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2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit Interim Compliance Report

22 May 2023 to 3 December 2023

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19 February 2024

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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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12. Human Rights: Forced Labour

“We reiterate our commitment to the effective abolition of all forms of forced and compulsory labor and child labor.”

Hiroshima G7 Leaders’ Communiqué

Assessment

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

Background

Issues of forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking stressed the utmost importance for the international community to cooperate in eradicating human rights abuses. According to the International Labour Organization’s (ILO), 27.6 million people are in forced labour: with 17.3 million exploited in the private sector, 6.3 million in forced commercial sexual exploitation and 3.9 million in state-imposed forced labour.¹⁸⁶⁸ In addition to the mass victims and severe violations of human rights, forced labour remains a decisive cause of poverty and an obstacle to economic development in the international community. On 22 October 2021, the G7 trade ministers issued a Statement for Forced Labour and stressed the need to strengthen cooperation to “prevent, identify and eliminate forced labour in global supply chains.”¹⁸⁶⁹

Highlights of the G7’s governance on forced labour and human rights follow:

At the 1989 Paris Summit, the G7 leaders declared their commitment on human rights, especially on promoting universal human rights and fundamental freedoms. In this commitment, the G7 leaders reinforced their belief on the “rule of law which respects and protects without fear or favor the rights and liberties of every citizen.”¹⁸⁷⁰ They also committed to foster an international community where all individuals can develop in freedom and diversity.

At the 1990 Houston Summit, G7 members explicitly addressed for the first time the recognition of human rights in the global economy. In the Houston Economic Declaration, the G8 leaders called for the “mutually reinforcing” nature between freedom and economic prosperity.¹⁸⁷¹ The members further acknowledged that sustainable economic prosperity depends on a skilled labour force whose fundamental rights are protected.

¹⁸⁶⁸ Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang--en/index.htm>

¹⁸⁶⁹ G7 Ministers’ Statement on Forced Labour, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 22 October 2021. Access Date: 30 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/trade/211022-forced-labour.html>

¹⁸⁷⁰ Declaration on Human Rights, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 15 July 1989. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1989paris/human.html>

¹⁸⁷¹ Houston Economic Declaration, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 11 July 1990. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1990houston/declaration.html>

At the 1995 Halifax Summit, the G7 leaders reiterated their support for the UN High Commissioner for UN rights in coordinating the protection of human rights among member states.¹⁸⁷²

At the 1999 Köln Summit, G8 members promoted effective implementation of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles at Work and adherence to the ILO Convention on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.¹⁸⁷³ The members further aimed to cooperate with developing states in expanding their economic and technological capacities in meeting core labour standards.

At the 2001 Genoa Summit, the G8 leaders reinforced their dedication to work with the ILO to combat against child labour and create incentives to raise school enrollment.¹⁸⁷⁴ The members also reaffirmed their support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in promoting universal education.

At the 2009 L'Aquila Summit, the G8 members called for their commitment regarding employment and social dimension. They committed to promote social protection to workers on a global level. The G8 leaders also agreed to advocate for the compliance to labour rights as reflected in the ILO declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights on its follow-up.¹⁸⁷⁵

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, the G7 leaders stressed the significance of recognizing human rights and equality in fostering sustainable economic development. They emphasized the importance of measures to “eradicate trafficking in persons, forced labour and all forms of slavery, including modern slavery.”¹⁸⁷⁶

At the 2021 Cornwall Summit, the G7 members reiterated their concerns of all forms of forced labour in global supply chains. The G7 leaders reaffirmed the “importance of upholding human rights and international labour standards.”¹⁸⁷⁷ They further commit to cooperate in domestic and multilateral institutions in tackling forced labour throughout the global supply chain.

Commitment Features

At the 2023 Hiroshima Summit, leaders reiterated their commitment to “the effective abolition of all forms of forced and compulsory labor and child labor.”¹⁸⁷⁸

Definitions and Concepts

“Reiterate” refers to “commitments that have been established in the past ... however, new efforts in the area should be made.”¹⁸⁷⁹ This means that compliance for this commitment can be fulfilled by either expanding on old initiatives or creating new ones.

