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The G7 Research Group presents the

## 2022 G7 Elmau Summit Interim Compliance Report

28 June 2022 to 6 January 2023

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“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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## 6. Human Rights: The Digital Sphere and Beyond

“[Guided by the conviction that democratic values make us stronger in tackling global challenges, we will cooperate with civil society and our partners beyond the G7 to] ... promote human rights online and offline.”

*G7 Leaders’ Communiqué Executive Summary*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany		0	
Italy			+1
Japan		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+0.75 (88%)		

### Background

Though human rights discourse within the G7 has a long track record, its connection to and general discussion of the digital sphere is far more recent. Beginning with the inception of the Digital Opportunities Task Force (DOT Force) in 2000, the protection of human rights online focused primarily on the potential benefits of technology in supporting efforts towards access in health care and education.<sup>810</sup> The DOT Force aimed to “report ... findings and recommendations on global action to bridge the international information and knowledge divide.”<sup>811</sup> As such, much of the G7’s history in addressing human rights in the digital sphere has concerned itself with bridging development gaps through information and communication technology. In later years, as the digital sphere has progressed, the G7 has turned its attention to the ways in which information and communication technology can both inhibit and support human rights in free speech, privacy and principles of the rule of law.<sup>812</sup> To protect the integrity of cyberspace, the G7 consistently reaffirms its commitment to the regulation of the digital sphere through multilateral collaboration efforts across states and their respective private and public sectors.<sup>813</sup>

At the 1989 Paris Summit, forty years after the United Nations General Assembly’s adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, G7 members reaffirmed their commitment to the document and its principles.<sup>814</sup> This declaration marked the first time the topic of human rights was explicitly addressed at a G7 summit.

At the 1990 Houston Summit, G7 members introduced an economic declaration aimed at protecting “the practice of free elections, the freedom of expression and assembly, the increased respect for human rights and the rule of law.”<sup>815</sup> Emphasizing the principles of freedom and consent with respect to labour, the Houston

<sup>810</sup> Digital Opportunities Task Force Report Card: Digital Opportunities for All, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) June 2002. Access Date: 23 September 2022. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2002kananaskis/dotforce\\_reportcard.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2002kananaskis/dotforce_reportcard.pdf)

<sup>811</sup> G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 July 2000. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>

<sup>812</sup> G7 Principles and Actions on Cyber, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/cyber.html>

<sup>813</sup> G8 Declaration: Renewed Commitment for Freedom and Democracy, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2011. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-declaration-en.html>

<sup>814</sup> 1988 Declaration on Human Rights, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 July 1989. Access Date: 4 October 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1989paris/human.html>

<sup>815</sup> Houston Economic Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 11 July 1990. Access Date: 4 October 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1990houston/declaration.html>

Economic Declaration affirmed the protection of human rights as a necessary component for economic growth and prosperity.

At the 1991 London Summit, G7 members commended developing countries who had begun to implement “radical policy reforms” in human rights.<sup>816</sup> The group cited the protection of human rights as a main contributor to economic development and reaffirmed the need for “open systems of administration, accountable to the public” that may monitor human rights abuses.

At the 1992 Munich summit, G7 members stated human rights as a common value shared between East and West states following the democratic revolution in Europe.<sup>817</sup> Members emphasized the need for the maintenance of these rights regardless of the specific inclinations of individual governments.

At the 1994 Naples Summit, G7 members put forth their support for the creation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights office.<sup>818</sup> G7 members outlined their support for the “improvement of international monitoring mechanisms and procedures for the promotion and protection of human rights everywhere, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.”

At the 1995 Halifax Summit, G7 members implored the UN Secretary-General to utilize the High Commissioners on Human Rights and Refugees to foster better analysis for the prevention of negative impacts through disaster and conflict.<sup>819</sup> The summit emphasized upholding human rights as being integral to crisis control and sustainable development.

At the 1997 Denver summit, G8 members explicitly endorsed the work of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.<sup>820</sup> The summit focused most specifically on development in Sub-Saharan Africa through the protection of human rights by way of good governance, democracy and the cooperation of the private sector — reaffirming their support of institutions of international humanitarian law.

At the 1998 Birmingham Summit, G8 leaders pledged to explore the ways in which they could support Africa in development through human rights protection.<sup>821</sup> These included humanitarian aid as well as financial and technical assistance in building stronger “social and economic systems.”

At the 2000 Okinawa summit, G8 members mentioned digital opportunities in connection to public welfare and development and formed the DOT Force.<sup>822</sup> The creation of this task force marked the beginning of the G8’s work on tackling inequality in the digital sphere.

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<sup>816</sup> Economic Declaration: Building World Partnership, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 July 1991. Access Date: 4 October 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1991london/communique/index.html>

<sup>817</sup> Political Declaration: Shaping the New Partnership, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 1992. Access Date: 4 October 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1992munich/political.html>

<sup>818</sup> Chairman’s Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 10 July 1994. Access Date: 4 October 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1994naples/chairman.html>

<sup>819</sup> Halifax Summit Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 June 1995. Access Date: 4 October 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1995halifax/communique/index.html>

<sup>820</sup> Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 1997. Access Date: 4 October 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1997denver/g8final.htm>

<sup>821</sup> Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 May 1998. Access Date: 4 October 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1998birmingham/finalcom.htm>

<sup>822</sup> G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 July 2000. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>

At the 2001 Genoa Summit, the DOT Force fulfilled the mandates set at Okinawa and reported on the potential of digital technologies to contribute towards development and social cohesion.<sup>823</sup> These findings resulted in the consideration of the role of “e-Government” in political and social progress.<sup>824</sup>

At the 2002 Kananaskis Summit, G8 leaders released a key document from the DOT Force Report Card that was titled “Digital Opportunities for All.”<sup>825</sup> This document elaborated upon the mandates that states had given in prior summits’ addressals of digital development and put forth an action plan for increased access to health care and education through the use of information and communication technology.

At the 2004 Sea Island Summit, G8 members released a statement condemning the human rights violations occurring in Sudan.<sup>826</sup> Leaders called on the Sudanese government and other parties involved in the political conflict to disarm and approach a diplomatic solution.

At the 2007 Heiligendamm Summit, G8 members urged the Sudanese government to follow ceasefire agreements and allow humanitarian aid access into the country — invoking UN Security Council resolution 1591.<sup>827</sup> Member states expressed their continued disapproval of human rights violations in Sudan, as well as their desire for perpetrators to be held accountable.

At the 2009 L’Aquila Summit, G8 members produced the “Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future” declaration.<sup>828</sup> This document contained the group’s first-ever explicit connection between human rights and global health, with members condemning any violations or discrimination inflicted against those suffering from HIV/AIDS.

At the 2010 Muskoka Summit, G8 leaders cited the upcoming Kabul Conference as an opportunity for the Government of Afghanistan to prove its progress in human rights.<sup>829</sup> Members committed to supporting the country in its period of “transition and development” by promoting more credible, inclusive and transparent parliamentary elections.

At the 2011 Deauville Summit, G8 leaders emphasized the need to maintain the integrity of human rights on the internet through the protection of citizens’ privacy and democratic freedoms.<sup>830</sup> It stated the potential of the internet as “an instrument for political liberty and emancipation.”<sup>831</sup>

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 leaders explicitly committed to “the protection and promotion of human rights online.”<sup>832</sup> In a document titled “G7 Principles and Actions on Cyber,” leaders emphasized the

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<sup>823</sup> Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommuniqué.html>

<sup>824</sup> Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommuniqué.html>

<sup>825</sup> Digital Opportunities Task Force Report Card: Digital Opportunities for All, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) June 2002. Access Date: 23 September 2022. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2002kananaskis/dotforce\\_reportcard.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2002kananaskis/dotforce_reportcard.pdf)

<sup>826</sup> G8 Statement on Sudan, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 10 June 2004. Access Date: 4 October 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2004seaisland/sudan.html>

<sup>827</sup> G8 Summit Statement on Sudan/Darfur, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2007. Access Date: 4 October 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2007heiligendamm/g8-2007-sudan.html>

<sup>828</sup> Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2009. Access Date: 4 October 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-declaration.html>

<sup>829</sup> Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 June 2010. Access Date: 4 October 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communiqué.html>

<sup>830</sup> G8 Declaration: Renewed Commitment for Freedom and Democracy, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2011. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-declaration-en.html>

<sup>831</sup> G8 Declaration: Renewed Commitment for Freedom and Democracy, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2011. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-declaration-en.html>

<sup>832</sup> G7 Principles and Actions on Cyber, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/cyber.html>

importance of a secure and fair cyberspace. This document created the foundation for future discussion of the threats, rather than solely the positive potential, of digital connectivity.

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, G7 members produced the “Charlevoix Commitment to End Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Abuse and Harassment in Digital Contexts.”<sup>833</sup> This summit marked the first time in which gendered-violence was addressed specifically as a major concern of digital safety and security.

At the 2021 Cornwall Summit, G7 members approved of the “Digital Ministers’ Internet Safety Principles document outlining parameters for online ethics.”<sup>834</sup> The group formally condemned state-imposed restrictions on digital democratic processes and government-mandated internet shutdowns and also committed to combatting hate speech and privacy infringement. In a G7 Trade Ministers meeting on 28 May 2021, members restated their commitment to international instruments such as the International Labour Organization and the “UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.”<sup>835</sup> This was a reaffirmation of former commitments made by the group concerning the eradication of forced labour in global supply chains.

At the 2022 Elmau Summit, G7 members aimed to “maximise the coherent implementation of and compliance with international standards relating to human rights, environment, and labour across global supply chains.”<sup>836</sup> G7 members emphasized support for strengthening human rights in the labour sphere by strengthening “compliance with international standards, including through mandatory measures that protect rights-holders, provide for greater multilateral cooperation to address abuses and support remedy, thus enhancing predictability and certainty for business.” G7 members condemned the human rights situation in China, including in Tibet and Xinjiang; Myanmar; Iran, specifically discussing the increased use of arbitrary arrests, detention and capital punishment; Afghanistan; and Syria. In the digital sphere, G7 members pledged to center human rights and fundamental freedoms in discussion of the Internet as reflected in the G7 Resilient Democracy Statement. G7 members discussed their support for states “to increase digital access while ensuring that security, interoperability and respect for human rights are built into global connectivity.”

### **Commitment Features**

At the 2022 Elmau Summit, G7 leaders made the following commitment: “[Guided by the conviction that democratic values make us stronger in tackling global challenges, we will cooperate with civil society and our partners beyond the G7 to] ... promote human rights online and offline.”<sup>837</sup> This commitment can be interpreted as having one main target: the promotion of human rights. The target includes two central dimensions: one, the promotion of human rights in the digital sphere; and two, the promotion of human rights offline. Further, in each area — online and offline — the G7 member must cooperate with civil society as well as other partners beyond the G7.

“Democratic values” refer to the “values of freedom, respect for human rights and the principle of holding periodic and genuine elections by universal suffrage.”<sup>838</sup> In the context of this commitment, democratic values should help guide responses to human rights abuses.

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<sup>833</sup> Charlevoix Commitment to End Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Abuse and Harassment in Digital Contexts, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/violence-commitment.html>

<sup>834</sup> Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communiqué: Our Shared Agenda for the Global Action to Build Back Better, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/t210613-communiqu.html>

<sup>835</sup> G7 Trade Ministers’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 4 October 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/trade/210528-communiqu.html>

<sup>836</sup> G7 Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 June 2022. Access Date: 1 October 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2022elmau/220628-communiqu.html>

<sup>837</sup> G7 Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 June 2022. Access Date: 1 October 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2022elmau/220628-communiqu.html>

<sup>838</sup> Democracy, United Nations (New York) n.d. Access Date: 24 September 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/democracy>

“Cooperate” refers to “acting together or in compliance.”<sup>839</sup> In the context of this commitment, G7 members should aim to work alongside civil society which is defined as “any non-profit, voluntary citizens’ group which is organized on a local, national or international level.”<sup>840</sup> Some examples of civil society include community groups, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), charitable organizations, labour unions and professional associations. Additionally, G7 members should also act with partners outside of the G7, or anyone other than a G7 member associated through collaborative action, to ensure the universal promotion of human rights. This can include other countries or international organizations.

