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The G7 Research Group presents the

## 2022 G7 Elmau Summit Final Compliance Report

28 June 2022 to 17 April 2023

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16 May 2023

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“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme,  
in *G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit*



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## Contents

Introduction.....	3
Research Team.....	4
Summary.....	6
The Final Compliance Score.....	6
Compliance by Member.....	6
Compliance by Commitment.....	6
The Compliance Gap Between Members.....	6
Future Research and Reports.....	6
Table A: 2022 Priority Commitments Selected for Assessment*.....	7
Table B: 2022 G7 Elmau Final Compliance Scores.....	9
Table C: 2022 G7 Elmau Final Compliance Scores by Member.....	10
Table D: 2022 G7 Elmau Final Compliance Scores by Commitment.....	11
1. Regional Security: Global Effects of the War in Ukraine.....	12
2. Regional Security: Military and Financial Support for Ukraine.....	41
3. Climate Change: Health Sustainability.....	103
4. Climate Change: Decarbonizing the Power Sector.....	120
5. Energy: Securing Supply.....	165
6. Human Rights: The Digital Sphere and Beyond.....	190
7. Democracy: Rules-Based Multilateral Order.....	227
8. Health: Pandemic Preparedness.....	367
9. Environment: Funding and Resources.....	387
10. Food and Agriculture: Resilience.....	433
11. Digital Economy: Empowering Citizens.....	460
12. Gender: Access to Education.....	477
13. Trade: Free Trade.....	499
14. Macroeconomics: Safe, Resilient, Equitable and Rules-Based Growth.....	535
15. Health: Noncommunicable Diseases.....	570
16. Crime and Corruption: Transnational Crime.....	605
17. Labour and Employment: Social Protection.....	624
18. Infrastructure: Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment.....	641
19. Non-proliferation: Non-proliferation Treaty.....	675
20. Terrorism: Cooperation on Extremism.....	715
21. Development: Debt Transparency.....	734

## 17. Labour and Employment: Social Protection

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

*G7 Elmau Summit Communiqué*

### Assessment

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

### Background

The need for adaptive and inclusive social protection has become a priority for G7 leaders in recent years, especially in the face of COVID-19, climate change and other global crises. The effects of climate change, in particular, have exacerbated existing inequalities, as they disproportionately harm vulnerable and marginalized communities. Moreover, many industries have witnessed an increase in the “frequency and intensity of various environment-related hazards” in workplaces, and are suffering due to environmental degradation.<sup>3725</sup> As countries strive to shift away from ecologically unsustainable sectors, and towards a more digital labour force, those employed in these sectors require further social protection. G7 members have also emphasized the need for robust social protection in light of other global disruptions such as inflation to mitigate the effects of rising energy and food prices. Highlighting the human right to security, the G7 leaders affirmed their decision to address these effects with “universal, adequate, adaptive, shock-responsive, and inclusive social protection for all,” particularly for women and marginalized groups.<sup>3726</sup>

The 2022 Elmau Summit was the first summit to explicitly address the impact of climate change on employment.<sup>3727</sup> Prior to the summit, commitments regarding climate change focused on sustainable energy sources, greenhouse gas emissions and low-carbon technology.<sup>3728</sup> Concerns about labour and employment have largely been focused on developing countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) until the 2017 Taormina Summit, where G7 leaders committed to promoting labour force stability.<sup>3729</sup>

<sup>3725</sup> The Employment Impact of Climate Change Adaptation, G20 Climate Sustainability Working Group (Geneva) August 2018. Access Date: 23 September 2022. [http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/ilo\\_-\\_the\\_employment\\_impact\\_of\\_climate\\_change\\_adaptation.pdf](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/ilo_-_the_employment_impact_of_climate_change_adaptation.pdf)

<sup>3726</sup> 2022 G7 Elmau Goals Set and Met (Toronto) 2 July 2022. Access Date: 23 September 2022.

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

<sup>3727</sup> 2021 G7 Cornwall Summit Final Compliance Report, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 23 June 2022. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2021compliance-final/05-2021-G7-final-compliance-vehicles.pdf>

<sup>3728</sup> Climate Change Accountability: The G8’s Compliance Record from 1975 to 2009, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 28 November 2009. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/scholar/kirton-guebert-climate-091128.pdf>

<sup>3729</sup> 2017 Taormina G7 Final Compliance Report, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 4 June 2018. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2017compliance-final/16-2017-G7-final-compliance-labour.pdf>

At the 2011 Deauville Summit, G8 members launched the Deauville Partnership in the aftermath of the Arab Spring to help MENA countries transition towards “free, democratic and tolerant societies.”<sup>3730</sup> The partnership specifically focused on providing support to Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Libya, and Morocco.<sup>3731</sup> On 10 September 2011, G8 members partnered with “international and regional financial institutions,” as well as Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates to give economic assistance to MENA countries.<sup>3732</sup>

At the 2012 Camp David Summit, G8 members reaffirmed their commitment to the Deauville Partnership to provide MENA countries with economic assistance. They also committed to promoting the creation of jobs for youth within MENA countries, facilitating “youth-oriented training programs” to promote economic participation and stability.<sup>3733</sup>

At the 2013 Lough Erne Summit, G8 members reaffirmed their commitments to the Deauville Partnership “through measures such as providing aid to the MENA Transition Fund and participating in the Arab Forum on Asset Recovery.”<sup>3734</sup> The summit communiqué expressed “renewed commitment” to economic aid for MENA countries.<sup>3735</sup>

At the 2014 Brussels Summit, G7 members pledged to maintain their commitment to the Deauville Partnership and support MENA countries as they made political and economic reforms. They committed to job creation, particularly for youth and women in MENA countries, by “making contributions to programs aimed at providing people with the skills and/or education that they need to attain jobs,” such as the Arab Women’s Enterprise Fund.<sup>3736</sup>

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, G7 members committed to promoting stability in the labour force by implementing sound labour market policies and adjusting their welfare systems to protect workers. They prioritized labour reforms, redistributing tax burdens and “changing the coverage of social insurance programs such as healthcare, unemployment insurance and pensions.”<sup>3737</sup>

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, G7 members committed to equipping workers with the necessary skills and education to use emerging technology. Members committed to working with businesses, civil society organizations and educational organizations to prepare workers for the needs of the changing labour market.<sup>3738</sup>

### **Commitment Features**

At the 2022 Elmau summit, leaders committed to “accelerate progress towards universal, adequate, adaptive, shock-responsive, and inclusive social protection for all by 2030 in line with the UN Secretary-General’s initiative for a ‘Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for a Just Transition,’ which aims to create

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<sup>3730</sup> 2011 Deauville G8 Summit Final Compliance Report. 18 May 2012. Access Date: 23 September 2022.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2011compliance-final/2011g8finalcompliance.pdf>

<sup>3731</sup> G7 Deauville Partnership – MENA Transition Fund Project. Access Date: 24 September 2022.

