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2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit Interim Compliance Report

22 May 2023 to 3 December 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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4. Climate Change: Domestic Mitigation Measures

“We reiterate our commitment made in Elmau last year to rapidly implement domestic mitigation measures aimed at achieving our Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets.”

G7 Hiroshima G7 Leaders’ Communique

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada		0	
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy		0	
Japan		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.63 (81%)	

Background

On 21 May 2023, at the Hiroshima Summit, G7 leaders “[reiterated their] commitment made in Elmau in 2015 to rapidly implement domestic mitigation measures aimed at achieving [their] Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets. Although G7 concerns regarding global climate change date back as early as the 1985 Bonn Summit, the specific focus on domestic mitigation efforts has been shaped by the adoption of more recent frameworks bringing together political, economic, and legal efforts to strengthen collective action.³⁴⁹ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change defines “mitigation” in terms of “human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases,” and serves a dual role alongside adaptation to climate change in contributing to the objectives of Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).³⁵⁰ The watershed development for focus on domestic mitigation measures has come in countries integrating them into their NDCs, short-to-medium term targets for greenhouse gas emissions required to be submitted by parties to the Paris Agreement every five years.³⁵¹

At the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, the United Nations adopted the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, committing to knowledge development on greenhouse gas reduction to control global emission levels.³⁵²

At the 1997 G8 Denver Summit, G8 leaders announced their support for a strong agreement that is consistent with the Berlin Mandate at the Third Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Kyoto.³⁵³ The leaders committed to achieving meaningful and equitable targets that will result in emissions reductions by 2010.

³⁴⁹ The Bonn Economic Declaration: Towards Sustained Growth and Higher Employment, G7 Information Centre (Toronto), 4 May 1985. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1985bonn/communique.html>

³⁵⁰ Summary for Policymakers, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Geneva), 2014. Access Date: 30 September 2023. https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/ipcc_wg3_ar5_summary-for-policymakers.pdf

³⁵¹ What are NDCs and how do they drive climate action?, United Nations Development Program, 31 May 2023. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <https://climatepromise.undp.org/news-and-stories/NDCs-nationally-determined-contributions-climate-change-what-you-need-to-know>.

³⁵² Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro) 14 June 1992. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N92/836/55/PDF/N9283655.pdf?OpenElement>

³⁵³ G8 Denver Summit Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto), 22 June 1997. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1997denver/g8final.htm>

At the 1997 Third Conference of Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC, the Parties adopted the Kyoto Protocol to require industrialized economies and transitioning economies to reduce dependency on greenhouse gases on the principle of “common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities.”³⁵⁴ The Protocol required individual emissions reduction targets for countries in accordance with their national capabilities.

At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, the United Nations adopted a Political Declaration and Implementation Plan, which included provisions to reduce emissions through technological development and implement the Kyoto Protocol.³⁵⁵

At the 2009 G8 L'Aquila Summit, G8 leaders recognized that the global accelerated phase-out of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) mandated by the Montreal Protocol was leading to a corresponding increase in hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), themselves a damaging greenhouse gas. As such, the leaders committed to working with partners to achieve HFC emissions reductions.³⁵⁶

At the 2009 COP15, Parties agreed to the Copenhagen Accord, which endorsed the continuation of the Kyoto Protocol and recognized the scientific need to reduce emissions, including through setting mitigation targets on developed economies.³⁵⁷

At the 2012 Camp David Summit, G8 leaders agreed to join the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants. This initiative requires parties to develop strategies to reduce short term pollutants, such as methane, black carbon, and hydrofluorocarbons, to reduce global warming and improve health.³⁵⁸

At the 2014 G7 Brussels Summit, G7 leaders committed to communicating their intentions for NDCs in advance of COP21 in the first quarter of 2015 in Paris. The leaders also welcomed the Green Climate Fund's operating rules and incoming commencement of initial resource mobilization.³⁵⁹

At the 2015 Elmau Summit, G7 leaders reaffirmed their determination to adopt a strong protocol at COP21 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, decarbonize the global economy, and reduce global temperature levels.³⁶⁰

At the 2015 COP21, Parties adopted the Paris Agreement to commit towards nationally determined contributions to reduce emissions in order to limit global temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.³⁶¹

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the recently signed Paris Agreement, and welcomed the fact that all G7 members were signatories to the treaty. Recognizing the importance of mitigating short-lived pollutant emissions such as black carbon, HFCs, and methane, the G7

³⁵⁴ What is the Kyoto Protocol?, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn) n.d. Access Date: 18 December 2023. https://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol

³⁵⁵ Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, United Nations (Johannesburg) 4 September 2002. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N02/636/93/PDF/N0263693.pdf?OpenElement>

³⁵⁶ Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, G7 Information Centre (Toronto), 8 July 2009. Access Date: December 18, 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/>

³⁵⁷ Report of the Conference of the Parties on its fifteenth session, held in Copenhagen from 7 to 19 December 2009, United Nations (Copenhagen) 30 March 2010. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://unfccc.int/documents/6103#beg>

³⁵⁸ Camp David Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto), 19 May 2012. Access Date: 8 October 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2012campdavid/index.html>

³⁵⁹ G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto), 5 June 2014. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>

³⁶⁰ Leaders' Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto), 8 June 2015. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

³⁶¹ The Paris Agreement, United Nations (Paris) n.d. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>

leaders resolved to drive down their emissions, and supported the adoption of a Montreal Protocol HFC phase-down amendment in 2016.³⁶²

At the 2021 Cornwall Summit, G7 leaders committed to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, including by decreasing collective emissions by half by 2030 and improving climate finance by 2025.³⁶³

At the 2021 COP26, the Parties adopted the Glasgow Climate Pact, which aimed to reduce the use of excessive coal energy in order to move towards net-zero emissions.³⁶⁴

At the 2022 Elmau Summit, the G7 leaders committed to stepping up their implementation of the Nature-based Solutions framework advanced by the United Nations Environment Assembly address the triple crisis of biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution. Nature-based solutions would be incorporated into NDCs going forward.³⁶⁵

Commitment Features

At the 2023 Hiroshima summit, G7 leaders committed to “[reiterate their commitment made in Elmau last year to] rapidly implement domestic mitigation measures aimed at achieving [their] Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets.” This commitment therefore has one goal: to implement country-level NDCs, focusing on mitigation goals. It is therefore beyond the scope of this report to monitor implementation around adaptation or conservation; this report focuses on mitigation efforts and their rapid implementation.