“Promote” refers to “supporting or renewing old efforts or creating new efforts in the area” or “to contribute to growth or prosperity of, to help bring into being.”<sup>841</sup> Within the context of this commitment, promoting human rights can refer to directly opposing rising digital authoritarianism, investing in the cyber resilience of digital infrastructure within and across G7 countries, developing and implementing robust international cyber norms, upholding human rights standards across global supply chains, tackling instances of forced labour and protecting refugees and forcibly displaced persons.<sup>842</sup>

“Human rights” are defined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as “rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any status.”<sup>843</sup> Within the context of this commitment, G7 members should promote human rights such as “the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education,”<sup>844</sup> and other rights specified in the declaration.

“Online” is defined as “connected to, served by, or available through a system and especially a computer or telecommunications system.”<sup>845</sup> Online human rights issues can include instances of digital transnational repression, censorship or surveillance programs and the promotion of digital authoritarianism.

“Offline” is defined as “not connected to, served by, or available through a system and especially a computer or telecommunications system.”<sup>846</sup> In the context of this commitment, “online and offline” are understood to mean both within and beyond the global digital ecosystem.

Full compliance, or a score of +1, is assigned to G7 members who demonstrate strong action to promote human rights through both dimensions of cooperation: online and offline. In the online sphere, examples of strong actions regarding promoting human rights include, but are not limited to, enforcement of laws through policy action, such as fines for disobeying government guidelines on online harm, digital transnational repression or digital authoritarianism; investing in the cyber resilience of digital infrastructure within and across G7 countries; developing and implementing robust international cyber norms; changing legislation to prevent the malicious use of cyberspace by state and non-state actors and ensuring its accountability through democratic oversight of a legitimate government; and increased funding for digital access while ensuring that security and

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<sup>839</sup> Cooperate, Merriam-Webster Dictionary (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 24 September 2022. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/cooperate>

<sup>840</sup> The UN and Civil Society, United Nations (New York) n.d. Access Date: 24 September 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/get-involved/un-and-civil-society>

<sup>841</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 30 September 2022. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

<sup>842</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 30 September 2022. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

<sup>843</sup> Human Rights, United Nations (New York) n.d. Access Date: 24 September 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/human-rights>

<sup>844</sup> Universal Declaration of Human Rights, United Nations (Paris) n.d. Access Date: 24 September 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

<sup>845</sup> Online, Merriam-Webster Dictionary (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 24 September 2022. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/online>

<sup>846</sup> Offline, Merriam-Webster Dictionary (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 24 September 2022. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/offline>

respect for human rights are built into global connectivity.<sup>847</sup> Examples of strong actions regarding promoting human rights offline include, but are not limited to, providing financial support to protect refugees and forcibly displaced persons, women and children in areas of conflict; and joining and/or participating in international organizations that aim to uphold human rights standards across global supply chains, tackle instances of forced labour, or improve the accountability and documentation for human rights violations and abuses like sexual and gender-based violence including in conflict situations.<sup>848</sup> In order to achieve full compliance, a member must take strong actions in both dimensions of the commitment in cooperation with civil society and other G7 members.

Partial compliance, or a score of 0, is assigned to G7 members who demonstrate strong action in only one of the two commitment dimensions. This means that in one dimension of the commitment the member has taken weak action. Weak actions include verbal reaffirmations of existing commitments, attendance at international conferences, or sharing information on human rights abuses without cooperating to address such issues. Additionally, if a member demonstrates strong action in only one dimension of the commitment — online or offline — or if a member does not cooperate with civil society and other G7 members then a partial compliance score is given.

Non-compliance, or a score of -1, is assigned if the G7 member takes weak or less than strong action in one dimension of the commitment while not cooperating with either civil society or other international partners. It will also receive a -1 if it fails to take any action to protect human rights both online or offline, or the G7 member actively threatens human rights both online and offline.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member took insufficient or no action to promote human rights both online or offline and did not cooperate with civil society or international partners.
0	The G7 member took some action to promote human rights offline and online alongside, while also cooperating with civil society or international partners OR took strong action either offline OR online while cooperating with one of the relevant stakeholders.
+1	The G7 member took strong action to promote human rights online AND offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end.

*Compliance Director: Saarah Khan  
Lead Analyst: Faye Rozario*

### Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end.

On 31 July 2022, Minister of International Development Harjit Sajjan announced that CAD9 million would be devoted to three projects for promoting LGBTQ2I+ human rights.<sup>849</sup> Along with the APCOM Foundation, Cuso International and World Bank, Canada will use this funding to improve LGBTQ2I+ services in Asia, create safer communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo and further research minority conflicts in developing countries.

<sup>847</sup> G7 Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 June 2022. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2022elmau/220628-communique.html>

<sup>848</sup> G7 Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 June 2022. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2022elmau/220628-communique.html>

<sup>849</sup> Canada announces funding for 3 LGBTQ2I-related projects in developing countries, Global Affairs Canada (Vancouver) 31 July 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/07/canada-announces-funding-for-3-lgbtq2i-related-projects-in-developing-countries.html>



On 1 September 2022, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mélanie Joly gave a statement on a report by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights discussing the human rights situation in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in China.<sup>850</sup> Minister Joly urged China to listen to the international community and uphold human rights obligations.

On 8 September 2022, Canada participated in a Roundtable of G7 Data Protection Authorities in Bonn, Germany.<sup>851</sup> The goal of this roundtable was to address the significance of privacy-enhancing technologies, the role of data protection authorities and regulations of artificial intelligence.

On 30 September 2022, Canada, along with other G7 Foreign Ministers, released a statement on the illegal annexation of sovereign Ukrainian territory.<sup>852</sup> All G7 members expressed united condemnation of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and Russia's continued violations of Ukraine's sovereignty and independence.

On 3 October 2022, Minister Joly announced that Canada would impose additional sanctions under the current "Special Economic Measures (Iran) Regulations" in light of continuous extreme human rights violations.<sup>853</sup> Specifically, these measures aim to combat the systematic persecution of women, such as Mahsa Amini, by Iran's police force.

On 6 October 2022, Minister Joly announced that CAD9.7 million was going toward four projects in Latin America and the Caribbean.<sup>854</sup> One of the projects would receive CAD2.2 million in partnership with the International Organization for Migration to combat human trafficking within Latin America and support the integration of Venezuelan refugees throughout communities.

On 7 October 2022, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau declared further measures against the human rights violations in Iran after the death of Mahsa Amini.<sup>855</sup> These measures will include denying the Iranian regime — including the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and its top leaders — access to Canada, expanding sanctions against those conducting human rights abuses and restricting the finances and property of perpetrators.

On 7 October 2022, the Ministry of International Development announced a fund of CAD9.7 million to help developmental assistance projects aimed at advancing 2SLGBTQI+ rights and gender equality. Additionally, the fund will support "Venezuelan refugees, migrants and their host communities across Latin America and the Caribbean."<sup>856</sup>

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<sup>850</sup> Statement by Minister Joly on UN report on human rights situation in Xinjiang, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 1 September 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/09/statement-by-minister-joly-on-un-report-on-human-rights-situation-in-xinjiang.html>

<sup>851</sup> EDPS attends roundtable of G7 Data Protection and Privacy Authorities, European Data Protection Board (Brussels) 4 November 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. [https://edps.europa.eu/press-publications/publications/newsletters/newsletter-97\\_en#roundtable](https://edps.europa.eu/press-publications/publications/newsletters/newsletter-97_en#roundtable)

<sup>852</sup> G7 Foreign Ministers' Statement on the illegal annexation of sovereign Ukrainian territory, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 30 September 2022. Access Date: 2 November 2022. <https://www.esteri.it/it/sala stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/09/g7-foreign-ministers-statement-on-the-illegal-annexation-of-sovereign-ukrainian-territory/>

<sup>853</sup> Canada imposes sanctions on Iran for systematic human rights violations, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 October 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/10/canada-imposes-sanctions-on-iran-for-systematic-human-rights-violations.html>

<sup>854</sup> Canada's investments in Latin America and the Caribbean, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 6 October 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/10/canadas-investments-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean.html>

<sup>855</sup> Canada to implement new measures against the Iranian regime, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 7 October 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022 <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2022/10/07/canada-implement-new-measures-against-iranian-regime>

<sup>856</sup> Minister Joly concludes visit to Peru and announces projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 7 October 2022. Access Date: 12 January 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/10/minister-joly-concludes-visit-to-peru-and-announces-projects-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean.html>

On 20 October 2022, Canada, along with the members of the Freedom Online Coalition, called upon the Government of Iran to lift the country's nationwide internet restrictions.<sup>857</sup> Under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Coalition declares that cutting off mobile data, disrupting social media, cutting internet services, blocking users and accessing private devices are clear violations of human rights.

On 28 October 2022, Prime Minister Trudeau announced plans to impose new sanctions on Russia's justice and security sectors for violating the human rights of Russian opposition leaders.<sup>858</sup> These new measures will be based on the current sanctions which target over 1,400 Russian justice system members accountable.

On 2 December 2022, Minister Joly announced that Canada is imposing additional sanctions under the Special Economic Measures (Iran) Regulations.<sup>859</sup>

On 7 December 2022, Minister Joly and Minister Sajjan announced CAD4.3 million in funding to support projects aimed at ending gender-based violence around the world.<sup>860</sup> The announcement also voiced support for the UN Population Fund, Grace Farms Foundation and included stakeholders and partners in "conducting research on technology-facilitated gender-based violence in the Global South."

On 8 December 2022, the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse released a joint statement urging technology companies to enable women and girls' access to online information.<sup>861</sup> The statement urges the implementation of "proactive measures to combat the abuse of their platforms to threaten, harass, and silence Iranian women and girls by surging resources for Persian (Farsi) language content moderation and other Iranian languages, applying policies on harassment and abusive content in a timely and consistent manner, and providing resources and transparent reporting options for those experiencing online harassment and abuse."

On 10 December 2022, Prime Minister Trudeau provided a statement for Human Rights Day announcing further action against the human rights violations of regimes of Russia, Iran and Myanmar.<sup>862</sup> The restrictions will affect 67 individuals and 9 entities named in the human rights violations.

On 15 December 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, alongside Foreign Ministers of Australia, Canada and New Zealand released a joint statement condemning the execution of protesters in Iran.<sup>863</sup>

On 29 December 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, alongside The Foreign Ministers of Australia, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States and the High Representative of the European Union, released a joint statement condemning the "barring of

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<sup>857</sup> Freedom Online Coalition Joint Statement on Internet Shutdowns in Iran, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 20 October 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/10/freedom-online-coalition-joint-statement-on-internet-shutdowns-in-iran.html>

<sup>858</sup> Prime Minister announces new measures to support Ukraine, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 28 October 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2022/10/28/prime-minister-announces-new-measures-support-ukraine>

<sup>859</sup> Canada imposes additional sanctions on the Iranian regime, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2 December 2022. Access Date: 11 January 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/12/canada-imposes-additional-sanctions-on-the-iranian-regime.html>

<sup>860</sup> Canada announces new support for projects working to end gender-based violence around the world, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 December 2022. Access Date: 11 January 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/12/canada-announces-new-support-for-projects-working-to-end-gender-based-violence-around-the-world.html>

<sup>861</sup> Joint Statement through the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse on Standing with the Women and Girls of Iran, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 December 2022. Access Date: 11 January 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/12/joint-statement-through-the-global-partnership-for-action-on-gender-based-online-harassment-and-abuse-on-standing-with-the-women-and-girls-of-iran.html>

<sup>862</sup> Statement by the Prime Minister on Human Rights Day, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 10 December 2022. Access Date: 25 December 2022. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2022/12/10/statement-prime-minister-human-rights-day>

<sup>863</sup> Joint Statement of the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Canada and New Zealand on the Execution of Protesters in Iran, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 December 2022. Access Date: 15 December 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/12/joint-statement-of-the-foreign-ministers-of-australia-canada-and-new-zealand-on-the-execution-of-protesters-in-iran.html>

female employees of national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from the workplace” as it “puts at risk millions of Afghans who depend on humanitarian assistance for their survival.”<sup>864</sup> The statement called on the Taliban to immediately reverse this decision.

