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2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Interim Compliance Report

Prepared by

Kaylin Dawe, Mary Noh and the G20 Research Group

University of Toronto

Toronto

and

Alexander Ignatov and the Center for International Institutions Research

Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration,

Moscow

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Feedback, as always, is welcome and is kept anonymous.

We encourage readers to send comments to

G20@utoronto.ca

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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), and 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, including those that leaders can change to improve 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.

Professor John Kirton
Director, G20 Research Group

Research Teams

Toronto G20 Research Group Team

Professor John Kirton, Director	Jenna Im, Compliance Director	Natasha Pirzada, Compliance Director
Kaylin Dawe, Co-chair, Summit Studies	Wenny (Yiyao) Jin, Compliance Director	Diego Vásquez, Compliance Director
Jae Yoon Mary Noh, Co- chair, Summit Studies	Nammal Khan, Compliance Director	Jennifer Miao Wang, Compliance Director
Sonja Dobson, Editor	Matthew Kieffer, Compliance Director	Brandon Yih, Compliance Director
Alyssa Atef, Compliance Director	Malhaar Moharir, Compliance Director	Gabriella Shiyuan Zhao, Compliance Director
Angela Min Yi Hou, Compliance Director		

G20 Research Group Lead Analysts

Omar Abdellatif	Ilan Hughes	Quinn Teague-Colfer
Miranda Bocci	Omar Kassam	Ingrid Wong
Nour Ellassiuty	Samantha Moura Novais de Quadros	Charlie Lecheng Zeng
Joy Fan	Srijan Sahu	Meixi Zhang
Chan Wai Suet Gi Gi		

G20 Research Group Analysts

Rana Al-Fayez	Bubneet Dhillon	Jennifer Lam
Meryem Althani	Ana Djordjijevic	Elizabeth Lerman
Diana Anton	Nouran El Atreby	Isabella Li
Santiago Ardisson	Jad El Ghali	Andy Lin
Nika Asgari	Arun Eswaran	Dong (Delia) Liu
Yasmeen Atassi	Sahar Fatima	Jenny Liu
Para Babuهران	Sharif Fatourehchi	Ziyi Liu
Leena Badri	Julia Gavieta	Ema Marcheska
Yuchen Bai	Sydney Grad	Erica Matsui
Rawan Barakat	Darwin Gumba	Beatrice McLeod
Matthew Barrett	Kate Haberl	Lougein Metwally
Desbasmita Bhattacharya	Xin Han	Dalia Michaud
Alisha Bhimji	Phoebe Han	Arina Mnatsakanyan
Annabelle Bourzeix	Neeharika Hemrajani	Samar Moghal
Matthew Brubacher	Azana Hyder	Amanda Morana
Shanice Burton	Minahil Iftikhar	YanYui Mork
Laura Bustos	Ujala Iqbal	Sara Mostafa
Faadil Butt	Anna Ivanova	Shereen Marouf Mourad
Joy Chan	Jessica Johnson	Tourang Movahedi
Haobin Chen	Rebecca Jones	Mehr Mukhtar
Tammy Cheng	Shafna Kallil	Delaney Murphy
Arees Chooljian	Diya Kumar Katra	Ishita Nagar
Luisa Cortat	Burhan Anees Khan	Shalin Nayak
Simonetti Goncalves	Muhammad Hamza Khan	Aline Nayir
Dre Daley	Saarah Khan	Veronique Nuqui
Omar Danaf	Olivia Klasios	Rahul Pallan
Oya Darici	Signe Kossmann	Claire Parish
Ghazaleh Darini	Jonathan Ku	AnnaMaria Pavlopoulos

Thérèse Perucho
Bianca Piccone
Abigail Potter
Surabhi Pradhan
Zhuojia Qiu
Darya Rahbar
Warisa Rahman
Chan-Min Roh
Tamara Saadi
Amandeep Saini
Aisha Shafaqat
Keah Sharma
Simren Ravina Sharma
Aimaan Shergill

Hayley Spenst
Hannah Story-Korman
Dimitris Symeonidis
Dorottya Szekely
Brett Szmul
Vlada Taitis
Derek Thiele
Aadi Thulasingam
Alexander Trachsell
Wing Ka Tsang
Ethan Ullmann
Jeffrey Vandespkyer
Karči Aldridge Végi

Veniamin Veselovsky
Amanda Wang
Linda Wang
Tianyang (Victoria) Wang
Angelo Wijaya
Nathan Ye
June Young Lee
Rachel Zack
Aida Zarghami
Liva Zemitis
Jing sen Zhang
Tony Zhao

CIIR G20 Research Team

Marina Larionova, Director
Alexander Ignatov
Irina Popova
Andrei Sakharov
Andrey Shelepov
Sergei Vasilkovsky
Pavel Doronin
Anastasiya Kirillova

Introduction and Summary

The G20 2020 Riyadh Interim Compliance Report is prepared by the G20 Research Group based at the University of Toronto and its Russian partner at the Center for International Institutional Research of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA). The report analyzes compliance by G20 members with 20 priority commitments carefully selected from the total of 107 commitments made at the Riyadh Summit hosted by Saudi Arabia on 21–22 November 2020. This interim report covers relevant actions taken by the G20 members between 23 November 2020 to 22 May 2021. The final report, which will cover the full period between the 2020 and the 2021 summits, will be released on the eve of the Rome Summit that Italy will host on 30–31 October 2021.

Methodology and Scoring System

This report draws on the methodology developed by the G7 Research Group, which has been monitoring G7/8 compliance since 1996. The International Organisations Research Institute at the Higher School of Economics joined this multi-year project in 2005, followed by RANEPA. The use of this methodology builds cross-institutional and cross-member consistency and also allows compatibility with compliance assessments of other institutions.

The methodology uses a scale from –1 to +1, where +1 indicates full compliance with the stated commitment, –1 indicates a failure to comply or action taken that is directly opposite to the stated instruments or goal of the commitment, and 0 indicates partial compliance or work in progress, such as initiatives that have been launched but are not yet near completion and whose full results can therefore not be assessed. Each member assessed receives a score of –1, 0 or +1 for each commitment. For convenience, the scores in the tables have been converted to percentages, where –1 equals 0 per cent and +1 equals 100 per cent.¹

A compliance score of –1 does not necessarily imply an unwillingness to comply on the part of G20 members. In some cases, policy actions can take multiple compliance cycles to implement and measure. As the G20 Research Group and RANEPA continue to monitor developments, progress made by members can be recorded in future compliance reports.

The Compliance Coding Manual that describes the methodology in detail is available on the G20 Information Centre website at <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/index.html#method>.

Commitment Breakdown

The G20 made a total of 107 commitments at the Riyadh Summit.² These commitments, as identified by the G20 Research Group and RANEPA, are drawn from the official Riyadh Leaders' Declaration.

Selection of Commitments

For each compliance cycle (that is, the period between summits), the research team selects commitments that reflect the breadth of the G20 agenda and also reflect the priorities of the summit's host, while balancing the selection to allow for comparison with past and future summits, following the methodology developed by the G7 Research Group. The selection also replicates the breakdown of issue areas and the proportion of commitments in each one. Primary criteria for priority commitment selection are the comprehensiveness and relevance to the summit, the G20 and the world, as well as individual and collective pledges. Selected commitments must also meet secondary criteria of performance measurability and ability to comply to some degree within a year,

¹ The formula to convert a score into a percentage is $P = 50 \times (S + 1)$, where P is the percentage and S is the score

² A commitment is defined as a discrete, specific, publicly expressed, collectively agreed statement of intent; a promise by summit members that they will undertake future action to move toward, meet or adjust to an identified target.

More details are contained in the Reference Manual for Summit Commitment and Compliance Coding).

as well as the tertiary criterion of significance as identified by scientific teams and relevant stakeholders in the host country.

For the 2020 Riyadh Interim Compliance Report, 20 priority commitments were selected for assessment by the University of Toronto and the RANEPAs teams (see Table 1).

Interim Compliance Scores

This assessment is based on relevant, publicly available information relating to actions taken from 23 November 2020 to 22 May 2021. The interim compliance scores by commitment are contained in Table 2. Country rankings are listed in Table 3 and commitment rankings are listed in Table 4.

For the full interim period, including all 20 commitments, G20 members achieved average compliance of +0.50 (75%).

Interim Compliance by Member

For interim compliance with the Riyadh Summit's priority commitments, Germany had the highest compliance at +0.95 (97%), followed by the European Union and the United Kingdom at +0.85 (93%), and then France at +0.79 (89%). Host Italy ranked eighth at +0.53 (76%) and Riyadh's host, Saudi Arabia, ranked 17th at +0.35 (68%). South Africa and India tied for the lowest compliance score, both at +0.05 (53%). The difference between the highest and lowest G20 member compliance scores is 0.90. All the scores by G20 members are listed in Table 3.

Interim Compliance by Commitment

The climate change commitment on the Paris Agreement ranked first at +0.90 (95%), followed by the macroeconomics commitment on inclusive growth at +0.85 (93%), and the health commitment on preparedness and response at +0.80 (90%). The lowest compliance was two commitments tied at +0.10 (55%): one on fossil fuels and one on marine plastic litter commitments. All the scores by commitment are listed in Table 4.

Table 1: 2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Commitments Selected for Compliance Monitoring

1	Macroeconomics: Inclusive Growth	“We will continue our efforts to reduce inequalities reaffirming our previous commitments to promote inclusive growth.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration)
2	Macroeconomics: Capital Markets	“We will strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth, including through promoting sustainable capital flows and developing domestic capital markets.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration)
3	Trade: Investment	“We strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment environment.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration)
4	Trade: Open Markets	“[We strive to]...keep our markets open.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration)
5	Digital Economy: Consumer Rights	“We support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration)
6	International Taxation: Tax Systems	“We will continue our cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration)
7	International Taxation: BEPS	“We remain committed to further progress on both pillars and urge the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS to address the remaining issues with a view to reaching a global and consensus-based solution by mid-2021.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration)
8	Crime and Corruption: Threats	“We reiterate our strong commitment to tackle all sources, techniques and channels of these threats.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration)
9	Labour and Employment: Job Protection	“We will continue to support workers through training and reskilling policies.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration)
10	Gender: Inequalities	“As many women have been disproportionately affected by the crisis, we will work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration)
11	Gender: Economic Participation and Entrepreneurship	“We will take steps to remove the barriers to women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration)
12	Development: Debt Relief	“We are committed to implementing the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration)
13	Development: COVID-19	“We remain determined to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration)
14	Health: Preparedness and Response	“We commit to advancing global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration)

15	Health: Information Sharing	“[We reaffirm our commitment to] the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information [IHR].” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration)
16	Health: Vaccine Distribution	“We will spare no effort to ensure their [vaccines] affordable and equitable access for all people, consistent with members’ commitments to incentivize innovation. In this regard, we fully support all collaborative efforts, especially the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) initiative and its COVAX facility, and the voluntary licensing of intellectual property.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration)
17	Energy: Fossil Fuels	“We reaffirm our joint commitment on medium term rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, while providing targeted support for the poorest.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration)
18	Environment: Marine Plastic Litter	“We reaffirm our commitment to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter, as articulated by the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration)
19	Climate Change: Circular Carbon Economy	“We endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.” (G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration)
20	Climate Change: Paris Agreement	“Signatories to the Paris Agreement who confirmed at Osaka their determination to implement it, once again, reaffirm their commitment to its full implementation, reflecting common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.” (G20 Environment Ministers Meeting)

Table 2: 2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Interim Compliance Scores

	Argentina	Australia	Brazil	Canada	China	France	Germany	India	Indonesia	Italy	Japan	Korea	Mexico	Russia	Saudi Arabia	South Africa	Turkey	United Kingdom	United States	European Union	Average		
1	Macroeconomics: Inclusive Growth	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.85	93%	
2	Macroeconomics: Capital Markets	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.75	88%	
3	Trade: Investment	+1	+1	0	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	0	0	+1	0	0	0	+1	0	+1	+0.55	78%	
4	Trade: Open Markets	0	0	0	-1	0	n/a	n/a	0	+1	n/a	0	+1	0	+1	0	0	0	0	0	+0.12	56%	
5	Digital Economy: Consumer Rights	+1	0	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	0	0	+0.70	85%	
6	International Taxation: Tax Systems	0	+1	+1	0	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	0	-1	+1	+1	0	0	+1	0	+1	+0.50	75%	
7	International Taxation: BEPS	0	-1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	0	0	0	-1	-1	+1	+1	+1	+0.35	68%	
8	Crime and Corruption: Threats	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.40	70%	
9	Labour and Employment: Job Protection	-1	0	0	+1	0	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1	-1	+1	0	0	+1	+1	+1	+0.35	68%	
10	Gender: Inequalities	+1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	0	0	+1	0	+1	+0.65	83%	
11	Gender: Economic Participation	+1	0	+1	+1	0	0	+1	0	+1	0	0	+1	0	0	0	0	+1	+1	+1	+0.50	75%	
12	Development: Debt Relief	0	0	0	+1	0	+1	+1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+1	+0.20	60%	
13	Development: COVID-19	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	-1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	+0.65	83%	
14	Health: Preparedness and Response	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+0.80	90%
15	Health: Information Sharing	0	0	0	0	-1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	0	0	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+0.50	75%	
16	Health: Vaccine Distribution	0	+1	0	+1	0	+1	+1	0	0	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	0	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.60	80%
17	Energy: Fossil Fuels	-1	-1	0	+1	+1	-1	+1	0	+1	+1	0	-1	0	-1	0	0	+1	-1	+1	+0.10	55%	
18	Environment:	+1	+1	0	0	+1	+1	+1	0	-1	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0.10	55%	

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	Argentina	Australia	Brazil	Canada	China	France	Germany	India	Indonesia	Italy	Japan	Korea	Mexico	Russia	Saudi Arabia	South Africa	Turkey	United Kingdom	United States	European Union	Average		
19	Marine Plastic Litter																						
	Climate Change: Circular Carbon Economy	+1	+1	0	+1	0	+1	0	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.30	65%
20	Climate Change: Paris Agreement	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.90	95%
	Interim Score	+0.40	+0.40	+0.50	+0.70	+0.35	+0.79	+0.95	+0.05	+0.50	+0.53	+0.60	+0.65	+0.20	+0.35	+0.35	+0.05	+0.40	+0.85	+0.50	+0.85	+0.50	75%
		70%	70%	75%	85%	68%	89%	97%	53%	75%	76%	80%	83%	60%	68%	68%	53%	70%	93%	75%	93%	75%	

Table 3: 2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Interim Compliance by Member

Rank	Member	Average	
1	Germany	+0.95	97%
2	European Union	+0.85	93%
	United Kingdom		
4	France	+0.79	89%
5	Canada	+0.70	85%
6	Korea	+0.65	83%
7	Italy	+0.61	81%
8	Japan	+0.60	80%
9	United States	+0.50	75%
	Brazil		
	Indonesia		
12	Argentina	+0.40	70%
	Australia		
	Turkey		
15	China	+0.35	68%
	Russia		
	Saudi Arabia		
18	Mexico	+0.20	60%
19	India	+0.05	53%
	South Africa		

Table 4: 2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Interim Compliance by Commitment

Rank	Commitment	Average	
1	Climate Change: Paris Agreement	+0.90	95%
2	Macroeconomics: Inclusive Growth	+0.85	93%
3	Health: Preparedness and Response	+0.80	90%
4	Macroeconomics: Capital Markets	+0.75	88%
5	Digital Economy: Consumer Rights	+0.70	85%
6	Development: COVID-19	+0.65	83%
	Gender: Inequalities		
8	Health: Vaccine Distribution	+0.60	80%
9	Trade: Investment	+0.55	78%
10	Gender: Economic Participation and Entrepreneurship	+0.50	75%
	Health: Information Sharing		
	International Taxation: Tax Systems		
13	Crime and Corruption: Threats	+0.40	70%
14	International Taxation: BEPS	+0.35	68%
	Labour and Employment: Job Protection		
16	Climate Change: Circular Carbon Economy	+0.30	65%
17	Development: Debt Relief	+0.20	60%
18	Trade: Open Markets	+0.12	56%
19	Energy: Fossil Fuels	+0.10	55%
	Environment: Marine Plastic Litter		

Table 5: G20 Compliance by Member, 2008-2020

Member	Final Washington 2008		Final London 2009		Final Pittsburgh 2009		Final Toronto 2010		Final Seoul 2010		Final Cannes 2011		Final Los Cabos 2012	
	Argentina	0	50%	-0.60	20%	-0.13	44%	0	50%	-0.08	46%	0	50%	+0.31
Australia	n/a	–	+0.60	80%	+0.50	75%	+0.56	78%	+0.85	93%	+0.67	84%	+0.94	97%
Brazil	+1.00	100%	+0.20	60%	-0.63	19%	+0.29	65%	+0.42	71%	+0.60	80%	+0.56	78%
Canada	+1.00	100%	+0.60	80%	+0.63	82%	+0.78	89%	+0.69	85%	+0.73	87%	+0.75	88%
China	0	50%	-0.40	30%	+0.13	57%	+0.38	69%	+0.42	71%	+0.53	77%	+0.38	69%
France	+1.00	100%	+0.80	90%	+0.63	82%	+0.56	78%	+0.77	89%	+0.60	80%	+0.69	85%
Germany	+1.00	100%	+0.80	90%	+0.63	82%	+0.56	78%	+0.54	77%	+0.67	84%	+0.56	78%
India	0	50%	-0.40	30%	-0.38	31%	-0.29	36%	+0.42	71%	+0.60	80%	+0.50	75%
Indonesia	n/a	–	-0.40	30%	-0.63	19%	-0.13	44%	+0.36	68%	+0.14	57%	+0.47	74%
Italy	+1.00	100%	0	50%	+0.13	57%	+0.56	78%	+0.77	89%	+0.80	90%	+0.19	60%
Japan	+1.00	100%	+0.20	60%	+0.50	75%	+0.56	78%	+0.62	81%	+0.47	74%	+0.50	75%
Korea	n/a	–	0	50%	+0.75	88%	+0.56	78%	+0.46	73%	+0.60	80%	+0.63	82%
Mexico	+1.00	100%	0	50%	+0.25	63%	-0.14	43%	+0.58	79%	+0.67	84%	+0.69	85%
Russia	0	50%	+0.40	70%	+0.38	69%	+0.13	57%	+0.59	80%	+0.60	80%	+0.63	82%
Saudi Arabia	n/a	–	+0.20	60%	-0.13	44%	-0.13	44%	+0.08	54%	+0.21	61%	+0.50	75%
South Africa	+1.00	100%	+0.40	70%	+0.63	82%	-0.14	43%	+0.33	67%	+0.47	74%	+0.47	74%
Turkey	n/a	–	+0.20	60%	-0.25	38%	-0.14	43%	+0.17	59%	+0.20	60%	+0.25	63%
United Kingdom	+1.00	100%	+1.00	100%	+0.50	75%	+0.78	89%	+0.77	89%	+0.87	94%	+0.81	91%
United States	0	50%	+0.40	70%	+1.00	100%	+0.33	67%	+0.38	69%	+0.53	77%	+0.81	91%
European Union	+1.00	100%	+0.60	80%	+0.38	69%	+0.57	79%	+0.82	91%	+0.85	93%	+0.75	88%
Average	+0.67	83%	+0.23	62%	+0.24	62%	+0.28	64%	+0.50	75%	+0.54	77%	+0.57	79%

n/a = not available

Member	Final St. Petersburg 2013		Final Brisbane 2014		Final Antalya 2015		Final Hangzhou 2016		Final Hamburg 2017		Final Buenos Aires 2018		Final Osaka 2019		Interim Riyadh 2020	
	Argentina	+0.06	53%	+0.06	53%	+0.53	76%	+0.63	82%	+0.82	91%	+0.75	88%	+0.53	76%	+0.40
Australia	+0.63	81%	+0.59	79%	+0.65	82%	+0.79	89%	+0.71	85%	+0.80	90%	+0.74	87%	+0.40	70%
Brazil	+0.31	66%	+0.12	56%	+0.53	76%	+0.58	79%	+0.82	91%	+0.70	85%	+0.47	74%	+0.50	75%
Canada	+0.44	72%	+0.71	85%	+0.65	82%	+0.84	92%	+0.94	97%	+0.75	88%	+0.79	89%	+0.70	85%
China	+0.19	59%	+0.59	79%	+0.59	79%	+0.74	87%	+0.76	88%	+0.75	88%	+0.42	71%	+0.35	68%
France	+0.69	84%	+0.63	81%	+0.71	85%	+0.63	82%	+0.94	97%	+1.00	100%	+0.71	85%	+0.79	90%
Germany	+0.75	88%	+0.69	84%	+0.71	85%	+0.79	89%	+0.88	94%	+0.65	83%	+0.88	94%	+0.95	97%
India	+0.63	81%	+0.59	79%	+0.65	82%	+0.63	82%	+0.82	91%	+0.75	88%	+0.58	79%	+0.05	53%
Indonesia	+0.50	75%	+0.12	56%	+0.18	59%	+0.53	76%	+0.94	97%	+0.45	73%	+0.32	66%	+0.50	75%
Italy	+0.44	72%	+0.13	56%	+0.71	85%	+0.32	66%	+0.76	88%	+0.35	68%	+0.65	82%	+0.53	76%
Japan	+0.31	66%	+0.65	82%	+0.35	68%	+0.68	84%	+0.76	88%	+0.55	78%	+0.58	79%	+0.60	80%
Korea	+0.38	69%	+0.65	82%	+0.53	76%	+0.68	84%	+0.71	85%	+0.60	80%	+0.42	71%	+0.65	83%
Mexico	+0.38	69%	+0.47	74%	+0.53	76%	+0.53	76%	+0.65	82%	+0.60	80%	+0.53	76%	+0.20	60%
Russia	+0.44	72%	+0.47	74%	+0.47	74%	+0.68	84%	+0.65	82%	+0.35	68%	+0.47	74%	+0.35	68%
Saudi Arabia	+0.06	53%	-0.24	38%	+0.35	68%	+0.42	71%	+0.59	79%	+0.45	73%	+0.42	71%	+0.35	68%
South Africa	+0.25	63%	-0.12	44%	+0.24	62%	+0.37	68%	+0.65	82%	+0.45	73%	+0.37	68%	+0.05	53%
Turkey	+0.25	63%	0	50%	+0.41	71%	+0.37	68%	+0.29	65%	+0.05	53%	+0.42	71%	+0.40	70%
United Kingdom	+0.75	88%	+0.76	88%	+0.71	85%	+0.47	74%	+0.94	97%	+0.25	63%	+0.74	87%	+0.85	93%
United States	+0.69	84%	+0.76	88%	+0.71	85%	+0.42	71%	+0.35	68%	+0.75	88%	+0.42	71%	+0.50	75%
European Union	+0.63	81%	+0.75	88%	+0.81	91%	+0.84	92%	0.94	97%	+0.37	68%	+1.00	100%	+0.85	93%
Average	+0.44	72%	+0.42	71%	+0.55	77%	+0.60	80%	0.75	87%	+0.57	78%	+0.57	79%	+0.50	75%

Conclusions

Many of the commitments assessed in this report have timelines that extend beyond the next summit or reflect medium- and long-term priorities. A unique feature of this report is the incorporation of deadlines for commitments monitored over multiple compliance cycles. The convergence of medium- and long-term commitments and those with deadlines in the near future reflects the nature of G20 decisions as a crisis management forum and a global governance steering institution. It also illustrates the multifaceted nature of compliance assessment. As the relationship among short, medium, and long-term commitments becomes clearer, the compliance landscape for many of these priority commitments may change over the course of future compliance periods.

Future Research and Reports

The information contained in this report provides G20 members and other stakeholders with an indication of their compliance in period immediately following the Riyadh Summit. This report has been produced as an invitation for others to provide additional or more complete information on compliance during the period under study. Feedback should be sent to g20@utoronto.ca.

Considerations and Limitations

Several elements affect the findings contained in this report. While the purpose of the report is to monitor compliance with G20 commitments, it is necessary to ensure that the monitoring mechanism is realistic and considers the context within which the commitments are made. With new commitments, more attention must be paid to the initial implementation constraints faced by members. One way to accommodate these constraints is to regard the intent to implement policy measures as an illustration of compliance or being “on track” towards compliance. This initial leeway should only be granted for new commitments; intent is not a suitable indicator of compliance for medium-term or longstanding commitments. Over time as commitments become integrated in the G20 compliance mechanism, compliance guidelines should become more stringent (as members become more accustomed to the nature of the issue and the requirements for compliance).

See also Appendix: General Considerations.

Appendix: General Considerations

In evaluating the results of this report, the following considerations should be kept in mind.

Assessments contained in this report apply to commitment-related actions taken by G20 members only since the commitments were declared publicly at the last summit.

Compliance has been assessed against a selected set of priority commitments, rather than all commitments contained in the summit documents. The selection is intended to produce a representative subset of the total body of commitments. An ideal set of priority commitments represents proportionally the amount of attention paid to each policy area in summit documents, reflects the relative ambition of summit commitments, and holds as many G20 members to account for compliance as possible.

In addition to producing commitments, summits provide value by establishing new principles and norms, creating and highlighting issues and issue areas and altering the traditional discourse used to discuss priorities. Some of the most important decisions reached at summits may be done in private and not encoded in the public record of the summit documents.

Some commitments cover several years and thus compliance takes longer than the summit-to-summit timeframe applied in this report. For this reason, full compliance (denoted by a +1 score) might not require that G20 members carry out a given commitment completely, but might instead demand clear, visible progress commensurate with the overall timetable as well as public statements of support of commitment objectives.

In some cases, a G20 member might choose not to comply with a particular summit commitment for good reason, for example if global conditions have changed dramatically since the commitment was made or if new knowledge has become available about how a particular problem can best be solved.

As each G20 member has its own constitutional, legal and institutional processes for undertaking action at the national level (and in the case of the European Union at the supranational level), each member is free to act according to its own legislative schedule. Of particular importance here is the annual schedule for creating budgets, seeking legislative approval and appropriating funds.

Commitments in G20 summit documents might also be included, in whole or in part, in documents released by other international forums, as the decisions of other international organizations or even national statements such as the State of the Union Address in the US, the Queen's Speech in the UK and the Speech from the Throne in Canada. Merely repeating a G20 commitment in another forum does not count fully as compliant behaviour.

This report assesses G20 members' action in accordance with the text of actual, specific commitments made in G20 summit documents. Because commitments demand that policymakers and regulators act specifically to meet the identified objectives, this report holds policymakers accountable for pushing and passing recommended policies. Furthermore, compliance is assessed against the precise, particular commitment, rather than what might be regarded as a necessary or appropriate action to solve the problem being addressed.

As individual members can often take different actions to comply with the same commitment, no standardized cross-national evaluative criterion produced by external parties can be universally applied. The interpretive guidelines attempt to provide a clear, consistent, equitable method for assessing compliance.

Because the evaluative scale used in this compliance report runs from -1 to +1, any score in the positive range represents at least some degree of compliance.

1. Macroeconomic Policy: Inclusive Growth

“We will continue our efforts to reduce inequalities reaffirming our previous commitments to promote inclusive growth.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia		0	
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa			+1
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.85 (93%)	

Background

Inclusive economic growth has been a major area of interest at G20 summits in recent years. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic brought into greater light the deep inequalities in economic growth and prospects among countries around the world. According to the World Bank, in 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic is estimated to push 88 to 115 million people into extreme poverty (defined as living on less than USD1.90 daily), with that number potentially rising to 150 million by 2021.³ Even prior to the pandemic, the World Bank noted that “the rate of [poverty] reduction slowed to less than half a percentage point per year between 2015 and 2017.”⁴ Consequently, this commitment aims to highlight that promoting inclusive economic growth requires addressing systemic inequalities in the global economy that hinder the participation of all.

At the 2015 Antalya Summit, G20 leaders recognized that fostering inclusive growth requires the use of “all policy tools and strong engagement with stakeholders.”⁵ Additionally, they strived to ensure

³ COVID-19 to Add as Many as 150 Million Extreme Poor by 2021, The World Bank (Washington, D.C.) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/10/07/covid-19-to-add-as-many-as-150-million-extreme-poor-by-2021>

⁴ COVID-19 to Add as Many as 150 Million Extreme Poor by 2021, The World Bank (Washington, D.C.) 7 October 2020. Data of Access: 20 February 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/10/07/covid-19-to-add-as-many-as-150-million-extreme-poor-by-2021>

⁵ G20 Antalya Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 November 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communication.html>

that growth is “robust,” “inclusive,” and “delivers more quality jobs.”⁶ According to the communiqué, rising inequalities negatively affect economies and “hinder our objective of lifting growth.”⁷ They affirmed that global trade and investment continue to be important for fuelling economic growth and development, generating employment and contributing to welfare and inclusive growth. They further affirmed their support for “policies that allow firms of all sizes, particularly SMEs [small and medium-sized enterprises], in countries at all levels of economic development to participate in and take full advantage of Global Value Chains and encourage greater participation and value addition by developing countries.”⁸

At the 2016 Hangzhou Summit, G20 leaders reiterated their commitment to advance “strong, balanced, sustainable, and inclusive growth” under the Hangzhou Consensus.⁹ This action plan focused on four key themes: vision, integration, openness and inclusiveness.¹⁰ Furthermore, leaders agreed that fiscal, monetary and structural policies were essential in achieving these goals and should be tailored to an individual country’s circumstances. Monetary policy was necessary to continue to support economic activity and ensure price stability, consistent with central banks’ mandates, whereas fiscal policy offers flexibility in making tax policy and public expenditure more growth-friendly.¹¹

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 leaders reaffirmed their responsibility of maintaining and fostering strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth. Building on commitments made at the Hangzhou Summit, the G20 leaders promised to make significant progress in building resilience, improving sustainability and assuming responsibility.¹² Furthermore, they agreed that globalization’s benefits have not been shared with all countries equally and committed to enabling people to better “seize its opportunities.”¹³ Talks also focused on combating global issues of terrorism, poverty, climate change, energy security, stability, gender inequality and job creation.¹⁴

At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, G20 leaders committed to their previous year’s pledge of using all three policy tools to “achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.”¹⁵ An additional focus on infrastructure growth as a criterion for inclusive growth was included; G20 leaders called for more private investment in infrastructure to address the continuing financing gap.¹⁶ The Buenos Aires Action Plan highlights key areas where member’s implemented policy measures have had

⁶ G20 Antalya Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 November 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communiqué.html>

⁷ G20 Antalya Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 November 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communiqué.html>

⁸ G20 Antalya Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 November 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communiqué.html>

⁹ G20 Hangzhou Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017 Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2016hangzhou.html>

¹⁰ G20 Hangzhou Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date : 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2016hangzhou.html>

¹¹ G20 Hangzhou Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2016hangzhou.html>

¹² G20 Hamburg Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

¹³ G20 Hamburg Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁴ G20 Hamburg Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁵ G20 Buenos Aires Leaders’ Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁶ G20 Buenos Aires Leaders’ Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

success in promoting inclusive growth, including taxation, social security reform, financial regulation, labour market changes and health insurance.¹⁷

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to using all policy tools to achieve “strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth” and also mentioned the need to guard against negative consequences of policy measures by engaging in dialogue and building confidence.¹⁸ The G20 leaders also made a note of the importance of healthy current account statements, highlighting the increasing imbalances found in developed countries and stressed the need to calibrate economies and increase monitoring to prevent worsening.

Commitment Features

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, leaders affirmed the need to promote greater Access to Opportunities as part of their focus on Ensuring an Inclusive Recovery that Tackles Inequalities.¹⁹ Thus, G20 leaders released the following commitment: “We will continue our efforts to reduce inequalities reaffirming our previous commitments to promote inclusive growth.”²⁰

“Continue our efforts” is understood to mean carrying on “commitments that are established and implemented. It should be interpreted to mean new actions will be added to the already existing ones.”²¹ “Reaffirm” is understood to mean “affirm again whereby affirm is to assert strongly, state as fact, confirm or ratify.”²²

“Reduce inequalities” in this context refers to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 10 first outlined in the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, to which G20 leaders remained “resolved to play a leading role in contributing to [its] timely implementation.”²³ Specifically, SDG 10 consists of several related macroeconomic targets that read as follows:

- By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average;
- By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status;
- Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard;

¹⁷ G20 Buenos Aires Leaders’ Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁸ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁹ G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

²⁰ G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

²¹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 5 April 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²² Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²³ G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

- Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality;
- Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations;
- Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions;
- Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements;
- Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular, least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programs;
- By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent.²⁴

“Previous commitments,” in this context, refers to declarations and initiatives put forward by G20 leaders at past summit meetings, which have been outlined above. Particular commitments to note include the G20 leaders at the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit commitment to using the “policy tools” produced by the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), namely Investing in People and Places, Supporting Businesses and Inclusive Labour Markets and Building Resilient and Responsive Institutions to achieve growth.²⁵ Another key commitment was in the G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration which further reaffirmed that safeguarding against downside risks through enhancing confidence and promoting supportive fiscal and monetary policy.²⁶

“Inclusive growth” is defined by the OECD as “economic growth that is distributed fairly across society and creates opportunities for all.”²⁷ This interpretation of the term is further bolstered by the United Nations Development Programme, which views inclusive growth as “consisting of both participation and benefit-sharing, where everyone can participate in the growth process and can equally share [its] benefits.”²⁸

This commitment is divided into four key areas of action: increased access to opportunities for youth, increased access to opportunities for women, increased access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs, and the upskilling and reskilling of workers. These areas of reform have been published in an OECD report entitled *Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries*, calling for G20 members’ to better enhance equal access to opportunities for all. Incorporating phenomena including globalization, digitalization, demographics, climate change, as

²⁴ Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (New York) 21 October 2015. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

²⁵ Macroeconomic Policy: Inclusive Growth, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 June 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/compliance/2018buenosaires-final/10-2018-g20-compliance-growth.pdf>

²⁶ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

²⁷ What is Inclusive Growth, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 6-7 May 2014. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/inclusive-growth/>

²⁸ Report on the OECD Framework for Inclusive Growth, OECD (Paris) 6-7 May 2014. Access Date: 26 February 2021. https://www.oecd.org/mcm/IG_MCM_ENG.pdf

well as the impact of COVID-19, this report was endorsed by the G20 Riyadh Leaders' Declaration, highlighting the importance of greater access to opportunities and affirming their commitment to "ensuring an inclusive recovery that tackles inequalities."²⁹

Increased Access to Opportunities for Youth

The first area of reform arises from the acknowledgement that "effective employment and social support can help young people to successfully transition from the educational system to the labour market."³⁰ Youth from disadvantaged backgrounds perform worse than advantaged students due to their comparatively adverse environments according to the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment.³¹ Furthermore, the OECD estimates that approximately 19 per cent of 15- to 29-year-olds are classified as not in employment, education or training (NEET) across G20 economies, the number potentially greater following the onset of COVID-19.³²

There are a number of actions that G20 members can take in order to address this area of reform, which include but are not limited to: improving access to early childhood education and care, the reduction of child poverty through social policy, promoting high-quality vocational education and training, and providing adequate employment and social support for NEET youth.³³ These actions are predominantly domestic in scope, however, any international or overseas development assistance provided by G20 members specifically towards increasing access to opportunities for youth can be included in compliance.

Increased Opportunities for Women

The OECD recognized that "across G20 economies, women still do not have the same labour market opportunities as men," noting that COVID-19 "risks having a greater impact on women."³⁴ While G20 economies have been recognized for "significant progress towards...reducing the gender gap in labour force participation by 25 per cent by 2025,"³⁵ gaps in job quality and earnings still remain,³⁶ which are expected to widen throughout the pandemic.

There are a number of actions that G20 members can take in order to address this area of reform, which include but are not limited to: supporting the unpaid care burden of children through

²⁹ Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

³⁰ Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

³¹ Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

³² Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

³³ Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

³⁴ Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

³⁵ Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

³⁶ Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

incentivizing paternity care leave, ensuring access to maternity care leave and greater access to formal childcare, addressing systemic gender occupational inequalities particularly in science, technology, engineering and math, the implementation of budgeting that sufficiently consider and provide an effective framework to ensure gender equality, and conducting greater research on existing gaps in the labour market.³⁷ While these actions are predominantly domestic in scope, any international or overseas development assistance provided by G20 members specifically towards increasing access to opportunities for women can be included in compliance.

Increased Opportunities for SMEs and Entrepreneurs

Enterprises are defined by the OECD as “legal entities possessing the right to conduct business on their own.”³⁸ While the size varies from country to country, the OECD states that any enterprise consisting of fewer than 250 employees is considered a small and medium enterprise.³⁹ While barriers for SMEs and entrepreneurs have declined over the years, it has been recognized that “informal workers have fewer opportunities to invest in their skills and build a career,”⁴⁰ particularly women and youth. Furthermore, the OECD notes that SMEs and entrepreneurs in G20 member states have experienced added burdens of declining revenue, liquidity shortages and limited access to social protection measures through the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴¹

There are a number of actions that G20 members can take in order to address this area of reform, which include but are not limited to: promoting a business environment that encourages a level playing field for SMEs, supporting greater access to financing for SMEs as well as entrepreneurship particularly for women and youth, encouraging effective labour market regulation, and promoting greater research on the “extent of informal-sector activities.”⁴²

Upskilling and Reskilling of Workers

The OECD has recognized that “new technologies have been replacing workers in many middle-skill routine occupations while resting new jobs at both the high and low ends of the skills spectrum.”⁴³ The automation of several sectors in the economy and “mismatch in skills” leading to under-qualification in certain occupations and over-qualification in others in G20 economies have changed the nature of labour markets worldwide.⁴⁴ In particular, COVID-19 has accelerated digitalization

³⁷ Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

³⁸ Enterprises by Business Size, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2018. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://data.oecd.org/entrepreneur/enterprises-by-business-size>

³⁹ Enterprises by Business Size, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2018. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://data.oecd.org/entrepreneur/enterprises-by-business-size>

⁴⁰ Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

⁴¹ Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

⁴² Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

⁴³ Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

⁴⁴ Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

processes and rapidly shifted labour demand across sectors, in turn inducing redundancies in workers' skills.⁴⁵

There are a number of actions that G20 members can take in order to address this area of reform, which include but are not limited to the reduction of financial barriers for adult learning, more individualized, worker-centric training, creating training programmes that address the demand for job-specific skills, improving the certification of these programs, and offering sufficient support for unemployed workers.⁴⁶

The G20 member will be found in full compliance if it takes strong action in all four areas of the commitment with an eye to promoting inclusive growth, or it takes strong action in two or three areas and some action in the other two areas. Partial compliance includes taking strong action in one or two areas and some action in three areas, or some action in all four areas. Anything less than this, or less than 50 per cent of the commitment, counts as a -1 for non-compliance.

Examples of partial action include verbal reaffirmations, assigned follow-up, attendance at meetings or inclusion in institutions but no evidence of active participation in such meetings. Strong action for full compliance can include allocation of money or personnel, promotion of a program, changes in regulation and legislation, cabinet reconfigurations or enforcement through policy or judicial action that addresses the relevant areas of reform above, information sharing or the sponsoring, signing or ratification of a commitment-related international treaty, joining and financing an international organization, provision of financial support directly or through international institutions, or international policy actions that address relevant areas of reform, etc.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G20 member takes action in zero OR one area of increasing access to opportunities for youth, women, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers.
0	The G20 member takes strong action in two OR three areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, women, SMEs and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers, or some action in all areas.
+1	The G20 member takes strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, women, SMEs and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers, or strong action in three areas and some action in one.

*Compliance Director: Malhaar Moharir
Lead Analyst: Srijan Sabu*

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 1 December 2020, the Ministry of Productive Development announced a ARS300 million initiative to create and strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) university centres, to

⁴⁵ Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

⁴⁶ Enhancing Equal Access to Opportunities for All in G20 Countries, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/economy/Enhancing-equal-access-to-opportunities-OECD-background-note-for-G20-Framework-Working-Group-july-2020.pdf>

“provide technical assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises in the country.”⁴⁷ Part of the Program for Competitiveness of Regional Economies, the initiative hopes to “enhance competitiveness and promote the export capacity of [micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)] and value chains” through financing “training, equipment and technical assistance.”⁴⁸

On 2 December 2020, the Ministry of Social Development announced 370 award winners of the Empower Youth Competition.⁴⁹ With over 8,000 registered participants, the project was “aimed at unemployed people between 18 and 29 years old, with experience in the areas of carpentry, gastronomy, rubber, gardening, hairdressing, textiles or design in audiovisual communication so that they can obtain machinery and tools for launch or strengthen their ventures.”⁵⁰

On 3 December 2020, Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Economy Melina Mallamace and the National Director of Economy, Equality and Gender Mercedes D’Alessandro participated in a meeting of the Federal Bureau of Economic Policies with a Gender Perspective.⁵¹ The discussion pertained to the impact of COVID-19 on female employment in Argentina, noting that the crisis has disproportionately impacted women in the tourism, healthcare and textile sectors.⁵² The participants outlined several plans including “developing a map of productive development with a gender perspective,” encouraging more women to participate in the digitalized industries and technology sectors, increasing the number of female employees in the civil service and continuing gender-sensitive budgets, all to be implemented in 2021.^{53,54}

On 10 December 2020, the Ministry of Productive Development opened lines of credits amounting to ARS3.5 billion for MSMEs to “develop national productive investment projects,” with a

⁴⁷ The Ministry of Productive Development will Invest \$ 300 M for the creation of SME Centers in universities throughout the country, Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-desarrollo-productivo-invertira-300-m-para-la-creacion-de-centros-pymes-en>

⁴⁸ The Ministry of Productive Development will Invest \$ 300 M for the creation of SME Centers in universities throughout the country, Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-desarrollo-productivo-invertira-300-m-para-la-creacion-de-centros-pymes-en>

⁴⁹ Empower Youth Contest: Social Development awarded 370 projects from all over the country, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/concurso-potenciar-jovenes-desarrollo-social-premio-370-proyectos-de-todo-el-pais>

⁵⁰ Empower Youth Contest: Social Development awarded 370 projects from all over the country, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/concurso-potenciar-jovenes-desarrollo-social-premio-370-proyectos-de-todo-el-pais>

⁵¹ The Federal Bureau of Economic Policies with a Gender Perspective debated on economic recovery and gender equality, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-mesa-federal-de-politicas-economicas-con-perspectiva-de-genero-debatio-sobre-sobre-la>

⁵² The Federal Bureau of Economic Policies with a Gender Perspective debated on economic recovery and gender equality, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-mesa-federal-de-politicas-economicas-con-perspectiva-de-genero-debatio-sobre-sobre-la>

⁵³ The Federal Bureau of Economic Policies with a Gender Perspective debated on economic recovery and gender equality, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-mesa-federal-de-politicas-economicas-con-perspectiva-de-genero-debatio-sobre-sobre-la>

⁵⁴ The Federal Bureau of Economic Policies with a Gender Perspective made its 2020 assessment and set goals for 2021, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-mesa-federal-de-politicas-economicas-con-perspectiva-de-genero-hizo-su-balance-2020-y>

maximum of ARS15 million per project.⁵⁵ The Direct Loans for Productive Reactivation program aims to promote the “financial inclusion of micro and small companies and cooperatives that have difficulties accessing bank financing.”⁵⁶

On 11 December 2020, Secretary of Economic Policy Haroldo Montagu met with representatives the Association of National Entrepreneurs for National Development to discuss the challenges SMEs are facing during the pandemic.⁵⁷ The representatives highlighted the support SMEs had received throughout the pandemic including the Solidarity Law for Social and Productive Reactivation and the Work and Production Assistance Programs, but recommended that SMEs and entrepreneurs earn greater participation in political affairs.⁵⁸

On 13 January 2021, Minister of Social Development Daniel Arroyo and President of the Argentine Foundation for the Promotion of Investments and International Trade Juan Unsandivaras signed an agreement to work on “linking entrepreneurs of the social economy with the [external] market” by developing regional agendas for exports, establishing training and advisory bodies and facilitating contact with foreign investors “to generate opportunities for entrepreneurs in the social economy.”⁵⁹

On 23 January 2021, Executive Decree No. 39/2021 was made public which states that there would be an extension for 90 calendar days on the ban against dismissals without just cause and dismissals and suspensions grounded on reduced or decreased workloads and force majeure.⁶⁰ Additionally, the decree announced that there would be an extension of the duplication of severance payments till December 2021.⁶¹

On 17 February 2021, Argentina passed Resolution 178/2021 that established monetary supplements worth ARS4500 per month for youth attending training courses and activities in search of employment.⁶²

On 26 February 2021, Minister of Education Nicolás Trotta announced the implementation of the University Program of the School of Professional Education, aimed at training the professional skills

⁵⁵ The Ministry of Productive Development will grant direct credits to micro and small businesses for a total of \$ 3.5 billion, Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2020.

⁵⁶ The Ministry of Productive Development will grant direct credits to micro and small businesses for a total of \$ 3.5 billion, Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2020.

⁵⁷ The Secretary for Economic Policy met with SME representatives at the Palacio de Hacienda, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-secretario-de-politica-economica-se-reunio-con-representantes-pymes-en-el-palacio-de>

⁵⁸ The Secretary for Economic Policy met with SME representatives at the Palacio de Hacienda, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-secretario-de-politica-economica-se-reunio-con-representantes-pymes-en-el-palacio-de>

⁵⁹ Agreement to promote the link between entrepreneurs and the international market, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/acuerdo-para-promover-el-vinculo-entre-emprendedores-y-el-mercado-internacional>

⁶⁰ Argentina: Termination Bans and Other Employment Measures Are Extended, Mondaq (Buenos Aires) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/argentina/litigation-contracts-and-force-majeure/1039538/termination-bans-and-other-employment-measures-are-extended>

⁶¹ Argentina: Termination Bans and Other Employment Measures Are Extended, Mondaq (Buenos Aires) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/argentina/litigation-contracts-and-force-majeure/1039538/termination-bans-and-other-employment-measures-are-extended>

⁶² The Government updated the economic aid within the framework of the Youth Program, Training and Employment Insurance and Promote, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security (Buenos Aires) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-actualizo-las-ayudas-economicas-en-el-marco-del-programa-jovenes-seguro-de>

of students in the “strategic development of the productive and technological sector.”⁶³ The program would see training courses, support on research and strengthening cooperation between universities and international training centres.⁶⁴

On 3 March 2021, Argentina attended a meeting of the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group which included discussion about increasing the role of SMEs in the international economy. Undersecretary for Economic Multilateral and Bilateral Negotiations Carola Ramón noted that “helping MSMEs to achieve international trade integration is vital, given their contribution to employment and development.”⁶⁵

On 5 March 2021, Argentina jointly presented a cooperation programme with the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund to develop an adequate institutional framework for children and adolescents.⁶⁶ Through broad engagement with the Ministries of Economy, Social Development, Education and the National Secretariat for Children, Adolescents and the Family, USD50,000 is to be allocated to assess the effectiveness of early childhood care, USD150,000 towards strengthening opportunities for youth. The document notes that for each core action, “support will be given for the development of evidence-based policies with a rights-based focus and a gender perspective, the allocation of adequate and sustainable budgets, a wider offering of inclusive, quality services.”⁶⁷

On 9 March 2021, Foreign Minister Felipe Solá announced a new set of measures intended to bridge the gender gap in the Foreign Ministry. The most significant measures included the reduction of “gender-based unequal opportunities and treatment,” with particular attention paid to the persistent gender pay gap.⁶⁸

On 11 March 2021, the 2021 budget for the Progresar scholarship program was boosted to more than ARS27 billion marking a 163.7 per cent increase.⁶⁹ The scholarships have been divided into four categories: those for tertiary and university students, for nursing students, for those completing of primary and secondary school, and for professional training courses.⁷⁰

On 15 March 2021, the Undersecretary of Special Programs against Violence for Gender Reasons Carolina Varsky met with representatives of the native community in Tucumán and officials from

⁶³ Trotta launched new professional education program, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trotta-lanzo-nuevo-programa-de-educacion-profesional>

⁶⁴ Trotta launched new professional education program, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trotta-lanzo-nuevo-programa-de-educacion-profesional>

⁶⁵ G20: Argentina attends First Trade and Investment Group Meeting chaired by Italy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/g20-argentina-attends-first-trade-and-investment-group-meeting-chaired-italy>

⁶⁶ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNICEF agreed on new 2021-2025 UNICEF programme for Argentina, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/ministry-foreign-affairs-and-unicef-agreed-new-2021-2025-unicef-programme>

⁶⁷ Costed evaluation plan—Argentina—UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2021-2025, UNICEF (Buenos Aires) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. https://www.unicef.org/executiveboard/media/4511/file/2021-PL15-Arentina_CEP-EN-2021.03.08.pdf

⁶⁸ Felipe Solá announced measures to bridge gender gap within Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/felipe-sola-announced-measures-bridge-gender-gap-within-foreign-ministry>

⁶⁹ Strong boost from the Government to Progresar Scholarships, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/fuerte-impulso-del-gobierno-las-becas-progresar>

⁷⁰ Strong boost from the Government to Progresar Scholarships, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/fuerte-impulso-del-gobierno-las-becas-progresar>

nearby communes to work on strengthening the state's response capacity to gender-based violence.⁷¹ In the meetings that took place, the National Plan of Action against Gender Violence was presented, training session of gender perspectives was carried out and the creation of the Primary Care Office was announced.⁷²

On 31 March 2021, the Undersecretary of Equality Policies Pilar Escalante met with social organizations and municipal authorities of Lavalle to jointly plan for greater equality and economic autonomy for women.⁷³ The meeting concluded that the main obstacles for women in these communities include access to land, work tools, property and lack of connectivity.⁷⁴ The Undersecretary also visited numerous sites to learn more about the needs of women in schools in rural areas.⁷⁵

On 7 April 2021, Argentina attended a meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Presidents to discuss rapid, inclusive and sustainable recovery pathways for middle-income countries (MIC) following the pandemic.⁷⁶ Argentina noted two crucial mechanisms that should be focused on for improving the economic situation of MICs through the international financial system: allocation of special drawing rights from the International Monetary Fund and establishing debt-restructuring methods that support inclusivity.

On 22 April 2021, Minister Trotta presented the National Program of Education for Work and Sustainable Development, to be implemented in the Norte Grande Region of Argentina.⁷⁷ The plan consists of ten key actions: “the creation of a Comprehensive Vocational Training System; the creation of Technological Centers for Educational Innovation in the National Universities; the delivery of Strategic Study Scholarships for Sustainable Development; the development of a National Technological Innovation Program for Vocational Training through INET; the certification and accreditation of knowledge and skills acquired at work and in education to promote integration with the labor market; the creation of Regional Technological Centers for Vocational Training to strengthen the link between education, production, work and local development; the development of a Teacher Training Plan for Vocational Training to improve the quality and relevance of the existing offer; the

⁷¹Work meeting between officials of the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity of the Nation, representatives of native communities and officials and officials of Amaicha Del Valle, Colalao, Tafí del Valle and El Mollar in Tucumán, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/encuentro-de-trabajo-entre-funcionarias-del-ministerio-de-las-mujeres-generos-y-diversidad>

⁷²Work meeting between officials of the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity of the Nation, representatives of native communities and officials and officials of Amaicha Del Valle, Colalao, Tafí del Valle and El Mollar in Tucumán, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/encuentro-de-trabajo-entre-funcionarias-del-ministerio-de-las-mujeres-generos-y-diversidad>

⁷³ Pilar Escalante visited Mendoza to work on promoting equality and economic autonomy for women in Mendoza, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/pilar-escalante-visito-mendoza-para-trabajar-en-la-promocion-de-igualdad-y-autonomia>

⁷⁴ Pilar Escalante visited Mendoza to work on promoting equality and economic autonomy for women in Mendoza, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/pilar-escalante-visito-mendoza-para-trabajar-en-la-promocion-de-igualdad-y-autonomia>

⁷⁵ Pilar Escalante visited Mendoza to work on promoting equality and economic autonomy for women in Mendoza, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/pilar-escalante-visito-mendoza-para-trabajar-en-la-promocion-de-igualdad-y-autonomia>

⁷⁶ G20: Joint declaration of Argentina and Mexico on a rapid, inclusive and sustainable recovery, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/g20-declaracion-conjunta-de-argentina-y-mexico-sobre-una-recuperacion-rapida-inclusiva-y>

⁷⁷ Trotta presented the National Program of Education for Work and Sustainable Development for the Norte Grande, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trotta-presento-el-programa-nacional-de-educacion-para-el-trabajo-y-el-desarrollo>

promotion and articulation of Vocational Training in the agricultural field; the creation of Progresar Work Scholarships to prepare, update and develop people's capacities for the workplace; and finally the creation of the Observatory of Education, Work and Production to survey and systematize the existing professional training offer, the development of a Teacher Training Plan for Vocational Training to improve the quality and relevance of the existing offer; the promotion and articulation of Vocational Training in the agricultural field; the creation of Progresar Work Scholarships to prepare, update and develop people's capacities for the workplace; and finally the creation of the Observatory of Education, Work and Production to survey and systematize the existing professional training offer.”⁷⁸

On 14 April 2021, Minister of Labor, Employment and Social Security Undersecretary for Inclusion Policies in the World of Work Pamela Ares participated in the “Socio-economic Recovery Program” Steering Committee to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the economic autonomy of women.⁷⁹ The meeting focused on two key aspects: increasing labour market participation through equal distribution of unpaid care and improving financial education for women.⁸⁰

On 23 April 2021, Minister Trotta signed an agreement with the General Confederation of Labor of the Argentine Republic to develop education and work programs within the framework for the National Program of Education for Work and Sustainable Development.⁸¹ In particular, the programs seek to emphasize Vocational Training in conjunction with the national university system and using technological equipment and development to adapt to the modern economy.⁸²

Argentina has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers. Through numerous budgetary and regulatory initiatives aimed at increasing access to these groups to the labour market, facilitating training programs and subsidizing local businesses, Argentina has fully complied with its commitments towards reducing inequalities and promoting inclusive growth.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Simran Arulraj and Malhaar Moharir

⁷⁸ Trotta presented the National Program of Education for Work and Sustainable Development for the Norte Grande, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trotta-presento-el-programa-nacional-de-educacion-para-el-trabajo-y-el-desarrollo>

⁷⁹ First meeting of the Steering Committee of the Socio-economic Recovery Program to the crisis caused by COVID-19 from a gender perspective, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Policy (Buenos Aires) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/primer-encuentro-del-comite-directivo-del-programa-de-recuperacion-socioeconomica-la-crisis>

⁸⁰ First meeting of the Steering Committee of the Socio-economic Recovery Program to the crisis caused by COVID-19 from a gender perspective, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Policy (Buenos Aires) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/primer-encuentro-del-comite-directivo-del-programa-de-recuperacion-socioeconomica-la-crisis>

⁸¹ Education and CGT agreed on actions for Vocational Training, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/educacion-y-cgt-acordaron-acciones-para-la-formacion-profesional>

⁸² Education and CGT agreed on actions for Vocational Training, Ministry of Education (Buenos Aires) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/educacion-y-cgt-acordaron-acciones-para-la-formacion-profesional>

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 25 November 2020, Australia announced three new skills project hubs for the mining sector in order to facilitate better delivery of training and quicker assessment.⁸³ These three hubs include an apprenticeships hub, digital transformation hub, and attraction and retention hub, all designed to modernize training and promote rewarding careers for workers.⁸⁴ Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business Michaelia Cash said the pilot would help new and existing workers to upskill and reskill.⁸⁵

On 1 December 2020, Australia announced the Career Revive pilot initiative aimed at increasing women's workforce participation by encouraging businesses to attract and retain women workers, particularly in light of COVID-19.⁸⁶ The project is intended to provide businesses guidance on how to improve practices and policies and develop an action plan to address barriers to women's employment.⁸⁷

On 7 December 2020, Australia launched the Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Program.⁸⁸ The AUD24.8 million program offers women the opportunity to study a diploma in STEM subjects while providing paid employment.⁸⁹

On 8 December 2020, Australia launched the JobMaker Hiring Credit.⁹⁰ The scheme provides eligible employers with payments of up to AUD200 a week for each eligible employee aged 16 to 29 years and up to AUD100 a week for each eligible employee aged 30 to 35 years old.⁹¹

On 16 December 2020, Australia announced AUD11.6 million of assistance to extend the Skills and Training Incentive for eligible mature aged workers until June 2022.⁹² The Skills and Training Incentive provides workers aged 45 to 70 years with up to AUD2,200 for job training and is designed

⁸³ Delivering better, faster training for the mining sector, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/delivering-better-faster-training-mining-sector>

⁸⁴ Delivering better, faster training for the mining sector, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/delivering-better-faster-training-mining-sector>

⁸⁵ Delivering better, faster training for the mining sector, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/delivering-better-faster-training-mining-sector>

⁸⁶ Career Revive Pilot supporting Australian businesses to recruit women in regional areas, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/career-revive-pilot-supporting-australian-businesses-recruit-women-regional-areas>

⁸⁷ Career Revive Pilot supporting Australian businesses to recruit women in regional areas, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/career-revive-pilot-supporting-australian-businesses-recruit-women-regional-areas>

⁸⁸ Supporting more women in STEM, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tehan/supporting-more-women-stem>

⁸⁹ Supporting more women in STEM, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tehan/supporting-more-women-stem>

⁹⁰ New JobMaker Hiring Credit, Australian Government (Canberra) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://business.gov.au/news/new-jobmaker-hiring-credit>

⁹¹ New JobMaker Hiring Credit, Australian Government (Canberra) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://business.gov.au/news/new-jobmaker-hiring-credit>

⁹² Skills and Training Incentives for Mature Aged Workers, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/skills-and-training-incentives-mature-aged-workers>

to increase the labour force participation of mature workers, particularly those adversely affected by COVID-19.⁹³

On 18 December 2020, Australia provided AUD10 million to establish a panel involving a “wide range of industries” dedicated to improving youth employment as well as assist hundreds of thousands of businesses in supplying jobs.⁹⁴

On 23 December 2020, Australia announced the hiring of 9 new Employment Facilitators in various Employment Regions across Australia tasked with helping job seekers find employment while supporting local employers.⁹⁵ As part of the Government’s AUD62.8 million Local Jobs Program, Employment Facilitators will “ensure better leverage of existing strategies, as well as [serve as] a valuable source of information on labour market developments.”⁹⁶

On 3 March 2021, Australia held an Indigenous Youth Employment roundtable to discuss local solutions to improve employment participation and outcomes for Indigenous youth. Assistant Minister for Youth and Employment Services Luke Howarth said the government would invest in “programs to improve the employability of both young people and Indigenous Australians” in order to reduce the 13.9 per cent national youth unemployment rate.⁹⁷

On 8 March 2021, Australia expanded the Women in STEM program from 500 to 600 places due to its popularity.⁹⁸

On 9 March 2021, Australia announced the expansion of the targeted wage subsidy program as part of the National Economic Recovery Plan.⁹⁹ The government is investing around AUD1.2 billion in the program which is expected to generate around 70,000 new apprentice and trainee places in order to address the “economic challenges faced by the COVID-19 recession.”¹⁰⁰ As of this date, over 100,000 apprenticeship positions had already been filled.¹⁰¹

⁹³ Skills and Training Incentives for Mature Aged Workers, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/skills-and-training-incentives-mature-aged-workers>

⁹⁴ Panel established to create pathways to get young Australians into jobs, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/panel-established-create-pathways-get-young-australians-jobs>

⁹⁵ Employment Facilitators to help job seekers back into work, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/employment-facilitators-help-job-seekers-back-work>

⁹⁶ Employment Facilitators to help job seekers back into work, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/employment-facilitators-help-job-seekers-back-work>

⁹⁷ Focus on giving young Indigenous Queenslanders more job opportunities, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/wyatt/focus-giving-young-indigenous-queenslanders-more-job-opportunities>

⁹⁸ More STEM Opportunities for Australian Women, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tudge/more-stem-opportunities-australian-women>

⁹⁹ Thousands of New Apprentice and Trainee Jobs, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/morrison/thousands-new-apprentice-and-trainee-jobs>

¹⁰⁰ Thousands of New Apprentice and Trainee Jobs, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/morrison/thousands-new-apprentice-and-trainee-jobs>

¹⁰¹ Thousands of New Apprentice and Trainee Jobs, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/morrison/thousands-new-apprentice-and-trainee-jobs>

On 17 March 2021, Australia announced the Youth Advisory Sessions initiative to help connect up to 15,000 young people with youth employment specialists.¹⁰² The assistance will help them stay connected to the labour market.¹⁰³

On 29 March 2021, Australia opened applications for the Future of Work Partnership with BHP, an Australian mining company.¹⁰⁴ The program will give up to 1,000 people in regional Australia the opportunity to study a course or start an Advanced Apprenticeship, with their student contribution covered.¹⁰⁵ The program is intended to help people in regional Australia improve their skills and employability.¹⁰⁶

Australia has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers. Through its establishment of numerous training programs designed for workplace inclusion, particularly among youth, strong financial aid for women and businesses negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and greater encouragement of women's participation in the labour market, Australia has fully complied with its commitments to reducing inequalities and promoting inclusive growth.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Para Babubaran

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 11 December 2020, the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (MMFDH) invested more than BRL18 million to advance the Qualifica Mulher project.¹⁰⁷ Noting that over 7 million women left the job market due to COVID-19, the initiative plans to promote “economic autonomy, in addition to stimulating professional qualification, work and entrepreneurship ...[and] the

¹⁰² Support to Help Young People in Online or Digital Employment Services into Work, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/support-help-young-people-online-or-digital-employment-services-work>

¹⁰³ Support to Help Young People in Online or Digital Employment Services into Work, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/support-help-young-people-online-or-digital-employment-services-work>

¹⁰⁴ Upskilling Australia's regional workforce, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tudge/upskilling-australias-regional-workforce>

¹⁰⁵ Upskilling Australia's regional workforce, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tudge/upskilling-australias-regional-workforce>

¹⁰⁶ Upskilling Australia's regional workforce, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tudge/upskilling-australias-regional-workforce>

¹⁰⁷ Qualifica Mulher will have R \$ 18 million for training aimed at insertion in the labor market, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/qualifica-mulher-contara-com-r-4-mi-para-capacitacao-voltada-a-insercao-no-mercado-de-trabalho>

generation of jobs and income.”¹⁰⁸ The project aims to provide professional guidance, financial education and entrepreneurship workshops to boost the role of women in the Brazilian economy.¹⁰⁹

On 19 January 2021, the MMFDH allocated BRL1 million “for the qualification 100 young people [with Autistic Spectrum Disorder] between the ages of 18 and 29.”¹¹⁰ Representative of the National Youth Secretariat Emilly Coelho noted that “We need to ensure that youth can also occupy their space professionally, with training and opportunities focused on autonomy.”¹¹¹

On 2 March 2021, the World Economic Forum and the Secretariat of Productivity, Employment and Competitiveness of the Government of Brazil and the Economy Ministry held the first Brazil Skills Accelerator Initiative co-chair meeting. The Accelerator aims to close the skills gaps between the current and future workforce and promote the reskilling and upskilling of the Brazilian labour force by matching the more demanded capabilities. It targets to reach about 8 million workers.¹¹²

On 8 March 2021, the Minister of Women Family and Human Rights Damares Alves and the Minister of Citizenship João Roma signed a technical cooperation agreement “to promote social and productive inclusion actions for the socioeconomic autonomy of women in vulnerable situations.”¹¹³ Particular attention is given to women-led businesses and microentrepreneurs and the agreement reaffirmed support for the Qualifica Mulher pilot project, which over 25 thousand women have joined.