Definitions and Concepts

“Rapidly” is understood to mean doing something very quickly.³⁶⁶

“Implement” is understood to mean to give practical effect to and ensure actual fulfillment by concrete measures.³⁶⁷

“Domestic” is understood to mean of, relating to, or originating within a country and especially one’s own country.³⁶⁸

“Mitigation” is understood to mean the process or result of reducing harmful emissions and ensuring that there is a continuous plan in place for these goals.³⁶⁹

“Measures” is understood to mean an action taken.³⁷⁰

³⁶² G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 24 May 2018. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>

³⁶³ Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communiqué: Our Shared Agenda for Global Action to Build Back Better, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 13 June 2021. Access Date: 19 December 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-communique.html>

³⁶⁴ The Glasgow Climate Pact – Key Outcomes from COP26, United Nations (Glasgow) 13 December 2021. Access Date: 19 December 2023. <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-glasgow-climate-pact-key-outcomes-from-cop26>

³⁶⁵ G7 Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 27 May 2022. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/environment/2022-communique.html>

³⁶⁶ Rapidly, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/rapidly>

³⁶⁷ Implement, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/implement>

³⁶⁸ Domestic, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/domestic>

³⁶⁹ Mitigation, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/mitigation>

³⁷⁰ Measure, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/measure>

“Nationally Determined Contribution Targets” is understood to mean the objectives and goals set out by each member government to manage the effects of climate change, such as emission targets. Each signatory for the Paris Agreement outlined their NDCs that would allow them to pursue a 1.5°C emissions cap.

General Interpretive Guidelines

This commitment examines actions taken by G7 members domestically, meaning within their own jurisdictions. As such, any actions that take place internationally, such as treaties, agreements, foreign aid, does not count towards compliance. Further, actions solely focused on adaptation or conservation, or any action not explicitly for mitigation, also does not count towards compliance.

This report applies a depth analysis whereby member action is monitored on a strong to weak scale. Strong actions may include actions with a clear and short-term timetable, legislative bills that are tabled in parliament, policy mixes, or funding. Weaker, or less than strong, action can include would be a statement that outlines a plan to do something but contains no tangible action, verbal reiterations of support, or attending meetings.

This report also applies a breadth analysis, where members must take several strong actions for full compliance, a few strong or several less than strong for partial compliance, or only one or two actions for non-compliance.

All actions must be aligned with each G7 members’ most recent NDC and its component part on mitigation, as documented on the UNFCCC NDC registry.³⁷¹

Thus full compliance, or a score of +1, will be given to G7 members that implement several, strong measures on mitigation in accordance with their NDCs. Partial compliance, or a score of 0, will be assigned to G7 members that implement some less than strong measures on mitigation in accordance with their NDCs.

Non-compliance, or a score of –1, will be assigned if the G7 member does not implement measures on mitigation in accordance with their NDCs. This would mean that a member has not taken action to tackle emissions, and with that, has also not done so rapidly.

Scoring Guidelines

–1	Non-compliance, or a score of –1, will be assigned if G7 members do not implement even some mitigation measures in accordance with their nationally determined contributions (NDCs).
0	Partial compliance, or a score of 0, will be assigned to G7 members that implement some less than strong mitigation measures in accordance with their NDCs.
+1	Full compliance, or a score of +1, will be given to G7 members that implement several strong mitigation measures in accordance with their NDCs.

*Compliance Director: Armaan Ahmad
Lead Analyst: Tyler Fu*

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to rapidly implement domestic mitigation measures aimed at achieving its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets.

On 20 June 2023, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard Joyce Murray and Minister of Natural Resources Jonathan Wilkinson announced the formal creation of the Task Force on Sustainable Tidal Energy Development in the Bay of Fundy.³⁷² This Task Force will inquire into the efficacy of instituting tidal energy collection sources in Nova Scotia to reduce reliance on greenhouse gas emissions. This contributes to Canada’s domestic emissions mitigations by exploring alternatives to traditional sources of climate pollution.

³⁷¹ NDC Registry (New York) n.d. Access Date: 28 November 2023. <https://unfccc.int/NDCREG>

³⁷² Task Force on Sustainable Tidal Energy Development in the Bay of Fundy Interim Report, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 20 June 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/ffhpp-ppph/publications/bay-fundy-tidal-interim-report-baie-fundy-marees-rapport-provisoire-eng.html>

On 27 June 2023, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault released the National Adaptation Strategy to the public, which outlines the steps towards climate resilience that Canada is endeavoring to fulfill.³⁷³ The Strategy employs five key themes to structure its calls to action, including disaster resilience, health and wellbeing, nature and biodiversity, infrastructure and economy and workers. This Strategy is an important guideline for reifying positive climate action, since it provides specific insights into the targets of federal agencies in regard to emissions mitigation.

On 29 June 2023, Minister of Public Safety Marco Mendicino and Minister of Emergency Preparedness Bill Blair released the Public Safety Canada Departmental Plan 2023-24, which reaffirmed Public Safety Canada's commitment to the National Adaptation Strategy on Climate Change.³⁷⁴ The National Adaptation Strategy calls for disaster resilience programs to be enacted at a federal level for domestic security purposes, using the Emergency Management Framework. Public Safety Canada is also undertaking a review of its disaster recovery programs in line with the completion of the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements Advisory Panel.

On 13 July 2023, the Government of Canada declared a CAD9 million investment towards three Ontario universities for the purpose of reducing localized carbon emissions.³⁷⁵ This investment was collected by federal pollution pricing, and it is now being used to endow Canadian institutions with the ability to develop emissions reduction capabilities. The projects being undertaken at these universities have an intended goal of reducing emissions by 35,000 tonnes by 2030.

On 24 July 2023, the Government of Canada published a report on its compliance with a G20 commitment to eliminate inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.³⁷⁶ This report clarified the terms of this agreement in 2009 and the scope and application of these guidelines. This demonstrates Canada's adherence to emissions reductions measures in the medium term.

