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The
G20 Research Group
at Trinity College at the Munk School of Global Affairs in the University of Toronto
presents the

2015 G20 Antalya Summit Final Compliance Report

16 November 2015 to 3 September 2016

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"The University of Toronto … produced a detailed analysis to the extent of which each G20 country has met its commitments since the last summit … I think this is important; we come to these summits, we make these commitments, we say we are going to do these things and it is important that there is an organisation that checks up on who has done what."

— *David Cameron, Prime Minister, United Kingdom, at the 2012 Los Cabos Summit*

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Preface

Since the G20 leaders met at their first summit in 2008 in Washington, the G20 Research Group at the University of Toronto and the Center for International Institutions Research of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA), formerly with the International Organizations Research Institute at the National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE), in Moscow have produced reports on their progress in implementing the priority commitments made at each summit. These reports monitor each G20 member's efforts to implement a carefully chosen selection of the many commitments produced at each summit. The reports are offered to the general public and to policy makers, academics, civil society, the media and interested citizens around the world in an effort to make the work of the G20 more transparent, accessible and effective, and to provide scientific data to enable the meaningful analysis of the causes of compliance and the impact of this important informal international institution. Previous reports are available at the G20 Information Centre at http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis.

The G20 Research Group has been working with Marina Larionova's team at RANEPA and previously at HSE since initiating this G20 compliance research in 2009, after the Washington Summit in November 2008. The initial report, covering only one commitment made at that summit, tested the compliance methodology developed by the G8 Research Group and adapted it to the G20.

To make its assessments, the G20 Research Group relies on publicly available information, documentation and media reports. To ensure accuracy, comprehensiveness and integrity, we encourage comments from stakeholders. Indeed, scores can be recalibrated if new material becomes available. All feedback remains anonymous. Responsibility for the contents of this report lies exclusively with the authors and analysts of the G20 Research Group. Due to extenuating circumstances, stakeholders had limited time to submit feedback. This report reflects feedback submitted as of 5 September 2016. It includes seven commitments that could not be distributed for stakeholder feedback.

The interim report, published in July 2016, assessed performance by G20 members with 10 priority commitments among the total of 113 commitments made at the 2015 Antalya Summit, held on 15-16 November 2015. It covered the first part of China's G20 presidency up to 5 April 2016.

This final report assesses performance by G20 members on those same 10 commitments plus the seven that did not receive stakeholder feedback, for a total of 17.

I am most grateful to Sarah Scott and our G20 Research Group team, as well as Marina Larionova, Mark Rakhmangulov and their team in Moscow at RANEPA.

Professor John Kirton
Co-director, G20 Research Group

13. Information and Communications Technologies: Digital Divide

Note: This commitment has not been sent out for stakeholder feedback.

We commit ourselves to bridge the digital divide.

G20 Antalya Communiqué

Assessment

Country	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia		0	
Brazil		0	
Canada			+1
China		0	
France		0	
Germany		0	
India		0	
Indonesia		0	
Italy	−1		
Japan	−1		
Korea			+1
Mexico		0	
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa		0	
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States	−1		
European Union			+1
Average	+0.10		

Background

According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Glossary of Statistical Terms, "the term 'digital divide' refers to the gap between individuals, households, businesses and geographic areas at different socio-economic levels with regard to both their opportunities to access information and communication technologies (ICTs) and to their use of the Internet for a wide variety of activities."[2530]

While stating their commitment to bridge the digital divide, the G20 leaders at the Antalya Summit also noted the role of the Internet as an important driver of economic growth and development around the world.[2531]

The G20 commitment goes in hand with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals — particularly reflecting one of the targets of *Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation*, which calls on all countries to "significantly increase access to

[2530] Glossary of Statistical Terms, OECD. Date of Access: 20 February 2016. https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=4719.
[2531] Antalya G20 Leaders' Communiqué, 16 November 2015. Date of Access: 20 February 2016. http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communique.html.

information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020."[2532] Thus, there is also an important international dimension to the issue.

Commitment features

The commitment requires the G20 members to take action aimed at increasing accessibility of information and communication technologies.

To fully comply with the commitment a member must both take actions to promote the use of the ICT at the national level, and assist other countries in doing so. As per the OECD definition of digital divide, possible actions to tackle it must be aimed at increasing people's opportunities to access ICT, and can include measures to facilitate people's access to digital state services, expand coverage and quality broadband networks or promote other means of connecting to the worldwide network, educate the population and develop their skills in the use of modern digital technologies, etc.[2533]

Scoring guidelines

−1	Member fails to take action aimed at increasing accessibility of information and communication technologies.
0	Member takes action aimed at increasing accessibility of information and communication technologies either domestically or abroad.
+1	Member takes action aimed at increasing accessibility of information and communication technologies both domestically and abroad.

Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with the commitment on bridging the digital divide.

On 17 May 2016, the General Universal Service Regulations principles were approved in Argentina. Resolution 2642/2016 establishes the principles and rules governing the service, the beneficiaries, the sectors involved and funding mechanisms, among others. The General Universal Service Regulations were updated in order to enable their effective implementation on the basis of mechanisms and simple, transparent and dynamic procedures that allow responding appropriately to their implementation.[2534]

On 17 May 2016, Argentinian President Mauricio Macri presented the Federal Internet Plan (Plan Federal de Internet). The plan provides for the expansion of broadband network to 1147 locations around the country. The President also said that he was committed to the National Digital Plan that aims to improve the quality of services, promote transparency and encourage digital inclusion of Argentina's citizens.[2535]

Argentina has taken actions aimed at increasing accessibility of information and communication technologies domestically. However, it has not assisted abroad.