On 10 January 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced “targeted sanctions under regulations pursuant to the Special Economic Measures Act against four Sri Lankan state officials responsible for gross and systematic violations of human rights during armed conflict in Sri Lanka, which occurred from 1983 to 2009.”<sup>865</sup> These sanctions aim to condemn Sri Lanka for the continued impunity it has afforded to those who have committed human rights violations.

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end. By pledging funds, sanctioning international actors perpetuating online authoritarianism, combating human trafficking and working to protect minorities, Canada has fulfilled its commitments in promoting rights within and beyond the digital sphere.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Maere Kelly*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end.

On 1 July 2022, the Interministerial Delegation for Accommodation and Access to Housing organized a webinar to discuss the human trafficking of refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine.<sup>866</sup> The webinar aimed to raise public awareness and provide guidelines on how to support and guide such victims towards resource centers.

On 14 July 2022, the Ministry of the Interior and Overseas Territories partnered with the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs to donate to the General Prosecutor’s Office of Ukraine a laboratory dedicated to DNA analysis.<sup>867</sup> The goal of this donation is to increase Ukraine’s capacity to store and analyze evidence of war crimes and crimes against humanity, particularly from its current conflict with Russia.

On 30 August 2022, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and Argentina’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship reaffirmed their commitment to combat enforced disappearances of women.<sup>868</sup> Together, both states encouraged all nations to sign on to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

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<sup>864</sup> Joint statement from foreign ministers on the Taliban’s ban on Afghan women working for national and international NGOs, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 December 2022. Access Date: 11 January 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/12/joint-statement-from-foreign-ministers-on-the-talibans-ban-on-afghan-women-working-for-national-and-international-ngos.html>

<sup>865</sup> Canada imposes sanctions on Sri Lankan state officials for human rights violations, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 10 January 2023. Access Date: 11 January 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2023/01/canada-imposes-sanctions-on-sri-lankan-state-officials-for-human-rights-violations.html>

<sup>866</sup> La Dihal et ses partenaires se mobilisent pour prévenir les risques de traite à l’égard des personnes déplacées d’Ukraine, Délégation interministérielle à l’hébergement et à l’accès au logement (Paris) 8 July 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 20 October 2022. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/la-dihal-et-ses-partenaires-se-mobilisent-pour-prevenir-les-risques-de-traite-a-l-egard-des>

<sup>867</sup> La France fait don d’un laboratoire mobile d’analyse ADN à l’Ukraine, Ministère de l’intérieur et de l’outre-mer (Paris) 15 July 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 28 October 2022. <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/actualites/communiqués/france-fait-don-dun-laboratoire-mobile-danalyse-adn-a-lukraine>

<sup>868</sup> International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances – Joint press release by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and the Argentinean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 30 August 2022. Access Date: 30 October 2022. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/news/article/international-day-of-the-victims-of-enforced-disappearances-joint-press-release>

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On 8 September 2022, France participated in a Roundtable of G7 Data Protection Authorities in Bonn, Germany.<sup>869</sup> The goal of this roundtable was to address the significance of privacy-enhancing technologies, the role of data protection authorities and regulations of artificial intelligence.

On 22 September 2022, the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna chaired the Summit for Information and Democracy.<sup>870</sup> At this conference, Minister Colonna reaffirmed the commitment to ensuring all countries' legal frameworks regarding freedom of opinion and expression are in alignment with human rights standards.

On 23 September 2022, France and Germany organized a ministerial meeting on the topic of “Shaping Global Cybersecurity: A Call for Action to Promote Responsible State Behaviour & Capacity-Building.”<sup>871</sup> The goal of this meeting was to discuss a plan for developing and improving current rules in cyberspace.

On 28 September 2022, France recognized International Safe Abortion Day claiming that it was “[unwaveringly] committed to this inalienable right.”<sup>872</sup>

On 28 September 2022, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs partnered with the CMA CGM Foundation to strengthen its “A Boat for Ukraine” operation.<sup>873</sup> The goal of this project is to transport more than 1,000 tons of humanitarian goods to Romania where they will then be picked up by Ukrainian partners.

On 28 September 2022, President Emmanuel Macron announced a partnership between France and Germany regarding the World Food Programme.<sup>874</sup> The two countries plan to contribute 50,000 tons of wheat provided free of charge by Ukraine to Somalia and Ethiopia.

On 29 September 2022, the National Council for Policies to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion (CNLE) held its plenary meeting.<sup>875</sup> Minister of Solidarity, Autonomy, and People with Disabilities Jean-Christophe Combe proposed the creation of a “Solidarity Pact” to bring together relevant stakeholders in the social security industry.

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<sup>869</sup> EDPS attends roundtable of G7 Data Protection and Privacy Authorities, European Data Protection Board (Brussels) 4 November 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. [https://edps.europa.eu/press-publications/publications/newsletters/newsletter-97\\_en#roundtable](https://edps.europa.eu/press-publications/publications/newsletters/newsletter-97_en#roundtable)

<sup>870</sup> International Partnership for Information and Democracy, Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 29 September 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/multilateralism-a-principle-of-action-for-france/alliance-for-multilateralism/the-information-and-democracy-partnership/article/international-partnership-for-information-and-democracy>

<sup>871</sup> Joint statement by the French and German ministers for Foreign Affairs – Shaping global cybersecurity, Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 25 September 2022. Access Date: 30 October 2022. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/news-and-events/united-nations-general-assembly/unga-s-77th-session/article/joint-statement-by-the-french-and-german-ministers-for-foreign-affairs-shaping>

<sup>872</sup> Feminist diplomacy – Global health – International Safe Abortion Day (September 28, 2022), Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 28 September 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/feminist-diplomacy/news/article/feminist-diplomacy-global-health-international-safe-abortion-day-sept-28-22>

<sup>873</sup> Lancement de l'opération "Bateau pour l'Ukraine", Gouvernement Français (Paris) 29 September 2022. Translation provided by Google Translation. Access Date: 20 October 2022. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/actualite/lancement-de-loperation-un-bateau-pour-lukraine>

<sup>874</sup> Global food security – Contributions from France and Germany to the World Food Programme operation transporting Ukrainian grain to Somalia and Ethiopia, Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 28 September 2022. Access Date: 30 October 2022. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/food-security-nutrition-and-sustainable-agriculture/news/article/global-food-security-contributions-from-france-and-germany-to-the-world-food>

<sup>875</sup> Réunion plénière du CNLE du 29 septembre 2022, Ministère des Solidarités, de l'Autonomie et des Personnes Handicapées (Paris) 13 October 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 October 2022. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/actualites-du-ministere/article/reunion-pleniere-du-cnle-du-29-septembre-2022>

On 30 September 2022, France along with other G7 Foreign Ministers, released a statement on the illegal annexation of sovereign Ukrainian territory.<sup>876</sup> All G7 members expressed united condemnation of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and Russia's continued violations of Ukraine's sovereignty and independence.

On 3 October 2022, the Secretary of State to the Prime Minister Charlotte Caubel launched a campaign to establish national helpline numbers that would connect authorities with children fighting violence.<sup>877</sup> The campaign will promote the number "119" for victims of violence, "3018" for victims of cyberbullying and "3020" for victims of bullying in schools.

On 13 October 2022, the Ministry of the Interior launched the Radio Network of the Future (RRF) project.<sup>878</sup> This project aims to modernize the communication between security and emergency actors by providing a high-speed communication network for all relevant actors.

On 13 October, France organized a day around the concept of being "all resilient in the face of risks."<sup>879</sup> This day aimed to raise public awareness surrounding technological and cyberspace threats.

On 18 October 2022, the Cyberdefense Command opened the TAMERLAN exercise at the Cyber Center for Operational Preparation.<sup>880</sup> The goal of this training exercise was to strengthen cyber combatants and equip them to react in emergency situations.

On 20 October 2022, the Interministerial Mission for the Protection of Women against Violence and the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings and the Ministerial Statistical Service for Internal Security published the results of its annual survey surrounding victims of human trafficking.<sup>881</sup> The survey emphasized the rising threat of new technologies being used to target victims.

On 20 October 2022, France, along with the undersigned members of the Freedom Online Coalition, called upon the Government of Iran to lift the country's nationwide internet restrictions.<sup>882</sup> Under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Coalition declares that cutting off mobile data, disrupting social media, cutting internet services, blocking users and accessing private devices are clear violations of human rights.

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<sup>876</sup> Déclaration des ministres des Affaires étrangères du G7 sur l'annexion illégale du territoire ukrainien souverain, ministère des Affaires étrangères et de la Coopération internationale (Rome) 30 September 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 2 November 2022. [https://www.esteri.it/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/09/g7-foreign-ministers-statement-on-the-illegal-annexation-of-sovereign-ukrainian-territory/](https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/09/g7-foreign-ministers-statement-on-the-illegal-annexation-of-sovereign-ukrainian-territory/)

<sup>877</sup> Harcèlement, agression, violence : trois chiffres pour aider les enfants en danger, Gouvernement Français (Paris) 4 October 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 20 October 2022.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/actualite/harcèlement-agressions-violences-trois-numeros-pour-aider-les-enfants-en-danger>

<sup>878</sup> Lancement du projet « Réseau Radio du Futur » (RRF), le réseau souverain à très haut débit des services de sécurité et de secours, ministère de l'Intérieur et de l'Outre-mer (Paris) 13 October 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 28 October 2022. <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/actualites/communiqués/lancement-du-projet-reseau-radio-du-futur-rrf-reseau-tres-haut-debit>

<sup>879</sup> Résilience face aux risques, Gouvernement de la France (Paris) 13 October 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 4 November 2022. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/actualite/tous-resilients-face-aux-risques>

<sup>880</sup> TAMERLAN 2022 : les nouvelles recrues de COMCYBER pratiquent la crise, Ministère des Armées Forcées (Paris) 26 October 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 26 October 2022.

<https://www.defense.gouv.fr/ema/actualites/tamerlan-2022-nouvelles-recrues-du-comcyber-sexercent-a-crise>

<sup>881</sup> Traite des êtres humains en France : profil des victimes accompagnées par des associations en 2021, ministère de l'Intérieur et de l'Outre-mer (Paris) 20 October 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 4 November 2022.

<https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/actualites/communiqués/traité-des-êtres-humains-en-france-profil-des-victimes-accompagnées-par-0>

<sup>882</sup> Freedom Online Coalition Joint Statement on Internet Shutdowns in Iran, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 20 October 2022.

Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/10/freedom-online-coalition-joint-statement-on-internet-shutdowns-in-iran.html>

On 28 October 2022, the Minister Delegate for the Digital Transition and Telecommunications Jean-Noël Barrot announced the launch of 17 cybersecurity projects.<sup>883</sup> These projects will increase training efforts, develop new solutions, and strengthen partnerships between relevant actors, all within the realm of cybersecurity.

On 9 November 2022, the Directorate General of Armaments initiated the third annual DG'hAck challenge.<sup>884</sup> The goal of this event was to highlight vulnerabilities in France's digital systems and subsequently challenge cyber experts to present innovative solutions to such issues.

On 24 November 2022, the Cyber Center for Operational Preparation under the Command of COMCYBER led a French team to engage in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Cyber Coalition 2022.<sup>885</sup> This team consisted of soldiers, civilians, and reservists from official positions and civil society. The team worked to address cybersecurity weaknesses across NATO states, ultimately aiming to strengthen cyber resilience.