On 30 March 2021, the MMFDH allocated approximately BRL11 million towards programs for encouraging “professional education, entrepreneurship and innovation, among young people between 18 and 29 years old, especially among those who are in a situation of social vulnerability.” The Programa Horizontes will provide training to youth for better job market integration as well as spurring nano and micro entrepreneurship among them.¹¹⁴ The Espaço 4.0 program is aimed at

¹⁰⁸ Qualifica Mulher will have R \$ 18 million for training aimed at insertion in the labor market, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/qualifica-mulher-contara-com-r-4-mi-para-capacitacao-voltada-a-insercao-no-mercado-de-trabalho>

¹⁰⁹ Qualifica Mulher will have R \$ 18 million for training aimed at insertion in the labor market, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/qualifica-mulher-contara-com-r-4-mi-para-capacitacao-voltada-a-insercao-no-mercado-de-trabalho>

¹¹⁰ Autistic youths will be trained for the labor market in Fortaleza (CE), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/janeiro/jovens-autistas-sao-capacitados-para-mercado-de-trabalho-em-fortaleza-ce>

¹¹¹ Autistic youths will be trained for the labor market in Fortaleza (CE), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/janeiro/jovens-autistas-sao-capacitados-para-mercado-de-trabalho-em-fortaleza-ce>

¹¹² World Economic Forum Holds First Brazil Skills Accelerator Initiative Co-Chair Meeting, World Economic Forum (New York) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.weforum.org/press/2021/03/world-economic-forum-holds-first-brazil-skills-accelerator-initiative-co-chair-meeting/>

¹¹³ Socioeconomic autonomy of women is the subject of an agreement signed by ministries, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/autonomia-socioeconomica-das-mulheres-e-tema-de-acordo-assinado-por-ministerios>

¹¹⁴ Ministry allocates nearly R \$ 11 million to professional education, entrepreneurship and innovation programs for young people (Brasilia) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/ministerio-destina-quase-r-11-milhoes-em-programas-de-educacao-profissional-empreendedorismo-e-inovacao-para-jovens>

training youth in new technologies and infrastructure, offering courses in programming, robotics, and application development.¹¹⁵

On 19 April 2021, the Ministry of Economy reported that it is in the process of finalizing the reopening of two programs that could mitigate the effects of the pandemic on employment and preservation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).¹¹⁶ Also, it announced that BRL15 billion would be distributed among the two programs- BEm and Pronampe to support employment and SME survival.¹¹⁷

On 19 April 2021, the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights transferred BRL500,000 to Humana Brasil, a non-profit organization.¹¹⁸ The funds are to be used towards dispelling entrepreneurship training courses to the young people from Marajo.¹¹⁹ It is estimated that around 500 young people between the ages of 15 and 29 from 11 municipalities will benefit from this endeavor.¹²⁰ The secretary for the National Youth Secretariat which will carry out the initiative said, “In addition to fostering entrepreneurship and innovation, the program aims to increase the qualification of young people to create and maintain their own businesses, create job opportunities and generate income, in addition to improving existing initiatives through guidance specialized.”¹²¹

Brazil has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, upskilling and reskilling of workers and increasing opportunities for SMEs. Through its investments in increasing women’s participation in the labour market, subsidization and inclusion of SMEs and entrepreneurs in the Brazilian economy, facilitating training programs involving new technologies and digitalization for youth and labourers, Brazil has fully complied with its commitments to reducing inequalities and promoting inclusive growth.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Simran Arulraj

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

¹¹⁵ Ministry allocates nearly R \$ 11 million to professional education, entrepreneurship and innovation programs for young people (Brasília) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/ministerio-destina-quase-r-11-milhoes-em-programas-de-educacao-profissional-empreendedorismo-e-inovacao-para-jovens>

¹¹⁶ Ministry of Economy informs that it is finalizing the reopening of BEm and Pronampe, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/2021/Abril/ministerio-da-economia-informa-que-esta-finalizando-a-reabertura-do-bem-e-pronampe

¹¹⁷ Ministry of Economy informs that it is finalizing the reopening of BEm and Pronampe, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/2021/Abril/ministerio-da-economia-informa-que-esta-finalizando-a-reabertura-do-bem-e-pronampe

¹¹⁸ Federal Government invests R \$ 500 thousand in training young people from Marajó (PA), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/governo-federal-investe-r-500-mil-na-capacitacao-de-jovens-do-marajo-pa>

¹¹⁹ Federal Government invests R \$ 500 thousand in training young people from Marajó (PA), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/governo-federal-investe-r-500-mil-na-capacitacao-de-jovens-do-marajo-pa>

¹²⁰ Federal Government invests R \$ 500 thousand in training young people from Marajó (PA), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/governo-federal-investe-r-500-mil-na-capacitacao-de-jovens-do-marajo-pa>

¹²¹ Federal Government invests R \$ 500 thousand in training young people from Marajó (PA), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/governo-federal-investe-r-500-mil-na-capacitacao-de-jovens-do-marajo-pa>

On 25 November 2020, Canada participated in a roundtable for the launch of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Centre on Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity (WISE).¹²² WISE's mission includes strengthening the measurement of inequalities and inclusion.¹²³

On 2 December 2020, Canada introduced Bill C-14 to provide support to Canadians and businesses during the pandemic.¹²⁴ The legislation will allow an expense, such as rent, to qualify under the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy before the expense is actually paid.¹²⁵ Bill C-14 also included measures to eliminate the interest on repayment of the federal portion of the Canada Student Loans and Canada Apprentice Loans for one year.¹²⁶

On 4 December 2020, Canada expanded loans under the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA).¹²⁷ Eligible businesses facing financial hardship because of the COVID-19 pandemic are eligible for a second CEBA loan of up to CAD20,000 in addition to the initial CAD40,000 that was available to small businesses.¹²⁸ Up to CAD10,000 of the additional funding will be forgivable if the loan is repaid by the end of 2022.¹²⁹

On 17 February 2021, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion Carla Qualtrough announced CAD63.5 million over five years for 68 projects as part of the Union

¹²² Minister Fortier participates in the launch of the OECD Centre on Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/11/minister-fortier-participates-in-the-launch-of-the-oecd-centre-on-well-being-inclusion-sustainability-and-equal-opportunity.html>

¹²³ Minister Fortier participates in the launch of the OECD Centre on Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/11/minister-fortier-participates-in-the-launch-of-the-oecd-centre-on-well-being-inclusion-sustainability-and-equal-opportunity.html>

¹²⁴ Government introduces legislation to provide critical support to Canadians and businesses during the pandemic, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-introduces-legislation-to-provide-critical-support-to-canadians-and-businesses-during-the-pandemic.html>

¹²⁵ Government introduces legislation to provide critical support to Canadians and businesses during the pandemic, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-introduces-legislation-to-provide-critical-support-to-canadians-and-businesses-during-the-pandemic.html>

¹²⁶ Government introduces legislation to provide critical support to Canadians and businesses during the pandemic, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-introduces-legislation-to-provide-critical-support-to-canadians-and-businesses-during-the-pandemic.html>

¹²⁷ Government expands Canada Emergency Business Account loans, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-expands-canada-emergency-business-account-loans.html>

¹²⁸ Government expands Canada Emergency Business Account loans, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-expands-canada-emergency-business-account-loans.html>

¹²⁹ Government expands Canada Emergency Business Account loans, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-expands-canada-emergency-business-account-loans.html>

Training and Innovation Program.¹³⁰ The investment will help certify skilled tradespeople and prepare them for the job market.¹³¹

On 3 March 2021, Canada announced the extension of wage and rent subsidies to 5 June 2021.¹³² Active employees will remain subsidized at up to 75 per cent, rent will remain subsidized at up to 65 per cent, and Lockdown Support will remain at 25 per cent.¹³³

On 8 March 2021, Canada announced the members of a new Task Force on Women in the Economy.¹³⁴ The group includes experts from different sectors of the economy to advise the government on issues of gender equality in the wake of the pandemic.¹³⁵

On 8 March 2021, Minister Qualtrough announced an investment of over CAD11 million through the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy program.¹³⁶ The investment will support and train more than 650 young women for the job market.¹³⁷

On 19 April 2021, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland released the 2021 budget of CAD101.4 billion in spending over three years.¹³⁸ The budget will support almost 500,000 new training and work opportunities including 215,000 opportunities for youth.¹³⁹ The budget will extend the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and Lockdown Support to 25 September 2021 amid the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁴⁰ The budget will assist

¹³⁰ Government of Canada invests in training to help Canadians become certified in the skilled trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Delta) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/02/utip-nr.html>

¹³¹ Government of Canada invests in training to help Canadians become certified in the skilled trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Delta) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/02/utip-nr.html>

¹³² Government Announces Wage and Rent Subsidy Amounts to Remain Unchanged Through to June, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/03/government-announces-wage-and-rent-subsidy-amounts-to-remain-unchanged-through-to-june.html>

¹³³ Government Announces Wage and Rent Subsidy Amounts to Remain Unchanged Through to June, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/03/government-announces-wage-and-rent-subsidy-amounts-to-remain-unchanged-through-to-june.html>

¹³⁴ Government announces members of new Task Force on Women in the Economy, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/03/government-announces-members-of-new-task-force-on-women-in-the-economy.html>

¹³⁵ Government announces members of new Task Force on Women in the Economy, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/03/government-announces-members-of-new-task-force-on-women-in-the-economy.html>

¹³⁶ Providing women with the skills and opportunities needed to build a stronger Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/03/providing-women-with-the-skills-and-opportunities-needed-to-build-a-stronger-canada.html>

¹³⁷ Providing women with the skills and opportunities needed to build a stronger Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/03/providing-women-with-the-skills-and-opportunities-needed-to-build-a-stronger-canada.html>

¹³⁸ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

¹³⁹ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

¹⁴⁰ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

over 160,000 businesses with the cost of new technology and allow them to fully expense up to CAD1.5 million in capital investments.¹⁴¹ The budget will invest CAD300 million in initiatives including the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy, supporting women entrepreneurs who face barriers to launching and owning businesses.¹⁴² The budget will invest CAD8.9 billion in the Canada Workers Benefit to support about one million additional low-wage workers over six years.¹⁴³

Canada has taken strong action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women and upskilling and reskilling of workers, and partial action in the area of increasing access to opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs. Through new budgetary measures that incorporate greater financial opportunities for women and youth, increasing access to the labour market for women and youth, improving vocational skills for new and discouraged workers through new training programs, and somewhat greater facilitation of SMEs and entrepreneurs through innovation funding, Canada has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Para Babubaran

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 3 December 2020, Vice Minister of Education and Chief Inspector of Schools Zheng Fuzhi and Vice Governor of Sichuan Province Luo Qiang attended a conference to launch a national supervision and assessment of early childhood education across China.¹⁴⁴ Vice Minister Fuzhi presented key goals and its corresponding evaluation criteria, including universal preschool attendance, standardizing school conditions and establishing a sound governance system.¹⁴⁵

On 18 December 2020, Vice Minister of Human Resources and Social Security Tang Tao reaffirmed the government's commitment to nurturing skilled labour.¹⁴⁶ In addition to the existing three-year plan released in May 2019, the department plans to introduce new policies in the 14th Five-Year Plan to foster more skilled talent through enhancing vocational education, enhancing the social status of skilled labourers, and improving their income.¹⁴⁷

¹⁴¹ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

¹⁴² Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

¹⁴³ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

¹⁴⁴ Conference to launch national supervision and assessment of universal county-level preschool education held in Chengdu, Ministry of Education (Beijing) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021. http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202012/t20201222_506980.html

¹⁴⁵ Conference to launch national supervision and assessment of universal county-level preschool education held in Chengdu, Ministry of Education (Beijing) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021. http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202012/t20201222_506980.html

¹⁴⁶ New policies to nurture skilled labor, China Daily (Beijing) 19 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/19/content_WS5fdd32bcc6d0f725769421ac.html

¹⁴⁷ New policies to nurture skilled labor, China Daily (Beijing) 19 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/19/content_WS5fdd32bcc6d0f725769421ac.html

On 22 December 2020, the State Council announced plans to unify China's registration system for movable property and rights pledges, effective 1 January 2021.¹⁴⁸ This move by the People's Bank of China allows financial institutions to provide loans for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) using their credit information.¹⁴⁹ As a result, SMEs now have better access to financing to help offset the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 3 February 2021, the Ministry of Finance announced that the central government will spend over CNY19 billion from 2021 to 2025 to support the growth of 1000 innovative SMEs.¹⁵⁰ The additional spending aims to strengthen the industrial supply chain and foster innovative growth in micro, small and medium-sized technology companies.

On 11 March 2021, Premier Li Keqiang stated at a press conference that government expenditures for the coming year will focus on compulsory education and basic medical care.¹⁵¹ The "no child left behind" policy will involve improving the pay packages for rural teachers as well as improving access to education for children of migrant workers to achieve educational fairness and equal access to opportunities.

On 17 March 2021, People's Daily released a summary of the Chinese Ministry of Education's progress in promoting access to education among poor children. The government has rolled out student-origin-based loans, state scholarships, work-study programs, tuition exemptions and other types of relief funds to increase access to higher education in poor areas.¹⁵² The government is also offering preferential policies for vocational college enrollment in poor areas such that enrollment numbers have grown from 1.16 million in 2019 to 1.57 million in 2020.¹⁵³

On 24 March 2021, the State Council announced an additional tax deduction on firms who conduct research and development from 75 per cent to 100 per cent.¹⁵⁴ Additional preferential tax policies are also in place for innovation firms and business start-ups.¹⁵⁵ These policies will benefit entrepreneurs with innovative ideas and encourage research and development in the private sector.

On 25 April 2021, China's banking and insurance regulator issued a circular encouraging development of financial services offered to SMEs.¹⁵⁶ According to the circular, efforts will be made to enhance the effective growth of financial support and improve its quality, efficiency and

¹⁴⁸ New system to improve SME lending, China Daily (Beijing) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/26/content_WS600f6b59c6d0f72576944829.html

¹⁴⁹ New system to improve SME lending, China Daily (Beijing) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/26/content_WS600f6b59c6d0f72576944829.html

¹⁵⁰ Innovative SMEs to get policy boost in financing, China Daily (Beijing) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202102/04/content_WS601b47d2c6d0f72576945164.html

¹⁵¹ Premier stresses compulsory education, basic medical care at news conference, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202103/13/content_WS604bf85cc6d0719374afac45.html

¹⁵² China enhances efforts to build fairer education environment, People's Daily (Beijing) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202103/17/content_WS6051a75fc6d0719374afaf48.html

¹⁵³ China enhances efforts to build fairer education environment, People's Daily (Beijing) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202103/17/content_WS6051a75fc6d0719374afaf48.html

¹⁵⁴ China to spur business innovation with more tax incentive, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202103/24/content_WS605b2f76c6d0719374afb5b0.html

¹⁵⁵ China to spur business innovation with more tax incentive, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202103/24/content_WS605b2f76c6d0719374afb5b0.html

¹⁵⁶ China to further optimize financial services to SMEs, China News Service (Xinhua) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.ecns.cn/news/2021-04-26/detail-ihakufzf0696502.shtml>

effectiveness.¹⁵⁷ In essence the circular promised to increase the number of loans to SMEs and borrowers and urged the major banks to increase inclusive loans by 30 per cent.¹⁵⁸

On 26 April 2021, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security announced the launch of four measures to stabilize jobs and ensure employment.¹⁵⁹ These measures are in response to the concentration of the job market for young college graduates who are about to enter the workforce.¹⁶⁰ The first of these measures involves stabilizing jobs, reducing unemployment and work-related injury insurance rates.¹⁶¹ The second includes attempts to broaden employment channels, improve support policies such as entrepreneurial secured loans, support and standardize the development of new employment forms.¹⁶² The third and fourth measures are to focus on employment of key groups such as college graduates and optimizing employment services.¹⁶³

On 27 April 2021, Premier Keqiang announced at the State Council executive meeting that China will take steps to further protect intellectual property to promote entrepreneurial activity and boost innovation in the private sector.¹⁶⁴ China will reduce the review period for electronically submitted applications to alter or expand existing patents and trademarks.¹⁶⁵ Premier Keqiang also called for increased financial assistance and incentives during the trademark and patent application process.¹⁶⁶

On 27 April 2021, the State Council issued a circular to establish a leading group on protection of minors led by Vice-Premier Sun Chunlan.¹⁶⁷ The purpose of the working group is to oversee the implementation of the Law on the Protection of Minors.¹⁶⁸ It will also work with other departments

¹⁵⁷ China to further optimize financial services to SMEs, China News Service (Xinhua) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.ecns.cn/news/2021-04-26/detail-ihakufzf0696502.shtml>

¹⁵⁸ China to further optimize financial services to SMEs, China News Service (Xinhua) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.ecns.cn/news/2021-04-26/detail-ihakufzf0696502.shtml>

¹⁵⁹ My country will launch four measures to stabilize jobs and ensure employment, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Xinhua) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/buneyiaowen/rsxw/202104/t20210427_413783.html

¹⁶⁰ My country will launch four measures to stabilize jobs and ensure employment, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Xinhua) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/buneyiaowen/rsxw/202104/t20210427_413783.html

¹⁶¹ My country will launch four measures to stabilize jobs and ensure employment, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Xinhua) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/buneyiaowen/rsxw/202104/t20210427_413783.html

¹⁶² My country will launch four measures to stabilize jobs and ensure employment, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Xinhua) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/buneyiaowen/rsxw/202104/t20210427_413783.html

¹⁶³ My country will launch four measures to stabilize jobs and ensure employment, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Xinhua) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/buneyiaowen/rsxw/202104/t20210427_413783.html

¹⁶⁴ China to further reform government functions in relation to intellectual property to spur innovation, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202104/27/content_WS60881600c6d0df57f98d8ada.html

¹⁶⁵ China to further reform government functions in relation to intellectual property to spur innovation, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202104/27/content_WS60881600c6d0df57f98d8ada.html

¹⁶⁶ China to further reform government functions in relation to intellectual property to spur innovation, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202104/27/content_WS60881600c6d0df57f98d8ada.html

¹⁶⁷ Leading group on protection of minors established, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202104/27/content_WS6087d560c6d0df57f98d8a8a.html

¹⁶⁸ Leading group on protection of minors established, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202104/27/content_WS6087d560c6d0df57f98d8a8a.html

to continue devising and implementing plans, policies, measures, and standards for protection of minors.¹⁶⁹

On 30 April 2021, the General Office of China's State Council issued a circular urging state departments and agencies to assist in the development of former Central Soviet areas through a pairing program.¹⁷⁰ From 2021 to 2030, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Organization Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party will work together to pair 63 centrally administered State organs with 43 local administrative units to cultivate talent and build industrial and innovation platforms.¹⁷¹

China has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers. Through establishing working groups for juvenile protection and via education reforms, anti-women's discrimination laws, preferential tax and loan policies for SMEs and training and development programs for workers in rural regions, China has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Tammy Cheng

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 14 January 2021, Minister of the Economy Bruno Le Maire announced the implementation of increased measures to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through a new budgetary initiative valued at EUR4 billion.¹⁷² Moreover, companies will be able to delay the repayment of loans from this initiative if they do not have sufficient means a year after the loan was given.¹⁷³

On 15 January 2021, the members of the French Banking Federation BpiFrance created the State Guaranteed Loan system to relieve the cashflow of enterprises in difficulty because of the COVID19 pandemic.¹⁷⁴

On 25 January 2021, France put into place accessible meals for students for the price of EUR1 as part of the plan to aid with the poverty of youths caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁷⁵ Due to the

¹⁶⁹ Leading group on protection of minors established, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202104/27/content_WS6087d560c6d0df57f98d8a8a.html

¹⁷⁰ State organs to help revitalize revolutionary areas in E China, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202104/30/content_WS608bb37ec6d0df57f98d8e36.html

¹⁷¹ State organs to help revitalize revolutionary areas in E China, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202104/30/content_WS608bb37ec6d0df57f98d8e36.html

¹⁷² Support for businesses: Announcement of Bruno Le Maire on 14 January, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/soutien-aux-entreprises-les-annonces-de-bruno-le-maire-du-14-janvier>

¹⁷³ Support for businesses: Announcement of Bruno Le Maire on 14 January, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/soutien-aux-entreprises-les-annonces-de-bruno-le-maire-du-14-janvier>

¹⁷⁴ Public aid for companies, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/cedef/aides-publiques-entreprises>

¹⁷⁵ Covid-19: State aid to support young people, Government of France (Paris) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/covid-19-les-aides-de-l-etat-pour-soutenir-les-jeunes>

lack of jobs, the government has provided this meal plan to support students who are in difficult situations and seeking employment.¹⁷⁶ This measure is a new addition to the larger plan one youth one solution from the previous year, a EUR9 billion initiative, and which is designed to financially support young people in a time of economic instability caused by the global pandemic, thus preventing the growth of financial disparity with youths.¹⁷⁷

On 1 March 2021, the Ministry of the Economy required that all companies with more than 50 employees submit a professional equality index report to evaluate and reinforce the equality of men and women in the workplace.¹⁷⁸ The report allows companies to assess the level of equality between men and women on a scale of 100 points.¹⁷⁹ The points system includes recording the pay gap, the difference between men and women's pay raises, the number of pay raises awarded after maternity leave, parity among the 10 highest paid and the promotion rate difference between men and women.¹⁸⁰ The index must be posted on the company's website, and is considered in need of progress if it is below 75.¹⁸¹

On 15 March 2021, Prime Minister Jean Castex and Minister Le Maire prolonged the 1 Jeune 1 Solution program, which is a part of the grander France Relance mission that focuses on economic inclusion for young people.¹⁸² Minister Le Maire added a new budget to support the employment of young people by providing between EUR5,000 to EUR8,000 to enterprises who hire young people for apprenticeships and internships.¹⁸³

On 15 March 2021, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion launched a training project for economic inclusion through self-employment of people with difficulty accessing employment.¹⁸⁴ The project provides employment opportunities for young people between the ages of 18 and 30 by supporting the creation and restarting of businesses through financial assistance in

¹⁷⁶ Covid-19: State aid to support young people, Government of France (Paris) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/covid-19-les-aides-de-l-etat-pour-soutenir-les-jeunes>

¹⁷⁷ Covid-19: State aid to support young people, Government of France (Paris) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/covid-19-les-aides-de-l-etat-pour-soutenir-les-jeunes>

¹⁷⁸ Declaring your professional equality index: are you concerned?, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/entreprises/index-egalite-professionnelle-obligatoire>

¹⁷⁹ Declaring your professional equality index: are you concerned?, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/entreprises/index-egalite-professionnelle-obligatoire>

¹⁸⁰ Declaring your professional equality index: are you concerned?, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/entreprises/index-egalite-professionnelle-obligatoire>

¹⁸¹ Declaring your professional equality index: are you concerned?, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/entreprises/index-egalite-professionnelle-obligatoire>

¹⁸² Conference of Social Dialogue: Extension of aid from the "1 young, 1 solution" plan, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/conference-du-dialogue-social-prolongation-des-aides-du-plan-1-jeune-1-solution>

¹⁸³ Conference of Social Dialogue: Extension of aid from the "1 young, 1 solution" plan, Ministry of the Economy, of Finance and of Recovery (Paris) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/conference-du-dialogue-social-prolongation-des-aides-du-plan-1-jeune-1-solution>

¹⁸⁴ Launch of the call for projects "Inclusion by independent work of people in difficulty access to employment", Ministry of Work, of Labour and of Integration (Paris) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/lancement-de-l-appel-a-projets-inclusion-par-le-travail-independent-des>

the form of a bonus of EUR3,000.¹⁸⁵ The total budget of the project is EUR25 million over two years.¹⁸⁶

On 30 April 2021, Secretary of State Cédric O announced the partnership between the startup ecosystem French Tech and the job searching platform JobTeaser in a press release.¹⁸⁷ This announcement outlined the intention to support young people in finding and training for jobs in start-up companies associated with French Tech, which anticipates creating at least 10,000 new jobs.¹⁸⁸

France has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs and upskilling and reskilling of workers. Through creating budgets for internships and apprenticeships, a particular focus having been placed on economic inclusivity through the one youth solution plan, budgetary changes to support SMEs and entrepreneurs, and holding companies accountable for gender wage gaps and other disparities along with greater financial support for women and youth, France has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Dalia Michaud

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 21 December 2020, the German development bank KfW signed an agreement with the Royal Government of Cambodia, Agence Française de Développement and the European Union, providing EUR37.1 million for the Rural Infrastructure Development for Cambodia project, which aims to develop rural infrastructure in the central plain of Cambodia.¹⁸⁹ Central to this development plan is the improving infrastructure in the education sector.¹⁹⁰

¹⁸⁵ Launch of the call for projects "Inclusion by independent work of people in difficulty access to employment", Ministry of Work, of Labour and of Integration (Paris) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/lancement-de-l-appel-a-projets-inclusion-par-le-travail-independent-des>

¹⁸⁶ Launch of the call for projects "Inclusion by independent work of people in difficulty access to employment", Ministry of Work, of Labour and of Integration (Paris) 15 Mars 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/lancement-de-l-appel-a-projets-inclusion-par-le-travail-independent-des>

¹⁸⁷ "La French Tech is recruiting": Cédric O announces a partnership with JobTeaser to encourage the employment of young people in start-ups, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery (Paris) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=F8FF3AB7-9914-466E-BB37-EBA29B136787&filename=941%20CP%20Jobteaser.pdf

¹⁸⁸ "La French Tech is recruiting": Cédric O announces a partnership with JobTeaser to encourage the employment of young people in start-ups, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery (Paris) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=F8FF3AB7-9914-466E-BB37-EBA29B136787&filename=941%20CP%20Jobteaser.pdf

¹⁸⁹ European Union, Germany and France jointly invest US\$ 115 million to develop rural infrastructure in Cambodia, Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia (Brussels) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia/91064/european-union-germany-and-france-jointly-invest-us-115-million-develop-rural-infrastructure_en

¹⁹⁰ European Union, Germany and France jointly invest US\$ 115 million to develop rural infrastructure in Cambodia, Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia (Brussels) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia/91064/european-union-germany-and-france-jointly-invest-us-115-million-develop-rural-infrastructure_en

On 6 January 2021, Germany proposed the Second Management Positions Act (FüPoG II) “to force larger listed companies to have at least one woman on their management boards, building on a 30 per cent quota for supervisory boards introduced in 2015 and will apply to listed companies with more than three management board members.”¹⁹¹

On 26 January 2021, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Björn Böhning held a workshop with Vice Minister at the Chinese Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security Tang Tao to discuss vocational education, highlighting that “it must become more individualized, more inclusive and make more use of digital technologies.”¹⁹²

On 2 February 2021, Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth Franziska Giffey announced the “Youth Budgets Project” which aims to increase youth’s participation in policy making and tasks them to develop innovative projects in fields ranging from Diversity and Participation to Education, Work and Freedom. The best projects would receive up to EUR100,000 for their implementation.¹⁹³

On 29 March 2021, Germany announced its ratification of the Revised European Social Charter, with amendments made to include “protection against sexual harassment in the workplace and other forms of harassment ... [and] rights of workers with family responsibilities to equal opportunities and equal treatment.”¹⁹⁴

On 30 March 2021, the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) announced the implementation of a “German Equal Pay Award,” to be given to companies that actively seek to reduce the wage gap.¹⁹⁵ Minister Giffey noted “Fair pay and equal pay are part of a modern and sustainable personnel policy and are a decisive competitive advantage when it comes to securing skilled workers.”¹⁹⁶

On 16 April 2021, Minister Giffey launched the Academy for Children’s and Youth Parliaments to encourage young people to get involved in politics.¹⁹⁷ The program includes a diverse curriculum

¹⁹¹ German cabinet agrees quota for women on company boards, Reuters 6 January 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSKBN29B16U>

¹⁹² Virtual exchange of ideas with China about vocational education and training, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2021/virtual-exchange-of-ideas-with-china-about-vocational-education-and-training.html>

¹⁹³ Minister Giffey: One million euros for the best ideas for young people in Germany, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerin-giffey-eine-million-euro-fuer-die-besten-jugendideen-deutschlands-165622>

¹⁹⁴ Details of Treaty No. 162, Treaty Office—Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2021/germany-ratifies-revised-european-social-charter.html>

¹⁹⁵ Starting signal for the “German Equal Pay Award” for more equal pay between women and women, Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/startschuss-zum-german-equal-pay-award-fuer-mehr-entgeltgleichheit-zwischen-frauen-und-maennern-177634>

¹⁹⁶ Starting signal for the “German Equal Pay Award” for more equal pay between women and women, Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/startschuss-zum-german-equal-pay-award-fuer-mehr-entgeltgleichheit-zwischen-frauen-und-maennern-177634>

¹⁹⁷ Minister Giffey launches the “Academy for Children’s and Youth Parliaments” to encourage young people to get involved in politics, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (Berlin) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerin-giffey-startet-akademie-fuer-kinder-und-jugendparlamente-fuer-ein-staerkeres-politisches-engagement-junger-menschen--178180>

which offers seminars, workshops and events.¹⁹⁸ The academy is funded by a total of EUR4 million from the federal child and youth plan and is part of the Strong Child and Youth Parliaments initiative.¹⁹⁹

On 23 April 2021, the Federal Minister of Education Anja Karliczek voiced support for improvements in vocational training infrastructure in the country based on the recommendations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report.²⁰⁰ The country report on continuing vocational education and training by the OECD was commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research to provide expert support for the implementation process of Germany's National Skills Strategy. Minister Karliczek said, "Professional training is a key to maintaining our competitiveness and the innovative strength of our country. Professional training is an absolute necessity for companies and employees. It is part of lifelong learning. Setting the right framework conditions remains a central task of politics, which we gladly accept. External suggestions are certainly helpful for this. We will examine the recommendations of the OECD and take them up where appropriate and sensible."²⁰¹

On 30 April 2021, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research published the Second Funding Guideline of the Secure Apprenticeships program.²⁰² The program enables companies facing economic difficulties with training.²⁰³ It supports trainees to continue and complete their training in midst of the pandemic.²⁰⁴ Minister Karliczek said, "With the revised Second Funding Guideline of the federal program, we have introduced a subsidy for the costs of external exam preparation courses for trainees. In addition, we have also further improved the promotion of contract and joint training so that trainees can continue their training if this is temporarily not possible in their own training company."²⁰⁵

¹⁹⁸Minister Giffey launches the "Academy for Children's and Youth Parliaments" to encourage young people to get involved in politics, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (Berlin) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerin-giffey-startet-akademie-fuer-kinder-und-jugendparlamente-fuer-ein-staerkeres-politisches-engagement-junger-menschen--178180>

¹⁹⁹Minister Giffey launches the "Academy for Children's and Youth Parliaments" to encourage young people to get involved in politics, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (Berlin) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerin-giffey-startet-akademie-fuer-kinder-und-jugendparlamente-fuer-ein-staerkeres-politisches-engagement-junger-menschen--178180>

²⁰⁰Karliczek: Further strengthen further training as the key to competitiveness and innovative strength, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/de/karliczek-weiterbildung-als-schluessel-fuer-wettbewerbsfaehigkeit-und-innovationskraft-14299.html>

²⁰¹Karliczek: Further strengthen further training as the key to competitiveness and innovative strength, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/de/karliczek-weiterbildung-als-schluessel-fuer-wettbewerbsfaehigkeit-und-innovationskraft-14299.html>

²⁰²Karliczek: Support trainees even better, especially in times of Corona, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/de/karliczek-auszubildende-gerade-in-corona-zeiten-noch-besser-unterstuetzen-14355.html>

²⁰³Karliczek: Support trainees even better, especially in times of Corona, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/de/karliczek-auszubildende-gerade-in-corona-zeiten-noch-besser-unterstuetzen-14355.html>

²⁰⁴Karliczek: Support trainees even better, especially in times of Corona, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/de/karliczek-auszubildende-gerade-in-corona-zeiten-noch-besser-unterstuetzen-14355.html>

²⁰⁵Karliczek: Support trainees even better, especially in times of Corona, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/de/karliczek-auszubildende-gerade-in-corona-zeiten-noch-besser-unterstuetzen-14355.html>

On 4 May 2021, Minister Giffey presented the “Agenda for Smart Social Policy,” which outlined five fields of action to address in response to the growing trend of digitization in Germany.²⁰⁶ These fields’ key general goals were to introduce digital innovations that would “make people’s everyday lives easier, safer and more social,” noting that “all people should be able to use digital technologies informally” to ensure no citizen is left behind.²⁰⁷

Germany has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers. Through institutions such as the BMFSFJ and Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Germany has provided substantial funding towards projects aimed at engaging youth and women in the workforce, promoted several vocational training programs, developed innovation strategies for SMEs and entrepreneurs and ensured adequate representation and protection of women’s economic autonomy in the workplace.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Muhammad Hamza Khan and Malhaar Moharir

India: +1

India has fully complied with its commitments to reducing inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 14 December 2020, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship announced the approval of allocation of training, specifically targeting states and districts on the basis of population, industry and labour supply.²⁰⁸ The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0 (2020-21) (PMKVY 3.0) aims to train youth and provide skill avenues, resulting in greater participation in the private sector.²⁰⁹ It also aims to reskill those in remote villages and towns in India. It is also the first phase in the PMKVY 3.0 initiative, creating a setting for phase two to occur from 2021-2026.²¹⁰

On 1 January 2021, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) announced the launch of an e-commerce website which catalogues over 50,000 products and aims to serve as a digital marketplace for farmers, artisans, craftsmen and other MSMEs.²¹¹ The website was jointly launched by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission and is recognized as “a step towards

²⁰⁶ Family Minister Giffey presents the “Agenda for Smart Social Policy,” Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/familienministerin-giffey-stellt-agenda-fuer-smarte-gesellschaftspolitik-vor--178812>

²⁰⁷ Family Minister Giffey presents the “Agenda for Smart Social Policy,” Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/familienministerin-giffey-stellt-agenda-fuer-smarte-gesellschaftspolitik-vor--178812>

²⁰⁸ In-principle approval of allocation of training (STT) target under PMKVY 3.0 (2020-21) -reg., Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://msde.gov.in/sites/default/files/2020-12/OM%20dated%2014.12.2020%20from%20MSDE.pdf>

²⁰⁹ Guidelines for Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0 (2020-21), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://www.msde.gov.in/sites/default/files/2021-01/PMKVY%203.0%20Guidelines%202020-21_0.pdf

²¹⁰ Guidelines for Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0 (2020-21), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://www.msde.gov.in/sites/default/files/2021-01/PMKVY%203.0%20Guidelines%202020-21_0.pdf

²¹¹ The E-commerce Platform becomes another symbol of Ministry’s process re-engineering, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (New Delhi) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1685399>

building an ecosystem that enables MSMEs to help achieve the Prime Minister's goal of [a self-reliant India]."²¹²

On 5 January 2021, Union Minister for Women and Child Development and Textile Smriti Zubin Irani and Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal launched a joint initiative, Toycathon 2021.²¹³ This initiative is aimed at creating toys and games based on the Indian value and takes a step towards achieving the goal of a self-reliant India in toy manufacturing.²¹⁴ This initiative is also supported by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Textile, Ministry of Commerce and Industries, Ministry of MSMEs, Ministry of Information and Banking and All India Council for Technical Education.²¹⁵

On 14 January 2021, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship announced the implementation of the third phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana project, which would focus on improving new-age technologies and COVID-19-related skills.²¹⁶ The program, funded under the Skill India Mission plans to utilize over 900 training facilities and institutes to “build a robust pool of skilled professionals.”²¹⁷

On 1 February 2021, the Ministry of Finance has provided a welfare scheme of INR10 million for tea workers in West Assam and West Bengal, particularly for women and children during the COVID-19 pandemic.²¹⁸ Furthermore, the Ministry mentioned measures to increase employability of youth through amendments in the Apprenticeship Act for greater opportunities for youth.²¹⁹ These measures include a partnership with the United Arab Emirates for certification and with Japan to transfer vocational skills from Japan through training programs.²²⁰

On 2 February 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare announced training centres for farmers in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Assam.²²¹ Farmers will be

²¹² The E-commerce Platform becomes another symbol of Ministry's process re-engineering, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (New Delhi) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1685399>

²¹³ Union Minister for Women & Child Development and Textiles and Union Education Minister jointly launch the Toycathon-2021, Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1686286>

²¹⁴ Union Minister for Women & Child Development and Textiles and Union Education Minister jointly launch the Toycathon-2021, Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1686286>

²¹⁵ Union Minister for Women & Child Development and Textiles and Union Education Minister jointly launch the Toycathon-2021, Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1686286>

²¹⁶ Third phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0) to be launched tomorrow, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1688455>

²¹⁷ Third phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0) to be launched tomorrow, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1688455>

²¹⁸ Rs.1000 Crore to be provided for Welfare Scheme for tea workers of Assam and West Bengal especially Women and Children, Ministry of Finance (New Delhi) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1693884>

²¹⁹ Rs.1000 Crore to be provided for Welfare Scheme for tea workers of Assam and West Bengal especially Women and Children, Ministry of Finance (New Delhi) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1693884>

²²⁰ Rs.1000 Crore to be provided for Welfare Scheme for tea workers of Assam and West Bengal especially Women and Children, Ministry of Finance (New Delhi) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1693884>

²²¹ Training to Farmers to Increase Crop Yield, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (New Delhi) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1694509>

trained in machinery and technology to increase production and crop yield along with the quality of crop yield.²²²

On 5 February 2021, the Nai Roshni Scheme was introduced by the Ministry of Minority Affairs to be implemented through non-governmental organizations.²²³ This scheme empowers women to assume leadership roles outside of their homes with a six-day training program in health and hygiene, legal rights of women, financial literacy, digital literacy, life skills and advocacy for social and behavioral change.²²⁴

On 11 February 2021, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched the India International Skill Centre, allowing youth to mobilize their skills in the international workforce.²²⁵ This initiative is supported by the Gulf Cooperation Council, Japan, Russia, South East Asia, North America, Oceania and Europe.²²⁶

On 23 February 2021, the Ministry of Labour and Employment and the Employees' State Insurance Corporation announced policy initiatives for insured workers and women.²²⁷ These initiatives include sickness benefits, maternity benefits and measures within hospitals.²²⁸

On 26 February 2021, Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal addressed the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry summit regarding the country's National Education Policy.²²⁹ Minister Goyal lauded the efforts of the policy's focus on entrepreneurship, innovation and skills development and expressed hope in making India the "knowledge capital of the world."²³⁰

On 1 March 2021, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution announced initiatives to reduce standard testing fees for MSMEs, start-ups and women entrepreneurs to encourage business in these areas.²³¹

²²² Training to Farmers to Increase Crop Yield, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (New Delhi) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1694509>

²²³ The overall objective of the "NaiRoshni" scheme is to embolden the minority women to move out of the confines of their homes and community and assume leadership roles in society, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (New Delhi) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1695547>

²²⁴ The overall objective of the "NaiRoshni" scheme is to embolden the minority women to move out of the confines of their homes and community and assume leadership roles in society, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (New Delhi) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1695547>

²²⁵ Establishment of IISC for employment opportunity to the youth abroad, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1697431>

²²⁶ Establishment of IISC for employment opportunity to the youth abroad, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (New Delhi) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1697431>

²²⁷ ESIC takes Major Policy Initiatives for better services to Insured Workers/Insured Women, Ministry of Labour and Employment (New Delhi) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1700244>

²²⁸ ESIC takes Major Policy Initiatives for better services to Insured Workers/Insured Women, Ministry of Labour and Employment (New Delhi) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1700244>

²²⁹ Shri Piyush Goyal addresses the FICCI Higher Education Summit, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/shri-piyush-goyal-addresses-the-ficci-higher-education-summit/>

²³⁰ Shri Piyush Goyal addresses the FICCI Higher Education Summit, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/shri-piyush-goyal-addresses-the-ficci-higher-education-summit/>

²³¹ The Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal directs BIS(Bureau of Indian Standards) to reduce testing fees for "MSME, Start Ups and Women Entrepreneurs" to encourage ease of doing business, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (New Delhi) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1701683>

On 8 March 2021, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship announced the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri YUVA Yojana pilot project, which aims to facilitate “entrepreneurship education, training, advocacy and easy access to entrepreneurship network.”²³²

India has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for MSMEs and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers. Through initiatives designed with international partners to promote youth and women’s welfare, new training programs for discouraged workers that incorporate technological and digitalization literacy, entrepreneurship training and robust funding to implement these measures, India has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

Thus, India receives a score of +1

Analyst: Diya Kumar Katra

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment towards reducing inequalities and promoting inclusive growth.

On 9 February 2021, Secretary of the Ministry of Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises Arif Rahman Hakim held a meeting to collaborate on policies for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) at the national and local levels.²³³ Secretary Hakim noted that IDR4.85 trillion has been allocated in the national budget for the development of MSMEs and noted that next steps involved increasing income and market access for these groups, with a target export contribution of over 15 per cent for MSMEs and cooperatives.²³⁴

On 26 February 2021, Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani Indrawati and Bank Indonesia Governor Perry Warjiyo attended the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors meeting.²³⁵ The meeting discussed two main agendas, the Global Economy and Policy Actions for a Transformative and Equitable Recovery, and Financial Sector Issues, which primarily highlights the G20 goals from the Riyadh presidency.²³⁶

On 12 March 2021, Minister Indrawati stated that the gender gap between men and women widened during the COVID-19 pandemic and further reiterated Indonesia’s commitment toward increasing

²³² Steps taken by the Government to expand Research-oriented higher education towards building a knowledge-based economy, Press Information Bureau Government of India (New Delhi) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021.

https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/he_pr.pdf

²³³ Ministry of Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises Coordinates Synergy and Collaboration for Cooperatives and SMEs Development, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/ministry-of-cooperatives-and-small-and-medium-enterprises-coordinates-synergy-and-collaboration-for-cooperatives-and-smes-development/>

²³⁴ Ministry of Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises Coordinates Synergy and Collaboration for Cooperatives and SMEs Development, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/ministry-of-cooperatives-and-small-and-medium-enterprises-coordinates-synergy-and-collaboration-for-cooperatives-and-smes-development/>

²³⁵ Working Together to Find a Way of Restoration, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://indonesia.go.id/kategori/indonesia-in-number/2565/minister-of-finance-world-economy-needs-recovery-supports>

²³⁶ Working Together to Find a Way of Restoration, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://indonesia.go.id/kategori/indonesia-in-number/2565/minister-of-finance-world-economy-needs-recovery-supports>

access to opportunities for women.²³⁷ They further stated, “the government through the 2021 State Budget provides equal access and opportunities to women through various priority programs, one of which is through education reform to improve the quality of human resources.”²³⁸

On 28 April 2021, Minister of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Bintang Puspayoga emphasised the role of women in improving the national economy after the COVID-19 pandemic.²³⁹ During a meeting with grassroots women, she said that “grassroots women in various parts of Indonesia have helped the government in filling spaces that are difficult to reach or have not been touched by the program at all.”²⁴⁰

On 29 April 2021, Minister Puspayoga said that women play an important role in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic.²⁴¹ She said that women can bring voice and create various inclusive policies.²⁴² Additionally, the Chair of the Indonesian National Hero Family Association Saharto Sahardjo, said, “We see the role of women in developing or driving the economy of Small and Micro Enterprises [SMEs]. Many women have started online and culinary businesses. This moves the Indonesian economy.”²⁴³

Indonesia has taken strong domestic action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for women and increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs through ministry investments in policies aimed at promoting increased participation in a pandemic-driven economy and using the 2020 G20 summit as a strong guiding framework for these initiatives. However, Indonesia has not taken any action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth and upskilling and reskilling of workers.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Muhammad Hamza Khan

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 8 December 2020, Italy released a draft recovery plan with a total budget of EUR196 billion. The recovery plan allocated EUR74.3 billion to be invested in the green revolution and ecological

²³⁷ Minister of Finance: Education Holds an Important Role in Regulating the Way of Thinking, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/minister-of-finance-education-holds-an-important-role-in-regulating-the-way-of-thinking/>

²³⁸ Minister of Finance: Education Holds an Important Role in Regulating the Way of Thinking, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/minister-of-finance-education-holds-an-important-role-in-regulating-the-way-of-thinking/>

²³⁹ Optimizing women's economic participation to improve the national economy, Ministry of Empowerment Women and Child Protection (Jakarta) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3171/optimalisasi-partisipasi-ekonomi-perempuan-tingkatkan-perekonomian-nasional>

²⁴⁰ Optimizing women's economic participation to improve the national economy, Ministry of Empowerment Women and Child Protection (Jakarta) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3171/optimalisasi-partisipasi-ekonomi-perempuan-tingkatkan-perekonomian-nasional>

²⁴¹ Minister Bintang invites Indonesian women to play a role in facing the covid-19 pandemic, Ministry of Empowerment Women and Child Protection (Jakarta) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3174/menteri-bintang-ajak-perempuan-indonesia-berperan-dalam-hadapi-pandemi-covid-19>

²⁴² Minister Bintang invites Indonesian women to play a role in facing the covid-19 pandemic, Ministry of Empowerment Women and Child Protection (Jakarta) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3174/menteri-bintang-ajak-perempuan-indonesia-berperan-dalam-hadapi-pandemi-covid-19>

²⁴³ Minister Bintang invites Indonesian women to play a role in facing the covid-19 pandemic, Ministry of Empowerment Women and Child Protection (Jakarta) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3174/menteri-bintang-ajak-perempuan-indonesia-berperan-dalam-hadapi-pandemi-covid-19>

transition.²⁴⁴ Aside from heading towards a more sustainable future, the objective of this initiative is also to free up job opportunities for people, which is particularly necessary due to the rising levels of unemployment because of the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁴⁵ This will increase inclusive growth by providing new jobs for people who have struggled with job losses and unemployment.²⁴⁶ Moreover, the plan allocated EUR17.1 billion to implement measures to foster gender equality.²⁴⁷

On 31 December 2020, the Ministry of Labour and of Social Politics released the employment forecasts of the 2021 Budget.²⁴⁸ In this plan, the Ministry announced that they would provide financial support for young people under the age of 36 in need of steady employment.²⁴⁹ In addition, in this budget the Ministry also promoted the support of women's businesses.²⁵⁰ The Ministry announced that "resources of EUR3 million are assigned to the Venture Capital Support Fund for the year 2021 aimed at supporting investments in risk capital for highly innovative female entrepreneurship projects" to promote inclusivity and increase work opportunities for women.²⁵¹ Further, an additional EUR50 million was pledged to support the return to work of mothers after childbirth.²⁵²

On 9 February 2021, the Ministry of the Economy and Finance launched the Recovery and Resilience Plan which mobilizes over EUR300 billion.²⁵³ One of the components of the "Inclusion and Cohesion" mission is to create Employment Policies to improve the employment situation of women, youth and vulnerable people.²⁵⁴ Additionally, it aims to rework existing employment policies with a focus on promoting new skills through reform of the training system.²⁵⁵

²⁴⁴ Recovery Plan: Italy intends to invest in a green transition and sustainable mobility, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.iisd.org/sustainable-recovery/news/recovery-plan-italy-intends-investments-in-green-transition-and-sustainable-mobility>

²⁴⁵ Recovery Plan: Italy intends to invest in a green transition and sustainable mobility, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.iisd.org/sustainable-recovery/news/recovery-plan-italy-intends-investments-in-green-transition-and-sustainable-mobility/>

²⁴⁶ Recovery Plan: Italy intends to invest in a green transition and sustainable mobility, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.iisd.org/sustainable-recovery/news/recovery-plan-italy-intends-investments-in-green-transition-and-sustainable-mobility/>

²⁴⁷ Recovery Plan: Italy intends to invest in a green transition and sustainable mobility, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.iisd.org/sustainable-recovery/news/recovery-plan-italy-intends-investments-in-green-transition-and-sustainable-mobility/>

²⁴⁸ Budget Law 2021: numerous forecasts on employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Legge-di-Bilancio-2021-numerose-le-previsioni-in-materia-di-lavoro.aspx>

²⁴⁹ Budget Law 2021: numerous forecasts on employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Legge-di-Bilancio-2021-numerose-le-previsioni-in-materia-di-lavoro.aspx>

²⁵⁰ Budget Law 2021: numerous forecasts on employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Legge-di-Bilancio-2021-numerose-le-previsioni-in-materia-di-lavoro.aspx>

²⁵¹ Budget Law 2021: numerous forecasts on employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Legge-di-Bilancio-2021-numerose-le-previsioni-in-materia-di-lavoro.aspx>

²⁵² Budget Law 2021: numerous forecasts on employment, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Legge-di-Bilancio-2021-numerose-le-previsioni-in-materia-di-lavoro.aspx>

²⁵³ The Recovery and Resilience Plan: Next Generation Italia, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Rome) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-Recovery-and-Resilience-Plan-Next-Generation-Italia/>

²⁵⁴ The Recovery and Resilience Plan: Next Generation Italia, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Rome) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-Recovery-and-Resilience-Plan-Next-Generation-Italia/>

²⁵⁵ The Recovery and Resilience Plan: Next Generation Italia, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Rome) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-Recovery-and-Resilience-Plan-Next-Generation-Italia/>

On 24 February 2021, Italy's initiative to support private employers in small or medium sized enterprises by exempting them from compulsory social security contributions was approved by the European Commission. The total budget allocated for this initiative is EUR61.4 million.²⁵⁶ The aim of this initiative is to reduce the financial burden on small and medium enterprises, particularly due to the economic problems caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing employers to keep their workers employed.²⁵⁷

On 15 March 2021, Minister of Labor and Social Policies Andrea Orlando participated in a meeting of the EU Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs focused on employment and wage concerns.²⁵⁸ Under the guiding force of the EU Pillar Action Plan on social rights, the minister noted that "in Italy we are working on the reform of social safety nets, on active labour policies, on hiring incentives, on the strengthening of redeployment allowance, on the reduction of the tax wedge," as well as committing to support the Community Initiative to establish minimum wage standards across Europe.²⁵⁹

On 16 March 2021, Italy allocated EUR63 million through the Italian aid scheme "to support the uncovered fixed costs of companies in the trade fairs sector affected by the coronavirus outbreak."²⁶⁰ The support will be delivered in the form of direct grants which will be made available to the affected companies, aiming to reverse the financial damage from COVID-19 restrictions such as "the suspension or reduction of their business activity."²⁶¹

On 19 March 2021, the Italian Cabinet approved a decree to provide further financial support as part of its COVID-19 recovery plan.²⁶² The allocated budget of this decree is approximately EUR32 billion.²⁶³ The initiative covers several areas including supporting businesses of the third sector and preventing poverty.²⁶⁴ The budget covers an allowance of EUR2,400 for seasonal and fixed-term

²⁵⁶ Details of Italy's support measures to help citizens and companies during the significant economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/italy_en

²⁵⁷ Details of Italy's support measures to help citizens and companies during the significant economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/italy_en

²⁵⁸ Work: Orlando participates in an informal meeting of the European Labor and Social Policy ministers, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Lavoro-Orlando-partecipa-a-riunione-informale-dei-ministri-europei-del-Lavoro-e-delle-Politiche-sociali.aspx>.

²⁵⁹ Work: Orlando participates in an informal meeting of the European Labor and Social Policy ministers, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Lavoro-Orlando-partecipa-a-riunione-informale-dei-ministri-europei-del-Lavoro-e-delle-Politiche-sociali.aspx>.

²⁶⁰ Details of Italy's support measures to help citizens and companies during the significant economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/italy_en

²⁶¹ Details of Italy's support measures to help citizens and companies during the significant economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/italy_en

²⁶² Approved by the Council of Ministers the "Decree-law supports": approximately 32 billion euros allocated, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/pagine/approvato-dal-cdm-il-decreto-legge-sostegni-stanziati-circa-32-miliardi-euro.aspx/>

²⁶³ Approved by the Council of Ministers the "Decree-law supports": approximately 32 billion euros allocated, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/pagine/approvato-dal-cdm-il-decreto-legge-sostegni-stanziati-circa-32-miliardi-euro.aspx/>

²⁶⁴ Approved by the Council of Ministers the "Decree-law supports": approximately 32 billion euros allocated, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/pagine/approvato-dal-cdm-il-decreto-legge-sostegni-stanziati-circa-32-miliardi-euro.aspx/>

workers and an expansion of the emergency income for citizens for another few months. In addition, the initiative announced the allocation of EUR400 million in social funds for employment and training of workers.²⁶⁵

On 1 April 2021, the Ministry of Economic Development announced that more than EUR50 million worth of loans had been provided for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) over the past year to “support the competitiveness and innovative investments of SMEs” as part of Italy’s revised National Business Plan.²⁶⁶ Over 380 applications had been processed as of this date and the ministry noted that up to EUR100 million would be provided as well.²⁶⁷

On 9 April 2021, the Ministry of Economic Development announced the provision of subsidized interest-free loans for youth and women-led startups.²⁶⁸ In particular, the investment is focused on businesses concerning “the production of goods in the sectors of industry, crafts and processing of agricultural products, supply of services to businesses, trade and tourism.”²⁶⁹

On 14 April 2021, Italy chaired a meeting of the Employment Working Group. The discussions primarily focused around “structural changes in the organization of work, the economy of platforms and the growing use of remote working.”²⁷⁰ Noting that artificial intelligence would have a transformative effect on labour relationships, the meeting’s participants stressed the need for “adequate social protection tools” that would adequately respond to green and digital economy changes accelerated by the pandemic.²⁷¹

On 22 April 2021, Prime Minister Mario Draghi presented a draft of Italy’s National Recovery and Resilience Plan to the Parliament in preparation for presentation to the European Commission.^{272,273} A total of EUR221.5 billion obtained from the EU’s Recovery and Resilience Facility and national borrowing is to be provided for six target areas including education and research, and social inclusion.²⁷⁴ Within the education and research mission, a total of EUR31.9 billion is to be allocated

²⁶⁵ Approved by the Council of Ministers the “Decree-law supports”: approximately 32 billion euros allocated, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/pagine/approvato-dal-cdm-il-decreto-legge-sostegni-stanziati-circa-32-miliardi-euro.aspx>

²⁶⁶ Digital Transformation: 50 million euros available to SMEs, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/per-i-media/notizie/2042172-digital-transformation-50-milioni-di-euro-a-disposizione-delle-pmi>

²⁶⁷ Digital Transformation: 50 million euros available to SMEs, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/per-i-media/notizie/2042172-digital-transformation-50-milioni-di-euro-a-disposizione-delle-pmi>

²⁶⁸ Incentives for new businesses of young people and women, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/per-i-media/notizie/2042197-incentivi-per-nuove-imprese-di-giovani-e-donne>

²⁶⁹ Incentives for new businesses of young people and women, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/per-i-media/notizie/2042197-incentivi-per-nuove-imprese-di-giovani-e-donne>

²⁷⁰ Employment Working Group: second meeting held, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Employment-Working-Group-svolta-la-seconda-riunione.aspx>

²⁷¹ Employment Working Group: second meeting held, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Employment-Working-Group-svolta-la-seconda-riunione.aspx>

²⁷² Transmission of PNRR to Parliament, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 25 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/pnrr/16718>

²⁷³ Italy’s Draghi seen presenting Recovery Plan draft to cabinet Friday—sources, Reuters (London) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italys-draghi-seen-presenting-recovery-plan-draft-cabinet-friday-sources-2021-04-22/>

²⁷⁴ Italy’s Draghi seen presenting Recovery Plan draft to cabinet Friday—sources, Reuters (London) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italys-draghi-seen-presenting-recovery-plan-draft-cabinet-friday-sources-2021-04-22/>

to “strengthen the educational system [and] digital and technical-scientific skills.²⁷⁵ Within the social inclusion mission, EUR22.4 billion are to be provided for facilitating “participation in the labour market” through training and strengthening labour policies, including the development of employment centres and promoting female entrepreneurship, including a new Women’s Enterprise Fund.²⁷⁶ The plan is predicted to increase gross domestic product by three percentage points higher than initially predicted.²⁷⁷

Italy has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs and upskilling and reskilling of workers. Through the allocation of funds to support small and medium enterprises, and private employers, its declaration in the 2021 budget that funds would be allocated to supporting gender equality and women in the workplace, efforts to combat youth poverty, and environmentally friendly job creation initiatives, Italy has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Dalia Michaud and Malhaar Moharir

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 30 November 2020, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) requested for smoother financing to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).²⁷⁸ It asked several organizations to “improve the facilitation of financing for SMEs and small enterprises at the end of 2020, taking into consideration that some businesses are still facing serious difficulties in funding due to the impacts of COVID-19, and that demand for working capital and other funds is expected to grow during the period from the end of 2020 to the end of fiscal year 2020.”²⁷⁹

On 21 December 2020, the Ministry of Finance released highlights of the Draft Fiscal Year 2021 Budget, which highlighted the need for “measures for medium- and long-term issues” such as digital and green societies, as well as robust social security systems.²⁸⁰ In particular, JPY2.2 billion would be allocated for the “digitalization of education,” JPY2.3 billion towards scholarships for youth through the University Fellowship Program, and tax reductions and subsidies for SMEs.²⁸¹

²⁷⁵ Transmission of PNRR to Parliament, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 25 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/pnrr/16718>

²⁷⁶ Transmission of PNRR to Parliament, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 25 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/pnrr/16718>

²⁷⁷ Italy’s Draghi seen presenting Recovery Plan draft to cabinet Friday—sources, Reuters (London) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italys-draghi-seen-presenting-recovery-plan-draft-cabinet-friday-sources-2021-04-22/>

²⁷⁸ Request for Smoother Financing to SMEs and Small Enterprises Made, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1216_001.html

²⁷⁹ Request for Smoother Financing to SMEs and Small Enterprises Made, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1216_001.html

²⁸⁰ Highlights of the FY2021 Draft Budget, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.mof.go.jp/english/budget/budget/fy2021/01.pdf>

²⁸¹ Highlights of the FY2021 Draft Budget, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.mof.go.jp/english/budget/budget/fy2021/01.pdf>

On 5 February 2021, a cabinet decision was made on the bill that includes the SMEs Enterprises Business Enhancement Act.²⁸² The Act promotes the expansion of SME businesses and better regulations of the SMEs including funding for middle-ranking businesses working with SMEs.²⁸³

On 18 February 2021, METI initiated the “Japan Innovation Bridge” under the Japan External Trade Organization.²⁸⁴ The platform aims “to support Japanese companies in collaborating and advancing mergers and acquisitions with overseas companies based mainly in Asia, including startups, through open innovation.”²⁸⁵

On 2 March 2021, Japan “contributed USD7.8 million to support [the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF’s)] Learning in the Times of Crisis project in Syria.”²⁸⁶ The contribution provides aid to young people on education, employment opportunities, and strengthened community service.²⁸⁷ Akira Endo, the Special Coordinator for Syria and Charge d’Affaires of the Embassy of Japan in Syria said “Japan stays engaged in supporting children, youth and women wherever they are in Syria to meet their humanitarian needs.”²⁸⁸ Since 2017, Japan has contributed USD60 million to Syria through UNICEF programs.²⁸⁹

On 3 March 2021, virtual training for preparatory Japanese language was held for the 13th batch of Filipino nurse and care worker candidates bound for Japan under the Economic Partnership Agreement between Japan and the Philippines.²⁹⁰ Filipino nurses and health workers will be trained

²⁸² Cabinet decision on the Bill for Partially Amending the Industrial Competitiveness Enhancement Act and other related acts, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0205_002.html

²⁸³ Cabinet decision on the Bill for Partially Amending the Industrial Competitiveness Enhancement Act and other related acts, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0205_002.html

²⁸⁴ Launching of Platform “J-Bridge” to Encourage Japanese Companies to Advance Open Innovation with Asia-based Startups and Other Businesses and Start of Member Registration, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0218_001.html

²⁸⁵ Launching of Platform “J-Bridge” to Encourage Japanese Companies to Advance Open Innovation with Asia-based Startups and Other Businesses and Start of Member Registration, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0218_001.html

²⁸⁶ The Government of Japan Contributes US\$7.8 Million to Support UNICEF’s Learning in the Times of Crisis project in Syria, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (New York) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/government-japan-contributes-us78-million-support-unicef-s-learning>

²⁸⁷ The Government of Japan Contributes US\$7.8 Million to Support UNICEF’s Learning in the Times of Crisis project in Syria, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (New York) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/government-japan-contributes-us78-million-support-unicef-s-learning>

²⁸⁸ The Government of Japan Contributes US\$7.8 Million to Support UNICEF’s Learning in the Times of Crisis project in Syria, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (New York) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/government-japan-contributes-us78-million-support-unicef-s-learning>

²⁸⁹ The Government of Japan Contributes US\$7.8 Million to Support UNICEF’s Learning in the Times of Crisis project in Syria, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (New York) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/government-japan-contributes-us78-million-support-unicef-s-learning>

²⁹⁰ Japanese Embassy holds language training for nursing care worker candidates, The Manila Times (Manila) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/03/08/weekly/expat-diplomats/japanese-embassy-holds-language-training-for-nursing-care-worker-candidates/848148/>

virtually before they depart for work in Japan; after they arrive, they will receive another six months of language training.²⁹¹

On 9 March 2021, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga held the 10th meeting of the Headquarters for Creating a Society in which All Women Shine and the 20th meeting of the Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality.²⁹² At the meeting, discussions were held on strengthening efforts for gender equality.²⁹³

On 23 March 2021, Ambassador of Japan to Sierra Leone Himeno Tsutomu and United Nations Industrial Development Organization Country Representative to Sierra Leone Mariatu Abionor Swaray, signed an exchange of notes enacting USD3.88 million of aid from Japan to Sierra Leone.²⁹⁴ The financial aid is to “help Sierra Leone bridge the skills gap in the country’s automotive repair and maintenance sector and to promote decent employment opportunities for youth.”²⁹⁵

On 29 March 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan held a webinar on women’s empowerment. The webinar consisted of three panels: “Panel Discussion 1: Empowered Women as a Driving Force for the Betterment of Society; Panel Discussion 2: Women’s Empowerment in Sports; Panel Discussion 3: What is Women, Peace and Security?”²⁹⁶ The goal of the webinar was to commemorate “the memorial year of gender equality and women’s empowerment.”²⁹⁷

On 23 April 2021, METI released the 2021 White Paper on SMEs in Japan, which outlined the key challenges these businesses have faced through COVID-19.²⁹⁸ The ministry outlined three areas of reform that would need to be addressed in order to overcome their financial difficulties faced: “developing management strategies that are aligned with the changes in the business environment,” “cultivating a proactive organizational culture toward digitalization,” and taking on “new opportunities under new management after business succession.”²⁹⁹

On 28 April 2021, METI announced a subsidy project in conjunction with PwC to support Femtech companies, defined as those that provide support services to “solve working women’s health-related and other issues.” The goal of this project is to prevent high turnover rates among women

²⁹¹ Japanese Embassy holds language training for nursing care worker candidates, The Manila Times (Manila) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/03/08/weekly/expat-diplomats/japanese-embassy-holds-language-training-for-nursing-care-worker-candidates/848148/>

²⁹² Joint Meeting of the Headquarters for Creating a Society in which All Women Shine and the Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202103/_00008.html

²⁹³ Joint Meeting of the Headquarters for Creating a Society in which All Women Shine and the Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202103/_00008.html

²⁹⁴ Japan and UNIDO to help train auto mechanics in Sierra Leone, United Nations of Industrial Development (Vienna) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.unido.org/news/japan-and-unido-help-train-auto-mechanics-sierra-leone>

²⁹⁵ Japan and UNIDO to help train auto mechanics in Sierra Leone, United Nations of Industrial Development (Vienna) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.unido.org/news/japan-and-unido-help-train-auto-mechanics-sierra-leone>

²⁹⁶ Webinar on Women’s Empowerment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page22e_000945.html

²⁹⁷ Webinar on Women’s Empowerment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page22e_000945.html

²⁹⁸ 2021 White Papers on Small and Medium Enterprises and Small Enterprises Released, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0423_002.html

²⁹⁹ 2021 White Papers on Small and Medium Enterprises and Small Enterprises Released, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0423_002.html

due to pregnancy, childbirth and menopause, as well as “increase the diversity of human resources at companies.”³⁰⁰

Japan has taken strong action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth through policies on subsidizing education, increasing access to opportunities for women by promoting greater financial support in the workplace, and increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs through grants and subsidies designed to keep them competitive in the COVID-19 economy. Japan has taken partial action in the area of upskilling and reskilling of workers by generally promoting revamped training programs that take into account greater digitalization of the economy both domestically and internationally and upskilling and reskilling of workers.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jenny Liu

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 25 November 2020, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family hosted the 2020 Korea-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Youth Summit.³⁰¹ The summit provides a platform for youths to discuss the role of youths for Korea-ASEAN cooperation.³⁰² The discussions included promotion of a “Korea-ASEAN passport” and “financial support with a focus on sharing.”³⁰³

On 9 December 2020, the National Assembly passed amendments for the Special Act on the Promotion of Youth Employment.³⁰⁴ The amendments for the act increase the commission of Youth work in public organizations.³⁰⁵ The renovated act has included new features to promote

³⁰⁰ Assistance for Initiatives to Create Femtech-driven Systems to Support the Health and Continued Employment of Working Women, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0428_001.html

³⁰¹ 2020 Korea-ASEAN Youth Summit announces written advice containing 3Ps (People, Peace, Prosperity), Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=707384&type=N&startDate=2020-12-01&categoryId=109&pCnt=0&oldSearchCnt=0&endDate=2020-12-02&language=A020101&cCnt=0&pageIndex=1&gov=>

³⁰² 2020 Korea-ASEAN Youth Summit announces written advice containing 3Ps (People, Peace, Prosperity), Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=707384&type=N&startDate=2020-12-01&categoryId=109&pCnt=0&oldSearchCnt=0&endDate=2020-12-02&language=A020101&cCnt=0&pageIndex=1&gov=>

³⁰³ 2020 Korea-ASEAN Youth Summit announces written advice containing 3Ps (People, Peace, Prosperity), Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=707384&type=N&startDate=2020-12-01&categoryId=109&pCnt=0&oldSearchCnt=0&endDate=2020-12-02&language=A020101&cCnt=0&pageIndex=1&gov=>

³⁰⁴ National Assembly passes 10 labor-related amendment bills, including Trade Union and Labour Relation Adjustment Act, Labor Standards Act, Employment Insurance Act, and Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance Act, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1587

³⁰⁵ National Assembly passes 10 labor-related amendment bills, including Trade Union and Labour Relation Adjustment Act, Labor Standards Act, Employment Insurance Act, and Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance Act, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1587

digitalization, including “commissioning of maintenance of computer network related to global [Human Resources Development] projects to specialist agencies.”³⁰⁶

On 1 February 2021, Minister of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Startups Park Youngsun announced the COMEUP 2020 Plan.³⁰⁷ The project plans to help startups and SMEs by providing opportunities to promote selected businesses.³⁰⁸ A total of 1,076 startups worldwide have participated.³⁰⁹

On 25 February 2021, the National Institute for Lifelong Education announced the 2021 University Lifelong Education System Support Project to “promote pre-employment and post-employment learning through the establishment of a university’s adult learner-friendly academic system.”³¹⁰ The project will operate from 2021 to 2022 and the budget of the project is approximately KRW24.3 billion.³¹¹

On 3 March 2021, the Ministry of Employment and Labor (MOEL) published the 2021 Work Report. In the report, the MOEL promises to help youth employment by offering more opportunities and vocational training.³¹² This policy is to “minimize the number of young people ending up in the category of economically inactive population.” In the Work Report, the MOEL also promises to create a training system for non-majors to find jobs in the new technology sector. Furthermore, the MOEL will create a program to build future oriented talent. The program will be training 17,000 persons and will be cooperating with businesses and educational institutions.

