.html>

³⁹⁰³ News Release: Government of Canada announces support for the City of Saint John and Saint John Energy's Climate Change Initiatives, Government of Canada (Saint John) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-the-city-of-saint-john-and-saint-john-energys-climate-change-initiatives.html>

³⁹⁰⁴ News Release: Government of Canada announces support for the City of Saint John and Saint John Energy's Climate Change Initiatives, Government of Canada (Saint John) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-the-city-of-saint-john-and-saint-john-energys-climate-change-initiatives.html>

³⁹⁰⁵ News Release: Government of Canada supports climate action by the Government of Yukon, Government of Canada (Whitehorse) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-the-government-of-yukon.html>

³⁹⁰⁶ News Release: Government of Canada supports climate action by the Government of Yukon, Government of Canada (Whitehorse) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-the-government-of-yukon.html>

On 6 March 2020, the Government of Canada announced an investment of CAD2 million to enable the Tłı̨ch̓ Government to establish more than 22,000 km² of conservation land between Great Slave Lake and Great Bear Lake in the Northwest Territories that is home to 16 species at risk including boreal caribou.³⁹⁰⁷ The funding is part of the Government of Canada's Canada Nature Fund that supports Indigenous organizations, not for profits, territories and provinces that are protecting Canada's landscapes, ecosystems and biodiversity such as Species at Risk.³⁹⁰⁸

Canada has strengthened and improved current biodiversity strategies through efforts to safeguard the threatened Eastern Hemlock forests in the Kejimikujik National Park and has taken efforts to address the main pressures of biodiversity through the Oceans Plastic Charter and Canada Nature Fund. Canada has also taken efforts that offer co-benefits to the global challenge of climate change through, for instance, proposing targets for net-zero emissions by 2050, announcing federal funding for World Bank's Partnership for Market Implementation, and supporting projects through the Climate Action Fund.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Mavis Han

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to take swift action on biodiversity in the run-up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties [COP15] to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

On 1 October 2019, France's Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Frédérique Vidal, and the German Minister of Education and Research, Anja Karliczek, announced the French-German version of the "Make our Planet Great Again" initiative at Musée du Quai Branly - Jacques Chirac.³⁹⁰⁹ The initiative enables researchers, entrepreneurs and members of civil society to cooperate and combat systemic challenges related to climate change.³⁹¹⁰

On 2-5 December 2019, at the Conference of the Parties to The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention), France joined the European Union and 20 Mediterranean Coastal States to commit to making the Mediterranean Sea an Emission Control Area Zone.³⁹¹¹ Under this commitment, the Government of

³⁹⁰⁷ News Release: Government of Canada Partners with Tłı̨ch̓ First Nation to Protect Culturally Important Land in the Northwest Territories, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 6 March 2020. Access date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-partners-with-tcho-first-nation-to-protect-culturally-important-land-in-the-northwest-territories.html>

³⁹⁰⁸ Canada Nature Fund, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/nature-legacy/fund.html>

³⁹⁰⁹ Climate: new international projects, the Government of France (Paris) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/climate-new-international-projects>

³⁹¹⁰ Climate: new international projects, the Government of France (Paris) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/climate-new-international-projects>

³⁹¹¹ France welcomes the commitment of all Mediterranean countries to ensure low pollution from ships in the Mediterranean, the Government of France (Paris) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-welcomes-the-commitment-of-all-mediterranean-countries-to-ensure-low-pollution-from-ships>

France will only allow ships in the Mediterranean to use fuel with 0.1 per cent sulphur and will develop ports that use electricity and alternative fuels.³⁹¹²

On 2-5 December 2019, at the Conference of Parties to Barcelona Convention, signatories, including France, adopted new and updated strategies for the protection of monk seal, rays, and sharks in the Mediterranean.³⁹¹³ The signatories also established “Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI)” in France, Italy, Spain, and Slovenia.³⁹¹⁴ The SPAMI sites also include a corridor for the movement of Cetaceans.³⁹¹⁵

On 19 December 2020, the ministers of agriculture of France, Germany and Spain issued a joint statement regarding the critical role of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in the context of the European Green Deal.³⁹¹⁶ The joint statement made a reference to the deteriorating biodiversity in Europe and in response urged for the creation of a fixed minimum threshold for areas of ecological interest (GAEC 9).³⁹¹⁷ The CAP is the EU’s partnership between society and farmers in Europe and supports agriculture, livelihoods of farmers and promotes sustainable farming.³⁹¹⁸

On 20 January 2020, the Government of France opened public consultations for the National Low-Carbon Strategy (SNBC) and the Multiannual Energy Programme (PPE), which are France’s strategic plan for achieving the country’s carbon neutrality goal by 2050 and France’s trajectory of energy usage and consumption for the next decade, respectively.³⁹¹⁹ The draft SNBC and PPE have incorporated newest developments into their policy framework, notably including the adoption of the Energy-Climate Act in September 2019 and the Anti-Waste Act on 8 January 2020.³⁹²⁰ The SNBC and PPE are part of the French Strategy for Energy and the Climate which was presented in November 2018.³⁹²¹

³⁹¹² France welcomes the commitment of all Mediterranean countries to ensure low pollution from ships in the Mediterranean, the Government of France (Paris) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-welcomes-the-commitment-of-all-mediterranean-countries-to-ensure-low-pollution-from-ships>.

³⁹¹³ Barcelona Convention - COP21 (Naples, 2-5 December 2019), United Nations Environment Programme (Naples) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <http://web.unep.org/unepmap/barcelona-convention-cop21-naples-2-5-december-2019>.

³⁹¹⁴ Barcelona Convention - COP21 (Naples, 2-5 December 2019), United Nations Environment Programme (Naples) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <http://web.unep.org/unepmap/barcelona-convention-cop21-naples-2-5-december-2019>

³⁹¹⁵ Barcelona Convention - COP21 (Naples, 2-5 December 2019), United Nations Environment Programme (Naples) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <http://web.unep.org/unepmap/barcelona-convention-cop21-naples-2-5-december-2019>

³⁹¹⁶ Future CAP in the context of the European Green Deal, Government of France (Paris) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/future-cap-in-the-context-of-the-european-green-deal>

³⁹¹⁷ Future CAP in the context of the European Green Deal, Government of France (Paris) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/future-cap-in-the-context-of-the-european-green-deal>

³⁹¹⁸ The common agricultural policy at a glance, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 17 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/cap-glance_en

³⁹¹⁹ French Strategy for Energy and the Climate: launch of public consultations, Government of France (Paris) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/french-strategy-for-energy-and-the-climate-launch-of-public-consultations>

³⁹²⁰ French Strategy for Energy and the Climate: launch of public consultations, Government of France (Paris) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/french-strategy-for-energy-and-the-climate-launch-of-public-consultations>

³⁹²¹ French Strategy for Energy and the Climate: launch of public consultations, Government of France (Paris) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/french-strategy-for-energy-and-the-climate-launch-of-public-consultations>

On 3 February 2020, the plans to establish a European EV Battery Sector and give rise to a French-German EV battery manufacturing facility were set in motion.³⁹²² The plans will support a low carbon economy, generate high-skilled jobs and revive France's manufacturing sector.³⁹²³

On 6 March 2020, the Governments of France, Germany, Belgium, Finland, Denmark, Italy, Netherlands, Greece, Lithuania, Latvia, Sweden, Portugal, Spain, and Slovenia, along with NGOs and companies, signed a European Pact that takes action against plastic waste and promotes a low-plastic and circular economy.³⁹²⁴ Notably, the pact includes goals such as increasing the capacity of recycling by 25 per cent by 2025 and ensuring single-use plastics and plastic packaging include at least 30 per cent recycled plastic by 2025.³⁹²⁵

France has taken efforts to strengthen and improve current biodiversity strategies through COP21 of the Barcelona Convention and has taken efforts to address the main pressures of biodiversity through its commitments to tackle pollution in the Mediterranean, minimize the environmental impact of sporting events through the Charter 15 of eco-responsible commitments, and by the signing of the European Pact on plastic pollution. France has also taken efforts to offer co-benefits to the global challenge of climate change through the "Make our Planet Green Again" initiative and the French Strategy for Energy and the Climate.

Thus, France has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Minghan Sun

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to take swift action on biodiversity in the run-up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties [COP] to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In September 2019, the German Cabinet passed the Climate Action Programme 2030, a national strategy that aims to get Germany on track to reach its 2030 target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55 per cent of the 1990 levels.³⁹²⁶ Notable elements of the Climate Action Programme include a carbon pricing scheme on emissions from the heating and transport sectors, promotion programmes such as subsidies and grants to spur development of energy-efficient technology, increased federal investment in public transport and railways, and the phasing out of coal-fired power stations.³⁹²⁷

³⁹²² "Airbus-style consortium" for batteries: ambitious European plans are up and running, Government of France (Paris) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/airbus-style-consortium-for-batteries-ambitious-european-plans-are-up-and-running>

³⁹²³ "Airbus-style consortium" for batteries: ambitious European plans are up and running, Government of France (Paris) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/airbus-style-consortium-for-batteries-ambitious-european-plans-are-up-and-running>

³⁹²⁴ A European Pact to control use of plastic and promote a circular economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

³⁹²⁵ A European Pact to control use of plastic and promote a circular economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

³⁹²⁶ Climate Action Programme 2030, Press and Information Office of the Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/issues/climate-action/klimaschutzprogramm-2030-1674080>

³⁹²⁷ Climate Action Programme 2030, Press and Information Office of the Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/issues/climate-action/klimaschutzprogramm-2030-1674080>

On 1 October 2019, France’s Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Frédérique Vidal, and the German Minister of Education and Research, Anja Karliczek, announced the French-German version of the “Make our Planet Great Again” initiative at Musée du Quai Branly – Jacques Chirac.³⁹²⁸ The initiative enables researchers, entrepreneurs and members of civil society to cooperate and combat systemic challenges related to climate change.³⁹²⁹

On 15 November 2019, the Climate Action Programme was enshrined into legislation when it passed the vote in the lower house of the German Parliament.³⁹³⁰ The decision however was criticized by opposition party members and scientists as not being ambitious enough to allow Germany to achieve its 2030 targets.³⁹³¹

On 18 December 2019, the German Cabinet adopted the Federal Government of Germany’s Energy Efficiency Strategy 2050 that aims to limit the consumption of energy derived from fossil fuels.³⁹³² Specifically, the Strategy aims at reducing primary energy consumption in the industrial sector, creating tax incentives for household energy-saving measures, pursuing a national decarbonisation programme by investing in clean technology, and managing traffic more efficiently through increased usage of rail and electric vehicles.³⁹³³

On 19 December 2020, the ministers of agriculture of Germany, France and Spain issued a joint statement regarding the critical role of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in the context of the European Green Deal.³⁹³⁴ The joint statement made a reference to the deteriorating biodiversity in Europe and in response urged for the creation of a fixed minimum threshold for areas of ecological interest (GAEC 9).³⁹³⁵ The CAP is the EU’s partnership between society and farmers in Europe and supports agriculture, livelihoods of farmers and promotes sustainable farming.³⁹³⁶

On 15 January 2020, the German Cabinet adopted the National Bioeconomy Strategy, an umbrella strategy that provides a coherent framework for the transition towards a biobased sustainable economic system.³⁹³⁷ This model of bioeconomy aimed at spreading the use of biological resources and eco-friendly production procedures to every aspect of the German economy.³⁹³⁸

³⁹²⁸ Climate: new international projects, the Government of France (Paris) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/climate-new-international-projects>

³⁹²⁹ Climate: new international projects, the Government of France (Paris) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/climate-new-international-projects>

³⁹³⁰ Germany Passes Climate-Protection Law to Ensure 2030 Goals, the New York Times (New York) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/15/world/europe/germany-climate-law.html>

³⁹³¹ Germany Passes Climate-Protection Law to Ensure 2030 Goals, the New York Times (New York) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/15/world/europe/germany-climate-law.html>

³⁹³² The More Energy-efficient, the More Sustainable, Press and Information Office of the Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/neue-energieeffizienzstrategie-1708646>

³⁹³³ The More Energy-efficient, the More Sustainable, Press and Information Office of the Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/neue-energieeffizienzstrategie-1708646>

³⁹³⁴ Future CAP in the context of the European Green Deal, Government of France (Paris) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/future-cap-in-the-context-of-the-european-green-deal>

³⁹³⁵ Future CAP in the context of the European Green Deal, Government of France (Paris) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/future-cap-in-the-context-of-the-european-green-deal>

³⁹³⁶ The common agricultural policy at a glance, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 17 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/cap-glance_en

³⁹³⁷ For An Economy Based On Resource Cycle Management, Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/biooekonomie-1712668>

³⁹³⁸ For An Economy Based On Resource Cycle Management, Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/biooekonomie-1712668>

On 29 January 2020, the German Cabinet adopted the Act to Reduce and End Coal-Fired Power Generation, the draft legislation which outlined the Coal Commission's goal of completely ending coal-generated power in Germany by 2038.³⁹³⁹ The Coal Commission laid out a steady reduction plan distinguishing between an anthracite and lignite phase-out by 2030 and a coal-fired power phase-out by the end of 2038.³⁹⁴⁰

On 3 February 2020, the plans to establish a European EV Battery Sector and give rise to a French-German EV battery manufacturing facility were set in motion.³⁹⁴¹ The plans will support a low carbon economy and generate high skilled-jobs.³⁹⁴²

On 6 March 2020, the Governments of France, Germany, Belgium, Finland, Denmark, Italy, Netherlands, Greece, Lithuania, Latvia, Sweden, Portugal, Spain, and Slovenia, along with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and companies, signed a European Pact that takes action against plastic waste and promotes a low-plastic and circular economy.³⁹⁴³ Notably, the pact includes goals such as increasing the capacity of recycling by 25 per cent by 2025 and ensuring single-use plastics and plastic packaging include at least 30 per cent recycled plastic by 2025.³⁹⁴⁴

On 29 June 2020, Federal Environment Minister Svenja Schulze held a hybrid event at the Federal Environment Ministry in Berlin to discuss how Germany and its international partners can promote the conservation and restoration of biodiversity and functioning ecosystems with high-level guests and experts.³⁹⁴⁵ The Federal Environment Ministry also announced it aims to establish a global biodiversity framework and will be working to combat wildlife trafficking, as a part of efforts to prevent and control future pandemics stemming from animals.³⁹⁴⁶

On 1 July 2020, Germany assumed its two-year presidency of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), and announced that they will focus on addressing key environmental problems in the Baltic Sea, improve the protection of marine species, habitats and further develop marine protected areas, and use the post-COVID-19 economy recovery to ensure progress on marine protection and

³⁹³⁹ Spelling Out the Coal Exit – Germany's Phase-out Plan, Clean Energy Wire (Berlin) 31 January 2020. Access Date: April 15, 2020. <https://www.cleanenergywire.org/factsheets/spelling-out-coal-phase-out-germanys-exit-law-draft>

³⁹⁴⁰ Ending coal-generated power, Federal Government of Germany (Berlin). Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/kohleausstiegsgesetz-1717014>

³⁹⁴¹ "Airbus-style consortium" for batteries: ambitious European plans are up and running, Government of France (Paris) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/airbus-style-consortium-for-batteries-ambitious-european-plans-are-up-and-running>

³⁹⁴² "Airbus-style consortium" for batteries: ambitious European plans are up and running, Government of France (Paris) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/airbus-style-consortium-for-batteries-ambitious-european-plans-are-up-and-running>

³⁹⁴³ A European Pact to control use of plastic and promote a circular economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

³⁹⁴⁴ A European Pact to control use of plastic and promote a circular economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

³⁹⁴⁵ Schulze: "Prevention and Control of Pandemics Requires Commitment to Nature Conservation and Species Protection," Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/schulze-prevention-and-control-of-pandemics-requires-commitment-to-nature-conservation-and-species/>

³⁹⁴⁶ Schulze: "Prevention and Control of Pandemics Requires Commitment to Nature Conservation and Species Protection," Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/schulze-prevention-and-control-of-pandemics-requires-commitment-to-nature-conservation-and-species/>

environmental issues.³⁹⁴⁷ It will ensure that future HELCOM decisions are specifically reviewed for their relevance to biological diversity and the climate, and for their suitability.³⁹⁴⁸ Specifically, it will be working under the heading “Working together for our sea – the Baltic Sea” with other Baltic Sea countries and the European Union to protect the Baltic Sea through an intensified cooperation with relevant NGOs, stakeholder groups, and science.³⁹⁴⁹ It will also harmonise HELCOM goals with the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, strengthen ties between HELCOM and other stakeholders in the region, and push for closer links between HELCOM’s work and other global processes and goals.³⁹⁵⁰

On 10 July 2020, the German government announced that it will continue to offset emissions of all official travel through investments in international climate projects, and will rely even more on virtual meetings in the future.³⁹⁵¹ It also announced that it will offset all emissions generated during Germany’s EU Council Presidency through purchasing emission reduction credits.³⁹⁵² It will also ensure that all events hosted during the presidency are guided by the Federal Environment Agency and Federal Environment Ministry’s sustainability criteria, to minimise the impact on the environment and climate.³⁹⁵³ The implementation of this climate-neutral presidency will be assessed after its conclusion, with the findings being made available for future Presidencies and the German government to support their shift towards a climate-neutral administration.³⁹⁵⁴

On 17 July 2020, the Federal Environment Ministry announced EUR 68 million in funding to support 29 projects in 25 developing and newly industrialising countries from the International Climate Initiative.³⁹⁵⁵ The initiative will support relief efforts for protected areas and biodiversity and

³⁹⁴⁷ Germany Takes over HELCOM Chairmanship,” Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germany-takes-over-helcom-chairmanship/>

³⁹⁴⁸ Germany Takes over HELCOM Chairmanship,” Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germany-takes-over-helcom-chairmanship/>

³⁹⁴⁹ Germany Takes over HELCOM Chairmanship,” Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germany-takes-over-helcom-chairmanship/>

³⁹⁵⁰ Germany Takes over HELCOM Chairmanship,” Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germany-takes-over-helcom-chairmanship/>

³⁹⁵¹ German Government Offsetting Emissions of All Official Travel and Germany’s EU Council Presidency, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/german-government-offsetting-emissions-of-all-official-travel-and-germanys-eu-council-presidency/>

³⁹⁵² German Government Offsetting Emissions of All Official Travel and Germany’s EU Council Presidency, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/german-government-offsetting-emissions-of-all-official-travel-and-germanys-eu-council-presidency/>

³⁹⁵³ Germany’s Council Presidency will be Climate Neutral and Sustainable, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 13 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germanys-council-presidency-will-be-climate-neutral-and-sustainable/>

³⁹⁵⁴ Germany’s Council Presidency will be Climate Neutral and Sustainable, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 13 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germanys-council-presidency-will-be-climate-neutral-and-sustainable/>

³⁹⁵⁵ Global Green Recovery and the International Climate Initiative, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/global-green-recovery-and-the-international-climate-initiative-1/>

promote a climate-friendly economic recovery process amid the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁹⁵⁶ The support package will also focus on a broad range of topics including immediate action to preserve the conservation performance of protected areas and biodiversity hotspots, implementing climate projects that promote jobs to stabilise the economy, covering expenses for economic advisers to ensure that sustainability, climate action and biodiversity conservation are included in decisions to steer recovery measures along environmentally friendly lines, and lastly preventing future pandemics by conserving biodiversity hotspots and forests to lower the zoonotic risk of pandemics similar to COVID-19 from emerging.³⁹⁵⁷

Germany has taken efforts that offer co-benefits to the global challenge of climate change through the Act to Reduce and End Coal-Fired Power Generation and Energy Efficiency Strategy 2050, as well as tackle a main pressure to biodiversity through its Climate Action Programme. It has also taken efforts to strengthen and improve current biodiversity strategies through their HELCOM chairmanship and International Climate Initiative.