On 25 November 2022, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs held an event for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.<sup>886</sup> At this event, the Ministry reaffirmed France's commitment to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence and impunity for abusers.

On 26 November 2022, President Macron announced an additional contribution of EUR6 million to the World Food Programme.<sup>887</sup> This donation will further support efforts to transport Ukrainian grain to Sudan and Yemen.

On 12 December 2022, Minister of the Interior and Overseas Territories Gérald Darmanin, Minister of Health and Prevention François Braun, and the Minister Barrot organized a meeting on the cybersecurity of hospitals.<sup>888</sup> The ministers announced a comprehensive program regarding cyber incidents involving new exercises, resources and planning tools.

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<sup>883</sup> France 2030 soutient 17 projets de cybersécurité, Gouvernement Français (Paris) 4 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 December 2022. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/actualite/france-2030-soutient-17-projets-pour-la-cybersecurite>

<sup>884</sup> Cyberdefense: take part in the DG'hAck 2022 challenge, Ministry of the Armed Forces (Paris) 9 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 December 2022. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/dga/actualites/cyberdefense-participez-au-challenge-dghack-2022>

<sup>885</sup> COMCYBER participe à CYBER COALITION 2022, l'exercice international à grande échelle de l'OTAN, Ministère des Armées (Paris) 9 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 December 2022. <https://www.defense.gouv.fr/ema/actualites/comcyber-participe-a-cyber-coalition-2022-exercice-international-grande-envergure-lotan>

<sup>886</sup> Politique étrangère féministe – Journée internationale pour l'élimination de la violence à l'égard des femmes (25 novembre 2022), ministère des Affaires européennes et étrangères (Paris) 25 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 December 2022. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/feminist-diplomacy/news/article/feminist-foreign-policy-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence>

<sup>887</sup> Sécurité alimentaire – La France poursuit ses actions pour renforcer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (26 novembre 2022), Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères (Paris) 26 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 December 2022. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/food-security-nutrition-and-sustainable-agriculture/news/article/food-security-france-continues-to-take-action-to-strengthen-global-food>

<sup>888</sup> Nouveaux engagements pour renforcer la cybersécurité des établissements de santé, Ministère de l'Intérieur et de l'Outre-Mer (Paris) 21 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 December 2022. <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/actualites/communiqués/de-nouveaux-engagements-pour-renforcer-cybersecurite-des-etablissements-de>

On 13 December 2022, France hosted the Solidarity with the Ukrainian people conference.<sup>889</sup> The meeting aimed to meet the needs of Ukrainian for the winter and guarantee the resilience of infrastructure in five key areas: access to energy, access to water, agri-food, health, transport.

On 29 December 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, alongside the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Denmark, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States and the High Representative of the European Union, released a joint statement condemning the “barring of female employees of national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from the workplace” as it “puts at risk millions of Afghans who depend on humanitarian assistance for their survival.”<sup>890</sup> The statement called on the Taliban to immediately reverse this decision.

France has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end. France has developed domestic policies with agencies like the CNLE to strengthen its cyberspace and provide its citizens with digital security and the RRF and TAMERLAN exercise to better equip and train first responders. France has also worked with international partners such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Germany and Ukraine to extend humanitarian and technological assistance thus affirming its support of human rights initiatives both within its borders and across the globe.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Hannab Cluroe*

### **Germany: 0**

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end.

On 25 August 2022, Human Rights Commissioner of Germany Luise Amtsberg released a statement calling upon the Vietnamese Government to advocate for the prison release of human rights journalist Pham Doan Trang.<sup>891</sup> Additionally, Commissioner Amtsberg urged the government to protect the rule-of-law and provide insight on proceedings to international observers.

On 8 September 2022, Germany participated in a Roundtable of G7 Data Protection Authorities in Bonn, Germany.<sup>892</sup> The goal of this roundtable was to address the significance of privacy-enhancing technologies, the role of data protection authorities and regulations of artificial intelligence.

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<sup>889</sup> International conference in support of the Ukrainian people – Statement by the French and Ukrainian co-chairs (13 December 2022), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Paris) 13 December 2022. Access Date: 11 January 2023. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/ukraine/news/article/international-conference-in-support-of-the-ukrainian-people-statement-by-the>

<sup>890</sup> Joint statement from foreign ministers on the Taliban’s ban on Afghan women working for national and international NGOs, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 December 2022. Access Date: 11 January 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/12/joint-statement-from-foreign-ministers-on-the-talibans-ban-on-afghan-women-working-for-national-and-international-ngos.html>

<sup>891</sup> Statement by Human Rights Commissioner Luise Amtsberg on the decision by a Hanoi court of appeal to uphold the sentencing of human rights defender Pham Doan Trang to nine years’ imprisonment, German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 25 August 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/human-rights-commissioner-pham-doan-trang/2548474>

<sup>892</sup> EDPS attends roundtable of G7 Data Protection and Privacy Authorities, European Data Protection Board (Brussels) 4 November 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. [https://edps.europa.eu/press-publications/publications/newsletters/newsletter-97\\_en#roundtable](https://edps.europa.eu/press-publications/publications/newsletters/newsletter-97_en#roundtable)

On 23 September 2022, Germany and France organized a ministerial meeting on the topic of “Shaping Global Cybersecurity: A Call for Action to Promote Responsible State Behaviour & Capacity-Building.”<sup>893</sup> The goal of this meeting was to discuss a plan for developing and improving current rules in cyberspace.

On 28 September 2022, Germany and France announced a partnership regarding the World Food Programme.<sup>894</sup> The two countries plan to contribute 50,000 tons of wheat provided free of charge by Ukraine to Somalia and Ethiopia.

On 30 September 2022, Germany, along with other G7 Foreign Ministers, released a statement on the illegal annexation of sovereign Ukrainian territory.<sup>895</sup> All G7 members expressed united condemnation of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and Russia’s continued violations of Ukraine’s sovereignty and independence.

On 7 October 2022, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Niels Annen travelled to Amman, Jordan where he pledged over EUR95 million for short-term employment and educational programs to help over 700,000 Syrian refugees within Jordan.<sup>896</sup> The goal of this meeting was to discuss developmental strategies of how best to implement the funding for those displaced by conflict in Jordan.

On 13 October 2022, Interior Minister Nancy Faeser conducted a high-level meeting to discuss the Ukrainian refugee situation.<sup>897</sup> In response to the poor housing situation resulting from the large number of Ukrainian refugees, Germany pledged additional housing for 4000 more refugees. Federal, state and local governments will also launch a platform where experts may discuss solutions to the refugee housing crisis.

On 14 October 2022, Minister for Women’s Affairs Lisa Paus attended the Gender Equality Ministers Meeting in Berlin.<sup>898</sup> The Ministers made a joint declaration to increase equality in times of crisis and conflict for women. Additionally, Paus called upon Iran to honor human rights and end its oppression of women.

On 17 October 2022, Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock and Minister Faeser announced the federal humanitarian admission program.<sup>899</sup> This program is to be used for Afghans at risk due to conflict.

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<sup>893</sup> Joint statement by the French and German ministers for Foreign Affairs – Shaping global cybersecurity, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 25 September 2022. Access Date: 30 October 2022. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/news-and-events/united-nations-general-assembly/unga-s-77th-session/article/joint-statement-by-the-french-and-german-ministers-for-foreign-affairs-shaping>

<sup>894</sup> Global food security – Contributions from France and Germany to the World Food Programme operation transporting Ukrainian grain to Somalia and Ethiopia, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 28 September 2022. Access Date: 30 October 2022. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/food-security-nutrition-and-sustainable-agriculture/news/article/global-food-security-contributions-from-france-and-germany-to-the-world-food>

<sup>895</sup> Dichiarazione dei Ministri degli Esteri del G7 sull’annessione illegale del territorio ucraino sovrano, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 30 September 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 2 November 2022. [https://www.esteri.it/it/sala\\_stamp/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/09/g7-foreign-ministers-statement-on-the-illegal-annexation-of-sovereign-ukrainian-territory/](https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stamp/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/09/g7-foreign-ministers-statement-on-the-illegal-annexation-of-sovereign-ukrainian-territory/)

<sup>896</sup> Government Negotiations with Jordan: Through its development cooperation, Germany supports stabilisation in Middle East, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 7 October 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/government-negotiations-with-jordan-125772>

<sup>897</sup> Federal Interior Minister Nancy Faeser: An extraordinary joint effort, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 13 October 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. [https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2022/10/high-level-meeting\\_refugees.html](https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2022/10/high-level-meeting_refugees.html)

<sup>898</sup> Closer Cooperation and More Ambitious Goals, German Federal Government (Berlin) 14 October 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/g7-gender-equality-ministers-2134642>

<sup>899</sup> Humanitäres Aufnahmeprogramm für queere Geflüchtete aus Afghanistan, Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend (Berlin) 17 October 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: November 2022. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/humanitaeres-aufnahmeprogramm-fuer-queere-gefluechtete-aus-afghanistan-202580>



On 20 October 2022, Minister Faeser, along with 16 countries and the EU, met at the Western Balkans Summit in Berlin to discuss human trafficking.<sup>900</sup> They committed to further increase border security ties between the countries and measures targeted at immigrant human smugglers.

On 20 October 2022, Germany, along with the undersigned members of the Freedom Online Coalition, called upon the Government of Iran to lift the country's nationwide internet restrictions.<sup>901</sup> Under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Coalition declares that cutting off mobile data, disrupting social media, cutting internet services, blocking users and accessing private devices are clear violations of human rights.

On 18 November 2022, the Ministry for Family Affairs set up an independent reporting body to investigate human rights trafficking.<sup>902</sup> The Ministry will provide funding to the German Institute for Human Rights to "ensure that international regulations are implemented more effectively by collecting and evaluating data."

On 28 October 2022, Germany withdrew its reservations about the Istanbul Conference.<sup>903</sup> This action will lead to a full implementation of both Articles 59 and 44 which discuss personal situations of victims and provisions of national criminal law, respectively. This added measure will better address the human rights violation of gender-based violence.

On 28 November 2022, Minister of Justice Marco Buschmann and Italy's Minister of Justice Carlo Nordio met to discuss the fight against war crimes in Ukraine.<sup>904</sup> Both ministers assured their utmost support for ongoing investigations by the International Criminal Court.

On 29 December 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, alongside the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Denmark, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States and the High Representative of the European Union, released a joint statement condemning the "barring of female employees of national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from the workplace" as it "puts at risk millions of Afghans who depend on humanitarian assistance for their survival."<sup>905</sup> The statement called on the Taliban to immediately reverse this decision.

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end. Through upholding the accountability of other countries and protecting refugees and vulnerable groups, Germany has complied with promoting human rights on a national and international level. However, Germany did not take strong action to protect human rights in the digital sphere.

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<sup>900</sup> Close cooperation with the Western Balkan countries, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 26 October 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022.

[https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2022/10/close\\_cooperation\\_with\\_the\\_western\\_balkan\\_countries.html](https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2022/10/close_cooperation_with_the_western_balkan_countries.html)

<sup>901</sup> Freedom Online Coalition Joint Statement on Internet Shutdowns in Iran, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 20 October 2022.

Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/10/freedom-online-coalition-joint-statement-on-internet-shutdowns-in-iran.html>

<sup>902</sup> Bundesregierung verstärkt Kampf gegen Menschenhandel, Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend (Berlin) 18 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 January 2023.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/bundesregierung-verstaerkt-kampf-gegen-menschenhandel-205132>

<sup>903</sup> Bundesregierung verstärkt Kampf gegen Menschenhandel, Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend (Berlin) 28 October 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 November 2022. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/bundesregierung-zieht-vorbehalte-gegen-istanbul-konvention-zurueck-202866>

<sup>904</sup> Bilaterale Italia-Germania su Tub e Ucraina, Ministero della giustizia (Rome) 28 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 25 December 2022. <https://www.gnewsonline.it/g7-giustizia-bilaterale-italia-germania-su-tub-e-ucraina/>

<sup>905</sup> Joint statement from foreign ministers on the Taliban's ban on Afghan women working for national and international NGOs, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 December 2022. Access Date: 11 January 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/12/joint-statement-from-foreign-ministers-on-the-talibans-ban-on-afghan-women-working-for-national-and-international-ngos.html>

Thus, Germany receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Maeva Kelly*

**Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end.

On 25 July 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs committed to new humanitarian corridors for 300 Afghan citizens departing from Iran and Pakistan to arrive in Rome.<sup>906</sup> This initiative is part of the “Italian Plan for the Afghan People” and relates to the Memorandum of Understanding for humanitarian corridors and evacuations from Afghanistan.

On 31 August 2022, the Italian Agency for Development and Cooperation arranged an emergency contribution of EUR250,000 towards the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (FICROSS) in Sudan.<sup>907</sup>

On 1 September 2022, the Italian Agency for Development and Cooperation made an emergency contribution of EUR500,000 to FICROSS in Pakistan.<sup>908</sup>

On 8 September 2022, Italy participated in a Roundtable of G7 Data Protection Authorities in Bonn, Germany.<sup>909</sup> The goal of this roundtable was to address the significance of privacy-enhancing technologies, the role of data protection authorities and regulations of artificial intelligence.

On 30 September 2022, Italy, along with other G7 Foreign Ministers, released a statement on the illegal annexation of sovereign Ukrainian territory.<sup>910</sup> All G7 members expressed united condemnation of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and Russia’s continued violations of Ukraine’s sovereignty and independence.

On 5 October 2022, the Italian Agency for Development and Cooperation arranged two emergency grants worth a total of almost EUR2 million to meet the growing humanitarian needs of the Lebanese population.<sup>911</sup>

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<sup>906</sup> Sudan. Contributo di emergenza della Cooperazione Italiana in risposta alle forti inondazioni che hanno colpito il Paese, Ministero degli Affari Esterie della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 25 July 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 2 November 2022. [https://www.esteri.it/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/08/sudan-contributo-di-emergenza-della-cooperazione-italiana-in-risposta-alle-forti-inondazioni-che-hanno-colpito-il-paese/](https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/08/sudan-contributo-di-emergenza-della-cooperazione-italiana-in-risposta-alle-forti-inondazioni-che-hanno-colpito-il-paese/)

<sup>907</sup> Sudan. Contributo di emergenza della Cooperazione Italiana in risposta alle forti inondazioni che hanno colpito il Paese, Ministero degli Affari Esterie della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 25 July 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 2 November 2022. [https://www.esteri.it/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/08/sudan-contributo-di-emergenza-della-cooperazione-italiana-in-risposta-alle-forti-inondazioni-che-hanno-colpito-il-paese/](https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/08/sudan-contributo-di-emergenza-della-cooperazione-italiana-in-risposta-alle-forti-inondazioni-che-hanno-colpito-il-paese/)

<sup>908</sup> Pakistan. Contributo di emergenza della Cooperazione Italiana in risposta alle alluvioni, Ministero degli Affari Esterie della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 1 September 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 2 November 2022. [https://www.esteri.it/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/09/pakistan-contributo-di-emergenza-della-cooperazione-italiana-in-risposta-alle-alluvioni/](https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/09/pakistan-contributo-di-emergenza-della-cooperazione-italiana-in-risposta-alle-alluvioni/)

<sup>909</sup> EDPS attends roundtable of G7 Data Protection and Privacy Authorities, European Data Protection Board (Brussels) 4 November 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. [https://edps.europa.eu/press-publications/publications/newsletters/newsletter-97\\_en#roundtable](https://edps.europa.eu/press-publications/publications/newsletters/newsletter-97_en#roundtable)

<sup>910</sup> Dichiarazione dei Ministri degli Esteri del G7 sull’annessione illegale del territorio sovranamente ucraino, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 30 September 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 2 November 2022. [https://www.esteri.it/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/09/g7-foreign-ministers-statement-on-the-illegal-annexation-of-sovereign-ukrainian-territory/](https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/09/g7-foreign-ministers-statement-on-the-illegal-annexation-of-sovereign-ukrainian-territory/)

<sup>911</sup> Libano. Contributi di emergenza della Cooperazione Italiana in favore della FICROSS e dell’OMS, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 5 October 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 2 November 2022. [https://www.esteri.it/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/10/libano-contributi-di-emergenza-della-cooperazione-italiana-in-favore-della-ficross-e-delloms/](https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/10/libano-contributi-di-emergenza-della-cooperazione-italiana-in-favore-della-ficross-e-delloms/)

Of these, EUR750,000 is directed to the World Health Organization for the purchase and supply of drugs necessary for the treatment of patients suffering from serious diseases.

On 12 October 2022, the Department for the Digital Transition of Justice, Statistical Analysis and Cohesion Policies launched the Online Court Project in the four judicial offices of Catania, Catanzaro, Marsala and north Naples to advance their digitization<sup>912</sup> The digitalization of courts allow for the increase of accessibility when patrolling human rights violations in the digital sphere.

On 20 October 2022, Italy, along with the undersigned members of the Freedom Online Coalition, called upon the Government of Iran to lift the country's nationwide internet restrictions.<sup>913</sup> Under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Coalition declares that cutting off mobile data, disrupting social media, cutting internet services, blocking users and accessing private devices are clear violations of human rights.

On 8 November 2022, the Ministry of Education engaged in a consultation for the updating of the National Digital School Plan.<sup>914</sup> The General Directorate for Structural Funds for Education, School Construction and Digital Schools aims to update the Plan in light of the rapid evolution of digital technologies, ensuring structural provisions for the human right of education in the digital sphere.

On 25 November 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs joined the “UNITE! Activism to End Violence against Women & Girls” campaign promoted by UN Women which was focused on the fundamental contribution of civil society movements, organizations and women's rights activists to raise public awareness on these issues.<sup>915</sup> Italy expressed its firmest condemnation against all forms of discrimination and violence against women.

On 28 November 2022, Minister of Justice Carlo Nordio and Germany's Minister of Justice Marco Buschmann, met to discuss the fight against war crimes in Ukraine.<sup>916</sup> Both ministers assured their utmost support for ongoing investigations by the International Criminal Court.

On 29 December 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, alongside the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Denmark, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States and the High Representative of the European Union, released a joint statement condemning the “barring of female employees of national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from the workplace” as it “puts at risk millions of Afghans who depend on humanitarian assistance for their survival.”<sup>917</sup> The statement called on the Taliban to immediately reverse this decision.

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<sup>912</sup> Digitalizzazione della giustizia, parte il nuovo tribunale online, Ministero della Giustizia (Rome) 12 October 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 25 December 2022. <https://www.gnewsonline.it/digitalizzazione-della-giustizia-parte-il-nuovo-tribunale-online-2/>

<sup>913</sup> Freedom Online Coalition Joint Statement on Internet Shutdowns in Iran, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 20 October 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/10/freedom-online-coalition-joint-statement-on-internet-shutdowns-in-iran.html>

<sup>914</sup> Consultazione per l'aggiornamento del Piano Nazionale Scuola Digitale, Ministero dell'Istruzione e del Merito (Rome) 8 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 25 December 2022. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/consultazione-per-attualizzazione-del-piano-nazionale-scuola-digitale>

<sup>915</sup> 25 novembre: Giornata Internazionale per l'Eliminazione della Violenza contro le Donne, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 25 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 25 December 2022. [https://www.esteri.it/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/11/25-novembre-giornata-internazionale-per-leliminazione-della-violenza-contro-le-donne/](https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/11/25-novembre-giornata-internazionale-per-leliminazione-della-violenza-contro-le-donne/)

<sup>916</sup> G7 Giustizia. Bilaterale Italia-Germania su Tub e Ucraina, Ministero della Giustizia (Rome) 28 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 25 December 2022. <https://www.gnewsonline.it/g7-giustizia-bilaterale-italia-germania-su-tub-e-ucraina/>

<sup>917</sup> Joint statement from foreign ministers on the Taliban's ban on Afghan women working for national and international NGOs, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 December 2022. Access Date: 11 January 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/12/joint-statement-from-foreign-ministers-on-the-talibans-ban-on-afghan-women-working-for-national-and-international-ngos.html>

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end. Administering emergency aid to countries experiencing hardship, adequately ensuring the human right of education in the digital sphere, and advancing digitization indicates Italy's commitment to promoting human rights on and offline.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Kaamilah Moola*

### **Japan: 0**

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end.

On 30 June 2022, the fourth Japan-India Cyber Dialogue was held virtually where they discussed national cyber policies and cybersecurity strategies.<sup>918</sup> The goal of this dialogue was to underline interest in the safekeeping of human rights on the online sphere.

On 5 July 2022, Japan provided monetary assistance totaling approximately USD200 million as a response to the deterioration of global food security, as exacerbated by the conflict in Ukraine.<sup>919</sup> This sum aims to provide food assistance and capacity building for countries facing food shortages and provide emergency food assistance as humanitarian aid to countries in the Middle East and Africa, as well as to support the promotion of grain exports from Ukraine through bilateral assistance.

On 12 July 2022, Japan provided emergency relief goods of water purifiers and jerry cans through the Japan International Cooperation Agency to the Republic of Kiribati in response to the damages caused by the drought.<sup>920</sup>

On 12 July 2022, Japan extended an emergency grant aid of USD3 million to Afghanistan in response to the damages caused by the earthquake that had occurred in eastern Afghanistan.<sup>921</sup> This is a monetary alliance in the provision of access to health and medical care, shelter, water and sanitation through the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

On 29 July 2022, Japan provided emergency relief goods like generators, portable jerry cans, tents, sleeping pads and plastic sheets through the Japan International Cooperation Agency to the Philippines in response to the damages caused by the earthquake in the northern Philippines.<sup>922</sup>

On 8 September 2022, Japan participated in a Roundtable of G7 Data Protection Authorities in Bonn, Germany.<sup>923</sup> The goal of this roundtable was to address the significance of privacy-enhancing technologies, the role of data protection authorities and regulations of artificial intelligence.

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<sup>918</sup> Fourth Japan-India Cyber Dialogue, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 30 June 2022. Access Date: 2 November 2022.

[https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000303.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000303.html)

<sup>919</sup> Response to the Global Food Security affected by the Situation in Ukraine, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 5 July 2022.

Access Date: 2 November 2022. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000304.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000304.html)

<sup>920</sup> Emergency Assistance to the Republic of Kiribati in Response to the Drought, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 12 July 2022.

Access Date: 2 November 2022. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000305.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000305.html)

<sup>921</sup> Emergency Grant Aid in response to the earthquake in eastern Afghanistan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 12 July 2022.

Access Date: 2 November 2022. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e\\_000423.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000423.html)

<sup>922</sup> Emergency Assistance to the Republic of the Philippines in Response to the Earthquake in the Northern Philippines, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 29 July 2022. Access Date: 2 November 2022.

[https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000314.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000314.html)

<sup>923</sup> EDPS attends roundtable of G7 Data Protection and Privacy Authorities, European Data Protection Board (Brussels) 4 November 2022.

Access Date: 4 November 2022. [https://edps.europa.eu/press-publications/publications/newsletters/newsletter-97\\_en#roundtable](https://edps.europa.eu/press-publications/publications/newsletters/newsletter-97_en#roundtable)

On 16 September 2022, Japan decided to extend emergency grant aid of USD7 million to Pakistan in response to the damages caused by the flood disaster.<sup>924</sup> Japan's emergency grant aid will allow implementing humanitarian assistance activities for those seriously affected by the flooding disaster in different parts of Pakistan through multiple international organizations in areas such as food, shelter, health and medical care.