On 4 March 2021, Korea announced to concentrate on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women’s employment.³¹³ The specific policies include “creation of 780,000-plus women’s jobs to cope with the employment crisis through supplementary budget; strengthening support for the maintenance of employment such as extension of emergency support for family care expense and support for those affected by transfer; strengthening support for female students majoring in science/engineering; enhancement of their digital capability through vocational training; strengthening the expertise of those engaging in childcare and housework; improving working

³⁰⁶ National Assembly passes 10 labor-related amendment bills, including Trade Union and Labour Relation Adjustment Act, Labor Standards Act, Employment Insurance Act, and Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance Act, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1587

³⁰⁷ International Press Conference Reference Material for COMEUP2020, Ministry of SMEs and Startups (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://m.korea.net/english/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=1024334&type=N>

³⁰⁸ International Press Conference Reference Material for COMEUP2020, Ministry of SMEs and Startups (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://m.korea.net/english/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=1024334&type=N>

³⁰⁹ International Press Conference Reference Material for COMEUP2020, Ministry of SMEs and Startups (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://m.korea.net/english/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=1024334&type=N>

³¹⁰ 2021 University Lifelong Education System Support Project Announced, Ministry of Education (Seoul) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021.

<http://eng.nile.or.kr/contents/contents.jsp?bkind=basic&bcode=CABAAAA&bmode=view&idx=BCJDFCECEDHFJ&pageNo=1>

³¹¹ 2021 University Lifelong Education System Support Project Announced, Ministry of Education (Seoul) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<http://eng.nile.or.kr/contents/contents.jsp?bkind=basic&bcode=CABAAAA&bmode=view&idx=BCJDFCECEDHFJ&pageNo=1>

³¹² 2021 Work Report (Recovery, Inclusiveness, and Leap Forward Korea 2021), Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1594

³¹³ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women’s employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women’s jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality & Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

conditions; promotion of status survey for women platform workers; putting an end to the gender stereotyping of jobs through the adoption of absolute evaluation factors in Affirmative Action.”³¹⁴

On 25 March 2021, Vice Chair Doh Kyu-sang “discussed the progress in the implementation of the COVID-19 financial support for small merchants and SMEs” at the 37th financial risk assessment meeting.³¹⁵ He recognized the progress of the emergency financial support package to small merchants and SMEs and promised to keep close monitoring of the situation and be available to provide aid to the vulnerable.³¹⁶

On 6 April 2021, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of Korea passed amendments to the support for single parents raising children.³¹⁷ The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family made amendments to the Enforcement Ordinance of the Single-Parent Family Support Act, whereby the amendment provides “expansion of support for single parents in multicultural households and the procedure for the establishment of an annual execution plan for supporting single-parent families and management of its execution.”³¹⁸ Non-Korean single parents raising Korean children will receive support under the amendment once it comes into effect in May 2021.³¹⁹

On 28 April 2021, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family jointly held a panel discussion with the Embassy of Finland in Seoul on the subject of Women in Tech.³²⁰ Noting that international cooperation would be needed to achieve all countries’ goals of gender equality, the panel discussion focused on the inclusivity of women in STEM fields and improving company policies for hiring practices.

Korea has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers. Through promoting inclusive and gender-based hiring practices, providing increased scholarship and funding for higher level education, providing grants and subsidies to improve competitiveness in the COVID economy, and establishing renovated and targeted vocational education programs, Korea has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jenny Liu

³¹⁴ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women’s employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women’s jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality & Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

³¹⁵ FSC to Closely Monitor Market Situations and Gradually Roll Back Crisis Response Measures, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://m.korea.net/english/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=75617&type=N>

³¹⁶ FSC to Closely Monitor Market Situations and Gradually Roll Back Crisis Response Measures, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 25 March, 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://m.korea.net/english/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=75617&type=N>

³¹⁷ Gov’t to provide support for non-Korean single parents raising children with Korean nationality, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707713

³¹⁸ Gov’t to provide support for non-Korean single parents raising children with Korean nationality, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707713

³¹⁹ Gov’t to provide support for non-Korean single parents raising children with Korean nationality, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707713

³²⁰ Panel discussion on enhancement of gender equality in technical field, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707767

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 25 November 2020, the Ministry of Welfare announced new social policies aimed at supporting youth and fostering greater inclusivity of women in the workforce.³²¹ In particular, the Support Programs for Girls and Boys, Children of Working Mothers programs is targeted towards women in rural areas, with the expectation that they “form a community, exchange knowledge, in addition to promoting their autonomy and access to a well-paid job.”³²²

On 27 January 2021, Secretary of Labor and Social Welfare Luisa Alcade and Secretary of Tourism Miguel Torruco announced funding of MXN2.5 billion to support scholarships for youth seeking employment in the tourism sector.³²³ Approximately 50,000 youth would be eligible for this program, which would be overseen by the Youth Building the Future Program, working in conjunction with companies to hire and train those between the ages of 18 and 29.³²⁴ As of 2020, tourism accounted for nearly 17 per cent of Mexico’s gross domestic product, and has taken a strong hit due to the COVID-19 pandemic.³²⁵

On 30 December 2020, the Ministry of Welfare allocated more than MXN143 billion worth of investment towards vulnerable groups, including working mothers.³²⁶ Over 190,000 women were beneficiaries of social investment totaling MXN2 billion, with approximately MXN3,600 provided on a bimonthly basis for working mothers with children, with a focus on those with disabled children.³²⁷

On 28 January 2021, the Ministry of Economy announced a grant of MXN1.5 billion to support 60,000 microenterprises.³²⁸ The support is divided among family micro-businesses, “completed”

³²¹ The Ministry of Welfare promotes the inclusion of women in Comprehensive Programs, Ministry of Welfare (Mexico City) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/impulsa-secretaria-de-bienestar-inclusion-de-las-mujeres-en-los-programas-integrales?idiom=es>

³²² The Ministry of Welfare promotes the inclusion of women in Comprehensive Programs, Ministry of Welfare (Mexico City) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/impulsa-secretaria-de-bienestar-inclusion-de-las-mujeres-en-los-programas-integrales?idiom=es>

³²³ Young people building the future, a pillar in the economic reactivation of the tourism sector, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/jovenes-construyendo-el-futuro-pilar-en-la-reactivacion-economica-del-sector-turismo-262379?idiom=es>

³²⁴ Young people building the future, a pillar in the economic reactivation of the tourism sector, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/jovenes-construyendo-el-futuro-pilar-en-la-reactivacion-economica-del-sector-turismo-262379?idiom=es>

³²⁵ Coronavirus hits Mexico’s economy where it hurts most: Oil, tourism, remittances and trade, Washington Post (Washington D.C.) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/coronavirus-mexico-economy-oil-tourism-remittance-trade-amlo/2020/04/22/ed4b7532-7f68-11ea-84c2-0792d8591911_story.html

³²⁶ The Ministry of Welfare applies historical social investment in 2020; more than 143 thousand pesos for vulnerable groups, Ministry of Welfare (Mexico City) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/aplica-secretaria-de-bienestar-inversion-social-historica-en-2020-mas-de-143-mil-mdp-para-grupos-vulnerables?idiom=es>

³²⁷ The Ministry of Welfare applies historical social investment in 2020; more than 143 thousand pesos for vulnerable groups, Ministry of Welfare (Mexico City) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/aplica-secretaria-de-bienestar-inversion-social-historica-en-2020-mas-de-143-mil-mdp-para-grupos-vulnerables?idiom=es>

³²⁸ The Ministry of Economy announces a new package of 60,000 support for micro-businesses in 2021, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/la-secretaria-de-economia-anuncia-un-nuevo-paquete-de-60-000-apoyos-a-micronegocios-en-2021?idiom=es>

microbusinesses and those facilitating women's solidarity, whereby each business would receive a loan of MXN25,000.³²⁹

On 21 February 2021, the Superior Audit of the Federation concluded that the Ministry of Welfare had fully complied with its social program goals, with its total budget of MXN150 billion having been distributed to all target demographics, including working mothers.³³⁰

On 2 March 2021, the Executive Secretariat of the National System for the Comprehensive Protection of Girls, Boys and Adolescents and the General Directorate of Open Institutions of the Decentralized Administrative Body for Prevention and Social Readaptation rolled out a pilot "Needs Identification Card."³³¹ This card is an instrument that will allow the government to better monitor and assist children with parents deprived of liberty to "live in a favorable family context, grow and develop free of all discrimination, violence, access education, health and receive timely support for their basic needs from federal and state authorities."³³²

On 2 March 2021, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Carmen Moreno Toscano launched the first meeting of the Gender Links Network.³³³ This three-day symposium aimed to encourage discussion about gender violence to promote "international cooperation on substantive equality, girls' empowerment, and inclusion of a gender perspective" in society.³³⁴

On 8 March 2021, the National Migration Institute signed the Labour Equality and Non-Discrimination Policy.³³⁵ This policy aims to eliminate workplace violence and institutionalize equal opportunities for all public servants, with particular focus on approaching the problem from a gender perspective.³³⁶

On 9 March 2021, Secretary of Finance and Public Credit Arturo Herrera, Secretary of Economy Tatiana Clouthier and President of the National Institute of Women Nadine Gasman co-signed an agreement titled "Women in digital transformation" as part of its program to promote economic

³²⁹ The Ministry of Economy announces a new package of 60,000 support for micro-businesses in 2021, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/la-secretaria-de-economia-anuncia-un-nuevo-paquete-de-60-000-apoyos-a-micronegocios-en-2021?idiom=es>

³³⁰ ASF concludes that in 2019 the Ministry of Welfare complied with its social programs, Ministry of Welfare (Mexico City) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/concluye-asf-que-en-2019-secretaria-de-bienestar-cumplio-en-sus-programas-sociales?idiom=es>

³³¹ Advances Mechanism of attention to the needs of children and adolescents with a mother or father deprived of liberty, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/avanza-mecanismo-de-atencion-a-necesidades-de-ninez-y-adolescencia-con-madre-o-padre-privados-de-la-libertad?idiom=es>

³³² Advances Mechanism of attention to the needs of children and adolescents with a mother or father deprived of liberty, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/avanza-mecanismo-de-atencion-a-necesidades-de-ninez-y-adolescencia-con-madre-o-padre-privados-de-la-libertad?idiom=es>

³³³ First meeting of the Gender Links Network 2021, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/first-meeting-of-the-gender-links-network-2021?idiom=en>

³³⁴ First meeting of the Gender Links Network 2021, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/first-meeting-of-the-gender-links-network-2021?idiom=en>

³³⁵ INM subscribes to the Labor Equality and Non-Discrimination Policy, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/suscribe-inm-politica-de-igualdad-laboral-y-no-discriminacion?idiom=es>

³³⁶ INM subscribes to the Labor Equality and Non-Discrimination Policy, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/suscribe-inm-politica-de-igualdad-laboral-y-no-discriminacion?idiom=es>

growth “with a gender perspective.”³³⁷ The program focuses on micro-enterprises led by women, and expands upon the “Digital Transformation in Electronic Commerce” business training program, which offers courses on developing “digital and financial skills in entrepreneurs.”³³⁸ Data from the project demonstrated that women who participated in the program had increased their income by 270 per cent.³³⁹

On 22 March 2021, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Marcelo Ebrard and Interior Secretary Olga Sánchez co-chaired the second inter-institutional meeting.³⁴⁰ Their discussion brought together the Ministries of Finance, Education and Labor, and the heads of the Mexican Social Security Institute, Bank of Wellbeing and Infonavit, who together announced specific actions relating to the migrant population.³⁴¹ In the meeting, Labor Secretary Luisa María Alcalde furthered assistance for migrants. In particular, she stated that the Youths Building the Future program will expand to train 18 to 29 years-old migrants.³⁴² Furthermore, Education Secretary Delfina Gómez stated that the Education Ministry will expand its commitment to revalidating the studies and certifications of Mexicans returning from abroad.³⁴³ The Labour Mobility Program and National Employment Service will also assist in ensuring that these migrants can find jobs in the fields and locations in which they wish to work.³⁴⁴

On 25 March 2021, the Ministry of the Interior presented the National Protocol for Inter-institutional Coordination for the Protection of Girls, Boys and Adolescents Victims of Violence.³⁴⁵ This guideline will serve as a reference for territorial governments such as authorities in the state of

³³⁷ Finance, Economy and Inmujeres sign agreement “Women in digital transformation,” Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/hacienda-economia-e-inmujeres-firman-convenio-mujeres-en-la-transformacion-digital-266311?idiom=es>

³³⁸ Finance, Economy and Inmujeres sign agreement “Women in digital transformation,” Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/hacienda-economia-e-inmujeres-firman-convenio-mujeres-en-la-transformacion-digital-266311?idiom=es>

³³⁹ Finance, Economy and Inmujeres sign agreement “Women in digital transformation,” Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/hacienda-economia-e-inmujeres-firman-convenio-mujeres-en-la-transformacion-digital-266311?idiom=es>

³⁴⁰ The Government of Mexico expands assistance for migrants, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-government-of-mexico-expands-assistance-for-migrants?idiom=en>

³⁴¹ The Government of Mexico expands assistance for migrants, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-government-of-mexico-expands-assistance-for-migrants?idiom=en>

³⁴² The Government of Mexico expands assistance for migrants, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-government-of-mexico-expands-assistance-for-migrants?idiom=en>

³⁴³ The Government of Mexico expands assistance for migrants, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-government-of-mexico-expands-assistance-for-migrants?idiom=en>

³⁴⁴ The Government of Mexico expands assistance for migrants, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-government-of-mexico-expands-assistance-for-migrants?idiom=en>

³⁴⁵ Government Presents National Protocol for the Protection of Girls, Boys and Adolescents Victims of Violence, in Campeche, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/presenta-gobernacion-protocolo-nacional-para-proteccion-de-ninas-ninos-y-adolescentes-victimas-de-violencia-en-campeche>

Campeche to develop their own protocol in protecting the below 17-years-old population from violence.³⁴⁶

On 13 April 2021, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador led a press conference on how the Government of Mexico is responding to the rise of unaccompanied minor migrants from Central America.³⁴⁷ Secretary Ebrard stated that the government has increased the number of state workers involved with immigration to approximately 12,000 people.³⁴⁸ Secretary Ebrard also stated that the National System for Integral Family Development will be expanding its capacity to care for more children since minors cannot stay in immigration stations.³⁴⁹

On 28 April 2021, Director of Institutional Coordination of the Executive Secretariat of the National System for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents Francisco Castellanos García proposed several measures to benefit adolescents in conflict with the law during the Permanent Session of the Commission of Executive Secretaries of Integral Protection of the National Systems and the Federative Entities.³⁵⁰ Director García's recommendations included a directory to catalog effective programs for social reintegration between organizations and state authorities and reinforcement of sanitary protection measures for women.³⁵¹

On 28 April 2021, Mexico led a virtual meeting on the "Economic empowerment of women in the Pacific Alliance: Challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic for inclusive recovery."³⁵² There were over 200 participants at the meeting, including female leaders and representatives from the public sector, international organizations, civil society organizations and academia.³⁵³ Senior officials from the Pacific Alliance countries were also in attendance.³⁵⁴ Undersecretary of Foreign Trade Luz María de la Mora Sánchez moderated a discussion on the impact of the coronavirus on women and received recommendations on tools and policies that may help reactivate women-led companies in the Pacific.³⁵⁵ Gender Affairs Director Ana Güzmes from the United Nations Economic Commission

³⁴⁶ Government Presents National Protocol for the Protection of Girls, Boys and Adolescents Victims of Violence, in Campeche, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/presenta-gobernacion-protocolo-nacional-para-proteccion-de-ninas-ninos-y-adolescentes-victimas-de-violencia-en-campeche>

³⁴⁷ Mexico is taking actions to protect and safeguard unaccompanied migrant children, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-is-taking-actions-to-protect-and-safeguard-unaccompanied-migrant-children?idiom=en>

³⁴⁸ Mexico is taking actions to protect and safeguard unaccompanied migrant children, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-is-taking-actions-to-protect-and-safeguard-unaccompanied-migrant-children?idiom=en>

³⁴⁹ Mexico is taking actions to protect and safeguard unaccompanied migrant children, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-is-taking-actions-to-protect-and-safeguard-unaccompanied-migrant-children?idiom=en>

³⁵⁰ Work in justice is promoted for the benefit of adolescents in conflict with the law, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/se-promueve-trabajo-en-justicia-para-beneficio-de-adolescentes-en-conflicto-con-la-ley-secretaria-de-gobernacion?idiom=es>

³⁵¹ Work in justice is promoted for the benefit of adolescents in conflict with the law, Ministry of the Interior (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/segob/prensa/se-promueve-trabajo-en-justicia-para-beneficio-de-adolescentes-en-conflicto-con-la-ley-secretaria-de-gobernacion?idiom=es>

³⁵² Virtual Meeting of Pacific Alliance Businesswomen, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/virtual-meeting-of-pacific-alliance-businesswomen?idiom=en>

³⁵³ Virtual Meeting of Pacific Alliance Businesswomen, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/virtual-meeting-of-pacific-alliance-businesswomen?idiom=en>

³⁵⁴ Virtual Meeting of Pacific Alliance Businesswomen, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/virtual-meeting-of-pacific-alliance-businesswomen?idiom=en>

³⁵⁵ Virtual Meeting of Pacific Alliance Businesswomen, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/virtual-meeting-of-pacific-alliance-businesswomen?idiom=en>

for Latin America and the Caribbean also offered suggestions on how countries can support women's economic autonomy.³⁵⁶

On 30 April 2021, Secretary Ebrard spoke with Spain's Minister of Science and Innovation Pedro Duque in Madrid.³⁵⁷ During the meeting, the ministers reached a consensus on the importance of promoting cooperation in scientific research and professional training.³⁵⁸ They also noted that micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in particular would benefit from training and increased access to technology for production and trade.³⁵⁹

Mexico has taken strong action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, and increasing access to opportunities for small and medium sized enterprises and entrepreneurs by taking concrete action to prevent violence against youth, rehabilitate youth in detention centres, and increasing assistance for migrant minors, multiple symposiums and conferences on the status of women and youth in the Mexican economy, more inclusive regulations and collaboration on labour policy with international partners such as Spain. Mexico has taken partial action in the area of upskilling and reskilling workers through some regulations designed to enhance vocational training.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Tammy Cheng

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 15 December 2020, the Ministry of Education announced the success of its specialized educational research centre, partnered with various Russian universities, providing students with grants and subsidies for specialized education and research as well as training initiatives.³⁶⁰

On 28 December 2020, the Ministry of Education noted that more than 600,000 youth took part in the XIV International Congress [of] Young Professionals to discuss issues on improving and developing college education further in the country.³⁶¹ First Deputy Minister of Education Dmitry Glushko "recalled the need to involve business representatives in the secondary vocational educational system so that the enterprises [and] customers [could participate] in assessing the quality

³⁵⁶ Virtual Meeting of Pacific Alliance Businesswomen, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/virtual-meeting-of-pacific-alliance-businesswomen?idiom=en>

³⁵⁷ Mexico and Spain promote dialogue and cooperation, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-and-spain-promote-dialogue-and-cooperation?idiom=en>

³⁵⁸ Mexico and Spain promote dialogue and cooperation, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-and-spain-promote-dialogue-and-cooperation?idiom=en>

³⁵⁹ Mexico and Spain promote dialogue and cooperation, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (Mexico City) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-and-spain-promote-dialogue-and-cooperation?idiom=en>

³⁶⁰ Specialized educational research center at SFedU: first successes, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 15 December 2020. Date Accessed: 1 May 2021. <https://sfedu.ru/www2/web/press-center/news/65503>

³⁶¹ More than 600 thousand people took part in various events of the Congress Young Professionals of the Ministry of Education of Russia, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2238/more-than-600-thousand-people-took-part-in-various-events-of-the-congress-young-professionals-of-the-ministry-of-education-of-russia/>

of training,” and prepare college students for the workforce.³⁶² Furthermore, Director of WorldSkills Russia Academy Svetlana Kraichinskaya stressed the need for greater vocational training programs that could adapt to the modern economy.³⁶³

On 16 January 2021, the Russian Institute for Development of Vocational Education and Center for Advanced Vocational Training announced a joint agreement with Uzbekistan to facilitate greater interaction and cooperation among vocational institutes in both countries.³⁶⁴ “In particular, the parties discussed convergence of approaches to formation of professional standards and content of vocational education, development of cooperation within ...World Skills International ...[and organizing] early vocational guidance for schoolchildren.”³⁶⁵

On 24 February 2021, the Ministry of Education announced the creation of the Federal Methodological Center for Inclusive Education, intended to “become a platform uniting students and alumni, as well as teachers and employers in the system of vocational education and training for persons with disabilities and health limitations.”³⁶⁶

On 1 March 2021, the Ministry of Education announced that Russian teachers would resume full-time teaching at schools in Kyrgyzstan.³⁶⁷ Around 29 teachers were sent to Kyrgyzstan in 2021 to teach schoolchildren Russian and other general subjects as part of the Russian Teacher Abroad program.³⁶⁸ The program, which was started in 2019, has seen local children “improve their reading skills, show interest in literature and participate in Russian Olympiads.”³⁶⁹

On 11 March 2021, Minister of Education Sergey Kravtsov announced that more than 60 centres for continuous professional development will open in Russia in 2021.³⁷⁰ He said, “Such centres will inform about the opportunities for advanced training in the region and provide methodological

³⁶² More than 600 thousand people took part in various events of the Congress Young Professionals of the Ministry of Education of Russia, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2238/more-than-600-thousand-people-took-part-in-various-events-of-the-congress-young-professionals-of-the-ministry-of-education-of-russia/>

³⁶³ More than 600 thousand people took part in various events of the Congress Young Professionals of the Ministry of Education of Russia, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2238/more-than-600-thousand-people-took-part-in-various-events-of-the-congress-young-professionals-of-the-ministry-of-education-of-russia/>

³⁶⁴ Russia and Uzbekistan are working together to develop the secondary vocational education system, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2243/russia-and-uzbekistan-are-working-together-to-develop-the-secondary-vocational-education-system/>

³⁶⁵ Russia and Uzbekistan are working together to develop the secondary vocational education system, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2243/russia-and-uzbekistan-are-working-together-to-develop-the-secondary-vocational-education-system/>

³⁶⁶ Ministry of Education of Russia created the Federal Methodological Center for Inclusive Education, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2261/ministry-of-education-of-russia-created-the-federal-methodological-center-for-inclusive-education/>

³⁶⁷ Russia develops a humanitarian project to improve the level of Russian language proficiency abroad, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 1 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2263/russia-develops-a-humanitarian-project-to-improve-the-level-of-russian-language-proficiency-abroad/>

³⁶⁸ Russia develops a humanitarian project to improve the level of Russian language proficiency abroad, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 1 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2263/russia-develops-a-humanitarian-project-to-improve-the-level-of-russian-language-proficiency-abroad/>

³⁶⁹ Russia develops a humanitarian project to improve the level of Russian language proficiency abroad, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 1 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2263/russia-develops-a-humanitarian-project-to-improve-the-level-of-russian-language-proficiency-abroad/>

³⁷⁰ More than 60 centers for continuous professional development will open in Russia in 2021, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 11 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2267/more-than-60-centers-for-continuous-professional-development-will-open-in-russia-in-2021/>

support for supplementary education programs for teachers.³⁷¹ The centres are aimed at analyzing the existing system of supplementary education in the country.³⁷²

On 22 March 2021, Deputy Minister Glushko met with Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Kyrgyzstan Nadira Dzhusupbekova.³⁷³ During the meeting, they announced that the two countries will continue their collaborative efforts in the field of education, including the implementation of the joint project “Russian Teacher Abroad.”³⁷⁴ The project requires Russia to share in the organization of hot school meals and creation of educational infrastructure.³⁷⁵ Deputy Minister Glushko reiterated Russia’s commitment by pledging to send more Russian teachers to Kyrgyzstan.³⁷⁶

On 24 March 2021, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin met with the President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades.³⁷⁷ He supported the continued bilateral relations between the two countries and called for a strengthening of ties.³⁷⁸ Further, he reaffirmed expanding cooperation in education and youth exchanges and stressed that many Cypriot students are attending Russian Universities with financial aid granted by the federal government.³⁷⁹

On 29 March 2021, during a meeting with deputy prime ministers, Prime Minister Mishustin remarked that loans to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) will be fast tracked.³⁸⁰ This initiative comes off the back of last year’s reduction in preferential rates for SMEs and the self-employed.³⁸¹ Prime Minister Mishustin concluded, “small businesses will be able to simply apply for preferential leasing support which will make it possible for them to expand or upgrade their production at no extra cost.”³⁸²

Russia has taken strong action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers through working with regional partners to improve education opportunities, renovating and expanding training programs for discouraged workers, and providing extensive financial support for SMEs and

³⁷¹ More than 60 centers for continuous professional development will open in Russia in 2021, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 11 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2267/more-than-60-centers-for-continuous-professional-development-will-open-in-russia-in-2021/>

³⁷² More than 60 centers for continuous professional development will open in Russia in 2021, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 11 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2267/more-than-60-centers-for-continuous-professional-development-will-open-in-russia-in-2021/>

³⁷³ Russia and Kyrgyzstan develop cooperation in education, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 22 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2271/russia-and-kyrgyzstan-develop-cooperation-in-education/>

³⁷⁴ Russia and Kyrgyzstan develop cooperation in education, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 22 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2271/russia-and-kyrgyzstan-develop-cooperation-in-education/>

³⁷⁵ Russia and Kyrgyzstan develop cooperation in education, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 22 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2271/russia-and-kyrgyzstan-develop-cooperation-in-education/>

³⁷⁶ Russia and Kyrgyzstan develop cooperation in education, Ministry of Education (Moscow) 22 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2271/russia-and-kyrgyzstan-develop-cooperation-in-education/>

³⁷⁷ Mikhail Mishustin meets with President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades, Government of Russia (Moscow) 24 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41806/>

³⁷⁸ Mikhail Mishustin meets with President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades, Government of Russia (Moscow) 24 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41806/>

³⁷⁹ Mikhail Mishustin meets with President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades, Government of Russia (Moscow) 24 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41806/>

³⁸⁰ Meeting with deputy prime ministers on current issues, Government of Russia (Moscow) 29 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41835/>

³⁸¹ Meeting with deputy prime ministers on current issues, Government of Russia (Moscow) 29 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41835/>

³⁸² Meeting with deputy prime ministers on current issues, Government of Russia (Moscow) 29 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41835/>

entrepreneurships to promote innovation. Russia has taken no action in the area of increasing access to opportunities for women.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Diya Kumar Katra

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 5 January 2021, Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman signed several legal reforms as a part of the Saudi Vision 2030 that are designed to diversify the economy away from oil and achieve justice, especially for women, and accountability in a move towards codified law.³⁸³ The announcement of the reforms made special mention of women who have long held an inferior status to men.³⁸⁴ Prince bin Salman stated, “discrepancies in court rulings have led to a lack of clarity in the rules governing the incidents and practices, and has hurt many, mostly women.”³⁸⁵ The reforms are expected to bring clarity to the legal system and spur women’s rights in the countries.³⁸⁶

On 10 February 2021, the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) General Authority announced the launch of the fourth edition of the Intelligence Pioneers Program.³⁸⁷ The goal of the program is to help SMEs “reduce operational costs, raise efficiency and find new sources of income.”³⁸⁸ The SMEs that sign up for the program will be assigned a mentor for each facility to aid in adoption of technology and achievement of the Kingdom’s 2030 vision.³⁸⁹

On 7 March 2021, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (HRSD) launched the Professional Verification program.³⁹⁰ The program will introduce examinations in specialized fields to assess workers’ skills and improve the quality of labor in the country.³⁹¹ It is expected that the new

³⁸³ Saudi Arabia announces major legal reforms, paving the way for codified law, CNBC (New Jersey) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/09/saudi-arabia-announces-legal-reforms-paving-the-way-for-codified-law.html>

³⁸⁴ Saudi Arabia announces major legal reforms, paving the way for codified law, CNBC (New Jersey) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/09/saudi-arabia-announces-legal-reforms-paving-the-way-for-codified-law.html>

³⁸⁵ Saudi Arabia announces major legal reforms, paving the way for codified law, CNBC (New Jersey) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/09/saudi-arabia-announces-legal-reforms-paving-the-way-for-codified-law.html>

³⁸⁶ Saudi Arabia announces major legal reforms, paving the way for codified law, CNBC (New Jersey) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/02/09/saudi-arabia-announces-legal-reforms-paving-the-way-for-codified-law.html>

³⁸⁷ Monsha’at launches the Intelligence Pioneers program to support the digital transformation of small and medium enterprises, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23489>

³⁸⁸ Monsha’at launches the Intelligence Pioneers program to support the digital transformation of small and medium enterprises, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23489>

³⁸⁹ Monsha’at launches the Intelligence Pioneers program to support the digital transformation of small and medium enterprises, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23489>

³⁹⁰ Saudi Arabia to introduce skills assessment for labor workers, Arab News (Riyadh) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1821606/saudi-arabia>

³⁹¹ Saudi Arabia to introduce skills assessment for labor workers, Arab News (Riyadh) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1821606/saudi-arabia>

regulation will create job opportunities in the private sector and in SMEs.³⁹² Further, young Saudis have been encouraged to join newly created professional centres to enhance their capabilities.³⁹³

On 9 March 2021, HRSD held a meeting for the Under Secretary for Empowerment of Women Hind Al Zahid who spoke about efforts to empower women and the role of women in economic development.³⁹⁴

On 29 March 2021, SMEs General Authority launched the SME Bank.³⁹⁵ The bank focuses on providing for all of SMEs financial needs through the digital platform, ensuring quick and easy access.³⁹⁶ The initiative is in line with the national strategy for SMEs and will act as an umbrella for all financing solution including lending.³⁹⁷ It is hoped that the bank will increase opportunities for growth and prosperity for SMEs.³⁹⁸

On 4 April 2021, the King Abdul Aziz Foundation for Giftedness and Creativity (Mawhiba) announced the discovery of more than 11,000 students from its National Program for Gifted Students.³⁹⁹ The recognized students received access to the specialized services of Mawhiba, facilitating greater exposure of these youth to world-class educational opportunities.⁴⁰⁰

On 12 April 2021, the Digital Cooperation Organization met for the first time, appointing Saudi national Deemah Alyahya as its first secretary general.⁴⁰¹ The meeting passed five initiatives regarding women empowerment and the promotion of SMEs, focusing on digital transformation.⁴⁰²

On 20 April 2021, the Future Women Society (FWS), which was founded under the HRSD, launched a research, innovation and development unit to further advance the position of women and their

³⁹² Saudi Arabia to introduce skills assessment for labor workers, Arab News (Riyadh) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1821606/saudi-arabia>

³⁹³ Saudi Arabia to introduce skills assessment for labor workers, Arab News (Riyadh) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1821606/saudi-arabia>

³⁹⁴ The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development celebrates the International Women's Day, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (Riyadh) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://hrsd.gov.sa/ar/node/810122>

³⁹⁵ Monshaat launches the Small and Medium Enterprises Bank to promote sector growth and bridge the financing gap, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23603>

³⁹⁶ Monshaat launches the Small and Medium Enterprises Bank to promote sector growth and bridge the financing gap, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23603>

³⁹⁷ Monshaat launches the Small and Medium Enterprises Bank to promote sector growth and bridge the financing gap, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23603>

³⁹⁸ Monshaat launches the Small and Medium Enterprises Bank to promote sector growth and bridge the financing gap, Small and Medium Enterprises General Authority (Riyadh) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.monshaat.gov.sa/ar/news/23603>

³⁹⁹ Student program reaches thousands of new gifted children across Saudi Arabia, Arab News (Riyadh) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1837596/saudi-arabia>

⁴⁰⁰ Student program reaches thousands of new gifted children across Saudi Arabia, Arab News (Riyadh) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1837596/saudi-arabia>

⁴⁰¹ Saudi Arabia Elected President of Digital Cooperation Organization and "Deema Al-Yahya" Appointed the First Saudi Woman as Secretary General, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Riyadh) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.mcit.gov.sa/en/media-center/news/600796>

⁴⁰² Saudi Arabia Elected President of Digital Cooperation Organization and "Deema Al-Yahya" Appointed the First Saudi Woman as Secretary General, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Riyadh) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.mcit.gov.sa/en/media-center/news/600796>

inclusion in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.⁴⁰³ This unit was launched in recognition of the fact that the role of women in technology still remains low, and forms a part of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030's goals.⁴⁰⁴ Chairperson of the FWS Gareebah Al-Twaiher noted that "FWS is working on building its own financial model to achieve financial sustainability that relies on inventing knowledge-based products generating a capital for investment."⁴⁰⁵

Saudi Arabia has taken strong action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for women and increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs through robust financial support for improving women's participation in the labour market, establishing and encouraging greater competitiveness among SMEs in the international economy. Saudi Arabia has taken partial action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth through promoting university scholarships. Saudi Arabia has taken no action in the area of upskilling and reskilling of workers.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Sara Mostafa

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 29 November 2020, Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities Maite Nkoana-Mashabane led the South African youth delegates to the 6th BRICS Summit.⁴⁰⁶ The BRICS Youth Summit aims to increase youth participation in programmes and address policies to empower young people.⁴⁰⁷ The specific goal of South Africa at the summit was to provide youth with skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics related fields.⁴⁰⁸ South Africa's priorities included "creating employment in areas with high absorption capacity such as the fourth industrial revolution, ocean economy, green economy, mineral resources and energy, tourism, manufacturing; supporting young entrepreneurs; promoting market access as well as free and fair trade amongst the BRICS nations; and youth volunteer exchange promotion."⁴⁰⁹

On 18 December 2020, the Free State Department of Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs partnered with Standard Bank to announce the launch of the Yes4Youth

⁴⁰³ Future Women Society seeks to empower Saudi women in the sciences, Arab News (Riyadh) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1845501/saudi-arabia>

⁴⁰⁴ Future Women Society seeks to empower Saudi women in the sciences, Arab News (Riyadh) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1845501/saudi-arabia>

⁴⁰⁵ Future Women Society seeks to empower Saudi women in the sciences, Arab News (Riyadh) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1845501/saudi-arabia>

⁴⁰⁶ Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane leads youth delegation to sixth Brics Summit, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-delegation-6th-brics-summit-2-dec-2020-0000>

⁴⁰⁷ Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane leads youth delegation to sixth Brics Summit, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-delegation-6th-brics-summit-2-dec-2020-0000>

⁴⁰⁸ Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane leads youth delegation to sixth Brics Summit, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-delegation-6th-brics-summit-2-dec-2020-0000>

⁴⁰⁹ Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane leads youth delegation to sixth Brics Summit, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-delegation-6th-brics-summit-2-dec-2020-0000>

Programme.⁴¹⁰ This programme provides unemployed youth with work experience and introduces them to business and entrepreneurship by placing them in micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) throughout the province.⁴¹¹

On 18 January 2021, South Africa's National School of Government partnered with the China National Academy of Governance to offer courses to middle and senior managers in public service on governance and emergency management.⁴¹² This partnership aims to train public servants in governance and emergency response.⁴¹³ The course will cover China's governance model for development outcomes, the capacity of the state to deal with emergencies and the Chinese model of disaster management and the management of Covid-19.⁴¹⁴

On 19 January 2021, South Africa's National School of Government partnered with Ecole Nationale d'Administration of France to offer courses on Public Affairs Management in the Digital Era and Leadership in Times of Crisis and Complexity to public servants.⁴¹⁵ This partnership aims to train public servants in leadership management and digital transformation in order to reduce the gap between public administration and the changing digital world.⁴¹⁶

On 26 January 2021, the Department of Small Business Development along with its agency Small Enterprise Finance Agency (SEFA) partnered with the Department of Tourism to launch the Tourism Equity Fund.⁴¹⁷ The SEFA will provide up to ZAR15 million per enterprise. MSMEs will also receive mentorship support, market access, and investment monitoring.⁴¹⁸ The Tourism Equity

⁴¹⁰ Free State Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs launches Yes4Youth Programme, South African Government (Bloemfontein) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/free-state-economic-small-business-development-tourism-and-environmental-affairs-18-dec>

⁴¹¹ Free State Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs launches Yes4Youth Programme, South African Government (Bloemfontein) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/free-state-economic-small-business-development-tourism-and-environmental-affairs-18-dec>

⁴¹² School of Government on training public servants on governance and management of emergencies such as Covid-19, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/school-government-training-public-servants-governance-and-management-emergencies-such-covid>

⁴¹³ School of Government on training public servants on governance and management of emergencies such as Covid-19, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/school-government-training-public-servants-governance-and-management-emergencies-such-covid>

⁴¹⁴ School of Government on training public servants on governance and management of emergencies such as Covid-19, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/school-government-training-public-servants-governance-and-management-emergencies-such-covid>

⁴¹⁵ School of Government on high level training for public servants on crisis leadership management and digital transformation, South African Government (Pretoria) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/school-government-high-level-training-public-servants-crisis-leadership-management-and>

⁴¹⁶ School of Government on high level training for public servants on crisis leadership management and digital transformation, South African Government (Pretoria) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/school-government-high-level-training-public-servants-crisis-leadership-management-and>

⁴¹⁷ Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni: Tourism Equity Fund launch, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-khumbudzo-ntshavheni-tourism-equity-fund-launch-26-jan-2021-0000>

⁴¹⁸ Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni: Tourism Equity Fund launch, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-khumbudzo-ntshavheni-tourism-equity-fund-launch-26-jan-2021-0000>

Fund seeks to provide both financial and non-financial support for MSMEs in the growing tourism industry.⁴¹⁹

On 9 February 2021, Minister for Small Business Development Khumbudzo Ntshavheni and the National Youth Development Agency hosted a webinar to follow up on the MSME and cooperative commitments made in the 2020 State of the National Address.⁴²⁰ The goal is to update the public on the progress of the 1,000 small, micro and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives that participated in the programme supported by President Cyril Ramaphosa.⁴²¹

On 24 February 2021, Minister of Finance Tito Mboweni presented the 2021 budget.⁴²² The budget includes a ZAR11 billion increase devoted to public employment programs to fund the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative.⁴²³ The budget also includes an allocation of ZAR4 billion over the medium term to township and rural enterprises.⁴²⁴ These budget allocations aim to create jobs for young people, as well as increased funding for MSMEs.⁴²⁵

On 25 February 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa attended the virtual engagement MSMEs and Cooperatives to follow up on the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan presented in October 2020.⁴²⁶ President Ramaphosa acknowledged the success of the actions taken to aid MSMEs and cooperatives as well as specified further action that will be taken to aid these enterprises.⁴²⁷

On 2 March 2021, President Ramaphosa held a virtual discussion with Queen Máxima of the Netherlands to discuss commitments to advancing economic inclusion for women in Africa.⁴²⁸ The

⁴¹⁹ Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni: Tourism Equity Fund launch, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-khumbudzo-ntshavheni-tourism-equity-fund-launch-26-jan-2021-0000>

⁴²⁰ Minister for Small Business Development to host a webinar in collaboration with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) on commitments made to SMME and cooperatives in the 2020 State of the Nation Address, South African Government (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-small-business-development-host-webinar-collaboration-national-youth-development>

⁴²¹ Minister for Small Business Development to host a webinar in collaboration with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) on commitments made to SMME and cooperatives in the 2020 State of the Nation Address, South African Government (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-small-business-development-host-webinar-collaboration-national-youth-development>

⁴²² Minister Tito Mboweni: 2021 Budget Speech, South African Government (Pretoria) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-tito-mboweni-2021-budget-speech-24-feb-2021-0000>

⁴²³ Minister Tito Mboweni: 2021 Budget Speech, South African Government (Pretoria) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-tito-mboweni-2021-budget-speech-24-feb-2021-0000>

⁴²⁴ Minister Tito Mboweni: 2021 Budget Speech, South African Government (Pretoria) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-tito-mboweni-2021-budget-speech-24-feb-2021-0000>

⁴²⁵ Minister Tito Mboweni: 2021 Budget Speech, South African Government (Pretoria) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-tito-mboweni-2021-budget-speech-24-feb-2021-0000>

⁴²⁶ Remarks by President Cyril Ramaphosa at the virtual engagement with SMMEs and Cooperatives, 25 February 2021, South African Government (Pretoria) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-virtual-engagement-smmes-and-cooperatives-25-feb-2021-0000>

⁴²⁷ Remarks by President Cyril Ramaphosa at the virtual engagement with SMMEs and Cooperatives, 25 February 2021, South African Government (Pretoria) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-virtual-engagement-smmes-and-cooperatives-25-feb-2021-0000>

⁴²⁸ President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-and-un-special-advocate-queen-maxima-share-commitment-financial>

goal was to address the challenges of empowerment for African women and to develop tangible action for economic and digital liberation.⁴²⁹

On 8 March 2021, Minister of Tourism Mmamoloko Kubayi–Ngubane hosted a webinar to commemorate International Women Day.⁴³⁰ The webinar provided a platform for the Women in Tourism Programme to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on SMEs and mitigation methods.⁴³¹

On 17 March 2021, Deputy President David Mabuza announced the commitment to improving opportunities for youth post-COVID-19.⁴³² This commitment aims to develop strategies to deal with poverty and inequality and achieve social cohesion by targeting women, youth, and people with disabilities.⁴³³

On 25 March 2021, President Ramaphosa chaired the 30th African Peer Review Forum of Heads of State and Government for the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).⁴³⁴ The goal of the APRM is to “promote the African Union’s shared values of democratic governance and inclusive development.”⁴³⁵ The APRM has developed workshops and training programmes focused on vocational education in order to meet the goals of the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and the United Nations’ Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.⁴³⁶

On 28 April 2021, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Blade Nzimande welcomed the partnership of the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (PSETA), Microsoft and Afrika Tikkun at the PSETA-Microsoft-Afrika Tikkun Global Skills Initiative South Africa

⁴²⁹ President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-and-un-special-advocate-queen-maxima-share-commitment-financial>

⁴³⁰ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi–Ngubane joins global observation of International Women Day, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi%E2%80%93ngubane-joins-global-observation-international-women-day-11-mar>

⁴³¹ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi–Ngubane joins global observation of International Women Day, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi%E2%80%93ngubane-joins-global-observation-international-women-day-11-mar>

⁴³² Deputy President challenges society to think of new ways to empower youth in a post Covid-19 era, South African Government (Pretoria) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-president-david-mabuza-youth-empowerment-post-coronavirus-covid-19-era-17-mar-2021>

⁴³³ Deputy President challenges society to think of new ways to empower youth in a post Covid-19 era, South African Government (Pretoria) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-president-david-mabuza-youth-empowerment-post-coronavirus-covid-19-era-17-mar-2021>

⁴³⁴ Opening Remarks by Chairperson of the African Peer Review Forum President Cyril Ramaphosa at the 30th APR Forum of Heads of State and Government, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/newsletters/opening-remarks-chairperson-african-peer-review-forum-president-cyril-ramaphosa-30th%C2%A0apr-forum-heads-state-and-government>

⁴³⁵ Opening Remarks by Chairperson of the African Peer Review Forum President Cyril Ramaphosa at the 30th APR Forum of Heads of State and Government, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/newsletters/opening-remarks-chairperson-african-peer-review-forum-president-cyril-ramaphosa-30th%C2%A0apr-forum-heads-state-and-government>

⁴³⁶ Opening Remarks by Chairperson of the African Peer Review Forum President Cyril Ramaphosa at the 30th APR Forum of Heads of State and Government, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/newsletters/opening-remarks-chairperson-african-peer-review-forum-president-cyril-ramaphosa-30th%C2%A0apr-forum-heads-state-and-government>

(GSISA) Launch.⁴³⁷ The GSISA is a public-private partnership between the PSETA, Microsoft and Afrika Tikkun to provide digital skills to youth in South Africa.⁴³⁸

South Africa has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and upskilling of workers. Through the 16 Days Campaign of No-Violence Against Women and Children, the domestic and international partnerships to upskill youth and workers as well as the development of the tourism industry for SMEs, South Africa has fully complied with its commitments to reducing inequalities and promoting inclusive growth.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Rebecca Jones

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On October 8, 2020, Turkey introduced the “My Digital Job Project,” to be run from January 2020 to June 2021 by the Turkish Vodafone Foundation and Turkish Occupation Institution.⁴³⁹ The aim of the project is to increase the literacy and digital vocational competencies of women to increase their employability through training in digital and technology education as well as boosting social media and marketing literacy skills.⁴⁴⁰

On 28 January 2021, Youth and Sports Minister Mehmet Muharrem Kasapoglu met with Sivas Mayor Hilmi Bilgin, Sivas Governor Salih Ayhan and others to discuss protocols regarding youth and sports investment.⁴⁴¹ Kasapoglu said, “Our youth investments show a serious development all over our country. We have to move higher within the framework of the cooperation I have just mentioned. We strengthen this with investments. so far, there is a youth and sports investment of over TRY1 billion.”⁴⁴²

On 16 March 2021, the Ministry of Youth and Sports signed a memorandum with secondary education institutions to provide 100 per cent scholarship opportunities to national athletes.⁴⁴³

⁴³⁷ Address by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Dr Blade Nzimande on the occasion of the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (PSETA) – Microsoft – Afrika Tikkun Global Skills Initiative South Africa launch 28 April 2021, South African Government (Pretoria) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-launch-pseta-microsoft-afrika-tikkun-global-skills-initiative-south>

⁴³⁸ Address by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Dr Blade Nzimande on the occasion of the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (PSETA) – Microsoft – Afrika Tikkun Global Skills Initiative South Africa launch 28 April 2021, South African Government (Pretoria) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-launch-pseta-microsoft-afrika-tikkun-global-skills-initiative-south>

⁴³⁹ National Reforms in Vocational Education and Training and Adult Learning, European Commission (Ankara) 8 October 2020. Date Accessed: 10 May 2021. https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/national-reforms-vocational-education-and-training-and-adult-learning-83_en

⁴⁴⁰ National Reforms in Vocational Education and Training and Adult Learning, European Commission (Ankara) 8 October 2020. Date Accessed: 10 May 2021. https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/national-reforms-vocational-education-and-training-and-adult-learning-83_en

⁴⁴¹ Giant Investment in Sivas from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 28 January 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/222799/genclik-ve-spor-bakanligindan-sivasa-dev-yatirim.aspx>

⁴⁴² Giant Investment in Sivas from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 28 January 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/222799/genclik-ve-spor-bakanligindan-sivasa-dev-yatirim.aspx>

⁴⁴³ Full scholarship for National Athletes in Secondary Education, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 16 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/226704/milli-sporculara-ortaogretimde-tam-burs-imkani.aspx>

Minister Kasapoglu remarked that this agreement paves the way for free education of and offers youth both a sporting and an academic career.⁴⁴⁴ He added that the goal going forward is to implement this practice in all levels of education.⁴⁴⁵

On 30 March 2021, the Ministry of Industry and Technology announced it would support 30,000 entrepreneurs and 132 SMEs “to improve their knowledge and skills in starting and running a business” by assisting them in opening up to international markets and facilitating production and manufacturing.⁴⁴⁶

On 3 April 2021, Minister of Family, Labor and Social Services Zehra Selçuk announced that the “Turkey’s Daughters Engineer Project” has reached 22,500 high school students.⁴⁴⁷ She said, “we launched in support of girls who want to be engineers’ Turkey’s Project Engineer in the form of two daughters are continuing program, including high school and college.” According to the program, 150 volunteer teachers will introduce Engineering activities to female students through training, games, virtual reality and role model meetings.

On 4 April 2021, Minister Kasapoğlu delivered remarks at the 7th International Young Businessmen Congress, noting that “Today, young entrepreneurs are the locomotive of the world economy.”⁴⁴⁸ Minister Kasapoğlu outlined several initiatives Turkey has implemented, including providing “comprehensive services to young people in all fields, with workshops [for] coding, robotics, software studies and support for initiative project,” through “youth centers, youth camps, academies and youth clubs.”⁴⁴⁹

On 6 April 2021, Minister Selçuk announced that the Female Entrepreneurship Rate had increased to 19.3 per cent upwards from 15 per cent as of the last count.⁴⁵⁰ Through the establishment of “women’s cooperatives” that take into account Turkey’s cultural and religious values, approximately 216 thousand women were involved, with plans to expand the number of cooperatives across the country over the coming year through the novel “Project of Empowering Women Through Cooperatives.”⁴⁵¹

⁴⁴⁴ Full scholarship for National Athletes in Secondary Education, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 16 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/226704/milli-sporculara-ortaogretimde-tam-burs-imkani.aspx>

⁴⁴⁵ Full scholarship for National Athletes in Secondary Education, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 16 March 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/226704/milli-sporculara-ortaogretimde-tam-burs-imkani.aspx>

⁴⁴⁶ KOSGEB Will Support 30 Thousand Entrepreneurs This Year, KOSGEB (Ankara) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 16 May 2021. <https://www.kosgeb.gov.tr/site/tr/genel/detay/7745/kosgeb-bu-yil-30-bin-girisimciyi-destekleyecek>

⁴⁴⁷ Selcuk Minister: "Turkey's Daughters Project Engineer 22,500 75 high school students Reaching", Republic of Turkey Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services (Ankara) 3 April 2021. Date Accessed: 5 April 2021. <https://www.ailevecalisma.gov.tr/tr-tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-turkiye-nin-muhendis-kizlari-projesi-ile-75-lisede-22-500-ogrenciye-ulastik/>

⁴⁴⁸ Today, Young Entrepreneurs are the Locomotive of the World Economy, Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/227361/bugun-dunya-ekonomisinin-lokomotifi-genc-girisimcilerdir.aspx>

⁴⁴⁹ Today, Young Entrepreneurs are the Locomotive of the World Economy, Ministry of Youth and Sports (Ankara) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://gsb.gov.tr/HaberDetaylari/3/227361/bugun-dunya-ekonomisinin-lokomotifi-genc-girisimcilerdir.aspx>

⁴⁵⁰ Minister Selçuk: Female Entrepreneurship Rate Increased to 19.3 Percent, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-girisimci-orani-yuzde-19-3-e-yukseldi/>

⁴⁵¹ Minister Selçuk: Female Entrepreneurship Rate Increased to 19.3 Percent, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-girisimci-orani-yuzde-19-3-e-yukseldi/>

On 19 April 2021, Minister Selçuk announced the implementation of the “Project of Empowering Women Through Cooperatives,” aiming “to provide awareness training to eight thousand people in order to increase women’s employment and strengthen women’s cooperatives.” Approximately 3,500 cooperatives are expected to be established in conjunction with non-governmental organizations, professional organizations, unions and universities, along with new provisions for consultant groups for women’s entrepreneurship.⁴⁵²

Turkey has taken strong action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs and upskilling and reskilling of workers through highly interconnected initiatives that involve training and facilitating women’s entrepreneurship, ensuring effective representation of women in SMEs and improving their competitiveness in the international economy and strong investments in reinforcing the knowledge economy. Turkey has taken partial action in the area of increasing access to opportunities for youth through increased funding of scholarships and offering specialized camps for youth. Through these initiatives, Turkey has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Simran Arulraj and Malhaar Mobarir

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 8 February 2021, the Department for Work and Pensions increased the number of “retraining places on the Sector-based Work Academy Programme (SWAP) to 80,000 for the next financial year – building on the 40,000 already successfully delivered over the last eight months.”⁴⁵³ The program is a six-week program which enables participants to “learn new skills, gain hands-on work experience and build their contacts in a new line of work.”⁴⁵⁴ At the end of the program, “every SWAP participant is guaranteed an interview at the end of their course for a live job vacancy.”⁴⁵⁵

On 10 February 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office announced the Assistive Technology Impact Fund funded through UK Aid and led by the Global Disability Innovation Hub.⁴⁵⁶ Over five years, the fund will Assistive Technology ventures in Africa with up to

⁴⁵² Minister Selçuk: “We Will Give Awareness Training To 8 Thousand People to Increase Female Employment,” Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services (Ankara) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021.

<https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-istihdaminin-arttirilmasi-icin-8-bin-kisiye-farkindalik-egitimi-verecegiz/>

⁴⁵³ Government commits to 80,000 new SWAPs opportunities, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-commits-to-80-000-new-swaps-opportunities>

⁴⁵⁴ Government commits to 80,000 new SWAPs opportunities, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-commits-to-80-000-new-swaps-opportunities>

⁴⁵⁵ Government commits to 80,000 new SWAPs opportunities, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-commits-to-80-000-new-swaps-opportunities>

⁴⁵⁶ Assistive Technology Impact Fund, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/international-development-funding/assistive-technology-impact-fund-research-and-innovation>

GPB200,000 in grant capital, enabling “innovative technology solutions to better reach people with disabilities in Africa.”⁴⁵⁷

On 10 February 2021, UK Aid provided 14 charities based in the UK with Small Charities Challenge Fund grants of up to GPB50,000.⁴⁵⁸ These grants will support projects that support disability inclusion, education, health, and prosperity in 10 developing countries across Africa and Asia.⁴⁵⁹

On 11 February 2021, the UK and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Michael Gove announced GPB20 million in funding for the SME Brexit Support Fund.⁴⁶⁰ The new fund will “support businesses prepare for the new import controls coming into force from April and July.”⁴⁶¹ Chancellor Gove stated that the “new targeted funding will see small businesses get more of the practical support they need to adjust to the new processes and prepare for future changes.”⁴⁶²

On 3 March 2021, the United Kingdom announced as part of its 2021 budget a new UK-wide program to upskill over 30,000 small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) over 3 years and will be 90 per cent subsidized by the government.⁴⁶³ Furthermore, the government announced it will launch a new initiative to help 100,000 SMEs save time and money by adopting productivity-enhancing software, featuring a combined voucher of GBP5,000 that covers up to half the costs of software.⁴⁶⁴

On 3 March 2021, the UK published the 2021 budget which expands and increases “the intensive support offered by the Department for Work and Pensions in Great Britain to young jobseekers, providing a guaranteed foundation of support to all those aged 18-24 in the Intensive Work Search group in Universal Credit.”⁴⁶⁵

On 11 March 2021, Deputy Head of the UK Delegation to the Organization for Safety and Cooperation in Europe Nicola Murray stated that empowering “women and girls, and preventing violence against them, is a UK priority.”⁴⁶⁶ She reaffirmed the UK’s commitment to “to ensuring every girl receives at least 12 years of quality education, and to ending the preventable deaths of mothers, new-born babies and children by 2030.”⁴⁶⁷ She stated that, during the UK’s COP26

⁴⁵⁷ Assistive Technology Impact Fund, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/international-development-funding/assistive-technology-impact-fund-research-and-innovation>

⁴⁵⁸ 14 charities receive Small Charities Challenge Fund grants, UK Aid (London) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.ukaidirect.org/news/14-charities-receive-small-charities-challenge-fund-grants/>

⁴⁵⁹ 14 charities receive Small Charities Challenge Fund grants, UK Aid (London) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.ukaidirect.org/news/14-charities-receive-small-charities-challenge-fund-grants/>

⁴⁶⁰ Government announces £20 million SME Brexit Support Fund, Cabinet Office, and The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP (London) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-20-million-sme-brexit-support-fund>

⁴⁶¹ Government announces £20 million SME Brexit Support Fund, Cabinet Office, and The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP (London) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-20-million-sme-brexit-support-fund>

⁴⁶² Government announces £20 million SME Brexit Support Fund, Cabinet Office, and The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP (London) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-20-million-sme-brexit-support-fund>

⁴⁶³ Budget 2021: Protecting the Jobs and Livelihoods of the British People, HM Treasury (London) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/budget-2021-documents>

⁴⁶⁴ Budget 2021: Protecting the Jobs and Livelihoods of the British People, HM Treasury (London) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/budget-2021-documents>

⁴⁶⁵ Budget 2021: Protecting the Jobs and Livelihoods of the British People, HM Treasury (London) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/budget-2021-documents>

⁴⁶⁶ International women's day: UK statement, UK Delegation to the OSCE (Austria) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-womens-day-uk-statement>

⁴⁶⁷ International women's day: UK statement, UK Delegation to the OSCE (Austria) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-womens-day-uk-statement>

presidency, they would “champion diversity,” encouraging other countries in “stepping up their commitments to center gender equality in climate action and finance.”⁴⁶⁸

On 19 March 2021, the UK Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Support launched a GBP5 billion government infrastructure project to build Gigabit broadband that will support high growth tech sectors, creative industries, and job creation across rural areas.⁴⁶⁹ Additionally, the government launched GBP210 million in speed increasing vouchers and GBP110m to connect up to 7,000 rural public buildings such as GP surgeries, libraries and schools.⁴⁷⁰

On 19 March 2021, the Department of Education announced the awarding of over GBP500,000 “to expand successful work programs to help more people gain in demand sector-specific skills.”⁴⁷¹ The money will be directed towards two regions to “expand the delivery of the successful construction skills bootcamps,” which “offer free, flexible courses lasting up to 16 weeks covering areas including construction, digital and technical.”⁴⁷² Minister for Apprenticeships Gillian Keegan said “Skills bootcamps are unique, giving people the chance to upskill or retrain for free over a short period of time, with a clear line of sight to a job at the end.”⁴⁷³

On 25 March 2021, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Women, Elizabeth Rose Berridge spoke of the appointment of Helen Grant to the role of Special Envoy on Girl’s Education, in which she will “champion the UK’s global expertise on education and secure backing for ambitious initiatives to achieve our global objectives.”⁴⁷⁴ Furthermore, she announced that in the capacity of the 2021 UN climate change conference (COP26) host, the UK will host a conference that “advances gender-responsive climate action and finance” and “will amplify the voices of women, girls and marginalized people and empower them to act as decision-makers, advocates and leaders.”⁴⁷⁵

On 26 March 2021, Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick and Minister for Housing and Rough Sleeping Eddie Hughes announced the next phase of a GBP165 million program for vulnerable families, now known as the Supporting Families program.⁴⁷⁶ The program has supported over 400,000 vulnerable families in the United Kingdom, including supporting people leaving abusive relationships, ensuring people with mental health issues get the support they need and helping people find employment

⁴⁶⁸ International women's day: UK statement, UK Delegation to the OSCE (Austria) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-womens-day-uk-statement>

⁴⁶⁹ Government launches new £5bn ‘Project Gigabit’, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-5bn-project-gigabit>

⁴⁷⁰ Government launches new £5bn ‘Project Gigabit’, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-5bn-project-gigabit>

⁴⁷¹ Funding boost for construction skills bootcamps, Department for Education (London) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-boost-for-construction-skills-bootcamps>

⁴⁷² Funding boost for construction skills bootcamps, Department for Education (London) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-boost-for-construction-skills-bootcamps>

⁴⁷³ Funding boost for construction skills bootcamps, Department for Education (London) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-boost-for-construction-skills-bootcamps>

⁴⁷⁴ Building back better and fairer for women and girls around the world, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Government Equalities Office, and Baroness Berridge of The Vale of Catmose (London) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/building-back-better-and-fairer-for-women-and-girls-around-the-world>

⁴⁷⁵ Building back better and fairer for women and girls around the world, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Government Equalities Office, and Baroness Berridge of The Vale of Catmose (London) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/building-back-better-and-fairer-for-women-and-girls-around-the-world>

⁴⁷⁶ Next phase of £165 million programme for vulnerable families launched, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Eddie Hughes MP, and The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP (London) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-phase-of-165-million-programme-for-vulnerable-families-launched>

through a “whole family” approach.⁴⁷⁷ The new phase will provide more funding to tackle the UK’s “moral mission to tackle intergenerational unemployment, crime, domestic abuse and family breakdown.”⁴⁷⁸

On 8 April 2021, the Department for Work and Pensions and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Employment Mims Davies announced that the Department would recruit “an extra 150 specialist Youth Employability Coaches across the UK,” enabling thousands of more young people to “benefit from six-month intensive employment support packages.”⁴⁷⁹ Youth Employability Coaches “are specially trained to support young jobseekers facing significant barriers to get on the first rung of the jobs ladder.”⁴⁸⁰

On 9 April 2021, Minister for the School System Vicky Berridge announced that children “with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or requiring alternative provision in England will benefit from” a GBP280 million investment.⁴⁸¹ She stated that “Every child or young person with SEND should go to school feeling confident that they will get the tailored support they need at school, and every teacher should be equipped with the right facilities to teach those pupils.”⁴⁸²

On 29 April 2021, the Trade Act was granted Royal Assent and officially became law, which “bestows powers necessary to bring new trade deals into being” and “allows the UK to put the agreements it strikes as a newly independent 21-century trading nation on to the statute books.”⁴⁸³ The new law allows for “British householders’ and businesses’ interests to be put first in future agreements” and “will provide a platform for UK businesses to access new fast-growing markets, which in turn will help create jobs, encourage investment and aid the recovery from COVID-19.”⁴⁸⁴

The United Kingdom has taken strong action in the areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and entrepreneurs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers. Through new domestic job and upskilling opportunities for youth, extensive financial support and initiatives to increase the competitiveness of UK SMEs in the global economy, and its promotion of gender equality policies in the workforce domestically and internationally, the UK has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

⁴⁷⁷ Next phase of £165 million programme for vulnerable families launched, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Eddie Hughes MP, and The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP (London) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-phase-of-165-million-programme-for-vulnerable-families-launched>

⁴⁷⁸ Next phase of £165 million programme for vulnerable families launched, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Eddie Hughes MP, and The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP (London) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-phase-of-165-million-programme-for-vulnerable-families-launched>

⁴⁷⁹ Specialist job coaches to help young people onto the jobs ladder, Department for Work and Pensions and Mims Davies MP (London) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/specialist-job-coaches-to-help-young-people-onto-the-jobs-ladder>

⁴⁸⁰ Specialist job coaches to help young people onto the jobs ladder, Department for Work and Pensions and Mims Davies MP (London) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/specialist-job-coaches-to-help-young-people-onto-the-jobs-ladder>

⁴⁸¹ £280m capital funding boost for children and young people with SEND, Department for Education, Vicky Ford MP (London) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/280m-capital-funding-boost-for-children-and-young-people-with-send>

⁴⁸² £280m capital funding boost for children and young people with SEND, Department for Education, Vicky Ford MP (London) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/280m-capital-funding-boost-for-children-and-young-people-with-send>

⁴⁸³ Historic Trade Act becomes law, Department for International Trade, and The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/historic-trade-act-becomes-law>

⁴⁸⁴ Historic Trade Act becomes law, Department for International Trade, and The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/historic-trade-act-becomes-law>

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

Analyst: Derek Thiele

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 20 January 2021, President Joseph Biden announced the American Rescue Plan.⁴⁸⁵ Part of this plan allocates USD10 billion to state and tribal governments which will be used to fund small business credit expansion initiatives.⁴⁸⁶ The plan also includes support for businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged people, as well as support for businesses with fewer than 10 employees.⁴⁸⁷ In addition, the American Rescue Plan outlines an expansion of the Child Tax Credit aimed at reducing child poverty.⁴⁸⁸

On 9 February 2021, the Federal Reserve Board announced the second extension of a rule to allow certain bank directors and shareholders to apply to their banks for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans for their small businesses.⁴⁸⁹ This extension aims to strengthen the effectiveness of the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program.⁴⁹⁰

On 17 February 2021, President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris met with a group of labor leaders to discuss the American Rescue Plan and President Biden's plan for infrastructure. At this meeting, President Biden endorsed Congressman Bobby Scott's bipartisan National Apprenticeship Act of 2021 to expand registered apprenticeships which is estimated to create nearly one million apprenticeship opportunities.⁴⁹¹ President Biden also planned to reinstate the National Advisory Committee on Apprenticeships which appoints diverse stakeholders to develop registered apprenticeships in all communities.⁴⁹² Finally, President Biden rescinded Executive Order 13801 to

⁴⁸⁵ President Biden Announces American Rescue Plan, The White House (Washington) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/legislation/2021/01/20/president-biden-announces-american-rescue-plan/>

⁴⁸⁶ FACT SHEET: The American Rescue Plan Will Deliver Immediate Economic Relief to Families, The U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/featured-stories/fact-sheet-the-american-rescue-plan-will-deliver-immediate-economic-relief-to-families>

⁴⁸⁷ FACT SHEET: The American Rescue Plan Will Deliver Immediate Economic Relief to Families, The U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/featured-stories/fact-sheet-the-american-rescue-plan-will-deliver-immediate-economic-relief-to-families>

⁴⁸⁸ FACT SHEET: The American Rescue Plan Will Deliver Immediate Economic Relief to Families, The U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/featured-stories/fact-sheet-the-american-rescue-plan-will-deliver-immediate-economic-relief-to-families>

⁴⁸⁹ Federal Reserve Board announces the second extension of a rule to bolster the effectiveness of the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Federal Reserve System (Washington) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20210209a.htm>

⁴⁹⁰ Federal Reserve Board announces the second extension of a rule to bolster the effectiveness of the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Federal Reserve System (Washington) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20210209a.htm>

⁴⁹¹ Fact Sheet: Biden Administration to Take Steps to Bolster Registered Apprenticeships, The White House (Washington) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/17/fact-sheet-biden-administration-to-take-steps-to-bolster-registered-apprenticeships/>

⁴⁹² Fact Sheet: Biden Administration to Take Steps to Bolster Registered Apprenticeships, The White House (Washington) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/17/fact-sheet-biden-administration-to-take-steps-to-bolster-registered-apprenticeships/>

reverse industry-recognized apprenticeship programs, which is claimed to have fewer quality standards than registered apprenticeship programs.⁴⁹³

On 18 February 2021, Domestic Policy Advisor Susan Rice and White House Public Engagement Director and Senior Advisor Cedric Richmond hosted a virtual meeting with various youth advocates to discuss community violence prevention.⁴⁹⁴ The discussion prioritized having youth present for violence prevention policy making in their communities.⁴⁹⁵

On 22 February 2021, President Biden announced further changes to the PPP.⁴⁹⁶ Among these changes were a 14-day PPP loan application period exclusively for small business and nonprofits with fewer than 20 employees, removal of barriers to apply for these loans and ease of access to forgivable loans for one person businesses.⁴⁹⁷

On 23 February 2021, President Biden and Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau outlined the Roadmap for a renewed partnership between the United States and Canada.⁴⁹⁸ The Roadmap outlined the general joint efforts of the United States and Canada including action to combat COVID-19 and accelerate economic recovery for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), develop sustainable and inclusive economic recovery for women, youth, indigenous peoples, and underrepresented groups, and advance diversity and inclusion to promote gender equality and women empowerment.⁴⁹⁹

On 17 March 2021, the Department of Labor announced USD25 million for grants to “provide education and employment training to young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 who left high school before graduation, or are currently or have been involved previously with the juvenile or adult criminal justice system.”⁵⁰⁰ The Young Adult Reentry Partnership Grants would “support partnerships with community colleges, the criminal justice system and employers, employer associations, unions providing training, or labor-management partnerships and focus on occupations”

⁴⁹³ Fact Sheet: Biden Administration to Take Steps to Bolster Registered Apprenticeships, The White House (Washington) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/17/fact-sheet-biden-administration-to-take-steps-to-bolster-registered-apprenticeships/>

⁴⁹⁴ Readout of the White House’s Meeting with Young Community Violence Prevention Advocates, The White House (Washington) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/18/readout-of-the-white-houses-meeting-with-young-community-violence-prevention-advocates/>

⁴⁹⁵ Readout of the White House’s Meeting with Young Community Violence Prevention Advocates, The White House (Washington) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/18/readout-of-the-white-houses-meeting-with-young-community-violence-prevention-advocates/>

⁴⁹⁶ Remarks by President Biden on Helping Small Businesses, The White House (Washington, DC) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/02/22/remarks-by-president-biden-on-helping-small-businesses/>

⁴⁹⁷ Remarks by President Biden on Helping Small Businesses, The White House (Washington, DC) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/02/22/remarks-by-president-biden-on-helping-small-businesses/>

⁴⁹⁸ Roadmap for a Renewed U.S.-Canada Partnership, The White House (Washington, DC) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/23/roadmap-for-a-renewed-u-s-canada-partnership/>

⁴⁹⁹ Roadmap for a Renewed U.S.-Canada Partnership, The White House (Washington DC) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/23/roadmap-for-a-renewed-u-s-canada-partnership/>

⁵⁰⁰ US Department of Labor Announces \$25M in Funding to Support Education, Employment Training for Workforce Entry by Justice-Involved Young Adults, Department of Labor (Washington, DC) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210317-1>

to offer apprenticeships, accelerated learning and work-specific skills training.”⁵⁰¹ Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training Suzi LeVine highlighted that business partners associated with these programs “will create the best possible pathways for participants to succeed.”⁵⁰²

On 18 March 2021, the Department of Labor announced USD87.5 million for grants to expand apprenticeship programs across the state, “with up to [USD40] million of those funds in grants awarded to states that implement required diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.”⁵⁰³

On 22 March 2021, the Department of Labor announced USD31 million in funding to “support the expansion and modernization of technical assistance” for apprenticeships programs.⁵⁰⁴ Specifically, the funding would go towards establishing Registered Apprenticeship Technical Centers of Excellence” and focus on diversity and inclusion as well as forging strategic partnerships with local and national stakeholders.⁵⁰⁵

On 24 March 2021, President Biden proclaimed 24 March 2021 as National Equal Pay Day.⁵⁰⁶ National Equal Pay Day aims to acknowledge the value of women’s skills and their contributions to the labor force.⁵⁰⁷ President Biden stated that he and Vice President Harris are committed to building back the economy better for everyone and recognizes the role that equal pay plays in this goal.⁵⁰⁸

On 31 March 2021, President Biden proclaimed 31 March 2021 as Transgender Day of Visibility.⁵⁰⁹ Transgender Day of Visibility recognizes the importance of full equality for all transgender people.⁵¹⁰

⁵⁰¹ US Department of Labor announces \$25M in funding to support education, employment training for workforce entry by justice-involved young adults, Department of Labor (Washington, DC) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210317-1>

⁵⁰² US Department of Labor Announces \$25M in Funding to Support Education, Employment Training for Workforce Entry by Justice-Involved Young Adults, Department of Labor (Washington, DC) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210317-1>

⁵⁰³ US Department of Labor announces availability of \$87.5M in Funding to states to expand, diversify Registered Apprenticeship Programs, Department of Labor (Washington, DC) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210318-0>

⁵⁰⁴ US Department of Labor announces \$31M funding opportunity to create Registered Apprenticeship Technical Assistance Centers of Excellence, Department of Labor (Washington, DC) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210322-1>

⁵⁰⁵ US Department of Labor announces \$31M funding opportunity to create Registered Apprenticeship Technical Assistance Centers of Excellence, Department of Labor (Washington, D.C.) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210322-1>.