¹⁸⁷² Halifax Summit Communique, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 16 June 1995. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1995halifax/communique/index.html>

¹⁸⁷³ G8 Communiqué Köln 1999 Final, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 20 June 1999. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/1999koln/finalcom.htm>

¹⁸⁷⁴ Communiqué, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommunique.html>

¹⁸⁷⁵ Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, L'Aquila Summit, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 8 July 2009. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-declaration.html>

¹⁸⁷⁶ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

¹⁸⁷⁷ Carbis Bay and G7 Communiqué: Our Shared Agenda for Global Action to Build Back Better, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-communique.html#top>

¹⁸⁷⁸ G7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 20 May 2023. Access Date: 1 October 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2023hiroshima/230520-communique.html>

¹⁸⁷⁹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 1 October 2023. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf, p.71.

“Abolish” is understood to mean “to end the observance or effect of (something, such as a law)” or “to completely do away with (something).”¹⁸⁸⁰

“Effective” is understood to mean “actual” or “producing a decided, decisive, or desired effect.”¹⁸⁸¹ In the context of this commitment, “effective abolition” refers to actions including implementing legislative and regulatory changes, but particularly actions beyond this, such as the creation or expansion of programs or further allocation of money towards such programs or to enforcement. In other words, actions that will contribute to bringing about the actual end of forced and compulsory and child labor.

“Forced and compulsory labour” is defined as “all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily.”¹⁸⁸² This includes individuals in situations of debt bondage, suffering slavery-like conditions or who have been trafficked. This also includes situations where an employer or recruiter makes false promises so that a worker takes a job they would have not otherwise accepted as this is considered involuntary.

Exceptions to what is considered “forced labour” include compulsory military service, normal civic obligations, prison labour under certain circumstances, work in emergency situations (e.g. fire, flood, famine, war, violent epidemics, etc.), minor communal services under certain circumstances.¹⁸⁸³ Forced labour is distinct from situations characterized by substandard or exploitative working conditions. The presence of certain indicators will help determine whether forced labour exists, including (but not limited to): restrictions on workers’ freedom of movement, withholding of wages or identity documents, physical or sexual violence, threats and intimidation or fraudulent debt from which workers cannot escape.

“Child labour” is defined as “work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development.”¹⁸⁸⁴ It “refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and/or interferes with their schooling.” This could exclude “work” such as children assisting in family businesses or those earning pocket money outside of school hours. Whether “work” constitutes as “child labour” then depends on “the child’s age, the type and hours of work performed, the conditions under which it is performed, the objectives pursued by individual countries” as delineated by various ILO conventions on child labour, and additionally, definitions adopted by individual countries.”

General Interpretive Guidelines

G7 members committed to the “effective abolition” of forced or compulsory labour and child labour, which creates a high standard for what actions count towards full compliance.

Full compliance, or a score of +1, will be given to G7 members that take strong actions with respect to effective abolition in both pillars of the commitment: a) forced or compulsory labour and b) child labour. Examples of strong actions include creating or expanding existing initiatives or programs aimed at one of the following: prevention, monitoring, enforcement, the protection of victims, the provision of remedies for victims and the punishment of perpetrators. Strong actions also include increasing the funding or capacity of such programs. For forced labour in particular, ILO member-states came to a consensus in 2014 on more specific, non-binding

¹⁸⁸⁰ Abolish, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 1 October 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/abolish>.

¹⁸⁸¹ Effective, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 8 October 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/effective>.

¹⁸⁸² CO29 - Forced Labour Convention, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 28 June 1930. Access Date: 1 October 2023. https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:CO29.

¹⁸⁸³ CO29 - Forced Labour Convention, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 28 June 1930. Access Date: 1 October 2023. https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:CO29.

¹⁸⁸⁴ What is Child Labour, International Labour Organization (Geneva), n.d. Access Date: 1 October 2023. <https://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/lang--en/index.htm>

guidance on the types of effective measures that states can adopt.^{1885,1886} Such measures, more specific to the forced or compulsory labour pillar of this commitment, include basic social security guarantees, eliminating fraudulent practices by recruitment agencies, compensation schemes and/or legal remedies for victims and the imposition of penalties on offenders.

Partial compliance, or a score of 0, will be assigned to G7 members that take weak actions with respect to effective abolition in both pillars of the commitment, or strong action in one of the pillars. Examples of actions that, while important, would be considered “weak” for the sole purposes of this commitment include domestic or international information-sharing, awareness-raising campaigns on identifying and combating abusive practices at work, and active participation at domestic or international summits on these topics.