Thus, Germany has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Minghan Sun

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to take swift action on biodiversity in the run-up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties [COP] to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

On 5 November 2019, the Italian Minister of Education Lorenzo Fioramonti announced that, starting in the 2020-2021 school year, Italian students in every grade will learn about climate change and sustainability.³⁹⁵⁸ Each year, teachers at all grade levels will be required to include 33 hours of education about climate change and related topics.³⁹⁵⁹ This policy has made Italy the first country to mandate education on climate change in schools.³⁹⁶⁰

On 2-5 December 2019, at the 21st COP to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention), Italy joined the other signatories to the Convention in committing to making the Mediterranean Sea an Emission Control Area) Zone for sulphur oxide.³⁹⁶¹

On 2-5 December 2019, at the 21st COP to Barcelona Convention, signatories, including Italy, adopted new and updated strategies for the protection of monk seal, rays, and sharks in the

³⁹⁵⁶ Global Green Recovery and the International Climate Initiative, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020.

<https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/global-green-recovery-and-the-international-climate-initiative-1/>

³⁹⁵⁷ Global Green Recovery and the International Climate Initiative, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020.

<https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/global-green-recovery-and-the-international-climate-initiative-1/>

³⁹⁵⁸ Italy Mandates Climate Change Education for All Students, Hunter College New York City Food Policy Center (New York) 2 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.nycfoodpolicy.org/italy-mandates-climate-change-education-for-all-students/>.

³⁹⁵⁹ Italy Mandates Climate Change Education for All Students, Hunter College New York City Food Policy Center (New York) 2 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.nycfoodpolicy.org/italy-mandates-climate-change-education-for-all-students/>.

³⁹⁶⁰ Italy Mandates Climate Change Education for All Students, Hunter College New York City Food Policy Center (New York) 2 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.nycfoodpolicy.org/italy-mandates-climate-change-education-for-all-students/>.

³⁹⁶¹ Barcelona Convention - COP21 (Naples, 2-5 December 2019), United Nations Environment Programme (Naples) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <http://web.unep.org/unepmap/barcelona-convention-cop21-naples-2-5-december-2019>.

Mediterranean.³⁹⁶² The signatories also established “Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI)” in France, Italy, Spain, and Slovenia.³⁹⁶³ The SPAMI sites also include a corridor for the movement of Cetaceans.³⁹⁶⁴

On 16 December 2019, the Senate of the Republic of Italy voted on the 2020 Budget Law which includes a EUR 0.45/kg tax on single-use plastic packaging that is produced or imported to Italy.³⁹⁶⁵ The plastic tax aims to discourage the consumption and production of plastic and is set to be effective will on 1 July 2020.^{3966,3967}

On 9 April 2020, the Government of Italy was one of the original 10 signatories, in addition to Austria, Finland, Denmark, Portugal, Sweden, Spain, Latvia, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, in a letter that calls for the European Green Deal to be a central aspect of the EU’s economic recovery from COVID-19.^{3968,3969}

On 31 July 2020, the Government of Italy adopted a provision that constitutes the regulatory instrument for the new text on radiation protection in Italy, that will protect both the environment and citizens’ health against the potential risk of radiation.³⁹⁷⁰ In response to this new provision, Minister of the Environment Sergio Costa added that a primary importance is the contamination of the environment, because it is also recognized as a threat to human health and an effective radiation protection system must provide complete protection through ensuring that environmental control standards not only prevent the transfer of radionuclides from the environment to humans, but also ensure that measures safeguard biological diversity, ensure species conservation, and protect health and the natural state of habitats, ecosystems and communities in general.³⁹⁷¹

³⁹⁶² Barcelona Convention - COP21 (Naples, 2-5 December 2019), United Nations Environment Programme (Naples) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <http://web.unep.org/unepmap/barcelona-convention-cop21-naples-2-5-december-2019>.

³⁹⁶³ Barcelona Convention - COP21 (Naples, 2-5 December 2019), United Nations Environment Programme (Naples) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <http://web.unep.org/unepmap/barcelona-convention-cop21-naples-2-5-december-2019>.

³⁹⁶⁴ Barcelona Convention - COP21 (Naples, 2-5 December 2019), United Nations Environment Programme (Naples) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <http://web.unep.org/unepmap/barcelona-convention-cop21-naples-2-5-december-2019>.

³⁹⁶⁵ Italy to introduce plastic tax in 2020, ENDS Europe (London) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 13 April 2020 <https://www.endsurope.com/article/1669495/italy-introduce-plastic-tax-2020>

³⁹⁶⁶ Italy to introduce plastic tax in 2020, ENDS Europe (London) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 13 April 2020 <https://www.endsurope.com/article/1669495/italy-introduce-plastic-tax-2020>

³⁹⁶⁷ Italy to introduce proportional tax on plastic items, EY Global (London) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 14 April 2020. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/ey-italy-to-introduce-proportional-tax-on-plastic-items

³⁹⁶⁸ Four more EU nations back a green post-coronavirus recovery, Climate Home News (London) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2020/04/20/four-eu-nations-back-green-post-coronavirus-recovery/>

³⁹⁶⁹ European Green Deal must be central to a resilient recovery after Covid-19, Climate Home News (London) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2020/04/09/european-green-deal-must-central-resilient-recovery-covid-19/>

³⁹⁷⁰ The New Text on Radiation Protection in Italy is in Force, to Protect Health and the Environment, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 13 August 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/e-vigore-il-nuovo-testo-sulla-radioprotezione-italia-tutela-della-salute-e-dell-ambiente>

³⁹⁷¹ The New Text on Radiation Protection in Italy is in Force, to Protect Health and the Environment, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 13 August 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/e-vigore-il-nuovo-testo-sulla-radioprotezione-italia-tutela-della-salute-e-dell-ambiente>

On 31 July 2020, the Ministry of the Environment announced EUR4.5 million for financing interventions aimed at adapting and mitigating to climate change in Italian marine protected areas.³⁹⁷² Specifically, the funds will be directed to energy efficiency interventions in public real estate and for the creation of sustainable land and marine infrastructures and mobility services.³⁹⁷³

On 6 August 2020, the Ministry of the Environment signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Corepla to launch an experimental environmental project to manage marine litter specifically around the mouths of major Italian rivers and marine protected areas, in an effort to take concrete action toward cleaning up the sea from plastic waste and protecting it.³⁹⁷⁴

On 11 August 2020, the Ministry of the Environment announced that six eco-bales out of 40 bales containing 1.2 tons of plastic each, have been recovered from the seabed of the Gulf of Follonica in less than a week.³⁹⁷⁵ This initiative, undertaken by the Navy, the Coast Guard, the Civil Protection Department and the Ministry of the Environment is showing as the most effective solution to protect this sea from a potential environmental disaster.³⁹⁷⁶

Italy has taken some actions to strengthen and improve current biodiversity strategies and address the main pressures of biodiversity through the Barcelona Convention. It has also taken action to offer co-benefits to another global challenge of ecosystem degradation through adopting its new provision on radiation protection.

Thus, Italy has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Maris Han

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to take swift action on biodiversity in the run-up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties [COP] to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

On 25 November 2019, Japan announced a contribution of USD1.5 billion to replenish the Green Climate Fund (GCF) over the next four years, at its first high-level pledging conference.^{3977,3978} This

³⁹⁷² Climate: 4.5 Million Euros For Adaptation Projects in Protected Marine Areas, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 22 August 2020.

<https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/clima-4-5-milioni-di-euro-progetti-di-adattamento-nelle-aree-marine-protette>

³⁹⁷³ Climate: 4.5 Million Euros For Adaptation Projects in Protected Marine Areas, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 22 August 2020.

<https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/clima-4-5-milioni-di-euro-progetti-di-adattamento-nelle-aree-marine-protette>

³⁹⁷⁴ Sea: Minambiente-Corepla Protocol Against Marine Litter Also in Protected Marine Areas, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 6 August 2020. Access Date: 22 August 2020.

<https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/mare-protocollo-minambiente-corepla-contro-marine-litter-anche-nelle-aree-marine-protette>

³⁹⁷⁵ The Eco-Bales Recovered from the Seabed of the Gulf of Follonica Rise to Six (Rome) 11 August 2020. Access Date: 22 August 2020. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/salgono-sei-le-ecoballe-recuperate-dai-fondali-del-golfo-di-follonica>

³⁹⁷⁶ The Eco-Bales Recovered from the Seabed of the Gulf of Follonica Rise to Six (Rome) 11 August 2020. Access Date: 22 August 2020. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/salgono-sei-le-ecoballe-recuperate-dai-fondali-del-golfo-di-follonica>

³⁹⁷⁷ Countries step up ambition: Landmark boost to coffers of the world's largest climate fund, Green Climate Fund (Paris) 25 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.greenclimate.fund/news/countries-step-up-ambition-landmark-boost-to-coffers-of-the-world-s-largest-climate-fund>

funding is part of a wider pledge of USD9.78 billion provided by 27 countries in the first replenishment of the fund.³⁹⁷⁹ The resources from the fund will help developing countries mitigate the impacts of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to global warming.³⁹⁸⁰

On 28 November 2019, the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) designed a roadmap to develop a Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Marine Biodiversity in Chiba, Japan.³⁹⁸¹ The proposed plan will support Japan, China, the Russian Federation, and the Republic of Korea, the NOWPAP Member States, in the conservation and international cooperation of marine biodiversity.³⁹⁸² It will be ensured that the plan is adopted by the Member States up until the end of 2021, thereby meeting targets of the NOWPAP and Convention of Biological Diversity.³⁹⁸³

On 10 December 2019, the NOWPAP announced high priority actions for the future conservation of marine biodiversity that include conserving biological habitats, plankton species, and environmental DNA.³⁹⁸⁴ To enable progress towards these actions, scientists from the NOWPAP member states will develop distribution maps of coastal habitat to determine causes of habitat decline, databases of species and natural ecosystems and tools to monitor coastal habitat.³⁹⁸⁵ Overall, these techniques will help countries meet their marine biodiversity conservation targets, their Aichi Biodiversity Targets and a number of Sustainable Development Goals.³⁹⁸⁶

On 24 January 2020, the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) announced their fourth selection of ten projects for their Financing Programme.³⁹⁸⁷ These projects are based in seven partner countries, including Ethiopia, Viet Nam, Indonesia, Cambodia, Chile, Thailand, and the Philippines and are

³⁹⁷⁸ First Replenishment of the Green Climate Fund Summary Pledge Table (in millions), Green Climate Fund (Paris) 25 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/24868/First_replenishment_of_the_Green_Climate_Fund_Summary_pledge_table.pdf

³⁹⁷⁹ Countries step up ambition: Landmark boost to coffers of the world's largest climate fund, Green Climate Fund (Paris) 25 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.greenclimate.fund/news/countries-step-up-ambition-landmark-boost-to-coffers-of-the-world-s-largest-climate-fund>

³⁹⁸⁰ Countries step up ambition: Landmark boost to coffers of the world's largest climate fund, Green Climate Fund (Paris) 25 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.greenclimate.fund/news/countries-step-up-ambition-landmark-boost-to-coffers-of-the-world-s-largest-climate-fund>

³⁹⁸¹ Designing a roadmap to develop the Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Marine Biodiversity Conservation, Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Chiba) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.unenvironment.org/nowpap/news/press-release/designing-roadmap-develop-regional-action-plan-marine-and-coastal-marine>

³⁹⁸² Designing a roadmap to develop the Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Marine Biodiversity Conservation, Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Chiba) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.unenvironment.org/nowpap/news/press-release/designing-roadmap-develop-regional-action-plan-marine-and-coastal-marine>

³⁹⁸³ Designing a roadmap to develop the Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Marine Biodiversity Conservation, Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Chiba) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.unenvironment.org/nowpap/news/press-release/designing-roadmap-develop-regional-action-plan-marine-and-coastal-marine>

³⁹⁸⁴ High priority activities identified for future marine biodiversity conservation, Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Chiba) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.unenvironment.org/nowpap/news/press-release/high-priority-activities-identified-future-marine-biodiversity-conservation>

³⁹⁸⁵ High priority activities identified for future marine biodiversity conservation, Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Chiba) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.unenvironment.org/nowpap/news/press-release/high-priority-activities-identified-future-marine-biodiversity-conservation>

³⁹⁸⁶ High priority activities identified for future marine biodiversity conservation, Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Chiba) 10 December 2019. Date of Access: 20 December 2019. <https://www.unenvironment.org/nowpap/news/press-release/high-priority-activities-identified-future-marine-biodiversity-conservation>

³⁹⁸⁷ Preliminary Selection Result for Financing Programme for JCM Model Projects in FY2019 (4th Selection), The Joint Crediting Mechanism (Osaka) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <http://gec.jp/jcm/kobo/mp200124/>

focused on renewable energy and energy efficiency improvement.³⁹⁸⁸ The JCM was established in 2013 to disseminate Japan's low carbon technologies to developing countries around the world³⁹⁸⁹ Through the JCM, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in partner countries generates credits that Japan can use for the achievement of their own emission reduction targets.³⁹⁹⁰

On 21 February 2020, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed an official development assistance (ODA) loan agreement with the Government of the Republic of Fiji.³⁹⁹¹ The agreement will provide Fiji with a loan of up to JPY5 billion to support the country's Stand-by Loan for Disaster Recovery and Rehabilitation.³⁹⁹² The loan finance post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation initiatives and support disaster risk reduction policies in Fiji.³⁹⁹³

On 21 February 2020, the JCM issued credits between Cambodia and Japan for the first time.³⁹⁹⁴ The supported project will increase energy efficiency through the installation of ultra-lightweight solar panels at an International School in Cambodia.³⁹⁹⁵

On 5 March 2020, the JCM issued credits between Saudi Arabia and Japan for the first time.³⁹⁹⁶ The project supported by these credits will help reduce energy consumption in the Chlor-Alkali Production Plant through the installation of a high efficiency electrolyzer.³⁹⁹⁷

On 30 March 2020, the Ministry of the Environment updated their "Practical Guide for Scenario Analysis in line with TCFD Recommendations" to support companies in assessing their climate-related opportunities.³⁹⁹⁸ This updated guide now includes Key Points of Practice, Practical Examples

³⁹⁸⁸ Preliminary Selection Result for Financing Programme for JCM Model Projects in FY2019 (4th Selection), The Joint Crediting Mechanism (Osaka) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <http://gec.jp/jcm/kobo/mp200124/>

³⁹⁸⁹ Overview of the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM), The Joint Crediting Mechanism (Osaka). Date of Access: 18 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <http://gec.jp/jcm/about/>.

³⁹⁹⁰ Preliminary Selection Result for Financing Programme for JCM Model Projects in FY2019 (1st Selection), The Joint Crediting Mechanism (Osaka) 27 June 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <http://gec.jp/jcm/kobo/mp190405/>.

³⁹⁹¹ Press Release: Signing of Japanese ODA Loan with Fiji: Contributing to immediate recovery from natural disasters, together with mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo), 21 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200221_11_en.html

³⁹⁹² Press Release: Signing of Japanese ODA Loan with Fiji: Contributing to immediate recovery from natural disasters, together with mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo), 21 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200221_11_en.html

³⁹⁹³ Press Release: Signing of Japanese ODA Loan with Fiji: Contributing to immediate recovery from natural disasters, together with mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo), 21 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200221_11_en.html

³⁹⁹⁴ Press Release: 1st issuance of credits from the Joint Crediting Mechanism between Cambodia and Japan, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <http://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2438.html>

³⁹⁹⁵ Press Release: 1st issuance of credits from the Joint Crediting Mechanism between Cambodia and Japan, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <http://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2438.html>

³⁹⁹⁶ Press Release: 1st issuance of credits from the Joint Crediting Mechanism between Saudi Arabia and Japan, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <http://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2437.html>

³⁹⁹⁷ Press Release: 1st issuance of credits from the Joint Crediting Mechanism between Saudi Arabia and Japan, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <http://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2437.html>

³⁹⁹⁸ Press Release: MOEJ updates "Practical guide for Scenario Analysis in line with TCFD recommendations", Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan (Tokyo) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 8 April 2020. <http://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2439.html>

from twelve companies that the MOEJ supports, and additional materials that can be used for scenario analysis.³⁹⁹⁹

On 30 March 2020, the Global Warming Prevention Headquarters announced Japan's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for the Paris Agreement.⁴⁰⁰⁰ The NDC includes Japan's target to reduce emissions by 26 per cent below 2013 levels by 2030.⁴⁰⁰¹ The target is unchanged from the one submitted in 2015 for the Paris Agreement.⁴⁰⁰²

On 30 March 2020, JICA signed an official development assistance (ODA) loan with the Government of the Philippines.⁴⁰⁰³ The agreement will provide the Philippines up to JPY4.409 billion to support the Metro Manila Priority Bridges Seismic Improvement Project (II).⁴⁰⁰⁴ This project will strengthen resilience to and speed-up recovery from large-scale earthquakes in the Metro Manila transportation network, specifically by replacing the Guadalupe and Lambingan bridges with bridges that have improved seismic design specifications.⁴⁰⁰⁵

On 31 March 2020, JICA signed ODA loan agreements with the Government of Indonesia.⁴⁰⁰⁶ The first agreement provides JPY57.061 billion to support the Jakarta Sewerage Development Project that includes the construction of a sewer network and wastewater treatment plant in Jakarta.⁴⁰⁰⁷ Among other objectives, this will help conserve the aquatic environment of the city.⁴⁰⁰⁸ The second

³⁹⁹⁹ Press Release: MOEJ updates "Practical guide for Scenario Analysis in line with TCFD recommendations", Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan (Tokyo) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 8 April 2020.

