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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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17. Labour and Employment: Social Protection

“To address these effects, we will accelerate progress towards universal, adequate, adaptive, shock-responsive, and inclusive social protection for all by 2030 in line with the UN Secretary-General’s initiative for a ‘Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for a Just Transition,’ which aims to create 400 million jobs and to extend social protection.”

G7 Elmau Summit Communiqué

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union		0	
Average		+0.88 (94%)	

Background

The need for adaptive and inclusive social protection has become a priority for G7 leaders in recent years, especially in the face of COVID-19, climate change and other global crises. The effects of climate change, in particular, have exacerbated existing inequalities, as they disproportionately harm vulnerable and marginalized communities. Moreover, many industries have witnessed an increase in the “frequency and intensity of various environment-related hazards” in workplaces, and are suffering due to environmental degradation.²⁴⁴² As countries strive to shift away from ecologically unsustainable sectors, and towards a more digital labour force, those employed in these sectors require further social protection. G7 members have also emphasized the need for robust social protection in light of other global disruptions such as inflation to mitigate the effects of rising energy and food prices. Highlighting the human right to security, the G7 leaders affirmed their decision to address these effects with “universal, adequate, adaptive, shock-responsive, and inclusive social protection for all,” particularly for women and marginalized groups.²⁴⁴³

The 2022 Elmau Summit was the first summit to explicitly address the impact of climate change on employment.²⁴⁴⁴ Prior to the summit, commitments regarding climate change focused on sustainable energy sources, greenhouse gas emissions, and low-carbon technology.²⁴⁴⁵ Concerns about labour and employment have largely been focused on developing countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) until the 2017 Taormina Summit, where G7 leaders committed to promoting labour force stability.²⁴⁴⁶

²⁴⁴² The Employment Impact of Climate Change Adaptation, G20 Climate Sustainability Working Group (Geneva) August 2018. Access Date: 23 September 2022. http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/ilo_-_the_employment_impact_of_climate_change_adaptation.pdf

²⁴⁴³ 2022 G7 Elmau Goals Set and Met (Toronto) 2 July 2022. Access Date: 23 September 2022.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2022elmau/goals-met.html>

²⁴⁴⁴ 2021 G7 Cornwall Summit Final Compliance Report, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 23 June 2022. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2021compliance-final/05-2021-G7-final-compliance-vehicles.pdf>

²⁴⁴⁵ Climate Change Accountability: The G8’s Compliance Record from 1975 to 2009, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 28 November 2009. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/scholar/kirton-guebert-climate-091128.pdf>

²⁴⁴⁶ 2017 Taormina G7 Final Compliance Report, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 4 June 2018. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2017compliance-final/16-2017-G7-final-compliance-labour.pdf>

At the 2011 Deauville Summit, G8 members launched the Deauville Partnership in the aftermath of the Arab Spring to help MENA countries transition towards “free, democratic and tolerant societies.”²⁴⁴⁷ The partnership specifically focused on providing support to Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Libya and Morocco.²⁴⁴⁸ On 10 September 2011, G8 members partnered with “international and regional financial institutions,” as well as Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to give economic assistance to MENA countries.²⁴⁴⁹

At the 2012 Camp David Summit, G8 members reaffirmed their commitment to the Deauville Partnership to provide MENA countries with economic assistance. They also committed to promoting the creation of jobs for youth within MENA countries, facilitating “youth-oriented training programs” to promote economic participation and stability.²⁴⁵⁰

At the 2013 Lough Erne Summit, G8 members reaffirmed their commitments to the Deauville Partnership “through measures such as providing aid to the MENA Transition Fund and participating in the Arab Forum on Asset Recovery.”²⁴⁵¹ The summit communiqué expressed “renewed commitment” to economic aid for MENA countries.

At the 2014 Brussels Summit, G7 members pledged to maintain their commitment to the Deauville Partnership and support MENA countries as they made political and economic reforms. They committed to job creation, particularly for youth and women in MENA countries, by “making contributions to programs aimed at providing people with the skills and/or education that they need to attain jobs,” such as the Arab Women’s Enterprise Fund.²⁴⁵²

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, G7 members committed to promoting stability in the labour force by implementing sound labour market policies and adjusting their welfare systems to protect workers. They prioritized labour reforms, redistributing tax burdens, and “changing the coverage of social insurance programs such as healthcare, unemployment insurance and pensions.”²⁴⁵³

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, G7 members committed to equipping workers with the necessary skills and education to use emerging technology. Members committed to working with businesses, civil society organizations and educational organizations to prepare workers for the needs of the changing labour market.²⁴⁵⁴