Non-compliance, or a score of -1, will be assigned to G7 members that did not demonstrate any actions with respect to the effective abolition of forced or compulsory labour and child labour. Given the high standard for this commitment, actions including (a) verbal statements or reaffirmations in support of the effective abolition of forced/compulsory labour or child labour and (b) cabinet reconfigurations to signal action on the aforementioned types of labour and (c) attendance at domestic or international summits on these topics and further international legalization, will not count towards compliance.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member did not take actions to effectively abolish all forms of forced or compulsory labour or to abolish child labour.
0	The G7 member took weak action to effectively abolish both forced or compulsory labour and child labour; or a member took strong action either with respect to forced or compulsory labour or child labour.
+1	The G7 member took strong action to effectively abolish both forced or compulsory labour and child labour.

*Compliance Director: Ashton Mathias
Lead Analyst: Cindy Zhu*

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to the effective abolishment of all forms of forced and compulsory labor and child labor.

On 28 May 2023, Canada amended its Customs Tariff Act C.26, subparagraph 132(1)(m)(i.1) to include both child labour and forced labour as conditions to exclude goods from a tariff item.¹⁸⁸⁷ The current amendment states that tariff item must exclude “goods mined, manufactured or produced wholly or in part by forced labour or child labour as those terms are defined in section 2 of the Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act.”

On 11 July 2023, the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE) published its first assessment into allegations regarding certain businesses based in China have used or benefitted from Uyghur forced and child labor.¹⁸⁸⁸ The focus of the assessment was on Nike Canada Corp. and Dynasty Gold Corp. (a

¹⁸⁸⁵ R203 - Forced Labour (Supplementary Measures) Recommendation, 2014 (No. 203), International Labour Organization (Geneva) 11 June 2014. Access Date: 1 October 2023.

https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_ILO_CODE:R203:NO

¹⁸⁸⁶ Protocol P029 - Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 11 June 2014. Access Date: 1 October 2023.

https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:P029

¹⁸⁸⁷ Customs Tariff, S.C. 1997, c. 36. Assented to 1997-12-08 (Toronto) 28 May 2023. Access Date: 8 November 2023.

<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/c-54.011/FullText.html>

¹⁸⁸⁸ CORE ‘investigations’ into allegations of Canadian company links to Uyghur forced labour will likely yield few results (Toronto) 24 August 2023. Access Date: 8 November 2023. <https://cnca-rcrce.ca/2023/08/24/core-investigations-will-likely-lead-to-few-results/>

mining business).¹⁸⁸⁹ Both companies denied culpability, with Dynasty Gold Corp stating it did not have operational control over its mine and that such allegations arose after it left the region. In response, CORE began conducting independent fact-finding investigations.¹⁸⁹⁰

On 15 August 2023, CORE published assessments on GobiMin, an investment company that has interest in Dynasty Gold Corp and Ralph Lauren Corporation.¹⁸⁹¹ For GobiMin, CORE provided recommendations regarding responsible business conduct, including emphasizing the risk of forced labor arising from investments in companies abroad.¹⁸⁹² CORE additionally decided that certain allegations have warranted the need for an investigation using independent fact-finding sources.¹⁸⁹³

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced and compulsory labor and child labor. Canada has been effective in taking actions to abolish and/or improve labor conditions such as increasing the minimum wage in multiple provinces and launching reports to assess forced labor usage across Canadian-based companies. However, Canada has not been able to commit actions in combating child labor in the country or abroad used by Canadian businesses.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Ridhima Sinha

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced and compulsory labor and child labor.

On 1 June 2023, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child published its final observations on the protection of children's rights in France.¹⁸⁹⁴ The committee welcomed the progress made by France and its active efforts of the public authorities for children. The committee also paid special tribute to the national strategy on prevention and the protection of children. Additionally, the Committee viewed the creation of a parliamentary delegation on children's rights at the Senate and National Assembly, as positive as well as the opening of more places where child victims' testimonies could be heard.

¹⁸⁸⁹ The CORE launches investigations into two Canadian companies (Ottawa) 11 July 2023. Access Date: 8 November 2023. https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core_ombuds-ocre_ombuds/news-nouvelles/press-release-communique-2023-07-11.aspx?lang=eng

¹⁸⁹⁰ Initial Assessment Report for a complaint filed by a coalition of 28 organizations about the activities of Dynasty Gold Corp. (Ottawa) 7 July 2023. Access Date: 8 November 2023. https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core_ombuds-ocre_ombuds/activities-dynasty-gold-corp-activities.aspx?lang=eng

¹⁸⁹¹ The CORE addresses forced labour complaints against two Canadian companies (Ottawa) 15 August 2023. Access Date: 8 November 2023. https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core_ombuds-ocre_ombuds/press-release-communique-presse.aspx?lang=eng