<http://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2439.html>

⁴⁰⁰⁰ Press Release: About the Global Warming Countermeasures Promotion Headquarters of "Japan's NDC (contribution decided by the country)", Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan (Tokyo) 30 March 2020. Access Date:

<https://www.env.go.jp/press/107941.html>

⁴⁰⁰¹ Press Release: About the Global Warming Countermeasures Promotion Headquarters of "Japan's NDC (contribution decided by the country)", Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan (Tokyo) 30 March 2020. Access Date:

<https://www.env.go.jp/press/107941.html>

⁴⁰⁰² Climate Action Tracker Japan: Japan, Climate Action Tracker (Berlin) 22 July 2015. Access Date: 15 April 2020.

https://climateactiontracker.org/media/documents/2018/4/CAT_2015-07-22_CountryAssessment_Japan.pdf

⁴⁰⁰³ Press Release: Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreements with the Philippines: Contributing to the reduction of the disaster risk in Metro Manila with Japanese technology, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 3 April 2020.

Access Date: 7 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20200403_21.html

⁴⁰⁰⁴ Press Release: Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreements with the Philippines: Contributing to the reduction of the disaster risk in Metro Manila with Japanese technology, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 3 April 2020.

Access Date: 7 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20200403_21.html

⁴⁰⁰⁵ Press Release: Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreements with the Philippines: Contributing to the reduction of the disaster risk in Metro Manila with Japanese technology, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 3 April 2020.

Access Date: 7 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20200403_21.html

⁴⁰⁰⁶ Press Release: Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreements with Indonesia: Supporting the construction of a large-scale wastewater treatment plant for Jakarta and efforts for flood disaster prevention measures, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo), 1 April 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20200401_21.html

⁴⁰⁰⁷ Press Release: Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreements with Indonesia: Supporting the construction of a large-scale wastewater treatment plant for Jakarta and efforts for flood disaster prevention measures, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo), 1 April 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20200401_21.html

⁴⁰⁰⁸ Press Release: Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreements with Indonesia: Supporting the construction of a large-scale wastewater treatment plant for Jakarta and efforts for flood disaster prevention measures, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo), 1 April 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20200401_21.html

agreement provides JPY7.299 billion to improve urban flood control systems in selected cities in Indonesia to enhance flood disaster prevention.⁴⁰⁰⁹

On 31 March 2020, JICA signed a loan agreement with Brazilian pulp and paper manufacture company Klabin S.A.⁴⁰¹⁰ The USD72 million will expand Klabin S.A.'s existing factory in Paraná State and promote planned forest management to develop sustainable forest industry in Brazil and strengthen its supply chains.⁴⁰¹¹ Klabin S.A. supports reforestation and conserves more than 40 per cent of its forests as natural forests.⁴⁰¹²

Japan has taken efforts to strengthen and improve current biodiversity strategies through the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Marine Biodiversity. Japan has also taken efforts that offer co-benefits to the global challenges of climate change and disaster risk reduction by, for instance, providing financial support to developing countries through the the JCM, funding the GCF, and providing ODA loans through JICA.

Thus, Japan has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Maryam Rehman

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to take swift action on biodiversity in the run-up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties [COP] to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced GBP10 million to help tackle deforestation in the Amazon.⁴⁰¹³ As part of a series of announcements, the Prime Minister also announced an increase in UK's contribution to the Green Climate Fund and funding of GBP7 million to protect marine ecosystems around Britain's overseas territories.⁴⁰¹⁴

On 23 September 2019, Prime Minister Johnson launched a GBP220 million fund to save the endangered species as the snow leopard, Sumatran tiger, black rhino and African elephant from extinction.⁴⁰¹⁵ This funding is part of UK's International Biodiversity Fund that will provide financial

⁴⁰⁰⁹ Press Release: Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreements with Indonesia: Supporting the construction of a large-scale wastewater treatment plant for Jakarta and efforts for flood disaster prevention measures, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo), 1 April 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20200401_21.html

⁴⁰¹⁰ Press Release: Signing of loan agreement for sustainable forest industry support project in Brazil (Private Sector Investment and Finance): First co-financing with IDB Invest, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20200401_10_en.html

⁴⁰¹¹ Press Release: Signing of loan agreement for sustainable forest industry support project in Brazil (Private Sector Investment and Finance): First co-financing with IDB Invest, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20200401_10_en.html

⁴⁰¹² Press Release: Signing of loan agreement for sustainable forest industry support project in Brazil (Private Sector Investment and Finance): First co-financing with IDB Invest, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20200401_10_en.html

⁴⁰¹³ Press Release: PM steps up UK efforts to protect the Amazon rainforest, Government of UK (London) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-efforts-to-protect-the-amazon-rainforest>

⁴⁰¹⁴ Press Release: PM steps up UK efforts to protect the Amazon rainforest, Government of UK (London) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-efforts-to-protect-the-amazon-rainforest>

⁴⁰¹⁵ Press Release: PM launches new action plan to save the natural world, Government of UK (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-launches-new-action-plan-to-save-the-natural-world>

assistance to projects aimed at strengthening law enforcement and discourage poaching and the consumption of illegally traded products.⁴⁰¹⁶

On 24 September 2019, Prime Minister Johnson announced at the United Nations General Assembly that the British scientists will be able to utilize GBP1 billion funding to support the development and testing of new technology targeted at tackling climate change in developing countries.⁴⁰¹⁷

On 24 September 2019, the Government of UK announced the creation of the Global Ocean Alliance to protect wildlife in the world's ocean.⁴⁰¹⁸ This alliance, consisting of 10 countries, seeks to address issues such as warming sea temperatures, plastic pollution and extinction of marine species.⁴⁰¹⁹ The Global Ocean Alliance will push for the strengthening of existing globally agreed targets and call for the 30by30 initiative, an initiative that aims to increase the proportion of Marine Protected Areas to increase to 30 per cent of the global ocean by 2030, to be adopted at COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity conference and introduced into international law through the High Seas Treaty in 2020.⁴⁰²⁰

On 2 November 2019, the Government of UK announced an investment of GBP315 million as part of the Industrial Energy Transformation Fund (IETF) to support heavy industry reduce carbon emissions through the adoption of energy efficient technology.⁴⁰²¹

On 4 November 2019, the Government of UK launched the Woodland Carbon Guarantee Scheme to increase tree planting rates in an attempt to boost carbon sequestration.⁴⁰²² As part of this scheme, GBP50 million will be used to provide landowners and farmers an incentive to plant more trees and create new woodland.⁴⁰²³

On 16 January 2020, the Environment Minister Rebecca Pow announced that the UK government established and extended Special Protection Areas (SPAs) to protect rare and vulnerable seabirds.⁴⁰²⁴

⁴⁰¹⁶ Press Release: PM launches new action plan to save the natural world, Government of UK (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-launches-new-action-plan-to-save-the-natural-world>

⁴⁰¹⁷ Press Release: British scientists to help tackle climate change through new £1 billion fund, Government of UK (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/british-scientists-to-help-tackle-climate-change-through-new-1-billion-fund>

⁴⁰¹⁸ Press Release: UK creates global alliance to help protect the world's ocean, Government of UK (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-creates-global-alliance-to-help-protect-the-worlds-ocean>

⁴⁰¹⁹ Press Release: UK creates global alliance to help protect the world's ocean, Government of UK (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-creates-global-alliance-to-help-protect-the-worlds-ocean>

⁴⁰²⁰ Press Release: UK creates global alliance to help protect the world's ocean, Government of UK (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-creates-global-alliance-to-help-protect-the-worlds-ocean>

⁴⁰²¹ Press Release: Heavy industry to cut 2 million tonnes of carbon emissions with new tech, Government of UK (London) 2 November 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/heavy-industry-to-cut-2-million-tonnes-of-carbon-emissions-with-new-tech>

⁴⁰²² Press Release: Government launches new scheme to boost tree planting, Government of UK (London) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-scheme-to-boost-tree-planting>

⁴⁰²³ Press Release: Government launches new scheme to boost tree planting, Government of UK (London) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-scheme-to-boost-tree-planting>

⁴⁰²⁴ Press Release: New protections for thousands of seabirds, Government of UK (London) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-protections-for-thousands-of-seabirds--2>

The SPAs, to be established in Solent and Middlesborough, will safeguard seabirds from recreational human activities.⁴⁰²⁵

On 21 January 2020, Prime Minister Johnson and President Kenyatta agreed on a strategic partnership focused on economic prosperity, security, sustainable development and climate change between 2020 and 2025.⁴⁰²⁶ Both the UK and Kenya are committed to demonstrating global leadership, tackling climate change and environmental issues such as climate finance and biodiversity.⁴⁰²⁷

On 19 February 2020, Prime Minister Johnson announced GBP220 million International Biodiverse Landscapes Fund at the 2019 UN General Assembly.⁴⁰²⁸ The fund includes an allotment of GBP100 million that will support conservation and restoration projects in five global biodiversity hotspots.⁴⁰²⁹

On 4 March 2020, the Government of the UK invested GBP37 million dollars to develop electric machines in UK's most polluting industries, contributing to the UK's zero-emission goal by 2050.⁴⁰³⁰ GBP30 million will be used to establish R&D centres in Nottingham, Sunderland, Newport, and Strathclyde.⁴⁰³¹ The remaining funding will enable automotive manufacturers to obtain parts to design the electric machines.⁴⁰³²

On 20 March 2020, the Government of the UK announced that the UK became the first co-chair of the Governing Council of the Coalition of Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).⁴⁰³³ The CDRI is a partnership between private sector organizations, governments, academia, banks and UN agencies and aims to develop climate and disaster resilient infrastructure.⁴⁰³⁴

The UK has taken efforts to strengthen and improve current biodiversity strategies and address the main pressures of biodiversity through the ban on plastic straws and stirrers, the Global Ocean Alliance, and GBP220 million fund to save the endangered species as the snow leopard, Sumatran

⁴⁰²⁵ Press Release: New protections for thousands of seabirds, Government of UK (London) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-protections-for-thousands-of-seabirds--2>

⁴⁰²⁶ Press Release: UK-Kenya Strategic Partnership 2020 to 2025: joint statement, Government of UK (London) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-kenya-strategic-partnership-2020-2025>

⁴⁰²⁷ Press Release: UK-Kenya Strategic Partnership 2020 to 2025: joint statement, Government of UK (London) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-kenya-strategic-partnership-2020-2025>

⁴⁰²⁸ Press Release: UK Biodiverse landscapes fund 2021-2026, Government of UK (London) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-biodiverse-landscapes-fund-2021-2026>

⁴⁰²⁹ Press Release: UK Biodiverse landscapes fund 2021-2026, Government of UK (London) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-biodiverse-landscapes-fund-2021-2026>

⁴⁰³⁰ Press Release: Government backs cleaner planes, ships and automobile with GBP 37 million boost, Government of UK (London) 21 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-backs-cleaner-planes-ships-and-automobiles-with-37-million-boost>

⁴⁰³¹ Press Release: Government backs cleaner planes, ships and automobile with GBP 37 million boost, Government of UK (London) 21 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-backs-cleaner-planes-ships-and-automobiles-with-37-million-boost>

⁴⁰³² Press Release: Government backs cleaner planes, ships and automobile with GBP 37 million boost, Government of UK (London) 21 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-backs-cleaner-planes-ships-and-automobiles-with-37-million-boost>

⁴⁰³³ Press Release: UK becomes co-chair of India-led global climate initiative, Government of UK (London) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-becomes-co-chair-of-india-led-global-climate-initiative>

⁴⁰³⁴ Press Release: UK becomes co-chair of India-led global climate initiative, Government of UK (London) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-becomes-co-chair-of-india-led-global-climate-initiative>

tiger, black rhino and African elephant from extinction. The UK has also taken efforts that offer co-benefits to the global challenges of climate change, ecosystem degradation and disaster risk reduction through the Industrial Strategy and IETF, the Urban Tree Challenge, funding of GBP10 million to help tackle deforestation in the Amazon and co-chairing the Coalition of Disaster Risk Infrastructure.

Thus, UK has received a score of +1.

Analyst: April Mu

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to take swift action on biodiversity in the run-up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties [COP] to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

On 10 September 2019, the House of Representatives introduced the “Climate Stewardship Act of 2019,” which provided incentives for agricultural producers to carry out climate stewardship practices and to provide for increased reforestation across the United States, among other purposes.⁴⁰³⁵ The bill includes amendments to the “Reforestation Trust Fund” and “Reforest America Grant Program” that demand reforestation practices enhance forest health, resilience, and biodiversity.⁴⁰³⁶

On 19 September 2019, President Donald Trump’s Administration announced a revoke of California’s vehicle emission standards.⁴⁰³⁷ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler states that the decision will enable “much-needed regulatory certainty for the automotive industry.”⁴⁰³⁸ California’s vehicle emission standards are considered to be more stringent than those of many other states.⁴⁰³⁹

On 22 October 2019, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced habitat and water management measures for the San Francisco Bay Delta, effectively diverting large amounts of water from the Delta for irrigation.⁴⁰⁴⁰ The Delta is a fragile ecosystem and is home to the Delta Smelt, a threatened species for California Fish.⁴⁰⁴¹

On 4 November 2019, the United States submitted formal notification to the United Nations to begin the withdrawal process from the Paris Agreement.⁴⁰⁴² The withdrawal will be complete one

⁴⁰³⁵ Climate Stewardship of Act, Congress.Gov, 10 September 2019. Access Date: 10 January 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/4269/text>

⁴⁰³⁶ Climate Stewardship of Act, Congress.Gov, 10 September 2019. Access Date: 10 January 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/4269/text>

⁴⁰³⁷ California vows fightback after Trump voids state’s right to set emissions rule, The Guardian, 19 September 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/sep/19/california-trump-vehicle-emissions-standards-cars>

⁴⁰³⁸ California vows fightback after Trump voids state’s right to set emissions rule, The Guardian, 19 September 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/sep/19/california-trump-vehicle-emissions-standards-cars>

⁴⁰³⁹ California vows fightback after Trump voids state’s right to set emissions rule, The Guardian, 19 September 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/sep/19/california-trump-vehicle-emissions-standards-cars>

⁴⁰⁴⁰ Trump Administration Moves to Lift Protections for Fish and Divert Water to Farms, The New York Times, 22 October 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/22/climate/trump-delta-smelt.html>

⁴⁰⁴¹ Trump Administration Moves to Lift Protections for Fish and Divert Water to Farms, The New York Times, 22 October 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/22/climate/trump-delta-smelt.html>

⁴⁰⁴² Paris climate accords: US notifies UN of intention to withdraw, BBC News, 5 November 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-50297029>

year after the date of delivery of the notification.⁴⁰⁴³ The notification follows President Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement in June 2017 due to the economic impacts of the Agreement on national businesses.⁴⁰⁴⁴

On 5 November 2019, the House of Representatives introduced the "Green Climate Fund Authorization Act of 2019" which proposed to authorize appropriations for climate financing, especially in regard to the commitments the United States made to the Green Climate Fund and the Paris climate agreement.⁴⁰⁴⁵ The act highlights that the Green Climate Fund ensures conservation of biodiversity and critical habitats.⁴⁰⁴⁶

On 18 November 2019, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced the allocation of USD30 million towards grants to support coastal resilience projects that reduce the impact of rising sea levels and extreme weather by strengthening natural ecosystems.⁴⁰⁴⁷

On 9 December 2019, the NOAA announced the project "Mission: Iconic Reefs," which provides resources to revitalize the reefs of the Florida Keys and their diverse marine ecosystem.⁴⁰⁴⁸ The program also specifically allows for the removal of invasive species from the reefs.⁴⁰⁴⁹

On 20 December 2019, President Trump signed into law the "Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020," which authorized an extensive list of appropriations for government agencies and branches.⁴⁰⁵⁰ The Act allocated USD315 million for biodiversity conservation programs and detailed that the funds cannot be used to support the expansion of industrial scale extractive activity into tropical forests.⁴⁰⁵¹ The act also allocated USD100 million to combat wildlife poaching and trafficking and sets aside USD151 million for aquatic ecosystem restoration.⁴⁰⁵²

⁴⁰⁴³ Paris climate accords: US notifies UN of intention to withdraw, BBC News, 5 November 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-50297029>

⁴⁰⁴⁴ Paris climate accords: US notifies UN of intention to withdraw, BBC News, 5 November 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-50297029>

⁴⁰⁴⁵ Green Climate Fund Authorization Act of 2019, Congress.Gov, 5 November 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/4986/text?r=46&s=1>

⁴⁰⁴⁶ Green Climate Fund Authorization Act of 2019, Congress.Gov, 5 November 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/4986/text?r=46&s=1>