Thus, Argentina has been awarded a score of 0.

Analysts: Dariya Zhdanova and Andrei Sakharov

[2532] Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation, United Nations. Date of Access: 20 February 2016. http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/infrastructure-industrialization/.
[2533] Glossary of Statistical Terms, OECD. Date of Access: 20 February 2016. https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=4719.
[2534] http://www.enacom.gob.ar/institucional/se-aprobo-el-reglamento-general-del-servicio-universal_n1232
[2535] Macri anunció el Plan Federal de Internet, Argentinian Government 17 May 2016. Date of access: 1 September 2016. https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/macri-anuncio-el-plan-federal-de-internet.

Australia: 0

Australia has partially complied with the commitment on bridging the digital divide.

On 23 March 2016, Australian Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science Christopher Pyne and Assistant Minister for Cities and Digital Transformation Angus Taylor announced the first stage of an online Digital Marketplace allowing smaller businesses to access government's USD5 billion annual funding on ICT projects. The marketplace is part of the Government's National Innovation and Science Agenda and is led by the Digital Transformation Office (DTO). "The Digital Marketplace will be an online catalogue of services, people and technology to assist government with service transformation. We are keen to open this up to smaller and newly-established businesses who have traditionally found it too big a burden to prove their credentials to government," Minister Pyne said.[2536]

On 4 May 2016, the 2016 Australian Government ICT Awards Program was launched in Sydney. The program aims to acknowledge and promote excellence, innovation and professionalism in the use of ICT across local, state and federal government agencies. This year, the Excellence in a Government Award was given to the New South Wales Electoral Commission as it contributed to the development of internet voting and e-government innovations.[2537]

Australia has taken actions aimed at increasing accessibility of information and communication technologies domestically. However, it has not assisted abroad.

Thus, Australia has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Anastasiya Baum

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with the commitment on bridging the digital divide.

On 14 December 2015, Brazilian geostationary satellite entered the integration and testing phase. The mating between the satellite platform and the communication module (payload) was successfully performed, marking the beginning of the integration and testing campaign. The mating was held at Thales Alenia Space facilities, satellite supplier of the SGDC System. The launch is scheduled for the window December 2016/February 2017. With the SGDC system, Brazil aims to achieve sovereignty in civilian and military strategic communications as well as expand access to broadband Internet for the entire nation's territory.[2538]

On 9 March 2016, the Government of Brazil adopted a new strategy to improve digital governance. The federal government began the implementation of a new model in Management of Information

[2536] http://minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/pyne/media-releases/digital-marketplace-start-ups-access-5b-government-ict-projects

[2537] SME Australian Government ICT Awards Program, Australian Government department of finance 4 May 2016. Date of access:21 June 2016 https://www.finance.gov.au/collaboration-services-skills/australian-government-ict-awards-program/

[2538] Brazilian geostationary satellite enters the integration and testing phase, Embraer 12 December 2015. Date of access: 13 July 2016. http://www.embraer.com/en-us/imprensaeventos/press-releases/noticias/pages/brazilian-geostationary-satellite-enters-the-integration-and-testing-phase.aspx

Technology. It will help to improve citizens' access to the online public services and facilitate online information request.[2539]

On 30 March 2016, Secretary of the Ministry of Communications, Maximiliano Martinhão, announced the upcoming updating of the National Broadband Plan (introduced in 2012 by Decree № 7175). The goal is to provide universal access to fast Internet in Brazil, reaching 95 per cent of the population and 70 per cent of municipalities. Moreover, the new phase will focus on improving the network connection in schools to enhance digital education.[2540]

On 6 May 2016, Brazilian Government started revising the General Telecommunications Law, made in 1997 by presenting the report on concessions model. This revision will end the public system of fixed-line services, give the National Agency of Telecommunications (ANATEL) the competence to regulate private services sector, such as broadband Internet and mobile communications, and create conditions for investment in the sector to prioritize the expansion of broadband.[2541]

On 10 May 2016, the Government of Brazil reported that Digital governance system facilitates access to information. This system contains the Open Data Portal for making available the information about the functioning of the public authorities, and the Service Portal which already provides 600 online-services increasing their accessibility.[2542]

On 23 May 2016, Minister of Science, Technology, Innovation and Communications, Gilberto Kassab, announced his plans to strengthen the National Telecommunications Agency (Anatel) by passing competences of the Ministry of Communications to the regulatory agency. The aim of this reform is to facilitate more efficient functioning of the Agency for the Development of Information and Communication Technologies.[2543]

World Congress on IT is set to be held in Brazil on 3-5 October 2016. Several public hearings on the matter took place, attended by representatives of the Ministries of Communications and Labor. During the hearings Brazilian deputies expressed strong support for the international forum as being of a great importance for the development of IT in the world.[2544]

Brazil has taken actions aimed at increasing accessibility of information and communication technologies domestically. However, it has not assisted abroad.