Commitment Features

At the 2022 Elmau Summit, leaders committed to “accelerate progress towards universal, adequate, adaptive, shock-responsive, and inclusive social protection for all by 2030 in line with the UN Secretary-General’s initiative for a ‘Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for a Just Transition,’ which aims to create 400 million jobs and to extend social protection.” This commitment can be interpreted as having one main

²⁴⁴⁷ 2011 Deauville G8 Summit Final Compliance Report. 18 May 2012. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2011compliance-final/2011g8finalcompliance.pdf>

²⁴⁴⁸ G7 Deauville Partnership – MENA Transition Fund Project. Access Date: 24 September 2022. <https://www.oecd.org/mena/governance/deauville-partnership-mena-transition-fund-project.htm>

²⁴⁴⁹ 2011 Deauville G8 Summit Final Compliance Report. 18 May 2012. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2011compliance-final/2011g8finalcompliance.pdf>

²⁴⁵⁰ 2012 Camp David G8 Summit Final Compliance Report, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 14 June 2012. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2012compliance/2012compliance.pdf>

²⁴⁵¹ 2013 Lough Erne G8 Summit Final Compliance Report, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 4 June 2014. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2013compliance-final/17-2013-g8-compliance-deauville.pdf>

²⁴⁵² 2014 Brussels G7 Summit Final Compliance Report, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 6 June 2015. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2014compliance/08-2014-g8-compliance-final-20150715.pdf>

²⁴⁵³ 2017 G7 Taormina Final Compliance Report, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 4 June 2018. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2017compliance-final/16-2017-G7-final-compliance-labour.pdf>

²⁴⁵⁴ 2018 Charlevoix Summit G7 Interim Compliance Report, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 425 February 2019. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2018compliance-interim/05-2018-G7-interim-compliance-skills.pdf>

target, which is accelerating progress towards social protection. This target ranges across five dimensions: “universal,” “adequate,” “adaptive,” “shock-responsive” and “inclusive.”

“Accelerate” is understood as making progress or causing an event to occur at an earlier date.²⁴⁵⁵

“Progress” is understood to mean moving forward toward a goal.²⁴⁵⁶

“Universal” is understood to mean the entire intended group, not a fraction or percentage of the whole.²⁴⁵⁷

“Adequate” is understood to mean sufficient for a specific need or requirement.²⁴⁵⁸

“Adaptive” is understood to mean being fit for all, as much as possible.²⁴⁵⁹

“Shock-responsive” is understood to mean appropriately responding to sudden changes that affect a large proportion of the population simultaneously.²⁴⁶⁰ In this context, it means developing social protection programs that protect people from events that lead to sudden job loss such as bankruptcies, recessions, climate change, pandemics and so on.

“Inclusive” is understood to mean that all parties are included in the decision-making process.²⁴⁶¹

“Social protection” is understood to mean the extent to which a country assumes responsibility to support the standard of living of its citizens, particularly disadvantaged or vulnerable groups such as low-income households, the elderly and persons with disabilities.²⁴⁶² In this context, social protection needs to be in line with the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, which seeks to eliminate “bottlenecks” in developing countries’ ability to facilitate “human-centred recovery” and strengthen their resilience.²⁴⁶³ The Global Accelerator’s pillars include the development and enhancement of “integrated and evidence-based national strategies and policies,” “integrated financing” that combines both domestic capital and international financial support and multilateral cooperation.

Full compliance, or a score of +1, will be given to G7 members that demonstrate strong or weak action, either nationally or internationally, to accelerate progress towards social protection in at least four of the five dimensions. Strong actions may include funding developing academic opportunities and skill-training programs, promoting employment insurance, protecting workers’ rights through legislation and reducing the cost of living. Weak actions may include attending meetings that promote social protection and reaffirming the commitment to accelerate progress towards social protection.

²⁴⁵⁵ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 September 2022. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²⁴⁵⁶ Progress, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 26 September 2022. <https://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/progress>

²⁴⁵⁷ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 September 2022. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²⁴⁵⁸ Adequate, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 26 September 2022.

<https://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/adequate>

²⁴⁵⁹ Adapt, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 26 September 2022. <https://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/adapt>

²⁴⁶⁰ Shock-Responsive Social Protection, Socialprotection.org (Brasília) n.d. Access Date: 26 September 2022.

<https://socialprotection.org/learn/glossary/shock-responsive-social-protection>

²⁴⁶¹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 September 2022. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²⁴⁶² Social Protection, OECD iLibrary (Paris) n.d. Access Date: 26 September 2022. https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/social-protection/indicator-group/english_3ddf51bf-en

²⁴⁶³ Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions: High-Level Summary, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 10 December 2022. https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/sdg-2030/WCMS_846674/lang--en/index.htm

Partial compliance, or a score of 0, will be assigned to G7 members that demonstrate strong or weak action, either nationally or internationally, to accelerate progress towards social protection in at least two of the five dimensions.