⁵⁰⁶ A Proclamation on National Equal Pay Day, 2021, The White House (Washington) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/24/a-proclamation-on-national-equal-pay-day-2021/>

⁵⁰⁷ A Proclamation on National Equal Pay Day, 2021, The White House (Washington) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/24/a-proclamation-on-national-equal-pay-day-2021/>

⁵⁰⁸ A Proclamation on National Equal Pay Day, 2021, The White House (Washington) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/24/a-proclamation-on-national-equal-pay-day-2021/>

⁵⁰⁹ A Proclamation on Transgender Day Of Visibility, 2021, The White House (Washington) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/31/a-proclamation-on-transgender-day-of-visibility-2021/>

⁵¹⁰ A Proclamation on Transgender Day Of Visibility, 2021, The White House (Washington) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/31/a-proclamation-on-transgender-day-of-visibility-2021/>

President Joe Biden urged for the passing of the Equality Act and that Federal civil rights protections be provided on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.⁵¹¹

On 31 March 2021, President Biden released the American Jobs Plan.⁵¹² The American Jobs Plan aims to create jobs and improve the country's infrastructure by investing in transportation infrastructure, rebuilding drinking water infrastructure, modernizing schools, residential, commercial and federal buildings, raising wages and benefits for homecare workers, investing in innovation to stimulate American manufacturing, creating union jobs and upskilling workers.⁵¹³ The plan also aims to help small businesses by improving access to federal contracts and investing over USD110 billion in financing and technical assistance programs.⁵¹⁴ Part of the plan also includes an investment of USD5 billion in evidence-based community violence intervention programs over eight years to train at-risk individuals for jobs.⁵¹⁵

On 15 April 2021, the House of Representatives passed the Paycheck Fairness Act.⁵¹⁶ The goals of the Paycheck Fairness Act are to “[address] wage gaps by closing loopholes that have allowed employers to justify gender pay disparities, [strengthen] provisions for holding employers accountable for systemic pay discrimination [and help] level the playing field for women and people of color by making it easier for workers to challenge pay disparities as a group.”⁵¹⁷ President Biden urged the Senate to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act in order to meet these goals.⁵¹⁸

On 26 April 2021, the Department of Labor announced USD3.5 million in funding to increase the number of women in its apprenticeships programs and better facilitate their inclusion in “nontraditional” occupations including “manufacturing, infrastructure, cybersecurity and healthcare industries.”⁵¹⁹

On 28 April 2021, President Biden announced the American Families Plan.⁵²⁰ The American Families Plan aims to make education more affordable, provide economic security for families and expand tax

⁵¹¹ A Proclamation on Transgender Day Of Visibility, 2021, The White House (Washington) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/31/a-proclamation-on-transgender-day-of-visibility-2021/>

⁵¹² FACT SHEET: The American Jobs Plan, The White House (Washington) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/31/fact-sheet-the-american-jobs-plan/>

⁵¹³ American Jobs Plan, The White House (Washington) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/american-jobs-plan/>

⁵¹⁴ FACT SHEET: The American Jobs Plan Supports Small Businesses, The White House (Washington) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/13/fact-sheet-the-american-jobs-plan-supports-small-businesses/>

⁵¹⁵ FACT SHEET: The American Jobs Plan Will Support Women's Employment, The White House (Washington) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/21/fact-sheet-the-american-jobs-plan-will-support-womens-employment/>

⁵¹⁶ Statement from President Joe Biden on House Passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act, The White House (Washington) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/15/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-house-passage-of-the-paycheck-fairness-act/>

⁵¹⁷ Statement from President Joe Biden on House Passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act, The White House (Washington) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/15/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-house-passage-of-the-paycheck-fairness-act/>

⁵¹⁸ Statement from President Joe Biden on House Passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act, The White House (Washington) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/15/statement-from-president-joe-biden-on-house-passage-of-the-paycheck-fairness-act/>

⁵¹⁹ US Department of Labor announces \$3.5M funding opportunity to place more women in Registered Apprenticeships, nontraditional occupations, Department of Labor (Washington, D.C.) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210426>.

⁵²⁰ Fact Sheet: The American Families Plan, The White House (Washington) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/28/fact-sheet-the-american-families-plan/>

credits to help families and workers.⁵²¹ The plan includes free universal preschool to three-year-old and four-year-old children, two free years of community college and over USD80 billion invested in the Pell Grant award for students.⁵²²

The United States has taken strong action in all four areas of increasing access to opportunities for youth, increasing access to opportunities for women, increasing access to opportunities for SMEs and upskilling of workers. Through the Memorandum on Protecting Women’s Health at Home and Abroad, proposal of the American Rescue Plan, the American Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan, the proclamation of numerous days of awareness and acknowledgement for women and youth and adjustments to the PPP, the United States has fully complied with its commitment to reducing inequalities and promoting inclusive growth.

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

Analysts: Rebecca Jones and Malhaar Mobarir

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

On 16 December 2020, the European Parliament announced its blueprint for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the post-pandemic recovery.⁵²³ The blueprint advocates for measures to help SMEs deal with the “twin challenges of digitalization and decarbonization.”⁵²⁴ Furthermore, the report “highlights the need to update the European Commission’s SME strategy in the light of the COVID crisis while keeping the focus on advancing the transition toward a socially, economically, and environmentally resilient society and a competitive economy.”⁵²⁵ Among the recommendations included ensuring liquidity and funding for SMEs and developing initiatives to support SMEs in adopting new digital and e-commerce solutions.⁵²⁶

On 30 December 2020, the European Union’s Delegation to Cambodia announced a joint investment with Germany and France to finance the development of rural infrastructure in Cambodia.⁵²⁷ Rural Infrastructure Development for Cambodia project received USD115 million to

⁵²¹American Families Plan, The White House (Washington) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/american-families-plan/>

⁵²² FACT SHEET: The American Families Plan Will Support Children, Teachers, and Working Families in Rural America, The White House (Washington) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/29/fact-sheet-the-american-families-plan-will-support-children-teachers-and-working-families-in-rural-america/>

⁵²³ MEP’s blueprint for SMEs in post-COVID recovery, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201211IPR93642/mep-s-blueprint-for-smes-in-post-covid-recovery>

⁵²⁴ MEP’s blueprint for SMEs in post-COVID recovery, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201211IPR93642/mep-s-blueprint-for-smes-in-post-covid-recovery>

⁵²⁵ MEP’s blueprint for SMEs in post-COVID recovery, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201211IPR93642/mep-s-blueprint-for-smes-in-post-covid-recovery>

⁵²⁶ MEP’s blueprint for SMEs in post-COVID recovery, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201211IPR93642/mep-s-blueprint-for-smes-in-post-covid-recovery>

⁵²⁷ European Union, Germany and France jointly invest US\$ 115 million to develop rural infrastructure in Cambodia, Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia (Phnom Penh) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia/91064/european-union-germany-and-france-jointly-invest-us-115-million-develop-rural-infrastructure_en

improve the road network in the country's central plains and construct complementary infrastructure in the drinking water and sanitation, agriculture, health and education sectors.⁵²⁸ The EU Ambassador to Cambodia Carmen Moreno stated that a “better connectivity to access markets and services is key to reduce poverty and economic disparities as well as to create new job opportunities,” particularly in the pandemic recovery process.⁵²⁹

On 18 February 2021, High Representative and Vice-President Josep Borrell convened the Global Tech Panel for the first time, bringing together diplomatic, technology, and civil society leaders together to “reflect on how to join forces to deal with the opportunities and risks that the world faces as it emerges from the pandemic.”⁵³⁰ The Panel will work together to “explore potential areas of engagement ranging from pandemic recovery to education and security to working with partners in Africa on digital transformation, among others.”⁵³¹

On 4 March 2021, the European Commission presented a Recommendation on Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis.⁵³² The recommendation outlined a strategic action plan to transition from emergency economic measures to new measures to support a “job-rich recovery.”⁵³³ The Commission provided guidance to Member States on labour market policies, which includes three components: hiring incentives and entrepreneurial support, upskilling and reskilling opportunities and enhanced support by employment services, especially for youth and sectors most impacted.⁵³⁴ The Commission calls on Member States “to make full use of support available at EU level.”⁵³⁵

On 5 March 2021, the European Commission affirmed their commitment to ensuring gender equality will “be at the heart of the post-pandemic recovery.”⁵³⁶ The Commission announced that

⁵²⁸ European Union, Germany and France jointly invest US\$ 115 million to develop rural infrastructure in Cambodia, Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia (Phnom Penh) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia/91064/european-union-germany-and-france-jointly-invest-us-115-million-develop-rural-infrastructure_en

⁵²⁹ European Union, Germany and France jointly invest US\$ 115 million to develop rural infrastructure in Cambodia, Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia (Phnom Penh) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia/91064/european-union-germany-and-france-jointly-invest-us-115-million-develop-rural-infrastructure_en

⁵³⁰ Global Tech Panel: High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell convenes the Panel for the first time, European Union External Action (Brussels) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/topics/economic-relations-connectivity-innovation/93468/global-tech-panel-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell-convenes-panel-first-time_en

⁵³¹ Global Tech Panel: High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell convenes the Panel for the first time, European Union External Action (Brussels) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/topics/economic-relations-connectivity-innovation/93468/global-tech-panel-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell-convenes-panel-first-time_en

⁵³² Questions and Answers: Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis (EASE), European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_971

⁵³³ Questions and Answers: Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis (EASE), European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_971

⁵³⁴ Questions and Answers: Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis (EASE), European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_971

⁵³⁵ Questions and Answers: Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis (EASE), European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_971

⁵³⁶ Statement by the European Commission ahead of International Women's Day 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_890

later in 2021, they will “present a new proposal to combat gender-based violence in the EU.”⁵³⁷ Furthermore, the Commission published its 2021 Report on Gender Equality in the EU, which reaffirmed the European Union’s commitment to its Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 and its new Gender Action Plan for 2021-2025.⁵³⁸

On 18 March 2021, the European Commission announced the launch of the European Innovation Council. The Council will have a budget of EUR10 billion for 2021-2027 to “develop and expand breakthrough innovations.”⁵³⁹ Executive Vice President for A Europe Fit for the Digital Age Margrethe Vestager stated that the European Union now has a fund “to support small and medium sized companies that do breakthrough innovation, access equity and scale up innovative start-ups.”⁵⁴⁰ This is a way to convert research results into business and to develop visions for technological and innovation breakthroughs.”⁵⁴¹ European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Mariya Gabriel said the Council is “Europe’s most ambitious initiative to support the breakthroughs Europe needs to recover from the economic crisis and accelerate the transition to a green and digital economy.”⁵⁴²

On 25 March 2021, the European Commission adopted the first annual work program of Erasmus+ 2021-2027, which provides EUR26.2 billion to “fund learning mobility and cross-border cooperation projects for 10 million Europeans of all ages and backgrounds,” will “seek to be even more inclusive and to support the green and digital transitions,” and will “support the resilience of education and training systems in the face of the pandemic.”⁵⁴³ The new program “provides opportunities for study periods abroad, traineeships, apprenticeships, and staff exchanges in all fields of education, training, youth and sport.”⁵⁴⁴

On 9 April 2021, the European Commission opened its first European Innovation Council (EIC) calls worth over EUR1 billion in funding.⁵⁴⁵ The program includes EIC Accelerator funding which “aims to help scale up start-ups and small and medium-sized businesses that have the potential to

⁵³⁷ Statement by the European Commission ahead of International Women's Day 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_890

⁵³⁸ Statement by the European Commission ahead of International Women's Day 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_890

⁵³⁹ Commission launches European Innovation Council to help turn scientific ideas into breakthrough innovations, European Commission (Brussels) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185

⁵⁴⁰ Commission launches European Innovation Council to help turn scientific ideas into breakthrough innovations, European Commission (Brussels) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185

⁵⁴¹ Commission launches European Innovation Council to help turn scientific ideas into breakthrough innovations, European Commission (Brussels) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185

⁵⁴² Commission launches European Innovation Council to help turn scientific ideas into breakthrough innovations, European Commission (Brussels) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185

⁵⁴³ Erasmus+: over €28 billion to support mobility and learning for all, across the European Union and beyond, European Commission (Brussels) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1326

⁵⁴⁴ Erasmus+: over €28 billion to support mobility and learning for all, across the European Union and beyond, European Commission (Brussels) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1326

⁵⁴⁵ Commission opens first European Innovation Council calls worth €1 billion, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (Brussels) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-opens-first-european-innovation-council-calls-worth-eu1-billion-2021-04-09_en

achieve high impact,” with EUR495 million “earmarked for innovations that support the European Green Deal as well as digital and health technologies.”⁵⁴⁶ Through the EIC Pathfinder, researchers can apply for “research and innovation grants” which range from EUR3 to 4 million.⁵⁴⁷

On 15 April 2021, the European Commission launched its first call for proposals under its new European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027, which “supports young people wishing to engage in volunteering activities in a variety of areas.”⁵⁴⁸ The program has a dedicated budget of over EUR1 billion for 2021-2027 and will offer “opportunities to some 275,000 young people to help address societal and humanitarian challenges through volunteering or by setting up their own solidarity projects.”⁵⁴⁹ One of the main political priorities the European Solidarity Corps supports is supporting “the digital transition through projects and activities that boost digital skills, foster digital literacy and develop understanding of the risks and opportunities of digital technology.”⁵⁵⁰

On 28 April 2021, the European Union announced that the European Investment Fund and European Institute of Innovation of Technology (EIT) Digital will be teaming up to support the European Union’s digital transformation by offering “deferred payment schemes for students and learners participating in its courses, thus improving access to education.”⁵⁵¹ The new scheme is expected to benefit around 500 future EIT Digital students.⁵⁵² Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life Margaritis Schinas said “The digital transition profoundly changes the way we live, study and work. We must equip people with the right skills to master this transition and make the most out of the opportunities the future brings.”⁵⁵³

The European Union has taken strong action in all four areas of promoting increased access to opportunities for women, increased access to opportunities for youth, increased access to opportunities for SMEs, and upskilling and reskilling of workers. Through developing plans to support SMEs and create opportunities for youth and skills development, particularly in the areas of post-pandemic recovery, digital transformation, and tackling environmental challenges, plans to support gender equality and promote the role of women in the economy, and fostering inclusive growth in these areas internationally, the EU has fully complied with its commitments to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.

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

Analyst: Derek Thiele

⁵⁴⁶ Commission opens first European Innovation Council calls worth €1 billion, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (Brussels) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-opens-first-european-innovation-council-calls-worth-eu1-billion-2021-04-09_en

⁵⁴⁷ Commission opens first European Innovation Council calls worth €1 billion, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (Brussels) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-opens-first-european-innovation-council-calls-worth-eu1-billion-2021-04-09_en

⁵⁴⁸ European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027: First call for proposals to support youth volunteering activities, European Commission (Brussels) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185

⁵⁴⁹ European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027: First call for proposals to support youth volunteering activities, European Commission (Brussels) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185

⁵⁵⁰ European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027: First call for proposals to support youth volunteering activities, European Commission (Brussels) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1185

⁵⁵¹ European Investment Fund and EIT Digital team up to close digital skills gap in Europe 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_2001

⁵⁵² European Investment Fund and EIT Digital team up to close digital skills gap in Europe 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_2001

⁵⁵³ European Investment Fund and EIT Digital team up to close digital skills gap in Europe 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_2001

2. Macroeconomics: Capital Markets

“We will strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth, including through promoting sustainable capital flows and developing domestic capital markets.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia		0	
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China			+1
France		0	
Germany			+1
India	-1		
Indonesia			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa		0	
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.75 (88%)	

Background

The G20 leaders first addressed the issue of inclusive economic growth at the 2014 Brisbane Summit, calling for two per cent of economic growth to be directed towards supporting “development and inclusive growth” and helping “to reduce inequality and poverty” by 2018.⁵⁵⁴

At the 2015 Antalya Summit, G20 leaders agreed that inclusive growth requires “the use of all policy tools and strong engagement with all stakeholders” and that inclusive growth should be “inclusive, job-rich” and benefit “all segments of our societies.”⁵⁵⁵ The theme of using “all policy tools” to work towards bolstering inclusive growth has remained a theme since the Antalya Summit.

At the 2016 Hangzhou Summit, G20 leaders further committed to advancing “sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth,” outlining in the Hangzhou consensus policies and actions that members should be taking to promote inclusive growth.⁵⁵⁶ The actions and policies outlined followed four

⁵⁵⁴ G20 Leaders’ Communique, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), RANEPa (Moscow) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communique.html>

⁵⁵⁵ G20 Leaders’ Communique Antalya Summit 15-16 November 2015, RANEPa (Moscow) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2015Antalya/000111117.pdf>

⁵⁵⁶ G20 Leaders’ Communique Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communique.html>

main themes: vision, integration, openness and inclusiveness.⁵⁵⁷ These four themes lay the foundation of what inclusive growth would look like moving forward, including sustainability, cooperation, fairness and removing inequalities in the international economic system.⁵⁵⁸

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 leaders reiterated their commitment to inclusive growth, stating that “strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth ...remains our highest priority.”⁵⁵⁹ Once again, leaders committed to using “all policy tools” in advancing inclusive growth.⁵⁶⁰ The leaders also focused on international investment, digitalization, empowering women and equal access to financial and economic systems as important components of promoting inclusive growth.⁵⁶¹ The G20 Africa Partnership was also discussed as a vehicle to advance and promote inclusive growth amongst African economies.⁵⁶²

At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, G20 leaders continued the theme of prior summits by committing to “use all policy tools to achieve strong, sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth.”⁵⁶³ One of the summit’s priority areas, infrastructure, was also promoted as a significant factor in advancing inclusive growth.⁵⁶⁴ In the Buenos Aires Action Plan, G20 leaders outlined the primary areas to focus and improve on in promoting inclusive growth, and also offered previously implemented measures in areas such as tax, education, social security reform, financial regulation and labour that had a positive impact on advancing inclusive growth.⁵⁶⁵

The central theme of using “all policy tools” to achieve inclusive growth continued at the 2019 Osaka Summit, where G20 leaders reaffirmed their committed to “use all policy tools to achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth, and safeguard against downside risks, by stepping up our dialogue and actions to enhance confidence.”⁵⁶⁶ G20 members identified that “carefully calibrated macroeconomic and structural policies tailored to country-specific circumstances” are imperative in order to achieve this commitment.⁵⁶⁷ In addition, central banks were included as vital actors in promoting inclusive growth and safeguarding against “downside risks,” and leaders called upon central banks to promote “flexible and growth-friendly” fiscal policies to maintain stability and sustainability on the path to inclusive growth.⁵⁶⁸

⁵⁵⁷ G20 Leaders’ Communique Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communique.html>

⁵⁵⁸ G20 Leaders’ Communique Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communique.html>

⁵⁵⁹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration Hamburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁵⁶⁰ G20 Leaders’ Declaration Hamburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁵⁶¹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration Hamburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁵⁶² G20 Leaders’ Declaration Hamburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁵⁶³ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

⁵⁶⁴ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

⁵⁶⁵ Buenos Aires Action Plan, RANEPa (Moscow) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 13 January 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2018buenosaires/buenos_aires_leaders_plan.pdf

⁵⁶⁶ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, RANEPa (Moscow) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 13 January 2021.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/G20_new_downloadings/FINAL_G20_Osaka_Leaders_Declaration.pdf

⁵⁶⁷ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, RANEPa (Moscow) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 13 January 2021.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/G20_new_downloadings/FINAL_G20_Osaka_Leaders_Declaration.pdf

⁵⁶⁸ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, RANEPa (Moscow) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 13 January 2021.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/G20_new_downloadings/FINAL_G20_Osaka_Leaders_Declaration.pdf

In 2020, amid economic constraints put by the COVID-19 pandemic, the G20 leaders highlighted the necessity to provide sustainable capital flows and foster domestic capital markets development to ensure economic recovery and growth after the pandemic is over.⁵⁶⁹

Commitment Features

The commitment requires the G20 members to take actions to provide sustainable capital flows and foster domestic capital markets. To achieve full compliance, the G20 member shall take steps that match both aspects of the commitment.

Sustainable Capital Flows

According to the International Monetary Fund, the term “capital flow” refers to “cross-border financial transactions recorded in economies’ external financial accounts.”⁵⁷⁰ “Sustainable’ implies “able to continue at the same level for a period of time.”⁵⁷¹ Combined, “sustainable capital flows” is defined as the movement of money for investment in and out of countries that remains at the same level for a period of time.

The list of actions that might be possibly taken by the G20 members, includes but not limited to:

- Strengthen financial supervision and regulation;
- Maintaining sound monetary policy to avoid overheating;
- Counter-cyclical fiscal measures (increase in government spending, cutting taxes, etc.);
- Accumulation of foreign exchange reserves, etc.

Domestic Capital Market Development

The “capital market” generally refers to “an organized market that provides facilities for dealing in stocks and shares and through which (along with special financial institutions dealing therein) new capital could be raised by the offer of securities to the public.”⁵⁷² “Domestic” in this context refers to something that is limited to a particular jurisdiction. Finally, “development” refers to “process in which someone or something grows or changes and becomes more advanced.”⁵⁷³

The G20 members are required to take actions that makes their domestic capital markets stronger against the current economic constrains caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As it is proposed by the Bank for International Settlements,⁵⁷⁴ possible actions may include, but are not limited to:

- Strengthening legal and judicial systems for investor protection. For example, easing access to legal recourse; lowering litigation costs; promoting well defined property and contracting rights; giving minority shareholders more information and access to information, etc.;

⁵⁶⁹ Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁵⁷⁰ Balance of Payment and International Investment Position Manual Sixth Edition (BPM6), IMF (Washington, DC) 2009. Access Date: 18 January 2021. <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/bop/2007/pdf/bpm6.pdf>

⁵⁷¹ Cambridge Dictionary. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/sustainable>

⁵⁷² The Developments of Capital Markets in Africa, with Particular Reference to Kenya and Nigeria, IMF. Access Date: 18 January 2021. https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF024/14861-9781451947335/14861-9781451947335/14861-9781451947335_A006.xml?language=env

⁵⁷³ Cambridge Dictionary. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/development>

⁵⁷⁴ Establishing viable capital markets, January 2019, BIS. Access Date: 13 January 2021.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/development>

- Enhancing regulatory independence and effectiveness, that implies strengthening legal foundations to raise operational independence; ensuring adequate staffing and resources; raising disclosure and accounting standards, etc.;
- Deepening the domestic institutional investor base. This aspect refers to provision of tax benefits for institutional investors; increasing transparency and investors education to facilitate effective choices among investment options, etc.;
- Pursuing bi-directional opening to international participation while preparing for spillovers that implies lifting barriers to foreign participation; implementation of policies aimed at reduction of spillover risks, etc.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G20 member does not take actions to provide sustainable capital flows and develop its domestic capital market
0	The G20 member takes actions either to provide the sustainable capital flows or facilitate domestic capital market development
+1	The G20 member takes actions to provide sustainable capital flows AND facilitate domestic capital market development

*Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov
Lead Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 3 December 2020, the Central Bank, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, and the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research entered into a cooperation agreement. “The agreement aims to promote research and interaction for the design of coordinated public policies that may boost economic development in line with both the constraints and potential aspects of the monetary and foreign exchange regime adopted by the Central Bank.”⁵⁷⁵

On 31 March 2021, “the Board of the Central Bank has approved a policy that seeks to encourage credit, financial inclusion, electronic payment, and a better functioning and geographical distribution of ATMs. The policy focuses on four major concerns: to grant loans to individuals and [small and medium sized enterprises] (SMEs) who have not been recorded in the Debtors’ Database of the Financial System; to foster the use of e-checks and electronic credit invoices; to encourage the use of electronic means of payment and automatic bill payments from savings accounts; to improve the efficiency of ATMs in order to reduce downtime and to extend the network to reach cities and towns where there is no such service today.”⁵⁷⁶

On 22 April 2021, the National Securities Commission “approved a special regime for the placement of funds for environmental and social projects or activities, in accordance with its sustainable investment guidelines and the standards of the United Nations Development Program. The new regime is also part of the regulatory body’s Sustainable Finance Program with the principles of raising

⁵⁷⁵ Agreement between the BCRA, the Ministry of Science and the CONICET, Central Bank of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <http://www.bkra.gov.ar/Noticias/acuerdo-bkra-ministerio-ciencia-y%20conicet-i.asp>

⁵⁷⁶ The BCRA Promotes Greater Financial Inclusion, Central Bank of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <http://www.bkra.gob.ar/Noticias/bkra-impulso-mayor-inclusion-financiera-i.asp>

awareness among capital market players about integrating environmental, social and governance factors in investments, in addition to generating structures that advance sustainable financing.”⁵⁷⁷

On 3 May 2021, President of the National Securities Commission Adrián Cosentino said that “it is a priority” of the organization “to develop the capital market to promote productive and federal financing.” By highlighting the role of the capital market in the current situation, and despite the difficulties, Mr. Cosentino urged to continue working side by side between the public and the private sector to “delve into financing products and arrive in a timely manner to address this need across the country.”⁵⁷⁸

On 7 May 2021, the National Securities Commission “approved order RG888/21 that enables public consultation aimed at innovating the regulations for the negotiation of deferred payment checks and promissory notes, as part of the agency’s strategic agenda to promote products that enhance the growth of SMEs and generate a contribution from the capital market to the real economy.”⁵⁷⁹

Argentina has taken actions both to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Australia: 0

Australia has partially complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 15 December 2020, the Prudential Regulation Authority announced that banks and insurers will no longer require to have a minimum level of earnings retention from 1 January 2021.⁵⁸⁰

On 2 February 2021, Australia purchased an additional AUD100 billion of bonds when the current bond purchase program is completed in April.⁵⁸¹

On 21 February 2021, the Prudential Regulation Authority released its policy and supervision priorities for 2021. The priorities include “strengthening crisis preparedness,” “updating prudential standards on operational risk, governance and risk management,” “completing the ongoing review of the capital framework for authorised deposit-taking institutions” and “continuing work on strengthening the capital framework for private health insurers.”⁵⁸²

⁵⁷⁷ The CNV approved a new regime for sustainable investment products a new milestone in the strategic agenda, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-cnv-aprobo-nuevo-regimen-para-productos-de-inversion-sostenible-un-nuevo-hito-en-la>

⁵⁷⁸ “It is a priority of the CNV to develop the capital market to promote productive and federal financing,” Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/es-una-prioridad-de-la-cnv-desarrollar-el-mercado-de-capitales-para-potenciar-el>

⁵⁷⁹ The CNV calls for a public consultation to improve the rules for negotiating deferred payment checks and promissory notes, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-cnv-llama-consulta-publica-para-mejorar-las-normas-de-negociacion-de-cheques-de-pago>

⁵⁸⁰ Capital management, APRA (Sydney) 2020. Access Date: 24 April 2021. <https://www.apra.gov.au/capital-management-1>

⁵⁸¹ Statement by Philip Lowe, Governor: Monetary Policy Decision, Reserve Bank of Australia, 2 February 2021. Access Date: 24 April 2021. <https://www.rba.gov.au/media-releases/2021/mr-21-01.html>

⁵⁸² APRA releases its policy and supervision priorities for 2021, APRA (Sydney) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 24 April 2021. <https://www.apra.gov.au/news-and-publications/apra-releases-its-policy-and-supervision-priorities-for-2021>

Australia has taken some actions to provide the sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

Thus, Australia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 25 February 2021, “President Jair Bolsonaro signed the complementary law that defines the objectives of the Central Bank of Brazil, it provides for its autonomy and the appointment and dismissal of its president and its directors. According to the text, the mandates of the president and directors of the Central Bank do not coincide with the mandate of president of the Republic.”⁵⁸³ “The Central Bank of Brazil, which before the change was linked to the Ministry of Economy, will become an autarchy of a special nature, characterized by the absence of ties to the Ministry, tutelage or hierarchical subordination, by technical, operational, administrative and financial autonomy.”⁵⁸⁴

On 8 April 2021, the Central Bank “proposed the improvement of the rules of risk management and social, environmental and climate responsibility applicable to the institutions of the system, in order to incorporate the most recent international debates on the subject and the national experience.”⁵⁸⁵

On 7 May 2021, the Securities and Exchange Commission (CVM) published “guidelines for independent auditors in line with the best practices in the capital market. The new version of the document is a direct result of the regulators’ supervision and inspection action.”⁵⁸⁶

On 11 May 2021, the CVM “issued two resolutions: the CVM Resolution 29, on rules for establishment and operation of experimental regulatory environment (regulatory sandbox). The CVM Resolution 30, on the verification task of adapting products, services and operations to the customer profile (suitability). The measures are part of reviewing and consolidating normative acts below the decree, determined by Decree 10.139/19. The main focus of this initiative is to increase the efficiency of regulation, without disregarding the risks that such actions may represent for the protection of investors.”⁵⁸⁷

Brazil has taken actions both to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

⁵⁸³ President signs law that gives autonomy to the Central Bank, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 25 February 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/secretariageral/pt-br/noticias/2021/fevereiro/presidente-bolsonaro-sanciona-lei-que-da-autonomia-ao-banco-central>

⁵⁸⁴ President signs law that gives autonomy to the Central Bank, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.gov.br/secretariageral/pt-br/noticias/2021/fevereiro/presidente-bolsonaro-sanciona-lei-que-da-autonomia-ao-banco-central>

⁵⁸⁵ BC proposes new rules for risk management and social, environmental and climate responsibility, Central Bank of Brazil (Brasilia) 8 April 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.bcb.gov.br/detalhenoticia/530/noticia>

⁵⁸⁶ CVM publishes new guidelines for independent auditors, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.gov.br/cvm/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/cvm-publica-novas-orientacoes-para-audidores-independentes>

⁵⁸⁷ CVM publishes new guidelines for independent auditors, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/cvm/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/cvm-publica-novas-orientacoes-para-audidores-independentes>

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 1 January 2021, Canada announced the amendments to the Investment Canada Act with new thresholds for foreign direct investment. The threshold for direct acquisitions of control by investors that are members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) has been reduced from CAD1.075 billion to CAD1.043 billion; for investors from countries with preferential trade agreements with Canada – from CAD1.613 billion to CAD1.565 billion, and for WTO members’ state-owned investors – from CAD428 million to CAD415 million.⁵⁸⁸

On 24 March 2021, the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Industry issued the Guidelines on the National Security Review of Investments. The updates focus on identifying certain sensitive technology areas, critical minerals, sensitive personal data, and investments by state-owned or state-influenced investors as factors considered in national security reviews.⁵⁸⁹

On 31 March 2021, the Bank of Canada released the results of open consultations on inflation and monetary policy. The outreach, according to the Bank of Canada, demonstrated steady public trust in the Bank and in the stability of Canada’s financial system during the COVID-19 pandemic, public confidence in the bank’s ability to keep inflation on target, as well as the support for “the current inflation-targeting framework over other options” and the Bank’s current quantitative easing program. The consultations are to form the basis for an agreement between the Bank and the Federal government on the next framework to guide monetary policy until 2026.⁵⁹⁰

On 19 April 2020, Canada presented the Budget 2021. The budget allocated CAD560 million to support around 2900 small businesses.⁵⁹¹ The budget also introduced tax measures to help businesses and other organizations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, including the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and the Lockdown Support.⁵⁹²

On 21 April 2021, the Bank of Canada held its target for the overnight rate at the effective lower bound of 0.25 per cent, with the Bank Rate at 0.5 per cent and the deposit rate at 0.25 per cent. The Bank continues to provide extraordinary forward guidance on the path for the overnight rate, reinforced and supplemented by the Bank’s quantitative easing program. Effective the week of April 26, weekly net purchases of Government of Canada bonds will be adjusted to a target of CAD3 billion. This adjustment to the amount of incremental stimulus being added each week reflects the progress made in the economic recovery.⁵⁹³

⁵⁸⁸ Investment Canada Act, Thresholds, Government of Canada 1 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/ica-lic.nsf/eng/h_lk00050.html

⁵⁸⁹ Guidelines on the National Security Review of Investments, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/ica-lic.nsf/eng/lk81190.html>

⁵⁹⁰ Bank of Canada releases results from consultations on inflation and monetary policy, Bank of Canada (Ottawa) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2021/03/results-consultations-inflation-monetary-policy/>

⁵⁹¹ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

⁵⁹² Tax Measures – Supplementary Information, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/report-rapport/anx6-en.html#business-income-tax-measures>

⁵⁹³ Bank of Canada will hold current level of policy rate until inflation objective is sustainably achieved, adjusts quantitative easing program, Bank of Canada (Ottawa) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2021/04/fad-press-release-2021-04-21/>.

In May 2021, official international reserves of the country have decreased from USD91.74 billion in December 2020,⁵⁹⁴ to USD84.23 billion in May 2021.⁵⁹⁵

Canada has taken actions to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 12 March 2021, the 14th Five-Year Plan was announced. According to the plan, China will further shorten the negative lists for foreign investment access, strengthen the overall planning of financial resources, promote the standardization of financial expenditures, and strengthen budget constraints and performance management, improve the fiscal transfer payment system, optimize the transfer payment structure, and standardize transfer payment projects. Also, China will improve the financial system and make it is highly adaptable, competitive, and inclusive, and build a financial system to effectively support the economy etc.⁵⁹⁶

On 12 March 2021, Premier Li Keqiang announced that one of the main goals for China in 2021 is maintaining the continuity, stability and sustainability of macroeconomic policies. The policies should also be able maintain the necessary support, should not change suddenly and sharply but adjust and improve in time according to changes. Moreover, China should continue to reform of the registration system, improve the current delisting mechanism, strengthen the bond market while expanding the financing channels for market entities.⁵⁹⁷

China has taken actions to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

Thus, China receives a score of +1

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

France: 0

France has partially complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 19 January 2021, France launched the comprehensive fiscal plans for 2020–22, totaling about 26 per cent of gross domestic products in emergency and recovery measures. The emergency response

⁵⁹⁴ Official International Reserves – December 3, 2020, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/services/publications/monthly-official-international-reserves/2020/12.html>

⁵⁹⁵ Official International Reserves – May 5, 2021, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/services/publications/monthly-official-international-reserves/2021/05.html>.

⁵⁹⁶ The Fourteenth Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China and the Outline of Long-Term Goals for 2035, Xinhua (Beijing) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <http://politics.people.com.cn/n1/2021/0313/c1001-32050444.html>

⁵⁹⁷ Government working report, Xinhua (Beijing) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/premier/2021-03/12/content_5592671.htm

was flexibly adjusted as the crisis unfolded, providing additional resources to the health sector and supporting households and firms by preserving jobs and providing liquidity.⁵⁹⁸

On 3 February 2021, the Development Bank of Southern Africa launched its first green bond. The EUR200 million bond was issued through a private placement with French development finance institution Agence Française de Développement.⁵⁹⁹

France has taken a couple of actions to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development in France and Southern Africa. However, France has not taken substantial action to facilitate domestic capital market development within France.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 3 February 2021, Finance Minister Olaf Scholz announced plans to reform the Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin) fundamentally to make it more flexible and effective. In particular, BaFin will be given the authority to focus more heavily on preventive action and investigate suspicious cases more swiftly and efficiently as part of financial reporting enforcement.⁶⁰⁰

On 25 March 2021, Minister Scholz and Minister for Economic Affairs Peter Altmaier tasked the state-owned KfW Development Bank with the execution and administration of the Zukunftsfonds (Future Fund), an equity fund for technologies of the future. The federal government will invest EUR10 billion in the Zukunftsfonds. Together with further private and public partners, at least EUR30 billion will thus be mobilized in venture capital for start-ups in Germany. Combined with the existing financial instruments, German financial authorities will be able to provide over EUR50 billion in venture capital for start-ups in the next few years, together with private investors.⁶⁰¹

On 20 April 2021, Germany published the first allocation report for its Green Federal securities issued in 2020. The Green Bond Allocation Report 2020 provides investors with transparent and binding information on expenditures from the federal government's environmental and climate protection programs. It listed expenditures recognized as "green" in the 2019 federal budget and allocated them to the EUR11.5 billion proceeds from Green German Federal securities issued in 2020. According to State Secretary Jörg Kukies, by issuing green bonds the federal government

⁵⁹⁸ Five Charts on France's Policy Priorities to Navigate the COVID-19 Crisis, IMF (Washington, DC) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/01/15/na011921-five-charts-on-frances-policy-priorities-to-navigate-the-covid19-crisis>

⁵⁹⁹ DBSA Launches Green Bond, DBSA (Johannesburg) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.dbsa.org/press-releases/dbsa-launches-green-bond>

⁶⁰⁰ More "bite" for the Financial Supervisory Authority, German Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Financial_markets/Articles/2021-02-03-more-bite-for-the-financial-supervisory-authority.html

⁶⁰¹ Launch of the Zukunftsfonds – federal government bolsters financing for start-ups in Germany, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Financial_markets/Articles/2021-03-25-launch-of-the-zukunftsfonds.html

“made a significant contribution to the growth of the sustainable bond market and thus firmly established Germany as a sustainable finance centre.”⁶⁰²

On 27 April 2021, Germany adopted the German Recovery and Resilience Plan. 90 per cent of the spending in the plan is targeted towards climate action and the digital transformation.⁶⁰³

Germany has taken actions to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Sbelepor

India: -1

India has not complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

India has taken no actions to provide sustainable capital flows or facilitate domestic capital market development.

Thus, India receives a score of -1.⁶⁰⁴

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

In February 2021, Bank Indonesia cut its policy rate and implemented quantitative easing as well as macro-prudential measures to increase liquidity. Furthermore, “Inflation is projected to remain low and accommodative monetary policy, accompanied by forward guidance, should continue.”⁶⁰⁵

On 2 February 2021, Indonesia enacted a new regulation on investment as one of the implementing regulations of “Omnibus Law,” which includes the removal of some restrictions on foreign investment in order to boost investments flow into pandemic-hit economy. The new regulation became effective on 4 March 2021.

On 4 March 2021, Indonesia’s Omnibus Law entered into force. The Omnibus Law transformed the negative investment list into a positive list, which covers businesses that are open or restricted to foreign investors. “The positive investment list marks a fundamental change in approach from a

⁶⁰² Federal government publishes first allocation report for Green Federal securities, German Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/2021-04-20-federal-government-publishes-first-allocation-report.html>

⁶⁰³ Scholz: Clear signal for climate action and digitalisation, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/2021-04-27-german-recovery-and-resilience-plan-adopted.html>

⁶⁰⁴ This score of non-compliance was determined after a search of the following websites: Public Information Bureau <https://www.pib.gov.in/indexd.aspx>; National Portal of India <https://www.india.gov.in/>; India Department of Economic Affairs <https://dea.gov.in/>; Central Bank of India <https://www.centralbankofindia.co.in/en>.

⁶⁰⁵ OECD Economic Surveys: Indonesia, OECD (Paris) March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/economy/surveys/indonesia-2021-OECD-economic-survey-overview.pdf>

negative, restricted stance to a positive, permitted one,” which will open Indonesia’s economy up to foreign direct investment and “transform the country into one of the world’s top five economies.”⁶⁰⁶

Indonesia has taken a number of actions to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development answering commitments within the G20.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 23 March 2021, “the Bank of Italy and the Dubai Financial Services Authority signed a memorandum of understanding to facilitate the performance of their respective duties in ensuring the safe and sound functioning of their supervised entities.”⁶⁰⁷ The agreement was intended as “a framework for effective cooperation and information exchange between the two authorities including, among other things, procedures for conducting on-site inspections on the premises of supervised entities physically located in the jurisdiction of the other authority.”⁶⁰⁸

On 25 April 2021, the Government of Italy presented the National Recovery and Resilience Plan to the Parliament. The Plan is a part of the European Next Generation EU EUR750 billion package, aimed at environmental transition and carbon-neutral recovery from the pandemic-induced crisis. The Plan, inter alia, provides for structural reforms in public administration, with the intention to streamline government services and improve quality of regulation.⁶⁰⁹ According to Prime Minister Mario Draghi, the Plan, totaling EUR222.1 billion in government investment, represents a new quality of fiscal policy, spurring government spending and structural reforms without the need to raise interest rates.⁶¹⁰

Italy took actions to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

⁶⁰⁶ Indonesia’s omnibus law: A foreign investors’ guide to the positive investment list, Vistra (Causeway Bay) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 28 May 2021. <https://www.vistra.com/insights/indonesias-omnibus-law-foreign-investors-guide-positive-investment-list>

⁶⁰⁷ The Bank of Italy and the Dubai Financial Services Authority sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Bank of Italy (Rome) 14 April 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bancaditalia.it/media/notizia/the-bank-of-italy-and-the-dubai-financial-services-authority-sign-a-memorandum-of-understanding-mou/>

⁶⁰⁸ The Bank of Italy and the Dubai Financial Services Authority sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Bank of Italy (Rome) 14 April 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bancaditalia.it/media/notizia/the-bank-of-italy-and-the-dubai-financial-services-authority-sign-a-memorandum-of-understanding-mou/>

⁶⁰⁹ Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza, Government of Italy (Rome) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.governo.it/sites/governo.it/files/PNRR.pdf>

⁶¹⁰ PNRR, the reply in the Senate, Government of Italy (Rome) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/pnrr-la-replica-al-senato/16736>

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 5 March 2021, Japan “submitted an omnibus bill with the National Diet (the Proposed Bill), which included amendments to the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act of Japan (FIEA) (Act No. 25 of 1948, as amended) to provide the licensing exemptions for the benefit of foreign asset managers that intend to open offices in Japan.”⁶¹¹

On 1 April 2021, a tax reform became effective. The tax reform includes “favorable changes...to corporate tax, income tax and inheritance tax for asset management firms and their employees.”⁶¹²

As of 22 April 2021, Japan was considering two licensing exemptions. “The Proposed Bill provides: An exemption from Type II broker-dealer and investment management registration for fund operators of certain partnership-type funds (which have “primarily” foreign investors) when offering certain eligible partnership-type funds and managing assets invested in those funds (the Foreign Investor Fund Exemption); and an up to five-year registration moratorium for foreign managers registered with a foreign authority who have foreign investors only and who satisfy certain eligibility requirements (the Registration Moratorium). The Proposed Bill is expected to pass during the current 204th Diet Session, currently scheduled to conclude on 16 June 2021. The Proposed Bill provides that, if adopted by the National Diet, the amendments to the FIEA be implemented at a date designated by the [Financial Services Agency of Japan], but no later than six months from the date of promulgation. In other words, this new preferential treatment could become available as early as the end of 2021.”⁶¹³

Japan has taken actions to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 7 December 2020, the Financial Services Commission unveiled its plans to introduce a routine inspection of personal data protection at financial institutions to ensure consistency in data protection and improve accountability. The plans include establishing specific inspection standards according to the data lifecycle, providing feedbacks on a regular basis through Financial Security Institute and setting up self-inspection guidelines for financial institutions.⁶¹⁴

⁶¹¹ Japan Puts Forth Bold Legislation to Attract More Foreign Asset Managers to Upgrade Global Financial Center Status in Post-COVID-19 World, JD Supra (Marshall) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 28 May 2021. <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/japan-puts-forth-bold-legislation-to-8112361/>

⁶¹² Japan Puts Forth Bold Legislation to Attract More Foreign Asset Managers to Upgrade Global Financial Center Status in Post-COVID-19 World, JD Supra (Marshall) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 28 May 2021. <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/japan-puts-forth-bold-legislation-to-8112361/>

⁶¹³ Japan Puts Forth Bold Legislation to Attract More Foreign Asset Managers to Upgrade Global Financial Center Status in Post-COVID-19 World, JD Supra (Marshall) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 28 May 2021. <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/japan-puts-forth-bold-legislation-to-8112361/>

⁶¹⁴ FSC to Introduce Routine Inspection of Personal Data Protection at Financial Institutions, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.fsc.go.kr/eng/pr010101/22547>

On 12 January 2021, Korea announced its decision to make in-kind contribution of KRW650 billion in the Korea Asset Management Corporation to facilitate its operation of the corporate asset purchase program. With this capital increase, the government expects that the Korean Asset Management corporation will be able to provide more steady support for companies in need of asset sell-offs.⁶¹⁵

On 2 February 2021, Korea approved the revisions to the Enforcement Decree of the Financial Investment Services and Capital Markets Act. The approved revisions are intended to bolster investor protection by “(a) specifying the criteria for determining ‘highly complex’ investment products; (b) strengthening requirements on the recording and cooling-off period during the sales process of ‘highly complex’ investment products; (c) newly establishing a legal ground to regulate sellers of OEM [Original Equipment Manufacturer] funds; (d) tightening regulations to close loopholes of publicly offered funds being sold in the form of a private fund; and (e) raising the retail investors’ minimum investment threshold in hedge funds from KRW100 million to KRW300 million.”⁶¹⁶

On 24 March 2021, Korea “passed the amendments to the Financial Investment Services and Capital Markets Act during a plenary session...with aims to improve the rules on private equity funds. The amendments will go through an approval process at a cabinet meeting prior to the pronouncement and will take effect in six months. The amendments introduce stronger protection measures for retail investors in the [private equity funds] market.”⁶¹⁷

On 13 April 2021, Korea “approved the revision to the Special Act on Support for Financial Innovation during a cabinet meeting held on April 13 to make improvements to the financial regulatory sandbox program and support “innovative financial service” providers. The revised Act allows “innovative financial service” providers to file requests for regulatory improvements while extending the period of regulatory exemption for an additional year and six months if the authorities decide to accept the request and make relevant changes to the regulation.”⁶¹⁸

On 22 April 2021, the Financial Services Commission “announced that the authorities decided to extend the period of financial support made available through the key industry stabilization fund for eight months until 31 December 2021 from the initial expiration date of 30 April” 2021.⁶¹⁹

On 6 May 2021, the Financial Services Commission “introduced the measures to improve rules on the suspension of licensing review process for financial institutions. The measures are intended to increase predictability and minimize legal uncertainties for businesses.”⁶²⁰ “First, the authorities will newly establish a guideline that provides a specific and detailed list of grounds and reasons for suspending a licensing review process. Second, for business entities whose licensing review process has been suspended, the authorities will reconsider every six months the possibility of resuming the licensing review process and whether to extend the suspension period. Third, the suspension of licensing review process, which is currently not applicable to insurance businesses, specialized credit

⁶¹⁵ Government Announces KRW650 Billion Investment in KAMCO to Support Corporate Asset Sell-offs, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.fsc.go.kr/eng/pr010101/75133>

⁶¹⁶ Government Approves Stronger Investor Protection on High-risk Investment Products, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.fsc.go.kr/eng/pr010101/75282>

⁶¹⁷ FSCMA Revisions for Improving Rules on PEFs Passed by the National Assembly, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.fsc.go.kr/eng/pr010101/75609>

⁶¹⁸ Government Approves Revised Law to Support Innovative Financial Services, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.fsc.go.kr/eng/pr010101/75742>

⁶¹⁹ Financial Support through Key Industry Stabilization Fund Extended until the End of 2021, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.fsc.go.kr/eng/pr010101/75790>

⁶²⁰ Financial Authorities to Improve Rules on the Suspension of Licensing Review Process, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.fsc.go.kr/eng/pr010101/75857>

finance companies and financial holding companies, will be applied across all financial sectors to enhance consistency.”⁶²¹

On 10 May 2021, the Financial Services Commission “announced that financial institutions will be required to record the sales process when selling “highly complex investment products” and making sales to elderly investors starting from 10 May. In addition, a cooling-off period of two business days or more will be guaranteed for investors on “highly complex investment products” to allow them to make more prudent investment decisions.”⁶²²

On 13 May 2021, Korea announced its intention “to provide massive tax incentives and state subsidies to chipmakers to encourage” spending and attract investment. Korea “aims to more than double its annual outbound shipments of chips to reach a whopping USD200 billion in 2030 from USD99.2 billion tallied in 2020.”⁶²³

Korea has taken actions both to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignator

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 25 February 2021, the Institutional Stock Exchange (Biva) launched a financial tool called Biva-iCloud which, will facilitate access to financing and stock market information for companies in the country. In a conference, the director of the second brokerage firm in the country pointed out that it is a new platform for the distribution of financial and stock information, which will allow companies to approach the sector thanks to technology and innovation.⁶²⁴

On 31 March 2021, the Financial System Stability Council held its 43rd ordinary session. At that session the council updated the risk balance and reviewed and approved its annual report. In this report, it evaluated the risks to the stability of the financial system and analyzed the challenges that the Mexican financial system continues to face as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was also informed about the progress of the Sustainable Finance Committee’s work.⁶²⁵

On 4 May 2021, the Regional Consultative Group for the Americas of the Financial Stability Board held a conference call to examine macroeconomic-financial vulnerabilities at the global and regional levels and their possible impact on the region. Members also considered the potential financial stability implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the potential impact of an asynchronous economic recovery across regions and the dynamics of capital flows in market and developing

⁶²¹ Financial Authorities to Improve Rules on the Suspension of Licensing Review Process, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.fsc.go.kr/eng/pr010101/75857>

⁶²² Enhanced Investor Protection Measures to Be Applied on Highly Complex Investment Products, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.fsc.go.kr/eng/pr010101/75878>

⁶²³ S. Korea to emerge as No. 1 chip powerhouse with 510 tln-won investment by 2030, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210513002351320>

⁶²⁴ Biva facilitates access for companies to the stock market, La Jornada (Mexico City) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.jornada.com.mx/notas/2021/02/25/economia/facilita-biva-acceso-de-empresas-al-mercado-bursatil>

⁶²⁵ The Financial System Stability Council Updates its Balance Sheet, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/shcp/prensa/el-consejo-de-estabilidad-del-sistema-financiero-actualiza-su-balance-de-riesgos-268309>

economies. The Regional Consultative Group for the Americas of the Financial Stability Board is co-chaired by Alejandro Díaz de León Carrillo, Governor of the Bank of Mexico and Cindy Scotland, Managing Director of the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority.⁶²⁶

Mexico taken actions both to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 24 December 2020, the Government of Russia made a decision to provide extra RUB2.5 billion (approximately USD33.8 million) to stabilize regional budgets. Three regions of Russia – Buryat Republic, Mordovia and Ingushetia would receive governmental subsidies to cover the deficit arose due to the pandemic.⁶²⁷

On 26 February 2021, the Government of Russia approved allocation of extra RUB100 billion (approximately USD1.3 billion) for infrastructure development in a two-years period. The funds would be granted for construction of toll roads in 69 regions along with renovation of existing roads.⁶²⁸

On 20 March 2021, the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation presented the key objectives of the Strategy of Finance Market Development to 2030. The Ministry aims to attract investments by providing transparent and adequate information concerning long-term development priorities. Also, the Ministry plans to introduce new mechanisms to guard individual low-qualified investors amid market uncertainty along with introduction of Russia's own digital currency.⁶²⁹

On 27 March 2021, the Government of Russia approved allocation of extra subsidies for agriculture machinery producers. Each applicant could be granted a sum up to RUB5 million (approximately USD67 ths). The Government plans to grant up to RUB1.5 billion (approximately USD20 million) in 2021 – 2023 in subsidies.⁶³⁰

On 3 April 2021, the Government of Russian decided to allocate extra RUB1 billion (approximately USD13.5 million) to modernize industrial facilities. Among the recipients – 25 regions of Russia

⁶²⁶ El Grupo Consultivo Regional para las Américas del Consejo de Estabilidad Financiera (FSB) discutió sobre las vulnerabilidades globales y regionales, y las medidas de apoyo ante la pandemia por COVID-19, Banxico 4 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.banxico.org.mx/publicaciones-y-prensa/miscelaneos/%7B4FBC9F8D-DF0C-84E8-E14D-DB22D17409A4%7D.pdf>

⁶²⁷ Government to Allocate Another RUB2.5 billion to Stabilize Regional Budgets, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 27 December 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41227/>

⁶²⁸ Government to Allocate RUB100 billion for Infrastructure Development), the Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 01 March 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41635/>

⁶²⁹ Strategy – 2030: Ministry to Define the Key Objective, Vesti.RU (Moscow) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.vesti.ru/finance/article/2539309>

⁶³⁰ Government to Extend Measures to Support Agriculture Machinery Producers, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41830/>

including Kuzbas, Novosibirsk and Pskov. The Government would subsidize share of expenses needed to purchase new equipment, provide access to infrastructure and settle lease payments.⁶³¹

On 5 April 2021, the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation unveiled its intention to spend extra funding received from trade in oil on foreign reserves accumulation. From 07 April to 07 May 2021, the Ministry would allocate extra RUB185.7 billion (approximately USD2.5 billion) for foreign currency purchase.⁶³²

On 15 April 2021, the Government of Russia approved extra measures to support touristic enterprises offering outbound tourist trips. The Government extended moratorium on mandatory payments to specially designated state funds and extended notification period for tourist refund operations from two weeks to one month.⁶³³

On 16 April 2021, the Government of Russia allocated extra RUB1 billion (approximately USD13.5 million) to promote poultry farming and fisheries.⁶³⁴

On 15 April 2021, the Government of Russia presented a national program to support local economic activities among ethnic minorities of Russia's Arctic region. The program is based on six pillars, namely infrastructure, market access improvement measures, establishment of the Traditional Industries Center, promotion of tourism, educational and skills development.⁶³⁵

On 5 May 2021, the Government of Russia announced its intention to allocate extra funds to complete the 4th stage of construction of the Bolshoi' Stavropol'sky channel. The decision implies allocation of extra RUB220 million (approximately USD2.9 million) in 2022.⁶³⁶

On 13 May 2021, the Government of Russia approved an amendment to the state Strategy to Promote Services Export till 2025. Six new projects were incorporated into the Strategy. Extra funding for key spheres such as healthcare services would be granted in 2022.⁶³⁷

On 14 May 2021, the Government of Russia made a decision to ease preconditions for local governments to obtain federal loans. New short-term loans (up to 240 days) would be available regardless of loans granted in 2020. Also, the Government prolonged maturity period for loans granted in 2020 to finance COVID-19 countermeasures till 2029.⁶³⁸

Russia has taken actions both to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

⁶³¹ Regions to Receive RUB1 billion for Industrial Modernization, the Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 05 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41887/>

⁶³² Concerning Oil and Gas Income and Buy/Sell Operation in Foreign Currencies on Local Market, Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. https://minfin.gov.ru/ru/press-center/?id_4=37434-o_neftegazovykh_dokhodakh_i_provedenii_operatsii_po_pokupkeprodazhe_inostranoi_valyuty_na_vnutrennem_valyutno_m_rynke

⁶³³ Government to Approve Extra Measures to Support Outbound Tourist Operators, Government of the Russian Federation 15 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41973/>

⁶³⁴ Government to Allocate Extra Funds to Promote Poultry and Fisheries, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 18 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41997/>

⁶³⁵ Government to Approve Government Support Program to Promote Traditional Industries in Russia's Arctic, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/42009/>

⁶³⁶ Government to Allocate Extra Funds for the 4th Stage of Bolshoi' Stavropol'sky Channel, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/42131/>

⁶³⁷ Government to Extend the Strategy of Service Export Promotion, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/42185/>

⁶³⁸ Government to Ease Requirements for Short-Term Budget Loans, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/42172/>

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 5 April 2021, the General Authority of Zakat and Tax (GAZT) issued regulations to implement an initial special economic zone in Saudi Arabia, the integrated logistic bonded zone (ILBZ). “The ILBZ was announced in October 2018, as part of a goal to make Riyadh one of the 10 largest city economies in the world and is in line with efforts to make Saudi Arabia a globally competitive transportation and logistics hub for the movement of goods and services. The ILBZ will, among other things, provide direct and indirect tax benefits and exemptions to Saudi companies and foreign investors. A company (or branch of a company) that is licensed to conduct activities in the ILBZ – an established entity – will be eligible for tax benefits and exemptions in relation to the following activities: Maintenance, repair, processing, modification, development, assembly, and storage of goods; Sorting, packing, repacking, trading in, distributing, dealing with, and using goods in any form (including simple manufacturing operations); Import, export, and re-export; Value-added services, logistics services, and after sales services; Recycle waste and e-waste.”⁶³⁹ “The tax benefits and exemptions that are available to established entities include: Income tax at a zero per cent (0 per cent) rate for income derived from the prescribed activities; Permanent establishments of non-resident entities conducting activities related to goods in Saudi Arabia are disregarded, provided the non-resident has no physical presence in Saudi Arabia; Suspended customs duty for goods imported into or transported within the ILBZ (no customs duty is applicable until goods enter the Saudi mainland for domestic consumption; No value added tax (VAT) on supplies or transactions occurring with respect to goods in the ILBZ (such supplies would be outside the scope of VAT because the supplies occur under customs duty suspension).”⁶⁴⁰

On 15 March 2021, the GAZT and the General Customs Authority “launched an initiative to defer the payment of customs duties and taxes on goods imported into Saudi Arabia.”⁶⁴¹ The program “allows the postponement of import taxes for a period of up to 21 days following the date of the clearance of the goods for home consumption in the Saudi market.”⁶⁴²

On 2 March 2021, the Saudi Central Bank announced it would launch a new initiative, Open Banking, to stimulate growth and innovation in Saudi Arabia’s financial services industry in the first half of 2022. “Open Banking will be a key component in the development of financial services in Saudi Arabia. It dovetails with the strategic priorities set out in both the Saudi Vision 2030 and the Financial Sector Development Program, namely: developing the digital economy and supporting

⁶³⁹ Saudi Arabia: Regulations to implement tax benefits in special economic zone, KPMG (Amstelveen) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/04/tnf-saudi-arabia-regulations-implement-tax-benefits-special-economic-zone.html>

⁶⁴⁰ Saudi Arabia: Regulations to implement tax benefits in special economic zone, KPMG (Amstelveen) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/04/tnf-saudi-arabia-regulations-implement-tax-benefits-special-economic-zone.html>