Thus, Brazil has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Irina Popova

[2539] Governo adota novas estratégias para aperfeiçoar a governança digital, Portal of Brazilian Government 9 March 2016. Date of access: 13 July 2016. http://www.brasil.gov.br/governo/2016/03/governo-adota-novas-estrategias-para-aperfeicoar-a-governanca-digital

[2540] Governo prepara atualização do Programa Nacional de Banda Larga, Portal of Brazilian Government 30 March 2016. Date of access: 13 July 2016. http://www.brasil.gov.br/infraestrutura/2016/03/governo-prepara-atualizacao-do-programa-nacional-de-banda-larga

[2541] Banda larga deve ser novo foco das telecomunicações no Brasil, Globo 6 April 2016. Date of access: 13 July 2016. http://g1.globo.com/tecnologia/noticia/2016/04/banda-larga-deve-ser-novo-foco-das-telecomunicacoes-no-brasil.html

[2542] Governança Digital facilita acesso à informação, Portal of Brazilian Government 11 May 2016. Date of access: 13 July. http://www.brasil.gov.br/governo/2016/05/governanca-digital-facilita-acesso-a-informacao

[2543] Kassab quer fortalecer Anatel e pode aumentar atribuições da agência, Agência Brasil 23 May 2016. Date of access: 13 July 2016. http://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/geral/noticia/2016-05/kassab-quer-fortalecer-anatel-e-pode-aumentar-atribuicoes-da-agencia

[2544] Brazilian deputies express support for Bazil WCIT 2016, WCIT 2016 21 January 2016. Date of access: 13 July 2016 http://wcit2016.org/news/details/55

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment on bridging the digital divide.

On 14 March 2016, Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, announced that 7,500 refurbished computers will be provided to Syrian refugees in Canada.[2545]

On 29 March 2016, Finance Minister of Canada Bill Morneau announced new government investment package of up to CAD500 million over five years to "extend and enhance broadband service in rural and remote communities." This pledge carries forward the Government's commitment to expand high-speed internet coverage to citizens in rural and remote communities, allowing them to increase their participation in the digital economy and take advantage of a number of state services, such as telehealth and e-learning.[2546]

On 30 November 2015, Global Affairs Canada launched the 'Digital Livelihoods: Youth and the Future of Work at Scale' project aimed at promoting economic empowerment in several African states (Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Ghana, Morocco, Malawi, Senegal, and Zambia), through assisting "200,000 young women and men" in building entrepreneurial and job skills and applying technology to increase their incomes and employment opportunities. The project's activities include providing ICT trainings and workforce readiness programs and developing and curating online learning for youth. Global Affairs Canada contribution to the project amounts to CAD15,623,106. The project is to remain active until 2020.[2547]

Canada has taken actions aimed at increasing accessibility of information and communication technologies domestically and abroad.

Thus, Canada has been awarded a score of +1.

Analysts: Dariya Gruzdeva & Andrei Sakharov

China*:* 0

China has partially complied with the commitment on bridging the digital divide.

On 4 December 2015, 20 Senior Technical Experts dealing with ICT policies and regulations from the African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities and Associations of Regulators will take part in the technical training organized by Huawei at its Headquarters in China.[2548]

On 4 December 2015, The Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) was opened. President Xi Jinping announced to upgrade China-Africa relationship into a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, and said that China is willing to implement ten

[2545] Government of Canada Invests in Delivering Computers to Syrian Refugees, Government of Canada, 14 March 2016. Date of access: 19 July 2016. http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=1039859

[2546] Minister Morneau Announces New Investments in Rural Broadband, Department of Finance Canada 29 March 2016. Date of access: 1 September 2016. http://www.fin.gc.ca/n16/16-034-eng.asp.

[2547] Project profile: Digital Livelihoods: Youth and the Future of Work at Scale, Global Affairs Canada 30 November 2015. Date of Access: 1 September 2016. http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cidaweb/cpo.nsf/vWebProjBySectorOfFocusSCEn/39F4D93F685C94E585257F960039EC1E#h2transparency.

[2548] 20 African ICT Experts to take part in a training offered by Huawei in China, African Union 4 December 2016. Date of access: 16 August 2016. http://www.au.int/en/pressreleases/19436/20-african-ict-experts-take-part-training-offered-huawei-china

major cooperation initiatives with the African side and the strengthening of information and communication network is a cooperation measure listed in the ten major cooperation initiatives.[2549]

On 14 April 2016, Huawei, together with the biggest telecom operator of Namibia, successfully completed the first 4.5G network demonstration in Windhoek, capital city of Namibia, with the peak speed of on-site testing reaching 1000m per second.[2550]

On 19-20 April 2016, China announced an extra USD4 million in funds to advance the UNESCO-China-Funds-in-Trust (CFIT) Information and Communication Technology in teacher training project, at a meeting at UNESCO Headquarters.[2551]

On 6 June 2016, the African Union (AU) has commended China for the overall development support China provides to Africa in general and to capacity building of the continent in information and communication technology (ICT) sector in particular.[2552]

On 2 August 2016, 33 journalists and information officers from 13 English-speaking African countries arrived Beijing on a two-week seminar sponsored by the government of China. The aim of the training is to teach African specialists to present and provide access to the information in the media to shape the right image of the country.[2553]

China has taken actions aimed at increasing accessibility of information and communication technologies abroad but no such domestic actions have been registered .

Thus, China has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Irina Popova

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to increase accessibility of information and communication technologies both domestically and abroad.

On 15 February 2016, Matthias Fekl, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, the Promotion of Tourism and French Nationals Abroad, chaired the Strategic Council on Exports. At the meeting 10 partners in the internationalization of businesses signed an agreement creating the portal "France-international.fr." It makes available to businesses — particularly SMEs and mid-caps — a single point of access to information and offers of services, which are useful for simplifying their internationalization.[2554]

France has taken actions aimed at increasing accessibility of information and communication technologies both domestically However, it has not assisted abroad.