Non-compliance, or a score of -1, will be assigned if the G7 member fails to take any action to accelerate progress towards social protection OR takes action in only one of the five dimensions.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member has NOT taken action to accelerate progress towards social protection in ANY of the following five dimensions: (i) universal, (ii) adequate, (iii) adaptive, (iv) shock-responsive, and (v) inclusive OR has taken action in only one of the five dimensions
0	The G7 member has taken action to accelerate progress towards social protection in at least TWO of the following five dimensions: (i) universal, (ii) adequate, (iii) adaptive, (iv) shock-responsive, and (v) inclusive.
+1	The G7 member has taken strong action to accelerate progress towards social protection in at least FOUR of the following five dimensions: (i) universal, (ii) adequate, (iii) adaptive, (iv) shock-responsive, and (v) inclusive.

*Compliance Director: Arees Chooljian
Lead Analyst: Clarissa Chan*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to accelerate progress towards universal, adequate, adaptive, shock-responsive and inclusive social protection for all.

On 29 July 2022, under the Canadian Benefit for Parents of Young Victims of Crime program, parents of missing or deceased children who are unable to work due to grief are eligible for financial aid.²⁴⁶⁴ Eligible parents can receive payments of CAD450 per week, for a maximum of 35 weeks over a two-year period, to support parents who suffer loss of income after the death or disappearance of a child.

On 25 August 2022, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion Carla Qualtrough announced investments made towards 17 organizations across Canada that provide Canadians with the necessary support to succeed as part of the workforce.²⁴⁶⁵ The investment, amounting to CAD59.9 million and provided through the Skills for Success program, will provide training for over 52,000 Canadians.

On 5 September 2022, the Minister of Labour Seamus O'Regan announced that paid sick leave will become available for workers within "federally regulated sectors" on 1 December 2022.²⁴⁶⁶ The ministry aims to "close a gap" in Canada's social safety net with this initiative.

²⁴⁶⁴ Canadian Benefit for Parents of Young Victims of Crime, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 July 2022. Access Date: 25 December 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/parents-young-victims-crime.html>

²⁴⁶⁵ Government of Canada invests in foundational skills training and support for workers on Prince Edward Island, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 25 August 2022. Access Date: 5 January 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2022/08/government-of-canada-invests-in-foundational-skills-training-and-support-for-workers-on-prince-edward-island.html>

²⁴⁶⁶ Statement by the Minister of Labour on Labour Day, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 5 September 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2022/09/statement-by-the-minister-of-labour-on-labour-day.html>

On 14 October 2022, Minister O'Regan announced that the draft Regulations Amending Certain Regulations Made Under the Canada Labour Code (Menstrual Products) are now open for comments.²⁴⁶⁷ The regulations aim to provide employers the flexibility to implement preventative measures to reduce health risks related to the lack of access to menstrual products in the workplace.

On 3 November 2022, the government published the 2022 Fall Economic Statement, which projects investments of CAD10.928 billion by 2028.²⁴⁶⁸ The investments include CAD310 million in skills for a “net-zero economy,” CAD6.65 billion in ensuring Canada’s economic competitiveness by creating “good jobs” and CAD3.968 billion to develop a more productive and innovative economy through the protection of worker’s rights and the improvement of regulatory processes.

On 25 November 2022, Minister Qualtrough announced the permanent extension of Employment Insurance sickness benefits from 15 weeks to 26 weeks starting 18 December 2022.²⁴⁶⁹ This extension will provide about 169,000 Canadians per year additional time-off while facing illness, injury or quarantine.

On 1 December 2022, Minister O'Regan announced the availability of 10 days of paid sick leave for all federally regulated private sector workplaces.²⁴⁷⁰ This announcement follows up on the government’s earlier commitment to make the change and it aims to keep workers safe while ensuring they still receive income.

On 19 December 2022, Parliamentary Secretary to Minister Qualtrough Irek Kusmierczyk announced CAD3.6 million in funding to Workforce WindsorEssex through the Migrant Worker Support Program.²⁴⁷¹ The funding aims to support the program in helping over 8,000 temporary foreign workers in Windsor-Essex, Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton in Ontario.