On 30 September 2022, Japan, along with other G7 Foreign Ministers, released a statement on the illegal annexation of sovereign Ukrainian territory.<sup>925</sup> All G7 members expressed united condemnation of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and Russia's continued violations of Ukraine's sovereignty and independence.

On 20 October 2022, Japan, along with the undersigned members of the Freedom Online Coalition, called upon the Government of Iran to lift the country's nationwide internet restrictions.<sup>926</sup> Under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Coalition declares that cutting off mobile data, disrupting social media, cutting internet services, blocking users and accessing private devices are clear violations of human rights.

On 28 October 2022, Japan provided an emergency grant aid of USD1 million to the Kyrgyz Republic in response to the deterioration of the local humanitarian situation caused by clashes at the country's border with Tajikistan.<sup>927</sup> This Emergency Grant Aid will allow the implementation of humanitarian assistance activities through the World Food Programme and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in areas such as food, shelter and non-food items.

On 20 December 2022, Press Secretary Hikariko Ono expressed firm condemnation against the Taliban's suspension of Girls' Higher Education in Afghanistan.<sup>928</sup> In efforts to promote human rights on a global level, Secretary Ono expressed the standard of women's education as fundamental when advocating for the right of all Afghans to be guaranteed equal access to education regardless of gender.

On 22 December 2022, the Government of Japan provided generators as support to protect the lives of the people of Ukraine.<sup>929</sup> Generators are meant to "secure lifelines such as heating and water in the midst of continuing severe cold."

On 29 December 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, alongside the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Denmark, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States and the High Representative of the European Union, released a joint statement condemning the "barring of female employees of national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from the workplace"

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<sup>924</sup> Emergency Grant Aid in response to the Flood Disaster in Pakistan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 September 2022. Access Date: 2 November 2022. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e\\_000401.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000401.html)

<sup>925</sup> Dichiarazione dei Ministri degli Esteri del G7 sull'annessione illegale del territorio ucraino sovrano, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 30 September 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 2 November 2022. [https://www.esteri.it/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/09/g7-foreign-ministers-statement-on-the-illegal-annexation-of-sovereign-ukrainian-territory/](https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/09/g7-foreign-ministers-statement-on-the-illegal-annexation-of-sovereign-ukrainian-territory/)

<sup>926</sup> Freedom Online Coalition Joint Statement on Internet Shutdowns in Iran, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 20 October 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/10/freedom-online-coalition-joint-statement-on-internet-shutdowns-in-iran.html>

<sup>927</sup> Emergency Grant Aid in response to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the Kyrgyz Republic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 28 October 2022. Access Date: 2 November 2022. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_003173.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_003173.html)

<sup>928</sup> Suspension of Girls' Higher Education in Afghanistan (Statement by Press Secretary ONO Hikariko), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 20 December 2022. Access Date: 24 December 2022. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e\\_000523.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000523.html)

<sup>929</sup> Provision of Generators to Ukraine, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 22 December 2022. Access Date: 11 January 2023. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e\\_000525.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000525.html)

as it “puts at risk millions of Afghans who depend on humanitarian assistance for their survival.”<sup>930</sup> The statement called on the Taliban to immediately reverse this decision.

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end. Administering emergency grant aid to countries experiencing hardship indicates Japan’s commitment to promoting human rights. However, while Japan has complied in taking strong monetary and ally-based action with other nations and organizations when promoting human rights within the offline sphere, Japan has not taken strong action when promoting human rights within the online sphere.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Kaamilah Moola*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end.

On 8 September 2022, the UK participated in a Roundtable of G7 Data Protection Authorities in Bonn, Germany.<sup>931</sup> The goal of this roundtable was to address the significance of privacy-enhancing technologies, the role of data protection authorities and regulations of artificial intelligence.

On 29 September 2022, the UK invested funding up to GBP200,000 to assess the cybersecurity of business devices that are connected to the Internet.<sup>932</sup> This new investment is part of the GBP2.6 billion National Cyber Strategies plan, which encourages organizations to support further research into digital safety of office devices. With the intention to assess the cyber resilience across British businesses, this initiative aims to uncover vulnerabilities in these prevalently used enterprise products and subsequently expand the digital economy.

On 30 September 2022, the UK, along with other G7 Foreign Ministers, released a statement on the illegal annexation of sovereign Ukrainian territory.<sup>933</sup> All G7 members expressed united condemnation of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and Russia’s continued violations of Ukraine’s sovereignty and independence.

On 3 October 2022, the UK was elected to the governing council of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).<sup>934</sup> The ITU oversees the international spectrum coordination and satellite networks that support technologies such as mobiles, Wi-Fi and GPS navigations. By becoming a member of the ITU’s council, the UK promoted a free and safe cyberspace with its global partners.

On 7 October 2022, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Michelle Donelan made a joint statement with the US’ Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo on the launch of “a new senior-level

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<sup>930</sup> Joint statement from foreign ministers on the Taliban’s ban on Afghan women working for national and international NGOs, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 December 2022. Access Date: 11 January 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/12/joint-statement-from-foreign-ministers-on-the-talibans-ban-on-afghan-women-working-for-national-and-international-ngos.html>

<sup>931</sup> EDPS attends roundtable of G7 Data Protection and Privacy Authorities, European Data Protection Board (Brussels) 4 November 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. [https://edps.europa.eu/press-publications/publications/newsletters/newsletter-97\\_en#roundtable](https://edps.europa.eu/press-publications/publications/newsletters/newsletter-97_en#roundtable)

<sup>932</sup> Up to £200,000 available to test security of smart devices used by nearly all UK businesses, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (London) 29 September 2022. Access Date: 23 October 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/up-to-200000-available-to-test-security-of-smart-devices-used-by-nearly-all-uk-businesses>

<sup>933</sup> G7 Foreign Ministers’ Statement on the illegal annexation of sovereign Ukrainian territory, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 30 September 2022. Access Date: 2 November 2022. [https://www.esteri.it/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/09/g7-foreign-ministers-statement-on-the-illegal-annexation-of-sovereign-ukrainian-territory/](https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/09/g7-foreign-ministers-statement-on-the-illegal-annexation-of-sovereign-ukrainian-territory/)

<sup>934</sup> UK wins seat on top UN telecoms council, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (London) 3 October 2022. Access Date: 23 October 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-wins-seat-on-top-un-telecoms-council>

Comprehensive Dialogue on Technology and Data” to further joint efforts regarding technology and democratic values.<sup>935</sup>

On 13 October 2022, the UK issued an additional GBP10 million of funding to flood relief efforts in Pakistan.<sup>936</sup> Minister of State Tariq Ahmad visited the regions most affected and spoke with important UK-funded agencies in Sindh. This announcement of further humanitarian support focused on supporting displaced people, re-establishing communal water supplies and enhancing sanitation. The UK ensured assistance facilitating Pakistan’s economic recovery and resilience against future natural disasters.

On 19 October 2022, the UK announced aid to 150,000 victims of drought and conflict in Ethiopia.<sup>937</sup> In particular, this support included an additional GBP14 million in funding of “comprehensive health, water sanitation, hygiene and nutrition services.” The package also provides mental health support to children and women who were subjected to violence and exploitation.

On 20 October 2022, the Cyber Command and the UK’s Strategic Command cooperated on a joint project to strengthen cyber resilience.<sup>938</sup> Deputy Director Cyber Command Matthew Paradise affirmed the significance of maintaining reliable digital infrastructures and networks. Similar sentiments were echoed by the UK’s Director Operation at Defence Digital Nick Washer who said that collective cyber operations “offer huge shared benefits in enhancing collective defense.”<sup>939</sup> Through joint digital collaborations, malicious online activities are suppressed and cybersecurity is further strengthened.

On 20 October 2022, the UK, along with the undersigned members of the Freedom Online Coalition, called upon the Government of Iran to lift the country’s nationwide internet restrictions.<sup>940</sup> Under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Coalition declares that cutting off mobile data, disrupting social media, cutting internet services, blocking users and accessing private devices are clear violations of human rights.

On 28 October 2022, the UK granted more than GBP1 million to 17 domestic organizations to enhance media literacy skills for individuals at risk of experiencing online abuse and misinformation.<sup>941</sup> The funding scheme created “The Media Literacy Taskforce Fund” to improve vulnerable groups’ media literacy skills through investing in community-led projects. Similar projects include Freshrb and Parent Zone, where both organizations mentor teenagers and parents in combating online disinformation. All the plans are part of the Online Media Literacy Strategy, which supports a safer online environment by protecting vulnerable groups from harmful content and tackling online criminal activities.

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<sup>935</sup> U.S.-UK Joint Statement: New Comprehensive Dialogue on Technology and Data and Progress on Data Adequacy, Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 7 October 2022. Access Date: 22 October 2022. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2022/10/us-uk-joint-statement-new-comprehensive-dialogue-technology-and-data>

<sup>936</sup> Additional £10 million of UK aid for flood relief efforts in Pakistan, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (London) 13 October 2022. Access Date: 20 October 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/additional-10-million-of-uk-aid-for-flood-relief-efforts-in-pakistan>

<sup>937</sup> UK announces humanitarian assistance for 150,000 women and children suffering drought and conflict in Ethiopia, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (London) 19 October 2022. Access Date: 20 October 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-humanitarian-assistance-for-150000-women-and-children-suffering-drought-and-conflict-in-ethiopia>

<sup>938</sup> Collaborating with U.S. on Cyber, Ministry of Defense (London) 20 October 2022. Access Date: 25 October 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/collaborating-with-us-on-cyber>

<sup>939</sup> Collaborating with U.S. on Cyber, Ministry of Defense (London) 20 October 2022. Access Date: 25 October 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/collaborating-with-us-on-cyber>

<sup>940</sup> Freedom Online Coalition Joint Statement on Internet Shutdowns in Iran, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 20 October 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/10/freedom-online-coalition-joint-statement-on-internet-shutdowns-in-iran.html>

<sup>941</sup> Help for vulnerable people to spot disinformation and boost online safety, Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (London) 28 October 2022, Access Date: 31 October 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/help-for-vulnerable-people-to-spot-disinformation-and-boost-online-safety>

On 9 December 2022, Foreign Secretary James Cleverly announced new sanctions that target “corrupt actors, and those violating and abusing human rights, as well as perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict.”<sup>942</sup>

On 29 December 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, alongside the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Denmark, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Japan, the United States and the High Representative of the European Union, released a joint statement condemning the “barring of female employees of national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from the workplace” as it “puts at risk millions of Afghans who depend on humanitarian assistance for their survival.”<sup>943</sup> The statement called on the Taliban to immediately reverse this decision.

On 9 January 2023, the Home Office committed up to GBP36 million to the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Intervention Fund and other measures aimed at tackling domestic abuse and stalking.<sup>944</sup>

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end. Through implementing domestic programs and issuing multilateral initiatives, the UK has dedicated itself to ensuring digital safety and developing cyber resilience. In addition to online security, the UK has demonstrated its commitment to actively protecting victims in crises and conflicts.

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

*Analyst: Cindy Zhu*

#### **United States: +1**

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end.

On 19 July 2022, Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh and Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo announced a 120-Day Cybersecurity Apprenticeship Sprint.<sup>945</sup> This project aims to create a “skilled and diverse cybersecurity workforce,” which is prepared to protect digital infrastructure. Another goal of the project is to provide access to cybersecurity career paths to traditionally underrepresented communities.

On 30 July 2022, the Department of Homeland Security recognized the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons.<sup>946</sup> By recognizing this day, the Department aimed to raise awareness about its work towards ending all forms of human trafficking.