On 8 August 2023, Minister Guilbeault and Minister Wilkinson released "Powering Canada Forward: Building a Clean, Affordable, and Reliable Electricity System for Every Region in Canada."³⁷⁷ This plan announced the dedication of CAD40 billion to clean electricity and emissions mitigation measures. Additionally, CAD1.5 billion is being provided to the Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways Program which supports clean energy infrastructure. Clean Energy for Indigenous, Rural and Remote Communities program will receive an additional CAD500 million to reduce diesel pollution.

On 24 August 2023, the Government of Canada began to provide funding to Indigenous communities for self-determined climate action, which reaffirmed its 2022 Budget for the 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan.³⁷⁸ Over the span of three years, the Government will distribute CAD29.6 million to First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities.

³⁷³ Canada's National Adaptation Strategy, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 June 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/national-adaptation-strategy/full-strategy.html>

³⁷⁴ Public Safety Canada Departmental Plan 2023-24, Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) 29 June 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/dprtmntl-pln-2023-24/index-en.aspx>

³⁷⁵ Government of Canada supporting Ontario universities with funding to reduce pollution to achieve environmental success, Government of Canada (Hamilton) 13 July 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/07/government-of-canada-supporting-ontario-universities-with-funding-to-reduce-pollution-to-achieve-environmental-success.html>

³⁷⁶ Inefficient Fossil Fuel Subsidies Government of Canada – Guidelines, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 24 July 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/inefficient-fossil-fuel-subsidies/guidelines.html>

³⁷⁷ Powering Canada Forward: Building a Clean, Affordable, and Reliable Electricity System for Every Region in Canada', Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 August 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/our-natural-resources/energy-sources-distribution/electricity-infrastructure/powering-canada-forward-building-clean-affordable-and-reliable-electricity-system-for/25259>

³⁷⁸ Canada's Partnership with Indigenous Peoples on Climate, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 24 August 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/climate-change/indigenous-partnership.html>

On 21 September 2023, Natural Resources Canada announced the Greener Homes Grant, which seeks to cover the costs associated with retrofitting Canadian homes with climate-resilient technology.³⁷⁹ Such technologies include home insulation, heat pumps and solar panels, all of which help Canadian homes achieve greater climate efficiency, thus reducing the carbon emissions of households incorporated in the program.

On 27 September 2023, Natural Resources Canada released “Canada’s Carbon Management Strategy,” which details different strategies, including decarbonizing heavy industry, low-carbon hydrogen production and carbon removal, for Canada to reduce its carbon emissions.³⁸⁰ This plan demonstrates Canada’s commitment to advancing federal carbon management technologies. Natural Resources Canada also announced its intention to continue investing in the development of new climate technologies, such as through the Canada Growth Fund which has CAD15 billion at its disposal.

On 1 November 2023, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) released its Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy 2023 to 2027 in which it announced its intention to adhere to the Government’s climate change reduction targets of diverting 75 per cent of non-hazardous operational waste from landfills, transitioning to a net zero economy and meeting climate-resilient operations by 2050.³⁸¹ The CFIA released updated figures to track its compliance with these aforementioned goals. The CFIA has made strides on the first promise, reaching as far as 73 per cent to its target of 75 per cent waste diversion in laboratory operations. In line with its desire to reach climate-resilient operations, the CFIA is working towards 100 per cent clean electricity use on its premises, on which it has achieved 74 per cent fulfillment.

On 14 November 2023, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Francis Drouin launched the new Agricultural Methane Reduction Challenge, which provides CAD12 million in funding to projects dealing with procedures and technologies from innovators that will reduce methane emissions from cattle.³⁸²

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to rapidly implement domestic mitigation measures aimed at achieving its NDC targets. Although it has instituted some important federal funding measures to reduce carbon emissions, most of these policies will be enacted in the medium- to long-term, and therefore do not meet the criterion of rapid implementation.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Lauren Thomas

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to rapidly implement domestic mitigation measures aimed at achieving its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets.

³⁷⁹ Canada Greener Homes Grant, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 21 September 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/energy-efficiency/homes/canada-greener-homes-initiative/canada-greener-homes-grant/canada-greener-homes-grant/23441>

³⁸⁰ Canada’s Carbon Management Strategy, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 27 September 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/climate-change/canadas-green-future/capturing-the-opportunity-carbon-management-strategy-for-canada/canadas-carbon-management-strategy/25337#a3>

³⁸¹ Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy 2023 to 2027, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (Ottawa) 1 November 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://inspection.canada.ca/about-cfia/transparency/corporate-management-reporting/fsds/dsds-2023-2027/eng/1694612250645/1694612251426>

³⁸² Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada launches new Agricultural Methane Reduction Challenge, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Sainte-Clotilde) 14 November 2023. Access Date: 19 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2023/11/agriculture-and-agri-food-canada-launches-new-agricultural-methane-reduction-challenge.html>

On 23 May 2023, Minister for Transport Clément Beaune decreed a ban on short-haul flights through specific routes of air traffic, banning flight connections between the cities of Nantes, Bordeaux, Lyon, and Paris-Orly.³⁸³

On 23 June 2023, the French government released their plans for their Carbon Capture Storage and Use Strategy with the following chronological goals: by 2030, 4 to 8.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide will be captured; by 2050, 15 to 20 million tonnes will be captured; and by 2050, a surplus of 10 million tonnes will be captured from non-industrial sectors.³⁸⁴

On 1 October 2023, the recently established Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) engaged with the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, aiming to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by 55 per cent, with the goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.³⁸⁵

On 23 November 2023, Minister of Agriculture Marc Fesneau chaired the High Council for Forest and Wood, along with Minister for Ecological Transition and Cohesion of the Territories Christophe Béchu and Minister Delegate for Industry Roland Lescure.³⁸⁶ The actions agreed upon at the meeting include knowledge development about forests, investments in processing companies, support for forest renewal, facilitation of contractual agreements between upstream and downstream actors and engagement in consultative efforts in territories concerning forestry issues. The ministers confirmed over EUR500 million in mobilization for 2024 for the forest-wood sector within ecological planning. These initiatives will be directed towards counteracting the weakening of carbon sinks.