⁴⁰⁴⁷ NOAA, NFWF announce \$30million in grants to support coastal resilience efforts across nation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, 18 November 2019. Access Date: 12 January 2020. <https://www.noaa.gov/media-release/noaa-nfwf-announce-30-million-in-grants-to-support-coastal-resilience-efforts-across>

⁴⁰⁴⁸ NOAA, partners announce launch groundbreaking Florida Keys coral reef restoration effort, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, 9 December 2019. Access Date: 12 January 2020. <https://floridakeys.noaa.gov/coral-disease/>

⁴⁰⁴⁹ NOAA, partners announce launch groundbreaking Florida Keys coral reef restoration effort, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, 9 December 2019. Access Date: 12 January 2020. <https://floridakeys.noaa.gov/coral-disease/>

⁴⁰⁵⁰ Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, Congress.gov, 20 December 2019. Access Date: 12 January 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1865/text>

⁴⁰⁵¹ Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, Congress.gov, 20 December 2019. Access Date: 12 January 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1865/text>

⁴⁰⁵² Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, Congress.gov, 20 December 2019. Access Date: 12 January 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1865/text>

On 6 January 2020, the Senate introduced the “Native Plant Species Pilot Program Act of 2020,” which proposed to establish a pilot program to protect the biodiversity of native plant species in several National Park Service regions.⁴⁰⁵³

On 23 January 2020, the Environmental Protection Agency announced the “Navigable Waters Protection Rule,” which cut back federal limits on pollution in wetlands and smaller waterways with the goal of providing new, clear definitions on what bodies of water are under federal control.^{4054,4055} The rule states that bodies of water which are considered ephemeral, such as waste treatment systems and groundwater, are not subject to federal regulation.^{4056,4057}

On 12 February 2020, the House of Representatives introduced the Trillion Trees Act, which proposed to establish forest management, reforestation, and utilization practices which enable the capture and storage of greenhouse gases in accordance with the United Nations Environment Programme’s Trillion Trees Initiative.⁴⁰⁵⁸ The Act authorizes the prioritization of reforestation or prevention programs in developing regions whose biodiversity would be significantly impacted by deforestation.⁴⁰⁵⁹

On 10 March 2020, the House of Representatives introduced the Moving Towards a Safe Climate Act, which proposed a national strategic action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector with the intent to adhere to the commitments of the U.S. under the Paris Agreement.⁴⁰⁶⁰ The action plan includes measures to promote public and low-carbon transport and the development of clean fuels and transport systems.⁴⁰⁶¹

On 17 March 2020, the NOAA and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced the allocation of USD43 million towards grants to support the coastal resilience of local communities

⁴⁰⁵³ Native Plant Species Pilot Program Act of 2020, Congress.Gov, 6 January 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3150/text>

⁴⁰⁵⁴ News Release: EPA and Army Deliver on President Trump’s Promise to Issue the Navigable Waters Protection Rule – A New Definition of WOTUS, Environmental Protection Agency (Pittsburgh) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-and-army-deliver-president-trumps-promise-issue-navigable-waters-protection-rule-1>

⁴⁰⁵⁵ Trump Administration Cuts Back Federal Protections for Streams and Wetlands, NPR, 23 January 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.npr.org/2020/01/23/798809951/trump-administration-is-rolling-back-obama-era-protections-for-smaller-waterways>

⁴⁰⁵⁶ Trump Administration Cuts Back Federal Protections for Streams and Wetlands, NPR, 23 January 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.npr.org/2020/01/23/798809951/trump-administration-is-rolling-back-obama-era-protections-for-smaller-waterways>

⁴⁰⁵⁷ News Release: EPA and Army Deliver on President Trump’s Promise to Issue the Navigable Waters Protection Rule – A New Definition of WOTUS, Environmental Protection Agency (Pittsburgh) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-and-army-deliver-president-trumps-promise-issue-navigable-waters-protection-rule-1>

⁴⁰⁵⁸ Trillion Trees Act, Congress.Gov, 12 February 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5859/text>

⁴⁰⁵⁹ Trillion Trees Act, Congress.Gov, 12 February 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5859/text>

⁴⁰⁶⁰ Moving Towards a Safe Climate Act, Congress.Gov, 10 March 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6171/text>

⁴⁰⁶¹ Moving Towards a Safe Climate Act, Congress.Gov, 10 March 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6171/text>

and wildlife habitats that faced natural disasters in 2018.⁴⁰⁶² The funding will support natural infrastructure projects that increase resilience from future disasters.⁴⁰⁶³

On 30 March 2020, the Environmental Protection Agency announced the finalization of the Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles Rule, which weakened auto emissions standards for the purpose of making vehicles more affordable for customers.⁴⁰⁶⁴ Carbon dioxide emissions standards will increase 1.5 per cent per year as opposed to the former increase of 5 per cent per year.⁴⁰⁶⁵

The US has taken efforts to address the main pressures of biodiversity through the Climate Stewardship Act of 2019 and Mission: Iconic Reefs. The U.S. has also taken efforts that offer co-benefit another challenge such as climate change and disaster risk reduction through the Green Climate Fund Authorization Act of 2019, the Trillion Trees Act, and grants provided by NOAA. However, the U.S. has not strengthened or improved current biodiversity strategies and has also given formal notification of its withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, are weakening vehicle emission standards, and threatening fish and other wildlife to increase irrigation for farms in California.

Thus, the U.S. has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Kiyala Amos-Flom

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to take swift action on biodiversity in the run-up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties [COP] to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

On 14 October 2019, the Agrifish Council agreed that six of the ten most commercially important fish stocks in the Baltic sea will be managed through the maximum sustainability yields principle, although the European Commission had initially put forward proposals for reductions in eight stocks.⁴⁰⁶⁶ On the other hand, in the Atlantic and North Sea, limits to fishing quotas that enable the EU to meet its pledge to end overfishing by 2020 have not been enacted, with some species' quotas such as Haddock in the North Sea being increased.^{4067,4068}

⁴⁰⁶² More than \$43 million in coastal resilience grants announced, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, 17 March 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.noaa.gov/media-release/more-than-43-million-in-coastal-resilience-grants-announced>

⁴⁰⁶³ More than \$43 million in coastal resilience grants announced, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, 17 March 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.noaa.gov/media-release/more-than-43-million-in-coastal-resilience-grants-announced>

⁴⁰⁶⁴ Trump Administration Weakens Auto Emissions Standards, NPR, 31 March 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/31/824431240/trump-administration-weakens-auto-emissions-rolling-back-key-climate-policy>

⁴⁰⁶⁵ Trump Administration Weakens Auto Emissions Standards, NPR, 31 March 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/31/824431240/trump-administration-weakens-auto-emissions-rolling-back-key-climate-policy>

⁴⁰⁶⁶ EU Council follows Commission's Line, Trims Baltic Fishing Quota, Euractiv (Brussels) 15 October 2019. Accessed: 20 December 2019. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/agriculture-food/news/eu-council-follows-commissions-line-trims-baltic-fishing-quota/>

⁴⁰⁶⁷ EU ministers opt to continue overfishing, despite 2020 deadline, The Guardian (London) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/dec/18/eu-ministers-opt-to-continue-overfishing-despite-2020-deadline>

⁴⁰⁶⁸ Haggling begins as EU prepares to set 2020 fishing quotas, The Guardian (London) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/dec/16/eu-2020-fishing-quotas>

On 14 November 2019, the European Investment Bank committed to a new strategy for environmental sustainability and climate action.⁴⁰⁶⁹ This includes EUR1 trillion of investment in climate and environmental action from 2021 to 2030, an increase in the share of financial support to climate action, and alignment of all European Investment Bank financial activities with the goals of the Paris Agreement.⁴⁰⁷⁰ The bank will also end financial support for fossil fuel energy projects after 2020.⁴⁰⁷¹

On 28 November 2019, the European Parliament declared a climate and environmental emergency in the European Union and globally.⁴⁰⁷² The declaration calls for all future legislative and budgetary proposals to align with objective of limiting global warming to under 1.5°C, to reach climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest and reduce global emissions from shipping and aviation.⁴⁰⁷³

On 2-5 December 2019, at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention), the European Union and 21 Mediterranean Coastal States committed to making the Mediterranean Sea an Emission Control Area Zone for Sulphur Oxides.^{4074,4075}

On 12 December 2019, the European Council endorsed the European Green Deal, a broad growth strategy that includes the objective of achieving a climate-neutral European Union by 2050.⁴⁰⁷⁶ Significant commitments under the Green Deal include the European Climate Law to enshrine the neutrality objective in legislation by March 2020, a plan for an increase in the ambition of the European Union's greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, and a EUR100 billion Just Transition Mechanism fund to help countries and sectors dependent on fossil fuels and "carbon-intensive processes" to move to renewable energy sources.⁴⁰⁷⁷ Poland did not commit to the neutrality

⁴⁰⁶⁹ Press Release: EU Bank launches ambitious new climate strategy and Energy Lending Policy, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-313-eu-bank-launches-ambitious-new-climate-strategy-and-energy-lending-policy>

⁴⁰⁷⁰ Press Release: EU Bank launches ambitious new climate strategy and Energy Lending Policy, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-313-eu-bank-launches-ambitious-new-climate-strategy-and-energy-lending-policy>

⁴⁰⁷¹ Press Release: EU Bank launches ambitious new climate strategy and Energy Lending Policy, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-313-eu-bank-launches-ambitious-new-climate-strategy-and-energy-lending-policy>

⁴⁰⁷² Press Release: The European Parliament declares climate emergency, European Parliament (Brussels) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20191121IPR67110/the-european-parliament-declares-climate-emergency>

⁴⁰⁷³ Press Release: The European Parliament declares climate emergency, European Parliament (Brussels) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20191121IPR67110/the-european-parliament-declares-climate-emergency>

⁴⁰⁷⁴ France welcomes the commitment of all Mediterranean countries to ensure low pollution from ships in the Mediterranean, the Government of France (Paris) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-welcomes-the-commitment-of-all-mediterranean-countries-to-ensure-low-pollution-from-ships>.

⁴⁰⁷⁵ Barcelona Convention – COP21 (Naples, 2-5 December 2019), UN Environment (Nairobi) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://web.unep.org/unepmap/barcelona-convention-cop21-naples-2-5-december-2019>

⁴⁰⁷⁶ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European Green New Deal, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019 https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf

⁴⁰⁷⁷ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European Green New Deal, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf.

objective but will have the opportunity to do so in June 2020 once the European Commission has published Climate law.^{4078,4079}

The Green Deal also includes commitments to present a biodiversity strategy for 2030, to be presented in March 2020 in preparation for COP15 of the Convention of Biological Diversity.⁴⁰⁸⁰ The deal also includes a zero-tolerance approach to unreported and illegal fishing, that will be based and new product labelling rules to encourage the consumption of deforestation-free agricultural products.⁴⁰⁸¹

On 18 December 2019, the European Parliament voted for a resolution to strengthen the European Union Pollinators Initiative adopted in 2018 to further protect pollinators from the numerous causes of their decline including industrial farming, habitat loss, pesticide usage and invasive species.⁴⁰⁸² As part of this resolution, the MEPs called on the European Commission to introduce EU-wide pesticides reduction targets and more financial support for research on the causes of bee decline.⁴⁰⁸³

On January 1 2020, the European Union formalized Switzerland's membership of the Union's emissions trading system (EU ETS), making Switzerland the first country from outside the European Union to join the cap and trade scheme.⁴⁰⁸⁴ The EU ETS aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power generation and carbon-intensive industries and allows links to other comparable, mandatory emission trading systems.⁴⁰⁸⁵

On 15 January 2020, the European Parliament adopted its position to support the European Green Deal and called for more ambitious 2030 emission reduction targets.⁴⁰⁸⁶ The Parliament also voted in support of the Sustainable Europe Investment Plan that will generate investments to finance a just

⁴⁰⁷⁸ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European Green New Deal, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf.

⁴⁰⁷⁹ European Green Deal to press ahead despite Polish targets opt-out, The Guardian (Brussels) 13 December 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/dec/13/european-green-deal-to-press-ahead-despite-polish-targets-opt-out>.

⁴⁰⁸⁰ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European Green New Deal, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf.

⁴⁰⁸¹ EU Commission unveils 'European Green Deal': Key points, Euractiv (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/news/eu-commission-unveils-european-green-deal-the-key-points/1410205/>.

⁴⁰⁸² Parliament urges cuts in pesticide use to save Europe's pollinators, Euractiv (Brussels) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/agriculture-food/news/parliament-urges-cuts-in-pesticide-use-to-save-europes-pollinators/>.

⁴⁰⁸³ Parliament urges cuts in pesticide use to save Europe's pollinators, Euractiv (Brussels) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/agriculture-food/news/parliament-urges-cuts-in-pesticide-use-to-save-europes-pollinators/>.

⁴⁰⁸⁴ Press Release: Linking of Switzerland to the EU emissions trading system - entry into force on 1 January 2020, European Council (Brussels) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/12/09/linking-of-switzerland-to-the-eu-emissions-trading-system-entry-into-force-on-1-january-2020>.

⁴⁰⁸⁵ Press Release: Linking of Switzerland to the EU emissions trading system - entry into force on 1 January 2020, European Council (Brussels) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/12/09/linking-of-switzerland-to-the-eu-emissions-trading-system-entry-into-force-on-1-january-2020>.

⁴⁰⁸⁶ Press Release: Parliament supports European Green Deal and pushes for even higher ambitions, European Parliament (Brussels) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 15 January 2020. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20200109IPR69902/parliament-supports-european-green-deal-and-pushes-for-even-higher-ambitions>.

transition for fossil fuel dependent regional economies' Europe.^{4087,4088} The resolution also included a call for a WTO-compliant mechanism that prevents carbon leakage.⁴⁰⁸⁹

On 16 January 2020, the European Parliament adopted a resolution supporting the European Commission's political guidelines calling for the EU's global efforts to reduce biodiversity loss in the next five years.⁴⁰⁹⁰ Notably, the resolution calls on the Commission to make the protection of nature a priority in the Green Deal, integrate biodiversity into climate policies, and develop the EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy that sets binding targets to combat the main causes of biodiversity loss in EU and globally by 2030.^{4091,4092}

On 23 January 2020, the European Parliament adopted a resolution pushing for climate change to be a central consideration for the European Central Bank (ECB)'s review of monetary policy, citing that ECB policies must comply with the Paris agreement.^{4093,4094} The resolution also highlighted that a significant proportion of ECB's bond purchases occur in carbon-intensive sectors.⁴⁰⁹⁵

On 17 February 2020, the European Commission announced funding of EUR101.2 million to support 10 environmental projects in Greece, Ireland, France, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Spain, Slovakia, and Czech Republic.⁴⁰⁹⁶ The projects will foster climate resilience, restore ecosystems and

⁴⁰⁸⁷ Press Release: Parliament supports European Green Deal and pushes for even higher ambitions, European Parliament (Brussels) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 15 January 2020. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20200109IPR69902/parliament-supports-european-green-deal-and-pushes-for-even-higher-ambitions>.

⁴⁰⁸⁸ Financing the green transition: The European Green Deal Investment Plan and Just Transition Mechanism, European Commission (Brussels) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/01/14-01-2020-financing-the-green-transition-the-european-green-deal-investment-plan-and-just-transition-mechanism

⁴⁰⁸⁹ Press Release: Parliament supports European Green Deal and pushes for even higher ambitions, European Parliament (Brussels) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 15 January 2020. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20200109IPR69902/parliament-supports-european-green-deal-and-pushes-for-even-higher-ambitions>.

⁴⁰⁹⁰ European Parliament resolution of 16 January 2020 on the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, European Parliament (Brussels) 09 January 2020. Access Date 12 April 2020. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2020-0015_EN.pdf.

⁴⁰⁹¹ European Parliament resolution of 16 January 2020 on the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, European Parliament (Brussels) 09 January 2020. Access Date 12 April 2020. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2020-0015_EN.pdf.

⁴⁰⁹² European Parliament shows determination on biodiversity protection, WWF European Policy Office (Brussels) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.wwf.eu/?uNewsID=358331>

⁴⁰⁹³ Parliament urges ECB to put climate at heart of strategy review, Euractiv (Brussels) 13 February 2020. Access Date 11 April 2020. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/news/parliament-urges-ecb-to-put-climate-at-heart-of-strategy-review>.

⁴⁰⁹⁴ Report on the European Central Bank Annual Report for 2018, European Parliament (Brussels) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-9-2020-0016_EN.html#title2

⁴⁰⁹⁵ Parliament urges ECB to put climate at heart of strategy review, Euractiv (Brussels) 13 February 2020. Access Date 11 April 2020. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/news/parliament-urges-ecb-to-put-climate-at-heart-of-strategy-review>.

⁴⁰⁹⁶ EU invests more than €100 million in new LIFE Programme projects to promote a green and climate-neutral Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/eu-invests-more-100-million-new-life-programme-projects-promote-green-and-climate-neutral_en

promote sustainable finance as part of the European Green Deal.⁴⁰⁹⁷ The funding is part of the LIFE Programme that supports climate action in the EU.⁴⁰⁹⁸

On 26 February 2020, the European Commission released its “Winter Package” of 28 country reports highlighting the how member states have used economic and employment policies to meet the UN SDGs.⁴⁰⁹⁹ The country reports also areas of support that the Just Transition Fund can support.⁴¹⁰⁰

On 4 March 2020, the European Commission proposed the legislation of the European Climate Law and therefore set a target to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal.⁴¹⁰¹ The European Climate Law also includes pathways to reach the target and tools measure progress.⁴¹⁰²

On 26 March 2020, the 27 EU heads of state issued a call to the European Commission to consider the Green Deal, sustainable growth, and digital aspects as part of the recovery plan from the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴¹⁰³

The EU has taken efforts to strengthen and improve current biodiversity strategies through proposing the EU 2030 Biodiversity strategy and implementing the maximum sustainability yield principle in the Baltic Sea and has taken efforts to address the main pressures of biodiversity through the single-use plastic ban and European Union Pollinators Initiative. The EU has also taken efforts that offer co-benefits to the global challenges of climate change, through for instance, the Green Deal and the European Investment Bank strategy for environmental sustainability and climate action, and ecosystem degradation through the EU Communication on Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World’s Forests.