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<sup>942</sup> UK sanctions target 30 corrupt political figures, human rights violators and perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence around the world, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 9 December 2022. Access Date: 11 January 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-sanctions-target-30-corrupt-political-figures-human-rights-violators-and-perpetrators-of-conflict-related-sexual-violence-around-the-world>

<sup>943</sup> Joint statement from foreign ministers on the Taliban’s ban on Afghan women working for national and international NGOs, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 December 2022. Access Date: 11 January 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/12/joint-statement-from-foreign-ministers-on-the-talibans-ban-on-afghan-women-working-for-national-and-international-ngos.html>

<sup>944</sup> Fund launched to protect domestic abuse victims through prevention, Home Office (London) 9 January 2023. Access Date: 11 January 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fund-launched-to-protect-domestic-abuse-victims-through-prevention>

<sup>945</sup> U.S. Departments of Labor, Commerce Announce 120-Day Cybersecurity Apprentice Sprint to Promote Registered Apprenticeships, Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 19 July 2022. Access Date: 22 October 2022. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2022/07/us-departments-labor-commerce-announce-120-day-cybersecurity-apprentice>

<sup>946</sup> DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking observes World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, Department of Homeland Security (Washington D.C.) 29 July 2022. Access Date: 26 October 2022. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/07/29/dhs-center-countering-human-trafficking-observes-world-day-against-trafficking>



On 16 August 2022, the Department of Defense partnered with Korea's Ministry of National Defense to hold the 21<sup>st</sup> Korea-U.S. Integrated Defense Dialogue.<sup>947</sup> At this meeting, the two countries pledged to continue collaborating in efforts towards strengthening cyber infrastructure to counter possible threats.

On 19 August 2022, the Department of Justice announced USD35.7 million in state grants intended to support sexual assault victims in general.<sup>948</sup>

On 25 August 2022, the Department of Justice announced USD49.85 million in grants intended to support legal services for sexual assault victims.<sup>949</sup> The purpose of these grants is to “[bring] justice within reach” for gender-based violence survivors.

On 7 September 2022, the Department of State sponsored a training series surrounding international capacity to counter the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's cyberthreats.<sup>950</sup> This nine-day training program included partner nations from across the Western Hemisphere.

On 8 September 2022, the Department of Commerce launched the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity Upskilling Initiative.<sup>951</sup> This initiative is projected to bring a plethora of digital education opportunities to women and girls.

On 8 September 2022, the US participated in a Roundtable of G7 Data Protection Authorities in Bonn, Germany.<sup>952</sup> The goal of this roundtable was to address the significance of privacy-enhancing technologies, the role of data protection authorities and regulations of artificial intelligence.

On 12 September 2022, the Department of Homeland Security held the annual Five Country Ministerial in Washington D.C.<sup>953</sup> At this meeting, leaders emphasized the importance of collective efforts towards hindering cybersecurity threats to protect their citizens.

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<sup>947</sup> Joint Press Statement for the 21<sup>st</sup> Korea-U.S. Integrated Defense Dialogue, Department of Defense (Washington D.C.) 17 August 2022. Access Date: 24 October 2022. <https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3130442/joint-press-statement-for-the-21st-korea-us-integrated-defense-dialogue/>

<sup>948</sup> Department of Justice Announces \$35.7 Million in Grants for States to Support Victims of Sexual Assault, Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 19 August 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/department-justice-announces-357-million-grants-states-support-victims-sexual-assault>

<sup>949</sup> Justice Department Announces \$49.86 Million in Office on Violence Against Women Grants to Support Legal Services and Related Programs for Survivors, Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 25 August 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022.

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-4985-million-office-violence-against-women-grants-support-legal>

<sup>950</sup> Department of State Cybersecurity Training Series Boosts Global Resilience Against Democratic People's Republic of Korea Malware, Department of State (Washington D.C.) 7 September 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022.

<https://www.state.gov/department-of-state-cybersecurity-training-series-boosts-global-resilience-against-democratic-peoples-republic-of-korea-malware/>

<sup>951</sup> FACT SHEET: Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity Upskilling Initiative for Women and Girls, Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 8 September 2022. Access Date: 22 October 2022. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/fact-sheets/2022/09/fact-sheet-indo-pacific-economic-framework-prosperity-upskilling>

<sup>952</sup> EDPS attends roundtable of G7 Data Protection and Privacy Authorities, European Data Protection Board (Brussels) 4 November 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. [https://edps.europa.eu/press-publications/publications/newsletters/newsletter-97\\_en#roundtable](https://edps.europa.eu/press-publications/publications/newsletters/newsletter-97_en#roundtable)

<sup>953</sup> DHS Hosts the Five Country Ministerial Meeting in Washington D.C., Department of Homeland Security (Washington D.C.) 13 September 2022. Access Date: 26 October 2022. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/09/13/dhs-hosts-five-country-ministerial-meeting-washington-dc>

On 13 September 2022, the Department of Justice announced USD224.9 million in grants intended to provide victim services and solutions for sexual and domestic violence victims.<sup>954</sup> This action was symbolically taken on the 28th anniversary of the passage of the Violence Against Women Act.

On 15 September 2022, the Department of Defense began an expansion of their Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood-PLUS program.<sup>955</sup> This program aims to assist military families in obtaining access to quality child-care programs, thereby ensuring that children of military families have quality access to healthcare.

On 16 September 2022, the Department of Homeland Security announced its State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program.<sup>956</sup> This program will equip state, local and territorial governments with the resources to address cybersecurity threats and strengthen their cyber infrastructure.

On 22 September 2022, the Department of State announced that it will be sending nearly USD376 million in humanitarian assistance to Venezuela.<sup>957</sup> This assistance was meant to support the integration of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the region.

On 22 September 2022, the Department of State announced that it will be sending over USD170 million in humanitarian assistance to the Rohingya community within Burma and Bangladesh.<sup>958</sup> This assistance will protect the human rights of the survivors of the Rohingya refugee crisis.

On 22 September 2022, the Department of Justice announced USD21.72 million in grants intended to reduce sexual and domestic violence on college campuses.<sup>959</sup> These will be administered through the Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking on Campus Program and the Consolidated Youth and Engaging Men Grant Program.

On 25 September 2022, the Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves travelled to Romania for the International Telecommunication Union 2022 Plenipotentiary Conference.<sup>960</sup> This conference concerns issues

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<sup>954</sup> Justice Department Announces Nearly \$225 Million in Grants to Support Coordinated Community Responses to Domestic and Sexual Violence on the 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act, Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 13 September 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-nearly-225-million-grants-support-coordinated-community>

<sup>955</sup> Defense Department Expands Military Child Care Program to Increase Availability of Affordable, Quality Child Care for Military Families, Department of Defense (Washington D.C.) 15 September 2022. Access Date: 24 December 2022. <https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3160232/defense-department-expands-military-child-care-program-to-increase-availability/>

<sup>956</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$1 Billion in Funding for First-Ever State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program, Department of Homeland Security (Washington D.C.) 16 September 2022. Access Date: 26 October 2022. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/09/16/biden-harris-administration-announces-1-billion-funding-first-ever-state-and-local>

<sup>957</sup> Humanitarian Assistance to Respond to the Venezuela Regional Crisis, Department of State (Washington D.C.) 22 September 2022. Access Date: 30 October 2022. <https://www.state.gov/humanitarian-assistance-to-respond-to-the-venezuela-regional-crisis/>

<sup>958</sup> United States Announces More Than \$170 Million in Humanitarian Assistance for the Rakhine State/Rohingya Refugee Crisis, Department of State (Washington D.C.) 22 September 2022. Access Date: 24 December 2022. <https://www.state.gov/united-states-announces-more-than-170-million-in-humanitarian-assistance-for-the-rakhine-state-rohingya-refugee-crisis/>

<sup>959</sup> Justice Department Announces \$21.72 Million to Reduce Sexual and Domestic Violence on Campus, Support Children and Youth and Engage Men and Boys as Allies, Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 22 September 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-2172-million-reduce-sexual-and-domestic-violence-campus-support>

<sup>960</sup> Deputy Secretary Graves to Travel to Bucharest, Romania for International Telecommunication Union Plenipotentiary Conference, Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 24 September 2022. Access Date: 22 October 2022. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2022/09/deputy-secretary-graves-travel-bucharest-romania-international>

related to telecommunication and communication technology and is ultimately committed to achieving the goal of an “inclusive digital future for all.”<sup>961</sup>

On 28 September 2022, the Department of Labor released new tools to combat child and forced labor.<sup>962</sup> These include the Comply Chain app, the Sweat & Toil app and the ILAB Knowledge Portal, all of which provide quick access to relevant information on the topic. Moreover, the Department of Labor published annual editions of its “List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor” report and “Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor” report.

On 30 September 2022, the US, along with other G7 Foreign Ministers, released a statement on the illegal annexation of sovereign Ukrainian territory.<sup>963</sup> All G7 members expressed united condemnation of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and Russia’s continued violations of Ukraine’s sovereignty and independence.

On 1 October 2022, the Department of Homeland Security started recognizing the Cybersecurity Awareness Month aiming to bring public attention to the rising relevance of cyber threats.<sup>964</sup> Throughout the month, the Department pledged to engage with nationwide partners to promote cyber hygiene and build up the technology ecosystem.

On 1 October 2022, the Department of State’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons announced seven new awards under its Program to End Modern Slavery.<sup>965</sup> The award recipients include the Innovations for Poverty Action, International Labour Organization, International Organization for Migration, New York University Marron Institute, University of Georgia Research Foundation, Washington University and Winrock International.

On 7 October 2022, Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo made a joint statement with the UK’s Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Michelle Donelan on the launch of “a new senior-level Comprehensive Dialogue on Technology and Data” to further joint efforts regarding technology and democratic values.<sup>966</sup>

On 14 October 2022, Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with activists to discuss human rights in Iran.<sup>967</sup> The conversation focused particularly on the rights of Iranian women.

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<sup>961</sup> Deputy Secretary Graves to Travel to Bucharest, Romania for International Telecommunication Union Plenipotentiary Conference, Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 24 September 2022. Access Date: 22 October 2022.

<https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2022/09/deputy-secretary-graves-travel-bucharest-romania-international>

<sup>962</sup> US Department of Labor Announces New Reports, Tools in Global Effort to End Child, Forced Labor, Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 28 September 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20220928>

<sup>963</sup> G7 Foreign Ministers’ Statement on the illegal annexation of sovereign Ukrainian territory, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 30 September 2022. Access Date: 2 November 2022. [https://www.esteri.it/it/sala\\_stamp/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/09/g7-foreign-ministers-statement-on-the-illegal-annexation-of-sovereign-ukrainian-territory/](https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stamp/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/09/g7-foreign-ministers-statement-on-the-illegal-annexation-of-sovereign-ukrainian-territory/)

<sup>964</sup> Department of Homeland Security Kicks Off Cybersecurity Awareness Month, Department of Homeland Security (Washington D.C.) 3 October 2022. Access Date: 26 October 2022. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/10/03/departement-homeland-security-kicks-cybersecurity-awareness-month>

<sup>965</sup> The Trafficking in Persons Office Announces Recipients of the 2022 Program to End Modern Slavery Awards, Department of State (Washington D.C.) 4 October 2022. Access Date: 30 October 2022. <https://www.state.gov/the-trafficking-in-persons-office-announces-recipients-of-the-2022-program-to-end-modern-slavery-awards/>

<sup>966</sup> U.S.-UK Joint Statement: New Comprehensive Dialogue on Technology and Data and Progress on Data Adequacy, Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 7 October 2022. Access Date: 22 October 2022. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2022/10/us-uk-joint-statement-new-comprehensive-dialogue-technology-and-data>

<sup>967</sup> Secretary Blinken’s Meeting with Human Rights Defenders on Women and Human Rights in Iran, Department of State (Washington D.C.) 14 October 2022. Access Date: 24 December 2022. <https://www.state.gov/secretary-blinkens-meeting-with-human-rights-defenders-on-women-and-human-rights-in-iran/>

On 20 October 2022, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas met with Japan's government officials to discuss US strategic objectives in Japan.<sup>968</sup> The officials discussed cybersecurity issues specifically within the Indo-Pacific maritime space.