¹⁸⁹² Initial Assessment Report for a complaint filed by a coalition of 28 organizations about the activities of GobiMin (Ottawa) 15 August 2023. Access Date: 8 November 2023. https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core_ombuds-ocre_ombuds/activities-gobimin-activities.aspx?lang=eng

¹⁸⁹³ Initial Assessment Report for a complaint filed by a coalition of 28 organizations about the activities of Ralph Lauren Canada LP (Ottawa) 15 August 2023. Access Date: 8 November 2023. https://core-ombuds.canada.ca/core_ombuds-ocre_ombuds/activities-ralph-lauren-activities.aspx?lang=eng

¹⁸⁹⁴ United Nations – The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child welcomes the progress made by France and its active efforts for children - Joint communiqué issued by the ministry for Europe and foreign Affairs and the office of the minister of state for children, France Diplomatie (France) 2 June 2023. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/france-and-the-united-nations/news-and-events/news/news-2023/article/united-nations-the-un-committee-on-the-rights-of-the-child-welcomes-the>

On 8 September 2023, Deputy Prosecutor in Châlons-en-Champagne opened up two investigations of human trafficking during the grape harvest.¹⁸⁹⁵ The investigations pertained to accusations that over 200 foreigners allegedly worked in appalling conditions from substandard and unsanitary facilities to forced labor.

France has partially complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced and compulsory labor, and child labor. France has taken measures to file lawsuits against and combat networks and companies that carry out human rights abuses such as forced labor, human trafficking, and smuggling. However, France has not been able to commit to actions that effectively combat forced labor and harsh working conditions in the country.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Zabra Javaid

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced and compulsory labor and child labor.

On 2 July 2023, Germany introduced their new German Whistleblower Protection Act, which requires all businesses and companies with 50 or more employees to establish internal reporting channels. This includes covering channels to report its compliance regarding criminal behaviors, violations of health and safety and minimum wage regulations.¹⁸⁹⁶

On 7 July 2023, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs put into effect the Citizen's Benefits Act, which aims to introduce standard support requirements covering all daily living costs for employees. This Act would also ensure monthly bonuses, such as EUR75 for sustainable integration bonuses, topping the citizen's benefits.¹⁸⁹⁷

On 5 September 2023, Germany began consultations with civil society for its National Action Plan against labour exploitation and forced labour, aiming to finalize and adopt the plan within the next legislative period.¹⁸⁹⁸

On 18 September 2023, Germany, Belgium and Spain pledged EUR21 million for the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, an International Labour Organization–coordinated initiative.¹⁸⁹⁹ The initiative aims to support the creation of 400 million decent jobs and extend universal social protection, including those of forced laborers and children, for over 4 billion people.

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced and compulsory labor and child labor. Germany has taken measures to abolish forced and compulsory labor practices by, for instance, having union reforms aiming to increase public-sector workers' wages by 10.5 per cent. In addition, Germany has taken strong actions in combating child labor through funding programs that will protect the victims of child labour.

¹⁸⁹⁵ Investigations opened for human trafficking during grape harvest in Champagne, Le Monde (Paris) 29 September 2023. Access Date: 14 November 2023. https://www.lemonde.fr/en/france/article/2023/09/29/investigations-opened-for-human-trafficking-during-grape-harvest-in-champagne_6140857_7.html

¹⁸⁹⁶ Germany's New Whistleblower Protection Act: What Employers Need to Know, Ogletree (Toronto) 28 August 2023. Access Date: 8 November 2023. <https://ogletree.com/insights-resources/blog-posts/germanys-new-whistleblower-protection-act-what-employers-need-to-know/>

¹⁸⁹⁷ Citizen's benefit (Bürgergeld) for People from Abroad, (Berlin) n.d. Access Date: 8 November 2023

¹⁸⁹⁸ Germany: General information: situation on trafficking in human beings, European Commission Migration and Home Affairs (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 15 February 2024. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/internal-security/organised-crime-and-human-trafficking/together-against-trafficking-human-beings/eu-countries/germany_en#:~:text=National%20Action%20Plan,-The%20coalition%20agreement&text=It%20will%20cover%20four%20fields,commenced%20on%205%20September%202023.

¹⁸⁹⁹ 21 million euros pledged at UNGA for Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, International Labour Organization (New York) 18 September 2023. Access Date: 8 November 2023. https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_894291/lang--en/index.htm

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ridhima Sinha

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced and compulsory labour and child labour.