On 13 December 2023, France announced its leadership role at 28th Conference of the Parties meeting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Dubai, where it helped bring about the United Arab Emirates Consensus to phase out fossil fuels by 2050 and maintain the 1.5°C temperature increase goal from the Paris Agreement.³⁸⁷

France has fully complied with its commitment to rapidly implement domestic mitigation measures aimed at achieving its NDC targets. This is clearly demonstrated through the implementation of a ban on short-haul flights and the adoption of an ambitious Carbon Capture Storage and Use Strategy. The active engagement with the CBAM underscores a steadfast dedication to achieving broader climate objectives. These constitute strong actions towards mitigation.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Asena Firouzi

³⁸³ Clément Beaune salue la publication du décret qui rend effective l'interdiction des lignes aériennes en cas d'alternative de moins de 2h30 en train, Ministère de la Transition écologique et de la Cohésion des territoires (Paris) 23 May 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 13 November 2023. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/clement-beaune-salue-publication-du-decret-qui-rend-effective-linterdiction-des-lignes-aeriennes-en>

³⁸⁴ Lancement d'une consultation sur la stratégie CCUS, Conseil national de l'industrie (Paris) 23 June 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 13 November 2023. <https://www.conseil-national-industrie.gouv.fr/actualites/consultation-sur-la-strategie-nationale-ccus>

³⁸⁵ Mise en œuvre du Mécanisme d'ajustement carbone aux frontières (MACF) au 1er octobre 2023, Ministère de la Transition écologique et de la Cohésion des territoires (Paris) 1 October 2023. Access Date: 15 November 2023. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/mise-en-oeuvre-du-mecanisme-dajustement-carbone-aux-frontieres-macf-au-1er-octobre-2023>

³⁸⁶ Réunion du Conseil supérieur de la forêt et du bois : un bilan très positif des assises de 2022, et un nouveau cap ambitieux fixé par le Gouvernement dans le cadre de la planification écologique, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Souveraineté alimentaire (Paris). 24 November 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 7 December 2023. <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/reunion-du-conseil-superieur-de-la-foret-et-du-bois-un-bilan-tres-positif-des-assises-de-2022-et-un>

³⁸⁷ COP28 - Victoire sur la sortie des énergies fossiles, Ministère de la Transition écologique et de la Cohésion des territoires (Dubai) 13 December 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/cop28-victoire-sur-sortie-des-energies-fossiles>

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to implement domestic mitigation measures aimed at achieving its respective Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets.

On 20 June 2023, Chancellor Olaf Scholz, along with several federal ministers, met with Chinese Premier Li Qiang at a press briefing to discuss, among other topics, the responsibility the two countries share as major producers of carbon, leading to their agreement on their shared goals to implement environmentally conscious industrial processes, to accelerate the transition to clean energy and to boost the circular economy.³⁸⁸ Chancellor Scholz noted at the press briefing that the leaders had discussed expanding wind and solar energy, as well as increasing the use of renewable energy and gradually reducing the dependency on coal power to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

On 26 July 2023, the German Government announced an update to its National Hydrogen Strategy in order to increase hydrogen production in the country to meet its 2045 target for carbon neutrality.³⁸⁹ Overall, the updated strategy will aim, among other objectives, to accelerate the expansion of the hydrogen market in Germany, ensuring that hydrogen is available to the general population and applying hydrogen use to industrial sectors.³⁹⁰ This strategy will help Germany move towards its goal of becoming the largest supplier of hydrogen technologies by 2030.

On 10 August 2023, Germany received EUR6.5 billion in aid from the European Commission for its scheme to provide partial compensation to energy-intensive companies in order to address carbon leakage from higher fuel prices as a result of the German fuel emission trading system.³⁹¹

On 14 September 2023, the Federal Government acknowledged that it is responsible for ensuring that ports are sustainable and efficient.³⁹² The government has committed to the new German seaports in the coalition agreement. The new strategies are being discussed to increase investments and ensure fair competition between other European ports. These ports are key for the energy transition to achieve climate neutrality by 2024.

On 20 October 2023, the Bundestag adopted new toll regulations on trucks using federal highways to include carbon pricing.³⁹³ This regulation will be implemented from 1 December 2023, as an amendment to the Federal Highways Toll Act.³⁹⁴ The toll will charge EUR200 for every tonne of carbon surcharge.

On 23 October 2023, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action co-hosted the Eighth Strategic Dialogue of the Carbon Market Platform with the Japanese Ministry of the Environment.³⁹⁵ This meeting was intended to discuss the adoption of carbon markets in order to reduce carbon emissions.

³⁸⁸ Meeting global challenges together, Office of the Federal Government (Berlin) 20 June 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/german-chinese-intergovernmental-consultations-2197554>

³⁸⁹ Germany Updates its National Hydrogen Strategy, Global CCS Institute (Melbourne) 7 August 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.globalccsinstitute.com/news-media/latest-news/germany-updates-its-national-hydrogen-strategy/>

³⁹⁰ National Hydrogen Strategy Update The Federal Government (Berlin) 26 July 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. https://www.bmwk.de/Redaktion/EN/Publikationen/Energie/national-hydrogen-strategy-update.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=2

³⁹¹ State aid: Commission approves €6.5 billion German scheme to address carbon leakage risk for energy-intensive companies resulting from national fuel emission trading system, European Commission (Brussels) 10 August 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_4105

³⁹² Boosting port capacity and sustainability, Bundesministerium 14 (Berlin) 14 September 2023. Access Date: 9 November 2023, <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/maritime-conference-2223574>

³⁹³ Bundestag beschließt Ausweitung der Mautpflicht für Lkw, Bundestag (Berlin) 20 October 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.bundestag.de/dokumente/textarchiv/2023/kw42-de-maut-971416>

³⁹⁴ For better climate protection in freight transport, Office of the Federal Government (Berlin) 14 June 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/lorry-toll-co2-2196348>

³⁹⁵ Results of Eighth Strategic Dialogue of the Carbon Market Platform, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 30 October 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press_02084.html

On 1 December 2023, Chancellor Scholz, along with Chilean Foreign Minister Alberto van Klaveren, co-hosted the launch of the Climate Club at 28th Conference of the Parties meeting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Dubai. The Climate Club will work towards implementing a carbon-free industrial sector and was established under Germany's 2022 G7 Presidency.³⁹⁶

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to implement domestic mitigation measures aimed at achieving its respective NDC targets. Germany has enacted legislation that will help reduce emissions in the near future. These constitute strong actions towards mitigation.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Shonita Srinivasan

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to rapidly implement domestic mitigation measures aimed at achieving its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets.