[2549]Building East Africa Information Expressway to Open a New Chapter of China-Africa Cooperation, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation 30 December 2015. Date of access: 16 August 2016. http://www.focac.org/eng/zxxx/t1328596.htm

[2550]Africa: Chinese Businesses Facilitating Africa's Digital Transformation, AllAfrica 26 May 2016. Date of access: 16 August 2016. http://allafrica.com/stories/201605271030.html

[2551]UNESCO-China project advances ICT in teacher training in 10 African countries, UNESCO. Date of access: 16 August 2016. http://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-china-project-advances-ict-teacher-training-10-african-countries

[2552]AU Commends China for Its Support to Africa's ICT Capacity Building, CHINAFRICA 6 June 2016. Date of access: 16 August 2016. http://www.chinafrica.cn/The_Latest_Headlines/201606/t20160607_800058810.html

[2553]33 African journalists arrive in China for training, People Daily 9 August 2016. Date of access: 16 August 2016. http://en.people.cn/n3/2016/0809/c90000-9097628.html

[2554]Matthias Fekl launches the France-International.fr portal, The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs 15.02.2016. Date of access: 24.06.2016. http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/events/article/foreign-trade-economic-diplomacy-matthias-fekl-launches-the-france

Thus, France has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Anastasiya Polovko

Germany: 0

Germany has partially complied with the commitment to bridge the digital divide.

On 11 May 2016, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) published the 2016 edition of the Federal Report on Research and Innovation. The Federal Report Bundesbericht Forschung und Innovation" (BuFI) is the standard publication on research and innovation policy in Germany and also contains a number of initiatives aimed at bridging the digital divide. With the initiative "Good growing up with the media," the Federal Government supported media education in families and strengthened the conditions for the development of media literacy from childhood. It is also focused on the quality assurance of digital educational media and privacy.[2555]

According to the report "Bundesbericht Forschung und Innovation" and the Digital Agenda 2014-2017, key objectives of the digital Federal Government policy 2016-2017 are the following:

- digital added value and networking generate growth and provide an impetus for good work in the digital world;
- the highly competitive and open Internet opens nationwide access to the digital world. Media and technology competence provide the basis for self-determined use of digital technologies;
- IT is simple, transparent and safe to use.[2556]

According to the report, the program "Digital technology for business" launched in 2015 helped companies implement creative ideas and new scientific findings. Within the framework of the program, Smart Service world has been supported (since 2015). It facilitated promoting of 16 projects for linking digital applications through a targeted, safe combination of cyber physical systems, data management technologies and open service platforms.[2557]

On 2 June 2016, the 4th National MINT (Mathematics, information technology, the natural sciences and technology) Summit took place in Berlin under the motto "Seizing Digital Opportunities — Bridging the Digital Divide." [2558] To ensure that the summit also incorporated the voices of young people, a National MINT Forum pre-conference called "FutureLab #DigitaleBildung" took place for the first time with 50 youths from across Germany. The takeaways from the FutureLab were presented at the summit during the first panel discussion, among the key points of which are the desire for a unified and universal digital education, improved media expertise for educators, and technical equipment for schools.[2559]

Germany has taken actions aimed at increasing accessibility of information and communication technologies domestically. However, it has not done so abroad.

[2555]Bundesbericht Forschung und Innovation 2016. – s.40. Federal Ministry of Education and Research Date of access: 21 July 2016. http://dip21.bundestag.de/dip21/btd/18/085/1808550.pdf

[2556] Bundesbericht Forschung und Innovation 2016. – s.94. Federal Ministry of Education and Research Date of access: 21 July 2016. http://dip21.bundestag.de/dip21/btd/18/085/1808550.pdf

[2557]Bundesbericht Forschung und Innovation 2016. – s.100. Federal Ministry of Education and Research Date of access: 21 July 2016. http://dip21.bundestag.de/dip21/btd/18/085/1808550.pdf

[2558] Promoting digital literacy, Federal Chancellor 2 June 2016. Date of access: 21 July 2016. https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/Content/EN/Artikel/2016/06_en/2016-06-02-mint_en.html

[2559] Youths present results of FutureLab #DigitaleBildung at the Fourth National MINT Summit, SIEMENS Stiftung 17 May 2016.Date of access: 21 July 2016. https://www.siemens-stiftung.org/en/media/press-releases-news/article/youths-present-results-of-futurelab-digitalebildung-at-the-fourth-national-mint-summit/

Thus, Germany has been awarded a score of 0

Analyst: Anastasiya Kozina

India: 0

India has partially complied with the commitment on information and communication.

On 2 June 2016, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between India and Tunisia. The Memorndum was dedicated to strengthening bilateral cooperation in the field of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Digital Economy. The MoU intends to foster active cooperation and exchange between private entities, Governments, institutions involved in enhancing capacity building and other public and private organizations of the two countries in the field of ICT and Digital Economy.[2560]

India has taken actions aimed at increasing accessibility of information and communication technologies domestically. However, it has not done so abroad.

Thus, India has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Pavel Grebenyuk

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with the commitment to bridge the digital divide.

On 11 April 2016, the launch of the Synergy Programme of Action for People's Economy by the President of Indonesia was announced. The main objective of this program is to support farmers, breeders and fishermen through providing them with access to financial instruments and digital services. The program is expected to promote the marketing capabilities of agriculture and fishery enterprises.[2561]

Indonesia has taken actions aimed at increasing accessibility of information and communication technologies domestically. However, it has not done so abroad.

Thus, Indonesia has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Italy: −1

Italy has not complied with the commitment on bridging the digital divide.