On 6 October 2023, Italy declared that it would be subject to a proposed European Union mandate to prohibit goods made by forced labour throughout the EU Market. Alongside with Egypt and the Intl Labour Organization, Italy has also signed the National Action Plan for Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Egypt and Supporting Family to combat child labour in Egypt.¹⁹⁰⁰ This plan aims to eliminate all forms of child labour by 2025 by providing social integration and protection to targeted children and their families.

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced labour and compulsory labour and child labour. Italy has conducted a singular action pertaining to this commitment, entailing the application of regulations to its territory.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Wania Gondal

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced and compulsory labor and child labor.

On 23 July 2023, Japan hosted the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights to discuss the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries plans to develop human rights due diligence guidelines for the food industry supply chain, and raise awareness on business and human rights overseas through a push for the inclusion of relevant language regarding UNGPs. Despite gaps in the understanding and implementation of UNGPs among businesses, the working group noted Japan's excellent cooperation both in the country and from its Permanent Mission in Geneva.¹⁹⁰¹

On 15 August 2023, Japan and UNESCO's funding for Care and Recovery for Migrant Children project led to the first installment of food items to reach 20 migrant learning centres in the three border districts of the Tak Province. This delivery is estimated to benefit more than 3,000 migrant students on the Thai-Myanmar border by providing them with daily nutritious lunches.¹⁹⁰² This demonstrates that Japan's pledge of USD2.1 million to this project has been worthwhile, reemphasizing their commitment to safeguarding against child sexual abuse and exploitation of child labour.¹⁹⁰³

¹⁹⁰⁰Egypt, Italy, ILO sign an agreement to support national plan to combat child labour (Cairo) 6 October 2023. Access Date: 28 November 2023. <https://www.sis.gov.eg/Story/187158/Egypt%2C-Italy%2C-ILO-sign-an-agreement-to-support-national-plan-to-combat-child-labour?lang=en-us>

¹⁹⁰¹ UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights – Country Visit to Japan, 24 July to 4 August 2023, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (Tokyo). 4 August 2023. Access Date: 9 November 2023. <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/development/wg/statement/20230804-eom-japan-wg-development-en.pdf>

¹⁹⁰² UNESCO and Japan team up to provide education and food assistance to migrant children on the Thai-Myanmar border, UNESCO (Bangkok). 27 October 2023. Access Date: 14 November 2023. <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-and-japan-team-provide-education-and-food-assistance-migrant-children-thai-myanmar-border>

¹⁹⁰³ UNESCO and Japan announce education in emergencies project for migrant children along the Thailand-Myanmar border, UNESCO (Bangkok). 8 November 2023. Access Date: 14 November 2023. <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-and-japan-announce-education-emergencies-project-migrant-children-along-thailand-myanmar?hub=701>

On 18 September 2023, the Japan International Cooperation Agency joined the Australian Embassy, United States Agency for International Development and Thailand International Cooperation Agency to reinforce commitments against human trafficking. The delegation met with stakeholders to further support regional development and work with Lower Mekong countries.¹⁹⁰⁴

On 18 October 2023, Japan's government expert panel drafted a proposal to scrap the current Technical Intern Training Program (TITP) and instead introduce a new system. This reform is significant as the TITP was criticized for its allegedly exploitative nature; the proposed changes underscore Japan's recognition and eradication of these systemic flaws.¹⁹⁰⁵

On 14 November 2023, Ministers Yoko Kamikawa and Yasutoshi Nishimura and United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo convened for the second ministerial meeting of the Japan-US Economic Policy Consultative Committee.¹⁹⁰⁶ With a focus on bilateral relations, they discussed aims to promote meaningful labor protections while supporting women's economic empowerment, entrepreneurship and leadership.

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced and compulsory labour and child labour. They have consistently followed through with promises to regulate supply chains, create new initiatives and actionable plans, and lead discussions related to forced labour and child labour.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Amelia Hui

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced and compulsory labor and child labor.

On 5 June 2023, the UK's All-Party Parliamentary Group launched its report 'Child Labour: strengthening the UK's approach to a persistent problem' in Parliament.¹⁹⁰⁷ Speakers further called for reforming the 2015 Modern Slavery Strategy and distinguishing exploitative child labour from modern slavery. Business representatives warmly received the report, having supported calls for clarity in UK child labour regulations and a harmonization with foreign jurisdictions where rules are often more stringent.¹⁹⁰⁸

On 19 June 2023, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities introduced The Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill, also known as the Anti-Boycott Bill, in the House of Commons.¹⁹⁰⁹ The bill restricts public bodies from making investment or procurement decisions that "indicates political or moral disapproval of a foreign state." Opposition parliamentarians and civil society groups stated that the Bill may prevent public bodies from taking action (e.g., boycotts, divestment campaigns) in response to China's treatment of Uyghurs.