<https://www.oecd.org/mena/governance/deauville-partnership-mena-transition-fund-project.htm>

<sup>3732</sup> 2011 Deauville G8 Summit Final Compliance Report. 18 May 2012. Access Date: 23 September 2022.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2011compliance-final/2011g8finalcompliance.pdf>

<sup>3733</sup> 2012 Camp David G8 Final Compliance Report, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 14 June 2012. Access Date: 23 September 2022.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2012compliance/2012compliance.pdf>

<sup>3734</sup> 2013 Lough Erne G8 Summit Final Compliance Report, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 4 June 2014. Access Date: 23 September

2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2013compliance-final/17-2013-g8-compliance-deauville.pdf>

<sup>3735</sup> 2013 Lough Erne G8 Summit Final Compliance Report, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 4 June 2014. Access Date: 23 September

2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2013compliance-final/17-2013-g8-compliance-deauville.pdf>

<sup>3736</sup> 2014 Brussels G7 Summit Final Compliance Report, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 6 June 2015. Access Date: 23 September

2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2014compliance/08-2014-g8-compliance-final-20150715.pdf>

<sup>3737</sup> 2017 G7 Taormina Final Compliance Report, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 4 June 2018. Access Date: 23 September 2022.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2017compliance-final/16-2017-G7-final-compliance-labour.pdf>

<sup>3738</sup> 2018 Charlevoix Summit G7 Interim Compliance Report, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 425 February 2019. Access Date: 23 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2018compliance-interim/05-2018-G7-interim-compliance-skills.pdf>

400 million jobs and to extend social protection.” This commitment can be interpreted as having one main target, which is accelerating progress towards social protection. This target ranges across five dimensions: “universal,” “adequate,” “adaptive,” “shock-responsive” and “inclusive.”

“Accelerate” is understood as making progress or causing an event to occur at an earlier date.<sup>3739</sup>

“Progress” is understood to mean moving forward toward a goal.<sup>3740</sup>

“Universal” is understood to mean the entire intended group, not a fraction or percentage of the whole.<sup>3741</sup>

“Adequate” is understood to mean sufficient for a specific need or requirement.<sup>3742</sup>

“Adaptive” is understood to mean being fit for all, as much as possible.<sup>3743</sup>

“Shock-responsive” is understood to mean appropriately responding to sudden changes that affect a large proportion of the population simultaneously.<sup>3744</sup> In this context, it means developing social protection programs that protect people from events that lead to sudden job loss such as bankruptcies, recessions, climate change, pandemics and so on.

“Inclusive” is understood to mean that all parties are included in the decision-making process.<sup>3745</sup>

“Social protection” is understood to mean the extent to which a country assumes responsibility to support the standard of living of its citizens, particularly disadvantaged or vulnerable groups such as low-income households, the elderly and persons with disabilities.<sup>3746</sup> In this context, social protection needs to be in line with the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, which seeks to eliminate “bottlenecks” in developing countries’ ability to facilitate “human-centred recovery” and strengthen their resilience.<sup>3747</sup> The Global Accelerator’s pillars include the development and enhancement of “integrated and evidence-based national strategies and policies,” “integrated financing” that combines both domestic capital and international financial support and multilateral cooperation.

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

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<sup>3739</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 September 2022. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

<sup>3740</sup> Progress, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 26 September 2022. <https://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/progress>

<sup>3741</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 September 2022. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

<sup>3742</sup> Adequate, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 26 September 2022. <https://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/adequate>

<sup>3743</sup> Adapt, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 26 September 2022. <https://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/adapt>

<sup>3744</sup> Shock-Responsive Social Protection, Socialprotection.org (Brasília) n.d. Access Date: 26 September 2022. <https://socialprotection.org/learn/glossary/shock-responsive-social-protection>

<sup>3745</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 September 2022. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

<sup>3746</sup> Social Protection, OECD iLibrary (Paris) n.d. Access Date: 26 September 2022. [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/social-protection/indicator-group/english\\_3ddf51bf-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/social-protection/indicator-group/english_3ddf51bf-en)

<sup>3747</sup> Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions: High-Level Summary, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 10 December 2022. [https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/sdg-2030/WCMS\\_846674/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/sdg-2030/WCMS_846674/lang--en/index.htm)

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

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

### Scoring Guidelines

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

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

### Canada: +1

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

On 29 July 2022, under the Canadian Benefit for Parents of Young Victims of Crime program, parents of missing or deceased children who are unable to work due to grief are eligible for financial aid.<sup>3748</sup> Eligible parents can receive payments of CAD450 per week, for a maximum of 35 weeks over a two-year period, to support parents who suffer loss of income after the death or disappearance of a child.

On 25 August 2022, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion Carla Qualtrough announced investments made towards 17 organizations across Canada that provide Canadians with the necessary support to succeed as part of the workforce.<sup>3749</sup> The investment, amounting to CAD59.9 million and provided through the Skills for Success program, will provide training for over 52,000 Canadians.

On 5 September 2022, the Minister of Labour Seamus O'Regan announced that paid sick leave will become available for workers within "federally regulated sectors" on 1 December 2022.<sup>3750</sup> The ministry aims to "close a gap" in Canada's social safety net with this initiative.

On 14 October 2022, Minister O'Regan announced that the draft Regulations Amending Certain Regulations Made Under the Canada Labour Code (Menstrual Products) are now open for comments.<sup>3751</sup> The regulations

<sup>3748</sup> Canadian Benefit for Parents of Young Victims of Crime, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 July 2022. Access Date: 25 December 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/parents-young-victims-crime.html>

<sup>3749</sup> Government of Canada invests in foundational skills training and support for workers on Prince Edward Island, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 25 August 2022. Access Date: 5 January 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2022/08/government-of-canada-invests-in-foundational-skills-training-and-support-for-workers-on-prince-edward-island.html>

<sup>3750</sup> Statement by the Minister of Labour on Labour Day, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 5 September 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2022/09/statement-by-the-minister-of-labour-on-labour-day.html>

<sup>3751</sup> Government of Canada one step closer to ensuring free access to menstrual products in federally regulated workplaces, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 14 October 2022. Access Date: 5 January 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2022/10/government-of-canada-one-step-closer-to-ensuring-free-access-to-menstrual-products-in-federally-regulated-workplaces.html>

aim to provide employers the flexibility to implement preventative measures to reduce health risks related to the lack of access to menstrual products in the workplace.