On 29- 30 April 2016, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Ministers of the G7 countries met at Takamatsu, Kagawa, Japan, to address current and future global ICT opportunities and challenges for sustainable and inclusive development. G7 Ministers committed to bridge digital divide by continuing to encourage the development of infrastructure for the digitally connected world and policies that support the global expansion of ICT infrastructure, products, and services including broadband Internet access to all people. They also committed to catalyze multi-stakeholder

[2560] MoU between India and Tunisia for strengthening bilateral cooperation in the field of ICT and Digital Economy, website of Prime Minister of India 2 June 2016. Date of access: 21 July 2016. http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/mou-between-india-and-tunisia-for-strengthening-bilateral-cooperation-in-the-field-of-ict-and-digital-economy/?comment=disable

[2561] President Launched Synergy Programme of Action for People's Economy, Indonesian Finance Ministry. Date of Access: 10 May 2016. http://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/Berita/president-launched-synergy-programme-action-peoples-economy.

efforts to bring 1.5 billion new Internet users online by 2020. The Ministers noted that they would also continue to share good practices with other countries and regions and encouraged increased support from technical experts, international organizations, and all stakeholders including multilateral development banks for development initiatives. They also encouraged the integration of Internet access goals into national development plans. In the Joint Declaration by G7 ICT Ministers Japan presented the initiative to promote the digitally connected world "Partnership for Quality Infrastructure."[2562]

Italy reaffirmed its commitment. However, no new actions were implemented.

Thus, Italy has been awarded a score of –1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Japan: –1

Japan has not complied with the commitment on bridging the digital divide.

On 29-30 April 2016, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Ministers of the G7 countries met at Takamatsu, Kagawa, Japan, to address current and future global ICT opportunities and challenges for sustainable and inclusive development. G7 Ministers committed to bridge digital divide by continuing to encourage the development of infrastructure for the digitally connected world and policies that support the global expansion of ICT infrastructure, products, and services including broadband Internet access to all people. They also committed to catalyze multi-stakeholder efforts to bring 1.5 billion new Internet users online by 2020. The Ministers noted that they would also continue to share good practices with other countries and regions and encouraged increased support from technical experts, international organizations, and all stakeholders including multilateral development banks for development initiatives. They also encouraged the integration of Internet access goals into national development plans. In the Joint Declaration by G7 ICT Ministers Japan presented the initiative to promote the digitally connected world "Partnership for Quality Infrastructure."[2563]

Japan reaffirmed its commitment. However, no new actions were implemented.

Thus, Japan has been awarded a score of –1.

Analyst: Anastasiya Baum

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with the commitment on bridging the digital divide.

On 22 December 2015, the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning held the Korea-Tunisia Science and Technology Joint Committee Meeting in Seoul with Tunisia's Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies and Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mines to discuss ways to boost science and technology (S&T) and ICT cooperation between the two nations. The meeting is the official dialogue channel between the two governments for S&T partnership created following the signing of a S&T partnership treaty in 1994. The parties discussed the scope and schedule for S&T joint research, the establishing of KAIST-Tunisia and plans to initiate expert exchange programs. Four major areas for joint research including engineering, energy, bioscience and ICT were selected to represent the areas of most interest for each country, with both parties agreeing to pursue four projects over the course of the

[2562] http://www.soumu.go.jp/joho_kokusai/g7ict/english/main_content/000416959.pdf
[2563] http://www.soumu.go.jp/joho_kokusai/g7ict/english/main_content/000416959.pdf

next two years. Following a request from Tunisia, the two sides also shared insights into national ICT policies and discussed ways to cooperate in this area, agreeing to work together through related ministries and agencies in projects for national digitization, cyber security and the promotion of private-sector partnerships in the ICT industry.[2564]

On 4 February 2016, the National Centers for the Creative Economy & Innovation Council, a body of 17 Centers for the Creative Economy and Innovation in Korea (CCE&I) and Microsoft Korea (MS) signed an MOU for mutual cooperation, agreeing to utilize Korea's CCE&Is as the primary hubs for partnership projects including support for training programs for Korean startups and software (SW) developers. The signing ceremony was attended by Minister of Science, ICT and Future Planning Choi Yang-hee as well as President of Microsoft Asia Pacific César Cernuda, Council Chairman Kim Seon-il, and COO of Microsoft Korea Choi Ki-young. The two parties agreed to cooperate in seven areas including the development and operation of on-the-job and technical training programs for startups and developers; support for regional champions and SMEs seeking to expand overseas; SW education programs and special events including job counseling and startup training for young adults and women; and technological support for the CCE&Is' local specialized strategic industries. Following the signing of the agreement, MS Korea plans to expand existing training, startup and entrepreneurship events, and will work with the Council and the CCE&Is to come up with detailed partnership programs.[2565]

On 31 March 2016, the talks were held between Minister of science, ICT and future planning, Choi Yang-hee, and John Holdren, senior adviser to President Barack Obama on science and technology issues in Seoul. Korea and the United States agreed to expand their partnership in the field of science and technology, such as cyber security and innovation. [2566]

On 2 May 2016, the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Iran's Ministry of Science Research and Technology on "various research cooperation" in both the basic and applied science fields..[2567]

On 24 May 2016, in Korea the 2016 World Information, Communication and Broadcasting Ministerial Meeting was held. Were discussed the overall current global status, future outlook of broadcasting technologies and institutions, and regulations related to ICT.[2568]

Korea has taken actions aimed at increasing accessibility of information and communication technologies both domestically and abroad.

Thus, Korea has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Ekaterina Muravyeva

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with the commitment to bridge the digital divide.