¹⁹⁰⁴ Press Release 2023 – Commitment to combating human trafficking_Eng, Australian Embassy – Thailand (Bangkok). 20 September 2023. Access Date: 9 November 2023.

https://thailand.embassy.gov.au/bkok/PR2023_Commitment_combating_human_trafficking_Eng.html

¹⁹⁰⁵ Japan to overhaul foreign trainee program, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (Vancouver). 26 October 2023. Access Date: 12 November 2023. <https://cast.asiapacific.ca/map/event/4280>

¹⁹⁰⁶ Joint Statement of the Japan-U.S. Economic Policy Consultative Committee, U.S. Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 14 November 2023. Access Date: 14 November 2023. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2023/11/joint-statement-japan-us-economic-policy-consultative-committee>

¹⁹⁰⁷ Listening to children must be key to UK's strategy on child labour, Institute of Development Studies (Brighton). 6 June 2023. Access Date: 4 November 2023. <https://www.ids.ac.uk/news/listening-to-children-must-be-key-to-uks-strategy-on-child-labour/>

¹⁹⁰⁸ The government must act to tackle child labour, Drapers (London). 19 July 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.drapersonline.com/insight/why-the-government-must-act-to-tackle-child-labour>

¹⁹⁰⁹ Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill 2022-23, UK Parliament – House of Commons Library (London). 23 October 2023. Access Date: 12 November 2023. <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9822/>

On 20 July 2023, the UK's Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill received Royal Assent.¹⁹¹⁰ This bill allows the Secretary of State to make regulations on minimum level of service that unions and workers must comply with during strikes. Unions and workers will be obligated to adhere to these regulations, or else they forfeit protections safeguarding them from being sued or dismissed.

On 10 August 2023, the UK published extensive research and data on the number of potential victims of modern slavery, following the National Referral Mechanism via the Duty to Notify. This is a step to reinforcing their commitment against forced labour and trafficking.¹⁹¹¹

On 22 September 2023, the International Labour Organization and Plan International conducted a training session on inter-agency child labour for the Middle East North Africa region, made possible through funding from the European Union, Sweden and the UK.¹⁹¹²

On 25 September 2023, the UK held a roundtable discussion on its negotiation with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). This discussion emphasized the importance of ensuring mobility for workers within the GCC and the importance of gender equality and labour rights.¹⁹¹³

On 12 October 2023, the UK held a roundtable meeting to discuss implementing recommendations from the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. To combat human trafficking across the country, participants focused on victim access to legal aid and compensation, investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases, identification of victims of trafficking, provision of assistance and protection and cooperation with civil society and the private sector.¹⁹¹⁴

On 13 October 2023, the UK launched the Global Commission on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking as a global initiative to confront modern slavery. The UK and Bahrain funded the commission, which aims to make change through an action plan and its according implementation. Ultimately, its aim is to align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to eradicate alarming increases in slavery and trafficking.¹⁹¹⁵

On 18 October 2023, Ambassador James Kariuki gave a joint statement on behalf of the UK and 50 other countries at the United Nations Third Committee on human rights violations occurring in Xinjiang.¹⁹¹⁶ The UK led on the statement, demonstrating their commitment to combating against forced labour.

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced and compulsory labour and child labour. It has reemphasized its mission against modern slavery and forced labour through roundtables, reports, and committees; however, the UK did not create nor expand initiatives pertaining

¹⁹¹⁰ Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill 2022-23, UK Parliament – House of Commons Library (London). 13 January 2023. Access Date: 1 November 2023. <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9703/>

¹⁹¹¹ Modern Slavery: National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify statistics UK, end of year summary 2022, Government of the United Kingdom (London). 2 March 2023. Access Date: 12 November 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/modern-slavery-national-referral-mechanism-and-duty-to-notify-statistics-uk-end-of-year-summary-2022/modern-slavery-national-referral-mechanism-and-duty-to-notify-statistics-uk-end-of-year-summary-2022>

¹⁹¹² Training marks a significant step forward in addressing child labour in Lebanon, International Labour Organization (Geneva). 22 September 2023. Access Date: 9 November 2023. https://www.ilo.org/beirut/media-centre/news/WCMS_894706/lang-en/index.htm