Thus, EU has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Sam Bowers

⁴⁰⁹⁷ EU invests more than €100 million in new LIFE Programme projects to promote a green and climate-neutral Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/eu-invests-more-100-million-new-life-programme-projects-promote-green-and-climate-neutral_en

⁴⁰⁹⁸ EU invests more than €100 million in new LIFE Programme projects to promote a green and climate-neutral Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/eu-invests-more-100-million-new-life-programme-projects-promote-green-and-climate-neutral_en

⁴⁰⁹⁹ Press Release: Winter Package competitive sustainability at the heart of the European Semester, European Commission (Brussels) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_320.

⁴¹⁰⁰ Press Release: Winter Package competitive sustainability at the heart of the European Semester, European Commission (Brussels) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_320.

⁴¹⁰¹ Communication from the Europe Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_335.

⁴¹⁰² Press Release: Committing to climate-neutrality by 2050: Commission proposes European Climate Law and consults on the European Climate Pact, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_335.

⁴¹⁰³ EU Leaders back ‘Green Transition’ in Pandemic Recovery Plan, Euractiv (Brussels) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/news/eu-leaders-back-green-transition-in-pandemic-recovery-plan>.

20. Crime and Corruption: Procurement

“We support enhancing public procurement transparency and standards, in order to improve the business and investment climate, transparency, accountability and debt sustainability through the constructive involvement of governments, businesses and civil society organizations, thus contributing to the fight against corruption.”

Biarritz Declaration for a G7 and Africa Partnership

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada	-1		
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+0.63 (81%)		

Background

During the G7 Biarritz Summit, as part of the agenda to focus on the recent developments in Africa, leaders of the G7, Egypt (current chair of the African Union), Rwanda (former chair of the African Union), South Africa (future chair of the African Union), Senegal (chair of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development [NEPAD]), Burkina Faso (chair of the G5 Sahel), and the African Union Commission produced the Biarritz Declaration for a G7 and Africa Partnership.⁴¹⁰⁴

The Declaration highlighted three areas that the leaders, together with international and regional organizations, and the private sector, would focus on women’s entrepreneurship in Africa, digital transformation in Africa, and public procurement transparency.⁴¹⁰⁵

The commitment on public procurement transparency is further explained in the annex document titled Transparency in Public Procurement and the Common Fight Against Corruption.⁴¹⁰⁶ The document entails five points with regards to this commitment.

Firstly, the leaders acknowledged that “enhancing transparency and eliminating corruption” are common challenges and are necessary to build trust.

Secondly, the leaders referenced the work in international fora and by the G20 regarding transparency, namely through the G20 Principles for Promoting Integrity in Public Procurement, the endorsement of the Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment, the G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan 2019-2021, and the G20 Compendium of Good Practices for Promoting Integrity and Transparency in Infrastructure Development.

⁴¹⁰⁴ Biarritz Summit Official Documents, G7 France (France) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 8 October 2019. <https://www.elysee.fr/g7/2019/08/26/official-documents.en>.

⁴¹⁰⁵ Biarritz Declaration for a G7 & Africa Partnership, G7 France (Biarritz) 25 August 2019. Access Date: 8 October 2019. <https://www.elysee.fr/admin/upload/default/0001/05/2b23c8767bc581f1a204029870f8f400cd2546ae.pdf>.

⁴¹⁰⁶ Transparency in Public Procurement and the Common Fight Against Corruption, G7 France (Biarritz) 25 August 2019. Access Date: 8 October 2019. <https://www.elysee.fr/admin/upload/default/0001/05/4cc3ad52f529ccc54483768425e61bef8ed4ac9c.pdf>.

The G20 Principles for Promoting Integrity in Public Procurement was produced as an annex document at the 2015 G20 Antalya Summit as part of the growth and resilience agenda during Turkey's G20 Presidency.⁴¹⁰⁷ The guideline outlines practices that promote integrity and competition through information and communication technologies, as well as open data.⁴¹⁰⁸

The G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan 2019-2021 sprung from the 2018 Argentina G20 Presidency, where leaders agreed on the Plan in the Communiqué.⁴¹⁰⁹ The Action Plan recognizes the importance of anti-corruption and integrity measures and lists out the goals of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group. It also highlights the partnerships with international organizations such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, World Bank, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Financial Action Task Force and International Monetary Fund.⁴¹¹⁰

Both the Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment and the G20 Compendium of Good Practices for Promoting Integrity and Transparency in Infrastructure Development were products of the 2019 Japanese G20 Presidency. The former was endorsed on 9 June 2019 during the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting in Fukuoka, Japan.⁴¹¹¹ The latter was agreed in the G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration.⁴¹¹²

Thirdly, the leaders called for actions by Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) to promote “fair and equitable procurement.” MDBs are defined as international institutions that provide financial assistance to developing countries while DFIs are government-backed institutions that invest in private sector projects in low- and middle-income countries.

Furthermore, the leaders recognized initiatives such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), which is an international standard for openness around the revenues from natural resources, as well as the Open Government Partnership, which works towards creating “more transparent, more accountable, and more responsive” governments.^{4113,4114}

Finally, the leaders highlighted the importance of the implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption and the Africa Union Convention Against Corruption to fight corruption and money laundering. They also acknowledged the first African Anti-Corruption Forum held in Egypt in June 2019.

⁴¹⁰⁷ 2015 G20 Antalya Summit Leaders' Communique, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 8 October 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communiqué.html>.

⁴¹⁰⁸ G20 Principles for Promoting Integrity in Public Procurement, 2015 G20 Antalya Summit (Antalya) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 8 October 2019. <http://www.seffaflik.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/G20-PRINCIPLES-FOR-PROMOTING-INTEGRITY-IN-PUBLIC-PROCUREMENT.pdf>.

⁴¹⁰⁹ G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Action Plan 2019-2021 and Extract from G20 Leaders' Communique, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development 11 December 2018. Access Date: 8 October 2019. [https://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DAF/WGB/RD\(2018\)10&docLanguage=En](https://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DAF/WGB/RD(2018)10&docLanguage=En).

⁴¹¹⁰ G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Action Plan 2019-2021 and Extract from G20 Leaders' Communique, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development 11 December 2018. Access Date: 8 October 2019. [https://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DAF/WGB/RD\(2018\)10&docLanguage=En](https://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DAF/WGB/RD(2018)10&docLanguage=En).

⁴¹¹¹ Communique Annex, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting, Ministry of Finance (Fukuoka) 9 June 2019. Access Date: 8 October 2019. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/convention/g20/annex.htm.

⁴¹¹² 2019 G20 Osaka Summit Leaders' Declaration, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 8 October 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>.

⁴¹¹³ Who We Are, The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (Oslo). Access Date: 8 October 2019. <https://eiti.org/who-we-are>.

⁴¹¹⁴ About Open Government Partnership, Open Government Partnership. Access Date: 8 October 2019. <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/about/>.

Commitment Features

The G7 commitment is to “support enhancing public procurement transparency and standards, in order to improve the business and investment climate, transparency, accountability and debt sustainability through the constructive involvement of governments, businesses and civil society organizations, thus contributing to the fight against corruption.”

Public procurement refers to the “purchase by governments and state-owned enterprises of goods, services and works.”⁴¹¹⁵ Examples include buying computers for a police station and building public hospitals. The commitment aims to support the enhancement of the transparency and standards of such purchases, which is understood to mean that the purchases are more “open to public scrutiny” and the “principles of conduct” are to be improved in terms of “quality, value, or extent.”^{4116,4117,4118}

The form of the support and the “constructive involvement” are not explicitly defined by the G7. In general, “support” is understood to refer to any “action, or act of providing aid, assistance, or backing up an initiative, or entity.”⁴¹¹⁹ As the commitment stems from the Biarritz Declaration for a G7 and Africa Partnership, such support by the G7 member needs to be related to Africa, either for or in partnership with, in order to count for compliance. “Constructive involvement” means that the participation needs to “have or intend to have a useful or beneficial purpose.”^{4120, 4121} The commitment does not necessitate the implementation or creation of a new effort, due to the language “enhance” being defined as “to heighten or intensify.”⁴¹²²

“Business and investment climate, transparency, accountability and debt sustainability” are understood as results that are achieved through improved public procurement transparency and standards but “fight against corruption” remains the goal of the commitment. As a result, actions should aim to “reduce the abuse of entrusted power for private gain.”⁴¹²³

To achieve full compliance, G7 members need to provide tangible or verbal declaration of support to at least two African Union governments, businesses and/or civil societies to enhance public procurement transparency and standards to help fight against corruption. Tangible or verbal declaration of support to only one African Union government, business or civil society only counts as partial compliance. The G7 member will receive a score of -1 if there is no compliance.

⁴¹¹⁵ Public Procurement, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris). Access Date: 8 October 2019. <https://www.oecd.org/gov/public-procurement/>.

⁴¹¹⁶ Transparent, Oxford Dictionary (Oxford). Access Date: 8 October 2019. <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/transparent>.

⁴¹¹⁷ Standard, Oxford Dictionary (Oxford). Access Date: 8 October 2019. <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/standard>.

⁴¹¹⁸ Enhance, Oxford Dictionary (Oxford). Access Date: 8 October 2019. <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/enhance>.

⁴¹¹⁹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 19 September 2016. Access Date: 1 April 2020. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2019.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0XmJMsN01E5BntQvBhd1vOf1EDkj9m63jjNI72TFb-nBpsr9QeGjhXCbg.

⁴¹²⁰ Constructive, Oxford Dictionary (Oxford). Access Date: 1 April 2020. <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/constructive>

⁴¹²¹ Involve, Oxford Dictionary (Oxford). Access Date: 1 April 2020. <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/involve>.

⁴¹²² Enhance, Oxford Dictionary (Oxford). Access Date: 8 October 2019. <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/enhance>.

⁴¹²³ What is Corruption, Transparency International. Access Date: 1 April 2020. <https://www.transparency.org/what-is-corruption>.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member does not provide support to any African Union government, business nor civil society to enhance public procurement transparency and standards, thus does not contribute to the fight against corruption
0	The G7 member provides tangible or verbal declaration of support to one African Union government, business or civil society to enhance public procurement transparency and standards, thus contributing to the fight against corruption
1	The G7 member provides tangible or verbal declaration of support to at least two African Union governments, businesses, and/or civil societies to enhance public procurement transparency and standards, thus contributing to the fight against corruption

*Compliance Director: Tacye Hong
Lead Analyst: Isabel Davis*

Canada: -1

Canada has not complied with its commitment to enhance public procurement transparency and standards, in order to improve the business and investment climate, transparency, accountability and debt sustainability through the constructive involvement of governments, businesses and civil society organizations, thus contributing to the fight against corruption.

To date, there is no evidence of Canada taking steps to improve the public procurement standards nor transparency of members of the African Union.

Thus, Canada has received a score of -1.⁴¹²⁴

Analyst: Isabel Davis

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to enhance public procurement transparency and standards, in order to improve the business and investment climate, transparency, accountability and debt sustainability through the constructive involvement of governments, businesses and civil society organizations, thus contributing to the fight against corruption.

On 15 November 2019, the French Agency of Anticorruption signed a corruption protocol with the Egyptian Administrative Control Authority.⁴¹²⁵ The protocol ensures continuing bilateral cooperation between both authorities in anti-corruption missions.⁴¹²⁶ This action counts towards compliance

⁴¹²⁴ This non-compliance was determined after a deep search of the following websites:

<https://www.international.gc.ca/gac-amc/index.aspx?lang=eng>, <https://impacttransform.org/en/>,
https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/africa-afrique/index.aspx?lang=eng, <https://cacha.ca/>, <http://www.bankofcanada.ca>, <http://www.fin.gc.ca>,
<https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/>, <http://www.dnd.ca/>, <http://www.ec.gc.ca/?lang=En>, <https://pm.gc.ca/>,
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/start>, <https://www.oecd.org/>, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/index.html>,
<https://www.fatf-gafi.org/>, <https://www.imf.org/en/News>, <https://eiti.org/>, <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/>,
<http://ida.worldbank.org/news>, <https://au.int/>.

⁴¹²⁵ Signature d'un protocole de coopération avec L'Autorité anticorruption égyptienne, Agence Française Anticorruption (France) 22 November 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019.

<https://www.agence-francaise-anticorruption.gouv.fr/fr/signature-dun-protocole-cooperation-avec-lautorite-anticorruption-egyptienne>.

⁴¹²⁶ Signature d'un protocole de coopération avec L'Autorité anticorruption égyptienne, Agence Française Anticorruption (France) 22 November 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019.

<https://www.agence-francaise-anticorruption.gouv.fr/fr/signature-dun-protocole-cooperation-avec-lautorite-anticorruption-egyptienne>.

because it is a verbal declaration of support to one African Union government to fight against corruption.

On 11 February 2020, a Paris court fined Equatorial Guinea's Vice President Teodorin Obiang 30 million euros and gave him a three year suspended jail term for corruption and embezzlement of public funds.⁴¹²⁷ Obiang was found guilty for laundering 150 million euros in France, and had his assets seized.⁴¹²⁸ This action counts towards partial compliance because the Government of France directly prosecuted the leader of one African Union member state, assisting in the fight against corruption in Equatorial Guinea, and preventing the future misuse of public resources.

France has launched tangible actions to enhance public procurement standards, therefore contributing to the fight against corruption, in at least two African Union member states.

Thus, France has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Aline Nayir

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to enhance public procurement transparency and standards, in order to improve the business and investment climate, transparency, accountability and debt sustainability through the constructive involvement of governments, businesses and civil society organizations, thus contributing to the fight against corruption.

On 19 September 2019, the German Embassy, KfW Development Bank, Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Tunisian-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce, and the World Bank Group hosted a Reform Partnership Festival in Tunis, Tunisia.⁴¹²⁹ The festival was held to celebrate their collaborative efforts to improve the investment climate in Tunisia.⁴¹³⁰ Germany has provided funding and targeted support to assist Tunisia's reform efforts, and as a result, Tunisia has successfully adopted reforms and expanded its anti-corruption agency.⁴¹³¹ The cooperation priorities of the two countries are sustainable economic development, modernization of the public administration, and resource protection.⁴¹³² This action counts towards compliance because it reaffirms Germany's commitment to improving the transparency and effectiveness of Tunisia's governance structures.

On 19 November 2019, Chancellor Angela Merkel invited the twelve participating African countries of the G20 Compact with Africa to Berlin for a conference on the encouragement and enhancement

⁴¹²⁷ French court fines Equatorial Guinea vice president 30m euros, Al Jazeera (Africa) 11 Feb 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2020. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/02/french-court-fines-equatorial-guinea-vice-president-30m-euros-200211051730620.html>.

⁴¹²⁸ French court fines Equatorial Guinea vice president 30m euros, Al Jazeera (Africa) 11 Feb 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2020. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/02/french-court-fines-equatorial-guinea-vice-president-30m-euros-200211051730620.html>.

⁴¹²⁹ Reform Partnership Festival, KfW Development Bank (Frankfurt) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/International-financing/KfW-Development-Bank/News/News-Details_544384.html.

⁴¹³⁰ Reform Partnership Festival, KfW Development Bank (Frankfurt) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/International-financing/KfW-Development-Bank/News/News-Details_544384.html.

⁴¹³¹ Reform Partnership Festival, KfW Development Bank (Frankfurt) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/International-financing/KfW-Development-Bank/News/News-Details_544384.html.

⁴¹³² Reform Partnership Festival, KfW Development Bank (Frankfurt) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/International-financing/KfW-Development-Bank/News/News-Details_544384.html.

of investment conditions in Africa.⁴¹³³ In her opening speech, Merkel explained that the Compact initiative prompts African countries “to improve the transparency of their financial systems, to improve their tax systems, and to improve debt management,” overall contributing to “better governance.”⁴¹³⁴ Merkel reaffirmed her commitment to greater transparency and the belief that it was crucial for attracting European investors.⁴¹³⁵ Finally, she announced that Germany had entered bilateral reform partnerships with Ghana, Tunisia, Côte d’Ivoire, Senegal, and Ethiopia, and was open to partnering with the remaining Compact countries.⁴¹³⁶ This action counts towards full compliance as it signifies tangible supports to enhancing the transparency of public procurement processes in multiple African Union member states.

On 19 January 2020, Chancellor Angela Merkel invited the governments of Algeria, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Turkey, the Republic of the Congo, United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, as well as High Representatives of the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union, and the League of Arab States, to attend the Berlin Conference on Libya.⁴¹³⁷ Participating countries called for the “transparent, accountable, fair and equitable distribution of public wealth and resources between different Libyan geographical areas.”⁴¹³⁸ Participants also made a verbal commitment to providing, upon request from Libyan authorities, “technical assistance to improve transparency, accountability and effectiveness” of Libyan sovereign institutions to “bring [them] into conformity with international standards.”⁴¹³⁹ The sovereign institutions specified were the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), the Libya Investment Authority (LIA), the National Oil Corporation (NOC) and the Audit Bureau (AB).⁴¹⁴⁰ This action counts towards partial compliance as it signifies a verbal commitment to improving public procurement transparency and standards in Libya.

Germany has made tangible and verbal commitments in support of transparent and effective governance regarding public procurement in Libya. They have also provided funding and

⁴¹³³ Encouraging Investors - Enhancing Conditions, Die Bundesregierung (Berlin) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/compact-with-africa-2019-1695282>.

⁴¹³⁴ Address by Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel at the Investment Summit of the G20 Compact with Africa, Federal Chancellery (Berlin) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/speech-by-federal-chancellor-dr-angela-merkel-at-the-investment-summit-of-the-g20-compact-with-africa-in-berlin-on-19-november-2019-1695668>.

⁴¹³⁵ Address by Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel at the Investment Summit of the G20 Compact with Africa, Federal Chancellery (Berlin) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/speech-by-federal-chancellor-dr-angela-merkel-at-the-investment-summit-of-the-g20-compact-with-africa-in-berlin-on-19-november-2019-1695668>.