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to accelerate progress towards universal, adequate, adaptive, shock-responsive and inclusive social protection for all. Canada has taken action towards adaptive and inclusive social protection with paid sick leave for federal employees and by aiming to ensure the availability of menstrual products in the workplace. It has also taken action towards adequate and universal social protection through investments in ensuring Canada’s economic competitiveness.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Aliza Sabih

²⁴⁶⁷ Government of Canada one step closer to ensuring free access to menstrual products in federally regulated workplaces, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 14 October 2022. Access Date: 5 January 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2022/10/government-of-canada-one-step-closer-to-ensuring-free-access-to-menstrual-products-in-federally-regulated-workplaces.html>

²⁴⁶⁸ Fall Economic Statement 2022, Chapter 2: Jobs, Growth, and an Economy That Works for Everyone, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 3 November 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/fes-eea/2022/report-rapport/chap2-en.html>

²⁴⁶⁹ Government of Canada improves sickness benefits under the Employment Insurance system, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 25 November 2022. Access Date: 5 January 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2022/11/government-of-canada-improves-sickness-benefits-under-the-employment-insurance-system1.html>

²⁴⁷⁰ 10 days of paid sick leave now in force for nearly 1 million federally regulated workers across Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 1 December 2022. Access Date: 5 January 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2022/12/10-days-of-paid-sick-leave-now-in-force-for-nearly-1million-federally-regulated-workers-across-canada.html>

²⁴⁷¹ Government of Canada protects and empowers temporary foreign workers in Southwestern Ontario through the Migrant Worker Support Program, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 19 December 2022. Access Date: 5 January 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2022/12/government-of-canada-protects-and-empowers-temporary-foreign-workers-in-southwestern-ontario-through-the-migrant-worker-support-program.html>

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to accelerate progress towards universal, adequate, adaptive, shock-responsive and inclusive social protection for all.

On 15 July 2022, the Minister of Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty Bruno Le Maire announced the doubling of the “Livret A” (tax-free savings account) rate from one per cent to two per cent, attaining its highest level since 2012.²⁴⁷² This increase constitutes an important step for protecting the purchasing power and the savings of French citizens and residents.

On 9 September 2022, Minister of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion Olivier Dussopt and Minister of Public Action and Accounts Gabriel Attal announced an increase of 4 per cent to the basic retirement pensions of all retirees.²⁴⁷³ The change will benefit nearly 15 million retirees as it aims to preserve their purchasing power.

On 1 October 2022, the government increased the price ceiling for daily meal vouchers to a maximum of EUR25.²⁴⁷⁴ Employers provide meal vouchers to employees to cover their meal costs during working days (Monday to Saturday inclusive).

On 1 December 2022, the government announced a reduction in social security contributions for 1.6 million self-employed workers to support them in facing rising energy prices.²⁴⁷⁵ The government estimates that the reduction will result in an average gain of EUR200 per year for two-thirds of self-employed workers.

On 23 December 2022, the government announced an increase of 1.81 per cent to the minimum growth wage, effective 1 January 2023.²⁴⁷⁶ This change aims to protect the purchasing power of minimum wage workers. This constitutes a total yearly increase of the minimum wage by 6.6 per cent in 2022.

France has fully complied with its commitment to accelerate progress towards universal, adequate, adaptive, shock-responsive, and inclusive social protection for all. It has adopted social protection measures which protect the purchasing power of French citizens against rising energy prices and provided additional support for both self-employed workers and minimum wage workers.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Yiran (Sarah) Xie

²⁴⁷² Augmentation du taux du livret A à compter du 1er août, Government of France (Paris) 18 July 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 5 November 2022. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/actualite/augmentation-du-taux-du-livret-a-a-compter-du-1er-aout>

²⁴⁷³ Entrée en vigueur de la revalorisation des pensions de retraite, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 9 September 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 5 January 2023. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/entree-en-vigueur-de-la-revalorisation-des-pensions-de-retraite>

²⁴⁷⁴ Titres-restaurant, Passeport prévention ... Ce qui change au 1er octobre 2022, Government of France (Paris) 29 September 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 5 November 2022. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/actualite/titres-restaurant-passeport-prevention-ce-qui-change-au-1er-octobre-2022>

²⁴⁷⁵ Vers une baisse pérenne des charges pour les travailleurs indépendants, Government of France (Paris) 2 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 25 December 2022. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/actualite/vers-une-baisse-perenne-des-charges-pour-les-travailleurs-independants>

²⁴⁷⁶ Revalorisation du SMIC au 1er janvier 2023, Revaluation of the SMIC on January 1, 2023, Government of France (Paris) 23 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 23 December 2022. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/actualite/revalorisation-du-smic-au-1er-janvier-2023>

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to accelerate progress towards universal, adequate, adaptive, shock-responsive and inclusive social protection for all.

On 1 July 2022, the government increased the pension value from EUR34.19 to EUR36.02.²⁴⁷⁷ Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Hubertus Heil highlighted that the more people of employable age “work with decent wages,” the more stable the pension system will be.

On 27 September 2022, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs presented the further developed National Further Education Strategy.²⁴⁷⁸ The strategy includes qualification allowance that provides employees more flexibility to continue their education, while relieving the burden on companies to train workers.