⁶⁴¹ Saudi Arabia: Deferral of customs duty for 21-day period after importation, KPMG (Amstelveen) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/03/tnf-saudi-arabia-deferral-of-customs-duty-for-21-day-period-after-importation.html>

⁶⁴² Saudi Arabia: Deferral of customs duty for 21-day period after importation, KPMG (Amstelveen) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/03/tnf-saudi-arabia-deferral-of-customs-duty-for-21-day-period-after-importation.html>

private sector growth in financial services.”⁶⁴³ Open Banking aims at “stimulating innovation by enhancing opportunities to develop new products and services that will increase value proposition and create additional revenue streams; increasing competition, reducing barriers to entry for new participants and providing them with a better understanding of customer needs; creating greater efficiency in the banking system. Additionally, new technologies may reduce the cost of innovation providing an easy way to collaborating with third-party providers.”⁶⁴⁴

On 2 March 2021, Saudi Arabia announced a new law (to be effective since 1 January 2024) which will prevent international businesses without regional headquarters in Saudi Arabia from contracting with institutions, agencies and funds owned by the Saudi government. “The Saudi Minister of Investment defines “regional headquarters” as having all executive staff operations and supporting functions in Saudi Arabia. Headquarters must be located in Riyadh or Dammam and Jeddah with prior government authorization.”⁶⁴⁵

On 7 April 2021, Saudi Arabia announced details of the an investment program, which encompasses three main initiatives, with a SAR10 trillion target (excluding SAR2 trillion Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)) over the next ten years. “The three main initiatives include the “Shareek” program, the Public Investment Fund (PIF) investment program, and the to-be-announced National Investment Strategy (NIS). The Shareek program seeks to partner with the private sector. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman launched the program in late March 2021, as part of the broader investment program. Shareek is meant as a partnership of the government with the private sector to increase domestic investments and support economic growth. The goal of the Shareek program is to unleash domestic investments of SAR5 trillion (166 per cent of 2021 GDP) over the period to 2030. The PIF investment program contribute SAR3 trillion in investments over the same period. The PIF domestic investments averaged SAR62 billion over the period 2016-20 with targeted annual investments of SAR 150 billion over the period 2021-2025. Extending this pace of annual investments to 2030 would bring cumulative investments by the PIF to SAR1.5 trillion over the 2021-2030 period. The to-be-announced NIS will also generate SAR4 trillion in investments over the same period, which is estimated to include an ambitious target of SAR2 trillion in Foreign Direct Investments.”⁶⁴⁶

Saudi Arabia has taken a number of important actions to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

⁶⁴³ Saudi Arabia: Saudi Central Bank Launches Open Banking Initiative, Mondaq (New York) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/saudi-arabia/financial-services/1041936/saudi-central-bank-launches-open-banking-initiative->

⁶⁴⁴ Saudi Arabia: Saudi Central Bank Launches Open Banking Initiative, Mondaq (New York) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/saudi-arabia/financial-services/1041936/saudi-central-bank-launches-open-banking-initiative->

⁶⁴⁵ Saudi Arabia: New Law In Saudi Arabia To Require Regional Headquarters For International Companies, Mondaq (New York) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/saudi-arabia/government-contracts-procurement-ppp/1041884/new-law-in-saudi-arabia-to-require-regional-headquarters-for-international-companies>

⁶⁴⁶ Saudi Arabia's new investment program could be a big leap for the economy, Gulf News (Dubai) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://gulfnews.com/business/analysis/saudi-arabias-new-investment-programme-could-be-a-big-leap-for-the-economy-1.1617772442564>

On 11 December 2020, the National Development Agency has allocated ZAR32 million (approximately USD2.2 million) for 200 civil society organizations to stimulate local economic development.⁶⁴⁷

On 5 February 2021, the Government of South Africa announced its intention to allocate ZAR 400 million (approximately USD28.3 million) to assist the early childhood development sector that had been badly hit with COVID-19–related restrictions. “The department said the budget allocation, known as the Early Childhood Development Stimulus Relief Fund, is part of sustaining and creating employment opportunities in the sector, in light of the high unemployment rate and job losses occasioned by the pandemic.”⁶⁴⁸

On 24 February 2021, the National Treasury announced that “a total R217 billion (approximately USD15 billion) would be spent over the next three-years on ambitious economic development programs aimed at promoting faster and sustained inclusive economic growth...According to the document, an allocation of R81.6 billion (approximately USD5.7 billion) over the medium term will support the expansion of public employment programs while a further R1 billion is set aside to enhance accountability for waste management.”⁶⁴⁹

On 22 April 2021, the Cabinet approved the Tourism Sector Recovery Plan. The objective of the Plan is to preserve jobs and livelihoods along with creation of new job opportunities especially among women, youth and people with disabilities in the sector.⁶⁵⁰ Interventions and enablers outlined in the Tourism Sector Recovery Plan will facilitate the preservation of ZAR189 billion (approximately USD13.4 billion) of value and help the sector to recover.⁶⁵¹

On 28 April 2021, “the South African Reserve Bank, as part of the modernization of the national payment system (NPS), embarked on the Authenticated Collections (AC)/DebiCheck project. This project is a first of its kind that seeks to address the increasing levels of abuse in the debit order payment system, known commercially as the early debit order (EDO) payment system. From 1 May 2021, all new and renegotiated EDO mandates will be originated in the AC/DebiCheck payment system and not in the current EDO payment system. Early debit orders will only be processed through the AC/DebiCheck payment system, while normal debit orders will still be processed later in the day as per current arrangements.”⁶⁵²

South Africa takes steps to ensure sustainable capital flows, but no action aimed at domestic capital market development has been founded.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

⁶⁴⁷ R32 million allocated to stimulate local economic development, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/r32-million-allocated-stimulate-local-economic-development>

⁶⁴⁸ Over R400m to assist struggling ECDs, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/over-r400m-assist-struggling-ecds>

⁶⁴⁹ R217 billion allocated for economic growth programmes, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/r217-billion-allocated-economic-growth-programmes>

⁶⁵⁰ Recovery plan for COVID-19 hit tourism sector, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/recovery-plan-covid-19-hit-tourism-sector>

⁶⁵¹ Tourism Recovery Plan to facilitate preservation of R189 billion, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/tourism-recovery-plan-facilitate-preservation-r189-billion>

⁶⁵² The South African Reserve Bank modernizes the national payment system with the DebiCheck project, South African Reserve Bank (Pretoria) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.resbank.co.za/en/home/publications/publication-detail-pages/media-releases/2021/The-SARB-modernises-NPS-with-Debichack-Project>

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 19 February 2021, Turkey reported “monetary policy has been significantly tightened, international reserves have stabilized and the Turkish lira has appreciated by 18 percent against the US dollar since early November” 2020. Under its new leadership, the central bank has simplified monetary policy by reverting to a single policy interest rate (one-week repo rate) to improve transparency and predictability, strengthened its communication strategy and stepped-up its tightening cycle by increasing policy rate rates by 675 basic points in November-December 2020. The real policy rate (adjusted for 12-month inflation expectations) increased to 6.8 per cent in February 2021 compared with -1.55 per cent in August 2020. Authorities have also reversed previous regulatory measures to rein in rapid credit growth. The central bank current policy settings are aimed at achieving sustained disinflation (reaching its inflation target of 5 per cent in 2023), a reversal in dollarization and rebuilding FX reserves. In line with its intention to strengthen inflation targeting credentials, the central bank has renewed its previous long-standing commitment to a floating exchange rate, after large scale interventions in 2020. The change in investor sentiment and domestic actors has led to significant lira appreciation, lower risk premium and some net capital inflows.”⁶⁵³

On 12 March 2021, “President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan unveiled Turkey’s latest Economic Reform Package. Macroeconomic policies of the Economic Reform Package encompass significant steps such as ensuring price stability, increasing investments and employment, supporting financial sector and reducing the current deficit. Meanwhile, structural policies include strengthening institutional structure, encouraging investments, facilitating domestic trade, enhancing competition policies and performing market surveillance and inspection. Regarding investments, the package includes a series of regulations to further enhance the investment environment in Turkey, some of are being introducing special incentives, reducing the impact of bureaucracy and land allocation for investments. President Erdoğan added that instruments in interest-free finance will also be diversified to position Turkey as an alternative location for such investments and Tech-driven Industry Initiative and Project-based Incentives System will be bolstered up to reduce the current deficit. As part of the regulations to fight against inflation, the Turkish government has decided to establish the Price Stability Committee with representation of key sectors such as agriculture, industry and services. President Erdoğan, also heralded a new law to be introduced regarding the Istanbul Finance Center project. Once the center gets fully operational, the government will make efforts to make it a center of attraction for international finance organizations. Within the scope of a legal regulation, a new incentives mechanism will be launched specifically for the Istanbul Finance Center.”⁶⁵⁴

On 18 March 2021, “Turkey’s central bank raised its policy rate again in attempt to control rising inflation. The Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey’s seven-member monetary policy committee (MPC) raised its one-week repo rate by 200 basis points, from 17 per cent to 19 per cent. The MPC has raised the policy rate by 875 basis points in the four months.”⁶⁵⁵

Turkey has taken actions to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

⁶⁵³ Fitch Revises Turkey’s Outlook to Stable; Affirms at ‘BB-’, Fitch Ratings (London) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.fitchratings.com/research/sovereigns/fitch-revises-turkey-outlook-to-stable-affirms-at-bb-19-02-2021>

⁶⁵⁴ New Economic Reform Package Heralded by President Erdogan, Invest in Türkiye (Ankara) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.invest.gov.tr/en/news/newsletters/lists/investnewsletter/investment-office-apr-2021-newsletter.pdf>

⁶⁵⁵ Turkish central bank announces large rate rise, Central Banking (Ankara) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.centralbanking.com/central-banks/monetary-policy/7812576/turkish-central-bank-announces-large-rate-rise>

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

In January 2021, the UK published a call for input “to identify options to make the UK a more attractive location to set up, manage and administer funds, and support more efficient investments better suited to investors’ needs.”⁶⁵⁶

On 3 March 2021, the details of the new UK budget were published. According to the document, in 2021-22 the UK government will carry out sound monetary policies and apply countercyclical fiscal measure to address the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁵⁷

On 19 March 2021, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak announced new plans to help fintechns scale up. In particular, “the UK will consult on changes to its prospectus regime – which governs the information a company must publish when raising finance...to ensure the rules are not overly burdensome but provide investors with the information they need, tailored to the type of transaction. The consultation will also explore how to make it easier for companies to provide the forward-looking financial information investors want to see, which would particularly benefit technology and life sciences companies with high-growth potential, and their investors. A group of experts will also be convened to look at how to improve the efficiency of rights issues – when a listed company invites its existing shareholders to purchase additional new shares – and the role technology could play in streamlining the process, as recommended by the Review. Separately, ambitious reforms to the UK’s wider capital markets regime will also be consulted on this summer, including proposals to delete the share trading obligation and double volume cap. The consultation process aims to deliver a rulebook that is fair, outcomes-based and supports competitiveness, whilst ensuring the UK maintains the highest regulatory standards.”⁶⁵⁸

In April 2021, the UK government’s gross reserves increased by USD815 million to USD178,964 million, as compared to end-March.⁶⁵⁹

The United Kingdom has taken actions to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

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

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

⁶⁵⁶ Review of the UK funds regime: A call for input, HM Treasury (London) January 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955542/REVIEW_OF_THE_UK_FUNDS_REGIME_-_CALL_FOR_INPUT.pdf

⁶⁵⁷ Policy paper. Budget 2021 (HTML), HM Treasury (London) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/budget-2021-documents/budget-2021-html>

⁶⁵⁸ Ambitious plans to boost UK fintech and financial services set out by Chancellor, UK Government (London) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ambitious-plans-to-boost-uk-fintech-and-financial-services-set-out-by-chancellor>

⁶⁵⁹ Statistical Release: UK official holdings of international reserves – April 2021, HM Treasury (London) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/983632/Statistical_Release_UK_official_holdings_of_international_-_April_2021.pdf

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 18 December 2021, the Federal Reserve Board announced that it had “voted to affirm the Countercyclical Capital Buffer (CCyB) at the current level of 0 per cent...follow[ing] the framework detailed in the Board’s policy statement for setting the CCyB for private-sector credit exposures located in the United States.”⁶⁶⁰ This move was, according to the message by the Board, intended to “increase the resilience of the financial system by raising capital requirements on large banking organizations” as well as to help moderate fluctuations in the supply of credit.⁶⁶¹

On 18 February 2021, the Federal Reserve Board “announced a final rule that is intended to reduce risk and increase efficiency in the financial system by applying netting protections to a broader range of financial institutions. The final rule amends Regulation EE (Financial Institution Netting) to apply netting provisions of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 to certain new entities including swap dealers. The rule also provided clarifications to the existing activities-based test in Regulation EE to clarify how the activities-based test applies following a consolidation of legal entities.”⁶⁶²

On 8 March 2021, the Federal Reserve Board announced the extension of its Paycheck Protection Program Liquidity Facility by three months to 30 June 2021. The extension was aimed at providing “continued support for the flow of credit to small businesses through the Paycheck Protection Program.”⁶⁶³

On 31 March 2021, the Federal Reserve Board adopted a final rule outlining and confirming the use of supervisory guidance for regulated institutions. The rule codified the Interagency Statement Clarifying the Role of Supervisory Guidance, made in 2018, as an Appendix to the Board’s Rules of Procedure, affirming the principle of administrative law that guidance does not have the force and effect of law or regulation. This decision served, according to the memo by the Board, to provide certainty and transparency to regulated financial institutions.⁶⁶⁴

The United States took actions to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

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

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

⁶⁶⁰ Federal Reserve Board votes to affirm the Countercyclical Capital Buffer (CCyB) at the current level of 0 percent, Federal Reserve (Washington) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20201218c.htm>

⁶⁶¹ Federal Reserve Board votes to affirm the Countercyclical Capital Buffer (CCyB) at the current level of 0 percent, Federal Reserve (Washington) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20201218c.htm>

⁶⁶² Federal Reserve Board announces final rule intended to reduce risk and increase efficiency in the financial system by applying netting protections to a broader range of financial institutions, Federal Reserve (Washington) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20210218a.htm>

⁶⁶³ Federal Reserve Board announces it will extend its Paycheck Protection Program Liquidity Facility, or PPPLF, by three months to June 30, 2021, Federal Reserve (Washington) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20210308a.htm>

⁶⁶⁴ Board Memo: Final Rule on the Role of Supervisory Guidance, Federal Reserve (Washington) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/files/board-memo-20210312.pdf>

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to strengthen long-term financial resilience and support growth.

On 2 December 2020, the Council of the European Union published Conclusions on the European Commission's Capital Markets Union Action Plan. The Council called on the Commission "to focus on actions that can be delivered via non-legislative means, and which, like legislative means, can help channeling savings into the capital markets in order to make these funds available for the economy without risking financial stability, market integrity or consumer protection."⁶⁶⁵ It also urged the Commission to set up "an EU-wide "single access point" for financial and non-financial company information that is useful for investors in order to increase transparency, while avoiding creating disproportionate reporting and filing burden for EU companies."⁶⁶⁶

On 3 March 2021, the European Commission "adopted a Communication providing Member States with broad guidance on the conduct of fiscal policy in the period ahead. It provided guiding principles for the proper design and quality of fiscal measures."⁶⁶⁷ The Commission advocated "coordinated and consistent policy response to the current crisis. This requires credible fiscal policies that address the short-term consequences of the coronavirus pandemic and support the recovery, while not endangering fiscal sustainability in the medium-term."⁶⁶⁸

On 22 April 2021, the Governing Council of the European Central Bank (ECB) "decided to reconfirm its very accommodative monetary policy stance."⁶⁶⁹ The aim of this policy is "to ensure that inflation moves towards its aim in a sustained manner, in line with the ECB's commitment to symmetry."⁶⁷⁰

The European Union has taken actions to provide sustainable capital flows and facilitate domestic capital market development.

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

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

⁶⁶⁵ Council Conclusions on the Commission's CMU Action Plan, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-12898-2020-REV-1/en/pdf>

⁶⁶⁶ Council Conclusions on the Commission's CMU Action Plan, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-12898-2020-REV-1/en/pdf>

⁶⁶⁷ Commission presents updated approach to fiscal policy response to coronavirus pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_884

⁶⁶⁸ Commission presents updated approach to fiscal policy response to coronavirus pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_884

⁶⁶⁹ Monetary policy decisions, European Central Bank (Brussels) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2021/html/ecb.mp210422~f075ebe1f0.en.html>

⁶⁷⁰ Monetary policy decisions, European Central Bank (Brussels) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2021/html/ecb.mp210422~f075ebe1f0.en.html>

3. Trade: Investment

“We strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment environment.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil		0	
Canada		0	
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia			+1
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
Korea		0	
Mexico		0	
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa		0	
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.55 (78%)	

Background

The 2020 G20 Leaders’ Statement acknowledges the importance of “supporting the multilateral trading system” in response to the economic contraction brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁷¹ Additionally, the G20 leaders affirm the need to promote inclusive economic growth, fostering the integration of developing and least developed countries into the international trading system.⁶⁷²

Discussions on realizing the goal of free, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment can be traced back to the 2008 Washington Summit. In the face of the 2007-2008 financial crisis, G20 leaders agreed to “ensure transparency” and “restore stability” while remaining committed to free market principles.⁶⁷³ Accordingly, the G20 leaders committed to

⁶⁷¹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁶⁷² G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁶⁷³ Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2008. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

undertaking a Financial Sector Assessment Program report, which consists of a financial stability assessment and a financial development assessment, bolstering transparency and stability.⁶⁷⁴

At the 2010 Toronto Summit, G20 leaders drafted the Principles for Innovative Financial Inclusion, encouraging financial inclusion, stability, and market-based incentives conducive to a competitive economic landscape.⁶⁷⁵ Leaders renewed their commitment to “refrain from raising barriers or imposing new barriers to investment or trade in goods and services,” promoting free trade and investment.⁶⁷⁶ At the 2010 Seoul Summit, leaders delivered the Seoul Action Plan to “enhance the stability of financial markets,” and a modernized International Monetary Fund with “greater representation of dynamic emerging markets and developing countries,” encouraging fair, inclusive, and non-discriminatory international trade.⁶⁷⁷

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, leaders “firmly committed to open trade and investment,” underlining the significance of “an open, predictable, rules-based, and transparent” trade environment.⁶⁷⁸ At the 2013 St Petersburg Summit, leaders agreed to achieving “the open, rules-based, transparent and non-discriminatory WTO-based trading system,” and reaffirmed their support of free trade principles, extending their commitment to “removing barriers and impediments to global trade and investment” until the end of 2016.⁶⁷⁹

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 leaders recognized the importance of “trade and investment frameworks and the principle of non-discrimination,” vowing to fight “all unfair trade practices.”⁶⁸⁰ The leaders reaffirmed the “importance of transparency for predictable and mutually beneficial trade,” and recognized the unequal benefits of international trade and investment, committing to enhancing “international cooperation towards inclusive and sustainable global growth.”⁶⁸¹

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 leaders first stated their commitment “to realize a free, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.”⁶⁸² Additionally, they reaffirmed support for reforms to the World Trade Organization (WTO), recognizing the importance of the WTO and WTO-consistent bilateral and regional trade agreements for realizing their ideal trade and investment environments.⁶⁸³

On 29 June 2020, the WTO published Reports on G20 Trade and Investment Measures, covering mid-October 2019 to mid-May 2020. The report found that of the 154 new trade-related measures

⁶⁷⁴ Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP), International Monetary Fund (Washington) 29 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.imf.org/external/np/fsap/fssa.aspx>

⁶⁷⁵ Principles for Innovative Financial Inclusion, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-principles.html>

⁶⁷⁶ The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communique.html>

⁶⁷⁷ The G20 Seoul Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 November 2010. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/g20seoul.html>

⁶⁷⁸ G20 Leaders Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

⁶⁷⁹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

⁶⁸⁰ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁶⁸¹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁶⁸² G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

⁶⁸³ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

implemented by G20 members, 95 were trade-facilitating and 59 were trade-restrictive.⁶⁸⁴ The COVID-19 pandemic was identified as exacerbating the trend of G20 investment policies aimed to “safeguard national security interests against threats associated with international investment.”⁶⁸⁵

Commitment Features

In the face of an economic contraction due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the G20 members “strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment environment.” This commitment can be divided into two parts: the first to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade environment, and the second to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable investment environment.

“Strive” refers “to try very hard to do something or make something happen, especially for a long time or against difficulties.”⁶⁸⁶

The term “trade” is understood to mean the exchange of goods, services, and intellectual property.⁶⁸⁷ In the context of this commitment, a “trade environment” should be understood as the international conditions in which these exchanges take place. The term “investment” is understood to mean the act of allocating funds into something to achieve a result.⁶⁸⁸ In the context of this commitment, an “investment environment” refers to the international conditions in which investment takes place. To “realize” is to “bring into concrete existence; accomplish.”⁶⁸⁹

The WTO outlines four principles that form “the foundation of the multilateral trading system.”⁶⁹⁰ First, non-discriminatory trade mandates that countries “cannot discriminate between trading partners,” and must treat local and imported goods and services equally. Second, free trade dictates that countries will gradually work towards lowering trade barriers such as tariffs and import bans or quotas, progressively liberalizing their markets. Third, predictability encourages nations to make their trade rules clear and transparent. The WTO institutes “binding” commitments, placing a ceiling on customs tariff rates, and in certain agreements requires governments to publicly disclose their practice. The WTO includes “stability” and “transparency” under this principle. Fourth, promoting fair, rules-based trading encourages “undistorted competition.” Finally, “inclusive trade” is understood to mean “all segments of society can take advantage of the opportunities that flow from trade. This means providing equal opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that may already be at disadvantage, including women, Indigenous peoples, youth and other underrepresented groups.”⁶⁹¹ Together, these five principles describe trading and investment

⁶⁸⁴ Joint Summary on the G-20 Trade Measures, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date 23 February 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/g20_joint_summary_jun20_e.pdf

⁶⁸⁵ Joint Summary on the G-20 Trade Measures, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date 23 February 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/g20_joint_summary_jun20_e.pdf

⁶⁸⁶ Strive, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/strive>

⁶⁸⁷ What we do, World Trade Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/what_we_do_e.htm

⁶⁸⁸ Investment, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/investment>

⁶⁸⁹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁶⁹⁰ Principles of the trading system, World Trade Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/fact2_e.htm

⁶⁹¹ Spotlight on Inclusive Trade, Government of Canada (Ottawa) n.d. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.tradecommissioner.gc.ca/guides/spotlight-pleins_feux/spotlight-trade-pleins-feux-commerce.aspx?lang=eng

environments that are “free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable,” and will be used to determine the compliance of G20 members with this commitment.

A G20 member can achieve full compliance for the first part of the commitment by striving to realize a trade environment in accordance with four to five of the aforementioned principles. A G20 member will receive a score of non-compliance for the first part of the commitment if it strives to realize a trade environment in accordance with one or none of the aforementioned principles. A G20 member will receive partial compliance for the first part of the commitment if it realizes a trade environment in accordance with two to three of the aforementioned principles.

A G20 member can achieve full compliance for the second part of the commitment by striving to realize an investment environment in accordance with four to five of the aforementioned principles. A G20 member will receive a score of non-compliance for the second part of the commitment if it strives to realize an investment environment in accordance with one or none of the aforementioned principles. A G20 member will receive partial compliance for the second part of the commitment if it realizes an investment environment in accordance with two or three of the aforementioned principles.

As well, this commitment has a depth component of how strong the action taken by the G20 member is. A member can fully realize or partially realize the goal of a trade and/or investment environment in accordance with WTO principles. To achieve full compliance, a G20 member must take significant action in order to fully realize the goal of a trade and investment environment in accordance with WTO principles. Examples of significant actions that warrant full compliance include enforcing WTO principles through legislative action, initiating programs to encourage trade and investment in accordance with WTO principles, and engaging with international institutions that facilitate trade and investment. Examples of actions that warrant partial compliance include reaffirmation of the commitment in official government statements and attending meetings that discuss the international trade and investment environments.

To achieve full compliance for this commitment, G20 members must take strong action towards realizing both a trade environment and an investment environment that is free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable. Partial compliance will be awarded if a G20 member only takes action towards one of the commitment targets – either trade or investment. Non-compliance will be awarded if a G20 member has completed none of the aforementioned criteria.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G20 member has not taken action towards realizing a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable or stable trade nor investment environment.
0	The G20 member has either taken action towards realizing a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade OR investment environment.
+1	The G20 member has taken strong action towards realizing the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade AND investment environment.

*Compliance Director: Matthew Kieffer
Lead Analyst: Joy Fan*

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 30 November 2021, Argentina and the European Union met virtually to discuss trade and economics.⁶⁹² During the meeting both parties discussed concerns with current trade policies, new

⁶⁹² 11th EU-Argentina Joint Committee – Trade and Economic Joint Minutes, EU-Argentina Joint Committee (Brussels) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/january/tradoc_159395.pdf

taxation laws and interest in varying policy areas.⁶⁹³ The discussions promoted transparency and stability in foreign investment by Argentina into the EU.⁶⁹⁴

On 22 December 2020, Minister for Social Development Daniel Arroyo, Minister of Transport Mario Meoni and Foreign Minister Felipe Solá signed an inter-ministerial framework aimed at strengthening partnerships with Middle Eastern countries regarding the grassroots economy, the social economy and family agriculture exports.⁶⁹⁵ Minister Solá stated that “we are fully committed to opening new markets for traditional or novel products and introducing novel products in traditional markets.”⁶⁹⁶

On 7 January 2021, Argentina met with Japan to “foster mutual trade and investments.”⁶⁹⁷ Both countries noted their shared values of multilateralism, democracy, and the rule of law, and agreed to “intensify trade relations.”⁶⁹⁸

On 4 February 2021, Argentina and Chile enacted their automotive agreement.⁶⁹⁹ The agreement allows Argentina to export 10,000 more vehicles to Chile.⁷⁰⁰

On 5 March 2021, Argentina published ministerial order 37/21 which created a promotional unit in energy and mining investment⁷⁰¹ The order increases investment attraction in both mining and energy sectors, internationalizing Argentinian companies.⁷⁰² The unit will also identify and support “trade and cooperation agreements to promote foreign investment.”⁷⁰³

⁶⁹³ 11th EU-Argentina Joint Committee – Trade and Economic Joint Minutes, EU-Argentina Joint Committee (Brussels) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/january/tradoc_159395.pdf

⁶⁹⁴ 11th EU-Argentina Joint Committee – Trade and Economic Joint Minutes, EU-Argentina Joint Committee (Brussels) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/january/tradoc_159395.pdf

⁶⁹⁵ Foreign minister Solá: “We want the grassroots economy, the social economy and family agriculture to have export capacity,” Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/foreign-minister-sola-we-want-grassroots-economy-social-economy-and-family>

⁶⁹⁶ Foreign minister Solá: “We want the grassroots economy, the social economy and family agriculture to have export capacity,” Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/foreign-minister-sola-we-want-grassroots-economy-social-economy-and-family>

⁶⁹⁷ Argentina – Japan: Foreign Ministers Met to Strengthen Strategic Relationship, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-japan-foreign-ministers-met-strengthen-strategic-relationship>

⁶⁹⁸ Argentina – Japan: Foreign Ministers Met to Strengthen Strategic Relationship, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-japan-foreign-ministers-met-strengthen-strategic-relationship>

⁶⁹⁹ Argentina to Export Ten Thousand More Pickup Trucks to Chile, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2020.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-export-ten-thousand-more-pickup-trucks-chile>

⁷⁰⁰ Argentina to Export Ten Thousand More Pickup Trucks to Chile, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2020.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-export-ten-thousand-more-pickup-trucks-chile>

⁷⁰¹ Foreign Ministry Creates Unit to Promote Energy and Mining Investment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/foreign-ministry-creates-unit-promote-energy-and-mining-investment>

⁷⁰² Foreign Ministry Creates Unit to Promote Energy and Mining Investment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/foreign-ministry-creates-unit-promote-energy-and-mining-investment>

⁷⁰³ Foreign Ministry Creates Unit to Promote Energy and Mining Investment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/foreign-ministry-creates-unit-promote-energy-and-mining-investment>

On 9 March 2021, Argentina and Brazil solved 49 of 54 pending issues pertaining to the trade in agriculture and livestock.⁷⁰⁴ This marks the culmination of work initiated in 2020 and the resolution of these issues will cause a major intensification of the bilateral trade flow of agricultural products.⁷⁰⁵

On 17 March 2021, Argentina met with India and opened India's market to Argentinian yerba mate, a South American tea.⁷⁰⁶ This action promotes market freedom, and reflects a coordinated effort between India, Argentina, and applicable international organizations.⁷⁰⁷

On 19 March 2021, Argentina concluded the Joint Declaration on Financing the Private Sector with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).⁷⁰⁸ The Joint Declaration mandates that the OPEC Fund will invest in the Argentinian private sector, supporting an inclusive, and non-discriminatory investment environment.⁷⁰⁹

On 25 March 2021, Economy Minister Martin Guzmán and his team held discussions with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) regarding an economic plan that the IMF could support.⁷¹⁰ Both parties agreed on the “importance of policies to boost value-added exports and productivity” which would promote an external shock resiliency as well as a more robust growth trajectory, strengthened by private investments.⁷¹¹

On 5 April 2021, Argentina and Bolivia met virtually for the Second Meeting of the Argentina-Bolivia Binational Committee on Trade, Investments, and Economic Relations.⁷¹² Market access and cooperation on regulatory matters were discussed.⁷¹³ Both countries agreed to virtually hold

⁷⁰⁴ Brazil and Argentina solve pending issues in trade in agricultural products, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (Brasilia) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/agricultura/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-e-argentina-solucionam-49-pendencias-do-comercio-de-produtos-agropecuarios>

⁷⁰⁵ Brazil and Argentina solve pending issues in trade in agricultural products, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (Brasilia) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/agricultura/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-e-argentina-solucionam-49-pendencias-do-comercio-de-produtos-agropecuarios>

⁷⁰⁶ Opening of the Indian Market for Argentine Yerba Mate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/apertura-del-mercado-de-la-india-para-la-yerba-mate-argentina>

⁷⁰⁷ Opening of the Indian Market for Argentine Yerba Mate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/apertura-del-mercado-de-la-india-para-la-yerba-mate-argentina>

⁷⁰⁸ The Foreign Ministry Agrees with OPEC Investments for the Private Sector, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/la-cancilleria-acuerda-con-la-opep-inversiones-para-el-sector-privado>

⁷⁰⁹ The Foreign Ministry Agrees with OPEC Investments for the Private Sector, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/la-cancilleria-acuerda-con-la-opep-inversiones-para-el-sector-privado>

⁷¹⁰ IMF Mission Team Statement on Argentina, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/03/25/pr2186-argentina-imf-mission-team-statement-on-argentina>

⁷¹¹ IMF Mission Team Statement on Argentina, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/03/25/pr2186-argentina-imf-mission-team-statement-on-argentina>

⁷¹² Second meeting of Argentina-Bolivia Binational Committee on trade, investments, and economic relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/second-meeting-argentina-bolivia-binational-committee-trade-investments-and>

⁷¹³ Second meeting of Argentina-Bolivia Binational Committee on trade, investments, and economic relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/second-meeting-argentina-bolivia-binational-committee-trade-investments-and>

negotiations in May for “building business partnerships to promote the region’s production in third markets.”⁷¹⁴

On 29 April 2021, Minister Solá virtually closed the First Seminar on Technical Capacities in Foreign Relations which intended on offering tools to the country’s provinces and municipalities.⁷¹⁵ Trade promotion and investments and the multilateral agenda were addressed.⁷¹⁶

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Argentina has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a fair, free, predictable and inclusive trade environment by engaging in discussions with global partners. Additionally, Argentina has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive investment environment by signing multilateral declarations affirming their support for WTO investment principles.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: AnnaMaria Pavlopoulos

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 26 November 2020, Australia signed on to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership trade agreement that will build on Australia’s existing free trade agreements in the Asia-Pacific region.⁷¹⁷ The agreement is aimed at improving export access and supply chain opportunities for Australian businesses in fourteen Indo-Pacific countries and boosting trade in services, especially in education, health, engineering, finance and professional services.⁷¹⁸

On 13 December 2020, the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus (PACER Plus) entered into force.⁷¹⁹ It sets minimum standards of transparency and obligation for Parties beyond the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.⁷²⁰ The agreement increases awareness of investment opportunities, reinforces legal protections of investors, and

⁷¹⁴ Second meeting of Argentina-Bolivia Binational Committee on trade, investments, and economic relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/second-meeting-argentina-bolivia-binational-committee-trade-investments-and>

⁷¹⁵ Felipe Solá closed the Seminar to promote the international insertion of the provinces, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/felipe-sola-cerro-seminario-para-promover-la-insercion-internacional-de-las>

⁷¹⁶ Felipe Solá closed the Seminar to promote the international insertion of the provinces, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/felipe-sola-cerro-seminario-para-promover-la-insercion-internacional-de-las>

⁷¹⁷ Australia signs world’s largest free trade agreement, Australian trade and investment commission (Canberra) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.austrade.gov.au/news/latest-from-austrade/2020-latest-from-austrade/australia-signs-worlds-largest-free-trade-agreement>

⁷¹⁸ Australia signs world’s largest free trade agreement, Australian trade and investment commission (Canberra) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.austrade.gov.au/news/latest-from-austrade/2020-latest-from-austrade/australia-signs-worlds-largest-free-trade-agreement>

⁷¹⁹ Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus: Transparency, Department of foreign affairs and trade (Canberra) 13 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/in-force/pacer/fact-sheets/transparency>

⁷²⁰ Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus: Transparency, Department of foreign affairs and trade (Canberra) 13 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/in-force/pacer/fact-sheets/transparency>

includes commitments to achieving a non-discriminatory, predictable, and stable investment environment.⁷²¹

On 14 December 2020, Japan, Australia and Singapore, issued a Joint Statement Initiative (JSI) on E-Commerce negotiations on behalf of eighty-six WTO members.⁷²² The statement affirms that openness, transparency, and inclusiveness are central to the JSI.⁷²³

On 1 January 2021, several tariff cuts outlined in the Comprehensive Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership came into effect, expanding opportunities for Australian exporters and encouraging a predictable, non-discriminatory, and free trade environment.⁷²⁴ The tariff cuts have improved commodity access across agricultural and seafood exporters.⁷²⁵

On 1 January 2021, the Agreement on Mutual Recognition in Relation to Conformity Assessment, Certificates and Markings between Australia and the UK entered into force.⁷²⁶ The agreement set rules on testing products by a suitable conformity assessment body prior to exportation in order to reduce technical barriers to trade.⁷²⁷

On 6 April 2021, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Dan Tehan launched the government's flagship program to advance trade and investment with India.⁷²⁸ The Australia India Business Exchange will provide businesses in both nations with market insights and connections to foster commercial partnerships that will help generate jobs and business opportunities in Australia and India.⁷²⁹

On 6 April 2021, Minister Tehan launched Australia's Services Exports Action Plan in Melbourne.⁷³⁰ According to the plan, Australian businesses can use digital technology to improve their productivity

⁷²¹ Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus: Investment, Department of foreign affairs and trade (Canberra) 13 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/in-force/pacer/fact-sheets/investment>

⁷²² E-commerce co-conveners release update on the negotiations, welcome encouraging progress, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/ecom_14dec20_e.htm

⁷²³ E-commerce co-conveners release update on the negotiations, welcome encouraging progress, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/ecom_14dec20_e.htm

⁷²⁴ Tariff-ic start to 2021 for Australia's farmers, Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management (Canberra) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/littleproud/media-releases/ny-tariff-cuts>

⁷²⁵ Tariff-ic start to 2021 for Australia's farmers, Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management (Canberra) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/littleproud/media-releases/ny-tariff-cuts>

⁷²⁶ Reducing technical barriers to trade, Department of industry, science, energy and resources (Canberra) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.industry.gov.au/regulations-and-standards/reducing-technical-barriers-to-trade>

⁷²⁷ Reducing technical barriers to trade, Department of industry, science, energy and resources (Canberra) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.industry.gov.au/regulations-and-standards/reducing-technical-barriers-to-trade>

⁷²⁸ Boosting business ties with India, Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Canberra) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/boosting-business-ties-india>

⁷²⁹ Boosting business ties with India, Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Canberra) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/boosting-business-ties-india>

⁷³⁰ Australia in a digitised world – a practical, principled and patient approach to Australia's digital trade transformation, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/trade-and-investment/business-envoy-april-2021-digital-trade-edition/australia-digitised-world-practical-principled-and-patient-approach-australias-digital-trade-transformation>

and improve transparency.⁷³¹ In addition, the plan supports the international competitiveness of Australia's service industry.⁷³²

On 7 April 2021, Treasurer Josh Frydenberg delegated additional powers to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) under the Corporations Act 2001.⁷³³ This serves to improve the regulation of financial markets.⁷³⁴ Treasurer Frydenberg aims to protect investors and ensure that markets are fair, efficient and transparent.⁷³⁵

On 22 April 2021, Australia attended the WTO general council meeting.⁷³⁶ Attendees agreed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on exports of medical goods essential to combatting COVID-19, remain transparent about export restrictions deemed "necessary to relieve critical shortages," and give particular considerations to least developed countries.⁷³⁷ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.⁷³⁸

On 22 April 2021, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women Marise Payne and New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs Nanaia Mahuta met in Wellington for the biannual Australia-New Zealand Foreign Minister Consultations.⁷³⁹ They discussed the shared challenges regarding trade and investment.⁷⁴⁰

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Australia has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, and predictable trade environment by actively lowering barriers to trade. Additionally, Australia has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive investment environment by enacting PACER Plus and increasing ASIC regulatory power.

⁷³¹ Australia in a digitised world – a practical, principled and patient approach to Australia's digital trade transformation, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/trade-and-investment/business-envoy-april-2021-digital-trade-edition/australia-digitised-world-practical-principled-and-patient-approach-australias-digital-trade-transformation>

⁷³² Action plan to boost Australia's services exports, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/action-plan-boost-australias-services-exports>

⁷³³ Guidelines for the exercise of powers delegated to ASIC under Chapter 7 of the Corporations Act 2001 – April 2019, The Treasury of Australian Government (Canberra) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://treasury.gov.au/publication/p2021-164649>

⁷³⁴ Guidelines for the exercise of powers delegated to ASIC under Chapter 7 of the Corporations Act 2001 – April 2019, The Treasury of Australian Government (Canberra) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://treasury.gov.au/publication/p2021-164649>

⁷³⁵ Guidelines for the exercise of powers delegated to ASIC under Chapter 7 of the Corporations Act 2001 – April 2019, The Treasury of Australian Government (Canberra) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://treasury.gov.au/publication/p2021-164649>

⁷³⁶ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

⁷³⁷ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

⁷³⁸ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

⁷³⁹ Strengthening trans-Tasman ties: Australia-New Zealand Foreign Minister Consultations, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women (Canberra) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/strengthening-trans-tasman-ties-australia-new-zealand-foreign-minister-consultations>

⁷⁴⁰ Strengthening trans-Tasman ties: Australia-New Zealand Foreign Minister Consultations, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women (Canberra) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/strengthening-trans-tasman-ties-australia-new-zealand-foreign-minister-consultations>

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Haobin Chen

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment environment.

On 21 December 2020, the Ministry of Economy launched a new tool for sharing information on trade agreements negotiated and under negotiation by Brazil.⁷⁴¹ Foreign Trade Secretary Lucas Ferraz explained that the development of the tool was inspired by the principles of transparency and transparent governance in the agenda of trade negotiations in line with the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement on Trade Facilitation.⁷⁴²

On 18 January 2021, the Ministry of Economy announced the launch of a new phase of the Single Foreign Trade Portal which seeks to simplify Brazil's exports and imports through a reformulation of procedures, requirements and systems applicable to external commercial transactions.⁷⁴³ These measures reduce time and costs for private actors to complete their trade operations.⁷⁴⁴

On 3 February 2021, Brazil put in an initial offer of market access to join the WTO Government Contracting Agreement, which makes public contracts open to international competition.⁷⁴⁵ Compliance with the agreement will promote reduced public spending and improvement in the quality of government goods and services and encourage Brazilian exports and foreign investment in the country.⁷⁴⁶

On 9 March 2021, Brazil and Argentina solved 49 of 54 pending issues pertaining to the trade in agriculture and livestock.⁷⁴⁷ This marks the culmination of work initiated in 2020 and the and the

⁷⁴¹ Economy launches new stage of the Single Foreign Trade Portal, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 21 December 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2020/dezembro/economia-lanca-ferramenta-com-informacoes-sobre-acordos-comerciais>

⁷⁴² Economy launches new stage of the Single Foreign Trade Portal, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 21 December 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2020/dezembro/economia-lanca-ferramenta-com-informacoes-sobre-acordos-comerciais>

⁷⁴³ Economy launches new stage of the Single Foreign Trade Portal, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/janeiro/economia-lanca-nova-etapa-do-portal-unico-de-comercio-exterior>

⁷⁴⁴ Economy launches new stage of the Single Foreign Trade Portal, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/janeiro/economia-lanca-nova-etapa-do-portal-unico-de-comercio-exterior>

⁷⁴⁵ Initial Brazilian offer to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) Government Contracting Agreement, Joint note from the Ministries of Economy and Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/fevereiro/oferta-inicial-brasileira-para-adesao-ao-acordo-sobre-contratacoes-governamentais>

⁷⁴⁶ Initial Brazilian offer to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) Government Contracting Agreement, Joint note from the Ministries of Economy and Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/fevereiro/oferta-inicial-brasileira-para-adesao-ao-acordo-sobre-contratacoes-governamentais>

⁷⁴⁷ Brazil and Argentina solve pending issues in trade in agricultural products, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (Brasilia) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/agricultura/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-e-argentina-solucionam-49-pendencias-do-comercio-de-produtos-agropecuarios>

resolution of these issues will cause a major intensification of the bilateral trade flow of agricultural products.⁷⁴⁸

On 10 March 2021, the Ministries of Economy and Infrastructure announced the implementation of the Single Waterway Window project as an integrated module of the Unique Foreign Trade Portal, which will unify waterway models necessary for Brazilian logistics operators to meet the requirements of different waterway logistics bodies for foreign trade.⁷⁴⁹ This will result in the streamlining of foreign sea trade logistics by eliminating redundancies and inapplicable procedures and a reduction in costs, thereby increasing the competitiveness of Brazilian foreign trade.⁷⁵⁰

On 31 March 2021, the National Committee on Trade Facilitation approved a work plan for the 2021-2022 biennium to reduce bureaucracy in international trade operations and lower transaction costs for private operators by the coordinated actions of multiple government agencies.⁷⁵¹ A primary feature of this plan is the digital consolidation of foreign trade operations from port to administration in the Facilitation 2.0 system.⁷⁵² The plan also outlines initiatives to improve international trading capabilities of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.⁷⁵³

On 22 April 2021, Brazil attended the WTO general council meeting.⁷⁵⁴ Attendees agreed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on exports of medical goods essential to combatting COVID-19, remain transparent about export restrictions deemed “necessary to relieve critical shortages,” and give particular considerations to least developed countries.⁷⁵⁵ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.⁷⁵⁶

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Brazil has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a predictable and inclusive trade environment through

⁷⁴⁸ Brazil and Argentina solve pending issues in trade in agricultural products, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (Brasilia) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/agricultura/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-e-argentina-solucionam-49-pendencias-do-comercio-de-produtos-agropecuarios>

⁷⁴⁹ Ministries of Economy and Infrastructure announce implementation of the Single Waterway Window project, Ministries of Economy and Infrastructure (Brasilia) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/marco/ministerios-da-economia-e-da-infraestrutura-anunciam-implantacao-do-projeto-janela-unica-aquaviaria>

⁷⁵⁰ Ministries of Economy and Infrastructure announce implementation of the Single Waterway Window project, Ministries of Economy and Infrastructure (Brasilia) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/marco/ministerios-da-economia-e-da-infraestrutura-anunciam-implantacao-do-projeto-janela-unica-aquaviaria>

⁷⁵¹ National Committee on Trade Facilitation approves Work Plan for the 2021-2022 biennium, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/abril/comite-nacional-de-facilitacao-do-comercio-aprova-plano-de-trabalho-para-o-bienio-2021-2022>

⁷⁵² National Committee on Trade Facilitation approves Work Plan for the 2021-2022 biennium, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/abril/comite-nacional-de-facilitacao-do-comercio-aprova-plano-de-trabalho-para-o-bienio-2021-2022>

⁷⁵³ National Committee on Trade Facilitation approves Work Plan for the 2021-2022 biennium, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/abril/comite-nacional-de-facilitacao-do-comercio-aprova-plano-de-trabalho-para-o-bienio-2021-2022>

⁷⁵⁴ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

⁷⁵⁵ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

⁷⁵⁶ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

unilateral initiatives and multilateral commitments. However, Brazil has failed to take specific and substantial action to strive to realize the goal of an investment environment that is non-discriminatory, free, fair, predictable and inclusive.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Shalin Nayak

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 8 December 2020, Canada and the UK agreed to a “temporary agreement that will head off an automatic increase in tariffs that was set to kick in when Britain leaves the European Union” the following week.⁷⁵⁷ Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland ensured that Canadian goods including maple syrup, lobster, beef, and car parts are not affected by British Tariffs starting on 1 January 2021.⁷⁵⁸ This ensures Canada and the UK will continue to have “preferential access.”⁷⁵⁹

On 9 December 2020, UK Deputy High Commissioner for Canada David Reed and Canadian Deputy Minister of International Trade John Hannaford signed the UK-Canada Trade Continuity Agreement.⁷⁶⁰ It will allow the UK to export goods and services worth GBP11.6 billion and lift a tariff burden of an estimated GBP42 million.⁷⁶¹

On 11 January 2021, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng announced Canada’s commitment to strengthening its trade and investment ties with Asia-Pacific partners.⁷⁶² Canada is planning to advance “parallel opportunities...by expanding trade and investment ties with fast-growing markets, such as Indonesia.”⁷⁶³ The consultations are focused on how Canada should “proceed regarding a possible [comprehensive economic partnership agreement] with Indonesia,” and are happening concurrently with Canada’s continued engagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on a free trade agreement.⁷⁶⁴

On 18 January 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau conversed with Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel to discuss several issues, including “collaboration between Canada and Germany on shared

⁷⁵⁷ Canada and U.K. make stoppage deal to avert tariffs after Brexit, CBC (Toronto) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-uk-eu-trade-agreement-1.5852314>

⁷⁵⁸ Canada and U.K. make stoppage deal to avert tariffs after Brexit, CBC (Toronto) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-uk-eu-trade-agreement-1.5852314>

⁷⁵⁹ Canada and U.K. make stoppage deal to avert tariffs after Brexit, CBC (Toronto) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-uk-eu-trade-agreement-1.5852314>

⁷⁶⁰ UK and Canada sign trade agreement, UK Government (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-canada-sign-trade-agreement>

⁷⁶¹ UK and Canada sign trade agreement, UK Government (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-canada-sign-trade-agreement>

⁷⁶² Consulting Canadians on a possible comprehensive economic partnership agreement with Indonesia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/consultations/consulting-indonesia-consultation-indonesie.aspx?lang=eng>

⁷⁶³ Consulting Canadians on a possible comprehensive economic partnership agreement with Indonesia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/consultations/consulting-indonesia-consultation-indonesie.aspx?lang=eng>

⁷⁶⁴ Consulting Canadians on a possible comprehensive economic partnership agreement with Indonesia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/consultations/consulting-indonesia-consultation-indonesie.aspx?lang=eng>

priorities,” which includes international trade.⁷⁶⁵ They plan to address these issues through “cooperation within the G7, G20, and other multilateral forums.”⁷⁶⁶

On 22 January 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau met with US President Joseph Biden and shared their vision for “strengthening Canada-US supply chain security and resilience.”⁷⁶⁷ The leaders agreed to “avoid measures that may constrain bilateral trade, supply chains, and economic growth” to protect the economic relationships between the two countries.⁷⁶⁸

On 29 January 2021, Minister Ng attended a virtual World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting of fellow ministers.⁷⁶⁹ They discussed priorities to “strengthen the rules-based multilateral trading system in support of an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient global recovery.”⁷⁷⁰ Minister Ng highlighted the government’s efforts to keep markets open, and called on WTO members to implement sustainable trade practices.⁷⁷¹

On 2 February 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau spoke with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and “discussed the strong and growing economic ties between Canada and Japan and welcomed the United Kingdom’s formal interest in acceding to the comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.”⁷⁷²

On 10 February 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding “their common interest in a free and open Indo-Pacific.”⁷⁷³ They agreed to work together on challenges such as “strengthening global trade” and “reinforcing the rules-based international order.”⁷⁷⁴

⁷⁶⁵ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/01/18/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-chancellor-angela-merkel-germany>

⁷⁶⁶ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/01/18/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-chancellor-angela-merkel-germany>

⁷⁶⁷ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with the President of the United States Joe Biden, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/01/22/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-president-united-states-america-joe>

⁷⁶⁸ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with the President of the United States Joe Biden, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/01/22/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-president-united-states-america-joe>

⁷⁶⁹ Minister Ng Discusses global trade and economic recovery in WTO ministerial meeting, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-discusses-global-trade-and-economic-recovery-in-wto-ministerial-meeting.html>

⁷⁷⁰ Minister Ng Discusses global trade and economic recovery in WTO ministerial meeting, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-discusses-global-trade-and-economic-recovery-in-wto-ministerial-meeting.html>

⁷⁷¹ Minister Ng Discusses global trade and economic recovery in WTO ministerial meeting, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-discusses-global-trade-and-economic-recovery-in-wto-ministerial-meeting.html>

⁷⁷² Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Prime Minister of Japan Suga Yoshihide, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/02/02/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-prime-minister-japan-suga-yoshihide>

⁷⁷³ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/02/10/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-prime-minister-india-narendra-modi>

⁷⁷⁴ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/02/10/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-prime-minister-india-narendra-modi>

On 19 February 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau concluded a meeting with G7 leaders.⁷⁷⁵ He stressed the importance of working with G7 partners to create jobs and economic growth, which includes “building fairer trading systems.”⁷⁷⁶

On 23 February 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau met with US President Joseph Biden to begin a “reset in relations with Canada’s largest trading partner and one of its closest allies after four tumultuous years with President Donald Trump.”⁷⁷⁷ Canadian officials are “optimistic” that President Biden will bring a more cooperative presence despite cancelling the Keystone XL pipeline project previously.⁷⁷⁸ Tariffs may be decreased over this period, improving the free trade environment.⁷⁷⁹

On 23 February 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau and President Biden “promised to work together to build supply chains for electric vehicle battery development.”⁷⁸⁰ They aim to make Canada and the US “global leaders in all aspects of battery development and production.”⁷⁸¹

On 18 March 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau conversed with Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva regarding global economic recovery.⁷⁸² They focused on the need for “international collaboration to address debt and liquidity challenges associated with the economic impacts of COVID-19” and the need to “foster international action to address the unique challenges of highly vulnerable countries” in terms of access to financing.⁷⁸³

On 19 March 2021, Canada agreed to the Trade Continuity Agreement deal.⁷⁸⁴ Canada and the UK are aiming to implement the agreement by 1 April 2021.⁷⁸⁵ The agreement is meant to be a temporary

⁷⁷⁵ Prime Minister concludes productive G7 leaders meeting, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/02/19/prime-minister-concludes-productive-g7-leaders-meeting>

⁷⁷⁶ Prime Minister concludes productive G7 leaders meeting, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/02/19/prime-minister-concludes-productive-g7-leaders-meeting>

⁷⁷⁷ Biden-Trudeau meeting: Canadians glad to get beyond Trump, but new administration brings new friction, Washington Post (Ottawa) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/02/23/canada-trudeau-biden-trump-faq/>

⁷⁷⁸ Biden-Trudeau meeting: Canadians glad to get beyond Trump, but new administration brings new friction, Washington Post (Ottawa) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/02/23/canada-trudeau-biden-trump-faq/>

⁷⁷⁹ Biden-Trudeau meeting: Canadians glad to get beyond Trump, but new administration brings new friction, Washington Post (Ottawa) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/02/23/canada-trudeau-biden-trump-faq/>

⁷⁸⁰ What experts say Canada needs to do to become a leader in the electric vehicle industry, CBC (Toronto) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 18 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/trudeau-biden-electric-vehicles-1.5926899>

⁷⁸¹ What experts say Canada needs to do to become a leader in the electric vehicle industry, CBC (Toronto) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 18 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/trudeau-biden-electric-vehicles-1.5926899>

⁷⁸² Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 18 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/03/18/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-managing-director-international>

⁷⁸³ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 18 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/03/18/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-managing-director-international>

⁷⁸⁴ Canada to ratify trade agreement with United Kingdom, CTV News (Toronto) 19 March 2021. Access Date 18 April 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/canada-to-ratify-trade-agreement-with-united-kingdom-1.5353927>

⁷⁸⁵ Canada to ratify trade agreement with United Kingdom, CTV News (Toronto) 19 March 2021. Access Date 18 April 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/canada-to-ratify-trade-agreement-with-united-kingdom-1.5353927>

agreement while both countries negotiate a more “expansive free trade agreement” after the UK exits the EU.⁷⁸⁶

On 25 March 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau spoke with the President of the World Bank David Malpass on economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁸⁷ They “discussed the pandemic’s devastating impacts on economies around the world, particularly the fragile economies of developing countries and small island states.”⁷⁸⁸

On 29 March 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau organized a high-level meeting with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and Prime Minister of Jamaica Andrew Holness to “[strengthen] financial measures to boost efforts to cope with COVID-19 fallout.”⁷⁸⁹ The meeting directed urgency to the need for concrete action to provide liquidity and address debt vulnerability in developing countries.⁷⁹⁰

From 6 April 2021 to 9 April 2021, Minister Freeland attended numerous meetings with world leaders to discuss the “global economic outlook and international policy response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including actions of the IMF and World Bank.”⁷⁹¹ Minister Freeland engaged in discussions on how to “support vulnerable countries, including low-income countries and small states, which continue to face significant challenges caused by the COVID-19 crisis.”⁷⁹² These meetings include meeting with the G7 Finance Ministers, Central Bank Governors, Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action, G20 Finance Ministers, IMF’s International Monetary and Financial Committee, IMF Managing Director, as well as Ministers of Finance and Central Bank Governors from Latin America, Canada and the United States.⁷⁹³ The Canadian Department of Finance expressed that Canada will “advocate for strong support for vulnerable countries ... to ensure a strong and sustainable economic recovery.”⁷⁹⁴

⁷⁸⁶ Canada to ratify trade agreement with United Kingdom, CTV News (Toronto) 19 March 2021. Access Date 18 April 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/canada-to-ratify-trade-agreement-with-united-kingdom-1.5353927>

⁷⁸⁷ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with President of the World Bank Group David Malpass, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/03/25/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-president-world-bank-group-david>

⁷⁸⁸ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with President of the World Bank Group David Malpass, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/03/25/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-president-world-bank-group-david>

⁷⁸⁹ World leaders to meet on strengthening financial measures to boost efforts to cope with COVID-19 fallout, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/03/29/world-leaders-meet-strengthening-financial-measures-boost-efforts>

⁷⁹⁰ World leaders to meet on strengthening financial measures to boost efforts to cope with COVID-19 fallout, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/03/29/world-leaders-meet-strengthening-financial-measures-boost-efforts>

⁷⁹¹ Canada to press for continued coordinated COVID-19 support at the G7, G20 and Spring Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/canada-to-press-for-continued-coordinated-covid-19-support-at-the-g7-g20-and-spring-meetings-of-the-imf-and-the-world-bank.html>

⁷⁹² Canada to press for continued coordinated COVID-19 support at the G7, G20 and Spring Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/canada-to-press-for-continued-coordinated-covid-19-support-at-the-g7-g20-and-spring-meetings-of-the-imf-and-the-world-bank.html>

⁷⁹³ Canada to press for continued coordinated COVID-19 support at the G7, G20 and Spring Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/canada-to-press-for-continued-coordinated-covid-19-support-at-the-g7-g20-and-spring-meetings-of-the-imf-and-the-world-bank.html>

⁷⁹⁴ Canada to press for continued coordinated COVID-19 support at the G7, G20 and Spring Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/canada-to-press-for-continued-coordinated-covid-19-support-at-the-g7-g20-and-spring-meetings-of-the-imf-and-the-world-bank.html>

On 22 April 2021, Canada attended the WTO general council meeting.⁷⁹⁵ Attendees agreed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on exports of medical goods essential to combatting COVID-19, remain transparent about export restrictions deemed “necessary to relieve critical shortages,” and give particular considerations to least developed countries.⁷⁹⁶ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.⁷⁹⁷

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Canada has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free and predictable trade environment by engaging in bilateral discussions with heads of state and international organizations. However, Canada has not taken action to strive to realize the goal of an investment environment in accordance with WTO principles.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Jing sen Zhang

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 1 December 2020, China confirmed its contribution of USD500,000 to the World Trade Organization (WTO)’s Least Developed Countries and Accessions Programme at a signing ceremony between WTO Deputy Director General Yonov Frederick Agah and Ambassador to the WTO Zhang Xiangchen.⁷⁹⁸ This program “aims to enable least-developed countries (LDCs) to better integrate into the global economy by strengthening their participation in WTO activities.”⁷⁹⁹ It provides financing to support “WTO accessions internships, WTO accessions round table meetings, LDC’s participation in WTO Meetings, South-South Dialogue on LDCs and Development and LDCs Trade Policy Review Follow-up Workshops.”⁸⁰⁰

On 14 December 2020, China and the UK held a meeting between a working group on investment promotion.⁸⁰¹ The two countries discussed “attracting foreign investment, two-way investment policies, mutual concerns and prospects for future cooperation between the two countries.”⁸⁰²

On 16 December 2020, Vice Minister of Commerce Yu Jianhua and Netherlands’ Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Sigrid Kaag co-chaired the Sino-Dutch Joint

⁷⁹⁵ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

⁷⁹⁶ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

⁷⁹⁷ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

⁷⁹⁸ China pledges USD 500,000 to support WTO accession and least developed countries, WTO (Geneva) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres20_e/pr865_e.htm

⁷⁹⁹ China pledges USD 500,000 to support WTO accession and least developed countries, WTO (Geneva) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres20_e/pr865_e.htm

⁸⁰⁰ China pledges USD 500,000 to support WTO accession and least developed countries, WTO (Geneva) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres20_e/pr865_e.htm

⁸⁰¹ China and UK held third meeting of the working group on investment promotion, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203024843.shtml>

⁸⁰² China and UK held third meeting of the working group on investment promotion, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203024843.shtml>

Economic and Trade Committee.⁸⁰³ China committed to working closely with the Netherlands to reach new levels of bilateral cooperation and views on “economic issues of mutual interest between China and the Netherlands and between China and the EU” were exchanged.⁸⁰⁴

On 18 December 2020, China and Iceland held the fourth meeting of the joint free trade agreement (FTA) committee.⁸⁰⁵ The delegates discussed the “implementation for the China-Iceland FTA” and recognized a “deepened cooperation in trade in goods, services, investment, [and] economic technology.”⁸⁰⁶

On 30 December 2020, China and the EU announced a new investment deal after seven years of negotiation.⁸⁰⁷ The main goal of the deal is “to make foreign investment fairer for European companies which compete against state-funded firms in China.”⁸⁰⁸ China has committed to being transparent on subsidies for state-owned firms and forced technology transfers.⁸⁰⁹ EU Trade Chief Valdis Dombrovskis believes “the main purpose of this agreement is to address the economic imbalance in our relations...[as] the EU’s market is substantially more open to Chinese companies and investment than China’s market is for EU companies.”⁸¹⁰

On 8 January 2021, People’s Bank of China Governor Yi Gang met with the Japanese Ambassador to China Tarumi Hideo.⁸¹¹ They discussed “views on recent developments in the Chinese and Japanese economy and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral financial cooperation.”⁸¹²

On 25 January 2021, China officially signed a deal with New Zealand to improve their existing trade pact, giving commodities exports from New Zealand increased access to Chinese markets.⁸¹³ This deal is expected to “reduce compliance costs for New Zealand exports by millions of dollars each

⁸⁰³ Yu Jianhua, Vice Minister of Commerce and Deputy China International Trade Representative, and Sigrid Kaag, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, co-chair the 17th session of the Sino-Dutch Joint Economic and Trade Committee, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203026912.shtml>

⁸⁰⁴ Yu Jianhua, Vice Minister of Commerce and Deputy China International Trade Representative, and Sigrid Kaag, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, co-chair the 17th session of the Sino-Dutch Joint Economic and Trade Committee, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203026912.shtml>

⁸⁰⁵ China and Iceland hold the fourth meeting of the Joint FTA Committee, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 20 December 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203025630.shtml>

⁸⁰⁶ China and Iceland hold the fourth meeting of the Joint FTA Committee, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 20 December 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203025630.shtml>

⁸⁰⁷ China’s investment deal with the EU has raised 3 big concerns in Europe, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/06/china-eu-trade-deal-what-it-is-and-why-it-might-fail.html>

⁸⁰⁸ China’s investment deal with the EU has raised 3 big concerns in Europe, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/06/china-eu-trade-deal-what-it-is-and-why-it-might-fail.html>

⁸⁰⁹ China’s investment deal with the EU has raised 3 big concerns in Europe, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/06/china-eu-trade-deal-what-it-is-and-why-it-might-fail.html>

⁸¹⁰ China’s investment deal with the EU has raised 3 big concerns in Europe, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/06/china-eu-trade-deal-what-it-is-and-why-it-might-fail.html>

⁸¹¹ Governor Yi Gang Meets with Ambassador Tarumi Hideo of Japan, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4159684/index.html>

⁸¹² Governor Yi Gang Meets with Ambassador Tarumi Hideo of Japan, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4159684/index.html>

⁸¹³ China, New Zealand ink ungraded free trade deal, Financial Post (Toronto), 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://financialpost.com/pmn/business-pmn/china-new-zealand-ink-upgraded-free-trade-deal>

year.”⁸¹⁴ New Zealand Trade Minister Damien O’Connor stated that “99 [per cent] of New Zealand’s nearly NZ\$3 billion wood and paper trade to China will be granted tariff free access.”⁸¹⁵

On 25 January 2021, People’s Bank of China Deputy Governor Chen Yulu attended the G20 finance and central bank deputies meeting to discuss G20’s financial priorities for 2021.⁸¹⁶ The discussion includes “cooperation on global economic risk monitoring, international financial architecture, financial sector reforms, sustainable finance, infrastructure investment, and international taxation, with the aim to improve macroeconomic and financial policy coordination and support economic recovery.”⁸¹⁷

On 26 January 2021, Governor Yi attended the 2021 virtual Davos Agenda Week of the World Economic Forum. Panelists discussed “emerging financial risks resulting from policy response to COVID-19, and how to make financial institutions more resilient.”⁸¹⁸

On 28 January 2021, China and New Zealand signed the Protocol on Upgrading the Free Trade Agreement.⁸¹⁹ The protocol will increase cooperation, “benefit the businesses and people from both sides, and enrich and substantiate the China-New Zealand comprehensive strategic partnership.”⁸²⁰ The Upgrade Protocol opens markets for timber and paper products; clarifies rules of trade; lowers barriers in aviation, education, finance, elderly care; eases investment thresholds between China and New Zealand; and includes provisions on environmental protection and law enforcement.⁸²¹

On 9 February 2021, the Ministry of Commerce and the economic and trade departments of Albania, Czech Republic, Hungary and Serbia signed cooperation documents on the “establishment of the investment cooperation and trade promotion mechanism.”⁸²² China plans to establish “working groups on investment cooperation with Albania and Serbia,” “a working group on unimpeded trade with the Czech Republic” and “work with Hungary to promote the high-quality development of China-Hungary investment cooperation.”⁸²³

On 26 February 2021, Governor Yi attended a virtual meeting between G20 finance ministers and central bank governors.⁸²⁴ Participants committed to increase international coordination by “adopting

⁸¹⁴ China, New Zealand ink ungraded free trade deal, Financial Post (Toronto), 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://financialpost.com/pm/business-pmn/china-new-zealand-ink-upgraded-free-trade-deal>

⁸¹⁵ China, New Zealand ink ungraded free trade deal, Financial Post (Toronto), 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://financialpost.com/pm/business-pmn/china-new-zealand-ink-upgraded-free-trade-deal>

⁸¹⁶ Deputy Governor Chen Yulu Attended G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Virtual Meeting, People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4173468/index.html>

⁸¹⁷ Deputy Governor Chen Yulu Attended G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Virtual Meeting, People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4173468/index.html>

⁸¹⁸ Governor Yi Gang Attends the 2021 Virtual Davos Agenda Week of the World Economics Forum, People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4171673/index.html>

⁸¹⁹ China and New Zealand signed FTA upgrade protocol, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202102/20210203035747.shtml>

⁸²⁰ China and New Zealand signed FTA upgrade protocol, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202102/20210203035747.shtml>

⁸²¹ China and New Zealand signed FTA upgrade protocol, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202102/20210203035747.shtml>

⁸²² Ministry of Commerce signed economic and trade cooperation documents with the corresponding departments of CEECs, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202102/20210203039715.shtml>

⁸²³ Ministry of Commerce signed economic and trade cooperation documents with the corresponding departments of CEECs, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202102/20210203039715.shtml>

⁸²⁴ Governor Yi Gang Attends G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Virtual Meeting, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4197357/index.html>

a stronger multilateral approach and focusing on a set of core priorities.”⁸²⁵ Governor Yi specifically addressed three key issues, including “endorsing a general [Special Drawing Rights (SDR)] allocation ...to channel to low-income countries,” “joint debt treatment on comparable terms” and “assessing the economic and financial implications of climate change.”⁸²⁶

On 26 February 2021, Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao and Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Peter Szijarto discussed views on “implementing the outcomes and consensuses of the China-CEEC Summit and further deepening economic and trade relations and anti-epidemic cooperation.”⁸²⁷ Minister Wentao outlined China’s 14th five-year plan, which aims to “present a broader market and development opportunities for all countries.”⁸²⁸

On 25 March 2021, China and Singapore engaged in negotiations on a FTA upgrade.⁸²⁹ The countries discussed the rules of cross-border trade in services, investment, telecommunications and other areas, and exchanged views on issues related to negotiations on trade in services and investment liberalization.⁸³⁰

On 7 April 2021, Governor Yi met with G20 finance ministers and central bank governors.⁸³¹ During the meeting, “ministers and governors reaffirmed their resolve to use all available policy tools to support the global economic recovery.”⁸³² In addition, “they acknowledged the important role of open and fair trade in restoring growth.”⁸³³ Governor Yi supported upgrading the G20 Sustainable Finance Study Group to a working group, and “committed to working with G20 members in advancing the G20 sustainable finance agenda.”⁸³⁴

On 7 April 2021, China and Belarus began negotiations over a service trade and investment agreement.⁸³⁵ Both countries “agreed on the Terms of Reference, and had an in-depth exchange of

⁸²⁵ Governor Yi Gang Attends G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Virtual Meeting, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4197357/index.html>

⁸²⁶ Governor Yi Gang Attends G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Virtual Meeting, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4197357/index.html>

⁸²⁷ Wang Wentao: Further Deepening China-Hungary Anti-epidemic and Trade and Economic Cooperation to Bring Bilateral Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to a Higher Level, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202103/20210303042474.shtml>

⁸²⁸ Wang Wentao: Further Deepening China-Hungary Anti-epidemic and Trade and Economic Cooperation to Bring Bilateral Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to a Higher Level, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202103/20210303042474.shtml>

⁸²⁹ China and Singapore held the first round of follow-up negotiations on FTA upgrade, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202104/20210403050370.shtml>

⁸³⁰ China and Singapore held the first round of follow-up negotiations on FTA upgrade, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202104/20210403050370.shtml>

⁸³¹ Governor Yi Gang Attended G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Virtual Meeting, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4226431/index.html>

⁸³² Governor Yi Gang Attended G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Virtual Meeting, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4226431/index.html>

⁸³³ Governor Yi Gang Attended G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Virtual Meeting, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4226431/index.html>

⁸³⁴ Governor Yi Gang Attended G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Virtual Meeting, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4226431/index.html>

⁸³⁵ China and Belarus held the first round negotiation over service trade and investment agreement, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 11 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202104/20210403051659.shtml>

views on trade, investment and IP [intellectual property] rules.”⁸³⁶ This was an attempt to improve “the bilateral trade and economic rules regarding service trade and investment and foster an enabling environment for expanding bilateral trade and investment cooperation.”⁸³⁷

On 10 April 2021, Minister Wang met with Indonesia’s Trade Minister Muhammad Lutfi to exchange “views on deepening China-Indonesia trade and economic ties and reached broad common understanding.”⁸³⁸ The ministers participated in a signing of the agreement to “establish a Working Group on Promoting Smooth Trade.”⁸³⁹

On 9 April 2021, Governor Yi attended a meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, focusing on the International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) Global Policy Agenda.⁸⁴⁰ Among other topics, Governor Yi expressed that “China supports the IMF’s proposal of a new SDR allocation ...and to channel extra SDRs to vulnerable countries.”⁸⁴¹

On 22 April 2021, China attended the WTO general council meeting.⁸⁴² Attendees agreed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on exports of medical goods essential to combatting COVID-19, remain transparent about export restrictions deemed “necessary to relieve critical shortages,” and give particular considerations to least developed countries.⁸⁴³ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.⁸⁴⁴

China has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. China has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive trade environment by contributing funds to the WTO’s LDC and Accession program, actively renegotiating FTAs and attending G20 ministerial meetings. Additionally, China has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free and predictable investment environment by setting a five-year plan in accordance with WTO principles, signing new investment deals and supporting multilateral initiatives for SDR allocation.