¹⁹¹³ Trade Policy Advisory Group meeting: 25 October 2023, Welsh Government services and information (Cardiff). 7 November 2023. Access Date: 12 November 2023. <https://www.gov.wales/trade-policy-advisory-group-meeting-25-october-2023-html>

¹⁹¹⁴ Round-table meeting on combating human trafficking in the United Kingdom, Council of Europe (London). 12 October 2023. Access Date: 12 November 2023. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/anti-human-trafficking/-/round-table-on-malta-s-progress-in-combating-human-trafficking-duplicate-1>

¹⁹¹⁵ Global Commission on Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking to lead international battle to end forced labour, University of Oxford (Oxford). 13 October 2023. Access Date: 12 November 2023. <https://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2023-10-13-global-commission-modern-slavery-human-trafficking-lead-international-battle-end>

¹⁹¹⁶ Human rights violations in Xinjiang: joint statement at the UN Third Committee, Government of the United Kingdom (London). 18 October 2023. Access Date: 12 November 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/joint-statement-on-human-rights-violations-in-xinjiang-at-the-un-third-committee>

to the effective abolishment of child labour on aspects such as prevention, monitoring, enforcement, and the protection of victims.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Amelia Hui

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced and compulsory labor and child labor.

On 27 July 2023, the Labor Department condemned a national surge in the exploitation of migrant child workers. The agency claimed to find thousands of cases where minors were employed in illegal and dangerous jobs, largely as a result of the 300,000 unaccompanied minors that have come to the US since 2021. House Democrats launched a task force to fight child labor and requested a federal audit to assess the range of the problem. The Labor Department announced its efforts to find companies that rely on child workers and hold them accountable. It also prohibited the shipment of goods when child labor is involved.¹⁹¹⁷

On 1 August 2023, the United States banned goods from two China-based companies, Camel Group Co. Ltd., a battery manufacturer, and Chenguang Biotech Group Co. Ltd., a spice and extract manufacturer. The Department of Homeland Security stated these companies were implicated in the genocide and crimes against humanity being committed in the Xinjiang Region.¹⁹¹⁸

On 26 September 2023, the United States restricted imports from three Chinese companies tied to forced labor as part of their continued efforts to eliminate goods made with forced labor from the US supply chains. Xinjiang Tianmian Foundation Textile Co Ltd, Xinjiang Tianshan Wool Textile Co. Ltd. and Xinjiang Zhongtai Group Co. Ltd were added to the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act Entity List, bringing the total number of companies to 27. The list prohibits importing goods into the US that are produced in Xinjiang or by the identified companies unless the importer can prove that the goods were not produced with forced labor.¹⁹¹⁹

On 24 October 2023, the heads of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China urged the Department of Homeland Security and the Biden administration to ban seafood processed in two provinces in China from entering the US market because of concerns of human rights abuses on Uyghurs. They also demanded a ban of Chinese facilities using forced labor from doing business with US companies.¹⁹²⁰

On 26 October 2023, lawmakers introduced Senate bills aimed to combat the rising number of child labor violations in the United States.¹⁹²¹ Together, the bills target companies with federal contracts that employ children for more scrutiny and require the Labor Department to produce detailed annual reports to Congress about the perpetrators and victims involved in child labor cases. They also announced a third bill to improve

¹⁹¹⁷ Labor Department Denounces Surge in Exploited Migrant Children, The New York Times (New York) 27 July 2023. Access Date: 14 November 2023. <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/27/us/migrant-child-labor.html?searchResultPosition=1>

¹⁹¹⁸ US targets two China-based firms over forced labor practices, Department of Homeland Security says, Reuters (Beijing) 2 August 2023. Access Date: 14 November 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/business/us-targets-two-china-based-firms-over-forced-labor-practices-dhs-2023-08-01/>

¹⁹¹⁹ US restricts imports from three more Chinese companies tied to forced labor, Reuters (Beijing) 27 September 2023. Access Date: 14 November 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-adds-three-entities-forced-labor-entity-list-involving-uyghurs-2023-09-26/>

¹⁹²⁰ Forced labor concerns prompt US lawmakers to demand ban on seafood from 2 Chinese provinces, Associated Press (Washington D.C.) 24 October 2023. Access Date: 14 November 2023. <https://apnews.com/article/congress-ban-china-forced-labor-seafood-uyghur-119b35e4522011c888837b931ae259e6>

¹⁹²¹ More bipartisan Senate bills take aim at curbing US child labor, Reuters (New York) 26 October 2023. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/more-bipartisan-senate-bills-take-aim-curbing-us-child-labor-2023-10-26/>

protections for unaccompanied migrant children, especially those who worked in dangerous conditions in plants and factories.