[2564] http://english.msip.go.kr:80/english/msipContents/snsView.do?fId=MjAxNjU4MTgxMjM3Ojk5

[2565] http://english.msip.go.kr:80/english/msipContents/snsView.do?fId=MjAxNjU4MTgxNjIxOjg2MQ==

[2566] S. Korea, US to expand ties on science and technology, The Korea Times 31.03.2016. Date of Access: 07.07.2016. http://koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/tech/2016/03/129_201571.html

[2567] S. Korea, Iran to boost IT, science cooperation, The Korea Times 02.05.2016. Date of Access: 07.07.2016. http://koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2016/05/113_203887.html

[2568] World Information, Communication and Broadcasting Meeting, The Ministry of Information and Communication of Bhutan 24.05.2016. Date of Access: 07.07.2016. http://www.moic.gov.bt/2016-world-information-communication-and-broadcasting-ministerial-meeting/

In December 2015, the National Digital Strategy of Mexico was released. One of the commitments under this Strategy is to provide the people with disabilities with 100 per cent accessible websites. The special Agreement was adopted in this regard. This Agreement includes the principles and technical criteria for the websites with aim to facilitate an access for people with disabilities to the information in the internet.[2569]

On 14 March 2016, the Mexican Secretary of Communication and Transport Gerardo Ruiz Esparza at the closing session of LIX General Assembly of the National Chamber of Electronic, Telecommunications and Information Technologies Industry (CANIETI) said that since the launch of the Telecommunications Reform more than USD27 billion was allocated to the communications sector of the country. As a result of the reform a number of users per 100 inhabitants increased from 42 to 57 in 2015. One of the important tools is the Program México Conectado which provides the internet to schools, libraries, hospitals.[2570]

Mexico has taken actions aimed at increasing accessibility of information and communication technologies both domestically. However, it has not done so abroad.

Thus, Mexico has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Elizaveta Safonkina

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with the commitment on information and communication.

On 19 November 2015, at the meeting with representatives of the Trade Union of Telecom Employees Russian Minister of Telecom and Mass Communications, Nikolay Nikiforov said that in order to eliminate digital divide in Russia it was planned to "construct 215 thousand kilometers of fiber-optic communication bands to small inhabited localities with population from 250 to 500 people within three years." According to the Minister "elimination of digital divide will reduce difference between cities and rural areas. Increase of broadband services availability by 10% creates possibilities for GDP growth by 1–1.5% annually."[2571]

On 30 March 2016, Russian Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications announced the results of the state program to reduce digital inequality in 2015. 1189 internet access points in 65 federal subjects were created and around 22 thousand kilometers of fiberoptic telecom lines were built in 2015. The government provides low-income citizens with cheap internet access as a part of its social obligations.[2572]

On 10 May 2016, Russian Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications announced the creation of the ground component of the high-speed Internet connection relay (РСС-ВСД). The system, according to the Ministry is aimed at reducing digital inequality in Russia by enabling access to the

[2569] Ya se publicaron las Disposiciones de Accesibilidad Web para el Gobierno. Date of access: 20 March 2016. https://www.gob.mx/blog/articulos/ya-se-publicaron-las-disposiciones-de-accesibilidad-web-para-el-gobierno.
[2570] Inversiones por más de 27 mmdd gracias a Reforma en Telecomunicaciones: GRE. Date of access: 20 March 2016. http://www.gob.mx/sct/prensa/inversiones-por-mas-de-27-mmdd-gracias-a-reforma-en-telecomunicaciones-gre.
[2571] Head of Minsvyaz Met with Representatives of the Trade Union of Telecom Employees, Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications of the Russian Federation 19 November 2015. http://minsvyaz.ru/en/events/34316/.
[2572] Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications announces the results of the state program to reduce digital inequality, Russian Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications 10 May 2016. Date of Access 11 May 2016. http://www.minsvyaz.ru/ru/events/34915/.

Internet in remote areas of the country "from Kaliningrad to Kamchatka" and will allow many Russian citizens to make full use of state services.[2573]

On 15 June 2016, Leningrad oblast became the 81st Russian region to sign an agreement and a roadmap for the implementation of the State Information System on Housing and Public Utility Sector. The information system facilitates citizens' access to information on public services and allows digital payment for utility services. [2574]

On 7 July 2016, the Russian Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications launched a section for pensioners at the Common Government Services Portal of Russian Federation website. It provides convenient access to the information and state services relevant to the elderly people, such as retirement account data.[2575]

On 8 August 2016, 10 more Russian regions signed agreements to join the "Open state services platform." The platform allows to facilitate users' access to state services through regional web-portals.[2576]

Russia has taken actions aimed at increasing accessibility of information and communication technologies domestically. However, it has not done so abroad.

Thus, Russia has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with the commitment to bridge the digital divide.

On 17 November 2015, a number of training courses for the employees of several ministries and government agencies were held by the e-Government Program (Yesser), represented by the "Basic skills of Computer Applications and e-Transactions Project" (Qudratak).[2577]

On 3 December 2015, it was announced that Saudi Arabia "ranked among the ten countries which have seen the most dynamic improvements in the rankings of the ITU's (International Telecommunication Union) ICT Development Index (IDI) since 2010 till the end of 2015."[2578]

On 6 January 2016, it was announced by the Ministry of Information and Communication of Saudi Arabia that "the 'Dissemination of Digital Culture and Knowledge' Initiative by Ministry of Communication and Information Technology has proceeded to deliver its lectures in all Kingdom's