⁸³⁶ China and Belarus held the first round negotiation over service trade and investment agreement, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 11 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202104/20210403051659.shtml>

⁸³⁷ China and Belarus held the first round negotiation over service trade and investment agreement, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 11 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202104/20210403051659.shtml>

⁸³⁸ Wang Wentao: Working for high-level development of China-Indonesia Trade and Economic links, Ministry of Commerce PRC (Beijing) 11 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://wangwentao2.mofcom.gov.cn/article/activity/202104/20210403051673.shtml>

⁸³⁹ Wang Wentao: Working for high-level development of China-Indonesia Trade and Economic links, Ministry of Commerce PRC (Beijing) 11 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://wangwentao2.mofcom.gov.cn/article/activity/202104/20210403051673.shtml>

⁸⁴⁰ Governor Yi Gang Attends the Forty-Third Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021.

<http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4228360/index.html>

⁸⁴¹ Governor Yi Gang Attends the Forty-Third Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021.

<http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4228360/index.html>

⁸⁴² COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

⁸⁴³ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

⁸⁴⁴ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jing sen Zhang

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 30 December 2020, after a call between President Emmanuel Macron, Chinese President Xi Jinping, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, European Council President Charles Michel, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel on behalf of the Presidency of the EU council, the EU and China have concluded the principle negotiations for a Comprehensive Agreement on Investment.⁸⁴⁵ This agreement allows for a better balance between EU and Chinese trade relations and “set[s] a high benchmark in terms of transparency, level playing field, marketing access commitments and sustainable development.”⁸⁴⁶ This agreement has yet to be ratified.⁸⁴⁷

On 23 February 2021, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian spoke on the telephone with Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi.⁸⁴⁸ Minister Le Drian reaffirmed France’s interests in strengthening the partnership between France and Indonesia, as well as within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.⁸⁴⁹

On 1 March 2021, Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness, attached to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Franck Riester spoke with German Minister for the Economy and Energy Peter Altmaier via video conference.⁸⁵⁰ Ministers discussed the new trade policy strategy that was presented by the European Commission on 18 February 2021.⁸⁵¹ They also

⁸⁴⁵ EU and China reach agreement in principle on investment, European Commission (Brussels) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2541

⁸⁴⁶ EU and China reach agreement in principle on investment, European Commission (Brussels) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2541

⁸⁴⁷ EU and China reach agreement in principle on investment, European Commission (Brussels) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2541

⁸⁴⁸ Indonesia – Call between Mr Jean-Yves Le Drian and his Indonesian Counterpart, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/indonesia/news/article/indonesia-call-between-mr-jean-yves-le-drian-and-his-indonesian-counterpart-26>

⁸⁴⁹ Indonesia – Call between Mr Jean-Yves Le Drian and his Indonesian Counterpart, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/indonesia/news/article/indonesia-call-between-mr-jean-yves-le-drian-and-his-indonesian-counterpart-26>

⁸⁵⁰ International trade – Conversation between Franck Riester and Germany’s minister for the economy and energy, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-trade-conversation-between-franck-riester-and-germany-s-minister>

⁸⁵¹ International trade – Conversation between Franck Riester and Germany’s minister for the economy and energy, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-trade-conversation-between-franck-riester-and-germany-s-minister>

discussed the draft agreement between the EU and Mercosur.⁸⁵² This agreement paves the way for reducing trade barriers and facilitating free trade between the EU and Mercosur.⁸⁵³

On 5 March 2021, Minister of the Economy, Finance and the Recovery Bruno Le Maire and Minister Riester welcomed the agreement between the EU and the United States, which enacted a mutual suspension of punitive tariffs that emerged in the Airbus-Boeing dispute.⁸⁵⁴ The EU, and thereby France, will suspend the additional tariffs that it had been imposing on American products valued at USD4 billion since 10 November 2020.⁸⁵⁵ The goal of this four-month suspension is to allocate resources towards finalizing a permanent resolution to the dispute and implement new regulations that will “provide better protection against unfair competition and distortions linked to industrial subsidies.”⁸⁵⁶

On 5 March 2021, 20 interns from developing countries taking part in the French-Irish Mission Internship Programme were welcomed at a virtual ceremony.⁸⁵⁷ This program is co-funded by France and Ireland, and seeks to “build sustainable trade-related capacity in beneficiary countries by providing officials with an opportunity to participate in the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) work in Geneva.”⁸⁵⁸ France’s WTO Permanent Representative Jean-Marie Paugam said: “France and the beneficiaries of the programme are certain of its importance in helping to build a multilateral trading system adapted to the needs of all members at all levels of development.⁸⁵⁹ France will continue to discuss with the WTO Secretariat the next phases for this trade-related capacity-building fund so that it continues to be of benefit to developing countries.”⁸⁶⁰

On 30 March 2021, Minister Riester spoke with Director General of the International Labor Organization (ILO) Guy Ryder, via video conference.⁸⁶¹ This meeting follows the renewal of

⁸⁵² International trade – Conversation between Franck Riester and Germany’s minister for the economy and energy, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-trade-conversation-between-franck-riester-and-germany-s-minister>

⁸⁵³ International trade – Conversation between Franck Riester and Germany’s minister for the economy and energy, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-trade-conversation-between-franck-riester-and-germany-s-minister>

⁸⁵⁴ Press Release – EU and US agree four-month suspension of mutual sanctions in Airbus-Boeing dispute, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/press-release-eu-and-us-agree-four-month-suspension-of-mutual-sanctions-in>

⁸⁵⁵ Press Release – EU and US agree four-month suspension of mutual sanctions in Airbus-Boeing dispute, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/press-release-eu-and-us-agree-four-month-suspension-of-mutual-sanctions-in>

⁸⁵⁶ Press Release – EU and US agree four-month suspension of mutual sanctions in Airbus-Boeing dispute, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/press-release-eu-and-us-agree-four-month-suspension-of-mutual-sanctions-in>

⁸⁵⁷ Students and Young Professionals, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/stud_05mar21_e.htm

⁸⁵⁸ Students and Young Professionals, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/stud_05mar21_e.htm

⁸⁵⁹ Students and Young Professionals, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/stud_05mar21_e.htm

⁸⁶⁰ Students and Young Professionals, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/stud_05mar21_e.htm

⁸⁶¹ International Labor Organization – Meeting between Franck Riester and Guy Ryder, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-labor-organization-meeting-between-franck-riester-and-guy-ryder>

France's partnership with the ILO for the period of 2020 to 2024.⁸⁶² Minister Riester reaffirmed France's support of the ILO and its initiatives.⁸⁶³ Minister Riester and Director Ryder discussed the role of trade policy in relation to ILO norms and conventions, and placed emphasis on the strengthening of trade and investment in the facilitation of sustainable development.⁸⁶⁴

On 1 April 2021, Minister Riester and Minister Le Maire visited Geneva, and met with Director General of the WTO Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.⁸⁶⁵ They discussed WTO reform that will preserve and sustain the rules-based multilateral trade system, sustainable development, and fair trade.⁸⁶⁶ Minister Riester met with Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization Daren Tang and Director General of the French National Institute of Industrial Property Pascal Faure, with whom he reaffirmed the importance of "protecting geographical indications" for French companies in order to support exportations and international expansion.⁸⁶⁷

On 2 April 2021, Minister Riester met with the Minister Delegate for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, attached to the Minister of Economy, France and the Recovery Alain Griset and the Strategic Export Council via videoconference.⁸⁶⁸ They discussed the results of the export dimension of the France Relance recovery plan, noting that "in January 2021, exports of French products had practically returned to January 2020 levels."⁸⁶⁹

On 2 May 2021, Minister Le Drian attended the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' Meeting in London.⁸⁷⁰ In the communiqué, Ministers reaffirmed their support for "free and fair trade conducted within a system of transparent and predictable international rules and standards."⁸⁷¹ Ministers urged

⁸⁶² International Labor Organization – Meeting between Franck Riester and Guy Ryder, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-labor-organization-meeting-between-franck-riester-and-guy-ryder>

⁸⁶³ International Labor Organization – Meeting between Franck Riester and Guy Ryder, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-labor-organization-meeting-between-franck-riester-and-guy-ryder>

⁸⁶⁴ International Labor Organization – Meeting between Franck Riester and Guy Ryder, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-labor-organization-meeting-between-franck-riester-and-guy-ryder>

⁸⁶⁵ International trade – Visit by Franck Riester, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-trade-visit-by-franck-riester-geneva-1-apr-2021>

⁸⁶⁶ International trade – Visit by Franck Riester, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-trade-visit-by-franck-riester-geneva-1-apr-2021>

⁸⁶⁷ International trade – Visit by Franck Riester, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-trade-visit-by-franck-riester-geneva-1-apr-2021>

⁸⁶⁸ Foreign trade – Meeting of the Strategic Export Council, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/foreign-trade-meeting-of-the-strategic-export-council-02-apr-21>

⁸⁶⁹ Foreign trade – Meeting of the Strategic Export Council, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/foreign-trade-meeting-of-the-strategic-export-council-02-apr-21>

⁸⁷⁰ G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' Meeting Communique, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers-meeting-communique-london-5-may-2021>

⁸⁷¹ G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' Meeting Communique, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers-meeting-communique-london-5-may-2021>

greater collaboration with African governments to increase trade and unlock private investment opportunities.⁸⁷²

France has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. France has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a fair, free, predictable and inclusive trade environment by engaging in multilateral trade initiatives and lowering barriers to trade. Additionally, France has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, and predictable investment environment by attending the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' Meeting.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Sabar Fatima

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 24 November 2020, Chancellor Angela Merkel stated that Germany hopes to complete a China-EU investment agreement to strengthen cooperation in vaccine distribution, investment, climate change and environmental protection.⁸⁷³ Merkel's statement promotes the development of Germany-China and EU-China trade and investment relations.⁸⁷⁴

On 27 November 2020, Germany approved an investment of EUR10 billion between 2021 and 2030 with hopes of creating an additional EUR20 billion in private venture capital investments to promote start-ups in the country.⁸⁷⁵ The President of the Federal Association of German Start-Ups Christian Miele stated that the Bundestag created the necessary budgetary conditions for significantly improving the financing of start-ups through this "future fund."⁸⁷⁶

On 3 December 2020, Germany and Estonia pledged EUR815,000 to the Enhanced Integrated Framework, a global development program for helping least-developed-countries (LDC) enhance their trading capacities and for creating an inclusive trade environment.⁸⁷⁷ The new funding will support 47 LDCs across Africa, Asia, the Pacific and 4 countries that recently graduated from LDC status: Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Maldives and Samoa.⁸⁷⁸

⁸⁷² G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' Meeting Communique, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers-meeting-communique-london-5-may-2021>

⁸⁷³ Xi Jinping and Angela Merkel discuss vaccine distribution after G20 summit, CGTN (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2020-11-24/Xi-Jinping-and-Merkel-discusses-vaccine-distribution-after-G20-summit--VGu8YoolzO/index.html>

⁸⁷⁴ Xi Jinping and Angela Merkel discuss vaccine distribution after G20 summit, CGTN (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2020-11-24/Xi-Jinping-and-Merkel-discusses-vaccine-distribution-after-G20-summit--VGu8YoolzO/index.html>

⁸⁷⁵ Germany to Invest €10 Billion in Start-Up Support, Germany Trade & Invest (Berlin) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gtai.de/gtai-en/meta/press/germany-ten-billion-startup-fund-585322>

⁸⁷⁶ Germany to Invest €10 Billion in Start-Up Support, Germany Trade & Invest (Berlin) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gtai.de/gtai-en/meta/press/germany-ten-billion-startup-fund-585322>

⁸⁷⁷ Germany, Estonia contribute to EIF to help poorest countries expand role in world trade, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/if_03dec20_e.htm

⁸⁷⁸ Germany, Estonia contribute to EIF to help poorest countries expand role in world trade, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/if_03dec20_e.htm

On 7 December 2020, Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Peter Altmaier stated that the government is “continuing to work on putting the right policy environment in place for forward-looking investments in a digital and green economy in Germany and Europe.”⁸⁷⁹

On 12 January 2021, Minister Altmaier and Vietnam’s Minister of Industry and Trade Tran Tuan Anh co-chaired the first session of the German-Vietnamese Economic Committee, which aims to advance German-Vietnamese trade relations.⁸⁸⁰ Minister Altmaier continued the promotion of open markets and free trade between the two countries following the success of the August 2020 German-Vietnamese free trade agreement.⁸⁸¹

On 18 January 2021, Chancellor Merkel and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau discussed several issues, including “collaboration between Canada and Germany on shared priorities,” which includes international trade.⁸⁸² They plan to address these issues through “cooperation within the G7, G20, and other multilateral forums.”⁸⁸³

On 26 January 2021, Minister Altmaier met with New Zealand’s Trade Minister Damien O’Connor via video conference to exchange views concerning German-New Zealand economic relations and developments in global trade policy.⁸⁸⁴ Minister Altmaier stated that Germany continues to cooperate with New Zealand and that the continued negotiations for a free trade agreement between the EU and New Zealand reinforces this cooperation, strengthens the multilateral trade environment, and promotes free trade.⁸⁸⁵

On 26 January 2021, Chancellor Merkel announced that the country will continue to work on reinforcing rules-based international trade structures and supporting bilateral international trade agreements.⁸⁸⁶ The announcement confirms that Germany will maintain its efforts to strengthen the

⁸⁷⁹ 2020 further bolstered Germany’s reputation around the world, Germany Trade & Invest (Berlin) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gtai.de/gtai-en/meta/press/germany-reputation-international-surveys-rankings-588572>

⁸⁸⁰ Minister Altmaier co-chairs first session of German-Vietnamese Joint Economic Committee, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/01/20210112-minister-altmaier-co-chairs-first-session-of-german-vietnamese-joint-economic-committee.html>

⁸⁸¹ Minister Altmaier co-chairs first session of German-Vietnamese Joint Economic Committee, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/01/20210112-minister-altmaier-co-chairs-first-session-of-german-vietnamese-joint-economic-committee.html>

⁸⁸² Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/01/18/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-chancellor-angela-merkel-germany>

⁸⁸³ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/01/18/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-chancellor-angela-merkel-germany>

⁸⁸⁴ Federal Minister Peter Altmaier discusses current trade policy issues with New Zealand Trade Minister Damien O’Connor, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/01/20210126-federal-minister-peter-altmaier-discusses-current-trade-policy-issues-with-new-zealand-trade-minister-damien-o-connor.html>

⁸⁸⁵ Federal Minister Peter Altmaier discusses current trade policy issues with New Zealand Trade Minister Damien O’Connor, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/01/20210126-federal-minister-peter-altmaier-discusses-current-trade-policy-issues-with-new-zealand-trade-minister-damien-o-connor.html>

⁸⁸⁶ Speech by Federal Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel at the World Economic Forum’s Davos Dialogue on 26 January 2021 (video conference), The Federal Government (Berlin) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/speech-by-federal-chancellor-dr-angela-merkel-at-the-world-economic-forum-s-davos-dialogue-on-26-january-2021-video-conference--1846772>

World Trade Organization (WTO), which Merkel believes to be the “core element of rules-based global trade.”⁸⁸⁷

On 15 February 2021, Transatlantic Coordinator Peter Beyer announced that Germany wants Europe and the US to bolster transatlantic relations with a trade deal that eliminates industrial tariffs, reforms the WTO to increase pressure on China to “play by international trade rules” and that establishes a joint carbon-emission trading system for climate protection.⁸⁸⁸ Beyer also argued that the new US administration should “withdraw punitive tariffs” imposed by Former US President Donald Trump on European imports of aluminum and steel as a first step towards “rebuilding trust” between the US and the EU.⁸⁸⁹

On 24 March 2021, Minister Altmaier met with the new Director-General of the WTO Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala via video conference to discuss WTO reform and the priorities of the new Director-General.⁸⁹⁰ The talks prioritized strengthening the multilateral trading system by reforming the WTO.⁸⁹¹ Minister Altmaier claimed that the COVID-19 pandemic and changing global conditions underline the need for this reform.⁸⁹²

On 24 March 2021, Minister Altmaier met with US Trade Representative Katherine Tai to discuss the importance of the trade and investment relationship between the two countries.⁸⁹³ Minister Altmaier and Representative Tai committed to strengthening US-German cooperation on shared objectives related to unfair trade practices of large non-market economies and focussed on the two countries’ “strong interest” in resolving a long-running US-EU aircraft subsidy dispute and addressing the global excess steel and aluminum capacity.⁸⁹⁴

On 25 March 2021, Federal Minister of Finance Olaf Scholz and Minister Altmaier tasked the KfW, a government owned development bank, with the execution of the Zukunftsfonds (Future Fund).⁸⁹⁵ The Zukunftsfonds offers innovative technology start-ups better access to capital through a EUR10

⁸⁸⁷ Speech by Federal Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel at the World Economic Forum’s Davos Dialogue on 26 January 2021 (video conference), The Federal Government (Berlin) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021.

<https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/speech-by-federal-chancellor-dr-angela-merkel-at-the-world-economic-forum-s-davos-dialogue-on-26-january-2021-video-conference--1846772>

⁸⁸⁸ 'Let's think big' – Germany wants to work closely with Biden on trade, China, climate, Reuters (Berlin) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-usa-idUSKBN2AF160>

⁸⁸⁹ 'Let's think big' – Germany wants to work closely with Biden on trade, China, climate, Reuters (Berlin) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-usa-idUSKBN2AF160>

⁸⁹⁰ Minister Altmaier talks with Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, new Director-General of the World Trade Organization, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.bmw.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/03/20210324-minister-altmaier-talks-with-dr-ngozi-okonjo-iweala-new-director-general-of-the-world-trade-organization.html>

⁸⁹¹ Minister Altmaier talks with Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, new Director-General of the World Trade Organization, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.bmw.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/03/20210324-minister-altmaier-talks-with-dr-ngozi-okonjo-iweala-new-director-general-of-the-world-trade-organization.html>

⁸⁹² Minister Altmaier talks with Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, new Director-General of the World Trade Organization, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.bmw.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/03/20210324-minister-altmaier-talks-with-dr-ngozi-okonjo-iweala-new-director-general-of-the-world-trade-organization.html>

⁸⁹³ USTR says Tai, Germany's Altmaier discuss aircraft dispute, excess metals capacity, Reuters (Washington) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-tai-germany-idUSKBN2BG2XL>

⁸⁹⁴ USTR says Tai, Germany's Altmaier discuss aircraft dispute, excess metals capacity, Reuters (Washington) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-tai-germany-idUSKBN2BG2XL>

⁸⁹⁵ Launch of the Zukunftsfonds – federal government bolsters financing for start-ups in Germany, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Financial_markets/Articles/2021-03-25-launch-of-the-zukunftsfonds.html

billion investment from the federal government and at least EUR30 billion in venture capital from private and public investors.⁸⁹⁶

On 29 April 2021, Germany passed a law that permits over 4,000 institutional investment funds to invest as much as 20 per cent of their portfolio in crypto currencies.⁸⁹⁷ Experts claim that this law could boost Germany's position as a financial investment hub and in turn boosts the crypto currency sector by legitimising the asset class.⁸⁹⁸ Member of the Bundestag Frank Schäffler stated that the addition of crypto assets in such investment funds is a crucial step for their acceptance.⁸⁹⁹

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Germany has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive trade environment by fostering the trading environments of LDCs. Additionally, Germany has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive investment environment by developing forward-looking investment plans.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Arees Chooljian

India: +1

India has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 25 November 2020, the cabinet approved a capital infusion of INR60 billion in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) over the next two years.⁹⁰⁰ Minister of Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar stated that the government would invest INR24 billion in the NIIF during the current financial year ending in March 2021, which would help generate up to INR1.1 trillion for investments.⁹⁰¹

On 15 December 2020, Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal welcomed foreign investors to “be a part of India's growth story” and stated that India continues to open up to global investors in order to strengthen economic plans for the future.⁹⁰² Goyal also cited the continuous

⁸⁹⁶ Launch of the Zukunftsfonds – federal government bolsters financing for start-ups in Germany, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Financial_markets/Articles/2021-03-25-launch-of-the-zukunftsfonds.html

⁸⁹⁷ Germany allows institutional funds to invest in cryptos, CoinJournal (Manchester) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://coinjournal.net/news/germany-allows-institutional-funds-to-invest-in-cryptos/>

⁸⁹⁸ Germany allows institutional funds to invest in cryptos, CoinJournal (Manchester) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://coinjournal.net/news/germany-allows-institutional-funds-to-invest-in-cryptos/>

⁸⁹⁹ Germany allows institutional funds to invest in cryptos, CoinJournal (Manchester) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://coinjournal.net/news/germany-allows-institutional-funds-to-invest-in-cryptos/>

⁹⁰⁰ Indian Government to Invest \$812 Million in NIIF: Minister, Businessworld (New Delhi) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <http://www.businessworld.in/article/Indian-Government-To-Invest-812-Million-In-NIIF-Minister/25-11-2020-346535/>

⁹⁰¹ Indian Government to Invest \$812 Million in NIIF: Minister, Businessworld (New Delhi) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <http://www.businessworld.in/article/Indian-Government-To-Invest-812-Million-In-NIIF-Minister/25-11-2020-346535/>

⁹⁰² Shri Piyush Goyal invites Foreign Investors to be a part of India's growth story, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/shri-piyush-goyal-invites-foreign-investors-to-be-a-part-of-indias-growth-story/>

growth of India's Foreign Direct Investment, which facilitates a non-discriminatory investment environment in the country.⁹⁰³

On 25 January 2021, Ambassador to Cambodia Devyani Uttam Khobragade and Cambodian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Prak Sokhonn reached a consensus to speed up negotiations on the Bilateral Investment Treaty and the draft operating conditions for Cambodia-India Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment, which are intended to expand trade and investment between the countries.⁹⁰⁴ On 3 February 2021, Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan announced that the country's budget for 2021-22 aims to enhance the physical environment for investment, targeting a "plug and play eco-system for investors," easing trade facilitation measures and addressing unfair trade practices.⁹⁰⁵ Secretary Wadhawan added that he hopes the domestic playing field will be levelled by addressing unfair trade practices.⁹⁰⁶

On 8 February 2021, Minister Goyal and British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss released a statement laying the groundwork for an "Enhanced Trade Partnership."⁹⁰⁷ Details of the partnership include discussions of a full free trade agreement and a commitment to long-term India-UK partnership, all while understanding each country's priorities and trade sensitivities.⁹⁰⁸

On 18 February 2021, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla met Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to discuss the development of an important partnership between the two countries.⁹⁰⁹ Shringla and Lavrov emphasized the two countries' aspiration to increase trade and economic turnover by expanding cooperation in traditional and high-tech spheres and taking forward the cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.⁹¹⁰

On 18 February 2021, Minister Goyal delivered the keynote address at India-Singapore CEO Forum, in which he invited businesses from both countries to "bring in sparkle" into India and Singapore's partnership, encouraging international investment and creating an inclusive investment environment.⁹¹¹ Minister Goyal said he is looking at expanding bilateral ties with Singapore.⁹¹²

⁹⁰³ Shri Piyush Goyal invites Foreign Investors to be a part of India's growth story, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/shri-piyush-goyal-invites-foreign-investors-to-be-a-part-of-indias-growth-story/>

⁹⁰⁴ Rush order on India signings, The Phnom Penh Post (Phnom Penh) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.phnompenhpost.com/business/rush-order-india-signings>

⁹⁰⁵ Commerce Secretary DrAnup Wadhawan says the Budget 2021-22 will enhance India's growth in manufacturing, trade and other sectors, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/commerce-secretary-dranup-wadhawan-says-the-budget-2021-22-will-enhance-indias-growth-in-manufacturing-trade-and-other-sectors/>

⁹⁰⁶ Commerce Secretary DrAnup Wadhawan says the Budget 2021-22 will enhance India's growth in manufacturing, trade and other sectors, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/commerce-secretary-dranup-wadhawan-says-the-budget-2021-22-will-enhance-indias-growth-in-manufacturing-trade-and-other-sectors/>

⁹⁰⁷ India, UK Agree to Immediate 'Enhanced Trade Partnership,' India Briefing (Kowloon) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.india-briefing.com/news/india-uk-agree-to-immediate-enhanced-trade-partnership-21667.html/>

⁹⁰⁸ India, UK Agree to Immediate 'Enhanced Trade Partnership,' India Briefing (Kowloon) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.india-briefing.com/news/india-uk-agree-to-immediate-enhanced-trade-partnership-21667.html/>

⁹⁰⁹ Foreign Secretary Shringla Discusses Ways to Strengthen Strategic Partnership with Russian Minister, Mint (New Delhi) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/foreign-secretary-shringla-discusses-ways-to-strengthen-strategic-partnership-with-russian-minister-11613613614268.html>

⁹¹⁰ Foreign Secretary Shringla Discusses Ways to Strengthen Strategic Partnership with Russian Minister, Mint (New Delhi) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/foreign-secretary-shringla-discusses-ways-to-strengthen-strategic-partnership-with-russian-minister-11613613614268.html>

⁹¹¹ Shri Piyush Goyal delivers keynote address at India-Singapore CEO Forum, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/shri-piyush-goyal-delivers-keynote-address-at-india-singapore-ceo-forum/>

On 19 February 2021, India and the EU “expressed hope to forge a host of bilateral cooperation arrangements with a view to boost bilateral trade” by continuing negotiations on the Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement, in which the EU seeks greater market access for its commodities in India.⁹¹³

On 22 February 2021, India and Mauritius signed the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA), a free trade agreement, during a meeting between Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Jugnauth.⁹¹⁴ CECPA will provide preferential access to Mauritius for the bulk of trade and many “aspirational items” in the Indian market, boost the dynamism of the services sector in Mauritius and provide Mauritius with an additional 100,000 doses of Made in India COVID-19 vaccines.⁹¹⁵ Minister Jaishankar said that CECPA would also enable Indian investors to use Mauritius as a launch pad for business expansion into continental Africa and help the prospect of Mauritius emerging as a “hub of Africa.”⁹¹⁶

On 2 March 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a long-term USD82 billion investment plan for the country’s seaports, which includes plans to develop renewable power to supply more than half of the energy needs of India’s ports by 2030.⁹¹⁷ During the Maritime India Summit, Prime Minister Modi also called for massive public and private commitments to improve infrastructure for maritime trade.⁹¹⁸

On 16 March 2021, Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister of Finland Sanna Marin, met virtually to review and express their desire to further expand and diversify the ongoing bilateral engagements relating to sectors such as trade and investment, innovation, education, and emerging technologies.⁹¹⁹ Prime Minister Modi reaffirmed India’s commitment to work for multilateralism, a rules-based international order, sustainable development and climate change.⁹²⁰

⁹¹² Shri Piyush Goyal delivers keynote address at India-Singapore CEO Forum, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/shri-piyush-goyal-delivers-keynote-address-at-india-singapore-ceo-forum/>

⁹¹³ India, EU Express Hope to Forge Host of Bilateral Cooperation Arrangements, Business Standard (New Delhi) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-eu-express-hope-to-forge-host-of-bilateral-cooperation-arrangements-121021901306_1.html

⁹¹⁴ India signs free trade agreement with Mauritius, delivers additional 100,000 Covid-19 vaccines, The Times of India (Mumbai) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-signs-free-trade-agreement-with-mauritius-delivers-additional-100000-covid-19-vaccines/articleshow/81156219.cms>

⁹¹⁵ India signs free trade agreement with Mauritius, delivers additional 100,000 Covid-19 vaccines, The Times of India (Mumbai) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-signs-free-trade-agreement-with-mauritius-delivers-additional-100000-covid-19-vaccines/articleshow/81156219.cms>

⁹¹⁶ India signs free trade agreement with Mauritius, delivers additional 100,000 Covid-19 vaccines, The Times of India (Mumbai) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-signs-free-trade-agreement-with-mauritius-delivers-additional-100000-covid-19-vaccines/articleshow/81156219.cms>

⁹¹⁷ India Announces \$82B Port Infrastructure Plan, The Maritime Executive (Fort Lauderdale) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/india-announces-82b-port-infrastructure-plan>

⁹¹⁸ India Announces \$82B Port Infrastructure Plan, The Maritime Executive (Fort Lauderdale) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/india-announces-82b-port-infrastructure-plan>

⁹¹⁹ India-Finland Virtual Summit, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33631/IndiaFinland+Virtual+Summit>

⁹²⁰ India-Finland Virtual Summit, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33631/IndiaFinland+Virtual+Summit>

On 17 March 2021, India met with Argentina and opened India's market to Argentinian yerba mate, a South American tea.⁹²¹ This action promotes market freedom, and reflects a coordinated effort between India, Argentina, and applicable international organizations.⁹²²

On 25 March 2021, Minister Goyal and US Trade Representative Katherine Tai agreed to work on resolving outstanding bilateral trade issues and look at ways to expand the trade relationship between India and the US.⁹²³ They also agreed to revitalise engagement through the US-India Trade Policy Forum.⁹²⁴

On 28 March 2021, Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina agreed on the need to remove non-tariff barriers to increase bilateral trade.⁹²⁵ They committed to fast tracking the on-going joint study on the feasibility of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between the two countries.⁹²⁶

On 6 April 2021, Minister Jaishankar and Russia's Minister Lavrov discussed ways to enhance the bilateral relationship in sectors such as investment, energy and military equipment production.⁹²⁷ They agreed on moving forward on the negotiations for a free trade agreement between India and the Eurasian Economic Union, which includes Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia.⁹²⁸

India has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. India has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, and free trade environment by fighting unfair trading practices and actively renegotiating FTAs. Additionally, India has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive investment environment by promoting foreign investment and easing investment restrictions.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Arees Chooljian

⁹²¹ Opening of the Indian Market for Argentine Yerba Mate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/apertura-del-mercado-de-la-india-para-la-yerba-mate-argentina>

⁹²² Opening of the Indian Market for Argentine Yerba Mate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/apertura-del-mercado-de-la-india-para-la-yerba-mate-argentina>

⁹²³ India, US agree to resolve outstanding trade issues, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/india-us-agree-to-resolve-outstanding-trade-issues-101616696904959.html>

⁹²⁴ India, US agree to resolve outstanding trade issues, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/india-us-agree-to-resolve-outstanding-trade-issues-101616696904959.html>

⁹²⁵ PM Modi, Hasina agree to remove non-tariff barriers in trade, speed up report on CEPA, The Hindu Business Line (Chennai) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/pm-modi-hasina-agree-to-remove-non-tariff-barriers-in-trade-speed-up-report-on-cepa/article34181981.ece>

⁹²⁶ PM Modi, Hasina agree to remove non-tariff barriers in trade, speed up report on CEPA, The Hindu Business Line (Chennai) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/pm-modi-hasina-agree-to-remove-non-tariff-barriers-in-trade-speed-up-report-on-cepa/article34181981.ece>

⁹²⁷ India, Russia discuss deepening of partnership in trade, space, defence, energy, The Hindu Business Line (Chennai) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-russia-discuss-deepening-of-partnership-in-trade-space-defence-energy/article34254354.ece>

⁹²⁸ India, Russia discuss deepening of partnership in trade, space, defence, energy, The Hindu Business Line (Chennai) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-russia-discuss-deepening-of-partnership-in-trade-space-defence-energy/article34254354.ece>

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 9 December 2020, Indonesia's 7th Trade Policy Review took place, with subsequent reports from both the World Trade Organization (WTO) Secretariat and the Indonesian government.⁹²⁹ Trade policy reviews are a WTO mandated exercise in which a countries' trade policies are examined and evaluated at regular intervals.⁹³⁰ Indonesia was praised for its active participation in the Multilateral Trading System, its role in the Joint Statement Initiatives on investment facilitation, and its trade-related structural reforms, which improved transparency in policy making.⁹³¹

On 9 December 2020, Indonesia presented an opening statement at the 7th Trade Policy Review, which summarized several ongoing trade initiatives.⁹³² Indonesia upgraded preferential trade agreements with Pakistan and Japan; began negotiations with Chile on trade and investment; entered into trade negotiations with the EU, Tunisia, Turkey, Bangladesh, Mauritius and Morocco; initiated exploratory talks with countries in Africa, South Asia, the Eurasian Economic Union, Mercosur, and members of the Gulf Cooperation Council; begun implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with Australia; and is in the final process of ratifying trade agreements with Mozambique and the European Free Trade Association.⁹³³ Indonesia concluded with wishes that the trade policy review will restore the "strong confidence in the multilateral trading system which should allow an open, fair and predictable trade environment for all Members of the WTO."⁹³⁴

On 18 December 2020, Indonesia and Korea signed the Korea-Indonesia Comprehensive Economic Partners Agreement after eight years of negotiations.⁹³⁵ It will eliminate tariffs on 95.8 per cent of Indonesian goods, and 94.8 per cent of South Korean goods and improve investment conditions.⁹³⁶

On 22 February 2021, Indonesia and the EU met for the 10th round of negotiations on the EU-Indonesian Free Trade Agreement.⁹³⁷ Progress was made in several chapters including technical

⁹²⁹ Trade policy review: Indonesia, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tp_r_e/tp501_e.htm

⁹³⁰ Trade policy review: Indonesia, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tp_r_e/tp501_e.htm

⁹³¹ Concluding remarks by the Chairperson, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tp_r_e/tp501_crc_e.htm

⁹³² The Seventh Trade Policy Review of Indonesia Opening Statement of The Government of Indonesia, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia (Geneva) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://mission-indonesia.org/2020/12/09/the-seventh-trade-policy-review-of-indonesia-opening-statement-of-the-government-of-indonesia-geneva-9-december-2020/>

⁹³³ The Seventh Trade Policy Review of Indonesia Opening Statement of The Government of Indonesia, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia (Geneva) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://mission-indonesia.org/2020/12/09/the-seventh-trade-policy-review-of-indonesia-opening-statement-of-the-government-of-indonesia-geneva-9-december-2020/>

⁹³⁴ The Seventh Trade Policy Review of Indonesia Opening Statement of The Government of Indonesia, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia (Geneva) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://mission-indonesia.org/2020/12/09/the-seventh-trade-policy-review-of-indonesia-opening-statement-of-the-government-of-indonesia-geneva-9-december-2020/>

⁹³⁵ Korea, Indonesia sign CEPA, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (Sejong-si) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://english.motie.go.kr/en/tp/ftaeconomiccooperation/bbs/bbsView.do?bbs_seq_n=1022&bbs_cd_n=1&view_type_v=TOPIC&¤tPage=1&search_key_n=&search_val_v=&cate_n=4

⁹³⁶ S. Korea signs CEPA with Indonesia for near tariff free trade, Pulse News (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://pulsenews.co.kr/view.php?year=2020&no=1299046>

⁹³⁷ Report of the 10th round of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Indonesia, European Commission (Brussels) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/march/tradoc_159484.pdf

barriers to trade, services and investment, with both sides agreeing to further negotiations in July 2021.⁹³⁸

On 14 January 2021, Foreign Minister Reno Marsudi met with the Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi and discussed economic recovery.⁹³⁹ Minister Marsudi encouraged joint efforts to remove trade barriers, especially for Indonesia's leading exports, and increase investment cooperation in infrastructure development.⁹⁴⁰

On 18 January 2021, Ambassador to Russia Jose Tavares stated the two countries uphold similar values to strengthen the WTO multilateral free trade agreements and increase trade and investment.⁹⁴¹ Ambassador Tavares stated that the bilateral relations with Russia need to be enhanced.⁹⁴²

On 3 February 2021, Indonesia and Iran improved trade relations by signing procurement contracts of 700 hemodialysis equipment until 2025.⁹⁴³ Ambassador to Iran Ronny Yuliantoro expressed that the countries would increase collaboration, especially in pharmaceuticals and medical devices.⁹⁴⁴

On 17 February 2021, Minister Marsudi and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary Peter Szijjarto signed a letter of intent for the formation of an Indonesian-Hungary Investment Fund.⁹⁴⁵

⁹³⁸ Report of the 10th round of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Indonesia, European Commission (Brussels) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021.

https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/march/tradoc_159484.pdf

⁹³⁹ Indonesia and China Agree to Strengthen Collaboration to Promote Economic Recovery and Prevent Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2069/berita/indonesia-and-china-agree-to-strengthen-collaboration-to-promote-economic-recovery-and-prevent-pandemic>

⁹⁴⁰ Indonesia and China Agree to Strengthen Collaboration to Promote Economic Recovery and Prevent Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2069/berita/indonesia-and-china-agree-to-strengthen-collaboration-to-promote-economic-recovery-and-prevent-pandemic>

⁹⁴¹ Indonesia and Russia Enhance Cooperation in Facing Global Uncertainty, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2076/berita/indonesia-and-russia-enhance-cooperation-in-facing-global-uncertainty>

⁹⁴² Indonesia and Russia Enhance Cooperation in Facing Global Uncertainty, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2076/berita/indonesia-and-russia-enhance-cooperation-in-facing-global-uncertainty>

⁹⁴³ Indonesian and Iranian Business Partnership in Procurement of Hemodialysis Equipment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Tehran) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2129/berita/indonesian-and-iranian-business-partnership-in-procurement-of-hemodialysis-equipment>

⁹⁴⁴ Indonesian and Iranian Business Partnership in Procurement of Hemodialysis Equipment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Tehran) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2129/berita/indonesian-and-iranian-business-partnership-in-procurement-of-hemodialysis-equipment>

⁹⁴⁵ Indonesian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Hungarian Minister for Trade Sign Letter of Intent on Formation of Indonesia-Hungary Investment Fund, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2165/berita/indonesian-minister-for-foreign-affairs-and-hungarian-minister-for-trade-sign-letter-of-intent-on-formation-of-indonesia-hungary-investment-fund>

The fund will “ensure a source of funding for national strategic projects.”⁹⁴⁶ The meeting also set up a distribution centre for Indonesian products in Hungary, which will increase bilateral trade.⁹⁴⁷

On 4 March 2021, Indonesia and Russia agreed to remove trade barriers at the 4th Indonesia-Russia Bilateral Consultations Forum to achieve USD5 billion target trade volume.⁹⁴⁸ The countries identified tourism, health and education as potential points for cooperation.⁹⁴⁹

On 9 March 2021, Indonesia and Singapore ratified the Bilateral Investment Treaty.⁹⁵⁰ The treaty is a move towards open and fair economic cooperation, establishes rules on the treatment of investors and investments for both countries and grants additional protection from discriminatory treatment.⁹⁵¹

On 22 March 2021, Ambassador to Senegal Dindin Wahyudin met with President of Cabo Verde Jorge Carlos de Almeida Fonseca and encouraged businesses to participate in business forums and trade shows to increase trade activities between the two countries.⁹⁵² Ambassador Dindin conveyed hopes to strengthen bilateral ties.⁹⁵³

On 7 April 2021, the 3rd Indonesia-UK Partnership Forum was held.⁹⁵⁴ Both countries agreed to advance the economy and trade in ten priority sectors and sign a memorandum of understanding on the Joint Economic and Trade Committee on 19 April 2021.⁹⁵⁵ Minister Marsudi reaffirmed the implementation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Outlook on the Indo-

⁹⁴⁶ Indonesian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Hungarian Minister for Trade Sign Letter of Intent on Formation of Indonesia-Hungary Investment Fund, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2165/berita/indonesian-minister-for-foreign-affairs-and-hungarian-minister-for-trade-sign-letter-of-intent-on-formation-of-indonesia-hungary-investment-fund>

⁹⁴⁷ Indonesian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Hungarian Minister for Trade Sign Letter of Intent on Formation of Indonesia-Hungary Investment Fund, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2165/berita/indonesian-minister-for-foreign-affairs-and-hungarian-minister-for-trade-sign-letter-of-intent-on-formation-of-indonesia-hungary-investment-fund>

⁹⁴⁸ Indonesia-Russia Committed to Removing Trade Barriers Between Two Countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2218/berita/indonesia-russia-committed-to-remove-trade-barriers-between-two-countries>

⁹⁴⁹ Indonesia-Russia Committed to Removing Trade Barriers Between Two Countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2218/berita/indonesia-russia-committed-to-remove-trade-barriers-between-two-countries>

⁹⁵⁰ S'Pore bilateral investment treaty with Indonesia enters into force, The Straits Time (Singapore) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.straitstimes.com/business/economy/bilateral-investment-treaty-between-singapore-and-indonesia-comes-into-force>

⁹⁵¹ S'Pore bilateral investment treaty with Indonesia enters into force, The Straits Time (Singapore) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.straitstimes.com/business/economy/bilateral-investment-treaty-between-singapore-and-indonesia-comes-into-force>

⁹⁵² Indonesian Ambassador Encourages Indonesia Cabo Verde Tourism Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Senegal) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2275/berita/indonesian-ambassador-encourages-indonesia-cabo-verde-tourism-cooperation>

⁹⁵³ Indonesian Ambassador Encourages Indonesia Cabo Verde Tourism Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Senegal) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2275/berita/indonesian-ambassador-encourages-indonesia-cabo-verde-tourism-cooperation>

⁹⁵⁴ Indonesia-United Kingdom Partnership Forum 2021: joint statement, Government of the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/indonesia-united-kingdom-partnership-forum-2021-joint-statement/indonesia-united-kingdom-partnership-forum-2021-joint-statement>

⁹⁵⁵ Indonesia and UK Strengthen Cooperation to Overcome Pandemic and Terrorism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2347/berita/indonesia-and-uk-strengthen-cooperation-to-overcome-pandemic-and-terrorism>

Pacific, which includes an area of economic and trade cooperation, is “based on key principles such as inclusiveness, transparency, openness, and cooperation.”⁹⁵⁶

On 8 April 2021, Minister Marsudi attended the ASEAN-UK Open-ended Troika Dialogue and encouraged ASEAN countries and the UK to overcome trade barriers.⁹⁵⁷ Minister Marsudi suggested that cooperation with the UK can be further expanded in the future.⁹⁵⁸

On 12 April 2021, the House of Representatives approved the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between Indonesia and the European Free Trade Association composed of Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.⁹⁵⁹ It will be Indonesia’s first trade agreement with European countries once it is brought into force.⁹⁶⁰

On 26 April 2021, Minister of Trade Muhammad Lutfi and UK Secretary of State for International Trade Elizabeth Truss signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the Joint Economic Trade Committee to lower the trade barriers and promote a rules-based trade system.⁹⁶¹ The UK is a key trade partner of the UK, with trade amounting to GBP3 billion in 2019.⁹⁶²

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Indonesia has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive trade environment by cooperating with WTO trade policy reviews. Additionally, Indonesia has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a fair, free, and predictable investment environment by improving policy transparency and facilitating open, rules-based investing.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Wing Ka Tsang

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment environment.

On 10 December 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Luigi Di Maio met virtually with the Turkish Minister of Trade Ruhsar Pekcan in the Italy-Turkey Joint Economic

⁹⁵⁶ Indonesia and UK Strengthen Cooperation to Overcome Pandemic and Terrorism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2347/berita/indonesia-and-uk-strengthen-cooperation-to-overcome-pandemic-and-terrorism>

⁹⁵⁷ Indonesia Urges the United Kingdom to Support Equal and Fair Access to Vaccine, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2353/berita/indonesia-urges-the-united-kingdom-to-support-equal-and-fair-access-to-vaccine>

⁹⁵⁸ Indonesia Urges the United Kingdom to Support Equal and Fair Access to Vaccine, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2353/berita/indonesia-urges-the-united-kingdom-to-support-equal-and-fair-access-to-vaccine>

⁹⁵⁹ House Approves Indonesia-EFTA Trade Deal, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/paper/2021/04/11/house-approves-indonesia-efta-trade-deal.html>

⁹⁶⁰ House Approves Indonesia-EFTA Trade Deal, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/paper/2021/04/11/house-approves-indonesia-efta-trade-deal.html>

⁹⁶¹ UK and Indonesia announce new Joint Economic and Trade Committee, UK Government (London) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-indonesia-announce-new-joint-economic-and-trade-committee>

⁹⁶² UK and Indonesia announce new Joint Economic and Trade Committee, UK Government (London) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-indonesia-announce-new-joint-economic-and-trade-committee>

and Trade Commission meeting.⁹⁶³ Minister Di Maio recognized the importance of increasing the bilateral flow of investment, and the ministers signed a memorandum of understanding between the Italian Trade Agency and its Turkish counterpart in order to “strengthen cooperation between the two agencies.”⁹⁶⁴

On 12 December 2020, Minister Di Maio participated virtually with the Vice-Prime Minister and Minister for Investment and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurzakov in the Italy-Uzbekistan Business Forum, encouraging bilateral trade and investment between the two countries.⁹⁶⁵ Following the forum, the minister discusses bilateral relations.⁹⁶⁶

On 14 December 2020, Deputy Minister Manlio Di Stefano met with Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Dang Hoang An, in the 6th Italy-Vietnam Joint Economic Committee in virtual format.⁹⁶⁷ At the meeting the forthcoming signing of a memorandum of understanding between the ICE-Italian Trade Agency and the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry was announced.⁹⁶⁸

On 15 January 2021, Deputy Minister Di Stefano met with the Foreign Investment Attraction Committee to discuss investment projects in the health sector and the creation of a legal framework more conducive to foreign direct investment.⁹⁶⁹

On 15 April 2021, Prime Minister Mario Draghi and Minister of Economy and Finance Daniele Franco specified some aspects of the Euronext-Borsa Italiana operation.⁹⁷⁰ The operation aims to improve access to capital markets for all Italian issuers and international investors.⁹⁷¹

On 19 April 2021, Minister Di Maio and Minister of Economic Development Giancarlo Giorgetti attended the meeting session with the Control Room.⁹⁷² The meeting is dedicated to attracting

⁹⁶³ Italy-Turkey joint Economic and Trade Commission (JETCO) meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international cooperation (Rome) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/seconda-sessione-in-formato-virtuale-della-joint-economic-and-trade-commission-jetco-italia-turchia.html

⁹⁶⁴ Italy-Turkey joint Economic and Trade Commission (JETCO) meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international cooperation (Rome) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/seconda-sessione-in-formato-virtuale-della-joint-economic-and-trade-commission-jetco-italia-turchia.html

⁹⁶⁵ Italy-Uzbekistan Business Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international cooperation (Rome) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/business-forum-italia-uzbekistan.html

⁹⁶⁶ Italy-Uzbekistan Business Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international cooperation (Rome) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/business-forum-italia-uzbekistan.html

⁹⁶⁷ 6th Italy-Vietnam Joint Economic Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/2020/12/vi-edizione-commissione-economica-mista-italia-vietnam_0.html

⁹⁶⁸ 6th Italy-Vietnam Joint Economic Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/2020/12/vi-edizione-commissione-economica-mista-italia-vietnam_0.html

⁹⁶⁹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the forefront of the Foreign Investment Attraction Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/01/farnesina-in-prima-linea-al-comitato-attrazione-investimenti-esteri-caie.html

⁹⁷⁰ The Euronext operation and the Italian nature of the Stock Exchange, Italian Ministry of Economy and Finances (Rome) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/inevidenza/Loperazione-Euronext-e-litalianita-di-Borsa/>

⁹⁷¹ The Euronext operation and the Italian nature of the Stock Exchange, Italian Ministry of Economy and Finances (Rome) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/inevidenza/Loperazione-Euronext-e-litalianita-di-Borsa/>

foreign direct investments to support the economic and employment growth of post COVID-19 Italy.⁹⁷³

On 25 April 2021, Minister Di Maio visited the Dubai Future Foundation.⁹⁷⁴ Minister Di Maio attended the meeting with partner companies and sponsors of the Italian Pavilion in EXPO2020 Dubai and participated in the bilateral meeting with United Arab Emirates Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development Noura Al Kaabi.⁹⁷⁵

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Italy has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory and inclusive investment environment by improving access of foreign investors to Italian capital markets and engaging in bilateral and multilateral meetings. However, Italy has failed to take specific and substantial action to strive to realize the goal of a trade environment that is non-discriminatory, free, fair, predictable and inclusive.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Haobin Chen

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 4 December 2020, the parliament ratified the Japan-UK Economic Partnership Agreement that will enter into force on 1 January 2021.⁹⁷⁶ The free trade agreement will abolish tariffs on import and exports of industrial goods. Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said the agreement “ensures continuity for Japanese and British companies, and it is hoped that bilateral trade and investment will advance under the agreement’s high standards.”⁹⁷⁷

On 14 December 2020, Japan, Australia and Singapore, issued a Joint Statement Initiative (JSI) on E-Commerce negotiations on behalf of eighty-six World Trade Organization (WTO) members.⁹⁷⁸ The statement affirms that openness, transparency, and inclusiveness are central to the JSI.⁹⁷⁹

⁹⁷² Control room for internationalization – Extraordinary session for attracting foreign investments, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/cabina-di-regia-per-l-internazionalizzazione-sessione-straordinaria-per-l-attrazione-investimenti-esteri.html

⁹⁷³ Control room for internationalization – Extraordinary session for attracting foreign investments, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/cabina-di-regia-per-l-internazionalizzazione-sessione-straordinaria-per-l-attrazione-investimenti-esteri.html

⁹⁷⁴ Mission of Minister Luigi Di Maio to the United Arab Emirates, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2021/04/missione-del-ministro-luigi-di-maio-negli-emirati-arabi-uniti.html

⁹⁷⁵ Mission of Minister Luigi Di Maio to the United Arab Emirates, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2021/04/missione-del-ministro-luigi-di-maio-negli-emirati-arabi-uniti.html

⁹⁷⁶ Japan ratifies UK trade deal to take effect Jan. 1, Nikkei Asia (Tokyo) 5 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Trade/Japan-ratifies-UK-trade-deal-to-take-effect-Jan.-1>

⁹⁷⁷ Japan ratifies UK trade deal to take effect Jan. 1, Nikkei Asia (Tokyo) 5 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Trade/Japan-ratifies-UK-trade-deal-to-take-effect-Jan.-1>

⁹⁷⁸ E-commerce co-conveners release update on the negotiations, welcome encouraging progress, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/ecom_14dec20_e.htm

On 8 January 2021, People's Bank of China Governor Yi Gang met with the Japanese Ambassador to China Hideo Tarumi.⁹⁸⁰ They discussed “views on recent developments in the Chinese and Japanese economy and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral financial cooperation.”⁹⁸¹

On 29 January 2021, Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry Hiroshi Kajiyama attended the WTO Informal Ministerial Meeting with over twenty-nine WTO members.⁹⁸² At the meeting, Japan indicated its intentions to continue discussions on curbing export restrictions on the supply chain of medical supplies.⁹⁸³

On 2 February 2021, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga spoke with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and “discussed the strong and growing economic ties between Canada and Japan and welcomed the United Kingdom’s formal interest in acceding to the comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.”⁹⁸⁴

On 21 February 2021, Japan donated CHF160,000 to support the developing countries and least-developed countries (LDCs) trading capabilities.⁹⁸⁵ Japan’s WTO Ambassador Kazuyuki Yamazaki said the country is pleased to “further contribute to strengthening the multilateral trading system, which is key to enhancing global prosperity.”⁹⁸⁶

On 22 February 2021, Japan contributed over CHF72,000 to the Enhanced Integrated Framework to help LDCs to recover from COVID-19 by enhancing their capacity to trade.⁹⁸⁷ It is the only multilateral partnership dedicated exclusively to help LDCs use trade as the mechanism for growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction.⁹⁸⁸

On 24 February 2021, Japan’s cabinet approved the bill to ratify the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.⁹⁸⁹ The agreement is the world’s largest free trade deal comprising 15 Asia-

⁹⁷⁹ E-commerce co-conveners release update on the negotiations, welcome encouraging progress, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/ecom_14dec20_e.htm

⁹⁸⁰ Governor Yi Gang Meets with Ambassador Tarumi Hideo of Japan, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4159684/index.html>

⁹⁸¹ Governor Yi Gang Meets with Ambassador Tarumi Hideo of Japan, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4159684/index.html>

⁹⁸² Minister Kajiyama attends WTO Informal Ministerial Meeting, Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (Tokyo) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0129_001.html

⁹⁸³ Minister Kajiyama attends WTO Informal Ministerial Meeting, Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (Tokyo) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0129_001.html

⁹⁸⁴ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Prime Minister of Japan Suga Yoshihide, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/02/02/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-prime-minister-japan-suga-yoshihide>

⁹⁸⁵ Japan gives CHF 160,000 to help developing countries strengthen negotiating skill-set, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 14, 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres21_e/pr873_e.htm

⁹⁸⁶ Japan gives CHF 160,000 to help developing countries strengthen negotiating skill-set, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 14, 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres21_e/pr873_e.htm

⁹⁸⁷ Japan supports EIF to help poorest countries recover from COVID-19, expand trade capacity, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 22 February 2021. Access Date: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres21_e/pr872_e.htm

⁹⁸⁸ Japan supports EIF to help poorest countries recover from COVID-19, expand trade capacity, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 22 February 2021. Access Date: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres21_e/pr872_e.htm

⁹⁸⁹ Japan Cabinet Oks bill to ratify RCEP trade deal including China, Kyodo News (Tokyo) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/02/2ae304227c45-japan-cabinet-oks-bill-to-ratify-rcep-trade-deal-including-china.html>

Pacific countries that will eliminate 91 per cent tariffs on goods and create a rules-based environment for trade and investment.⁹⁹⁰

On 26 February 2021, Ambassador Yamazaki attended a meeting with the World Trade Institute and higher education from Taiwan and discussed special and differential treatment for developing members on WTO negotiations.⁹⁹¹ He spoke about the importance of the WTO helping all countries achieve sustainable growth.⁹⁹²

On 7 January 2021, Japan met with Argentina met to “foster mutual trade and investments.”⁹⁹³ Both countries noted their shared values of multilateralism, democracy, and the rule of law, and agreed to “intensify trade relations.”⁹⁹⁴

On 29 March 2021, Minister Kajiyama met with Executive Vice President of the European Commission Valdis Dombrovskis to discuss trade and transparency mechanisms for exports of COVID-19 vaccines.⁹⁹⁵ Minister Kajiyama asked Executive Vice President Dombrovskis to ensure smooth delivery of vaccines from Europe to Japan.⁹⁹⁶

On 1 April 2021, Minister Kajiyama attended the G7 Trade Ministers’ Meeting.⁹⁹⁷ The G7 Trade Ministers reaffirmed the importance of a multilateral trading system and reforming the WTO.⁹⁹⁸

On 5 April 2021, Japan and Malaysia signed a memorandum of cooperation between the Japan External Trade Organization and Malaysia External Trade Development Cooperation to strengthen the countries’ economic relationship through trade and investment.⁹⁹⁹ The countries agreed to deepen their economic relationship.¹⁰⁰⁰

⁹⁹⁰ Japan Cabinet Oks bill to ratify RCEP trade deal including China, Kyodo News (Tokyo) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/02/2ae304227c45-japan-cabinet-oks-bill-to-ratify-rcep-trade-deal-including-china.html>

⁹⁹¹ Ambassador Yamazaki Attends a Webinar on Special and Differential Treatment in the WTO, The Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.geneve-mission.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/event_20210226.html

⁹⁹² Ambassador Yamazaki Attends a Webinar on Special and Differential Treatment in the WTO, The Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.geneve-mission.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/event_20210226.html

⁹⁹³ Argentina – Japan: Foreign Ministers Met to Strengthen Strategic Relationship, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-japan-foreign-ministers-met-strengthen-strategic-relationship>

⁹⁹⁴ Argentina – Japan: Foreign Ministers Met to Strengthen Strategic Relationship, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-japan-foreign-ministers-met-strengthen-strategic-relationship>

⁹⁹⁵ Minister Kajiyama Holds Meeting with H.E. Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice President of the European Commission for an Economy that Works for People via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0329_001.html

⁹⁹⁶ Minister Kajiyama Holds Meeting with H.E. Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice President of the European Commission for an Economy that Works for People via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0329_001.html

⁹⁹⁷ Minister Kajiyama Attends the G7 Trade Ministers’ Meeting, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0401_003.html

⁹⁹⁸ Minister Kajiyama Attends the G7 Trade Ministers’ Meeting, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0401_003.html

⁹⁹⁹ Minister Kajiyama Holds Meeting with Minister Azmin Ali, Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0406_003.html

¹⁰⁰⁰ Minister Kajiyama Holds Meeting with Minister Azmin Ali, Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0406_003.html

On 16 April 2021, Japan and the US released a joint leaders' statement which renewed bilateral relations and agreed to support transparent terms of trade, further WTO reform, and improve non-discriminatory trade practices.¹⁰⁰¹ The countries also launched a new Competitive and Resilience Partnership to support the global economic recovery.¹⁰⁰²

On 22 April 2021, Japan attended the WTO general council meeting.¹⁰⁰³ Attendees agreed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on exports of medical goods essential to combatting COVID-19, remain transparent about export restrictions deemed "necessary to relieve critical shortages," and give particular considerations to least developed countries.¹⁰⁰⁴ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.¹⁰⁰⁵

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Japan has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, and predictable trade environment by providing financial support to LDCs and entering into multilateral initiatives. Additionally, Japan has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, and predictable investment environment by entering into economic partnerships.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Wing Ka Tsang

Korea: 0

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 3 December 2020, Director of International Cooperation Bureau Sang-Man Lee re-signed the Agreement on Agricultural and Fisheries Cooperation with New Zealand, replacing the previous agreement and promoting agricultural and fisheries cooperation.¹⁰⁰⁶ Korea and New Zealand made the initial agreement in November 2019.¹⁰⁰⁷

¹⁰⁰¹ U.S.-Japan Joint Leaders' Statement: "U.S.-Japan Global Partnership For A New Era, The White House (Washington) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/16/u-s-japan-joint-leaders-statement-u-s-japan-global-partnership-for-a-new-era/>

¹⁰⁰² U.S.-Japan Joint Leaders' Statement: "U.S.-Japan Global Partnership For A New Era, The White House (Washington) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/16/u-s-japan-joint-leaders-statement-u-s-japan-global-partnership-for-a-new-era/>

¹⁰⁰³ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁰⁰⁴ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁰⁰⁵ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁰⁰⁶ Korea-New Zealand's Agricultural and Fisheries Cooperation Continues, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (Sejong) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.mafra.go.kr/english/756/subview.do?enc=Zm5jdDF8QEB8JTJGYmJzJTJGZW5nbGlzaCUyRjl1JTJGMzI2MDkwlTJGYXJOY2xWaWV3LmRvJTNGYmJzQ2xTZXEIMQIMjZyZ3NFbmkZVN0ciUzRCUyNmJic09wZW5XcmRTZXEIMQIMjZyZ3NCZ25kZVN0ciUzRCUyNnBhc3N3b3JkTNEJTI2c3JjaENvbHVtbiUzRCUyNnVjdyUzRDEwJTI2aXNWaWV3TWluZSUzRGZhbnHlJTI2cGFuZSUzRDEIMjZzcmNoV3JkTNEJTI2>

¹⁰⁰⁷ Korea-New Zealand's Agricultural and Fisheries Cooperation Continues, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (Sejong) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.mafra.go.kr/english/756/subview.do?enc=Zm5jdDF8QEB8JTJGYmJzJTJGZW5nbGlzaCUyRjl1JTJGMzI2MDkwlTJGYXJOY2xWaWV3LmRvJTNGYmJzQ2xTZXEIMQIMjZyZ3NFbmkZVN0ciUzRCUyNmJic09wZW5XcmRTZXEIMQIMjZyZ3NCZ25kZVN0ciUzRCUyNnBhc3N3b3JkTNEJTI2c3JjaENvbHVtbiUzRCUyNnVjdyUzRDEwJTI2aXNWaWV3TWluZSUzRGZhbnHlJTI2cGFuZSUzRDEIMjZzcmNoV3JkTNEJTI2>

On 8 December 2020, President Moon Jae-in announced Korea's potential participation in the Comprehensive and Progress Agreement for the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a free trade agreement involving eleven states.¹⁰⁰⁸ It will introduce Korea to an extensive Asia-Pacific multilateral free trade network.¹⁰⁰⁹ President Moon described the agreement as a "new window of opportunity, especially for small and medium-sized firms."¹⁰¹⁰

On 18 December 2020, Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Sung Yun-Mo signed the comprehensive economic partnership agreement with Indonesia.¹⁰¹¹ Korea will lift tariffs on 95.8 per cent of goods traded with Indonesia and allow local exporters access to the Southeast Asian market.¹⁰¹² The agreement is waiting for approval from the National Assembly.¹⁰¹³

On 1 January 2021, Korea and the UK implemented their bilateral free trade agreement.¹⁰¹⁴ It accounts for the UK's departure from the European Union.¹⁰¹⁵

On 28 January 2021, President Moon introduced bilateral free trade negotiations with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.¹⁰¹⁶ Korea and Uzbekistan signed a memorandum of understanding on digital industrial cooperation.¹⁰¹⁷ Both will serve as a part of Korea's policy to promote bilateral free trade and cooperation.¹⁰¹⁸

On 25 February 2021, Korea stated that the free trade agreement with Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama, Honduras and Nicaragua would be fully effective from March.¹⁰¹⁹ It will lift tariffs on more than 95 per cent of goods traded between the countries.¹⁰²⁰

On 4 March 2021, Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Sung Yun-Mo and the United Arab Emirates' Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber agreed to seek cooperation in sustainable alternatives to fossil fuels and eventually to reduce carbon footprints.¹⁰²¹

¹⁰⁰⁸ (LEAD) Moon: S. Korea to consider joining CPTPP to expand its free trade network, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20201208003851315>

¹⁰⁰⁹ (LEAD) Moon: S. Korea to consider joining CPTPP to expand its free trade network, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20201208003851315>

¹⁰¹⁰ (LEAD) Moon: S. Korea to consider joining CPTPP to expand its free trade network, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20201208003851315>

¹⁰¹¹ S. Korea inks free trade pact with Indonesia, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20201218000288>

¹⁰¹² S. Korea inks free trade pact with Indonesia, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20201218000288>

¹⁰¹³ S. Korea inks free trade pact with Indonesia, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20201218000288>

¹⁰¹⁴ S. Korea's FTA networks set to further expand in 2021, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 4 January 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210104001200320>

¹⁰¹⁵ S. Korea's FTA networks set to further expand in 2021, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 4 January 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210104001200320>

¹⁰¹⁶ President Moon, Uzbekistan announce launch of free trade talks, Korea.net (Sejong) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=194416>

¹⁰¹⁷ President Moon, Uzbekistan announce launch of free trade talks, Korea.net (Sejong) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=194416>

¹⁰¹⁸ President Moon, Uzbekistan announce launch of free trade talks, Korea.net (Sejong) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=194416>

¹⁰¹⁹ S. Korea-Central America FTA set for full implementation in March, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210225001200320>

¹⁰²⁰ S. Korea-Central America FTA set for full implementation in March, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210225001200320>

¹⁰²¹ (LEAD) S. Korea, UAE to expand ties in hydrogen industry, reduce carbon footprint, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210304002451320>

Ministers Sung and Al Jaber signed a memorandum of understanding to promote trade and technological exchanges related to hydrogen energy.¹⁰²²

On 16 March 2021, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy stated that it plans to establish facilities that include free trade agreement support centers overseas worth KRW11.9 billion.¹⁰²³ Korea expects it to help exporters to benefit further from the free trade agreement during the pandemic.¹⁰²⁴

On 1 April 2021, Minister for Trade Yoo Myung-hee and Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry Mohamed Azmin bin Ali agreed to expand bilateral exchanges to overcome the economic difficulties under the pandemic situation and endeavour the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.¹⁰²⁵ Korea seeks to sign an independent bilateral free trade agreement with Malaysia, separate from one with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.¹⁰²⁶

On 20 April 2021, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy stated it plans to cooperate with major trade partners to address technical barriers to trade, a form of non-tariff restrictions.¹⁰²⁷ Korea will seek to negotiate with major shareholders in its trade, such as China, to lower trade barriers through the World Trade Organization and other international bodies.¹⁰²⁸

On 20 April 2021, the Ministry of Economy and Finance announced Korea would gain a permanent board member status of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) from 1 August 2021.¹⁰²⁹ Korea has invested USD630 million in CABEI to achieve an eight per cent threshold for permanent board membership.¹⁰³⁰

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Korea has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a fair, free, and inclusive trade environment by entering into new multilateral trade agreements and expanding upon existing free trade agreements. However, Korea has failed to take specific and substantial action to strive to realize the goal of an investment environment that is non-discriminatory, free, fair, predictable and inclusive.