On 1 October 2022, the general minimum wage increased to EUR12 per hour.²⁴⁷⁹ The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs states that more than six million employees in Germany will benefit from this increase.

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to accelerate progress towards universal, adequate, adaptive, shock-responsive, and inclusive social protection for all. It has done this by adopting various social protection measures including increase in minimum wage, new regulations on working environment and other supports to low-wage jobs.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Yiran (Sarah) Xie

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to accelerate progress towards universal, adequate, adaptive, shock-responsive and inclusive social protection for all.

On 10 August 2022, Minister of Labor and Social Policies Andrea Orlando signed a decree granting self-employed persons a bonus of EUR200.²⁴⁸⁰ The Ministry noted that this policy aims to subsidize cost-of-living expenses for self-employed workers, recognizing the jump in costs due to higher energy and related prices.

On 22 September 2022, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies and the Ministry of Economy and Finance agreed to replenish the New Skills Fund by EUR1 billion.²⁴⁸¹ Through these funds, the New Skills Fund plans to finance digital skilled training programs for employees through public-private partnerships.

²⁴⁷⁷ Renten steigen deutlich, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 1 July 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Service/Presse/Meldungen/2022/renten-steigen-deutlich.html>

²⁴⁷⁸ Gemeinsam für ein Jahrzehnt der Weiterbildung, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 27 September 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 November 2022.

<https://www.bmas.de/DE/Service/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/2022/gemeinsam-fuer-ein-jahrzehnt-der-weiterbildung.html>

²⁴⁷⁹ Erhöhung des Mindestlohns, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (Berlin) 30 September 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Service/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/2022/erhoehung-des-mindestlohns.html>

²⁴⁸⁰ Orlando firma Decreto per bonus 200 euro ad autonomi, Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali (Rome) 10 August 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Orlando-firma-Decreto-per-bonus-200-euro-ad-autonomi.aspx>

²⁴⁸¹ Fondo Nuove Competenze, rifinanziato per un miliardo di euro, Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali (Rome) 2 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 November 2022.

<https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/pagine/fondo-nuove-competenze-rifinanziato-per-un-miliardo-di-euro.aspx/>

On 29 September 2022, Minister Orlando announced a provision of EUR12 million within the Extraordinary Fund for Publishing dedicated to the hiring and financial stability of journalists.²⁴⁸² The investment aims to protect job stability for journalists, support journalistic work and facilitate the hiring of journalists with digital skills.

On 1 October 2022, Minister Orlando declared that Italian citizens who earned an income of EUR35,000 or lower in 2021 can apply for the Transport Bonus to subsidize the costs of monthly transportation passes.²⁴⁸³ The government established the bonus in September as a form of cost-of-living support amidst the country's energy crisis, providing EUR60 a month to offset the cost of monthly, multi-monthly or annual transportation passes. Minister Orlando remarked that the Ministry issued one million Transportation Bonus vouchers in the month since its development.

On 17 December 2022, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies announced the adoption of the National Plan for Non-Self-Sufficiency.²⁴⁸⁴ Under this Plan, elderly individuals who are not self-sufficient receive entitlements to social support services. The plan also establishes a fund for non-self-sufficiency to financially support these entitlements, which will include over EUR2.5 billion from 2022 to 2024 inclusive.

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to accelerate progress towards universal, adequate, adaptive, shock-responsive, and inclusive social protection for all. It has provided support to citizens in response to the energy crisis and also has given assistance to self-employed and low-income workers. The government has further sought to protect vital professions through the New Skills Fund and the Extraordinary Fund for Publishing. Additionally, Italy has attempted to improve the social safety net for elderly citizens.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Luca B. Rampersad

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to accelerate progress towards universal, adequate, adaptive, shock-responsive and inclusive social protection for all.

On 8 July 2022, the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare revised the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace.²⁴⁸⁵ The amendments addressed the difference in wages between male and female workers and asked large corporations to disclose information on the wage gap.

On 31 August 2022, the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare announced new adjustments to the emergency employment stabilization subsidies policy.²⁴⁸⁶ The adjustments include special measures for leave support and benefits due to COVID-19 infections.