On 3 November 2022, the government published the 2022 Fall Economic Statement, which projects investments of CAD10.928 billion by 2028.<sup>3752</sup> The investments include CAD310 million in skills for a “net-zero economy,” CAD6.65 billion in ensuring Canada’s economic competitiveness by creating “good jobs” and CAD3.968 billion to develop a more productive and innovative economy through the protection of worker’s rights and the improvement of regulatory processes.

On 25 November 2022, Minister Qualtrough announced the permanent extension of Employment Insurance sickness benefits from 15 weeks to 26 weeks starting 18 December 2022.<sup>3753</sup> This extension will provide about 169,000 Canadians per year additional time-off while facing illness, injury or quarantine.

On 1 December 2022, Minister O’Regan announced the availability of 10 days of paid sick leave for all federally regulated private sector workplaces.<sup>3754</sup> This announcement follows up on the government’s earlier commitment to make the change and it aims to keep workers safe while ensuring they still receive income.

On 19 December 2022, Parliamentary Secretary to Minister Qualtrough Irek Kusmierczyk announced CAD3.6 million in funding to Workforce WindsorEssex through the Migrant Worker Support Program.<sup>3755</sup> The funding aims to support the program in helping over 8,000 temporary foreign workers in Windsor-Essex, Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton in Ontario.

On 27 February 2023, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth Marci Ien announced an investment of over CAD7 million for five Youth Employment and Skills Strategy projects, providing nearly 700 Black youth with access to training and the resources necessary to succeed.<sup>3756</sup>

On 27 February 2023, Minister O’Regan announced approximately CAD9.5 million in funding for 10 projects that aim to remove barriers faced by women, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and members of visible minorities in federally regulated workplaces.<sup>3757</sup> The projects will be funded through the government’s Workplace Opportunities: Removing Barriers to Equity program.

On 7 March 2023, the government released the Summary of the Horizontal Evaluation of the Labour Market Development Agreements, which outlined bilateral agreements between the federal government and provinces

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<sup>3752</sup> Fall Economic Statement 2022, Chapter 2: Jobs, Growth, and an Economy That Works for Everyone, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 3 November 2022. Access Date: 4 November 2022. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/fes-eea/2022/report-rapport/chap2-en.html>

<sup>3753</sup> Government of Canada improves sickness benefits under the Employment Insurance system, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 25 November 2022. Access Date: 5 January 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2022/11/government-of-canada-improves-sickness-benefits-under-the-employment-insurance-system1.html>

<sup>3754</sup> 10 days of paid sick leave now in force for nearly 1 million federally regulated workers across Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 1 December 2022. Access Date: 5 January 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2022/12/10-days-of-paid-sick-leave-now-in-force-for-nearly-1million-federally-regulated-workers-across-canada.html>

<sup>3755</sup> Government of Canada protects and empowers temporary foreign workers in Southwestern Ontario through the Migrant Worker Support Program, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 19 December 2022. Access Date: 5 January 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2022/12/government-of-canada-protects-and-empowers-temporary-foreign-workers-in-southwestern-ontario-through-the-migrant-worker-support-program.html>

<sup>3756</sup> Minister Marci Ien announces supports for Black youth to overcome barriers to employment, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 27 February 2023. Access Date: 8 March 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2023/02/minister-marci-ien-announces-supports-for-black-youth-to-overcome-barriers-to-employment.html>

<sup>3757</sup> Government of Canada announces projects aimed at removing barriers to equality in federally regulated workplaces, Employment and Social Development Canada (Halifax) 27 February 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2023/02/government-of-canada-announces-projects-aimed-at-removing-barriers-to-equality-in-federally-regulated-workplaces.html>

and territories for the design and delivery of Employment Benefits and Support Measures (EBSMs).<sup>3758</sup> EBSMs are intended to help individuals obtain or retain employment.

On 31 March 2023, Minister Qualtrough announced the elimination of interest on Canada Student Loans and Canada Apprentice Loans under the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program.<sup>3759</sup> This move aims to reduce the financial burden for over 1.2 million Canadian post-secondary graduates looking to start their careers, saving them an average of CAD520 per year on student loans.

On 6 April 2023, Minister of Seniors Kamal Khera and Minister of Health Jean-Yves Duclos reappointed three members of the National Seniors Council to address the growing issues concerning the participation of seniors in the labor force.<sup>3760</sup>

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

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Aliza Sabih*

#### **France: +1**

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

On 15 July 2022, the Minister of Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty Bruno Le Maire announced the doubling of the “Livret A” (tax-free savings account) rate from one per cent to two per cent, attaining its highest level since 2012.<sup>3761</sup> This increase constitutes an important step for protecting the purchasing power and the savings of French citizens and residents.

On 9 September 2022, Minister of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion Olivier Dussopt and Minister of Public Action and Accounts Gabriel Attal announced an increase of 4 per cent to the basic retirement pensions of all retirees.<sup>3762</sup> The change will benefit nearly 15 million retirees as it aims to preserve their purchasing power.

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<sup>3758</sup> Summary of the horizontal evaluation of the Labour Market Development Agreements, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 7 March 2023. Access Date: 8 March 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/reports/evaluations/horizontal-labour-market-development-agreements/summary.html>

<sup>3759</sup> Government of Canada provides interest-free loans for students, effective April 1, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 31 March 2023. Access Date: 17 April 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2023/03/government-of-canada-provides-interest-free-loans-for-students-effective-april1.html>

<sup>3760</sup> Minister Khera and Minister Duclos announce the reappointment of three members to the National Seniors Council, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 6 April 2023. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2023/04/minister-khera-and-minister-duclos-announce-the-reappointment-of-three-members-to-the-national-seniors-council.html>

<sup>3761</sup> Augmentation du taux du livret A à compter du 1er août, Government of France (Paris) 18 July 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 5 November 2022. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/actualite/augmentation-du-taux-du-livret-a-a-compter-du-1er-aout>

<sup>3762</sup> Entrée en vigueur de la revalorisation des pensions de retraite, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 9 September 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 5 January 2023. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/entree-en-vigueur-de-la-revalorisation-des-pensions-de-retraite>



On 1 October 2022, the government increased the price ceiling for daily meal vouchers to a maximum of EUR25.<sup>3763</sup> Employers provide meal vouchers to employees to cover their meal costs during working days (Monday to Saturday inclusive).

On 1 December 2022, the government announced a reduction in social security contributions for 1.6 million self-employed workers to support them in facing rising energy prices.<sup>3764</sup> The government estimates that the reduction will result in an average gain of EUR200 per year for two-thirds of self-employed workers.