Thus, Korea receives a score of 0.

Analyst: June Young Lee

¹⁰²² (LEAD) S. Korea, UAE to expand ties in hydrogen industry, reduce carbon footprint, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210304002451320>

¹⁰²³ S. Korea to help exporters further utilize FTAs with new support centers, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210316001500320>

¹⁰²⁴ S. Korea to help exporters further utilize FTAs with new support centers, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210316001500320>

¹⁰²⁵ S. Korea, Malaysia agree to expand economic ties, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210331010200320>

¹⁰²⁶ S. Korea, Malaysia agree to expand economic ties, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210331010200320>

¹⁰²⁷ S. Korea seeks to tackle rising non-tariff trade barriers, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210420001200320>

¹⁰²⁸ S. Korea seeks to tackle rising non-tariff trade barriers, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210420001200320>

¹⁰²⁹ Korea to permanently join board of C. American financial body, Korea.net (Sejong) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=197229&pageIndex=1>

¹⁰³⁰ Korea to permanently join board of C. American financial body, Korea.net (Sejong) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=197229&pageIndex=1>

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment environment.

On 15 December 2020, Mexico and the UK signed a Trade Continuity agreement to maintain free trade relations between the two countries. The Trade Continuity agreement maintains the existing trade regime between Mexico and the UK and Northern Ireland under the existing Free Trade Agreement between Mexico and the European Union.¹⁰³¹

On 25 February 2021, Mexico and Argentina in a joint statement agreed to further cooperation in matters related to the trade of bovine meat products.¹⁰³² Both countries agreed to advance the opening of the Mexican market to Argentine beef products.¹⁰³³

On 3 March 2021, the Ministry of Economy, in collaboration with ConnectAmericas, unveiled a digital platform known as Comercia MX to help businesses, especially small and medium sized ones, expand their reach to the global market.¹⁰³⁴ The Secretary of Economy Tatiana Clouthier Carillo stated that this platform will address the problems faced by micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises in gaining access to information to enter the global market.¹⁰³⁵

On 16 March 2021, the Ministry of Economy formally announced the installation of the National Committee for Trade Facilitation, whose goal is to facilitate coordination between agencies, Public Administration and autonomous constitutional bodies in the regulation of programs related to foreign trade.¹⁰³⁶ The committee represents a substantive advance in the fulfillment of Mexico's international commitments in promoting fair trade.¹⁰³⁷

On 22 April 2021, Mexico attended the World Trade Organization (WTO) general council meeting.¹⁰³⁸ Attendees agreed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on exports of medical goods essential to combatting COVID-19, remain transparent about export restrictions deemed “necessary

¹⁰³¹Mexico and the United Kingdom sign a Trade Continuity Agreement that maintains free trade between both countries, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/mexico-y-reino-unido-firman-acuerdo-de-continuidad-comercial-que-mantiene-el-libre-comercio-entre-ambos-paises-259437?idiom=es>

¹⁰³²Mexico and Argentina agree to strengthen cooperation in agri-food matters, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/acuerdan-mexico-y-argentina-fortalecer-cooperacion-en-materia-agroalimentaria?idiom=es>

¹⁰³³Mexico and Argentina agree to strengthen cooperation in agri-food matters, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/acuerdan-mexico-y-argentina-fortalecer-cooperacion-en-materia-agroalimentaria?idiom=es>

¹⁰³⁴ Ministry of Economy presents Comercia MX, the new digital and global network for Mexican MSMEs, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/secretaria-de-economia-presenta-comercia-mx-la-nueva-red-digital-y-global-para-las-mipymes-mexicanas?idiom=es>

¹⁰³⁵ Ministry of Economy presents Comercia MX, the new digital and global network for Mexican MSMEs, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/secretaria-de-economia-presenta-comercia-mx-la-nueva-red-digital-y-global-para-las-mipymes-mexicanas?idiom=es>

¹⁰³⁶ Ministry of Economy installs the National Committee for Trade Facilitation, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/secretaria-de-economia-instala-el-comite-nacional-de-facilitacion-del-comercio-266784?idiom=es>

¹⁰³⁷ Ministry of Economy installs the National Committee for Trade Facilitation, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/secretaria-de-economia-instala-el-comite-nacional-de-facilitacion-del-comercio-266784?idiom=es>

¹⁰³⁸ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

to relieve critical shortages,” and give particular considerations to least developed countries.¹⁰³⁹ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.¹⁰⁴⁰

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Mexico has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a fair, predictable and inclusive trade environment through the introduction of Comercia MX and the National Committee for Trade Facilitation. However, Mexico has failed to take specific and substantial action to strive to realize the goal of an investment environment that is non-discriminatory, free, fair, predictable and inclusive.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Shalin Nayak

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment environment.

On 23 November 2020, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin signed Resolution No. 3001-r to open the one-stop-shop system on 26 November 2020.¹⁰⁴¹ This allows Russian exporters access to online services from companies entering the foreign market, and helps Russian exporters engage in foreign trade.¹⁰⁴²

On 30 November 2020, Prime Minister Mishustin announced at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization meeting that Russia would adopt a five-year plan for the implementation of the Program of Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation for the next 15 years until 2035.¹⁰⁴³ Prime Minister Mishustin emphasized the importance of following WTO regulations for ensuring a predictable trade environment.¹⁰⁴⁴

On 4 December 2020, Prime Minister Mishustin declared that Russia has been finalizing provisions of the Strategic Directions for Developing the Eurasian Economic Integration until 2025.¹⁰⁴⁵ The primary objective is for Russia to secure free movement of goods, services, capital and workforce in the internal market of the Eurasian Economic Union.¹⁰⁴⁶

On 18 December 2020, Ambassador to Ireland Yuriy Filatov addressed the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, affirming Russia’s aim to promote mutually beneficial and equal partnerships founded upon the principles of independence and sovereignty, pragmatism,

¹⁰³⁹ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁰⁴⁰ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁰⁴¹ Mikhail Mishustin signs a resolution to expand the one-stop-shop system for exporters, the Russian Government (Moscow) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/docs/40924/>

¹⁰⁴² Mikhail Mishustin signs a resolution to expand the one-stop-shop system for exporters, the Russian Government (Moscow) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/docs/40924/>

¹⁰⁴³ Meeting of the SCO Heads of Government Council, the Russian Government (Moscow) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/40979/>

¹⁰⁴⁴ Meeting of the SCO Heads of Government Council, the Russian Government (Moscow) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/40979/>

¹⁰⁴⁵ Eurasian Intergovernmental Council meeting, the Russian Government (Moscow) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41030/>

¹⁰⁴⁶ Eurasian Intergovernmental Council meeting, the Russian Government (Moscow) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41030/>

transparency, and predictability.¹⁰⁴⁷ The goal is to seek stability, and fair opportunities for all countries.¹⁰⁴⁸

On 14 January 2021, a statement by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov affirmed the close economic cooperation between the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) and the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia, highlighting a joint USD2.5 billion investment fund.¹⁰⁴⁹ The RDIF has 12 active projects in different areas.¹⁰⁵⁰

On 25 January 2021, Russia announced the new Strategy for the Development of the Timber Industry to establish a cost-effective timber industry by balancing the forestry sector and the lumber industry's interests.¹⁰⁵¹ This is expected to increase the industry's transparency through digitalization and introducing industry-specific information systems, and to attract investments.¹⁰⁵²

On 1 February 2021, Russia announced an active investment policy with strategic objectives of economic modernization, renovation and diversification of the production sphere in the Voronezh Region.¹⁰⁵³ It is intended to create conditions for the mobilization and inflow of external investment resources into the region's economy, expand the sources of investment in business projects, and develop the regional infrastructure by using public-private partnership mechanisms.¹⁰⁵⁴

On 18 February 2021, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova announced that Russia is focusing on creating a free, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable trade and investment environment, digitalizing different economic sectors and government management systems, and striving to achieve sustainable development.¹⁰⁵⁵ The spokeswoman announced efforts to enhance

¹⁰⁴⁷ ADDRESS by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Ireland Yuriy Filatov to the Orieachtas Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/ie/-/asset_publisher/osOx7Ma1e0ne/content/id/4501698

¹⁰⁴⁸ ADDRESS by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Ireland Yuriy Filatov to the Orieachtas Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/ie/-/asset_publisher/osOx7Ma1e0ne/content/id/4501698

¹⁰⁴⁹ Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's statement and answers to media questions during a joint news conference following talks with Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Moscow, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 14 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/international_safety/conflicts/-/asset_publisher/xIEMTQ3OvzcA/content/id/4520105

¹⁰⁵⁰ Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's statement and answers to media questions during a joint news conference following talks with Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Moscow, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 14 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/international_safety/conflicts/-/asset_publisher/xIEMTQ3OvzcA/content/id/4520105

¹⁰⁵¹ Work on the new version of the Strategy for the Development of the Timber Industry, The Russian Government (Moscow) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41382/>

¹⁰⁵² Work on the new version of the Strategy for the Development of the Timber Industry, The Russian Government (Moscow) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41382/>

¹⁰⁵³ Passport of the Voronezh Region, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/vnesneekonomiceskie-svazi-sub-ektov-rossijskoj-federacii/-/asset_publisher/ykggrK2nCl8c/content/id/125246

¹⁰⁵⁴ Passport of the Voronezh Region, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/vnesneekonomiceskie-svazi-sub-ektov-rossijskoj-federacii/-/asset_publisher/ykggrK2nCl8c/content/id/125246

¹⁰⁵⁵ APEC Forum in Briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4580881

cooperation between the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and other regional institutions to create a Greater Eurasian Partnership.¹⁰⁵⁶

On 25 February 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin discussed the economic and cultural relationship between Russia and Kyrgyzstan.¹⁰⁵⁷ The prime minister expressed a goal to restore the dynamics of trade and economic interactions between Russia and Kyrgyzstan, which had been hampered by the coronavirus pandemic.¹⁰⁵⁸

On 9 March 2021, in a joint news conference with Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the UAE Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Minister Lavrov described the common understanding between Russia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to establish cooperation between RDIF and the UAE's Mubadala Investment Company.¹⁰⁵⁹ This will promote a closer bilateral coordination in the global hydrocarbon market.¹⁰⁶⁰

On 15 March 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk discussed the current trade and economic cooperation and development between Russia and Uzbekistan during a working meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurakov.¹⁰⁶¹ The ministers arrived at a goal to enhance the bilateral and multilateral economic dialogue between Russia and Uzbekistan.¹⁰⁶²

On 15 April 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin met with Prime Minister of Lebanon Saad al-Hariri to discuss creating a favourable investment environment.¹⁰⁶³ The ministers reached a consensus in restoring and expanding mutual trade between the two countries.¹⁰⁶⁴

On 15 April 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin discussed current investment issues with Prime Minister of Libya Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh.¹⁰⁶⁵ Prime Minister Mishustin noted the importance of fostering a rules-based investment environment in Libya.¹⁰⁶⁶

¹⁰⁵⁶ APEC Forum in Briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021.

https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/ckNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4580881

¹⁰⁵⁷ Mikhail Mishustin's meeting with President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov, The Russian Government (Moscow) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41608/>

¹⁰⁵⁸ Mikhail Mishustin's meeting with President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov, The Russian Government (Moscow) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41608/>

¹⁰⁵⁹ Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's remarks and answers to media questions at a joint news conference with Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the UAE Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/aderno-nerasprostranenie/-/asset_publisher/JrcRGi5UdnBO/content/id/4613115

¹⁰⁶⁰ Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's remarks and answers to media questions at a joint news conference with Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the UAE Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/aderno-nerasprostranenie/-/asset_publisher/JrcRGi5UdnBO/content/id/4613115

¹⁰⁶¹ Alexei Overchuk's working meeting with Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurakov, The Russian Government (Moscow) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41738/>

¹⁰⁶² Alexei Overchuk's working meeting with Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurakov, The Russian Government (Moscow) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41738/>

¹⁰⁶³ Mikhail Mishustin holds talks with Prime Minister of Lebanon Saad al-Hariri, Government House (Moscow) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41968/>

¹⁰⁶⁴ Mikhail Mishustin holds talks with Prime Minister of Lebanon Saad al-Hariri, Government House (Moscow) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41968/>

¹⁰⁶⁵ Mikhail Mishustin holds talks with Prime Minister of Libya's Government of National Unity Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh, Government House (Moscow) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41969/>

On 21 April 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Overchuk met with First Deputy Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Artyom Novikov.¹⁰⁶⁷ The ministers agreed to draft proposals and projects to increase investment cooperation and economic integration between the two countries.¹⁰⁶⁸

On 22 April 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Overchuk attended a meeting of the Eurasian Economic Commission's Council during which the participants decided to provide a tariff privilege in the form of duty-free sugar imports from 15 May to 30 September 2021.¹⁰⁶⁹ The tariff privilege aims to promote sustainable development of the Union's sugar market.¹⁰⁷⁰

On 23 April 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak exchanged views on current and prospective energy cooperation between Russian regions and Saxony with Minister-President of Saxony Michael Kretschmer.¹⁰⁷¹ The ministers reaffirmed promising aspects of expanding economic cooperation and continued investments between Germany and Russia.¹⁰⁷²

On 28 April 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin signed a comprehensive program of economic cooperation for 2021-2025 with Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin.¹⁰⁷³ The program seeks to encourage their cooperation within the Eurasian Economic Union.¹⁰⁷⁴

On 29 April 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin declared that Russia is preparing new initiatives to increase trade and mutual investment with Armenia.¹⁰⁷⁵ The initiatives aim to open all economic and transport communications between Russia and Armenia, create new infrastructure routes, and establish conditions for sustainable development in the South Caucasus.¹⁰⁷⁶

On 29 April 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin expressed the desire to restore bilateral trade with Tajikistan through joint efforts during a meeting with Prime Minister of Tajikistan Kahir Rasulzoda.¹⁰⁷⁷ The ministers agreed on improving economic relations between Russia and Tajikistan and imbuing them with new promising joint projects.¹⁰⁷⁸

¹⁰⁶⁶ Mikhail Mishustin holds talks with Prime Minister of Libya's Government of National Unity Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh, Government House (Moscow) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41969/>

¹⁰⁶⁷ Alexei Overchuk's meeting with First Deputy Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Artyom Novikov, Government House (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42022/>

¹⁰⁶⁸ Alexei Overchuk's meeting with First Deputy Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Artyom Novikov, Government House (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42022/>

¹⁰⁶⁹ Alexei Overchuk attends a meeting of the Eurasian Economic Commission's Council, the Russian Government (Moscow) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42029/>

¹⁰⁷⁰ Alexei Overchuk attends a meeting of the Eurasian Economic Commission's Council, the Russian Government (Moscow) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42029/>

¹⁰⁷¹ Alexander Novak's meeting with Minister-President of Saxony Michael Kretschmer, the Russian Government (Moscow) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42044/>

¹⁰⁷² Alexander Novak's meeting with Minister-President of Saxony Michael Kretschmer, the Russian Government (Moscow) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42044/>

¹⁰⁷³ Mikhail Mishustin's conversation with Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin, the Russian Government (Moscow) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42079/>

¹⁰⁷⁴ Mikhail Mishustin's conversation with Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin, the Russian Government (Moscow) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42079/>

¹⁰⁷⁵ Mikhail Mishustin's conversation with Acting Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, the Russian Government (Moscow) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42091/>

¹⁰⁷⁶ Mikhail Mishustin's conversation with Acting Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, the Russian Government (Moscow) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42091/>

¹⁰⁷⁷ Mikhail Mishustin's conversation with Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan Kahir Rasulzoda, the Russian Government (Moscow) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42087/>

¹⁰⁷⁸ Mikhail Mishustin's conversation with Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan Kahir Rasulzoda, the Russian Government (Moscow) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42087/>

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Russia has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, free, fair, predictable and inclusive trade environment by increasing cooperation with regional institutions in accordance with WTO principles. Additionally, Russia has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, free, fair and predictable investment environment.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Xin Han

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 15 December 2020, the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry and the Ministry of Investment jointly held the 5th Ministerial Meeting on “Saudi-Japan Vision 2030” with the participation of Japanese and Saudi ministers.¹⁰⁷⁹ Minister of Investment Khalid Al-Falih stated that Saudi Arabia is fully committed to enabling Japanese investors to expand their role in Saudi Arabia, while promoting cooperation projects to enable the achievement of the Saudi-Japan Vision 2030.¹⁰⁸⁰

On 15 and 16 December 2020, the General Authority for Foreign Trade organized technical online meetings between the Saudi team and experts from the World Trade Organization (WTO) to review the country’s trade and investment policies.¹⁰⁸¹ The goal is to clarify and discuss some policies, information and data related to the country’s policies which are subject under review.¹⁰⁸²

On 31 December 2020, the Ministry of Commerce issued the Commercial Registrations for practicing the activity of collecting debts without requiring a license.¹⁰⁸³ This is expected to facilitate and ease business, improve the business and economic environment in the country and realize the goals of Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030.¹⁰⁸⁴

On 5 March 2021, the WTO conducted the 3rd Trade Policy Review of Saudi Arabia.¹⁰⁸⁵ The review recognized the country’s opening of economic sectors, wide-ranging institutional changes, and facilitation of an open trade and investment environment.¹⁰⁸⁶ The review called upon Saudi Arabia to

¹⁰⁷⁹ Fifth Ministerial Meeting on Saudi-Japan Vision 2030 Held, Ministry of Investment (Riyadh) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://investsaudi.sa/en/news/SAUDI-JAPAN-VISION-2030>

¹⁰⁸⁰ Fifth Ministerial Meeting on Saudi-Japan Vision 2030 Held, Ministry of Investment (Riyadh) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://investsaudi.sa/en/news/SAUDI-JAPAN-VISION-2030>

¹⁰⁸¹ Foreign Trade Authority Discusses the Procedures for Reviewing the Kingdom’s Third Trade Policies with the World Trade Organization, Ministry of Commerce (Riyadh) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://mci.gov.sa/en/mediacenter/News/Pages/18-12-20-01.aspx>

¹⁰⁸² Foreign Trade Authority Discusses the Procedures for Reviewing the Kingdom’s Third Trade Policies with the World Trade Organization, Ministry of Commerce (Riyadh) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://mci.gov.sa/en/mediacenter/News/Pages/18-12-20-01.aspx>

¹⁰⁸³ The Ministry of Commerce Announces the Cancellation of Licensing Requirement for Debt Collection Activity, Ministry of Commerce (Riyadh) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://mci.gov.sa/en/mediacenter/News/Pages/31-12-20-01.aspx>

¹⁰⁸⁴ The Ministry of Commerce Announces the Cancellation of Licensing Requirement for Debt Collection Activity, Ministry of Commerce (Riyadh) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://mci.gov.sa/en/mediacenter/News/Pages/31-12-20-01.aspx>

¹⁰⁸⁵ Concluding remarks by the Chairperson, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/tp507_crc_e.htm

¹⁰⁸⁶ Concluding remarks by the Chairperson, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/tp507_crc_e.htm

continue its efforts to enhance transparency in trade and investment, raising concerns regarding policies that appear to restrict trade, the increase in customs during the pandemic, and systematic discrimination in customs practices.¹⁰⁸⁷

On 18 March 2021, the National Industrial Development and Logistics Program and Riyadh Bank signed a cooperation agreement to work on developing investment and financing capabilities.¹⁰⁸⁸ Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources Bandar bin Ibrahim Al-Khorayef affirmed the importance of cooperation between public and private sectors in achieving the goals of Saudi Vision 2030.¹⁰⁸⁹

On 24 March 2021, Saudi Arabia attended the online discussion of “Digital Trade and Economic Development of Arab and Middle Eastern Countries” organized by WTO’s online Regional Trade Policy Course for WTO members.¹⁰⁹⁰ The themes discussed included digital solutions for financial inclusion, economic diversification, and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁰⁹¹

On 31 March 2021, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Council of Economic and Development Affairs Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud established the “Shareek” Program which is designed to provide financial support to generate SR5 trillion of private sector investment by 2030.¹⁰⁹² The “Shareek” Program is an essential part of the national investment strategy.¹⁰⁹³

On 8 April 2021, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Economy and Planning for International Economic Affairs Bandar Al-Khamis met with Vietnamese Ambassador Vu Viet Dung to discuss investment opportunities between Saudi Arabia and Vietnam.¹⁰⁹⁴ The two sides agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in investment and trade.¹⁰⁹⁵

On 29 April 2021, Minister Al-Khorayef held a meeting with the Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry Mohamed Azmin Ali to discuss investment opportunities.¹⁰⁹⁶ The ministers agreed to enhance economic relations between the two countries.¹⁰⁹⁷

¹⁰⁸⁷ Concluding remarks by the Chairperson, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/tp507_crc_e.htm

¹⁰⁸⁸ NIDLP, Riyadh Bank Sign Cooperation Agreement to Support, Develop Financing and Investment Capabilities, the Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-180320211>

¹⁰⁸⁹ NIDLP, Riyadh Bank Sign Cooperation Agreement to Support, Develop Financing and Investment Capabilities, the Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-180320211>

¹⁰⁹⁰ WTO holds online discussion on trade issues in Arab and Middle Eastern region, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/tech_24mar21_e.htm

¹⁰⁹¹ WTO holds online discussion on trade issues in Arab and Middle Eastern region, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/tech_24mar21_e.htm

¹⁰⁹² “Shareek” Program aims to strengthen cooperation between public and private sectors, the Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-310320212>

¹⁰⁹³ “Shareek” Program aims to strengthen cooperation between public and private sectors, the Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-310320212>

¹⁰⁹⁴ Saudi-Vietnamese Joint Committee Holds Virtual Meeting, the Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-080420212>

¹⁰⁹⁵ Saudi-Vietnamese Joint Committee Holds Virtual Meeting, the Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-080420212>

¹⁰⁹⁶ Al-Khorayef discusses with his Malaysian counterpart investment opportunities in industrial sector, the Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-290420211>

Saudi Arabia has partially with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Saudi Arabia has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a free and inclusive trade and investment environment by opening sectors and improving bilateral cooperation. However, Saudi Arabia has failed to take strong action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, and predictable trade and investment environment.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Xin Han

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment environment.

On 7 December 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa assembled the African Union and agreed to commence trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on 1 January 2021.¹⁰⁹⁸ The AfCFTA Agreement will progressively reduce tariffs and other trade barriers between African countries and is expected to boost manufacturing and trade across the continent.¹⁰⁹⁹ The World Bank calculates that AfCFTA could lead to a 7 per cent yearly increase in African GDP, lifting 30 million people out of extreme poverty by 2035.¹¹⁰⁰

On 8 December 2020, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition and the National Cleaner Production Centre South Africa partnered with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation to launch the Global Eco-Industrial Parks Program.¹¹⁰¹ The program is expected to improve the environmental, economic, and social performance and competitive advantage of industrial parks.¹¹⁰²

On 1 January 2021, South Africa enacted the legal and the administrative processes for preferential trade under the AfCFTA.¹¹⁰³ The Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Ebrahim Patel publicly promoted the new opportunities in export markets to South African farmers.¹¹⁰⁴

¹⁰⁹⁷ Al-Khorayef discusses with his Malaysian counterpart investment opportunities in industrial sector, the Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-290420211>

¹⁰⁹⁸ Trade, Industry and Competition exports hand sanitizers to other African countries, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/export-hand-sanitiser-other-african-countries-reaches-more-r16-billion-during-last-6-months>

¹⁰⁹⁹ Trade, Industry and Competition exports hand sanitizers to other African countries, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/export-hand-sanitiser-other-african-countries-reaches-more-r16-billion-during-last-6-months>

¹¹⁰⁰ Trade, Industry and Competition exports hand sanitizers to other African countries, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/export-hand-sanitiser-other-african-countries-reaches-more-r16-billion-during-last-6-months>

¹¹⁰¹ Trade, Industry and Competition launches Global Eco-Industrial Parks Programme, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/dtic-international-partners-launch-project-drive-green-industrial-parks-revitalization>

¹¹⁰² Trade, Industry and Competition launches Global Eco-Industrial Parks Programme, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/dtic-international-partners-launch-project-drive-green-industrial-parks-revitalization>

¹¹⁰³ Trade, Industry and Competition on new trade agreements in effect from 2021, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-new-trade-agreements-effect-2021-1-jan-2021-0000>

On 2 February 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa visited the Tshwane Automotive Special Economic Zone. The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition supported infrastructure in this region, generating an estimated R3.15 billion over the next three years and creating 2,000 manufacturing jobs.¹¹⁰⁵ During his visit, the president announced a USD1 billion investment from Ford Motors.¹¹⁰⁶

On 9 March 2021, the heads of state and governments of South Africa attended a meeting along with representatives from Costa Rica, Ethiopia, New Zealand, Bangladesh, Canada, Jordan, Korea, Tunisia, Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, together with United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres.¹¹⁰⁷ The representatives discussed the importance of supporting the World Health Organisation, and rebuilding a global economy that is stable, equal, and resilient.¹¹⁰⁸

On 15 March 2021, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition collaborated with the South African Consulate General in Dubai, the South African Fruit & Vegetable Canners Association and the Fresh Produce Exporters' Forum of South Africa to host a virtual trade and investment webinar with their counterparts.¹¹⁰⁹ The goal of the webinar is to deepen the relationship that South Africa has with the United Arab Emirates.¹¹¹⁰

On 16 March 2021, the Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Fikile Majola publicly communicated the role of Special Economic Zones Program.¹¹¹¹ The Special Economic Zones Program plays a significant role in supporting the implementation of the country's economic and recovery plan as it is structured to stimulate local and foreign direct investments.¹¹¹²

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. South Africa has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a fair, free, and inclusive trade environment by lowering barriers to trade through the African Union and directly promoting export opportunities to South African farmers. However, South Africa has failed to take specific and

¹¹⁰⁴ Trade, Industry and Competition on new trade agreements in effect from 2021, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-new-trade-agreements-effect-2021-1-jan-2021-0000>

¹¹⁰⁵ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Visit to Tshwane Automotive Special Economic Zone, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-visit-tshwane-automotive-special-economic-zone-2-feb-2021-0000>

¹¹⁰⁶ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Visit to Tshwane Automotive Special Economic Zone, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-visit-tshwane-automotive-special-economic-zone-2-feb-2021-0000>

¹¹⁰⁷ Joint Press Statement – Meeting of the Leaders' Network with United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, 9 March 2021, Department of Foreign Affairs, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/un0309.htm>

¹¹⁰⁸ Joint Press Statement – Meeting of the Leaders' Network with United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, 9 March 2021, Department of Foreign Affairs, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/un0309.htm>

¹¹⁰⁹ South Africa and United Arab Emirates to Host a Trade and Investment Webinar, the DTIC, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://www.thedtic.gov.za/south-africa-and-united-arab-emirates-to-host-a-trade-and-investment-webinar/>

¹¹¹⁰ South Africa and United Arab Emirates to Host a Trade and Investment Webinar, the DTIC, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://www.thedtic.gov.za/south-africa-and-united-arab-emirates-to-host-a-trade-and-investment-webinar/>

¹¹¹¹ Deputy Minister Fikile Majola on Special Economic Zones, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-fikile-majola-special-economic-zones-16-mar-2021-0000>

¹¹¹² Deputy Minister Fikile Majola on Special Economic Zones, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-fikile-majola-special-economic-zones-16-mar-2021-0000>

substantial action to strive to realize the goal of an investment environment that is non-discriminatory, free, fair, predictable and inclusive.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Andy Lin

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 4 December 2020, the first train carrying export cargo travelled from Turkey to China, following the Trans Caspian East-West Middle Corridor via Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway.¹¹¹³ The goal is to “further enhance connectivity between the East and the West and to consolidate its central position in the region.”¹¹¹⁴

On 17 December 2020, Turkey “extended the suspension of 20 per cent tariffs on wheat, barley, and corn imports” until 30 April 2021.¹¹¹⁵ This takes precedence over a previous decree announced on 30 October 2020 that initially suspended tariffs on wheat, barley and corn imports until 31 December 2020.¹¹¹⁶

On 25 December 2020, the EU and the UK reached a deal regarding post-Brexit relations.¹¹¹⁷ Turkey and the UK are in the final stages of signing a Free Trade Agreement between the two countries.¹¹¹⁸

On 22 January 2021, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development opened a regional Centre focused on global relations in Istanbul, Turkey.¹¹¹⁹ The purpose of the centre is to create “a dedicated base for deepening cooperation with partner countries and helping them with policy guidance and technical support to build more inclusive and prosperous societies.”¹¹²⁰ The

¹¹¹³ No: 314, 4 December 2020, Press Release Regarding the Departure of the First Export Train from Turkey to China, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mfa.gov.tr/no_-314_-turkiye-den-cin-e-gidecek-ilk-ihracat-treninin-yola-cikmasi-hk.en.mfa.

¹¹¹⁴ No: 314, 4 December 2020, Press Release Regarding the Departure of the First Export Train from Turkey to China, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mfa.gov.tr/no_-314_-turkiye-den-cin-e-gidecek-ilk-ihracat-treninin-yola-cikmasi-hk.en.mfa.

¹¹¹⁵ Turkey extends zero-tariffs on wheat imports to April, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-extends-zero-tariffs-on-wheat-imports-to-april-160933>

¹¹¹⁶ Turkey extends zero-tariffs on wheat imports to April, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-extends-zero-tariffs-on-wheat-imports-to-april-160933>

¹¹¹⁷ No: 333, 25 December 2020, Press Release Regarding the Deal Reached Between the United Kingdom and the European Union on the Negotiations on Post-Brexit Future Relations, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mfa.gov.tr/no_-333_-birlesik-krallik-ile-ab-arasinda-brexit-sonrasi-iliskilerin-gelecegine-iliskin-muzakerelerde-uzlasiya-varilmasi-hk.en.mfa

¹¹¹⁸ No: 333, 25 December 2020, Press Release Regarding the Deal Reached Between the United Kingdom and the European Union on the Negotiations on Post-Brexit Future Relations, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mfa.gov.tr/no_-333_-birlesik-krallik-ile-ab-arasinda-brexit-sonrasi-iliskilerin-gelecegine-iliskin-muzakerelerde-uzlasiya-varilmasi-hk.en.mfa

¹¹¹⁹ OECD opens Istanbul Centre for Global Relations to support work with partner countries, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/turkey/oecd-opens-istanbul-centre-for-global-relations-to-support-work-with-partner-countries.htm>

¹¹²⁰ OECD opens Istanbul Centre for Global Relations to support work with partner countries, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/turkey/oecd-opens-istanbul-centre-for-global-relations-to-support-work-with-partner-countries.htm>

centre will also “strengthen multilateral cooperation, encourage regional collaboration and offer guidance in areas like governance, [and] transparency.”¹¹²¹

On 9 February 2021, Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu visited Kuwait and met with Crown Prince Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah of Kuwait, Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Sabah.¹¹²² Minister Çavuşoğlu noted that Turkey sought to advance economic co-operation with Kuwait and maintain the Turkey-Kuwait bilateral trade volume.¹¹²³

On 9 and 10 February 2021, Minister Çavuşoğlu visited Oman and met with Omani Minister of Foreign Affairs Sayyid Badr Al-Busaidi and Deputy Prime Minister for Council of Ministers in Oman Sayyid Fahd.¹¹²⁴ Minister Çavuşoğlu reiterated that Turkey sought to advance bilateral economic relations with Oman and was “pleased with the increasing interest of Turkish companies to Oman.”¹¹²⁵

On 9 March 2021, Minister Çavuşoğlu visited Uzbekistan and met with his Uzbek counterpart, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Investments of Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurzakov.¹¹²⁶ Minister Çavuşoğlu reiterated that Turkey and Uzbekistan’s bilateral trade volume had not decreased amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, and intended on further increasing the bilateral trade volume from USD2.3 billion to USD5 billion.¹¹²⁷ Minister Çavuşoğlu sought to conclude the Preferential Trade Agreement and begin negotiations of a Free Trade Agreement with Uzbekistan.¹¹²⁸

On 30 March 2021, Minister Çavuşoğlu attended the 9th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia Istanbul Process.¹¹²⁹ Minister Çavuşoğlu evaluated bilateral relations and economic cooperation with Turkey-Tajikistan Joint European Commission (JEC) Co-Chair and Minister of Industry and New

¹¹²¹ OECD opens Istanbul Centre for Global Relations to support work with partner countries, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/turkey/oecd-opens-istanbul-centre-for-global-relations-to-support-work-with-partner-countries.htm>

¹¹²² Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Kuwait, 9 February 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-kuveyt-i-ziyareti-9-2-2021.en.mfa>

¹¹²³ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Kuwait, 9 February 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-kuveyt-i-ziyareti-9-2-2021.en.mfa>

¹¹²⁴ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Oman, 9-10 February 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-umman-i-ziyareti-10-2-2021.en.mfa>

¹¹²⁵ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Oman, 9-10 February 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-umman-i-ziyareti-10-2-2021.en.mfa>

¹¹²⁶ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Uzbekistan, 7-9 March 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (Ankara) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-uzbekistan-i-ziyareti-9-3-2021.en.mfa>

¹¹²⁷ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Uzbekistan, 7-9 March 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (Ankara) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-uzbekistan-i-ziyareti-9-3-2021.en.mfa>

¹¹²⁸ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Uzbekistan, 7-9 March 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (Ankara) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-uzbekistan-i-ziyareti-9-3-2021.en.mfa>

¹¹²⁹ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Tajikistan to attend the 9th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (Ankara) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-tacikistan-i-ziyareti-30-3-2021.en.mfa>

Technologies of Tajikistan Sherali Kabir.¹¹³⁰ Minister Çavuşoğlu noted that the 11th JEC meeting would occur in Dushanbe in August and advocated towards the signing of a Preferential Trade Agreement to increase commercial trade relations.¹¹³¹

On 22 to 23 April 2021, Minister Çavuşoğlu visited Bucharest to participate in the Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Turkey, Poland and Romania.¹¹³² Minister Çavuşoğlu met with Foreign Minister of Romania Bogdan Aurescu and noted that the bilateral trade volume was USD10 billion.¹¹³³ Minister Çavuşoğlu met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland Zbigniew Rau and highlighted that the bilateral trade volume had increased despite the pandemic and that trade goal was USD10 billion.¹¹³⁴

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Turkey has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, free, and predictable trade environment by lowering barriers to trade and engaging in bilateral and multilateral trade agreements. However, Turkey has failed to take specific and substantial action to strive to realize the goal of an investment environment that is non-discriminatory, free, fair, predictable and inclusive.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Sabar Fatima

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 24 November 2020, the Exports Credit Guarantee Department signed a cooperation agreement with the United Arab Emirates.¹¹³⁵ The agreement provides a framework for the UK and Etihad Credit Insurance to aid exports of products through collaborative financial support.¹¹³⁶

On 3 December 2020, High Commissioner for Bangladesh Robert Chatterton Dickson proposed a UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue to promote free trade following the UK's departure

¹¹³⁰ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Tajikistan to attend the 9th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (Ankara) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-tacikistan-i-ziyareti-30-3-2021.en.mfa>

¹¹³¹ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Tajikistan to attend the 9th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (Ankara) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-tacikistan-i-ziyareti-30-3-2021.en.mfa>

¹¹³² Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Romania to participate in the Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Turkey, Poland and Romania (Ankara) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-romanya-yi-ziyareti-23-4-2021.en.mfa>

¹¹³³ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Romania to participate in the Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Turkey, Poland and Romania (Ankara) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-romanya-yi-ziyareti-23-4-2021.en.mfa>

¹¹³⁴ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Romania to participate in the Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Turkey, Poland and Romania (Ankara) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-romanya-yi-ziyareti-23-4-2021.en.mfa>

¹¹³⁵ UKEF signs new export partnership with the UAE, UK Government (London) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-signs-new-export-partnership-with-the-uae>

¹¹³⁶ UKEF signs new export partnership with the UAE, UK Government (London) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-signs-new-export-partnership-with-the-uae>

from the European Union.¹¹³⁷ It led to a UK-Bangladesh trade and investment dialogue on 28 March 2021.¹¹³⁸

On 3 December 2020, the UK signed a partnership, trade and cooperation agreement with North Macedonia.¹¹³⁹ It will allow British businesses to continue to trade during the Brexit transition period.¹¹⁴⁰

On 4 December 2020, the UK continued negotiations with Australia for a free trade agreement.¹¹⁴¹ The UK seeks to continue the existing trade relationship with Australia following its departure from the EU.¹¹⁴²

On 8 December 2020, the UK and Canada agreed to a “temporary agreement that will head off an automatic increase in tariffs that was set to kick in when Britain leaves the European Union” the following week.¹¹⁴³ Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland ensured that Canadian goods including maple syrup, lobster, beef, and car parts are not affected by British Tariffs starting on 1 January 2021.¹¹⁴⁴ This ensures that the UK and Canada will continue to have “preferential access.”¹¹⁴⁵

On 8 December 2020, the UK signed a trade continuity agreement with Norway and Iceland.¹¹⁴⁶ It will ensure tariff-free status on 95 per cent of goods traded with Norway and 90 per cent of goods with Iceland.¹¹⁴⁷

On 8 December 2020, Minister for International Trade Ranil Jayawardena and Kenya’s Cabinet Secretary for Trade Betty Maina signed an economic partnership agreement, securing Kenyan tariff-

¹¹³⁷ UK proposes establishment of a UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue, UK Government (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-proposes-establishment-of-a-uk-bangladesh-trade-and-investment-dialogue>

¹¹³⁸ Inaugural UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue held in Dhaka, UK Government (London) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-bangladesh-trade-and-investment-dialogue>

¹¹³⁹ North Macedonia and UK sign Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement, UK Government (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-macedonia-and-uk-sign-partnership-trade-and-cooperation-agreement>

¹¹⁴⁰ North Macedonia and UK sign Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement, UK Government (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-macedonia-and-uk-sign-partnership-trade-and-cooperation-agreement>

¹¹⁴¹ Negotiations on the UK’s Future Trading Relationship with Australia: Update, UK Government (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-australia-update--2>

¹¹⁴² Negotiations on the UK’s Future Trading Relationship with Australia: Update, UK Government (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-australia-update--2>

¹¹⁴³ Canada and U.K. make stoppage deal to avert tariffs after Brexit, CBC (Toronto) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-uk-eu-trade-agreement-1.5852314>

¹¹⁴⁴ Canada and U.K. make stoppage deal to avert tariffs after Brexit, CBC (Toronto) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-uk-eu-trade-agreement-1.5852314>

¹¹⁴⁵ Canada and U.K. make stoppage deal to avert tariffs after Brexit, CBC (Toronto) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-uk-eu-trade-agreement-1.5852314>

¹¹⁴⁶ United Kingdom, Norway and Iceland sign trade continuity agreement, UK Government (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/united-kingdom-norway-and-iceland-sign-trade-continuity-agreement>

¹¹⁴⁷ United Kingdom, Norway and Iceland sign trade continuity agreement, UK Government (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/united-kingdom-norway-and-iceland-sign-trade-continuity-agreement>

free access to the UK's market.¹¹⁴⁸ It will allow 2,500 UK businesses to access the Kenyan market with duty-free status.¹¹⁴⁹

On 9 December 2020, Deputy High Commissioner for Canada David Reed and Canadian Deputy Minister of International Trade John Hannaford signed the UK-Canada Trade Continuity Agreement.¹¹⁵⁰ It will allow the UK to export goods and services worth GBP11.6 billion and lift a tariff burden of an estimated GBP42 million.¹¹⁵¹

On 10 December 2020, Secretary of State for International Trade Elizabeth Truss agreed on free trade agreements with Singapore and Vietnam.¹¹⁵² The deal with Vietnam will remove 99 per cent of tariffs after seven years.¹¹⁵³

On 14 December 2020, China and the UK held a meeting between a working group on investment promotion.¹¹⁵⁴ The two countries discussed “attracting foreign investment, two-way investment policies, mutual concerns and prospects for future cooperation between the two countries.”¹¹⁵⁵

On 14 December 2020, Secretary of State Truss signed a services mobility agreement with Vice-President of Switzerland Guy Parmelin, allowing UK workers to work in Switzerland freely for 90 days every year.¹¹⁵⁶ It will let existing UK businesses in Switzerland continue to operate.¹¹⁵⁷

On 14 December 2020, China and the UK held a meeting between a working group on investment promotion.¹¹⁵⁸ The two countries discussed “attracting foreign investment, two-way investment policies, mutual concerns and prospects for future cooperation between the two countries.”¹¹⁵⁹

¹¹⁴⁸ UK signs Economic Partnership Agreement with Kenya, benefiting UK-Kenya trade which was worth £1.4 billion in 2019, UK Government (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-kenya-sign-trade-agreement>

¹¹⁴⁹ UK signs Economic Partnership Agreement with Kenya, benefiting UK-Kenya trade which was worth £1.4 billion in 2019, UK Government (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-kenya-sign-trade-agreement>

¹¹⁵⁰ UK and Canada sign trade agreement, UK Government (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-canada-sign-trade-agreement>

¹¹⁵¹ UK and Canada sign trade agreement, UK Government (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-canada-sign-trade-agreement>

¹¹⁵² UK strikes Singapore and Vietnam trade deals, start of new era of trade with Asia, UK Government (London) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-strikes-singapore-and-vietnam-trade-deals-start-of-new-era-of-trade-with-asia>

¹¹⁵³ UK strikes Singapore and Vietnam trade deals, start of new era of trade with Asia, UK Government (London) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-strikes-singapore-and-vietnam-trade-deals-start-of-new-era-of-trade-with-asia>

¹¹⁵⁴ China and UK held third meeting of the working group on investment promotion, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203024843.shtml>

¹¹⁵⁵ China and UK held third meeting of the working group on investment promotion, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203024843.shtml>

¹¹⁵⁶ UK and Switzerland sign services agreement, UK Government (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-switzerland-sign-services-agreement>

¹¹⁵⁷ UK and Switzerland sign services agreement, UK Government (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-switzerland-sign-services-agreement>

¹¹⁵⁸ China and UK held third meeting of the working group on investment promotion, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203024843.shtml>

¹¹⁵⁹ China and UK held third meeting of the working group on investment promotion, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203024843.shtml>

On 15 December 2020, the UK signed the UK-Mexico Trade Continuity Agreement, supporting bilateral trade between UK and Mexico worth more than GBP5 billion.¹¹⁶⁰ The agreement provides a roadmap for the UK's entrance to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).¹¹⁶¹

On 24 December 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen agreed to a deal on the UK's future trade and security relationship with the EU.¹¹⁶² The agreement guarantees the tariff-free status of goods worth GBP668 billion, replacing EU membership following Brexit.¹¹⁶³

On 25 December 2020, the EU and the UK reached a deal regarding post-Brexit relations.¹¹⁶⁴ Turkey and the UK are in the final stages of signing a Free Trade Agreement between the two countries.¹¹⁶⁵

On 29 December 2020, Secretary of State Truss signed the UK-Turkey Free Trade Agreement with the Turkish Minister of Trade Ruhsar Pekcan.¹¹⁶⁶ The agreement allows the UK to benefit from preferential terms of trade in importing and exporting sectors, supporting the bilateral trade relationship worth GBP18.6 billion.¹¹⁶⁷

On 29 December 2020, Ambassador to Mexico Corin Robertson exchanged notes with the Mexican Secretary of Economy Graciela Colín to confirm the agreement between the UK and Mexico to initiate preferential tariff treatment from 1 January 2021.¹¹⁶⁸

On 1 January 2021, UK and Korea implemented their bilateral free trade agreement.¹¹⁶⁹ It accounts for the UK's departure from the European Union.¹¹⁷⁰

On 1 February 2021, Secretary of State Truss submitted the formal notification of intent letter to initiate the accession process for the CPTPP.¹¹⁷¹ The UK accession will extend the CPTPP outside the current Indo-Pacific region.¹¹⁷²

¹¹⁶⁰ UK and Mexico sign trade deal, UK Government (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-mexico-sign-trade-deal>

¹¹⁶¹ UK and Mexico sign trade deal, UK Government (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-mexico-sign-trade-deal>

¹¹⁶² UK and EU agree Brexit trade deal, The Guardian (London) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/dec/24/uk-eu-agree-brexit-trade-deal-agreement>

¹¹⁶³ UK and EU agree Brexit trade deal, The Guardian (London) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/dec/24/uk-eu-agree-brexit-trade-deal-agreement>

¹¹⁶⁴ No: 333, 25 December 2020, Press Release Regarding the Deal Reached Between the United Kingdom and the European Union on the Negotiations on Post-Brexit Future Relations, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mfa.gov.tr/no_-333_-birlesik-krallik-ile-ab-arasinda-brexit-sonrasi-iliskilerin-gelecegine-iliskin-muzakerelerde-uzlasiya-varilmasi-hk.en.mfa

¹¹⁶⁵ No: 333, 25 December 2020, Press Release Regarding the Deal Reached Between the United Kingdom and the European Union on the Negotiations on Post-Brexit Future Relations, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mfa.gov.tr/no_-333_-birlesik-krallik-ile-ab-arasinda-brexit-sonrasi-iliskilerin-gelecegine-iliskin-muzakerelerde-uzlasiya-varilmasi-hk.en.mfa

¹¹⁶⁶ UK and Turkey sign trade deal, UK Government (London) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-turkey-sign-trade-deal>

¹¹⁶⁷ UK and Turkey sign trade deal, UK Government (London) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-turkey-sign-trade-deal>

¹¹⁶⁸ UK-Mexico trade continuity agreement: exchange of notes, UK Government (London) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-mexico-trade-continuity-agreement-exchange-of-notes>

¹¹⁶⁹ S. Korea's FTA networks set to further expand in 2021, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 4 January 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210104001200320>

¹¹⁷⁰ S. Korea's FTA networks set to further expand in 2021, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 4 January 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210104001200320>

On 8 February 2021, Secretary of State Truss stated jointly with the Indian Minister for Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal that the UK and India would formally launch an enhanced trade partnership.¹¹⁷³ They committed to make concrete progress on trade and invest, regularly interact, and quickly identify bilateral deliverables.¹¹⁷⁴

On 9 February 2021, the UK concluded the 3rd round of negotiations with New Zealand regarding a free trade agreement.¹¹⁷⁵ The UK seeks to continue the existing trade relationship with New Zealand after it departs from the EU.¹¹⁷⁶

On 16 February 2021, High Commissioner Dickson had a conversation with the Commerce Secretary of Bangladesh Jafar Uddin at the inaugural UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue.¹¹⁷⁷ The UK and Bangladesh agreed to continue to work towards developing a bilateral trade partnership.¹¹⁷⁸

On 2 March 2021, the UK granted GBP2.1 million to the Golomoti Solar in Malawi, which will provide 20 megawatts of clean power to local plants with quality batteries.¹¹⁷⁹ The UK holds a 25 per cent share of the project through InfraCo Africa, one of the UK's Infrastructure Financing Agencies.¹¹⁸⁰

On 2 March 2021, the UK signed a trade partnership agreement with Ghana to secure tariff-free trade and promote further economic cooperation.¹¹⁸¹ It will support a bilateral trade relationship worth GBP1.2 billion.¹¹⁸²

¹¹⁷¹ Formal Request to Commence UK Accession Negotiations to CPTPP, UK Government (London) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/formal-request-to-commence-uk-accession-negotiations-to-cptpp>

¹¹⁷² Formal Request to Commence UK Accession Negotiations to CPTPP, UK Government (London) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/formal-request-to-commence-uk-accession-negotiations-to-cptpp>

¹¹⁷³ Joint UK-India statement on Enhanced Trade Partnership progress, UK Government (London) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-uk-india-statement-on-enhanced-trade-partnership-progress>

¹¹⁷⁴ Joint UK-India statement on Enhanced Trade Partnership progress, UK Government (London) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-uk-india-statement-on-enhanced-trade-partnership-progress>

¹¹⁷⁵ Negotiations on the UK's Future Trading Relationship with New Zealand: Update, UK Government (London) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-new-zealand-update--3>

¹¹⁷⁶ Negotiations on the UK's Future Trading Relationship with New Zealand: Update, UK Government (London) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-new-zealand-update--3>

¹¹⁷⁷ Inaugural UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue held in Dhaka, UK Government (London) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-bangladesh-trade-and-investment-dialogue>

¹¹⁷⁸ Inaugural UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue held in Dhaka, UK Government (London) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-bangladesh-trade-and-investment-dialogue>

¹¹⁷⁹ UK supports Malawi's energy diversification drive, UK Government (London) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-supports-malawis-energy-diversification-drive>

¹¹⁸⁰ UK supports Malawi's energy diversification drive, UK Government (London) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-supports-malawis-energy-diversification-drive>

¹¹⁸¹ UK signs Trade Partnership Agreement with Ghana, UK Government (London) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-signs-trade-partnership-agreement-with-ghana>

¹¹⁸² UK signs Trade Partnership Agreement with Ghana, UK Government (London) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-signs-trade-partnership-agreement-with-ghana>

On 4 March 2021, the UK and the US agreed to a four-month tariff suspension regarding the Airbus and Boeing dispute.¹¹⁸³ The UK ceased retaliatory tariffs to de-escalate the incident and promote negotiations.¹¹⁸⁴

On 9 March 2021, Minister Jayawardena signed an economic partnership agreement with Cameroon.¹¹⁸⁵ The UK market imports a 12 per cent share of bananas exported from Cameroon.¹¹⁸⁶ It will maintain the tariff-free bilateral free trade between the UK and Cameroon.¹¹⁸⁷

On 24 March 2021, Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Kenya Theo Clarke and Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Industrialisation, Trade and Enterprise Development Betty Maina exchanged ratification documents to enter the UK-Kenya Economic Partnership Agreement into the force.¹¹⁸⁸ The UK and Kenya signed the deal on 8 December 2020.¹¹⁸⁹ This deal contains the same terms as the deal made between the EU and the East African Community and is a British effort to maintain the same trade status as before Brexit.¹¹⁹⁰

On 29 March 2021, Secretary of State Truss and Thailand's Minister of Commerce and Deputy Prime Minister Jurin Laksanawisit signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the Joint Economic and Trade Committee that seeks to address the bilateral trade barriers.¹¹⁹¹ It will benefit the UK by deepening its trade relations with Thailand, a key hub for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.¹¹⁹²

On 31 March 2021, Secretary of State Truss set the agenda for the UK to work with the G7 Meeting and the World Trade Organization to promote free trade and set the principles for the digital market.¹¹⁹³ Secretary Truss will chair the upcoming inaugural G7 Trade Track Ministerial meeting.¹¹⁹⁴

¹¹⁸³ Joint UK- US statement on suspension of tariffs in long-running aerospace dispute, UK Government (London) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-uk-us-statement-on-suspension-of-tariffs-in-long-running-aerospace-dispute>

¹¹⁸⁴ Joint UK- US statement on suspension of tariffs in long-running aerospace dispute, UK Government (London) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-uk-us-statement-on-suspension-of-tariffs-in-long-running-aerospace-dispute>

¹¹⁸⁵ UK and Cameroon sign trade agreement, UK Government (London) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-signs-new-export-partnership-with-the-uae>

¹¹⁸⁶ UK and Cameroon sign trade agreement, UK Government (London) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-signs-new-export-partnership-with-the-uae>

¹¹⁸⁷ UK and Cameroon sign trade agreement, UK Government (London) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-signs-new-export-partnership-with-the-uae>

¹¹⁸⁸ UK-Kenya Economic Partnership Agreement enters into force, UK Government (London) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-kenya-economic-partnership-agreement-enters-into-force>

¹¹⁸⁹ UK signs Economic Partnership Agreement with Kenya, benefiting UK-Kenya trade which was worth £1.4 billion in 2019, UK Government (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-kenya-sign-trade-agreement>

¹¹⁹⁰ UK-Kenya Economic Partnership Agreement enters into force, UK Government (London) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-kenya-economic-partnership-agreement-enters-into-force>

¹¹⁹¹ UK and Thailand commit to strengthening trade ties, UK Government (London) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-thailand-commit-to-strengthening-trade-ties>

¹¹⁹² UK and Thailand commit to strengthening trade ties, UK Government (London) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-thailand-commit-to-strengthening-trade-ties>

¹¹⁹³ Liz Truss unveils plans to work with G7 to tackle global trading challenges, UK Government (London) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/liz-truss-unveils-plans-to-work-with-g7-to-tackle-global-trading-challenges>

¹¹⁹⁴ Liz Truss unveils plans to work with G7 to tackle global trading challenges, UK Government (London) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/liz-truss-unveils-plans-to-work-with-g7-to-tackle-global-trading-challenges>

On 22 April 2021, the UK attended the WTO general council meeting.¹¹⁹⁵ Attendees agreed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on exports of medical goods essential to combatting COVID-19, remain transparent about export restrictions deemed “necessary to relieve critical shortages,” and give particular considerations to least developed countries.¹¹⁹⁶ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.¹¹⁹⁷

On 26 April 2021, Secretary of State Truss and Indonesian Minister of Trade Muhammad Lutfi signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the Joint Economic Trade Committee to lower the trade barriers and promote a rules-based trade system.¹¹⁹⁸ Indonesia is one of the largest economies in Southeast Asia and a key trade partner of the UK, with trade amounting to GBP3 billion in 2019.¹¹⁹⁹

On 29 April 2021, Queen Elizabeth II gave the Royal Assent to the Trade Act to formally make it a law.¹²⁰⁰ It will allow the UK government to sign free trade agreements independently.¹²⁰¹ It will also incorporate free trade agreements that the UK already signed into British law.¹²⁰²

On 1 May 2021, the Department for International Trade announced the Joint Statement initiating the UK-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement’s entry into force.¹²⁰³ It will cover GBP5.1 billion worth of bilateral trade and promote trade and investment.¹²⁰⁴ It will also seek to gradually remove tariffs from the current level of 65 per cent to 99 per cent within six years.¹²⁰⁵

On 1 May 2021, the Department for International Trade announced the Jordan-UK Association Agreement coming into effect.¹²⁰⁶ The UK and Jordan signed it on 5 November 2019, but it took

¹¹⁹⁵ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹¹⁹⁶ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹¹⁹⁷ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹¹⁹⁸ UK and Indonesia announce new Joint Economic and Trade Committee, UK Government (London) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-indonesia-announce-new-joint-economic-and-trade-committee>

¹¹⁹⁹ UK and Indonesia announce new Joint Economic and Trade Committee, UK Government (London) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-indonesia-announce-new-joint-economic-and-trade-committee>

¹²⁰⁰ Historic Trade Act becomes law, UK Government (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/historic-trade-act-becomes-law>

¹²⁰¹ Historic Trade Act becomes law, UK Government (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/historic-trade-act-becomes-law>

¹²⁰² Historic Trade Act becomes law, UK Government (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/historic-trade-act-becomes-law>

¹²⁰³ UK-Viet Nam Joint Statement, UK Government (London) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-viet-nam-joint-statement>

¹²⁰⁴ UK-Viet Nam Joint Statement, UK Government (London) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-viet-nam-joint-statement>

¹²⁰⁵ UK-Viet Nam Joint Statement, UK Government (London) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-viet-nam-joint-statement>

¹²⁰⁶ UK and Jordan Trade Agreement comes into effect, UK Government (London) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-jordan-trade-agreement-comes-into-effect>

until 25 March 2021 for both the UK and Jordan to complete its procedures to enforce it.¹²⁰⁷ It will expand the bilateral trade further from GBP561 million in 2020.¹²⁰⁸

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. The United Kingdom has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, and predictable trade environment by renegotiating several free trade agreements and lowering barriers to trade. Additionally, the United Kingdom has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, and predictable investment environment by facilitating open, rules-based investing.