²⁴⁸² Fondo Editoria, Orlando: "12 milioni per stabilizzazione giornalisti precari e assunzioni," Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali (Rome) 29 September 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Fondo-Editoria-Orlando-12-milioni-per-stabilizzazione-giornalisti-precari-e-assunzioni.aspx>

²⁴⁸³ Bonus trasporti, Orlando: « Superato un milione di voucher emessi, al via da oggi nuove richieste », Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali (Rome) 1 October 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Bonus-trasporti-Orlando-Superato-un-milione-di-voucher-emessi-al-via-da-oggi-nuove-richieste.aspx>

²⁴⁸⁴ Adozione Piano Nazionale per la Non Autosufficienza, Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali (Rome) 20 December 2022. Translation Provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/pagine/adozione-piano-nazionale-per-la-non-autosufficienza-2022-2024.aspx/>

²⁴⁸⁵ 女性活躍推進法の省令・告示を改正しました, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 8 July 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 November 2022. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_26587.html

²⁴⁸⁶ 令和4年10月以降の雇用調整助成金の特例措置等及び産業雇用安定助成金の拡充について, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 31 August 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 November 2022. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/r410c0hotokurei_00001.html

On 28 October 2022, the Employment Security Bureau announced the formulation of a new policy package for increased wages, improved human resources and strengthening of the labor market.²⁴⁸⁷ This policy package intends to redevelop a stable employment safety net and to ensure medium to long-term growth of the labor market by promoting wage increases.

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to accelerate progress towards universal, adequate, adaptive, shock-responsive, and inclusive social protection for all. Japan has adequately contributed to a social protection system for a long-term period. The subsidies related to the pandemic shows the shock-responsiveness. The promotion for female workers and the examination of current labor policies show inclusivity and adaptability.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Lipeng Tan

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to accelerate progress towards universal, adequate, adaptive, shock-responsive, and inclusive social protection for all.

On 26 July 2022, the Department for Work and Pensions invited comments on the proposal of the draft Occupational Pension Schemes (Funding and Investment Strategy and Amendment) Regulations 2023, which aims to amend the 2005 regulations.²⁴⁸⁸

On 18 August 2022, the government launched a GBP7.6 million incentive to help more than 2,000 adults with learning disabilities and autism find work.²⁴⁸⁹ The initiative aims to reduce the barriers to entry that such individuals face in the workforce.

On 20 September 2022, the Department for Work and Pensions activated a new Disability Cost of Living payment plan that covers six million people with disabilities in the UK.²⁴⁹⁰ Eligible candidates who receive certain disability benefits will receive a one-off payment of GBP150.

On 10 October 2022, the Department for Work and Pensions announced a GBP122 million employment boost to assist people receiving mental health support to remain or return to the workplace.²⁴⁹¹ This investment provides professional employment advisers and therapists for workers who are experiencing mental health problems.

On 17 October 2022, the Department for Work and Pensions announced a GBP6.4 million online service to assist employers in creating and managing a more inclusive environment for employees with a disability or long-

²⁴⁸⁷ 「賃上げ・人材活性化・労働市場強化」雇用・労働総合政策パッケージを策定しました, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 28 October 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 28 October 2022. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_28838.html

²⁴⁸⁸ Draft Occupational Pension Schemes (Funding and Investment Strategy and Amendment) Regulations 2023, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 26 July 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/draft-occupational-pension-schemes-funding-and-investment-strategy-and-amendment-regulations-2023>

²⁴⁸⁹ £7.6 million to help 2,000 adults with autism into work, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 18 August 2022. Access Date: 5 January 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/7-6-million-to-help-2-000-adults-with-autism-into-work>

²⁴⁹⁰ £150 Disability Cost of Living Payments begin this month, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 20 September 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/150-disability-cost-of-living-payments-begin-this-month>

²⁴⁹¹ £122 million employment boost for people receiving mental health support, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 10 October 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/122-million-employment-boost-for-people-receiving-mental-health-support>

term health conditions.²⁴⁹² This service provides advice for employers in a user-friendly Q&A format, particularly for smaller businesses without in-house human resources support.

On 3 January 2023, the Department for Work and Pensions announced that millions of the lowest-income households in the UK will receive up to GBP1,350 from the government starting Spring 2023 as support for the cost of living.²⁴⁹³ The government specified increased funding amounts for people with disabilities and pensioners.

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to promote acceleration towards universal, adequate, adaptive, shock-responsive, and inclusive social protection for all. The United Kingdom set up a series of social protection policies for long-term preparation for employers and employees and have provided support for individuals with disabilities. The current policies are inclusive, adequate, adaptive and universal, but lack shock-responsiveness.

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

Analyst: Lipeng Tan

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to accelerate progress towards universal, adequate, adaptive, shock-responsive, and inclusive social protection for all.

On 28 June 2022, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released an update maximizing the availability of infant formula.²⁴⁹⁴ The agency projected that 18,677 cans of Similac baby formula would be available in national markets by mid-July.²⁴⁹⁵ The FDA also noted that a portion of inventory would be reserved for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, a social program for undernourished parents and children.