In June 2023, Italy proposed the National Integrated Plan for Energy and Climate to the European Commission, with plans to achieve varying climate targets, including support for green investments and renewable energies for small- and medium-sized enterprises, support for transitioning supply chains to net-zero technologies and developing low-emission infrastructure.³⁹⁷

On 14 June 2023, Italy passed a new law that allows speed limits on highways and motorways in urban areas with high levels of air pollution to be reduced either temporarily or permanently to allow for reductions in emissions from traffic.³⁹⁸

On 3 July 2023, Italy sent a new energy and climate plan to the European Commission indicating its willingness to increase investments and other actions towards meeting the European Union's 2030 target to reduce carbon emissions.³⁹⁹ Among the steps outlined in this plan is the proposal to close down all coal-fired power plants in most of the country, except in Sardinia, where the move will be delayed for three years for infrastructural preparations. Italy also increased its goal for renewable energy usage from 55 per cent to 65 per cent of total electricity production, as well as from 30 per cent to 40 per cent of total energy consumption.

On 14 July 2023, the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy signed an agreement with De Nora Italy Hydrogen Technologies to provide EUR32.25 million in support of the organization's proposed gigafactory, which would lead to increased low-emissions technology.⁴⁰⁰

³⁹⁶ The beginning of the end of the fossil fuel era, Office of the Federal Government (Berlin) 13 December 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/cop-28-2247402>

³⁹⁷ PIANO NAZIONALE INTEGRATO PER L'ENERGIA E IL CLIMA, Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica (Rome) June 2023. Access Date: 15 February 2024. https://www.mase.gov.it/sites/default/files/PNIEC_2023.pdf

³⁹⁸ Italian regions allowed to lower speed limits to reduce pollution, Reuters (Rome) 14 June 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/italian-regions-allowed-lower-speed-limits-reduce-pollution-2023-06-14/>

³⁹⁹ Italy sends Brussels new energy, climate goals for 2030, Reuters (London) 3 July 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/italy-sends-brussels-new-energy-climate-goals-2030-2023-07-03/>

⁴⁰⁰ De Nora signs with the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy the decree granting, within the framework of the IPCEI scheme, a public funding of Euro 32,250,000 to finance the Gigafactory Project, in the form of reimbursement of expenses incurred., De Nora (Milan) 14 July 2023. Access Date: 15 February 2024. <https://www.denora.com/media/press-release/2023/De-Nora-signs-with-the-Ministry-of-Enterprises-and-Made-in-Italy-the-decree-granting--within-the-framework-of-the-IPCEI-scheme--a-public-funding-of-Euro-32-250-000-to-finance-the-Gigafactory-Project--in-the-form-of-reimbursement-of-expenses-incurred..html>

On 16 October 2023, Italy was among three European Union member states that opposed to the timelines set in a proposal to increase the European Union's emission reduction target from 55 per cent to 57 per cent by 2030 compared to 1990 levels, running contrary to its commitment towards emissions mitigation.⁴⁰¹

On 15 November 2023, the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security and the Energy Department or General Directorate for Infrastructure and Security cooperated in establishing the measurement, monitoring, reporting and verification framework as a regulatory identification for the country's reduction of methane gas emissions.⁴⁰²

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to implement domestic mitigation measures aimed at achieving its respective NDC targets. It has proposed some plans towards reducing emissions, but has also voiced objections to others at the EU level. Moreover, Italy's actions have primarily been long term in nature. As such, it has only taken weak actions towards this end.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Asena Firouzi

Japan: 0

Japan partially complied with its commitment to implement domestic mitigation measures aimed at achieving its respective Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets.

On 28 September 2023, the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry held the Asia Zero Emissions Community International Conference in order to promote Japan's Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) and the creation of carbon markets.⁴⁰³ The JCM is intended to help achieve targets for emissions reductions by promoting decarbonization through Japanese technologies and infrastructures.⁴⁰⁴

On 2 October 2023, the Ministry of the Environment announced a new financial framework to help businesses and industries successfully decarbonize their practice.⁴⁰⁵ This framework will be crucial in Japan's efforts to incentivize corporations and industries to adhere to its NDC.

On 3 October 2023, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced new Climate Transition Bonds which will help incentivize and support industries to switch to renewable energy sources.⁴⁰⁶ Further it will help the private sector conduct new research on renewable energy sources, which will help with future implementation. These bonds serve as an important measure for forcing the private sector to adhere to Japan's NDC.

On 23 October 2023, the Ministry of the Environment co-hosted the Eighth Strategic Dialogue of the Carbon Market Platform with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action.⁴⁰⁷ This meeting was intended to discuss the adoption of carbon markets in order to reduce carbon emissions.

⁴⁰¹ EU backtracks on pledge to increase emissions reduction target, Financial Times (Luxembourg) 17 October 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.ft.com/content/bee17b41-d178-4e3e-9479-6d3b4c55f6ad>

⁴⁰² Pubblicata la dichiarazione dei 14 partecipanti del gruppo di lavoro sul "Framework" per la riduzione delle emissioni di metano, Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica (Rome) 15 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: 15 November 2023. <https://www.mase.gov.it/notizie/pubblicata-la-dichiarazione-dei-14-partecipanti-del-gruppo-di-lavoro-sul-framework-la>

⁴⁰³ AZEC International Conference to Promote the JCM and Develop Carbon Markets, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 29 September 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press_02018.html

⁴⁰⁴ Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 July 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ch/page1we_000105.html

⁴⁰⁵ Compilation of the Paper Titled "Addressing the Challenges of Financed Emissions", Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 2 October 2023. Access Date: 18 November 2023. https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press_02016.html

⁴⁰⁶ Statement by Prime Minister Kishida at PRI in Person 2023, Office of the Prime Minister of Japan (Tokyo) 3 October 2023. Access Date: 15 December 2023. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/statement/202310/03pri.html

⁴⁰⁷ Results of Eighth Strategic Dialogue of the Carbon Market Platform, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 30 October 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press_02084.html

On 1 December 2023, Prime Minister Kishida attended the 28th Conference of the Parties meeting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Dubai where he outlined several new initiatives that Japan will implement in the near future.⁴⁰⁸ These include a carbon pricing scheme, a comprehensive switch to renewable energy, and ending the new construction of coal power plants.