⁴¹³⁶ Address by Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel at the Investment Summit of the G20 Compact with Africa, Federal Chancellery (Berlin) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 27 December 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/speech-by-federal-chancellor-dr-angela-merkel-at-the-investment-summit-of-the-g20-compact-with-africa-in-berlin-on-19-november-2019-1695668>.

⁴¹³⁷ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions, The Press and Information Office of the Federal Government (Berlin) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713882>.

⁴¹³⁸ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions, The Press and Information Office of the Federal Government (Berlin) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713882>.

⁴¹³⁹ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions, The Press and Information Office of the Federal Government (Berlin) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713882>.

⁴¹⁴⁰ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions, The Press and Information Office of the Federal Government (Berlin) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713882>.

personalized support for reform and development to improve the investment climate in Tunisia, therefore contributing to the fight against corruption in multiple African Union member states.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Angelina Zhang

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to enhance public procurement transparency and standards, in order to improve the business and investment climate, transparency, accountability and debt sustainability through the constructive involvement of governments, businesses and civil society organizations, thus contributing to the fight against corruption.

From 11 to 13 November 2019 the Africa Regional Workshop on Designing and Implementing Sustainable Public Food Procurement for Home Grown School Meals Programmes (HGSF) was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.⁴¹⁴¹ Ambassador Giuseppe Berlendi, Representative of Italy to the African Union, stressed that his country has been keen to support HGSF initiatives, as it brings together public procurement for schools and local farmers for increased food security.⁴¹⁴² This workshop was also financially supported by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation.⁴¹⁴³ This action counts towards full compliance as it pertains to Italy's goals in achieving greater public procurement standards with multiple member states in the African Union.

Italy has demonstrated a verbal commitment of support to enhancing public procurement standards in multiple African Union member states, therefore contributing to the fight against corruption.

Thus, Italy has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Paul Huang

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to enhance public procurement transparency and standards, in order to improve the business and investment climate, transparency, accountability and debt sustainability through the constructive involvement of governments, businesses and civil society organizations, thus contributing to the fight against corruption.

From 28 to 30 August 2019, the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development was held in Yokohama, Japan.⁴¹⁴⁴ Over 10,000 people participated in this conference including 42 African leaders from 53 different African states as well as members of the Japanese government and private sector.⁴¹⁴⁵ The focus of the conference was the promotion of business in African states, in particular

⁴¹⁴¹ FAO, AUC to promote school feeding, while boosting smallholders' productivity, FAO Regional Office for Africa (Addis Ababa) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <http://www.fao.org/africa/news/detail-news/en/c/1251782>.

⁴¹⁴² FAO, AUC to promote school feeding, while boosting smallholders' productivity, FAO Regional Office for Africa (Addis Ababa) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <http://www.fao.org/africa/news/detail-news/en/c/1251782/>.

⁴¹⁴³ FAO, AUC to promote school feeding, while boosting smallholders' productivity, FAO Regional Office for Africa (Addis Ababa) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <http://www.fao.org/africa/news/detail-news/en/c/1251782/>.

⁴¹⁴⁴ The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 9 January 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/afr/af2/page25e_000274.html.

⁴¹⁴⁵ The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development Summary of Results, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 9 January 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000521256.pdf>.

“advancing Africa’s development through people, trade, and technology.”⁴¹⁴⁶ Issues that were discussed include, the necessity of sound fiscal management and debt sustainability, economic diversification and industrialization, health, and climate change initiatives.⁴¹⁴⁷ In addition, Prime minister Abe announced that the private sector would initiate JPY20,000 billion over three years to support “investment, innovation, enterprise and entrepreneurship” in African states with support from Japan’s government institutions.⁴¹⁴⁸ This action counts towards partial compliance because Japan is providing a tangible and verbal declaration of support to multiple African Union member states to enhance public procurement transparency and standards, however they are not directly related to the fight against corruption.

Japan has taken steps to indirectly improve the public procurement standards of multiple members of the African Union, for projects that it provides aid or grants towards. However, the actions are not directly related to the fight against corruption.

Thus, Japan has received a score of 0.

Analysts: Hongyu Xiao

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to enhance public procurement transparency and standards, in order to improve the business and investment climate, transparency, accountability and debt sustainability through the constructive involvement of governments, businesses and civil society organizations, thus contributing to the fight against corruption.

On 9 October 2019, the United Kingdom signed the Economic Partnership Agreement with Mozambique and the Southern African Customs Union Member States, which are Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, and South Africa.⁴¹⁴⁹ Article 17 of the Agreement provides inter alia that the parties (i) reaffirm their commitment to transparent and predictable public procurement system in accordance with international laws, (ii) recognise the importance of continuing to publish laws, regulations and administrative rulings that are readily accessible to the public, and (iii) may consider negotiations on public procurement in the future.⁴¹⁵⁰ The agreement aims to provide trade continuity amongst the parties when the United Kingdom is no longer a member of the European Union.⁴¹⁵¹ This action counts towards full compliance because the United Kingdom is providing tangible support to multiple African Union member states to enhance public procurement transparency and standards.

⁴¹⁴⁶ The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development Summary of Results, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 9 January 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000521256.pdf>.

⁴¹⁴⁷ The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development Summary of Results, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 9 January 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000521256.pdf>.

⁴¹⁴⁸ Japan has a plan to challenge China’s influence in Africa, Quartz Africa (New York) 2 September 2019. Access Date: 9 January 2019. <https://qz.com/africa/1700181/japan-promises-20-billion-private-sector-investment-in-africa/>.

⁴¹⁴⁹ The Economic Partnership Agreement with Mozambique and the African Customs Union Member States, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 29 December 2019. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/844509/MS_34.2_019_v1_pt1_UK_SACU_Mozambique_EPA.pdf.

⁴¹⁵⁰ The Economic Partnership Agreement with Mozambique and the African Customs Union Member States, Government of the United Kingdom (London). 9 October 2019. Access Date: 29 December 2019. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/844509/MS_34.2_019_v1_pt1_UK_SACU_Mozambique_EPA.pdf.

⁴¹⁵¹ Joint Communiqué on the Occasion of the Signature of the Economic Partnership Agreement, SACU Member States, Mozambique and The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (London) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 2 January 2019. <https://www.sacu.int/docs/pr/2019/pr0223.pdf>.

On 19 December 2019, the United Kingdom's Prosperity Fund of the Foreign & Commonwealth office partnered with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Civil (UNODC) Society Team to host an event to showcase civil society anti-corruption champions.⁴¹⁵² In particular, the event focused on civil society's contribution to four UNODC regional platforms to fast-track the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which covers Latin America, Southern Africa, Eastern Africa, and Southeast Asia. This action counts towards full compliance because the United Kingdom is providing a verbal declaration of support, through the promotion of public procurement transparency and standards, to multiple African Union member state civil society organizations.

The United Kingdom has committed to enhancing public procurement transparency and standards in multiple African Union member states through both verbal and tangible declarations of support.

Thus, the United Kingdom has received a score of +1.

Analysts: Isabel Davis and Hongyu Xiao

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to enhance public procurement transparency and standards, in order to improve the business and investment climate, transparency, accountability and debt sustainability through the constructive involvement of governments, businesses and civil society organizations, thus contributing to the fight against corruption.

From 20 to 22 November 2019, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Office for Southern Africa and the Southern African Development Community organized a three-day workshop on "Fostering International Cooperation in addressing Illicit Financial Flows and on Asset Forfeiture."⁴¹⁵³ This workshop saw operational officers from the Southern African Development Community member states representing anti-corruption agencies, asset forfeiture units and Financial Intelligence Units, as well as experts from the United States.⁴¹⁵⁴ This action counts towards full compliance as it improves transparency standards in anti-corruption agencies for multiple African Union member states with the assistance of the United States.

On 2 July 2020, the U.S Treasury Secretary stated that he supported the African Development Bank Governors' decision to conduct an independent review of the work of the Bank's Ethics Committee as it is necessary that financial institutions "adhere to the highest standards of governance and transparency."⁴¹⁵⁵ This action counts toward full compliance as the United States issued a verbal

⁴¹⁵² UNODC-UK event showcases civil society initiatives for implementing UN Convention against Corruption. 9 January 2020 (Abu Dhabi). Access Date: 17 April 2020.

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2020/January/unodc-uk-event-showcases-civil-society-initiatives-for-implementing-un-convention-against-corruption.html>.

⁴¹⁵³ UNODC holds event on Illicit Financial Flows and Asset Forfeiture with Southern African Development Community, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Pretoria) 4 December 2019. Access Date: 24 December 2019.

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2019/December/unodc-hosts-event-on-illicit-financial-flows-and-asset-forfeiture-with-southern-african-development-community.html>.

⁴¹⁵⁴ UNODC holds event on Illicit Financial Flows and Asset Forfeiture with Southern African Development Community, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Pretoria) 4 December 2019. Access Date: 24 December 2019.

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2019/December/unodc-hosts-event-on-illicit-financial-flows-and-asset-forfeiture-with-southern-african-development-community.html>.

⁴¹⁵⁵ Statement from Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin on the African Development Bank Ethics Review, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm1051>.

declaration of support to improve transparency standards in the African Development Bank which includes the association of multiple African Union member states.

On 27 August 2020, the U.S. Treasury Secretary stated that he commended the “African Development Bank’s Board of Governors for reaffirming its commitment to the highest standards of governance” and for dedicating resources to update its ethics governing framework. It was also stated that Americans have an interest in ensuring that Bank resources are used efficiently and effectively.⁴¹⁵⁶ This action counts toward full compliance as the United States issued a verbal declaration of support to improve transparency standards in the African Development Bank which includes the association of multiple African Union member states.

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to supporting the African Union through verbal support for procurement transparency, enhanced anti-corruption mechanisms and improved governance relations with multiple African Union member states.

Thus, the United States has received a score of +1.

Analysts: Paul Huang and Isabel Davis

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to enhance public procurement transparency and standards, in order to improve the business and investment climate, transparency, accountability and debt sustainability through the constructive involvement of governments, businesses and civil society organizations, thus contributing to the fight against corruption.

On 9 October 2019, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), and its African allies met to strengthen their cooperative ties.⁴¹⁵⁷ OLAF is an investigative body tasked with supervising the spending of EU funds - this meeting focused on reinforcing OLAF’s mandate and ensuring adequate cooperation from domestic authorities in OLAF’s anti-corruption activities in regards to foreign aid and public spending in Africa.⁴¹⁵⁸ This action counts towards full compliance because the European Union is providing a verbal declaration of their support to enhance public procurement transparency in multiple African Union member states.

On 21 November 2019, the European Union organized the second Zimbabwe-European Union Political Dialogue Meeting.⁴¹⁵⁹ Both sides agreed on the importance of reforms to the benefit of the Zimbabwean people, especially applauding the work of the Zimbabwean Anti-Corruption

⁴¹⁵⁶ Statement from Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin on the African Development Bank Annual Meeting, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington) 27 August 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm1108>.

⁴¹⁵⁷ OLAF and partners strengthen EU–Africa cooperation in fighting fraud against the EU budget, European Anti-Fraud Office (Brussels) 9 October 2019. Access date: 27 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud/media-corner/news/09-10-2019/olaf-and-partners-strengthen-eu-africa-cooperation-fighting-fraud_en.

⁴¹⁵⁸ OLAF and partners strengthen EU–Africa cooperation in fighting fraud against the EU budget, European Anti-Fraud Office (Brussels) 9 October 2019. Access date: 27 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud/media-corner/news/09-10-2019/olaf-and-partners-strengthen-eu-africa-cooperation-fighting-fraud_en.

⁴¹⁵⁹ Joint press statement: second formal political dialogue meeting between EU and Zimbabwe, European Union External Affairs (Harare) 21 November 2019. Access date: 27 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/zimbabwe_es/70809/Joint%20press%20statement:%20second%20formal%20political%20dialogue%20meeting%20between%20EU%20and%20Zimbabwe.

commission.⁴¹⁶⁰ The meeting provided for a wide-ranging engagement on issues of economic development, human rights, rule of law and good governance.⁴¹⁶¹ This action counts towards partial compliance because the European Union is providing a verbal declaration of their support to enhance public procurement transparency in one African Union member state. .

The European Union has fully complied in enhancing public procurement by increasing cooperation, primarily with verbal agreements, in the realm of anti-corruption with multiple African Union member states.

Thus, the European Union has received a score of +1

Analyst: Qaasim Karim

⁴¹⁶⁰ Joint press statement: second formal political dialogue meeting between EU and Zimbabwe, European Union External Affairs (Harare) 21 November 2019. Access date: 27 December 2019.
https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/zimbabwe_es/70809/Joint%20press%20statement:%20second%20formal%20political%20dialogue%20meeting%20between%20EU%20and%20Zimbabwe.

⁴¹⁶¹ Joint press statement: second formal political dialogue meeting between EU and Zimbabwe, European Union External Affairs (Harare) 21 November 2019. Access date: 27 December 2019.
https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/zimbabwe_es/70809/Joint%20press%20statement:%20second%20formal%20political%20dialogue%20meeting%20between%20EU%20and%20Zimbabwe.

21. Education: G5 Sahel

“[We] will encourage partner countries’ governments and other donors to join a collective effort in strengthening education systems, thus increasing our coordination and our political and financial support to education, including basic education.”

Sabel Partnership Action Plan

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany		0	
Italy		0	
Japan		0	
United Kingdom		0	
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.38 (69%)	

Background

Education has long been a focus of the G8 and G7 members, with a more recent emphasis on education in Africa.⁴¹⁶²

In 1990, at the World Conference on Education for All in Jomtien, Thailand, representatives of 155 governments and 170 organizations committed to developing universal primary education and reducing illiteracy before 2000.⁴¹⁶³ At the 2005 Gleneagles Summit, G8 members reaffirmed their commitment to support the Education for All agenda, with a focus on Africa.⁴¹⁶⁴ In 2006, at the St. Petersburg Summit, three important commitments were made in relation to education. The first on academic mobility, second on improving education qualification systems through sharing best practices, and the final on eliminating gender disparities in education by 2015.⁴¹⁶⁵ At the 2007 Heiligendamm Summit, G8 members once again reaffirmed their commitment to Education For All in Africa.⁴¹⁶⁶ In 2008 and 2009 education was once again a focus of the G8.⁴¹⁶⁷

From 14 to 15 May 2016, the G7 Education Ministers’ met in Kurashiki, Japan to discuss education policy from a global perspective. They stressed the idea that education should “promote the fundamental values of respect for one’s own and others’ lives, freedom, democracy, pluralism, tolerance, the rule of law, respect for human rights, social inclusion and non-discrimination, gender

⁴¹⁶² St. Petersburg Final Compliance Report, G8 Research Group (Toronto) 5 June 2007. Access Date: 15 November 2019. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2006compliance_final/2006_g8compliance_final.pdf.

⁴¹⁶³ World Declaration on Education For All and Framework For Action to Meet Basic Learning Needs, UNESCO (New York) April 1990. Access Date: 15 November 2019. http://www.unesco.org/education/pdf/JOMTIE_E.PDF.

⁴¹⁶⁴ Gleneagles Final Compliance Report, G8 Research Group (Toronto) 12 June 2006. Access Date: 15 November 2019. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2005compliance_final/2005-g8compliance-final.pdf.

⁴¹⁶⁵ St. Petersburg Final Compliance Report, G8 Research Group (Toronto) 5 June 2007. Access Date: 15 November 2019. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2006compliance_final/2006_g8compliance_final.pdf.

⁴¹⁶⁶ 2007 Heiligendamm G8 Summit Final Compliance Report (Toronto) 23 June 2008. Access Date: 15 November 2019. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2007compliance_final/07-final.pdf/.

⁴¹⁶⁷ 2008 Hokkaido-Toyako G8 Summit Final Compliance Report (Toronto) 30 June 2009. Access Date: 15 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2008compliance-final/2008-g8compliance.pdf>; 2009 L’Aquila G8 Summit Final Compliance Report (Toronto) 4 July 2010. Access Date: 15 November 2019.

equality as well as active citizenship education.”⁴¹⁶⁸ There were three areas agreed to at this meeting: the new role of education, how to improve and enhance teaching and learning, and the new paradigm for international cooperation.⁴¹⁶⁹

The first area on the new role of education specified social inclusion and harmonious coexistence through education, competencies required in the new era, international collaboration, and prioritizing educational policy. Through the sharing of knowledge and good practices, G7 Education Ministers agreed to support cross-cultural dialogue, mutual understanding, respecting common values, inclusive, equitable and quality education. Education practices should be based on knowledge, competency, and knowing how to engage with and live in society.⁴¹⁷⁰

The second area on improving and enhancing teaching and learning is expanded on through diversity education; promoting girls’ and women’s empowerment for sustainable, inclusive and equitable growth; focusing on the links between education, employment and society; education that accommodates technological advance; enhancing and supporting the teaching profession; and evidence-based education policy. The G7 Education Ministers acknowledged the importance and need for promoting an educational environment which values individuality, diversity, and gender differences and equips students with the rights skills and knowledge for the ever-changing future.⁴¹⁷¹

The third and final area of education, the new paradigm for international cooperation, focuses on internationalizing education and achieving the 2030 Agenda’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The G7 Education Ministers recognize the need for collaboration between members to learn the best practices, promoting international educational experiences and advocating for study abroad programs. As well, the ministers reaffirmed their commitment to achieving the SDGs through education for sustainable development.⁴¹⁷²

At the 2016 G7 Education Minister’s meeting in Kurashiki, Japan, the Guiding Principles of G7 Education Ministers were agreed to. The guiding principles include social inclusion and harmonious coexistence through education; promoting girls’ and women’s empowerment for sustainable, inclusive and equitable growth; building links between education, employment and society; promoting education that accommodates technological advance; enhancing and supporting teaching professions; promoting evidence-based education policy; internationalizing education; and supporting the sustainable development goals.⁴¹⁷³ All these goals are to be undertaken in close cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, among other relevant organizations and stakeholders.⁴¹⁷⁴

On 9 June 2018, the G7 leaders committed to ensuring better access to education in conflict and crisis situations and ensuring schools are a safe space. Specifically, during conflict and crisis, for refugees and internally displaced, and improving coordination between humanitarian assistance and

⁴¹⁶⁸ G7 Kurashiki Education Ministers’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 May 2016. Access Date: 10 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/education/education2016.html>.