On 21 July 2022, President Joe Biden signed House Resolution 8351, otherwise known as the Formula Act, into law.²⁴⁹⁶ This law amends the Harmonized Tariff Schedule, which temporarily suspends import duties on certain infant formulas, in an effort to increase formula supply and reduce formula prices.

On 16 August 2022, President Biden signed House Resolution 5376, otherwise known as the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, into law.²⁴⁹⁷ This piece of legislation caps insulin costs at USD35 monthly and prescription drug costs at USD2,000 annually for those enrolled in the Medicare program, alongside tax credits meant to incentivize renewable energy sector production.

²⁴⁹² £6.4 million boost for employers to support disabled people, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 17 October 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/6-4-million-boost-for-employers-to-support-disabled-people>

²⁴⁹³ Millions of low-income households to get new Cost of Living Payments from Spring 2023, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 3 January 2023. Access Date: 5 January 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-of-low-income-households-to-get-new-cost-of-living-payments-from-spring-2023>

²⁴⁹⁴ FDA Infant Formula Update: June 28, 2022, Food and Drug Administration (Silver Spring CDP) 28 June 2022. Access Date: 5 November 2022. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-infant-formula-update-june-28-2022>

²⁴⁹⁵ FDA Infant Formula Update: June 28, 2022, Food and Drug Administration (Silver Spring CDP) 28 June 2022. Access Date: 5 November 2022. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-infant-formula-update-june-28-2022>

²⁴⁹⁶ Bill Signing: H.R. 8351, The White House (Washington D.C.) 22 July 2022. Access Date: 5 November 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/legislation/2022/07/22/bill-signing-h-r-8351/>

²⁴⁹⁷ Bill Signed: H.R. 5376, The White House (Washington D.C.) 16 August 2022. Access Date: 5 November 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/legislation/2022/08/16/bill-signed-h-r-5376/>

On 17 August and 7 September 2022, the Department of Labor held Hiring Summits at Tuskegee State University in Tuskegee, Alabama and Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee.²⁴⁹⁸ These summits were organized with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) with the intention of forming further partnerships between the department and HBCUs. Members of the department would collect feedback and present information about mentorship, internship and career opportunities with the Department of Labor.

On 25 August 2022, President Biden announced a Department of Education-facilitated student loan debt relief package affecting all individuals with outstanding student loan debt making under USD125,000 annually.²⁴⁹⁹ The department aims to forgive USD10,000 in student loan debt for every individual with an annual income under the threshold and will forgive an additional USD10,000 for any individual with student loan debt who also benefited from the Pell Grant social program. The department will also cap monthly repayment quotas at 5 per cent of discretionary income, down from 10 per cent.

On 7 September 2022, the Department of Labor announced the development of a “digital toolkit” providing educational resources on labor relations to employers.²⁵⁰⁰ This initiative, jointly undertaken alongside the Small Business Administration, National Labor Relations Board and Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services, intends to promote labor-management cooperation by elucidating the mutual benefits of worker organization and collective bargaining.

On 27 September 2022, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced a reduction in the Medicare Part B standard monthly premium for 2023.²⁵⁰¹ Due to this cost-of-living adjustment, individuals enrolled in the Medicare Part B medical insurance program can expect monthly premiums of USD164.90 beginning in 2023, down from USD170.10.

On 13 October 2022, the Social Security Administration announced an 8.7 per cent increase in Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits, beginning in January 2023.²⁵⁰² Due to this cost-of-living adjustment, the Administration estimates that Social Security benefits will rise by an average of more than USD140 per month.

On 2 November 2022, the Department of Health and Human Services announced USD4.5 billion in further funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.²⁵⁰³ This funding, which will go to states, territories and tribes, aims to offset energy costs over the winter and “help families make cost-effective home energy repairs to lower their heating and cooling bills.”

²⁴⁹⁸ Tennessee State University To Host US Department of Labor’s Hiring Summit To Advance Equity Through HBCU Faculty, Students, Career Service Professionals, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 31 August 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022.

<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/oasam/oasam20220831>; Tuskegee University To Host US Department of Labor’s Southeast Hiring Summit To Advance Equity Through HBCU Faculty, Students, Career Service Professionals, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 12 August 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/oasam/oasam20220812-0>

²⁴⁹⁹ Remarks by President Biden Announcing Student Loan Debt Relief Plan, The White House (Washington D.C.) 25 August 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2022/08/25/remarks-by-president-biden-announcing-student-loan-debt-relief-plan/>

²⁵⁰⁰ Department of Labor Joins Effort To Provide Online Toolkit To Help Employers Support, Protect Workers’ Right To Unionize, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 7 September 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osec/osec20220907>