On 7 December 2023, Prime Minister Kishida and Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr held a bilateral meeting where Prime Minister Kishida reiterated the urgency to address the climate crisis.⁴⁰⁹ They discussed implementing a decarbonization pathway for shipping, aiding an industrial green transition, alongside their existing Asia Zero Emission Community Platform. These talks reaffirm the importance of this issue, while also laying the foundation for future action.

Japan has complied with its commitment to rapidly implement domestic mitigation measures aimed at achieving its NDC targets. It has primarily acted on the international front, but its actions will have the effect of Japan taking domestic actions towards mitigations. However, Japan has not yet laid down concrete plans for reducing emissions and has therefore only taken weak actions.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Zach Lidder and Armaan Ahmad

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to rapidly implement domestic mitigation measures aimed at achieving its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets.

On 20 June 2023, Industry Minister Nusrat Ghani declared that GBP218 million would be directed towards developing sophisticated green aviation technologies.⁴¹⁰ Greener air travel will allow the UK to make progress on its commitment of achieving net zero aviation by 2050 and develop greener innovations in the air travel industry. Air travel is a significant contributor to domestic carbon emissions; this new investment will provide the UK with the ability to make progress on its long-term carbon emissions commitments.

On 12 July 2023, Environment Secretary Thérèse Coffey repealed the previous ceiling of GBP250,000 on environmental penalties, thereby allowing authorities to impose higher fines upon offending parties.⁴¹¹ The fines accrued from this new policy will be reinvested in the Water Restoration Fund to support clean waterways. By preventing a cap on fines and penalties, polluters will be disincentivized to defy current legislation. For domestic climate change mitigation, this action will permit polluters to be held to account on an immediate basis.

On 14 September 2023, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero Claire Coutinho publicly announced that the Great British Insulation Scheme would allow 300,000 families across the UK to upgrade critical insulation technologies at home.⁴¹² This energy efficiency will result in diminishing demand for fossil

⁴⁰⁸ Statement by Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio at COP28 World Climate Action Summit, Office of the Prime Minister of Japan (Dubai) 1 December 2023. Access Date: 15 December 2023.

https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/statement/202312/01statement.html

⁴⁰⁹ Joint Statement on the Strategic Partnership between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway, Office of the Prime Minister of Japan (Tokyo) 7 December 2023. Access Date: 15 December 2023.

⁴¹⁰ Over £200 million to help UK lead the way on greener air travel, Department for Business and Trade (London) 20 June 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-200-million-to-help-uk-lead-the-way-on-greener-air-travel>

⁴¹¹ 'Polluters must pay; says Environment Secretary, as unlimited penalties unveiled, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 12 July 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/polluters-must-pay-says-environment-secretary-as-unlimited-penalties-unveiled>

⁴¹² Families to save hundreds through £1 billion insulation scheme, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (London) 14 September 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/families-to-save-hundreds-through-1-billion-insulation-scheme>

fuels and increased savings on energy bills. This mitigates domestic reliance on fossil fuels, which has deleterious impacts on the UK's per capita carbon consumption.

On 20 September 2023, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced the UK's success on its achievement of its historical climate change targets, with reference to its ambitious goal of reducing carbon emissions by 68 per cent by 2030.⁴¹³ The accomplishment of these goals demonstrates the UK's commitment towards accomplishing its NDC.

On 28 September 2023, the Government announced its new guidelines to achieve zero emissions vehicles by 2035, thus including the target of 80 per cent of new cars to be zero emission by 2030.⁴¹⁴ A GBP 2 billion government investment will be dedicated to promoting green jobs in the process. Other internal statistics demonstrated that in August 2023, 20 per cent of new cars were zero emissions. Although the achievement of this guideline is set for 2035, there is rapid progress being made yearly, thus contributing to the success of its NDC targets.

On 9 October 2023, Minister for Industry and Economic Security Nusrat Ghani unveiled a GBP89 million investment directed towards funding net zero vehicle advancement and innovation.⁴¹⁵ 20 projects will be supported by this investment, including ones seeking to improve net zero tractors, electric vehicle battery systems and offroad vehicles. Over the next decade, this could prevent 65 million tonnes of carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere. This aligns with NDC targets and will be implemented rapidly.

On 19 October 2023, Under Secretary of State for Roads and Local Transport Richard Holden announced a GBP200 million investment into a fleet of dozens of zero emission trucks.⁴¹⁶ Heavy goods vehicles are responsible for a 20 per cent proportion of domestic transport emissions. This will factor into the “percentage of new zero-emission cars and vans that manufacturers will be required to produce each year up to 2030 as part of a new pragmatic and realistic pathway to 100 [per cent] zero-emission vehicle sales from 2035.”

On 26 October 2023, the Government published its response to the Climate Change Committee's ‘Annual Progress Report to Parliament, which was released in June 2023.’⁴¹⁷ The response noted the UK's commitment to a target of 1.5°C, as well as its ratification of the Paris Agreement and the Global Biodiversity Framework. These are strong demonstrations of the UK's commitment to reducing domestic carbon emissions.

On 31 October 2023, the Environment Agency released the Climate Change Agreements Biennial Progress Report for 2021 and 2022.⁴¹⁸ This report tracked the progress made on voluntary commitments during the target period of 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2022. Ultimately, the report found that “the net over-performance against targets was 1.6 million tonnes” of carbon dioxide equivalent. Further, half of the parties met their targets

⁴¹³ PM re-commits UK to Net Zero by 2050 and pledges a ‘fairer’ path to achieving target to ease the financial burden on British families, Prime Minister's Office (London), 20 September 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-recommits-uk-to-net-zero-by-2050-and-pledges-a-fairer-path-to-achieving-target-to-ease-the-financial-burden-on-british-families>

⁴¹⁴ Government sets out path to zero emission vehicles by 2035, Department for Transport (London), 28 September 2023. Access Date: 2 November. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-path-to-zero-emission-vehicles-by-2035>

⁴¹⁵ £89 million of funding to develop cutting edge new electric vehicle technology, Department for Business and Trade (London) 9 October 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/89-million-of-funding-to-develop-cutting-edge-new-electric-vehicle-technology>

⁴¹⁶ Government invests £200 million to drive innovation and get more zero emission trucks on our roads, Department for Transport (London) 19 October 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-invests-200-million-to-drive-innovation-and-get-more-zero-emission-trucks-on-our-roads>

⁴¹⁷ Responding to the Climate Change Committee's (CCC) 2023 Annual Progress Report to Parliament, His Majesty's Government (London) 26 October 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65393f4ae6c96800daa9b0e/cce-annual-progress-report-2023-government-response.pdf>

⁴¹⁸ Climate change agreements: biennial progress report for 2021 and 2022, Environment Agency (Bristol) 31 October 2023. Access Date: 4 November 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/climate-change-agreements-cca-biennial-report/climate-change-agreements-biennial-progress-report-for-2021-and-2022>

for the period in question. While this demonstrates compliance to domestic climate change mitigation, half of the active sectors and sub-sectors abrogated their duty to comply with commitments they had brokered.