[2573] Ground component of the Russian satellite network is operational, Russian Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications 10 May 2016. Date of Access 11 May 2016. http://www.minsvyaz.ru/ru/events/35120/.
[2574] More than 500 information systems integrate into GIS GKH, Russian Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications 15 June 2016. Date of Access 12 August 2016. http://www.minsvyaz.ru/ru/events/35288/.
[2575] Section for pensioners launched at the Common Government Services Portal of Russian Federation web-site, Russian Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications 7 July 2016. Date of Access 12 August 2016. http://www.minsvyaz.ru/ru/events/35411/.
[2576] New Russian regions join the "Open state services platform", Russian Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications 8 August 2016. Date of Access 12 August 2016. http://www.minsvyaz.ru/ru/events/35546/.
[2577] Qudratak organizes training courses for several government agencies, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. 17 November 2015. Date of Access: 22 June 2016. http://www.mcit.gov.sa/En/MediaCenter/Pages/News/News-18112015_421.aspx
[2578] KSA among ten world countries of most dynamic improvements in IDI rankings, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. 3 December 2015. Date of Access: 22 June 2016. http://www.mcit.gov.sa/En/MediaCenter/Pages/News/News-09122015_901.aspx

cities and regions, in the course of implementation of the National Communications and Information Technology Plan (NCITP) that aims to enable all segments of the Saudi society in all parts of the Kingdom to deal effectively and easily with ICT, bridge the digital divide, and raise the awareness of the importance of ICT among all individuals and SMEs."[2579]

On 18 January 2016, was announced that the Communications and Information Technology Commission (CITC) provided the mobile voice-telecom service and the Internet service for 15,115 communities (villages and hamlets) till the end of December 2015.[2580]

On 19 January 2016, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and China Republic signed a Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration in the promotion of Information Silk Route Development initiative, which consist in recreating ancient route as massive free trade zone — a path to a new geopolitical order.[2581]

On 25 February 2016, Saudi Ministry of CIT with Hungarian Ministry of Development signed MOU to promote technical and information cooperation.[2582]

On 28 April 2016, was announced by the Ministry of Communication and Information of Saudi Arabia that Universal Service Fund had accomplished the provision of mobile voice-telecom and Internet services for 17,342 communities by the end of 2015.[2583]

Saudi Arabia has taken actions aimed at increasing accessibility of information and communication technologies both domestically and abroad.

Thus, Saudi Arabia has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Ekaterina Muravyeva

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with the commitment on bridging the digital divide.

On 16 November 2015, Minister of Communications Faith Muthambi launched the broadcasting digital migration awareness campaign. The aim was to raise awareness of South Africans of digital migration. Minister claimed that this campaign is especially important for young people, which might work in the Media or IT areas.[2584]

[2579] 'Dissemination of Digital Culture and Knowledge' initiative goes on providing lectures for public schools, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology 06 .01.2016. Date of Access: 22.06.2016. http://www.mcit.gov.sa/En/MediaCenter/Pages/News/News-07012016_586.aspx

[2580] CITC furnishes wireless voice services, Internet to over 15000 villages by end of 2015, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology 18.01.2016. Date of Access: 22.06.2016. http://www.mcit.gov.sa/En/MediaCenter/Pages/News/News-18012016_364.aspx

[2581] Saudi Arabia, China Republic sign MoU to develop Information Silk Route, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology 20.01.2016. Date of Access: 22.06.2016. http://www.mcit.gov.sa/En/MediaCenter/Pages/News/News-21012016_400.aspx

[2582] Saudi Ministry of CIT signs MOU with Hungarian Ministry of Development, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology 25.02.2016. Date of Access: 22.06.2016. http://www.mcit.gov.sa/En/MediaCenter/Pages/News/News-25022016_145.aspx

[2583] CITC deploys wireless and Internet services for over 17000 villages and hamlets by end of Q4 2016, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology 28.04.2016. Date of Access: 22.06.2016. http://www.mcit.gov.sa/En/MediaCenter/Pages/News/News-01052016_529.aspx

[2584] http://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-communications-and-eastern-cape-premier-hold-broadcasting-digital-migration

In April 2016, South Africa announced a set of ambitious targets laid out in its national broadband policy, South Africa Connect, which includes achieving 50 per cent internet coverage with speeds of 5 Mbps by 2016, roughly 90 per cent coverage at the same speeds by 2020, 50 per cent coverage with speeds of 100 Mbps by 2020, and universal 100-Mbps coverage by 2030. A rise in local demand — in particular for cloud and bandwidth-intensive services — has increased the urgency of expanding fibre-optic networks. Currently, South Africa has an estimated 180,000 km of fibre cable, the bulk of which is owned by majority-state-owned incumbent operator Telkom. The South Africa Connect policy also targets enhanced connectivity at schools, medical facilities and public institutions, emphasizing public-private partnerships. This plans are part of a 5-year strategy from 2015 to 2020 that will also see fibre circuits deployed to secondary cities after connecting Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town.[2585]

South Africa has taken actions aimed at increasing accessibility of information and communication technologies domestically. However, has not done so abroad.

Thus, South Africa has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Vasilisa Nazarova

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with the commitment on bridging the digital divide.

On 19 July 2016, Turkish High Development Agency approved the national e-Government Strategy and Action Plan for 2016-2019, with a goal to enhance the efficiency of e-Government and improve citizens' quality of life through establishing highly integrated, efficient and reliable government and public services. The strategy has four strategic aims: Ensuring the Efficiency and Sustainability of the e-Government Ecosystem, Adopting Common Systems for Infrastructure and Administrative Services, Ensuring e-Transformation in Public Services, and Increasing Use, Participation and Transparency.[2586]

Turkey has taken actions aimed at increasing accessibility of information and communication technologies domestically. However, it has not done so abroad.

Thus, Turkey has been awarded a score of 0.

Analysts: Andrei Sakharov

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to bridge the digital divide.