⁴¹⁶⁹ 8 G7 Kurashiki Education Ministers’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 May 2016. Access Date: 10 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/education/education2016.html>.

⁴¹⁷⁰ G7 Kurashiki Education Ministers’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 May 2016. Access Date: 10 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/education/education2016.html>.

⁴¹⁷¹ G7 Kurashiki Education Ministers’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 May 2016. Access Date: 10 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/education/education2016.html>.

⁴¹⁷² G7 Kurashiki Education Ministers’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 May 2016. Access Date: 10 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/education/education2016.html>.

⁴¹⁷³ G7 Kurashiki Education Ministers’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 May 2016. Access Date: 10 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/education/education2016.html>.

⁴¹⁷⁴ G7 Kurashiki Education Ministers’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 May 2016. Access Date: 10 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/education/education2016.html>.

development cooperation. As well, the G7 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to improving education for girls and women in developing countries through better access to quality postsecondary education and opportunities; utilizing various learning tools to promote knowledge and skills building for girls and women; increasing statistical knowledge of girls and women's progress in education; encouraging governments to provide continuing education for all; supporting innovative education; ensuring access to at least 12 years of safe, quality education that promotes gender equality; and eliminating barriers to gender equality and to quality primary and secondary education.⁴¹⁷⁵

On 5 July 2019, the G7 Development and Education Ministers held a joint meeting in Paris, France for the first time. They expressed the importance of education for sustainable development and its qualification as a human right. Building on previous declarations, the G7 Ministers reiterated their commitment towards closing the gap in education in developing countries through collaborative, sustainable and gender-responsive education policies.⁴¹⁷⁶

Commitment Features

This commitment to “encourage partner countries’ governments and other donors to join a collective effort in strengthening education systems, thus increasing our coordination and our political and financial support to education, including basic education” comes from the Sahel Partnership Action Plan agreed to at the G7 Biarritz Summit on 26 August 2019.⁴¹⁷⁷ It refers specifically to strengthen education systems in the Sahel as “3 million children are still deprived of access to primary school ... due in particular to the closure of schools in conflict-affected areas, and that the quality of teaching remains a significant issue.”⁴¹⁷⁸

The Sahel region includes Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso and Chad.⁴¹⁷⁹ The G5 Sahel was created on 16 February 2014, as an intergovernmental cooperation framework to fight insecurity and support development. In 2017, the Sahel Alliance, initiated by France and Germany, was created to encourage cooperation between major development partners and G5 countries. The Sahel Alliance includes the main multilateral and bilateral development partners of the Sahel countries; France, Germany, the European Union, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Finland.⁴¹⁸⁰ The purpose of the Sahel Alliance is to improve the coordination of partners to deliver faster, more effective and better targeted assistance to vulnerable areas. More than 600 projects worth more than

⁴¹⁷⁵ Charlevoix Declaration on Quality Education for Girls, Adolescent Girls and Women in Developing Countries, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 10 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/education-commitment.html>.

⁴¹⁷⁶ Joint communiqué of the G7 Ministers of Education and International Development, France Diplomatie (Paris) 5 July 2019. Access Date: 10 October 2019. https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/g7_ministerial_communique-5th_july-education-development_cle016bef.pdf.

⁴¹⁷⁷ Sahel Partnership Action Plan, Elysee G7 Biarritz (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 12 October 2019. <https://www.elysee.fr/admin/upload/default/0001/05/a47d34992ae172f71af981698f05524ffed81b24.pdf>.

⁴¹⁷⁸ Sahel Partnership Action Plan, Elysee G7 Biarritz (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 12 October 2019. <https://www.elysee.fr/admin/upload/default/0001/05/a47d34992ae172f71af981698f05524ffed81b24.pdf>.

⁴¹⁷⁹ G5 Sahel Joint Force and the Sahel Alliance, France Diplomatie (Paris). Access Date: 12 October 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/crises-andconflicts/g5-sahel-joint-force-and-the-sahel-alliance/>.

⁴¹⁸⁰ G5 Sahel Joint Force and the Sahel Alliance, France Diplomatie (Paris). Access Date: 12 October 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/crises-andconflicts/g5-sahel-joint-force-and-the-sahel-alliance/>.

EUR9 billion are funded by the Sahel Alliance donors, with the Agence Française de Développement playing a key role.⁴¹⁸¹

There are three main types of support a G7 member may engage in to strengthen education systems in the Sahel: coordination, political support and financial support to education. With an emphasis on basic education, which “comprises primary education (first stage of basic education) and lower secondary education (second stage). It also covers a wide variety of non-formal and informal public and private activities intended to meet the basic learning needs of people of all ages.”⁴¹⁸²

Coordination refers to “the process of organizing people or groups so that they work together properly and well,”⁴¹⁸³ therefore, a G7 member would have to encourage coordination of groups to work together with the G7 member on improving education systems in the Sahel region.

Political support would come in the form of supporting government actions, the actions of politicians, policy making and policy changes in relation to education systems. This could be in the form of supporting a government in one of the Sahel countries in order to implement a better curriculum, support teacher training programs, and/or sharing knowledge and best practices on improving education systems.

Financial support would be any form of monetary donation or pledge of a donation for any Sahel country or organizations which work in the Sahel region on education systems.

This commitment has a strong focus on working with other governments and donors, therefore acting alone would not be considered compliance. However, the term encourage does not refer to robust measurability. “It should be taken as a soft commitment where no concrete actions [needs] to be taken.”⁴¹⁸⁴ Other governments and donors refer to African governments, other G7 members, international organizations (e.g. World Bank, IMF, UN, etc.), and other key stakeholders working in supporting education systems in the Sahel, such as non-governmental organizations.

Regarding the term “education systems,” this refers to all systems (whether formal or informal) which teach people of all ages, giving them skills, which can help improve their lives and further their education. Strengthening these systems could include expanding their capacity and ability to take on more students, offering more opportunities to learn different skills, and improving students test scores.

This commitment is also measured by a depth analysis. A G7 member can partially or fully encourage partner countries’ governments and other donors to join in a collective effort to strengthen education systems. A G7 member “fully encouraging” partner countries’ governments and donors would take the initiative and organize the collective effort, officially announce it, and actively seek out partnerships with other governments and donors to implement the efforts. A G7 member “partially encouraging” partner countries’ governments and donors would agree to collective efforts put forward by other G7 members, governments or donors and contribute to said effort, but not take their own initiative.

⁴¹⁸¹ G5 Sahel Joint Force and the Sahel Alliance, France Diplomatie (Paris). Access Date: 12 October 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/crises-andconflicts/g5-sahel-joint-force-and-the-sahel-alliance/>.

⁴¹⁸² World Conference on EFA: Meeting Basic Learning Needs, UNESCO (Jomtien) 1990. Access Date: 12 October 2019. http://www.unesco.org/education/pdf/11_93.pdf.

⁴¹⁸³ Coordination, Merriam-Webster (Springfield). Access Date: 12 October 2019. <https://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/coordination>.

⁴¹⁸⁴ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 May 2018. Access Date: 1 April 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

For full compliance, a G7 member would have to encourage at least one partner country's government and another donor (any international organization or non-government organization) to work together to increase coordination, political and financial support to education systems in the Sahel region. An action which may be considered compliance could be initiating a joint agreement with another country or donor to strengthen education systems in the Sahel, as well as signing and implementing such agreement. Other actions could include, but are not limited to, multilateral financial assistance, working with another country or government to provide technical assistance for schools, teachers, or education policy development, supporting the government of a country in the Sahel region to implement and/or improve education policies.

Partial compliance would be if a G7 member only worked with partner countries' governments or donors, but not both, and strengthened education systems in the Sahel region through one of increased coordination, or political support, or financial support.

No compliance would be if a country did not engage with any partner countries' government or donors to strengthen education systems in the Sahel region in any way.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member does not encourage partner countries' governments and other donors to join a collective effort in strengthening education systems, thus does not increase coordination and political and financial support to education.
0	The G7 member does encourage partner countries' governments OR other donors to join a collective effort in strengthening education systems and increases coordination OR political OR financial support to education, including basic education.
+1	The G7 member does encourage partner countries' governments AND other donors to join a collective effort in strengthening education systems, thus increasing coordination AND political AND financial support to education, including basic education.

*Compliance Direction: Sonja Dobson
Lead Analyst: Nicole Vucemilo*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to encourage partner countries' governments and other donors to join a collective effort in strengthening education systems, thus increasing G7 members' coordination and their political and financial support to education, including basic education.

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced an investment of CAD20.3 million towards the education of adolescent girls in Mali.⁴¹⁸⁵ This funding will specifically support "quality and gender responsive education for 90,000 young and adolescent girls in 11 communities in Segou and Mopti conflict-affected regions."⁴¹⁸⁶

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that the Government of Canada will pledge CAD14 million for conflict-affected regions of Burkina Faso.⁴¹⁸⁷ The goal of this initiative is to "to ensure the right of girls and boys aged 6 to 16 to obtain a safe and gender-sensitive education."⁴¹⁸⁸

⁴¹⁸⁵ Creating a better future, Prime Minister of Canada Website (Ottawa) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>.

⁴¹⁸⁶ Creating a better future, Prime Minister of Canada Website (Ottawa) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>.

⁴¹⁸⁷ Creating a better future, Prime Minister of Canada Website (Ottawa) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>.

⁴¹⁸⁸ Creating a better future, Prime Minister of Canada Website (Ottawa) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 7 December 2019. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>.

On 18 September 2019, as a contributor to a United Nations Population Fund project,⁴¹⁸⁹ the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD), Canada further confirmed its commitment to gender equality education initiatives.⁴¹⁹⁰ SWEDD announced it has facilitated development of 1,640 "husband schools" to educate men in the Sahel on how to properly treat women and provided 102,600 basic knowledge education and mentorship to young girls.⁴¹⁹¹

On 25 October 2019, the Government of Canada donated CAD7 million to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in support of girls' education in Niger.⁴¹⁹² This donation aims to reduce gender disparities that limit access to quality education.⁴¹⁹³ UNICEF seeks to implement gender sensitive curriculum and teaching in all educational centres, both formal and non-formal.⁴¹⁹⁴ As well, this donation will accelerate efforts to support the continuity of women and girls' education in crisis areas and is directed towards more than 220,000 girls from the regions of Maradi, Zinder, Dosso, Diffa, Tahoua, and Tillabéry.⁴¹⁹⁵

On 12 June 2020, Canada joined the International Coalition for the Sahel as well as the International Coalition for the Sahel's Small group of Foreign Ministers.⁴¹⁹⁶ Canada's intention is to support the Sahel region's development in areas such as social development.⁴¹⁹⁷ In particular, the International Coalition for the Sahel will coordinate actions taken to address education within the Sahel region with Sahel Alliance members France, Germany and the European Union.⁴¹⁹⁸

Canada has complied with its commitment to encourage expanded collective effort in support of education in the Sahel region. Canada's full commitment is evident through monetary donations to UNICEF, Plan International Canada, Save the Children Canada, World Vision Canada, and Canada has worked directly with partner countries' governments.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Veronika Zabelle Nayi

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to encourage partner countries' governments and other donors to join a collective effort in strengthening education systems, thus increasing G7

⁴¹⁸⁹ Donor Contributions, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.unfpa.org/data/donor-contributions>.

⁴¹⁹⁰ France, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.unfpa.org/data/donor-contributions/france>.

⁴¹⁹¹ Coming Together to Help African Girls Create a Brighter Future, The World Bank (Washington, D.C.) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/immersive-story/2019/09/18/comingtogether-to-help-african-girls-create-a-brighter-future>.

⁴¹⁹² Closing the Gaps: Canada donates \$7 million (Cdn) to support girls' education in Niger, UNICEF (New York) 25 October 2019. Access Date: 4 December 2019. <https://www.unicef.org/niger/stories/closing-gaps>.

⁴¹⁹³ Closing the Gaps: Canada donates \$7 million (Cdn) to support girls' education in Niger, UNICEF (New York) 25 October 2019. Access Date: 4 December 2019. <https://www.unicef.org/niger/stories/closing-gaps>.

⁴¹⁹⁴ Closing the Gaps: Canada donates \$7 million (Cdn) to support girls' education in Niger, UNICEF (New York) 25 October 2019. Access Date: 4 December 2019. <https://www.unicef.org/niger/stories/closing-gaps>.

⁴¹⁹⁵ Closing the Gaps: Canada donates \$7 million (Cdn) to support girls' education in Niger, UNICEF (New York) 25 October 2019. Access Date: 4 December 2019. <https://www.unicef.org/niger/stories/closing-gaps>.

⁴¹⁹⁶ Canada joins International Coalition for the Sahel (Ottawa) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/06/canada-joins-international-coalition-for-the-sahel.html>

⁴¹⁹⁷ Canada joins International Coalition for the Sahel (Ottawa) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/06/canada-joins-international-coalition-for-the-sahel.html>

⁴¹⁹⁸ The International Coalition for the Sahel, Ministère De L'Europe et Des Affaires Étrangères (Paris) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 27 August 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/terrorism-france-s-international-action/article/the-international-coalition-for-the-sahel>

members' coordination and their political and financial support to education, including basic education.

On 18 September 2019, as a contributor to a United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) project,⁴¹⁹⁹ the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD), France further confirmed its commitment to gender equality education initiatives.⁴²⁰⁰ SWEDD announced it has facilitated development of 1,640 "husband schools" to educate men in the Sahel on how to properly treat women and provided 102,600 basic knowledge education and mentorship to young girls.⁴²⁰¹

On 20 September 2019, France participated in the Gender at the Centre Initiative by donating EUR2.5 million.⁴²⁰² The goal of the Gender at the Centre Initiative is enhancing the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) role on issues of gender and education, mobilization of education on gender equality in developing countries and encourage international cooperation on said issue.⁴²⁰³

On 18 October 2019, the EU Emergency Fund Archipelago program announced 11 new projects.⁴²⁰⁴ The new projects have a budget of EUR6.5 million, partially funded by France, and include projects which help train young men and women to be employable in Sahel region countries.⁴²⁰⁵

On 24 February 2020, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) pledged EUR10 million to the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) with a focus on African countries.⁴²⁰⁶ IIEP's primary goals are focused on facilitating gender equality and education worldwide.⁴²⁰⁷ The AFD emphasized in its press release this development working towards France's Gender at the Centre Initiative and UNESCO's multilateral goals.⁴²⁰⁸

On 12 June 2020, the first Coalition for the Sahel meeting occurred between the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European

⁴¹⁹⁹ Donor Contributions, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.unfpa.org/data/donor-contributions>.

⁴²⁰⁰ France, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019.

<https://www.unfpa.org/data/donor-contributions/france>

⁴²⁰¹ Coming Together to Help African Girls Create a Brighter Future, The World Bank (Washington, D.C.) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/immersive-story/2019/09/18/comingtogether-to-help-african-girls-create-a-brighter-future>

⁴²⁰² Gender at the Centre Initiative, French Diplomatie (Paris) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 26 November 2019.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/alliance-for-multilateralism63158/article/gender-at-the-centre-initiative>.

⁴²⁰³ Gender at the Centre Initiative, French Diplomatie (Paris) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 26 November 2019.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/alliance-for-multilateralism63158/article/gender-at-the-centre-initiative>.

⁴²⁰⁴ Archipelago About Us, Archipelago Program (Brussels) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 9 December 2019.

<https://www.archipelago-eutf.eu/about-us/>.

⁴²⁰⁵ Archipelago Program, Results of the First Call for Proposals, CPCAF (Paris) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 9 December 2019. <https://www.archipelago-eutf.eu/about-us/>.

⁴²⁰⁶ France to Support IIEP-UNESCO in Improving Educational Planning Worldwide, AFD (Paris) 24 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/communique-de-presse/france-support-iiep-unesco-improving-educational-planning-worldwide?origin=/en/actualites/communique-de-presse>.

⁴²⁰⁷ France to Support IIEP-UNESCO in Improving Educational Planning Worldwide, AFD (Paris) 24 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/communique-de-presse/france-support-iiep-unesco-improving-educational-planning-worldwide?origin=/en/actualites/communique-de-presse>.

⁴²⁰⁸ France to Support IIEP-UNESCO in Improving Educational Planning Worldwide, AFD (Paris) 24 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/communique-de-presse/france-support-iiep-unesco-improving-educational-planning-worldwide?origin=/en/actualites/communique-de-presse>.

Union and the Mauritanian Minister of Foreign Affairs.⁴²⁰⁹ Pillar Four of the Coalition for the Sahel aims to target actions that can better respond to obstacles against education within the Sahel in conjunction with the G5 Sahel and the Sahel Alliance.⁴²¹⁰

France has fully complied with its commitment to expanding education systems in the Sahel region by encouraging other governments and donors to support education through financial contributions. France has provided financial contributions to UNFPA, UNESCO, IIEP, the Global Partnership for Education, and the EU Emergency Fund, whom have all helped facilitate building various educational systems, schools, or infrastructures in the Sahel region. Furthermore, France has encouraged efforts to increase coordination and political support for education.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Luc Masciino

Germany: 0

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to encourage partner countries' governments and other donors to join a collective effort in strengthening education systems, thus increasing G7 members' coordination and their political and financial support to education, including basic education.

On 18 September 2019, as a contributor to a United Nations Population Fund project,⁴²¹¹ the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD), Germany further confirmed its commitment to gender equality education initiatives.⁴²¹² SWEDD announced it has facilitated development of 1,640 "husband schools" to educate men in the Sahel on how to properly treat women and provided 102,600 basic knowledge education and mentorship to young girls.⁴²¹³

On 20 September 2019, Germany participated in the Gender at the Centre Initiative by donating EUR1.3 million.⁴²¹⁴ The goal of the Gender at the Centre Initiative is enhancing the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) role on issues of gender and education, mobilization of education on gender equality in developing countries and encourage international cooperation on said issue.⁴²¹⁵

⁴²⁰⁹ The Coalition for the Sahel: a collective and inclusive response, Ministère De L'Europe et Des Affaires Étrangères (Paris) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://sg.ambafrance.org/The-Coalition-for-the-Sahel-a-collective-and-inclusive-response>.