On 23 December 2022, the government announced an increase of 1.81 per cent to the minimum growth wage, effective 1 January 2023.<sup>3765</sup> This change aims to protect the purchasing power of minimum wage workers. This constitutes a total yearly increase of the minimum wage by 6.6 per cent in 2022.

On 5 January 2023, President Emmanuel Macron extended EUR6,000 in hiring aid for companies to create and maintain work-study positions for students under 30.<sup>3766</sup> The aid aims to increase access to apprenticeships for students.

On 17 February 2023, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion opened 300 labor inspection positions within the organization.<sup>3767</sup> Labor inspectors ensure companies' proper application of labor legislation to bolster professional relations among employers and employees, and to secure the health and safety of workers.

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

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Yiran (Sarah) Xie*

### **Germany: +1**

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

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<sup>3763</sup> Titres-restaurant, Passeport prévention ... Ce qui change au 1er octobre 2022, Government of France (Paris) 29 September 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 5 November 2022. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/actualite/titres-restaurant-passeport-prevention-ce-qui-change-au-1er-octobre-2022>

<sup>3764</sup> Vers une baisse pérenne des charges pour les travailleurs indépendants, Government of France (Paris) 2 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 25 December 2022. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/actualite/vers-une-baisse-perenne-des-charges-pour-les-travailleurs-independants>

<sup>3765</sup> Revalorisation du SMIC au 1er janvier 2023, Revaluation of the SMIC on January 1, 2023, Government of France (Paris) 23 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 23 December 2022. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/actualite/revalorisation-du-smic-au-1er-janvier-2023>

<sup>3766</sup> Alternance : le gouvernement maintiendra une aide à l'embauche à hauteur de 6000 € jusqu'à la fin du quinquennat, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 6 January 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 April 2023. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/alternance-le-gouvernement-maintiendra-une-aide-a-l-embauche-a-hauteur-de-6000>

<sup>3767</sup> Le ministère recrute 300 inspecteurs du travail, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 17 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 April 2023. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/le-ministere-recrute-300-inspecteurs-du-travail>

On 1 July 2022, the government increased the pension value from EUR34.19 to EUR36.02.<sup>3768</sup> Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Hubertus Heil highlighted that the more people of employable age “work with decent wages,” the more stable the pension system will be.

On 27 September 2022, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs presented the further developed National Further Education Strategy.<sup>3769</sup> The strategy includes qualification allowance that provides employees more flexibility to continue their education, while relieving the burden on companies to train workers.

On 1 October 2022, the general minimum wage increased to EUR12 per hour.<sup>3770</sup> The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs states that more than six million employees in Germany will benefit from this increase.

On 15 February 2023, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs announced the Citizen’s Benefit Act effective from July 2023.<sup>3771</sup> The new act includes further bonuses in training programs and an extension to the housing payment grace period for 12 months.

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

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Yiran (Sarah) Xie*

### **Italy: +1**

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

On 10 August 2022, Minister of Labor and Social Policies Andrea Orlando signed a decree granting self-employed persons a bonus of EUR200.<sup>3772</sup> The Ministry noted that this policy aims to subsidize cost-of-living expenses for self-employed workers, recognizing the jump in costs due to higher energy and related prices.

On 22 September 2022, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies and the Ministry of Economy and Finance agreed to replenish the New Skills Fund by EUR1 billion.<sup>3773</sup> Through these funds, the New Skills Fund plans to finance digital skilled training programs for employees through public-private partnerships.

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<sup>3768</sup> Renten steigen deutlich, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 1 July 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Service/Presse/Meldungen/2022/renten-steigen-deutlich.html>

<sup>3769</sup> Gemeinsam für ein Jahrzehnt der Weiterbildung, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 27 September 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 November 2022.

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

<sup>3770</sup> Erhöhung des Mindestlohns, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (Berlin) 30 September 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Service/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/2022/erhoehung-des-mindestlohns.html>

<sup>3771</sup> The Citizen's Benefit Act (Bürgergeld-Gesetz), Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 15 February 2023. Access Date: 10 March 2023. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2023/the-citizens-benefit-act.html>

<sup>3772</sup> Orlando firma Decreto per bonus 200 euro ad autonomi, Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali (Rome) 10 August 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Orlando-firma-Decreto-per-bonus-200-euro-ad-autonomi.aspx>

<sup>3773</sup> Fondo Nuove Competenze, rifinanziato per un miliardo di euro, Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali (Rome) 2 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/pagine/fondo-nuove-competenze-rifinanziato-per-un-miliardo-di-euro.aspx/>

On 29 September 2022, Minister Orlando announced a provision of EUR12 million within the Extraordinary Fund for Publishing dedicated to the hiring and financial stability of journalists.<sup>3774</sup> The investment aims to protect job stability for journalists, support journalistic work and facilitate the hiring of journalists with digital skills.

On 1 October 2022, Minister Orlando declared that Italian citizens who earned an income of EUR35,000 or lower in 2021 can apply for the Transport Bonus to subsidize the costs of monthly transportation passes.<sup>3775</sup> The government established the bonus in September as a form of cost-of-living support amidst the country's energy crisis, providing EUR60 a month to offset the cost of monthly, multi-monthly or annual transportation passes. Minister Orlando remarked that the Ministry issued one million Transportation Bonus vouchers in the month since its development.

On 17 December 2022, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies announced the adoption of the National Plan for Non-Self-Sufficiency.<sup>3776</sup> Under this Plan, elderly individuals who are not self-sufficient receive entitlements to social support services. The plan also establishes a fund for non-self-sufficiency to financially support these entitlements, which will include over EUR2.5 billion from 2022 to 2024 inclusive.

On 30 December 2022, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies announced an array of funding increases for social protection programs, as part of the Ministry's 2023 budget.<sup>3777</sup> Notably, pension benefits administered by the Istituto Nazionale della Previdenza Sociale were automatically reassessed, such that those receiving the minimum pension payout would receive an increase equal to 120 per cent of the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Additionally, the ministry announced an increase in pension funds for entertainment workers, as well as an experimental program that allows certain employees to receive an early pension. Workers were also given another month of optional parental leave, with 80 per cent pay.

On 16 January 2023, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies announced an agreement on minimum wage increases for domestic workers.<sup>3778</sup> The wage increases are a response to the rising cost of living.

On 25 January 2023, an inter-ministerial decree outlining social support for individuals with serious disabilities and without family support went into effect.<sup>3779</sup> Regional governments received EUR76,100,000 to fund accommodations targeted toward these individuals.