On 4 January 2016, the UK Digital Economy Minister Ed Vaizey called for public input into the UK's digital strategy for the next five years. The minister proposed digital innovation and technology that can transform day to day life, the economy and the government. As part of the plan, the government hopes that schools can open massive online courses to reach a wider audience that costs less. This tackles the social digital divisions that otherwise underlies online learning.[2587]

[2585] South Africa to extend ICT reach, Oxford Business Group April 28 2016, Access date: 19.07.16 http://www.oxfordbusinessgroup.com/news/south-africa-extend-ict-reach

[2586] E-Government Strategy and Action Plan for 2016-2019, Official Gazette 19 July 2016. Date of access: 31 August 2016. http://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2016/07/20160719M2-1-1.pdf.

[2587] Government of outline new UK digital strategy early in 2016, Kable Government Computing, 29 December 2015. http://central-government.governmentcomputing.com/news/government-to-outline-new-uk-digital-strategy-early-in-2016-4764751

On 23 February 2016, the UK, as a part of the EU, took part in a 5G deal between UK telecoms with Russia and Ukraine. The three parties agreed to a coordinated action plan to switch on 5G mobil services. EU digital commissioner Günther Oettinger stated that "companies need to make up their minds and contribute to the formulation of an action plan" and that "5G should not be the nae of another digital divide between European countries, which is why we're integrating Switzerland, Norway, the Balkans, Ukraine, Turkey — and maybe, on a mid-term, Russia as well." The UK began consultations on the release of the 5G-ready spectrum.[2588]

The United Kingdom has taken actions aimed at increasing accessibility of information domestically as well as between countries abroad.

Thus, the UK has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Alissa Wang

United States: −1

The United States has not complied with the commitment on bridging the digital divide.

On 29-30 April 2016, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Ministers of the G7 countries met at Takamatsu, Kagawa, Japan, to address current and future global ICT opportunities and challenges for sustainable and inclusive development. G7 Ministers committed to bridge digital divide by continuing to encourage the development of infrastructure for the digitally connected world and policies that support the global expansion of ICT infrastructure, products, and services including broadband Internet access to all people. They also committed to catalyze multi-stakeholder efforts to bring 1.5 billion new Internet users online by 2020. The Ministers noted that they would also continue to share good practices with other countries and regions and encouraged increased support from technical experts, international organizations, and all stakeholders including multilateral development banks for development initiatives. They also encouraged the integration of Internet access goals into national development plans. In the Joint Declaration by G7 ICT Ministers the United States presented the initiative to promote the digitally connected world "The Global Connect Initiative."[2589]

The US reaffirmed its commitment. However, no new actions were implemented. Thus, the US has been awarded a score of –1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment on bridging the digital divide.

On 2 December 2015, the European Commission proposed a European Accessibility Act, which will set common accessibility requirements for certain key products and services that will help people with disabilities at the EU level to participate fully in society. The selected products and services include ATMs and banking services, PCs, telephones and TV equipment, telephony and audiovisual services, transport, e-books and e-commerce.[2590]

[2588] MWC 2016: Britain to join forces with Russia and Ukraine to launch 5G, The Telegraph 23 February 2016. Access Date: 2 September 2016. http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/2016/02/23/mwc-2016-britain-to-join-forces-with-russia-and-ukraine-to-launc/

[2589] http://www.soumu.go.jp/joho_kokusai/g7ict/english/main_content/000416959.pdf

[2590] Commission proposes to make products and services more accessible to the disabled persons, European Comission 2 December 2015. Date of access: 20 July 2016. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-6147_en.htm

On 19 May 2016, the International Digital Economy and Society Index (I-DESI) report was published by the European Commission. The Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) was introduced by the European Commission to yearly evaluate the evolution of five key dimensions of the Digital Economy in EU member states in order to understand what these reforms should address. The International DESI (I-DESI) evaluates the performance of both the individual EU countries and the EU as a whole in comparison to 15 other countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States.[2591] The results showed that the EU as a whole scored high in three out of the five main dimensions concerning bridging the digital divide (Use of the Internet, Human Capital and Integration of Digital Technology). However, there are substantial differences between EU member states concerning both score and progress over time (I-DESI 2014 vs. I-DESI 2015). Europe is slowly progressing to bridge this gap, which is pivotal to realize the potential of a Digital Single Market.[2592]

On 13 June 2016, the European Commission has opened a consultation seeking views from industry representatives involved in 5G technologies. 5G deployment will provide a truly interoperable global platform to enable network operators, several industries and the public sector to design new services. The Communication on Digitizing European industry announced a 5G Action Plan calling for coordinated investment in the next generation ubiquitous 5G networks in order to deliver on industry's connectivity needs.[2593]

On 23 February 2016, a joint declaration on developing 5G was signed by European Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society Günther H. Oettinger and Brazilian Minister of Communications André Figueiredo at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona. The EU and Brazil have committed to developing a global definition of 5G and to identifying the services like connected cars, the Internet of Things or very high-definition video streaming to be the first delivered by 5G networks.[2594]

The European Union has taken actions aimed at increasing accessibility of information and communication technologies both domestically and abroad.

Thus, the EU has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kozina

[2591] 2016 I-DESI report, European Comission 19 May 2016. Date of access: 20 July 2016. https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/2016-i-desi-report

[2592] 2016 I-DESI report, European Commission 19 May 2016. Date of access: 20 July 2016. https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/2016-i-desi-report

[2593] Have your say on the coordinated introduction of 5G networks in Europe, European Comission 13 June 2016. Date of access: 20 July 2016. https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/have-your-say-coordinated-introduction-5g-networks-europe

[2594] International Cooperation on 5G, European Commission 23 February 2016. Date of access: 20 July 2016. https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/5G-international-cooperation