On 29 November 2023, Prime Minister Sunak announced the government's intention to develop 34 new landscape recovery initiatives alongside the commencement of a new search for a National Park.⁴¹⁹ The former will target 200,000 hectares of land to specifically demarcate as land necessitating recovery and protection. This combination of measures will work towards the United Kingdom's NDC targets by revitalizing natural territory and preventing further climate change damage to the environment.

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to rapidly implement domestic mitigation measures aimed at achieving its NDC targets. By implementing several measures, along with developing new plans, the United Kingdom is on track to meet its NDC targets in a rapid fashion.

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

Analyst: Lauren Thomas

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to implement domestic mitigation measures aimed at achieving its respective Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets.

On 30 June 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Energy announced USD1 billion in funding from the Investing in America Agenda to reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas industry.⁴²⁰

On 6 July 2023, the EPA proposed amendments to reporting requirements for petroleum and natural gas systems under the Greenhouse Gas Reporting System, requiring greater accuracy in reports, especially regarding methane emissions.⁴²¹

On 26 July 2023, the Biden administration hosted the first White House Methane Summit to address climate pollution and create a proper climate infrastructure.⁴²² These efforts outline a path forward to tackle the climate crisis, while also signaling its importance.

On 2 August 2023, the EPA announced USD115 million in grant funding to be available for projects that will reduce emissions from the current national fleet of older diesel engines.⁴²³

⁴¹⁹ Government pledges to boost Britain's access to nature ahead of COP28, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 29 November 2023. Access Date: 5 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-pledges-to-boost-britains-access-to-nature-ahead-of-cop28>

⁴²⁰ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy Announce Partnership to Provide More than \$1 Billion to Reduce Methane Emissions from Oil and Gas Sector, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 30 June 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/us-environmental-protection-agency-and-us-department-energy-announce-partnership>

⁴²¹ EPA Proposes Updates to Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reporting Requirements for the Oil and Gas Sector, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 6 July 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-proposes-updates-greenhouse-gas-emissions-reporting-requirements-oil-and-gas>

⁴²² FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Hosts White House Methane Summit to Tackle Dangerous Climate Pollution, while Creating Good-Paying Jobs and Protecting Community Health, The White House (Washington D.C.), 26 July 2023. Access Date: 15 November 2023. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/07/26/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-hosts-white-house-methane-summit-to-tackle-dangerous-climate-pollution-while-creating-good-paying-jobs-and-protecting-community-health/>

⁴²³ Biden-Harris Administration Announces Availability of \$115 Million in Grants to Cut Harmful Diesel Engine Emissions, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 2 August 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-availability-115-million-grants-cut-harmful>

On 21 September 2023, President Joe Biden directed agencies to consider the Social Cost of Greenhouse Gas (SC–GHG) protocol (a global standard framework to measure greenhouse emissions) in their budgets going forward.⁴²⁴ President Biden also requires them to consider the SC–GHG during the federal procurement processes. Integrating this metric into the procurement process can reduce emissions while saving short- and long-term money with reduced consumption.

On 28 September 2023, the EPA announced at least USD500 million in available funding from the Clean School Bus rebate competition to improve national bus fleets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.⁴²⁵

On 10 October 2023, the EPA announced a loan of USD330 million from the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act to the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District in Missouri to help reduce air emissions from wastewater treatment by 90 per cent.⁴²⁶ The funding will be directed towards energy-efficient, upgraded equipment that will help reduce pollutants and emissions.

On 19 October 2023, the Department of Housing and Urban Development announced USD 103.4 million in loans to help households decarbonize and transition to renewable energy.⁴²⁷ These loans are aligned with the Biden administration’s goal of making this transition feasible for Americans. This will help the US meet its NDC targets.

On 14 November 2023, the EPA announced USD4 million in climate pollution reduction grants to eleven Indigenous tribes in the Mountains and Plains states in order to help their plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.⁴²⁸

On 17 November 2023, the EPA announced USD15 million in available grant funding through the Investing in America agenda for projects that promote the reclamation and destruction of hydrofluorocarbons.⁴²⁹

On 2 December 2023, the EPA announced a new standard to reduce methane and other air pollutants from the oil and natural gas industry, leveraging cost-effective technologies and other proven solutions to prevent approximately 58 tonnes of methane emissions from 2024 to 2038.⁴³⁰

⁴²⁴ FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Actions to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Combat the Climate Crisis, White House (Washington DC), The White House 21, September 2023. Access Date: 4 November 2023. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/09/21/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-actions-to-reduce-greenhouse-gas-emissions-and-combat-the-climate-crisis/#>

⁴²⁵ Biden-Harris Administration Makes \$500 Million Available to Fund School Buses that Reduce Pollution, Save Money, and Protect Health, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 28 September 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-makes-500-million-available-fund-school-buses-reduce>

⁴²⁶ EPA Announces \$330M WIFIA Loan to Reduce Air Emissions from Wastewater Treatment Plants in Missouri, Environmental Protection Agency (Lenexa) 10 October 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-330m-wifia-loan-reduce-air-emissions-wastewater-treatment-plants>

⁴²⁷ Biden-Harris Administration Announces More Than \$100 Million for Energy Efficiency and Climate Resilience Upgrades in 1,500 Low-Income Households, Department of Housing and Urban Development (Washington D.C.) 19 October 2023. Access Date: 15 December 2023. https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_23_239

⁴²⁸ Regional Tribes receive over \$4M in EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants, Environmental Protection Agency (Denver) 14 November 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/regional-tribes-receive-over-4m-epa-climate-pollution-reduction-grants>

⁴²⁹ Biden-Harris Administration Announces Availability of \$15 Million to Tackle the Climate Crisis by Cutting Hydrofluorocarbon Pollution as Part of the Investing in America Agenda, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 17 November 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-availability-15-million-tackle-climate-crisis>

⁴³⁰ Biden-Harris Administration Finalizes Standards to Slash Methane Pollution, Combat Climate Change, Protect Health, and Bolster American Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 2 December 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-finalizes-standards-slash-methane-pollution-combat-climate>

On 8 December 2023, Brenda Mallory, chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, attended the 28th Conference of the Parties meeting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Dubai and shared American progress towards accomplishing its NDCs.⁴³¹ This includes 100 per cent zero-emission vehicle acquisitions, carbon-free electricity use and a target of 50 per cent emissions reduction by 2032.