On 9 February 2023, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies announced that public and private workers with health complications can continue to work remotely until 30 June 2023.<sup>3780</sup> This expands upon a commitment

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<sup>3774</sup> Fondo Editoria, Orlando: "12 milioni per stabilizzazione giornalisti precari e assunzioni," Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali (Rome) 29 September 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Fondo-Editoria-Orlando-12-milioni-per-stabilizzazione-giornalisti-precari-e-assunzioni.aspx>

<sup>3775</sup> Bonus trasporti, Orlando: « Superato un milione di voucher emessi, al via da oggi nuove richieste », Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali (Rome) 1 October 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Bonus-trasporti-Orlando-Superato-un-milione-di-voucher-emessi-al-via-da-oggi-nuove-richieste.aspx>

<sup>3776</sup> Adozione Piano Nazionale per la Non Autosufficienza, Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali (Rome) 20 December 2022. Translation Provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/pagine/adozione-piano-nazionale-per-la-non-autosufficienza-2022-2024.aspx/>

<sup>3777</sup> Legge di Bilancio 2023, Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali (Rome) 30 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 March 2023. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Legge-di-Bilancio-2023.aspx>

<sup>3778</sup> Lavoro domestico: accord sui minimi retributivi 2023, Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali (Rome) 20 January 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 March 2023. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Lavoro-domestico-accordo-sui-minimi-retributivi-2023.aspx>

<sup>3779</sup> Pubblicato il Decreto di riparto del Fondo "Dopo di noi", Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali (Rome) 3 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 March 2023. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Pubblicato-il-Decreto-di-riparto-del-Fondo-Dopo-di-noi.aspx>

<sup>3780</sup> Proroga smart working per I fragili, il Governo mantiene gli impegni, Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali (Rome) 9 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 March 2023. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/Pagine/Proroga-smart-working-per-i-fragili-il-Governo-mantiene-gli-impegni.aspx>

made by Minister of Labor and Social Policies Marina Calderone to extend remote work privileges beyond 31 March 2023.

On 1 March 2023, the National Institute for Social Security-valuated pension payout increased for individuals receiving pension amounts higher than four times the minimum.<sup>3781</sup> The per cent increases in pension payments scale regressively, from a 6.205 per cent increase for those receiving equal to or less than five times the minimum amount to a 2.336 per cent increase for those receiving equal to or less than 10 times the minimum.

On 22 March 2023, the Chamber of Deputies passed a bill on further social protection for elderly citizens.<sup>3782</sup> Through the bill, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies assumes a mandate to create new social programs by 31 January 2024 and reform existing initiatives to support elderly citizens.

On 6 April 2023, Minister Calderone and Minister of Economy and Finance Giorgetti signed an inter-ministerial decree to distribute a total of EUR70 million among eight regions.<sup>3783</sup> The funding comes from the Social Fund for Employment and Training, and protects the wages of workers in “areas of complex industrial crisis.”<sup>3784</sup>

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

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Luca B. Rampersad*

#### **Japan: +1**

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

On 8 July 2022, the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare revised the Act on Promotion of Women’s Participation and Advancement in the Workplace.<sup>3785</sup> The amendments addressed the difference in wages between male and female workers and asked large corporations to disclose information on the wage gap.

On 31 August 2022, the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare announced new adjustments to the emergency employment stabilization subsidies policy.<sup>3786</sup> The adjustments include special measures for leave support and benefits due to COVID-19 infections.

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<sup>3781</sup> Aumento delle pensioni a partire dal 1° marzo 2023, Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali (Rome) 2 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 March 2023. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/pagine/aumento-delle-pensioni-a-partire-dal-1-marzo-2023.aspx/>

<sup>3782</sup> Anziani, approvata la legge delega, Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali (Rome) 22 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/Pagine/Anziani-approvata-legge-delega.aspx>

<sup>3783</sup> Assegnate le risorse per gli interventi nelle aree di crisi industriale complessa, Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali (Rome) 6 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/Pagine/Assegnate-le-risorse-per-gli-interventi-nelle-aree-di-crisi-industriale-complessa.aspx>

<sup>3784</sup> Assegnate le risorse per gli interventi nelle aree di crisi industriale complessa, Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali (Rome) 6 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/Pagine/Assegnate-le-risorse-per-gli-interventi-nelle-aree-di-crisi-industriale-complessa.aspx>

<sup>3785</sup> 女性活躍推進法の省令・告示を改正しました, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 8 July 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 November 2022. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage\\_26587.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_26587.html)

<sup>3786</sup> 令和4年10月以降の雇用調整助成金の特例措置等及び産業雇用安定助成金の拡充について, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 31 August 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 November 2022. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/r410cohokurei\\_00001.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/r410cohokurei_00001.html)

On 28 October 2022, the Employment Security Bureau announced the formulation of a new policy package for increased wages, improved human resources and strengthening of the labor market.<sup>3787</sup> This policy package intends to redevelop a stable employment safety net and to ensure medium to long-term growth of the labor market by promoting wage increases.

On 17 January 2023, the Employment Security Bureau updated the policy package formulated on 28 October 2022.<sup>3788</sup> The focus of this policy package shifted from a medium-to long-term period and aims to create a more flexible labour market capable of responding to economic changes and diverse individual choices.

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

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Lipeng Tan*

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

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

On 26 July 2022, the Department for Work and Pensions invited comments on the proposal of the draft Occupational Pension Schemes (Funding and Investment Strategy and Amendment) Regulations 2023, which aims to amend the 2005 regulations.<sup>3789</sup>

On 18 August 2022, the government launched a GBP7.6 million incentive to help more than 2,000 adults with learning disabilities and autism find work.<sup>3790</sup> The initiative aims to reduce the barriers to entry that such individuals face in the workforce.

On 20 September 2022, the Department for Work and Pensions activated a new Disability Cost of Living payment plan that covers six million people with disabilities in the UK.<sup>3791</sup> Eligible candidates who receive certain disability benefits will receive a one-off payment of GBP150.

On 10 October 2022, the Department for Work and Pensions announced a GBP122 million employment boost to assist people receiving mental health support to remain or return to the workplace.<sup>3792</sup> This investment provides professional employment advisers and therapists for workers who are experiencing mental health problems.