On 20 October 2022, the Cyber Command and the UK's Strategic Command cooperated on a joint project to strengthen cyber resilience.<sup>969</sup> Deputy Director Cyber Command Matthew Paradise affirmed the significance of maintaining reliable digital infrastructures and networks. Similar sentiments were echoed by the UK's Director Operation at Defence Digital Nick Washer who said that collective cyber operations "offer huge shared benefits in enhancing collective defense."<sup>970</sup> Through joint digital collaborations, malicious online activities are suppressed and cybersecurity is further strengthened.

On 20 October 2022, the United States, along with the undersigned members of the Freedom Online Coalition, called upon the Government of Iran to lift the country's nationwide internet restrictions.<sup>971</sup> Under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Coalition declares that cutting off mobile data, disrupting social media, cutting internet services, blocking users and accessing private devices are clear violations of human rights.

On 21 October 2022, the Department of State announced the launch of its Global Emerging Leaders in International Cyberspace Security Fellowship.<sup>972</sup> The goal of this fellowship is to foster a "diverse global network of future policy leaders" who will ultimately uphold the framework of state behaviour in cyberspace.

On 31 October 2022, President Joe Biden issued a proclamation regarding Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Month.<sup>973</sup> Within this proclamation, President Biden emphasized the need for fortifying cybersecurity in the face of malicious cyber activity and cyberattacks.

On 4 November 2022, Secretary Blinken condemned President of the Haitian Senate Joseph Lambert for his involvement in human rights violations.<sup>974</sup> This condemnation was charged by evidence that President Lambert was involved in corrupt activity and many human rights violations, most notably an extrajudicial killing.

On 15 November 2022, Secretary Mayorkas testified in front of the House of Representatives on the Department of Homeland Security's response to cyberthreats.<sup>975</sup> Secretary Mayorkas discussed the growing

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<sup>968</sup> Readout of Secretary Mayorkas's Trip to Tokyo, Department of Homeland Security (Washington D.C.) 21 October 2022. Access Date: 26 October 2022. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/10/21/readout-secretary-mayorkas-trip-tokyo>

<sup>969</sup> Collaborating with U.S. on Cyber, Ministry of Defense (London) 20 October 2022. Access Date: 25 October 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/collaborating-with-us-on-cyber>

<sup>970</sup> Collaborating with U.S. on Cyber, Ministry of Defense (London) 20 October 2022. Access Date: 25 October 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/collaborating-with-us-on-cyber>

<sup>971</sup> Freedom Online Coalition Joint Statement on Internet Shutdowns in Iran, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 20 October 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/10/freedom-online-coalition-joint-statement-on-internet-shutdowns-in-iran.html>

<sup>972</sup> Global Emerging Leaders in International Cyberspace Security (GEL-ICS) Fellowship, Department of State (Washington D.C.) 21 October 2022. Access Date: 30 October 2022. <https://www.state.gov/global-emerging-leaders-in-international-cyberspace-security-gel-ics-fellowship-2/>

<sup>973</sup> A Proclamation on Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Month, 2022, White House (Washington D.C.) 31 October 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2022/10/31/a-proclamation-on-critical-infrastructure-security-and-resilience-month-2022/>

<sup>974</sup> Designation of Haitian Senate President, Joseph Lambert, for Involvement in Significant Corruption and a Gross Violation of Human Rights, Department of State (Washington D.C.) 4 November 2022. Access Date: 24 December 2022. <https://www.state.gov/designation-of-haitian-senate-president-joseph-lambert-for-involvement-in-significant-corruption-and-a-gross-violation-of-human-rights/>

<sup>975</sup> Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas' Testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security on "Worldwide Threats to the Homeland," Department of Homeland Security (Washington D.C.) 15 November 2022. Access Date: 24 December 2022. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/11/15/secretary-alejandro-n-mayorkas-testimony-us-house-representatives-committee>

threat of cyber criminals who attempt to exploit the cyber ecosystem. In response, Secretary Mayorkas claimed that the US must adopt a “whole of society approach” including local, state and federal governments.<sup>976</sup>

On 28 November 2022, Special Envoy to Advance the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Persons Jessica Stern began her travel to Vietnam, the Philippines and Indonesia.<sup>977</sup> On this trip, Special Envoy Stern discussed human rights, particularly those of LGBTQI+ individuals.

On 8 December 2022, the US issued a Joint Statement along with the eight countries involved in the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse on women’s rights in Iran.<sup>978</sup> The statement declared the countries’ support for protestors and condemnation of Iranian authorities and their commitment to supporting the rights of Iranian women.

On 20 December 2022, Secretary Blinken issued a statement in support of the rights of Afghan women.<sup>979</sup> He condemned the Taliban’s restrictions on women’s rights and specifically the choice to ban women from universities and girls from secondary schools.

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end. The United States has initiated projects to build cybersecurity and safety and upheld human rights offline through foreign aid and domestic policies.

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

*Analyst: Hannah Cluroe*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end.

On 29 July 2022, the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) and the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) adopted a joint opinion on the EU’s Proposal for a Regulation to prevent and combat child sexual abuse.<sup>980</sup> The proposal imposes obligations with regard to detecting, removing and reporting online child sexual abuse materials, as well as grooming on providers of relevant information society services. Negotiations are ongoing within the Council of the EU to reach an agreement with the EU member states on an effective compromise text. This will be followed by negotiations with the European Parliament and the Commission.

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<sup>976</sup> Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas’ Testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security on “Worldwide Threats to the Homeland,” Department of Homeland Security (Washington D.C.) 15 November 2022. Access Date: 24 December 2022.

<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/11/15/secretary-alejandro-n-mayorkas-testimony-us-house-representatives-committee>

<sup>977</sup> U.S. Special Envoy to Advance the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Persons Stern’s Travel to Vietnam, the Philippines, and Indonesia, Department of State (Washington D.C.) 28 November 2022. Access Date: 24 December 2022. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-special-envoy-to-advance-the-human-rights-of-lgbtqi-persons-sterns-travel-to-vietnam-the-philippines-and-indonesia/>

<sup>978</sup> Joint Statement Through the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Harassment and Abuse on Standing with the Women and Girls of Iran, Department of State (Washington D.C.) 8 December 2022. Access Date: 24 December 2022. <https://www.state.gov/joint-statement-through-the-global-partnership-for-action-on-gender-based-online-harassment-and-abuse-on-standing-with-the-women-and-girls-of-iran/>

<sup>979</sup> Standing with Afghanistan’s Women and Girls, Department of State (Washington D.C.) 20 December 2022. Access Date: 24 December 2022. <https://www.state.gov/standing-with-afghanistans-women-and-girls/>

<sup>980</sup> Proposal to combat child sexual abuse online presents serious risks for fundamental rights, European Data Protection Board (Brussels) 29 July 2022. Access Date: 1 November 2022. [https://edpb.europa.eu/news/news/2022/proposal-combat-child-sexual-abuse-online-presents-serious-risks-fundamental-rights\\_en](https://edpb.europa.eu/news/news/2022/proposal-combat-child-sexual-abuse-online-presents-serious-risks-fundamental-rights_en)

On 8 September 2022, the EDPS participated in a Roundtable of G7 Data Protection Authorities in Bonn, Germany.<sup>981</sup> The goal of this roundtable was to address the significance of privacy-enhancing technologies, the role of data protection authorities and regulations of artificial intelligence.

On 16 September 2022, the EDPS requested that the Court of Justice of the European Union annul two sections of the newly amended Europol Regulation.<sup>982</sup> These two provisions, articles 74a and 74b, legalize Europol's possession of individual personal data even in the absence of established links to criminal activity. This new proposal aims to protect individual's privacy in legal digital access by requiring legal certainty for supervisory enforcement.

On 30 September 2022, the European Commission, along with other G7 Foreign Ministers, released a statement on the illegal annexation of sovereign Ukrainian territory.<sup>983</sup> All G7 members expressed united condemnation of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and Russia's continued violations of Ukraine's sovereignty and independence.

On 12 October 2022, the EDPB adopted Opinion 28/2022 on the Board of the Europrivacy certification criteria, submitted by the Luxembourg Data Protection Authority.<sup>984</sup> This opinion marks the approval of the first European Data Protection Seal, which targets operations performed by data controllers and processors from various sectors. The scheme is another milestone towards greater General Data Protection Regulation compliance advocated by the EU in enhancing cybersecurity.

On 17 October 2022, the European Council added 11 individuals and four entities to the list of those subject to restrictive measures.<sup>985</sup> The updated sanctions include the Morality Police, the Iranian Enforcement Forces, numerous local chiefs responsible for the repression of protests, and Iran's Minister of Information and Communications Technology Issa Zarepour. The current measures include a travel ban and asset freeze, an export control list targeting equipment used for telecommunication monitoring and domestic oppression and an EU prohibition on financial aid to restricted parties. The EU and its member states reaffirm their condemnation of brutality against peaceful demonstrations, asserting that individuals' rights to non-violent protests should be protected.

On 28 October 2022, the EU provided EUR1 million to finance the activities and work of the Envoy on Technology of the UN Secretary General over the next two years.<sup>986</sup> The EU is dedicated to supporting the UN's agenda of developing a Global Digital Compact and promoting a model of internet governance. Under

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<sup>981</sup> EDPS attends roundtable of G7 Data Protection and Privacy Authorities, European Data Protection Board (Brussels) 4 November 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. [https://edps.europa.eu/press-publications/publications/newsletters/newsletter-97\\_en#roundtable](https://edps.europa.eu/press-publications/publications/newsletters/newsletter-97_en#roundtable)

<sup>982</sup> EDPS takes legal action as new Europol Regulation puts rule of law and EDPS independence under threat, European Data Protection Board (Brussels) 22 September 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. [https://edps.europa.eu/press-publications/press-news/press-releases/2022/edps-takes-legal-action-new-europol-regulation-puts-rule-law-and-edps-independence-under-threat\\_en](https://edps.europa.eu/press-publications/press-news/press-releases/2022/edps-takes-legal-action-new-europol-regulation-puts-rule-law-and-edps-independence-under-threat_en)

<sup>983</sup> G7 Foreign Ministers' Statement on the illegal annexation of sovereign Ukrainian territory, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 30 September 2022. Access Date: 2 November 2022. [https://www.esteri.it/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/09/g7-foreign-ministers-statement-on-the-illegal-annexation-of-sovereign-ukrainian-territory/](https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/09/g7-foreign-ministers-statement-on-the-illegal-annexation-of-sovereign-ukrainian-territory/)

<sup>984</sup> EDPB adopts "wish list" of procedural aspects, first EU data protection seal and a statement on digital euro, European Data Protection Board (Brussels) 12 October 2022. Access Date: 31 October 2022. [https://edpb.europa.eu/news/news/2022/edpb-adopts-wish-list-procedural-aspects-first-eu-data-protection-seal-and-statement\\_en](https://edpb.europa.eu/news/news/2022/edpb-adopts-wish-list-procedural-aspects-first-eu-data-protection-seal-and-statement_en)

<sup>985</sup> Iran: EU sanctions perpetrators of serious human rights violations, European Council (Brussels) 17 October 2022. Access Date: 1 November 2022. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/10/17/iran-eu-sanctions-perpetrators-of-serious-human-rights-violations>

<sup>986</sup> EU provides €1 million in funding to the Office of the Envoy on Technology of the UN's Secretary-General, European Commission (Brussels) 28 October 2022. Access Date: 2 November 2022. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_22\\_6452](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_6452)

this global cooperation, the EU continues to advocate for a secure digital community in upholding free speech, protecting online data and combating disinformation.

On 24 November 2022, the European Commission established a common EU helpline number for victims of violence against women in an effort to supplement rules to “combat violence against women, including online” established in March.

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to promote human rights online and offline while also cooperating with civil society and international partners to this end. Through extensive cooperation among allies in various multilateral platforms, the EU has significantly advanced its dedication to combating online harm, developing international cyber norms and investing in increased digital access. Aside from promoting a free and secure cyberspace, the EU also actively tackles human rights violations offline, primarily through implementing penalties in targeting infringements against individual freedoms.

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

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