On 22 November 2023, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) denied entry of electronics from Malaysia and Vietnam worth USD74 million for components from forced labor in China.¹⁹²² In that month alone, CBP refused or held for check USD82 million worth of shipments, with the majority being electronics such as solar panels and semiconductors. Following the passage of the Uyghur Forced Labor Protection Act, exporters must demonstrate their products are free from any raw materials or components from Xinjiang.

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to effectively abolish all forms of forced and compulsory labor and child labor. The United States has taken measures to condemn and restrict importing goods from companies tied to forced and compulsory labor practices. In addition, the United States introduced bills aimed at the effective abolishment of child labour.

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

Analyst: Zabra Javaid

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment in the effective abolition of forced and compulsory labour, and child labour.

On 1 June 2023, the European Parliament established a position on rules to integrate human rights into companies' governance.¹⁹²³ This required companies located in the EU to monitor and end the negative impact of their activities on child labour, slavery and labour exploitation. Companies who fail to report compliance will be liable for damages and sanctioning. As the European Parliament adopted their position on corporate accountability with regard to forced labour and child labour, negotiations on the final text of the legislation can begin.

On 12 June 2023, the European Commission and High Representative released a statement on World Day against Child Labour reaffirming their commitment to end child labour and safeguard children rights.¹⁹²⁴ They called for an intensification of the efforts to abolish child labour and provide children with access to education, healthcare and a decent life.

On 12 June 2023, the EU announced its commitment to be a member of Alliance 8.7, an organization ending child labour, forced labour and modern slavery. With this, the European Union accelerated efforts for the protection of children, safeguarding children rights and ensuring children are free from all forms of exploitation and abuse.¹⁹²⁵

On 16 October 2023, the committees on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, and International Trade, adopted a mandate from the European Parliament to prohibit products made using forced labor on the

¹⁹²² Malaysia, Vietnam electronics face closer US scrutiny over China forced labor, Reuters (Hanoi/Kuala Lumpur) 22 November 2023. Access Date: 13 December 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/malaysia-vietnam-electronics-face-closer-us-scrutiny-over-china-forced-labour-2023-11-22/>

¹⁹²³ MEPs push companies to mitigate their negative social and environmental impact, European Parliament (Brussels) 1 June 2023. Access Date: 23 November 2023. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20230524IPR91907/meps-push-companies-to-mitigate-their-negative-social-and-environmental-impact>

¹⁹²⁴ Statement by the European Commission and the High Representative on the occasion of World Day against Child Labour, European Commission (Brussels) 12 June 2023. Access Date: 23 November 2023. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_23_3135

¹⁹²⁵ Statement by the European Commission and the High Representative on the occasion of World Day against Child Labour, European Commission (Brussels) 12 June 2023. Access Date: 17 December 2023. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_23_3135

EU Market.¹⁹²⁶ Companies in violation would have their goods halted at the EU border and withdrawn in the EU market. This removed financial incentives for companies to use forced labor, alongside protecting victims. The definition of forced labor has also been widened in alignment with the International Labour Organization to include “all work or service, which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily.”

On 18 October 2023, the European Parliament adopted a mandate to revise rules on combating human trafficking for victim protection, including forced labor and child labour victims.¹⁹²⁷ The revision of rules included allowing trafficking victims to receive intersectional support such as child-sensitive protection, appropriating support to unaccompanied children and issuing penalties to companies convicted of trafficking. These rules also protected trafficking victims from prosecution for criminal acts that they were coerced to committing.

The EU has fully complied with its commitment in the effective abolition of forced and compulsory labour, and child labour. Through creating mandates for the prevention of forced and child labour, punishment of perpetrators, and the protection of victims, the European Union has strongly dedicated itself with respect to the abolition of both pillars of the commitment.

Thus, the EU receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Wania Gondal

¹⁹²⁶ Towards an EU ban on products made with forced labor, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 October 2023. Access Date: 25 November 2023. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20231016IPR07307/towards-an-eu-ban-on-products-made-with-forced-labour>

¹⁹²⁷ Trafficking in human beings: MEPs ready to negotiate new EU rules, European Parliament (Brussels) 18 October 2023. Access Date: 25 November 2023. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20231013IPR07128/trafficking-in-human-beings-meps-ready-to-negotiate-new-eu-rules>