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<sup>3787</sup> 「賃上げ・人材活性化・労働市場強化」雇用・労働総合政策パッケージを策定しました, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 28 October 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 28 October 2022. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage\\_28838.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_28838.html)

<sup>3788</sup> 「賃上げ・人材活性化・労働市場強化」雇用・労働総合政策パッケージを更新しました, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 17 January 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 7 March 2023. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage\\_30335.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_30335.html)

<sup>3789</sup> Draft Occupational Pension Schemes (Funding and Investment Strategy and Amendment) Regulations 2023, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 26 July 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/draft-occupational-pension-schemes-funding-and-investment-strategy-and-amendment-regulations-2023>

<sup>3790</sup> £7.6 million to help 2,000 adults with autism into work, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 18 August 2022. Access Date: 5 January 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/7-6-million-to-help-2-000-adults-with-autism-into-work>

<sup>3791</sup> £150 Disability Cost of Living Payments begin this month, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 20 September 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/150-disability-cost-of-living-payments-begin-this-month>

<sup>3792</sup> £122 million employment boost for people receiving mental health support, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 10 October 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/122-million-employment-boost-for-people-receiving-mental-health-support>

On 17 October 2022, the Department for Work and Pensions announced a GBP6.4 million online service to assist employers in creating and managing a more inclusive environment for employees with a disability or long-term health conditions.<sup>3793</sup> This service provides advice for employers in a user-friendly Q&A format, particularly for smaller businesses without in-house human resources support.

On 3 January 2023, the Department for Work and Pensions announced that millions of the lowest-income households in the UK will receive up to GBP1,350 from the government starting Spring 2023 as support for the cost of living.<sup>3794</sup> The government specified increased funding amounts for people with disabilities and pensioners.

On 30 January 2023, the Department for Work and Pensions announced changes to the Universal Credit Regulations 2013 to raise the Administrative Earnings Threshold to GBP617 for individual claimants and GBP988 for couples.<sup>3795</sup> These new regulations include additional help and tailored support for more than 120,000 working people on Universal Credit to boost their earnings. These new regulations came into effect after 26 February 2023.

On 30 January 2023, Minister for Pensions Laura Trott announced a new package of measures to boost fairness, predictability and adequacy in the private pensions sector.<sup>3796</sup> The measures aim to address the pension inequality gap and includes consultation on a new “Value for Money framework,” a defined contribution scheme, charge cap reforms, extensive work on small pots and an extension of “Collective Defined Contribution” pension schemes.

On 3 March 2023, the Department for Work and Pensions confirmed its support for proposals to expand Automatic Enrolment in pension contributions and reduce the age of enrolment to 18 years old.<sup>3797</sup> The proposals aim to enable millions of young people to save more and to start the saving process much earlier.

On 16 March 2023, the Department for Work and Pensions announced an investment of GBP3.5 billion over five years as part of the Budget 2023 to bolster workforce participation and economic growth.<sup>3798</sup> The investment aims to create opportunities for parents, people aged 50 and older, people with disabilities and those with long-term health conditions.

On 31 March 2023, the Department for Work and Pensions announced legislation that enables early access to financial support for thousands of people “nearing the end of their lives.”<sup>3799</sup> The special rule change to

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<sup>3793</sup> £6.4 million boost for employers to support disabled people, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 17 October 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/6-4-million-boost-for-employers-to-support-disabled-people>

<sup>3794</sup> Millions of low-income households to get new Cost of Living Payments from Spring 2023, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 3 January 2023. Access Date: 5 January 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-of-low-income-households-to-get-new-cost-of-living-payments-from-spring-2023>

<sup>3795</sup> Hundreds of thousands more workers to receive job support boost in spring, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 30 January 2023. Access Date: 7 March 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hundreds-of-thousands-more-workers-to-receive-job-support-boost-in-spring>

<sup>3796</sup> Minister unveils plans to start closing the pensions inequality gap, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 30 January 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/minister-unveils-plans-to-start-closing-the-pensions-inequality-gap>

<sup>3797</sup> Government backs bill to expand pension saving to young and low earners, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 3 March 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-backs-bill-to-expand-pension-saving-to-young-and-low-earners>

<sup>3798</sup> ‘Back to work Budget’ supporting people to return to the labour market, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 16 March 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/back-to-work-budget-supporting-people-to-return-to-the-labour-market>

<sup>3799</sup> Thousands of people in their final year of life to have their disability benefits fast-tracked, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 31 March 2023. Access Date: 17 April 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-of-people-in-their-final-year-of-life-to-have-their-disability-benefits-fast-tracked>

Personal Independent Payment, Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance fast-tracks access to disability benefits for more people.

On 1 April 2023, the Department for Work and Pensions announced an extension to the Household Support Fund.<sup>3800</sup> The department will invest an additional GBP842 million to support vulnerable households with essential food and energy costs until 31 March 2024.

On 2 April 2023, the government launched a new review to boost the employment prospects of people with autism.<sup>3801</sup> The review will consult businesses, employment organizations, specialist support groups and people with autism to identify employment barriers and “close the employment gap” to grow the economy.

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

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

*Analyst: Lipeng Tan*

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

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

On 28 June 2022, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released an update maximizing the availability of infant formula.<sup>3802</sup> The agency projected that 18,677 cans of Similac baby formula would be available in national markets by mid-July.<sup>3803</sup> The FDA also noted that a portion of inventory would be reserved for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, a social program for undernourished parents and children.

On 21 July 2022, President Joe Biden signed House Resolution 8351, otherwise known as the Formula Act, into law.<sup>3804</sup> This law amends the Harmonized Tariff Schedule, which temporarily suspends import duties on certain infant formulas, in an effort to increase formula supply and reduce formula prices.

On 16 August 2022, President Biden signed House Resolution 5376, otherwise known as the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, into law.<sup>3805</sup> This piece of legislation caps insulin costs at USD35 monthly and prescription drug costs at USD2,000 annually for those enrolled in the Medicare program, alongside tax credits meant to incentivize renewable energy sector production.

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<sup>3800</sup> Household Support Fund extended from today to help families in need, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 1 April 2023. Access Date: 17 April 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/household-support-fund-extended-from-today-to-help-families-in-need>

<sup>3801</sup> New review to boost employment prospects of autistic people, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 2 April 2023. Access Date: 17 April 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-review-to-boost-employment-prospects-of-autistic-people>

<sup>3802</sup> FDA Infant Formula Update: June 28, 2022, Food and Drug Administration (Silver Spring CDP) 28 June 2022. Access Date: 5 November 2022. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-infant-formula-update-june-28-2022>

<sup>3803</sup> FDA Infant Formula Update: June 28, 2022, Food and Drug Administration (Silver Spring CDP) 28 June 2022. Access Date: 5 November 2022. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-infant-formula-update-june-28-2022>

<sup>3804</sup> Bill Signing: H.R. 8351, The White House (Washington D.C.) 22 July 2022. Access Date: 5 November 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/legislation/2022/07/22/bill-signing-h-r-8351/>

<sup>3805</sup> Bill Signed: H.R. 5376, The White House (Washington D.C.) 16 August 2022. Access Date: 5 November 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/legislation/2022/08/16/bill-signed-h-r-5376/>

On 17 August and 7 September 2022, the Department of Labor held Hiring Summits at Tuskegee State University in Tuskegee, Alabama and Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee.<sup>3806</sup> These summits were organized with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) with the intention of forming further partnerships between the department and HBCUs. Members of the department would collect feedback and present information about mentorship, internship and career opportunities with the Department of Labor.