²⁵⁰¹ 2023 Medicare Parts A & B Premiums and Deductibles 2023 Medicare Part D Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (Baltimore) 27 September 2022. Access Date: 05 November 2022. <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/2023-medicare-parts-b-premiums-and-deductibles-2023-medicare-part-d-income-related-monthly>

²⁵⁰² Social Security Announces 8.7 Percent Benefit Increase for 2023, Social Security Administration (Woodlawn) 13 October 2022. Access Date: 5 November 2022. <https://www.ssa.gov/news/press/releases/2022/#10-2022-2>

²⁵⁰³ FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Actions to Lower Energy Costs for Families, The White House (Washington D.C.) 2 November 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/11/02/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-actions-to-lower-energy-costs-for-families/>

On 10 November 2022, the Department of Labor announced grants totalling USD6,848,992 to state employment insurance systems in Delaware, Montana and Wyoming.²⁵⁰⁴ The funding aims to improve the delivery of employment insurance benefits to ensure accessibility.

On 8 December 2022, President Biden and Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh announced a USD36 billion funding package for the Central States Pension Fund.²⁵⁰⁵ This funding was made available through the American Rescue Plan's Special Financial Assistance Program and serves as the largest amount of government aid given to secure worker and retiree pensions.

On 9 December 2022, President Biden signed H.R. 521, otherwise known as the "First Responder Fair Return for Employees on Their Initial Retirement Earned Act," into law.²⁵⁰⁶ This law protects retirement benefits for federal employees who, due to injury or illness, are re-appointed to positions that disqualify them from their initial benefits.

On 19 December 2022, the White House released the government's plan to prevent and end homelessness.²⁵⁰⁷ Through a mix of existing federal programs and newly announced partnerships with state and local governments under the administration's "Housing First" model, the government projects to reduce homelessness by 25 per cent by 2025.

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to accelerate progress towards universal, adequate, adaptive, shock-responsive, and inclusive social protection for all. The United States took strong action on adequate, shock-responsive, adaptive, and universal social protection. The United States took weak action on inclusive social protection.

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

Analyst: Luca B. Rampersad

European Union: 0

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to accelerate progress towards universal, adequate, adaptive, shock-responsive and inclusive social protection for all.

On 14 September 2022, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen reiterated the importance of investments in "upskilling" and professional education to strengthen the growth of Europe.²⁵⁰⁸

²⁵⁰⁴ Us Department of Labor Awards \$6.85m to Promote Equitable Access to Unemployment Insurance Benefits in Delaware, Montana, Wyoming, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 10 November 2022. Access Date: 5 January 2023. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20221110-1>

²⁵⁰⁵ FACT SHEET: President Biden Announces Historic Relief to Protect Hard-Earned Pensions of Hundreds of Thousands of Union Workers and Retirees, The White House (Washington D.C.) 8 December 2022. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/12/08/fact-sheet-president-biden-announces-historic-relief-to-protect-hard-earned-pensions-of-hundreds-of-thousands-of-union-workers-and-retirees/>

²⁵⁰⁶ Bills Signed: H.R. 521, S.3369, and S.4359, The White House (Washington D.C.) 9 December 2022. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/legislation/2022/12/09/bills-signed-h-r-521-s-3369-and-s-4359/>

²⁵⁰⁷ Biden-Harris Administration Announces Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, The White House (Washington D.C.) 19 December 2022. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/12/19/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-plan-to-prevent-and-end-homelessness/>

²⁵⁰⁸ 2022 State of the Union Address by President von der Leyen, European Commission (Brussels) 14 September 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech_22_5493

On 4 October 2022, the Council adopted a directive that promotes an adequate minimum wage that ensures decent living and working conditions for employees working in Europe.²⁵⁰⁹ The directive sets a procedure as to how to achieve an adequate minimum wage and promotes collective bargaining on wages.

On 17 October 2022, the Council approved a law that improves gender representation on the board of certain listed companies.²⁵¹⁰ The directive outlines that at least 40 per cent of non-executive director positions in the listed companies should be held by “members of the underrepresented sex” by 2026 and if member states decide to apply the directive to both executive and non-executive director positions, then the target would be 33 per cent of all director positions by 2026.

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to accelerate progress towards universal, adequate, adaptive, shock-responsive and inclusive social protection for all. The EU took some action in promoting inclusive and adaptive social protection.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Aliza Sabih

²⁵⁰⁹ Council adopts EU law on adequate minimum wages, European Council (Strasbourg) 4 October 2022. Access Date: 5 January 2023. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/10/04/council-adopts-eu-law-on-adequate-minimum-wages/>

²⁵¹⁰ Council approves EU law to improve gender balance on company boards, European Council (Strasbourg) 17 October 2022. Access Date: 5 January 2023. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/10/17/council-approves-eu-law-to-improve-gender-balance-on-company-boards/>