⁴²¹⁰ The Coalition for the Sahel: a collective and inclusive response, Ministère De L'Europe et Des Affaires Étrangères (Paris) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 27 August 2020. <https://sg.ambafrance.org/The-Coalition-for-the-Sahel-a-collective-and-inclusive-response>.

⁴²¹¹ Donor Contributions, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.unfpa.org/data/donor-contributions>.

⁴²¹² France, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.unfpa.org/data/donor-contributions/france>.

⁴²¹³ Coming Together to Help African Girls Create a Brighter Future, The World Bank (Washington, D.C.) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/immersive-story/2019/09/18/comingtogether-to-help-african-girls-create-a-brighter-future>.

⁴²¹⁴ Gender at the Centre Initiative, French Diplomatie (Paris) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 26 November 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/alliance-for-multilateralism63158/article/gender-at-the-centre-initiative>.

⁴²¹⁵ Gender at the Centre Initiative, French Diplomatie (Paris) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 26 November 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/alliance-for-multilateralism63158/article/gender-at-the-centre-initiative>.

On 25 September 2019, Germany pledged EUR10 million to Education Cannot Wait (ECW), a global fund which expands access to inclusive quality education for children in emergencies in countries including those of the Sahel region.⁴²¹⁶

Germany has partially complied with its commitment by joining a collective effort with the SWEDD and donating to the Gender at the Centre Initiative to strengthen education systems through financial support to education. However, despite being a member of the Sahel Alliance,⁴²¹⁷ Germany has not encouraged or joined efforts to increase coordination or political support for education.

Thus, Germany has been awarded score of 0.

Analyst: Jacky Luo

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied in its commitment to encourage partner countries' governments and other donors to join a collective effort in strengthening education systems, thus increasing G7 members' coordination and their political and financial support to education, including basic education.

On 18 September 2019, as a contributor to a United Nations Population Fund project,⁴²¹⁸ the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD), Italy further confirmed its commitment to gender equality education initiatives.⁴²¹⁹ SWEDD announced it has facilitated development of 1,640 "husband schools" to educate men in the Sahel on how to properly treat women and provided 102,600 basic knowledge education and mentorship to young girls.⁴²²⁰

On 18 October 2019, the Archipelago program, funded by the EU Emergency Fund,⁴²²¹ announced 11 new projects, some of which help train young men and women to be employable in Sahel region countries.⁴²²² The 11 new projects have a budget of EUR6.5 million. Italy is explicitly mentioned as financial contributors.⁴²²³

Italy has partially complied with its commitment by joining collective efforts to strengthening education systems, thus increasing financial support, through involvement with the SWEDD and the Archipelago program. Despite Italy being a member of the Sahel Alliance, Italy has not yet initiated

⁴²¹⁶ World Leaders Pledge a Record US\$216 million to Education Cannot Wait During United Nations General Assembly, Education Cannot Wait (New York) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019.

<https://www.educationcannotwait.org/unga-2019-pledges/>.

⁴²¹⁷ The Sahel Alliance, Alliance Sahel. Access Date: 22 April 2020. <https://www.alliance-sahel.org/en/sahel-alliance/>.

⁴²¹⁸ Donor Contributions, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.unfpa.org/data/donor-contributions>.

⁴²¹⁹ France, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019.

<https://www.unfpa.org/data/donor-contributions/france>.

⁴²²⁰ Coming Together to Help African Girls Create a Brighter Future, The World Bank (Washington, D.C.) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/immersive-story/2019/09/18/comingtogether-to-help-african-girls-create-a-brighter-future>.

⁴²²¹ Archipelago About Us, Archipelago Program (Brussels) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 9 December 2019.

<https://www.archipelago-eutf.eu/about-us/>.

⁴²²² Archipelago Program, Results of the First Call for Proposals, CPCAFA (Paris) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 9 December 2019.

<https://www.cpcf.org/XCMD.RE9fU2hPQko8MjU+MDAwMDAtMC0wMzAtMDAwMDAwMDAzNjM0OA==.html>.

⁴²²³ Archipelago Program, Results of the First Call for Proposals, CPCAFA (Paris) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 9 December 2019.

<https://www.cpcf.org/XCMD.RE9fU2hPQko8MjU+MDAwMDAtMC0wMzAtMDAwMDAwMDAzNjM0OA==.html>.

any cooperative efforts with partner governments or other donors to strengthen education systems through increasing coordination and political support to education in the Sahel region.⁴²²⁴

Thus, Italy has been awarded score of 0.

Analyst: Jacky Luo

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied in its commitment to encourage partner countries' governments and other donors to join a collective effort in strengthening education systems, thus increasing G7 members' coordination and their political and financial support to education, including basic education.

On 28-30 August 2019, Japan hosted the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7). One of the main pillars of the conference focused on achieving human security and SDGs, including through providing quality education. Japan pledged to support African governments to improve the learning environment of 3 million children, develop ICT talents and 5000 highly skilled people for science, technology and innovation education, and promote interaction among students and youth.⁴²²⁵

On 28 August 2019, Japan announced at the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Sahel Region, as part of the TICAD7, that it would provide training to 1,000 people from the Sahel countries over a three year period to develop institutions within the regions, provide vocational training and education opportunities for youth and other generations, and develop human resources for peacekeeping operations through the Ecole de Maintien de la Paix Alioune Blondin BEYE de Bamako, and continue to reduce the number of refugees.⁴²²⁶

On 10 March 2020, Japan announced an Emergency Grant Aid of USD23.7 million for refugees or internally displaced persons in the Sahel. The grant will fund, among other initiatives, educational opportunities through the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Specifically, Mali will be provided with education opportunities for 1500 children and training for 30 teachers.⁴²²⁷

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to encourage partner countries' governments and other donors to join a collective effort in strengthening education systems. Japan has pledged to develop educational opportunities but has not encourages other governments and donors to work together to increase coordination, political, and financial support to education systems in the Sahel region.

⁴²²⁴ The Sahel Alliance Officially Announces the Implementation of Over 500 Projects for a Total Amount of EUR 6bn to be Disbursed Between 2018 and 2022, The World Bank (Washington) 23 February 2018. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2018/02/23/the-sahel-alliance-officially-announces-the-implementation-of-over-500-projects-for-a-total-amount-of-eur-6bn-to-be-disbursed-between-2018-and-2022>.

⁴²²⁵ The 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) 28-30 August 2019, Yokohama, Japan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) September 2019. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000521256.pdf>.

⁴²²⁶ Statement by H.E. Mr. KONO Taro Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan at the Special Conference on Peace and Stability in the Sahel Region, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Yokohama) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/mogaj/files/000511296.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2LwGq_1ypMi6c0LDbl5r3Nmx9ZbplvHhe1pISQDwGk7eXLLFtTFgf4Z4.

⁴²²⁷ Emergency Grant Aid in response to the humanitarian crisis in the Sahel region, Africa News Room (Tokyo) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://www.africa-newsroom.com/press/emergency-grant-aid-in-response-to-the-humanitarian-crisis-in-the-sahel-region?lang=en>.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.⁴²²⁸

Analyst: Cindy Lui

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom has partially complied in its commitment to encourage partner countries' governments and other donors to join a collective effort in strengthening education systems, thus increasing G7 members' coordination and their political and financial support to education, including basic education.

On 20 September 2019, the UK participated in the Gender at the Centre Initiative by donating EUR1.6 million.⁴²²⁹ The goal of the Gender at the Centre Initiative is enhancing the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) role on issues of gender and education, mobilization of education on gender equality in developing countries and encourage international cooperation on said issue.⁴²³⁰

On 24 September 2019, Prime Minister Boris Johnson pledged approximately USD670 million toward education at the United Nations.⁴²³¹ The funding's specific targets will provide millions of girls around the world with opportunities for quality education, ensure that children living in conflict zones such as the Sahel are able to attend school and will mobilize USD5 billion of investment towards education focused on marginalized children.⁴²³²

On 25 September 2019, the UK pledged USD106 million to Education Cannot Wait (ECW), a global fund which expands access to inclusive quality education for children in emergencies in countries including those of the Sahel region. The UK is the fund's top donor.⁴²³³

On 17 October 2019, a Foreign Liaison Officer from the UK met with Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for West Africa and Security Affairs in the Bureau of African Affairs Whitney Baird; the US Ambassadors to Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger; the US Africa Command leadership; mission directors of the US Agency for International Development; US Department of State and Defense personnel assigned to the Sahel; and Foreign Liaison Officers from France, Germany, Italy, and Spain to discuss a collaborative approach to the Sahel region in Stuttgart, Germany.⁴²³⁴ These

⁴²²⁸ This partial compliance was determined after a deep search of the following websites: <https://www.mofa.go.jp/>, <https://www.un.org/en/>, <https://www-oecd-org.proxy.library.uu.nl/japan/>, <https://www.meti.go.jp/english/>, <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/>, <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/>, <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home.html>, <https://news.un.org/en/>, <http://the-japan-news.com/>, https://www.un.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/index.html, <https://www.africa-newsroom.com/press/source/ministry-of-foreign-affairs-of-japan>.

⁴²²⁹ Gender at the Centre Initiative, French Diplomatie (Paris) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 26 November 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/alliance-for-multilateralism63158/article/gender-at-the-centre-initiative>.

⁴²³⁰ Gender at the Centre Initiative, French Diplomatie (Paris) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 26 November 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/alliance-for-multilateralism63158/article/gender-at-the-centre-initiative>.

⁴²³¹ PM steps up UK effort to get every girl in the world into school, ReliefWeb OCHA (New York) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/pm-steps-uk-effort-get-every-girl-world-school>.

⁴²³² PM steps up UK effort to get every girl in the world into school, ReliefWeb OCHA (New York) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/pm-steps-uk-effort-get-every-girl-world-school>.

⁴²³³ World Leaders Pledge a Record US\$216 million to Education Cannot Wait During United Nations General Assembly, Education Cannot Wait (New York) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/unga-2019-pledges/>.

⁴²³⁴ AFRICOM hosts high level discussions on G5 Sahel region, United States Africa Command (Stuttgart) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.africom.mil/media-room/Article/32259/africom-hosts-high-leveldiscussions-on-g5-sahel-region>.

talks were “centred around increasing understanding of country/region specific issues, partner national positions, and their limiting factors.”⁴²³⁵

On 20 November 2019, UK Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Jonathan Allen briefed the Security Council on the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel.⁴²³⁶ Deputy Permanent Representative Allen called upon all Security Council members to meet the commitments made to the G5 Sahel.⁴²³⁷

On 21 November 2019, as a member of the UN Security Council, the UK issued a press statement on the Group of Five for the Sahel (FC-G5S) and encouraged the FC-G5S to continue collaborating and exchanging information through the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali.⁴²³⁸ The members of the Security Council also expressed their intention to continue closely monitoring the security situation in the Sahel and the international support directed toward FC-G5S.⁴²³⁹

On 1 March 2020, Minister for Africa and Joint Minister for the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth James Duddridge attended the inaugural General Assembly of the Sahel Alliance and the sixth Summit of the Leaders of the G5 Sahel in Mauritania.⁴²⁴⁰ Minister Duddridge met with the Heads of State from the Sahel and major international partners and spoke about the “UK’s role in girls’ education.”⁴²⁴¹ He also met with Mauritanian Minister for Education and National Education Reform Adama Bocar Soko to discuss how the UK can benefit education systems in the Sahel and “break down barriers to girls attending school.”⁴²⁴²

On 13 April 2020, the UK announced a GBP5 million donation to ECW to support quick deployment of emergency education for youth in crises and emergency situations. The UK remains ECW’s largest donor and this donation will be used as part of ECW’s mission to support the continuance of educating youth during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴²⁴³

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to increase coordination, political and financial support to education systems in the Sahel region. While the United Kingdom has provided financial support to developing education systems in the Sahel region and despite being a

⁴²³⁵ AFRICOM hosts high level discussions on G5 Sahel region, United States Africa Command (Stuttgart) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.africom.mil/media-room/Article/32259/africom-hosts-high-leveldiscussions-on-g5-sahel-region>.

⁴²³⁶ G5 efforts to combat instability in the Sahel, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/g5-efforts-to-combat-instability-in-the-sahel>.

⁴²³⁷ G5 efforts to combat instability in the Sahel, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/g5-efforts-to-combat-instability-in-the-sahel>.

⁴²³⁸ Security Council Press Statement on Group of Five for Sahel Joint Force, United Nations (New York) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc14029.doc.htm>.

⁴²³⁹ Security Council Press Statement on Group of Five for Sahel Joint Force, United Nations (New York) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 17 December 2019. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc14029.doc.htm>.

⁴²⁴⁰ Africa Minister champions UK leadership to help educate girls and end preventable deaths, GOV.UK (London) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/africa-minister-champions-uk-leadership-to-help-educate-girls-and-end-preventable-deaths--2>.

⁴²⁴¹ Africa Minister champions UK leadership to help educate girls and end preventable deaths, GOV.UK (London) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/africa-minister-champions-uk-leadership-to-help-educate-girls-and-end-preventable-deaths--2>.

⁴²⁴² Africa Minister champions UK leadership to help educate girls and end preventable deaths, GOV.UK (London) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/africa-minister-champions-uk-leadership-to-help-educate-girls-and-end-preventable-deaths--2>.

⁴²⁴³ United Kingdom Announces £5 Million in Additional Funding for Education Cannot Wait’s Education in Emergency Response to COVID-19, Education Cannot Wait (New York) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/uk-covid19/>.

member of the Sahel Alliance,⁴²⁴⁴ it has not increased coordination among G7 members, nor has it provided political support specifically targeted toward education systems.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Victoria Vale

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied in its commitment to encourage partner countries' governments and other donors to join a collective effort in strengthening education systems, thus increasing G7 members' coordination and their political and financial support to education, including basic education.

On 25 September 2019, the US pledged USD12 million to Education Cannot Wait, a global fund that expands access to inclusive quality education for children in emergencies in countries including those of the Sahel region.⁴²⁴⁵

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to increase coordination, political and financial support to education systems in the Sahel region. While the United States has provided financial support to developing education systems in the Sahel region and has engaged in coordination between G7 members, it has not provided political support specifically targeted toward education systems.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.⁴²⁴⁶

Analyst: Victoria Vale

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to work collaboratively with international and non-governmental organizations to increase coordination as well as political and financial support to education systems in the Sahel region.

On 20 September 2019, the European Commission participated in the Gender at the Centre Initiative by donating EUR1 million.⁴²⁴⁷ The goal of the Gender at the Centre Initiative is enhancing the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) role on issues of gender and education, mobilization of education on gender equality in developing countries and encourage international cooperation on said issue.⁴²⁴⁸

On 25 October 2019, the European Commission, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the German Academic Exchange Service, British Council, Campus France, and Nuffic,

⁴²⁴⁴ The Sahel Alliance, Alliance Sahel. Access Date: 22 April 2020. <https://www.alliance-sahel.org/en/sahel-alliance/>.

⁴²⁴⁵ World Leaders Pledge a Record US\$216 million to Education Cannot Wait During United Nations General Assembly, Education Cannot Wait (New York) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/unga-2019-pledges/>.

⁴²⁴⁶ This partial compliance was determined after a deep search of the following websites: <https://www.un.org/en/>, <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/>, <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home.html>, <https://news.un.org/en/>, <https://www.africa-newsroom.com/press/index>, <https://www.state.gov/>, <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information>, <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/news/>.

⁴²⁴⁷ Gender at the Centre Initiative, French Diplomatie (Paris) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 26 November 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/alliance-for-multilateralism63158/article/gender-at-the-centre-initiative>.

⁴²⁴⁸ Gender at the Centre Initiative, French Diplomatie (Paris) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 26 November 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/alliance-for-multilateralism63158/article/gender-at-the-centre-initiative>.

organized a High-Level Conference on Higher Education Collaboration.⁴²⁴⁹ A list of key recommendations was produced, including increased cooperation with the private sector; the promotion of a Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework; the strengthening of transnational educational partnerships; and a comprehensive approach to refugee integration in tertiary education.⁴²⁵⁰

On 13 November 2019, Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides announced a further EUR35 million in humanitarian aid to humanitarian organizations working in the Sahel region in order to boost access to food and basic social services, including education.⁴²⁵¹

On 26 February 2020, President of the Sahel Alliance Jean-Yves Le Drian and European Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen signed a commitment by the European Investment Bank to join the Sahel Alliance as a full member, with the goal of providing investment and financing towards education projects in the region.⁴²⁵²

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to increase coordination and support to education systems in the Sahel region. It has expressed its political support and outlined means of coordination through a High-Level Conference in collaboration with international partners. Additionally, it has provided additional financial support to humanitarian organizations and educational projects operating in the Sahel region. It has also encouraged the European Investment Bank to commit as a full member of the Sahel Alliance to promote investment in education.

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

Analyst: Tomer Zaidman

⁴²⁴⁹ Conference Outcomes, DAAD Brussels (Brussels) 25 October 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.daad-brussels.eu/en/events-overview/our-events/africa-europe-event-on-higher-educationcollaboration/conference-outcomes/>.

⁴²⁵⁰ Conference Outcomes, DAAD Brussels (Brussels) 25 October 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2019. <https://www.daad-brussels.eu/en/events-overview/our-events/africa-europe-event-on-higher-educationcollaboration/conference-outcomes/>.

⁴²⁵¹ EU commits additional €35 million for Africa's Sahel region, European Commission (Brussels) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 9 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/echo/news/eu-commits-additional-35-million-africa-s-sahel-region_en.

⁴²⁵² EIB joins Sahel Alliance, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-068-european-investment-bank-joins-sahel-alliance>.