On 25 August 2022, President Biden announced a Department of Education-facilitated student loan debt relief package affecting all individuals with outstanding student loan debt making under USD125,000 annually.<sup>3807</sup> The department aims to forgive USD10,000 in student loan debt for every individual with an annual income under the threshold and will forgive an additional USD10,000 for any individual with student loan debt who also benefited from the Pell Grant social program. The department will also cap monthly repayment quotas at 5 per cent of discretionary income, down from 10 per cent.

On 7 September 2022, the Department of Labor announced the development of a “digital toolkit” providing educational resources on labor relations to employers.<sup>3808</sup> This initiative, jointly undertaken alongside the Small Business Administration, National Labor Relations Board and Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services, intends to promote labor-management cooperation by elucidating the mutual benefits of worker organization and collective bargaining.

On 27 September 2022, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced a reduction in the Medicare Part B standard monthly premium for 2023.<sup>3809</sup> Due to this cost-of-living adjustment, individuals enrolled in the Medicare Part B medical insurance program can expect monthly premiums of USD164.90 beginning in 2023, down from USD170.10.

On 13 October 2022, the Social Security Administration announced an 8.7 per cent increase in Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits, beginning in January 2023.<sup>3810</sup> Due to this cost-of-living adjustment, the Administration estimates that Social Security benefits will rise by an average of more than USD140 per month.

On 2 November 2022, the Department of Health and Human Services announced USD4.5 billion in further funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.<sup>3811</sup> This funding, which will go to states, territories and tribes, aims to offset energy costs over the winter and “help families make cost-effective home energy repairs to lower their heating and cooling bills.”

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<sup>3806</sup> Tennessee State University To Host US Department of Labor’s Hiring Summit To Advance Equity Through HBCU Faculty, Students, Career Service Professionals, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 31 August 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/oasam/oasam20220831>; Tuskegee University To Host US Department of Labor’s Southeast Hiring Summit To Advance Equity Through HBCU Faculty, Students, Career Service Professionals, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 12 August 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/oasam/oasam20220812-0>

<sup>3807</sup> Remarks by President Biden Announcing Student Loan Debt Relief Plan, The White House (Washington D.C.) 25 August 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2022/08/25/remarks-by-president-biden-announcing-student-loan-debt-relief-plan/>

<sup>3808</sup> Department of Labor Joins Effort To Provide Online Toolkit To Help Employers Support, Protect Workers’ Right To Unionize, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 7 September 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osec/osec20220907>

<sup>3809</sup> 2023 Medicare Parts A & B Premiums and Deductibles 2023 Medicare Part D Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (Baltimore) 27 September 2022. Access Date: 05 November 2022. <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/2023-medicare-parts-b-premiums-and-deductibles-2023-medicare-part-d-income-related-monthly>

<sup>3810</sup> Social Security Administration Announces 8.7 Percent Benefit Increase for 2023, Social Security Administration (Woodlawn) 13 October 2022. Access Date: 5 November 2022. <https://www.ssa.gov/news/press/releases/2022/#10-2022-2>

<sup>3811</sup> FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Actions to Lower Energy Costs for Families, The White House (Washington D.C.) 2 November 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/11/02/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-actions-to-lower-energy-costs-for-families/>



On 10 November 2022, the Department of Labor announced grants totalling USD6,848,992 to state employment insurance systems in Delaware, Montana and Wyoming.<sup>3812</sup> The funding aims to improve the delivery of employment insurance benefits to ensure accessibility.

On 8 December 2022, President Biden and Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh announced a USD36 billion funding package for the Central States Pension Fund.<sup>3813</sup> This funding was made available through the American Rescue Plan's Special Financial Assistance Program and serves as the largest amount of government aid given to secure worker and retiree pensions.

On 9 December 2022, President Biden signed H.R. 521, otherwise known as the "First Responder Fair Return for Employees on Their Initial Retirement Earned Act," into law.<sup>3814</sup> This law protects retirement benefits for federal employees who, due to injury or illness, are re-appointed to positions that disqualify them from their initial benefits.

On 19 December 2022, the White House released the government's plan to prevent and end homelessness.<sup>3815</sup> Through a mix of existing federal programs and newly announced partnerships with state and local governments under the administration's "Housing First" model, the government projects to reduce homelessness by 25 per cent by 2025.

On 2 February 2023, President Biden issued a memorandum to all heads of federal departments and agencies concerning access to leave for their employees.<sup>3816</sup> The memorandum encouraged heads to provide unpaid family leave for their employees. In this memorandum, President Biden also reaffirmed the administration's commitment to a paid family and medical leave program, while recognising that unpaid leave is "a critical stopgap."

On 7 March 2023, The White House announced some details of President Biden's proposed budget for the 2024 fiscal year, specifically relating to the Medicare social protection program.<sup>3817</sup> Specifically, the budget proposes additional funding that would ensure the Medicare Trust Fund's solvency for the next 25 years, cap cost sharing on certain generic drugs to USD2 per prescription per month and lower costs for behavioural healthcare coverage under Medicare.

On 9 March 2023, President Biden released his administration's proposed budget for the 2024 fiscal year.<sup>3818</sup> On top of Medicare solvency commitments, the proposed budget allocates funding for a free, universal preschool program, increases subsidized tuition programs and expands tuition-free community college access.