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to rapidly implement domestic mitigation measures aimed at achieving its NDC targets. It has taken several measures to promote immediate efforts towards emissions reductions, including through funding and legislative standards. These constitute strong measures towards emissions reductions in the near future.

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

Analyst: Shonita Srinivasan

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to rapidly implement domestic mitigation measures aimed at achieving its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets.

On 28 July 2023, the European Commission approved EUR246 million in aid to the Netherlands to provide support for the country's production of renewable hydrogen in line with the goals of the EU Hydrogen Strategy.⁴³²

On 10 August 2023, the European Commission approved EUR6.5 billion in aid to Germany to provide partial compensation to energy-intensive companies in order to address carbon leakage from higher fuel prices as a result of the German fuel emission trading system.⁴³³

On 5 October 2023, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union reached a provisional agreement on stronger rules to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fluorinated gases and ozone-depleting substances, which will result in approximately 500 million tonnes of additional emissions reduced by 2050, helping to make Europe climate-neutral by 2050.⁴³⁴

On 6 October 2023, the European Commission approved EUR2.5 billion in aid to Czechia to help the manufacturing industry decarbonize the production process and improve energy efficiency in order to promote net-zero economy in accordance with the Commission's Green Deal Industrial Plan.⁴³⁵

On 9 October 2023, the European Commission adopted the Renewable Energy Directive and ReFuelEU Aviation Regulation, ensuring that there are legally binding climate targets that comprise every key sector of the

⁴³¹ CEQ Announces New Net-Zero Government Initiative Countries Joining U.S. to Cut Climate Emissions from Government Operations, The White House (Dubai) 8 December 2023. Access Date: 15 December 2023.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/news-updates/2023/12/08/ceq-announces-new-net-zero-government-initiative-countries-joining-u-s-to-cut-climate-emissions-from-government-operations/>

⁴³² State aid: Commission approves €246 million Dutch scheme to support renewable hydrogen production, European Commission (Brussels) 28 July 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_3967

⁴³³ State aid: Commission approves €6.5 billion German scheme to address carbon leakage risk for energy-intensive companies resulting from national fuel emission trading system, European Commission (Brussels) 10 August 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_4105

⁴³⁴ Commission welcomes agreement on new legislation to prevent 500 million tonnes of emissions from fluorinated gases and ozone depleting substances, European Commission (Brussels) 5 October 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_4781

⁴³⁵ State aid: Commission approves €2.5 billion Czech scheme to support the decarbonisation and energy efficiency of industrial processes to foster the transition to a net-zero economy, European Commission (Brussels) 6 October 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_4788

economy.⁴³⁶ Some key features of this legislation include boosting natural carbon sinks, implementing prices on pollution, support for citizens and small businesses undergoing a green transition and ensuring that imported goods pay an equivalent carbon price in accordance with the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. These measures represent a strong action that will help the European Union accomplish their NDCs, but perhaps even do so quicker than anticipated.

On 16 October 2023, the European Union failed to pass a proposal to increase the EU's emission reduction target from 55 per cent to 57 per cent by 2030 compared to 1990 levels after opposition from the Environment Ministers of Italy, Hungary and Poland.⁴³⁷

On 31 October 2023, the European Commission approved EUR2.4 billion in aid to Czechia to support the creation of new or converted sustainable biomethane production plants in order to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, specifically Russian fossil fuels.⁴³⁸

On 15 November 2023, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union reached a provisional agreement on a new EU Regulation to reduce methane emissions from the energy sector in Europe and its global supply chains.⁴³⁹ This includes requiring regular reports from operators and routine inspections on equipment to detect and repair methane leaks.

On 23 November 2023, the European Commission announced a record EUR4 billion budget for the Innovation Fund's 2023 call for proposals for innovative decarbonization technologies.⁴⁴⁰

On 28 November 2023, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union reached a provisional agreement towards an updated law to promote industrial investments towards a carbon-neutral economy by 2050.⁴⁴¹ Upon adoption, this law will provide more effective limitations on emissions.

On 2 December 2023, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen launched the Global Pledge on Renewables and Energy Efficiency at the 28th Conference of the Parties meeting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Dubai, an initiative initially proposed by the EU at the Major Economies Forum in April 2023.⁴⁴² This initiative aims to decarbonize the energy system and eventually phase out fossil fuel usage.

⁴³⁶ Commission welcomes completion of key 'Fit for 55' legislation, putting EU on track to exceed 2030 targets, European Commission (Brussels) 9 October 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_23_4754

⁴³⁷ EU backtracks on pledge to increase emissions reduction target, Financial Times (Luxembourg) 17 October 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023. <https://www.ft.com/content/bee17b41-d178-4e3e-9479-6d3b4c55f6ad>

⁴³⁸ State aid: Commission approves €2.4 billion Czech scheme to support sustainable biomethane production, European Commission (Brussels) 31 October 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_3383

⁴³⁹ Commission welcomes deal on first-ever EU law to curb methane emissions in the EU and globally, European Commission (Brussels) 15 November 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_5776

⁴⁴⁰ Commission opens €4 billion call for proposals for net-zero technologies under the Innovation Fund, European Commission (Brussels) 23 November 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_5948

⁴⁴¹ Commission welcomes provisional agreement on modernising management of industrial emissions, European Commission (Brussels) 29 November 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_6109

⁴⁴² EU leads global initiative at COP28 to triple renewable energy capacity and double energy efficiency measures by 2030, European Commission (Dubai) 2 December 2023. Access Date: 18 December 2023.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_6053

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to rapidly implement domestic mitigation measures aimed at achieving its NDC targets. The European Union has provided funding and approved and proposed legislation to bring about reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in the near future.

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

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