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<sup>3812</sup> Us Department of Labor Awards \$6.85m to Promote Equitable Access to Unemployment Insurance Benefits in Delaware, Montana, Wyoming, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 10 November 2022. Access Date: 5 January 2023. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20221110-1>

<sup>3813</sup> FACT SHEET: President Biden Announces Historic Relief to Protect Hard-Earned Pensions of Hundreds of Thousands of Union Workers and Retirees, The White House (Washington D.C.) 8 December 2022. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/12/08/fact-sheet-president-biden-announces-historic-relief-to-protect-hard-earned-pensions-of-hundreds-of-thousands-of-union-workers-and-retirees/>

<sup>3814</sup> Bills Signed: H.R. 521, S.3369, and S.4359, The White House (Washington D.C.) 9 December 2022. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/legislation/2022/12/09/bills-signed-h-r-521-s-3369-and-s-4359/>

<sup>3815</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, The White House (Washington D.C.) 19 December 2022. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/12/19/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-plan-to-prevent-and-end-homelessness/>

<sup>3816</sup> Memorandum on Supporting Access to Leave for Federal Employees, The White House (Washington D.C.) 2 February 2023. Access Date: 8 March 2023. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/02/02/memorandum-on-supporting-access-to-leave-for-federal-employees/>

<sup>3817</sup> FACT SHEET: The President's Budget: Extending Medicare Solvency by 25 Years or More, Strengthening Medicare, and Lowering Healthcare Costs, The White House (Washington D.C.) 7 March 2023. Access Date: 8 March 2023. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/03/07/fact-sheet-the-presidents-budget-extending-medicare-solvency-by-25-years-or-more-strengthening-medicare-and-lowering-health-care-costs/>

<sup>3818</sup> FACT SHEET: The President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2024, The White House (Washington D.C.) 9 March 2023. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/briefing-room/2023/03/09/fact-sheet-the-presidents-budget-for-fiscal-year-2024/>

Furthermore, the budget calls for USD6.3 billion to support the Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants and Children, increased funding for Low Income Household Energy Assistance and Water Assistance Programs and the creation of a “national, comprehensive paid family and medical leave program.”

On 15 March 2023, the White House announced USD73 million in new funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), a social protection initiative aimed at lowering internet costs for households.<sup>3819</sup> The new funding will go into outreach programs that “drive awareness and enrolment” in the ACP, aiding individuals in accessing ACP benefits.

On 16 March 2023, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released USD560 million in funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.<sup>3820</sup> This builds upon the department’s previous investment of USD4 billion into the program, which is targeted at decreasing energy bills for low-income households.

On 5 April 2023, the HHS finalized a rule to support and expand the Medicare social protection program.<sup>3821</sup> As part of this rule, the HHS, through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, will expand most Medicare Advantage plans to require behavioural healthcare coverage. Additionally, the rule finalized an expansion of the Medicare Part D program, a prescription drug cost reduction program, such that those who are currently only eligible for partial benefits will receive full benefits by January 2024.

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

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

*Analyst: Luca B. Rampersad*

### **European Union: 0**

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

On 14 September 2022, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen reiterated the importance of investments in “upskilling” and professional education to strengthen the growth of Europe.<sup>3822</sup>

On 4 October 2022, the Council adopted a directive that promotes an adequate minimum wage that ensures decent living and working conditions for employees working in Europe.<sup>3823</sup> The directive sets a procedure as to how to achieve an adequate minimum wage and promotes collective bargaining on wages.

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<sup>3819</sup> FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Actions to Lower High-Speed Internet Costs, The White House (Washington D.C.) 15 March 2023. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/03/15/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-actions-to-lower-high-speed-internet-costs/>

<sup>3820</sup> LIHEAP DCL 2023-05 Third Block Grant Funding Release FY 2023, Office of Community Services (Washington D.C.) 16 March 2023. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/policy-guidance/liheap-dcl-2023-05-third-supplemental-block-grant-funding-release-fy-2023>

<sup>3821</sup> HHS Finalizes Rule to Strengthen Medicare, Improve Access to Affordable Prescription Drug Coverage, and Hold Private Insurance Companies Accountable to Delivering Quality Health Care for America’s Seniors and People with Disabilities, Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 5 April 2023. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/04/05/hhs-finalizes-rule-strengthen-medicare-improve-access-affordable-prescription-drug-coverage-hold-private-insurance-companies-accountable.html>

<sup>3822</sup> 2022 State of the Union Address by President von der Leyen, European Commission (Brussels) 14 September 2022. Access Date: 6 November 2022. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech\\_22\\_5493](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech_22_5493)

<sup>3823</sup> Council adopts EU law on adequate minimum wages, European Council (Strasbourg) 4 October 2022. Access Date: 5 January 2023. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/10/04/council-adopts-eu-law-on-adequate-minimum-wages/>

On 17 October 2022, the Council approved a law that improves gender representation on the board of certain listed companies.<sup>3824</sup> The directive outlines that at least 40 per cent of non-executive director positions in the listed companies should be held by “members of the underrepresented sex” by 2026 and if member states decide to apply the directive to both executive and non-executive director positions, then the target would be 33 per cent of all director positions by 2026.

On 2 February 2023, the European Commission announced a EUR1.9 million investment from the European Globalization Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers to support workers who were dismissed by the logistics company TNT in Belgium.<sup>3825</sup> The European Commission approved the support requested by Belgium and the support includes assisting the dismissed workers with their job search and providing training in digital skills.

On 13 February 2023, the European Commission announced it would take more action to improve the protection of workers from health risks tied to exposure to harmful chemicals lead and diisocyanates.<sup>3826</sup> The European Commission proposed the amendment of two directives: “the [directive] on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens, mutagens and reprotoxic substances at work for lead and the “[directive] on the protection of workers from the risks related to chemical agents at work” for both lead and diisocyanates.

On 16 March 2023, the European Commission proposed support to 303 workers dismissed by aluminum producer Alu Ibérica in Spain.<sup>3827</sup> The scheme includes EUR1.2 million from the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers.

On 24 March 2023, the European Association of Sugar Manufacturers and the European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Sectors Trade Unions highlighted that all sugar entering into the EU market must comply with relevant international conventions on labour and social rights, EU legislation and EU standards of production and corporate accountability.<sup>3828</sup>

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

Thus, the European Union receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Aliza Sabih*

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<sup>3824</sup> Council approves EU law to improve gender balance on company boards, European Council (Strasbourg) 17 October 2022. Access Date: 5 January 2023. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/10/17/council-approves-eu-law-to-improve-gender-balance-on-company-boards/>

<sup>3825</sup> €1.9 million from European Globalisation Adjustment Fund to support dismissed workers in Belgium, European Commission (Brussels) 8 February 2023. Access Date: 8 March 2023.

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&furtherNews=yes&newsId=10510>

<sup>3826</sup> Commission acts to improve protection of workers with new exposure limits for lead and diisocyanates, European Commission (Brussels) 13 February 2023. Access Date: 8 March 2023.

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&furtherNews=yes&newsId=10512>

<sup>3827</sup> €1.2 million from European Globalisation Adjustment Fund to support 300 dismissed workers in Spain, European Commission (Brussels) 16 March 2023. Access Date: 11 April 2023. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&furtherNews=yes&newsId=10528>

<sup>3828</sup> Social partners in the sugar sector launch joint statement supporting that imported products should meet the same conditions than EU products, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2023. Access Date: 17 April 2023.

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&furtherNews=yes&newsId=10536>