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

Analyst: June Young Lee

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment

On 8 December 2020, the US and Ecuador signed a protocol on trade rules and transparency, a move welcomed by business groups in both countries.¹²⁰⁹ “The pact updates an earlier agreement with new provisions on customs, regulation, anti-corruption and small and medium-sized companies,” reducing the barriers of trade between the US and Ecuador.¹²¹⁰

On 22 January 2021, President Joseph Biden met with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and shared their vision for “strengthening Canada-U.S. supply chain security and resilience.”¹²¹¹ The leaders agreed to “avoid measures that may constrain bilateral trade, supply chains, and economic growth” to protect the economic relationships between the two countries.¹²¹²

On 23 February 2021, President Biden met with Prime Minister Trudeau to begin a “reset in relations with Canada’s largest trading partner and one of its closest allies after four tumultuous years with President Donald Trump.”¹²¹³ Canadian officials are “optimistic” that President Biden will bring a

¹²⁰⁷ UK and Jordan Trade Agreement comes into effect, UK Government (London) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-jordan-trade-agreement-comes-into-effect>

¹²⁰⁸ UK and Jordan Trade Agreement comes into effect, UK Government (London) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-jordan-trade-agreement-comes-into-effect>

¹²⁰⁹ U.S., Ecuador ink mini-deal on trade; U.S. Chamber says more work ahead, Reuters (Washington) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-ecuador-idUSKBN28I2OQ>

¹²¹⁰ U.S., Ecuador ink mini-deal on trade; U.S. Chamber says more work ahead, Reuters (Washington) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-ecuador-idUSKBN28I2OQ>

¹²¹¹ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with the President of the United States Joe Biden, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/01/22/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-president-united-states-america-joe>

¹²¹² Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with the President of the United States Joe Biden, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/01/22/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-president-united-states-america-joe>

¹²¹³ Biden-Trudeau meeting: Canadians glad to get beyond Trump, but new administration brings new friction, Washington Post (Ottawa) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/02/23/canada-trudeau-biden-trump-faq/>

more cooperative presence despite cancelling the Keystone XL pipeline project previously.¹²¹⁴ Tariffs may be decreased over this period, improving the free trade environment.¹²¹⁵

On 23 February 2021, President Biden and Prime Minister Trudeau “promised to work together to build supply chains for electric vehicle battery development.”¹²¹⁶ They aim to make Canada and the US “global leaders in all aspects of battery development and production.”¹²¹⁷

On 1 March 2021, the Office of the US Trade Representative delivered President Biden’s 2021 Trade Agenda and 2020 Annual Report to Congress, which detailed “a comprehensive trade policy in support of the Administration’s effort to help the US recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and build back better.”¹²¹⁸ President Biden noted his desire for a fair international trading system.¹²¹⁹

On 4 March 2021, the US and the UK released a joint statement announcing a four-month suspension of tariffs related to the ongoing large civilian aircraft dispute.¹²²⁰ The US suspended retaliatory tariffs in the Airbus dispute from 4 March 2021, for four months.¹²²¹ This will benefit a wide range of industries on both sides of the Atlantic and allow for focused settlement negotiations and focus on COVID recovery and other shared goals.¹²²²

On 5 March 2021, the US and the EU agreed on the mutual suspension for four months of the tariffs related to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Aircraft disputes.¹²²³ The suspension will cover all tariffs both on aircraft as well as on non-aircraft products and will become effective as soon as the internal procedures on both sides are completed.¹²²⁴ This will allow the EU and the US to ease

¹²¹⁴ Biden-Trudeau meeting: Canadians glad to get beyond Trump, but new administration brings new friction, Washington Post (Ottawa) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/02/23/canada-trudeau-biden-trump-faq/>

¹²¹⁵ Biden-Trudeau meeting: Canadians glad to get beyond Trump, but new administration brings new friction, Washington Post (Ottawa) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/02/23/canada-trudeau-biden-trump-faq/>

¹²¹⁶ What experts say Canada needs to do to become a leader in the electric vehicle industry, CBC (Toronto) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 18 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/trudeau-biden-electric-vehicles-1.5926899>

¹²¹⁷ What experts say Canada needs to do to become a leader in the electric vehicle industry, CBC (Toronto) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 18 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/trudeau-biden-electric-vehicles-1.5926899>

¹²¹⁸ Biden Administration Releases 2021 President’s Trade Agenda and 2020 Annual Report, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/march/biden-administration-releases-2021-presidents-trade-agenda-and-2020-annual-report>

¹²¹⁹ Biden Administration Releases 2021 President’s Trade Agenda and 2020 Annual Report, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/march/biden-administration-releases-2021-presidents-trade-agenda-and-2020-annual-report>

¹²²⁰ Joint US-UK Statement on Suspension of Large Civilian Aircraft Tariffs, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/march/joint-us-uk-statement-suspension-large-civilian-aircraft-tariffs>

¹²²¹ Joint US-UK Statement on Suspension of Large Civilian Aircraft Tariffs, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/march/joint-us-uk-statement-suspension-large-civilian-aircraft-tariffs>

¹²²² Joint US-UK Statement on Suspension of Large Civilian Aircraft Tariffs, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/march/joint-us-uk-statement-suspension-large-civilian-aircraft-tariffs>

¹²²³ Joint Statement of the European Union and the United States on the Large Civil Aircraft WTO Disputes, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/march/joint-statement-european-union-and-united-states-large-civil-aircraft-wto-disputes>

¹²²⁴ Joint Statement of the European Union and the United States on the Large Civil Aircraft WTO Disputes, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/march/joint-statement-european-union-and-united-states-large-civil-aircraft-wto-disputes>

the burden on their industries and workers and focus efforts towards resolving these long running disputes at the WTO.¹²²⁵

On 19 March 2021, the US notified the Dispute Settlement of its decision to appeal the panel report in the case brought by Korea in “United States — Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Duties on Certain Products and the Use of Facts Available.”¹²²⁶

On 20 March 2021, US and Chinese officials had the first high-level talks between the Biden administration and China since last June.¹²²⁷ This communication improves the trade transparency between the two countries.¹²²⁸

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. The United States has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a fair, free, predictable and inclusive trade environment by lowering barriers to trade in bilateral agreements and including provisions on small and medium sized enterprises. However, the United States has failed to take specific and substantial action to strive to realize the goal of an investment environment that is non-discriminatory, free, fair, predictable and inclusive.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Andy Lin

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 30 November 2021, the EU met virtually with Argentina to discuss trade and economics.¹²²⁹ During the meeting both parties discussed concerns with current trade policies, new taxation laws and interest in varying policy areas.¹²³⁰ The discussions promoted transparency and stability in foreign investment by Argentina into the EU.¹²³¹

¹²²⁵ Joint Statement of the European Union and the United States on the Large Civil Aircraft WTO Disputes, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/march/joint-statement-european-union-and-united-states-large-civil-aircraft-wto-disputes>

¹²²⁶ United States appeals panel report regarding US duties on Korean products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/ds539apl_19mar21_e.htm

¹²²⁷ US and China trade angry words at high-level Alaska talks, BBC News (London) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-56452471>

¹²²⁸ US and China trade angry words at high-level Alaska talks, BBC News (London) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-56452471>

¹²²⁹ 11th EU-Argentina Joint Committee – Trade and Economic Joint Minutes, EU-Argentina Joint Committee (Brussels) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/january/tradoc_159395.pdf

¹²³⁰ 11th EU-Argentina Joint Committee – Trade and Economic Joint Minutes, EU-Argentina Joint Committee (Brussels) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/january/tradoc_159395.pdf

¹²³¹ 11th EU-Argentina Joint Committee – Trade and Economic Joint Minutes, EU-Argentina Joint Committee (Brussels) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/january/tradoc_159395.pdf

On 7 December 2021, the EU announced that it will allow member states to suspend value-added tax (VAT) rates on COVID-19 vaccines and testing kits and related services until 31 December 2022.¹²³² Member states may also choose to reduce VAT rates for these items.¹²³³

On 12 December 2021, the European Commission released a communication agenda with the US which created a framework for transatlantic cooperation.¹²³⁴ The European Commission asked the US to join the Trade and Health Initiative which works to “facilitate trade in essential medical goods and healthcare products.”¹²³⁵ The European Commission also asks the United States to review bilateral and multilateral trading to strengthen the systems.¹²³⁶

On 30 December 2020, the EU and China announced a new investment deal after seven years of negotiation.¹²³⁷ The deal seeks “to make foreign investment fairer for European companies which compete against state-funded firms in China.”¹²³⁸ China has committed to being transparent on subsidies for state-owned firms and forced technology transfers.¹²³⁹ EU Trade Chief Valdis Dombrovskis believes “the main purpose of this agreement is to address the economic imbalance in our relations...[as] the EU’s market is substantially more open to Chinese companies and investment than China’s market is for EU companies.”¹²⁴⁰

On 19 January 2021, European Parliament added rules to protect EU trading against partners acting “illegally.”¹²⁴¹ Countermeasures are now allowed to be introduced when the EU “obtains a favourable ruling from a dispute settlement panel of the World Trade Organization or in bilateral and regional agreements, when the other party fails to cooperate on the adjudication of the dispute.”¹²⁴²

¹²³²Council Greenlights Temporary VAT Relief on COVID-19 Vaccines and Test Kits, European Council (Brussels) 7 December 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/07/council-greenlights-temporary-vat-relief-on-covid-19-vaccines-and-test-kits/>

¹²³³ Council Greenlights Temporary VAT Relief on COVID-19 Vaccines and Test Kits, European Council (Brussels) 7 December 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/07/council-greenlights-temporary-vat-relief-on-covid-19-vaccines-and-test-kits/>

¹²³⁴ Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council, European Commission (Brussels) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/joint-communication-eu-us-agenda_en.pdf

¹²³⁵ Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council, European Commission (Brussels) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/joint-communication-eu-us-agenda_en.pdf

¹²³⁶ Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council, European Commission (Brussels) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/joint-communication-eu-us-agenda_en.pdf

¹²³⁷ China’s investment deal with the EU has raised 3 big concerns in Europe, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/06/china-eu-trade-deal-what-it-is-and-why-it-might-fail.html>

¹²³⁸ China’s investment deal with the EU has raised 3 big concerns in Europe, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/06/china-eu-trade-deal-what-it-is-and-why-it-might-fail.html>

¹²³⁹ China’s investment deal with the EU has raised 3 big concerns in Europe, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/06/china-eu-trade-deal-what-it-is-and-why-it-might-fail.html>

¹²⁴⁰ China’s investment deal with the EU has raised 3 big concerns in Europe, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/06/china-eu-trade-deal-what-it-is-and-why-it-might-fail.html>

¹²⁴¹ EU Will Have Stronger Powers in Trade Disputes, European Parliament (Brussels) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210114IPR95626/eu-will-have-stronger-powers-in-trade-disputes>

¹²⁴² EU Will Have Stronger Powers in Trade Disputes, European Parliament (Brussels) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210114IPR95626/eu-will-have-stronger-powers-in-trade-disputes>

The resolution will not act as a protectionist measure, but would be WTO-compatible.¹²⁴³ This action furthers the goal of fair, rule-based trading amongst the EU and its trading partners.¹²⁴⁴

On 18 February 2021, the European Commission released its revised trade policy. It focuses on the openness of the EU's market both internally and externally, developing cooperative frameworks, increased multilateralism in trade and deepening trade relations with countries in the European Neighbourhood Policy, the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries.¹²⁴⁵

On 19 February 2021, the EU and India “expressed hope to forge a host of bilateral cooperation arrangements with a view to boost bilateral trade” by continuing negotiations on the Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement, in which the EU seeks greater market access for its commodities in India.¹²⁴⁶

On 26 February 2021, the EU stated it is committed to “improving access” to vaccines to countries in the European Neighbourhood Policy and beyond through COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access.¹²⁴⁷ The EU also committed to ensuring the unhindered flow of goods and services.¹²⁴⁸

On 5 March 2021, the EU and the US agreed to temporarily remove tariffs on various items including Boeing and Airbus aircrafts as well as non-aircraft products.¹²⁴⁹ The goal is to reduce tariffs on US-EU products, which is a step towards market liberalization.¹²⁵⁰

On 9 March 2021, the European Parliament revised InvestEU, a provisional agreement, which focuses on “investments in manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, medical devices and supplies.”¹²⁵¹ The agreement will also focus investments into the EU's small and medium sized enterprises which were “negatively affected by the pandemic.”¹²⁵² The agreement allows foreign investment from countries “that are members of the European Free Trade Association, acceding countries, candidates and potential candidates, countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy.”¹²⁵³ The goal is to

¹²⁴³ MEPs: Put a Carbon Price on Certain EU Imports to Raise Global Climate Ambition, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99208/meps-put-a-carbon-price-on-certain-eu-imports-to-raise-global-climate-ambition>

¹²⁴⁴ MEPs: Put a Carbon Price on Certain EU Imports to Raise Global Climate Ambition, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99208/meps-put-a-carbon-price-on-certain-eu-imports-to-raise-global-climate-ambition>

¹²⁴⁵ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the Europeans Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Region, European Commission (Brussels) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/1/2021/EN/COM-2021-66-F1-EN-MAIN-PART-1.PDF>

¹²⁴⁶ India, EU Express Hope to Forge Host of Bilateral Cooperation Arrangements, Business Standard (New Delhi) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-eu-express-hope-to-forge-host-of-bilateral-cooperation-arrangements-121021901306_1.html

¹²⁴⁷ Statement of the Members of the European Council, European Council (Brussels) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/48625/2526-02-21-euco-statement-en.pdf>

¹²⁴⁸ Statement of the Members of the European Council, European Council (Brussels) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/48625/2526-02-21-euco-statement-en.pdf>

¹²⁴⁹ EU and US Agree to Suspend Tariffs over Airbus-Boeing Dispute, Euronews (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/03/05/eu-and-us-agree-to-suspend-tariffs-over-airbus-boeing-dispute>

¹²⁵⁰ EU and US Agree to Suspend Tariffs over Airbus-Boeing Dispute, Euronews (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/03/05/eu-and-us-agree-to-suspend-tariffs-over-airbus-boeing-dispute>

¹²⁵¹ Parliament Adopts InvestEU Programme for Strategic and Innovative Investments, European Parliament (Brussels) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99206/parliament-adopts-investeu-programme-for-strategic-and-innovative-investments> European Parliament

¹²⁵² Parliament Adopts InvestEU Programme for Strategic and Innovative Investments, European Parliament (Brussels) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99206/parliament-adopts-investeu-programme-for-strategic-and-innovative-investments> European Parliament

¹²⁵³ Questions and answers: InvestEU Programme, European Commission (Brussels) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_1045

increase investments into small and medium sized enterprises to help with the rebuilding of the EU's economy post COVID-19.¹²⁵⁴

On 9 March 2021, the European Parliament created a resolution to carbon leaking which includes creating a carbon price on certain EU imports from countries who are “less climate-ambitious.”¹²⁵⁵ The goal would “create a global level playing field as well as an incentive for both EU and non-EU industries to decarbonize” and invest in environmentally conscious laws.¹²⁵⁶ This will not act to further EU protectionism but will promote countries to become environmentally aware and meet climate objectives.¹²⁵⁷

On 10 March 2021, the European Parliament discussed the importance of creating trade laws which implement a ban on importing from countries who are involved with human rights or environmental breaches.¹²⁵⁸ The Parliament adopted the legislative initiative report which called for the adoption of binding due diligence EU law to hold companies accountable for harm done to human rights or the environment at any point of the value chain.¹²⁵⁹

On 11 March 2021, the European Commission reinforced their commitment to export COVID-19 vaccines, of which it is currently the largest exporter.¹²⁶⁰ Over 34 million doses have been exported to 31 different countries.¹²⁶¹ The new regulation has been set to continue until the end of June 2021.¹²⁶²

On 25 March 2021, the European Parliament defined the strategy for a new EU-Africa partnership.¹²⁶³ The expectation for the strategy is to encourage African ambitions towards a continental free trade area.¹²⁶⁴

¹²⁵⁴ Questions and answers: InvestEU Programme, European Commission (Brussels) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_1045

¹²⁵⁵ MEPs: Put a Carbon Price on Certain EU Imports to Raise Global Climate Ambition, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99208/meps-put-a-carbon-price-on-certain-eu-imports-to-raise-global-climate-ambition>

¹²⁵⁶ MEPs: Put a Carbon Price on Certain EU Imports to Raise Global Climate Ambition, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99208/meps-put-a-carbon-price-on-certain-eu-imports-to-raise-global-climate-ambition>

¹²⁵⁷ MEPs: Put a Carbon Price on Certain EU Imports to Raise Global Climate Ambition, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99208/meps-put-a-carbon-price-on-certain-eu-imports-to-raise-global-climate-ambition>

¹²⁵⁸ MEPs: Companies Must no Longer Cause Harm to People and Planet with Impunity, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99216/meps-companies-must-no-longer-cause-harm-to-people-and-planet-with-impunity>

¹²⁵⁹ MEPs: Companies Must no Longer Cause Harm to People and Planet with Impunity, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99216/meps-companies-must-no-longer-cause-harm-to-people-and-planet-with-impunity>

¹²⁶⁰ Commission Extends Transparency and Authorization Mechanism for Exports of COVID-19 Vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1121

¹²⁶¹ Commission Extends Transparency and Authorization Mechanism for Exports of COVID-19 Vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1121

¹²⁶² Commission Extends Transparency and Authorization Mechanism for Exports of COVID-19 Vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1121

¹²⁶³ Empowering Africa: Parliament defines strategy for a new EU-Africa partnership, European Parliament (Brussels) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210322IPR00522/empowering-africa-parliament-defines-strategy-for-a-new-eu-africa-partnership>

¹²⁶⁴ Empowering Africa: Parliament defines strategy for a new EU-Africa partnership, European Parliament (Brussels) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210322IPR00522/empowering-africa-parliament-defines-strategy-for-a-new-eu-africa-partnership>

On 28 March 2021, the European Parliament announced the conclusion of the EU-UK Trade Cooperation Agreement.¹²⁶⁵ The agreement encourages a zero quota and zero tariff arrangement “on all goods that comply with the appropriate rules of origin” and covers investment.¹²⁶⁶

On 13 April 2021, the European Parliament’s foreign affairs committee adopted a draft report with recommendations for the EU to improve relations with India.¹²⁶⁷ Recommendations have been made to advance trade, investment, effective multilateralism and “appropriate provisions regarding investors’ rights and duties.”¹²⁶⁸

On 22 April 2021, delegates from the EU attended the WTO general council meeting.¹²⁶⁹ Attendees agreed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on exports of medical goods essential to combatting COVID-19, remain transparent about export restrictions deemed “necessary to relieve critical shortages,” and give particular considerations to least developed countries.¹²⁷⁰ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.¹²⁷¹

The EU has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. The EU has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a fair, free and predictable trade environment by actively lowering barriers to trade and legislating rules-based trading. Additionally, the EU has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive investment environment by creating investment incentives with consideration for SMEs impacted by COVID-19.

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

Analyst: AnnaMaria Pavlopoulos

¹²⁶⁵ Parliament formally approves EU-UK trade and cooperation agreement, European Parliament (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210423IPRO2772/parliament-formally-approves-eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement>

¹²⁶⁶ EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement: protecting European interests, ensuring fair competition, and continued cooperation in areas of mutual interest, European Commission (Brussels) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2531

¹²⁶⁷ EU-India: boosting cooperation from trade to climate, European Parliament (Brussels) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/world/20210408STO01627/eu-india-boosting-cooperation-from-trade-to-climate>

¹²⁶⁸ Draft Report, European Parliament (Brussels) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/AFET-PR-689503_EN.pdf

¹²⁶⁹ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹²⁷⁰ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹²⁷¹ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

4. Trade: Open Markets

“[We strive to]...keep our markets open.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders' Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia		0	
Brazil		0	
Canada	-1		
China		0	
France	Not applicable		
Germany	Not applicable		
India		0	
Indonesia			+1
Italy	Not applicable		
Japan		0	
Korea			+1
Mexico		0	
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa		0	
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom		0	
United States		0	
European Union		0	
Average		+0.12 (56%)	

Background

Maintaining free trade and open market access has been a feature of G20 summits since the Washington Summit in 2008. Before the 2017 Hamburg Summit it primarily took the form of an anti-protectionism pledge. This pledge was part of the response by the G20 to the 2008 financial crisis and was extended three times: at the 2009 London Summit, at the 2010 Toronto Summit and at the Los Cabos Summit until the end of 2014. At the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, it was again extended until the end of 2016. At the 2015 and 2016 G20 summits in Antalya and Hangzhou, the G20 reaffirmed the commitment to a standstill and rollback on protectionist measures.

However, with increasingly differing opinions on trade policies' contribution to domestic and international economic growth and employment, G20 leaders have been less precise on the issues of international trade, despite affirmations of support for a “free, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.”¹²⁷² Nevertheless, the upsurge in protectionism remains a primary threat to market access around the world. The World Trade Organization (WTO) estimated that by mid-October 2019 trade restrictions imposed by the G20 economies had reached their historic peaks, with a 37 percent increase, compared to the previous

¹²⁷² G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, RANEPa (Moscow) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 10 January 2021.
[https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadtsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadtsati/yaponskoe-
predsedatelstvo-2019/](https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadtsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadtsati/yaponskoe-predsedatelstvo-2019/)

period (mid-October 2018 to mid-May 2019) and a trade coverage of over USD460 billion.¹²⁷³ More recently, against the backdrop of declining trade and investment in the wake of COVID-19 crisis the G20 members moderated the number and coverage of regular trade-restrictive measures to around USD36.8 billion.¹²⁷⁴

The traditionally applied indicator for trade openness, measured as the sum of a country's total exports and total imports divided by its gross domestic product (GDP), is criticized by the WTO on the grounds that it correlates with some of economies' innate characteristics and, thus, cannot be utilized for cross-country comparisons.¹²⁷⁵ Additionally such measurement cannot be applied to the monitoring of the G20 performance during the summit cycles, due to the lags in trade and GDP data availability. As such, given the history of the institution's activity on trade and the corresponding leaders' pledges, the compliance assessment is based on the traditional G20 commitment to avoid protectionist measures.

Commitment Features

This commitment requires that G20 members maintain a non-restrictive trade environment and ensure free access to their domestic markets. The Osaka Summit leaders' declaration calls for G20 members not to impose new protectionist measures and roll back those restrictions, which were imposed previously. According to the WTO definition, protectionist measures include "tariffs, non-tariff measures, subsidies, and burdensome administrative procedures regarding imports." Subsidies in particular cause competition-distorting effects. To fully comply with the commitment the G20 members need to avoid imposing new protectionist measures and eliminate the ones in force.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member implemented one or more protectionist measures AND did not roll back any existing measures.
0	G20 member did not implement new protectionist measures BUT existing measures were not rolled back OR the G20 member did implement new protectionist measures BUT at least one existing measure was rolled back.
+1	G20 member did not implement any new protectionist measures AND rolled back at least one existing measure.

*Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov
Lead Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with the commitment on open markets.

On 24 December 2020, the Executive of Argentina adopted Decree 1040/2020 approving a temporary export ban on several metal scraps and wastes. Prior to the regulation, no export restriction applied to the affected goods.¹²⁷⁶

On 11 January 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishing of Argentina revoked the temporary export ban on corn replacing it with a temporary export quota. Concretely, the new measure allows the registration of exports of maize under the Advanced Sworn Export Declaration

¹²⁷³ Trade restrictions among G20 economies remain at historic highs, World Trade Organization (Washington DC) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 10 January 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/trdev_21nov19_e.htm.

¹²⁷⁴ WTO Report on G20 Trade Measures (mid-May to mid-October 2020), WTO (Washington, DC) 18 November 2020. Access Date: 10 January 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/report_trdev_nov20_e.pdf.

¹²⁷⁵ A Practical Guide to Trade Policy Analysis, World Trade Organization (Washington DC) 2012. Access Date: 10 January 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/wto_unctad12_e.pdf.

¹²⁷⁶ Decreto 1040/2020, Boletín Oficial de la República Argentina (Buenos Aires) 24 December 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239141/20201224?busqueda=1>

but limiting the issuance of permits to 30,000 tons per day. Previously, in December 2020, the Argentine authorities suspended the issuance of export permits approving a de facto export ban on this commodity.¹²⁷⁷

On 17 March 2021, the Federal Administration for Public Revenue adopted General Resolution 4946/2021 establishing export reference prices on concentrated grape juice. The affected product was classified under tariff subheading 2009.69.00. The new export criterion value was set at Free on Board (FOB) value of USD1 per kilogram and it only applies to exports to Canada, the United States, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, Nigeria, South Africa, Israel, Finland, Hungary, Norway, Poland, the United Kingdom, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Russia, Ukraine, Czechia, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Syria, Morocco, Bahrain, Australia, The Republic of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, China, the Philippines, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Thailand and Hong Kong.¹²⁷⁸

On 14 April 2021, the Federal Administration for Public Revenue adopted General Resolution 4961/2021 establishing new import criterion values on headstocks classified under tariff line 9209.92.00. The new reference price was decreased from a FOB value of USD35.73 per kilogram to USD14.36 per kilogram. The previous applicable reference prices were established in General Resolution 4372/2018. Notably, the new legislation affected the following jurisdictions: the Republic of Korea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, China, Chinese Taipei, Philippines, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.¹²⁷⁹

On 14 April 2021, the Federal Administration for Public Revenue of adopted General Resolution 4963/2021 establishing new import criterion values on artificial teeth classified under tariff line 9021.21.10. For products originating in the Republic of Korea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, China, Chinese Taipei, Philippines, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Germany, the new reference price was established at a FOB value of USD0.60 per unit. Previously, artificial teeth classified under this tariff line imported from these jurisdictions did not face any import criterion value. Notably, the new regulation also refers to other jurisdictions. However, the reference price announced for them does not change from the one announced in 2009. Thus that section of the regulation has not been recorded under this state act.¹²⁸⁰

During the compliance period Argentina both rolled back several protectionist measures and introduced new ones.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Australia: 0

Australia has partially complied with the commitment on keeping its markets open.

¹²⁷⁷ Official communication on foreign sales of corn, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishing of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/node/235893>

¹²⁷⁸ General Resolution 4946/2021, Federal Administration of Public Revenue General Directorate of Customs (Buenos Aires) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/241947/20210317?busqueda=1>

¹²⁷⁹ General Resolution 4961/2021, Federal Administration of Public Revenue General Directorate of Customs (Buenos Aires) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <http://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/345000-349999/348725/norma.htm>

¹²⁸⁰ General Resolution 4963/2021, Federal Administration of Public Revenue General Directorate of Customs (Buenos Aires) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <http://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/345000-349999/348727/norma.htm>

On 9 December 2020, the Australia-Singapore Digital Economy Agreement was launched. The agreement, covering such important issues as personal data protection, e-invoicing, paperless customs procedures, and electronic certification for agricultural exports, made it easier for Australian exporters to do business in Singapore.¹²⁸¹

On 9 December 2020, the Australian Parliament “adopted the Foreign Investment Reform (Protecting Australia’s National Security) Bill 2020 establishing a “national security test” for foreign direct investment which expands the scope of investments subject to screening controls. With the new regulation, all foreign investments which raise national security concerns will now be subject to the screening from the Foreign Investment Review Board.”¹²⁸² In terms of developed land considered sensitive, which includes mines and critical infrastructure, the thresholds have been increased from AUD55 million (USD41.3 million) to AUD61 million (USD46 million).¹²⁸³

On 11 December 2020, the Parliament passed the legislation to better assist those Australian exporters trying to enter new markets. The eligible exporters “now receive funding closer to when they incur costs which boosts their marketing and promotional activities.”¹²⁸⁴

On 13 December 2020, the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus, which “ensures greater market access and lower tariffs” in the region, came into force. Farmers, businesses and investors across Australia and the Pacific will have their trade opportunities boosted.¹²⁸⁵

On 1 January 2021, Australia cut export tariffs for some countries on chilled beef, sheep, goat and honey. The cuts were made possible thanks to a network of free trade agreements. Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Dan Tehan said: “Reducing trade barriers will boost export opportunities for Australian farmers and businesses in key export markets which translates to more jobs and economic growth in Australia.”¹²⁸⁶

On 17 March 2021, the Australian government launched [export.business.gov.au](https://www.export.business.gov.au), a range of digital tools to help Australian businesses to reach new international markets and customers. The website will feature a lot of helpful information (grants, funding, local laws, shipping etc.).¹²⁸⁷

Australia implemented some protectionist measures and rolled back several existing measures.

Thus, Australia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

¹²⁸¹ Australia-Singapore digital trade agreement kicks-off, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Barton) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 28 January 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/simon-birmingham/media-release/australia-singapore-digital-trade-agreement-kicks>

¹²⁸² Australia: Government modifies the FDI regime, Global Trade Alert (St Gallen) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/46948/australia-government-modifies-the-fdi-regime>

¹²⁸³ Australia: Government modifies the FDI regime, Global Trade Alert (St Gallen) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/46948/australia-government-modifies-the-fdi-regime>

¹²⁸⁴ Reforms to the Export Market Development Grants scheme pass Parliament, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, (Barton) 2020. Access Date: 28 January 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/simon-birmingham/media-release/reforms-export-market-development-grants-scheme-pass-parliament>

¹²⁸⁵ Trade agreement with the Pacific enters into force, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Barton) 13 December 2020. Access Date: 28 January 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/simon-birmingham/media-release/trade-agreement-pacific-enters-force>

¹²⁸⁶ Australia’s free trade agreements deliver more tariff cuts, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Barton) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 28 January 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/australias-free-trade-agreements-deliver-more-tariff-cuts>

¹²⁸⁷ Digital tools to help Australian businesses, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Barton) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/digital-tools-help-australian-businesses>

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with the commitment on open markets.

On 22 March 2021, the Executive Committee of the Brazilian Foreign Trade Chamber (GECEX) issued Resolution No. 175 increasing the import tariffs on certain X-ray devices of the types used for luggage security inspection, as well as on X-ray devices of the types used for a vehicle safety inspection. The affected products were classified under the tariff subheading NCM 9022.19.99.¹²⁸⁸

On 29 March 2021, GECEX adopted Resolution N° 182 adding 65 new products to the list of goods identified as critical to fight the COVID-19 outbreak. These products are temporarily exempted from import tariffs. The affected goods were classified under 42 different eight-digit tariff lines.¹²⁸⁹

On 30 March 2021, GECEX adopted Resolution N° 183 removing certain diodes from the annex of GECEX Resolution n° 173. The affected tariff line was NCM 8541.10.32. As a consequence of the changes introduced, the import tariff was increased from 5.4 per cent to 6 per cent.¹²⁹⁰

On 30 March 2021, GECEX issued Resolution N° 184 establishing a 4 percent import tariff on polypropylene for a quota of 77,000 tons. The affected product is classified under the tariff subheading NCM 3902.10.20. According to the World Trade Organization tariff download facility, the average import tariff applicable for products imported outside the quota is 14 percent. The new import tariff quota applies for a period of 3 months.¹²⁹¹

During the compliance period Brazil both rolled back several protectionist measures and introduced new ones.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Canada: -1

Canada has failed to comply with the commitment to keep markets open.

On 23 December 2020, the Canada Border Services Agency announced the imposition of a provisional duty on imports of wheat gluten from Australia, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany and Lithuania. The rate of duty imposed on imports from Australia is 26.1 per cent; from Austria 26.1 per cent; from Belgium 26.1 per cent; from France 22.5 per cent; from Germany 26.1 per cent; from Lithuania 26.1 per cent.¹²⁹²

On 1 January 2021, the Government of Canada announced the amendments to the Investment Canada Act with new thresholds for foreign direct investment. The threshold for direct acquisitions of control by foreign World Trade Organization (WTO) members' investors has been reduced from CAD1.075 billion to CAD1.043 billion; for investors from countries which have preferential trade

¹²⁸⁸ GECEX Resolution No. 175, of 22 March 2021, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/resolucao-gecex-n-175-de-22-de-marco-de-2021-309992038>

¹²⁸⁹ GECEX Resolution No. 182, of 29 March 2021, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/47912/brazil-changes-to-the-list-of-essential-goods-subject-to-duty-free-imports-in-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic>

¹²⁹⁰ Resolução No. 183 de 30 de Março de 2021, Official Gazette Diário Oficial da União 30 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/resolucao-gecex-n-183-de-30-de-marco-de-2021-311543537>

¹²⁹¹ Resolução No. 183 de 30 de Março de 2021, Official Gazette Diário Oficial da União 30 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/resolucao-gecex-n-183-de-30-de-marco-de-2021-311543537>

¹²⁹² WG 2020 IN: Wheat gluten, Notice of preliminary determination, Canada Border Service Agency (Ottawa) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/sima-lmsi/i-e/wg2020/wg2020-np-eng.html>

agreements with Canada – from CAD1.613 billion to CAD1.565 billion, and for WTO members' state-owned investors – from CAD428 million to CAD415 million.¹²⁹³

In January 2021, it was announced that public consultations were launched on developing a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between Indonesia and Canada.¹²⁹⁴

On 4 February 2021, the Canada Border Services Agency imposed a provisional duty on imports of certain concrete reinforcing bar from Algeria, Egypt, Indonesia, Italy, Malaysia, Singapore and Viet Nam. The rates of Algeria amounted to 13.7 per cent; Egypt 22 per cent; Indonesia 28.4 per cent; Italy 28.4 per cent; Malaysia 28.4 per cent; Singapore 28.4 per cent; Vietnam 15.4 per cent.¹²⁹⁵

On 4 March 2021, the Canada Border Service Agency imposed a provisional antidumping duty on imports of certain concrete reinforcing bar from Oman and Russia. Imports from Russia are charged with 45 per cent provisional duties, while imports from Oman are charged with 8 per cent.¹²⁹⁶

Canada implemented new protectionist measures while failing to roll back any existing trade restrictive measures.

Thus, Canada receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

China: 0

China has partially complied with the commitment on keeping its markets open.

On 26 November 2020, the Chinese government announced an overhaul of restrictions related to the import and export of certain encryption products. In broad terms, the regulation formally states that the relevant products will be treated similarly to dual-use goods (goods that have military applications as well as civilian).¹²⁹⁷

On 10 December 2020, a large technology transfer center was opened in Qingdao, Shandong. The center was created as a new platform for technological, economic, cultural etc. exchanges. It is also worth noting that the “Shanghai Cooperation Organization International Youth Entrepreneurship Incubator,” a project that will help to support youth innovation and entrepreneurship in various countries, will also be implemented in the center.¹²⁹⁸

¹²⁹³ Investment Canada Act, Thresholds, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/ica-lic.nsf/eng/h_lk00050.html

¹²⁹⁴ Canada, Indonesia Trade Talks Begin for Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, ASEAN Briefing 17 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aseanbriefing.com/news/canada-indonesia-trade-talks-begin-for-comprehensive-economic-partnership-agreement/>

¹²⁹⁵ RB3 2020 IN: Certain concrete reinforcing bar, Notice of preliminary determination, Canada Border Service Agency (Ottawa) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/sima-lmsi/i-e/rb32020/rb32020-np-eng.html>

¹²⁹⁶ RB4 2020 IN: Certain concrete reinforcing bar, Notice of preliminary determination, Canada Border Service Agency (Ottawa) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/sima-lmsi/i-e/rb42020/rb42020-np-eng.html#app2>

¹²⁹⁷ Announcement No. 63 (2020) of the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China, the State Encryption Administration and the General Administration of Customs, PRC Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/article/b/g/202101/20210103033181.shtml>

¹²⁹⁸ China-Shanghai Cooperation Organization Technology Transfer Center opened in Qingdao, Qingdao Daily (Qingdao) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 31 January 2021. http://www.qingdao.gov.cn/ywdt/zwyw/202012/t20201211_2786769.shtml

On 10 December 2020, the Chinese government published the annual list of goods that would be subject to automatic import licensing for the subsequent year. Five items were removed from the list.¹²⁹⁹

On 19 December 2020, the Ministry of Commerce released Order 2020/37, updating the framework of “National Security Review” for inbound foreign investments which expands the scope of investments subject to screening controls. According to the new regulation, the applicability of the screening mechanism has been expanded to cover all investments carried out by foreigners in areas close to any military facility. Previously, this test only applied to certain military facilities.¹³⁰⁰

On 25 December 2020, the Chinese government stated that the supplementary tariffs imposed on certain imports from the US would be suspended for six product lines, including paraffin and polypropene.¹³⁰¹

On 30 December 2020, China published the list of goods which require a license before being able to be legally exported. Compared to the previous year, a single product line was removed from the list, meaning it no longer requires a license.¹³⁰²

On 31 December 2020, China released the 2020 negative list for foreign investment access in Hainan. It will come into effect on 1 February 2021 and promote investment liberalization and facilitation in the Hainan free trade port.¹³⁰³

On 1 January 2021, China implemented the “Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement” tariff reduction arrangement with Mongolia. The tariff reduction was mutual and utterly significant.¹³⁰⁴

On 1 January 2021, import tariffs on 883 products were cut in order to coordinate the utilization of domestic and international resources and continuously improve the quality and level of supply of products on the market. Some examples of the products include medical equipment such as artificial heart valves, hearing aids, milk powder for infants, parts and raw materials required for new infrastructure and high-tech industry etc.¹³⁰⁵

¹²⁹⁹ Announcement No. 67 (2020) of the Ministry of Commerce and the General Administration of Customs Announces the "Catalogue of Goods Subject to Automatic Import License Administration (2021)", PRC Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/47308/china-2021-automatic-import-licensing-goods-catalogue-announced>

¹³⁰⁰ National Development and Reform Commission Order of the Ministry of Commerce No. 37 Measures for the Security Review of Foreign Investment, PRC Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 19 December 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <http://wzs.mofcom.gov.cn/article/n/202012/20201203024662.shtml>

¹³⁰¹ No. 10 Announcement of the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council on the Second Exclusion and Extension List of Tariffs on the United States and Canada, PRC State Council Tariffs and Tax Standards Commission (Beijing) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/47100/china-tariff-exemptions-on-certain-goods-from-the-united-states>

¹³⁰² Announcement No. 71 (2020) of the Ministry of Commerce and the General Administration of Customs Announcement of the Catalogue of Goods Subject to Export License Management (2021) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/article/b/c/202012/20201203027824.shtml>

¹³⁰³ China to introduce foreign investment negative list in Hainan, Xinhua (Beijing), 1 January 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/01/content_WS5fee5ce4c6d0f72576943081.html

¹³⁰⁴ China and Mongolia will mutually implement the tariff reduction arrangement of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement on January 1, 2021, Ministry of Commerce of The People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 30 March 2021. <http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/article/ae/ai/202101/20210103028092.shtml>

¹³⁰⁵ In order to support the establishment of a new development paradigm, China will adjust import tariffs on some commodities from January 1, 2021, Ministry of Finance (Beijing) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 31 January 2021. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2020-12/23/content_5572513.htm

On 1 January 2021, China allowed the import of recycled iron and steel materials. The change was made because the materials do not constitute solid waste. It has been also proposed that imports that do not meet the national standards for “recycled steel raw materials” will be banned.¹³⁰⁶

On 12 March 2021, the 14th Five-Year Plan was announced. According to the plan, China will further open up to the outside world and better participate in international economic cooperation, improve the customs system, promote the establishment of various open trade platforms, accelerate the opening up of the central, western and northeastern regions, establish important global processing and manufacturing bases, further opening up free trade zones, etc.¹³⁰⁷

On 12 March 2021, Premier Li Keqiang announced that one of the main goals for China in 2021 is promoting stable development of imports and exports. The premier listed some of the main actions that should be taken to achieve the goal. The actions include credit support for small and medium foreign trade enterprises, develop cross-border e-commerce, optimization and adjustment of import tax policies to increase the import of high-quality products and services, improve customs clearance procedures, etc.¹³⁰⁸

On 24 March 2021, China’s State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al SAUDI in Riyadh; it was reported as an outcome of the meeting that both parties pledged to push forward negotiations on a free trade deal between China and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.¹³⁰⁹

On 23 April 2021, the Ministry of Commerce and other 20 departments issued “Notice on Several Measures to Promote Trade Liberalization and Facilitation of the Hainan Free Trade Port.” The Notice clarified 28 policy measures which will help with the liberalization of trade in Hainan Free Trade Port.¹³¹⁰

China implemented some protectionist measures and rolled back multiple existing measures.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

France: Not applicable

Trade policy is set by the European Commission. Thus, as a member of the European Union, France is not assessed for compliance with this commitment.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

¹³⁰⁶ Five sectors: compliant recycled steel raw materials can be imported freely from 2021, Xinhua (Beijing) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 31 January 2021. http://www.xinhuanet.com/fortune/2020-12/31/c_1126934407.htm

¹³⁰⁷ The Fourteenth Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development of the People’s Republic of China and the Outline of Long-Term Goals for 2035, Xinhua (Beijing), 13 March 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <http://politics.people.com.cn/n1/2021/0313/c1001-32050444.html>

¹³⁰⁸ Government working report, Xinhua (Beijing), 12 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/premier/2021-03/12/content_5592671.htm

¹³⁰⁹ China eyes free trade agreement with the Gulf states, Arab News (Riyadh) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1831261/business-economy>

¹³¹⁰ The Ministry of Commerce and other 20 departments issued a notice on several measures promoting trade liberalization and facilitation of the Hainan Free Trade Port, Ministry of Commerce of The People’s Republic of China, 26 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/article/ae/ai/202104/20210403055185.shtml>

Germany: Not applicable

Trade policy is set by the European Commission. Thus, as a member of the European Union, Germany is not assessed for compliance with this commitment.

Analyst: Andrey Sbelepon

India: 0

India has partially complied with the commitment on keeping its markets open.

On 22 December 2020, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry through Notification No. 49/2015-2020 imposed the requirement of prior registration of coal imports under the Coal Import Monitoring System. The amendment applies to 5 coal products and requires that the importer register online and submit information at least 15 to 60 days before the expected date of arrival of the import goods.¹³¹¹

On 28 December 2020, India allowed export of onions. The export of onions has been made free, with the effect from 1 January 2021. Before that, the export of all kinds of onions was prohibited in India.¹³¹²

On 7 January 2021, India allowed import of fur skins of several animals, including mink, fox, reptiles and other animals. Before that, the import of such items was prohibited in India.¹³¹³

On 31 March 2021, India made import of copper and aluminium subject to compulsory registration under Non-Ferrous Metal Import Monitoring System. The system will require importers to submit advance information in an online system, apply for registration and pay the registration fee.¹³¹⁴

India has imposed some protectionist measures and rolled back some existing measures.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with the commitment on trade.

On 18 December 2020, it was reported that Indonesia and Korea signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement; under the agreement Korea will eliminate tariffs on 95.8 per cent of Indonesian goods and Indonesia 94.8 per cent of Korean goods – 1.6 percentage points and 3.3 percentage points higher, respectively, greater than the terms of the Regional Comprehensive

¹³¹¹ Notification No. 49/2015-2020, Government of India Ministry of Commerce & Industry Department of Commerce (New Delhi) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/575732e8-1449-4a32-80e1-d0cbba8137a0/notification%20no.49%20dated%2022.12.2020%20scanned%20english.pdf>

¹³¹² Amendment in Export Policy of Onions, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (New Delhi) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/42ca7128-80d6-447f-bc98-6a64914b5080/Noti%2050%20Eng.pdf>

¹³¹³ Amendment in import policy and condition of items classified under Chapter 41 & 43 of ITC (HS), 2017, Schedule – I (Import Policy), Directorate General of Foreign Trade (New Delhi) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/b8332978-c197-419b-a33b-e571ba84cd64/Notification%2055%20English.pdf>

¹³¹⁴ Amendment in Import Policy of Copper and Aluminium under Chapter – 74 and Chapter – 76 of ITC (HS), 2017, Schedule-I (Import Policy) – reg., Directorate General of Foreign Trade (New Delhi) 31 March 2021. Access Date 31 March 2021. <https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/1b6ab9f3-256f-4a35-a899-6595c4eda5d2/Notification%2061%20English%20PDF.pdf>

Economic Partnership; zero tariffs started to be applied immediately or will start to be applied within five years.¹³¹⁵

In January 2021, it was announced that public consultations were launched on developing a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between Indonesia and Canada.¹³¹⁶

On 1 February 2021, it was reported that activities were to be increased within the negotiations process on the development of trade agreement and free trade zone between Indonesia and the Eurasian Economic Union.¹³¹⁷

On 12 April 2021, it was reported that Indonesia's parliament approved the draft for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between Indonesia and the European Free Trade Association (comprising Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland).¹³¹⁸

During the compliance period, Indonesia has taken both pro-open trade and anti-open trade measures. Thus, it receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Italy: Not applicable

Trade policy is set by the European Commission. Thus, as a member of the European Union, Italy is not assessed for compliance with this commitment.

Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with the commitment on trade.

On 5 January 2021, it was reported that Japan as Chair in Trans-Pacific Partnership for 2021 was willing to work closely with previous chair Mexico to maintain and strengthen the free and open economic framework and was expected to lead talks on expanding the regional FTA membership (pro-open trade).¹³¹⁹

On 29 January 2021, Japan attended the WTO's videoconference informal meeting; Japan's inputs at the meeting included the call to start discussions on tariff and non-tariff aspects in order to smoothly disseminate goods and technologies that contribute to decreasing greenhouse gas emissions at a global level, and on enhancement of disciplines on industrial subsidies is necessary in order to

¹³¹⁵ S. Korea signs CEPA with Indonesia for near tariff-free trade, Pulse (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://pulsenews.co.kr/view.php?year=2020&no=1299046>

¹³¹⁶ Canada, Indonesia Trade Talks Begin for Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, ASEAN Briefing (Jakarta) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aseanbriefing.com/news/canada-indonesia-trade-talks-begin-for-comprehensive-economic-partnership-agreement/>

¹³¹⁷ EAEU to set up free trade zones with Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Belta (Moscow) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://eng.belta.by/economics/view/eaau-to-set-up-free-trade-zones-with-egypt-india-indonesia-mongolia-137057-2021/>

¹³¹⁸ House approves Indonesia-EFTA trade deal, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/paper/2021/04/11/house-approves-indonesia-efta-trade-deal.html>

¹³¹⁹ Japan and Mexico agree to expand membership of TPP free trade pact, Kyodo (Tokyo) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/01/05/business/economy-business/japan-mexico-agree-expand-membership-of-tp/>

prevent government support measures from distorting markets in the post coronavirus era (pro-open trade).¹³²⁰

During the compliance period, Japan has taken both pro-open trade and anti-open trade measures.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with the commitment to keep its national market open.

On 18 December 2020, it was reported that Indonesia and Korea signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement; under the agreement Korea will eliminate tariffs on 95.8 per cent of Indonesian goods and Indonesia 94.8 per cent of Korean goods – 1.6 percentage points and 3.3 percentage points higher, respectively, greater than the terms of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership; zero tariffs started to be applied immediately or will start to be applied within five years.¹³²¹

On 26 January 2021, Korea announced the introduction of an import tariff quota on fresh and processed eggs to help stabilize domestic egg prices. Under the new scheme, the first 50,000 tons of imported eggs (14,500 tons of fresh eggs and 35,500 tons of processed eggs) will enjoy a 0 percent import tariff duty.¹³²²

Korea has liberalized its trade regulations and has not introduce any new protectionist measures.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with the commitment on open markets.

On 26 December 2020, Mexico adopted an Agreement that updates the lists of products subject to export/import permits from the Secretary of Energy. The norm replaced the time validity of the permits applicable to fuel from 5 years to 20 years.¹³²³

On 22 February 2021, Mexico published a decree that modifies the national import and export tariffs, with the objective of creating new national tariff codes for and eliminating the import tariffs of COVID-19 vaccines and oxygen tanks.¹³²⁴

On 3 March 2021, Mexico published an Agreement that temporarily suspends the modifications made to the list of goods that need prior authorisation for its importation/exportation from the

¹³²⁰ Minister Kajiyama Attends WTO Informal Ministerial Meeting, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0129_001.html

¹³²¹ S. Korea signs CEPA with Indonesia for near tariff-free trade, Pulse (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://pulsenews.co.kr/view.php?year=2020&no=1299046>

¹³²² Resolved amendment to the quota regulations for the application of egg-free tariffs, Ministry of Trade (Seoul) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. https://www.moef.go.kr/nw/nes/detailNesDtaView.do?searchBbsId1=MOSFBBS_00000000028&searchNttId1=MOSF_00000000053437&menuNo=4010100

¹³²³ Agreement that establishes the merchandise whose import and export is subject to regulation by the Ministry of Energy, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 26 December 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://sidof.segob.gob.mx/notas/5608832>

¹³²⁴ Decree by which the Rate of the General Import and Export Tax Law is modified, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. http://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5611928&fecha=22/02/2021

Secretary of Energy. The decision comes in the aftermath of a precautionary measure of the Second District Judge in Mexico City that has national jurisdiction.¹³²⁵

During the compliance period Mexico both rolled back several protectionist measures and introduced new ones. Thus, it receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to keep its national market open.

On 27 November 2020, the Government of Russia increased import quotas of ingredients used in manufacturing painkillers. The quota for oxycodone increased from 50 kg to 126 kilograms, for remifentanyl – from 0.5 to 3.67 kilograms and for fentanyl – from 30 to 45 kilograms.¹³²⁶

On 29 January 2021, the Eurasian Economic Commission’s Council reintroduced a zero-import duty on aluminum fluoride used as an electrolyte component in manufacturing aluminum. The measure will be in effect retroactively from 1 January 2021 until 31 December 2023. The statutory import duty is 7 per cent.¹³²⁷

On 16 February 2021, the EEU re-introduced a temporary reduction of import duty on carbon graphite products used in aluminum electrolysis, effective from 21 March 2021 to 1 April 2022. The 5 per cent duty on carbon graphite electrodes (tariff line 854519 000 0) was waived, as was the 12.5 per cent duty on carbon graphite brushes (tariff line 8545 90 900 0). Although the items in question seem to be used primarily for the electrolysis of aluminum, the reductions are not sector- or firm-specific.¹³²⁸

Russia has liberalized its trade regulations and has not introduce any new protectionist measures.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with the commitment on trade.

On 24 March 2021, China’s State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud in Riyadh; it was reported as an outcome of the meeting that both parties pledged to push forward negotiations on a free trade deal between China and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.¹³²⁹

On 15 April 2021, the Saudi Ports Authority announced an initiative to support international shipping lines stranded at the south end of the Suez Canal on the Red Sea coast, extending the

¹³²⁵ AGREEMENT by which all the consequences derived from the Agreement that establishes the goods whose import and export are subject to regulation by the Ministry of Energy are suspended, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. http://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5612613&fecha=03/03/2021

¹³²⁶ Government Lifts Quotas for Painkiller Ingredients, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 29 November 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/40971/>

¹³²⁷ On the establishment of the rate of import customs duty of the Unified Customs Tariff of the Eurasian Economic Union in respect of aluminum fluoride, Council of Eurasian Economic Commission (Nur-Sultan) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/ru-ru/01428591/err_16022021_3

¹³²⁸ On setting import customs duties in the Unified Customs Tariff of the Eurasian Economic Union with respect to certain types of carbon and graphite products for aluminum electrolysis, Collegium of the Eurasian Economic Commission (Moscow) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/ru-ru/01428628/err_19022021_15

¹³²⁹ China eyes free trade agreement with the Gulf states, Arab News (Riyadh) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1831261/business-economy>

services of Jeddah Islamic Port for ship transfers and container offloading; measures include an extended period of exemption from storage fees for transshipment containers – from 30 days to 60 days – for a duration of three months.¹³³⁰

During the compliance period, Saudi Arabia has taken both pro-open trade and anti-open trade measures.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with the commitment to keep its national market open.

On 24 December 2020, the South African Revenue Service (SARS) issued Notice R.1408 making an amendment in the import regime by inserting tariff subheadings 3208.20.20, 3906.90.30, and 3906.90.40 into Part 1 of Schedule No. 1. The amendment is made in order to increase the rate of customs duty on acrylic resins to 15 percent.¹³³¹

On 31 December 2020, SARS issued Notice R.1428 increasing the import duties on aluminum plates, sheets, strips, and aluminum foil from duty-free to 15 per cent. The affected products are classified under the tariff subheadings 7606 and 7607.¹³³²

On 5 March 2021, SARS issued Notice R.181 decreasing the import duties on beet and cane sugar from 527,75 c/kg (approximately 0.34 USD/kilogram) to 414,85 c/kg (approximately 0.27 USD/kilogram). The subject product is classified under the tariff subheadings 1701.12, 1701.13, 1701.14, 1701.91, and 1701.99.¹³³³

On 10 March 2021, SARS issued Notice R.190 decreasing the import duties on wheat and wheaten flour from 10.27c/kilogram (USD0.0071) and 15.41c/kilogram (USD0.0106) respectively to zero for both categories. The affected products are classified under the following HS codes subheadings: 1001.91 and 1001.99, as well as 1101.00.10, 1101.00.20, 1101.00.30, and 1101.00.90. This import tariff applies to all countries except for the ones belonging to the Southern African Development Community.¹³³⁴

South Africa introduced some protectionist measures, but also lifted some trade restrictions.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

¹³³⁰ Saudi Ports Authority to support shipping lines with storage fee exemptions, Construction Business News (Dubai) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.cbnme.com/logistics-news/saudi-ports-authority-to-support-shipping-lines-with-storage-fee-exemptions/>

¹³³¹ Government Gazette No. 44029 of 24 December 2020, Notice R.1406, South Africa Revenue Service (SARS) (Pretoria) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.sars.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/Embargo/Tariffs/2020/LSec-CE-TA-2020-66-Notice-R1406-GG44029-Schedule-1P1-acrylic-resins-24-December-2020.pdf>

¹³³² Government Gazette No. 44049 of 31 December 2020, South Africa Revenue Service (SARS) (Pretoria) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.sars.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/Embargo/Tariffs/2020/LSec-CE-TA-2020-68-Notice-R1428-GG44049-Sch1P1-Aluminium-31-December-2020.pdf>

¹³³³ Government Gazette No. 44230 of 5 March 2021, Notice R.181, South Africa Revenue Service (SARS) (Pretoria) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.sars.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/Embargo/Tariffs/2021/LSec-CE-TA-2021-16-Notice-R181-GG44230-Sch1-Sugar-5-March-2021.pdf>

¹³³⁴ Government Gazette No.44251. No. R.190, South Africa Revenue Service (SARS) (Pretoria) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.sars.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/Embargo/Tariffs/2021/LSec-CE-TA-2021-17-Notice-R190-GG44251-Sch1-Wheat-10-March-2021.pdf>

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with the commitment on trade.

On 29 December 2020, Turkey signed Free Trade Agreement with the United Kingdom, which took effect from 1 January 2021; to the extent possible, the agreement replicates the EU-Turkey trade arrangement that applied in the United Kingdom until the end of the Transition Period following Brexit, and covers all industrial and agricultural products, removes tariffs on industrial products, and scales and reflects existing concessions with the EU on agricultural products in the new trade deal.¹³³⁵

On 1 March 2021, preferential trade agreement between Turkey and Azerbaijan, covering a limited number of areas; further, in April 2021 at the meeting of the two countries' trade and economy ministers it was stated that Turkey and Azerbaijan should be working towards full-scale free trade agreement.¹³³⁶ On 6 April 2021, it was reported that an agreement amending the definition of "originating products" and methods on administrative co-operation within the existing preferential trade agreement between Turkey and Azerbaijan was ratified.¹³³⁷

On 15 March 2021, the United Kingdom-Turkey Joint Committee established under the Agreement adopted a Decision replacing the existing Rules of Origin Protocol with a revised Protocol.¹³³⁸

On 10 April 2021, it was reported that Turkey and Ukraine pledged to deepen cooperation in various spheres, including to accelerate "work to conclude negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement."¹³³⁹

During the compliance period, Turkey has taken both pro-open trade and anti-open trade measures.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom has partially complied with the commitment on trade.

On 24 November 2020, the UK temporarily eliminated the import duty on COVID-19 vaccines from non-EU countries in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Additionally, VAT was also eliminated as so far as it relates to the subject goods imported. The goods must be imported by state entities "including state bodies, public bodies and other bodies governed by public law." Non-state bodies may also be granted duty-free import on the subject goods following the submission of an application to the National Import Relief Unit.¹³⁴⁰

¹³³⁵ Turkey: Turkey Signs Free Trade Agreement With The United Kingdom, Mondaq (Ankara) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/international-trade-investment/1029362/turkey-signs-free-trade-agreement-with-the-united-kingdom>

¹³³⁶ 'Turkey, Azerbaijan should target free trade agreement', Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkey-azerbaijan-should-target-free-trade-agreement/2195555>

¹³³⁷ Turkey ratifies agreements with Albania, Azerbaijan, Anadolu Agency 6 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkey-ratifies-agreements-with-albania-azerbaijan/2199716>

¹³³⁸ UK/Turkey rules of origin protocol update: April 2021, Government of the UK (London) Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukturkey-free-trade-agreement-cs-turkey-no12021/ukturkey-rules-of-origin-protocol-update-april-2021>

¹³³⁹ Turkey, Ukraine vow to strengthen strategic partnership, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 10 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/politics/turkey-ukraine-vow-to-strengthen-strategic-partnership/2204901>

¹³⁴⁰ Pay no import duty and VAT on medical supplies, equipment and protective garments (COVID-19), UK Government (London) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pay-no-import-duty-and-vat-on-medical-supplies-equipment-and-protective-garments-covid-19>

On 29 December 2020, Turkey signed Free Trade Agreement with the United Kingdom, which took effect from 1 January 2021; to the extent possible, the agreement replicates the EU-Turkey trade arrangement that applied in the United Kingdom until the end of the Transition Period following Brexit, and covers all industrial and agricultural products, removes tariffs on industrial products, and scales and reflects existing concessions with the EU on agricultural products in the new trade deal.¹³⁴¹

On 31 December 2020, the UK government announced introducing a licensing requirement on the imports of some nuclear materials.¹³⁴²

On 1 January 2021, the UK government abolished the Low-Value Consignment Relief, which provided relief from VAT on imported goods valued at GBP15 or less. For these goods, the standard 20percent VAT rate is currently applied.¹³⁴³

On 15 March 2021, the United Kingdom-Turkey Joint Committee established under the Agreement adopted a Decision replacing the existing Rules of Origin Protocol with a revised Protocol.¹³⁴⁴

During the compliance period the United Kingdom has implemented several new protectionist measures, while at least two of the existing measures were rolled back.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with the commitment to keep markets open.

On 10 February 2021, the United States Customs and Border Protection issued a series of rulings, reclassifying certain goods under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States. As such, the reclassification of two mandrels with pilot drills resulted in the reduction of import tariff from 5 per cent to 3.9 per cent. The reclassification of automobile organizers and backseat automobile organizers, however, resulted in increase of import tariff from 2.5 per cent to 17.7 percent and from 2.5 percent to 7 percent, respectively. The reclassification of “piggy” banks lead to the introduction of import tariff of 3.4 percent.

On 11 March 2021, the President of the United States signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The Act provided for the stimulus package of USD1.9 trillion for the American economy, including direct financial grants to domestic manufacturing companies, agricultural producers, food distributors, and service providers.¹³⁴⁵ This act supports the economic recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; however, it can be perceived as distorting international competitive environment.

¹³⁴¹ Turkey: Turkey Signs Free Trade Agreement With The United Kingdom, Mondaq (Ankara) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/international-trade-investment/1029362/turkey-signs-free-trade-agreement-with-the-united-kingdom>

¹³⁴² Importing ‘relevant’ nuclear materials into the UK: licensing requirements, UK Government (London) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/importing-relevant-nuclear-materials-from-the-eu-licensing-requirements>

¹³⁴³ Changes to VAT treatment of overseas goods sold to customers from 1 January 2021, UK Government (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-vat-treatment-of-overseas-goods-sold-to-customers-from-1-january-2021/changes-to-vat-treatment-of-overseas-goods-sold-to-customers-from-1-january-2021>

¹³⁴⁴ UK/Turkey rules of origin protocol update: April 2021, Government of the UK (London) Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukturkey-free-trade-agreement-cs-turkey-no12021/ukturkey-rules-of-origin-protocol-update-april-2021>

¹³⁴⁵ American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, The United States Congress (Washington DC) 3 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr1319/BILLS-117hr1319enr.pdf>

The United States has implemented new protectionist measures while rolling back any existing trade restrictive measures.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov

European Union: 0

The European Union has partially complied with the commitment on trade.

On 11 December 2020, the EU published Regulation (EU) 2020/2020 that provides temporary value added tax (VAT) relief to COVID-19 vaccines and in vitro diagnostic medical devices. The objective is to ensure, as soon as possible, the most affordable access to the supply of the medical products necessary to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. For this, the regulation includes two types of tax relief: a VAT exemption for the supply of the authorized COVID-19 vaccines; and a VAT reduction or exemption for in vitro diagnostic medical kits for COVID-19.¹³⁴⁶

On 28 December 2020, the European Union updated the import tariff quotas for certain agricultural and industrial products applicable during the year 2021. The updates were both restrictive and trade-facilitating.¹³⁴⁷

On 7 January 2021, the European Commission imposed a provisional duty on imports of certain iron, non-alloy or other alloy steel hot-rolled flat products from Turkey. The rate of duty is between 4.8 per cent and 7.6 per cent depending on the company.¹³⁴⁸

On 8 March 2021, the European Commission issued Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/401 decreasing the import duty applicable to certain husked rice (excluding basmati rice).¹³⁴⁹

During the compliance period the European Union has implemented several new protectionist measures, while at least two of the existing measures were rolled back.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

¹³⁴⁶ EU: Temporary VAT relief to COVID-19 vaccines and testing kits, Global Trade Alert. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/intervention/83779/internal-taxation-of-imports/eu-temporary-vat-relief-to-covid-19-vaccines-and-testing-kits>.

¹³⁴⁷ Council Regulation (EU) 2020/2230 of 18 December 2020 amending Regulation (EU) No 1388/2013 opening and providing for the management of autonomous tariff quotas of the Union for certain agricultural and industrial products, EUR-Lex. Official Journal 28 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020R2230&qid=1611658181982>.

¹³⁴⁸ EU: Provisional antidumping duty on imports of certain hot-rolled flat products from Turkey, Global Trade Alert. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/intervention/79539/anti-dumping/eu-provisional-antidumping-duty-on-imports-of-certain-hot-rolled-flat-products-from-turkey>.

¹³⁴⁹ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/401 of 5 March 2021 fixing the import duties applicable to certain types of husked rice from 8 March 2021, EUR-Lex. Official Journal 8 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L_.2021.079.01.0007.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AL%3A2021%3A079%3ATOC.

5. Digital Economy: Consumer Rights

“We support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia		0	
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China		0	
France			+1
Germany			+1
India		0	
Indonesia			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa		0	
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union		0	
Average		+0.70 (85%)	

Background

For the first time ever the G20 addressed the issues related to digital growth in 2015. During Turkey’s presidency, the G20 members approved national adjusted growth strategies; several of them, including Germany’s, indicated “investing in research ...and expanding the “High Tech Strategy” as a key long-term task.”¹³⁵⁰ Approving adjusted growth strategies focused on the wide use of digital technologies in various spheres was the first step towards more specific initiatives and commitments. At Antalya, G20 leaders committed to “bridge the digital divide” and also noted that “states have a special responsibility to promote security, stability, and economic ties with other nations” in information and communications and technology (ICT).¹³⁵¹

At Hangzhou in 2016, in the G20 Blueprint on Innovative Growth, for the first time G20 leaders addressed the issue of proliferation of the digital economy, which they defined the digital economy as “a broad range of economic activities that includes using digitized information and knowledge as the key factor of production, modern information networks as the important activity space, and the effective use of ICT as an important driver for efficiency-enhancing and economic structural

¹³⁵⁰ Adjusted Growth Strategy: Germany, RANEP (Moscow) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2021.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2015Antalya/Adjusted-Growth-Strategy-2015-Germany.pdf>

¹³⁵¹ G20 Leaders’ Communique Antalya Summit 15 – 16 November 2015, RANEP (Moscow) 16 November 2015.

Access Date: 13 January 2021. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2015Antalya/000111117.pdf>

optimization.”¹³⁵² The leaders pledged to “offer policy support for an open, and secure ICT environment, including recognizing the key role of adequate and effective protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights to the development of the digital economy” by means of “cultivating transparent digital economy policy-making” and “supporting the development and use of international standards.”¹³⁵³ To facilitate “the G20 agenda on innovation, new industrial revolution and digital economy,” G20 leaders decided to establish a designated task force supported by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).¹³⁵⁴

At Hamburg in 2017, the G20 addressed the issue of digital skills promotion. The #eSkills4Girls Initiative touched on the issue within broader context of development and gender policy.¹³⁵⁵ To facilitate implementing commitments on digital growth, the Digital Economy Task Force (DETF) was established following the decision made in Hangzhou in 2016.¹³⁵⁶ The leaders concluded with commitments aimed at harnessing digitalization and digital growth such as a pledge to promote digital literacy and digital skills, ensure effective competition to foster investment and innovation, promote effective cooperation of all stakeholders and encourage the development and use of market and industry-led international standards for digitized production, products and services.¹³⁵⁷

During Argentina’s G20 presidency in 2018, the DETF presented political tools for digital growth including the G20 Digital Governance Principles, recommendation for measuring the digital economy, gender equality in digital sphere and digital infrastructure development.¹³⁵⁸ At Buenos Aires, the G20 leaders pledged to “promote measures to boost micro, small and medium enterprises and entrepreneurs, bridge the digital gender divide and further digital inclusion, support consumer protection, and improve digital government, digital infrastructure and measurement of the digital economy.”¹³⁵⁹

Japan’s G20 presidency in 2019 greatly expanded the G20 digital agenda. In Osaka, the G20 leaders presented the Statement on Preventing Exploitation of the Internet for Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism, which tackled cyber security.¹³⁶⁰ In addition, the Osaka Declaration on Digital Economy was adopted in which most G20 members (with exception of India, South Africa and Indonesia) declared the launch of the “Osaka track” to promote discussions on “trade-related aspects of electronic commerce at the [World Trade Organization].”¹³⁶¹

¹³⁵² G20 Blueprint on Innovative Growth, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-blueprint.html>

¹³⁵³ G20 Blueprint on Innovative Growth, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-blueprint.html>

¹³⁵⁴ G20 Leaders’ Communique: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communique.html>

¹³⁵⁵ G20 Initiative “#eSkills4Girls,” RANEPА (Moscow) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/2017-g20-initiative-eskills4girls-en.pdf>

¹³⁵⁶ G20 Leaders’ Communique: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communique.html>

¹³⁵⁷ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

¹³⁵⁸ G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Declaration, Salta, Argentina, RANEPА (Moscow) 24 August 2018. Access Date: 13 January 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2018buenosaires/g20_detf_ministerial_declaration_salta.pdf

¹³⁵⁹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, RANEPА (Moscow) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 13 January 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2018buenosaires/buenos_aires_leaders_declaration.pdf

¹³⁶⁰ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Statement on Preventing Exploitation of the Internet for Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism (VECT), RANEPА (Moscow) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 13 January 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/G20_new_downloadings/G20_OSAKA_LEADERS_STATEMENT_ON_PREVENTING_EXPLOITATION_OF_THE_INTERNET_FOR_TERRORISM.pdf

¹³⁶¹ Osaka Declaration on Digital Economy, RANEPА (Moscow) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 13 January 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/G20_new_downloadings/OSAKA_DECLARATION_ON_DIGITAL_ECONOMY_eng.pdf

In 2020 under Saudi Arabia’s G20 presidency the ministers responsible for the digital economy adopted the G20 Roadmap toward a Common Framework for Measuring the Digital Economy. Under the Framework, the ministers proposed “an overarching policy definition of the different elements of the digital economy: The digital economy incorporates all economic activity reliant on, or significantly enhanced by the use of digital inputs, including digital technologies, digital infrastructure, digital services, and data; it refers to all producers and consumers, including government, that are utilizing these digital inputs in their economic activities.”¹³⁶²

In 2020, the DETF presented its recommendations on adjusting the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals with more than 30 indicators related to digital jobs, skills and growth in the digital economy. The recommendations were included into the OECD report “Roadmap Toward a Common Framework for Measuring the Digital Economy” that is said to “complement previous work and proposes a clear step forward for Digital Economy measurement.”¹³⁶³

Along with the Common Framework for Measuring the Digital Economy, the G20 ministers responsible for the digital economy presented three sets of best practices related to ensuring Security in the Digital Economy, advancing the G20 common Principles on the AI and promoting Smart Mobility.¹³⁶⁴

In 2020 the G20 leaders’ summit concluded with the joint Declaration. The leaders’ recognized the key role of “connectivity, digital technologies, and policies”¹³⁶⁵ in “strengthening our response to the pandemic and facilitating the continuation of economic activity.”¹³⁶⁶ As an addition to the commitment made on promotion of consumers protection, non-discriminatory environment, intellectual property rights protection and data protection, the G20 leaders noted the importance of working with stakeholders “to connect humanity by accelerating global internet penetration and bridging digital divides.”¹³⁶⁷

Commitment Features

The commitment focuses on issues related to digital growth: fostering open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment; protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights; and security. To achieve full compliance, the G20 member shall take steps that cover all three of the abovementioned areas.

Fostering open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment

Fostering open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment is understood as actions taken by a G20 member country aimed at promotion of a business-friendly environment that allows “foreign suppliers to compete in national markets without encountering discriminatory, excessively burdensome or restrictive conditions. It helps firms, domestic and foreign, reap the benefits of trade,

¹³⁶² G20 Digital Economy Ministers Meeting, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-digital-0722.html>

¹³⁶³ A Roadmap Toward a Common Framework for Measuring the Digital Economy Chapter 3 ‘Measuring the Digital Economy: Jobs, Skills, and Growth, OECD (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 20 January 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/sti/roadmap-toward-a-common-framework-for-measuring-the-digital-economy.pdf>

¹³⁶⁴ G20 Digital Economy Ministers Meeting, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-digital-0722.html>

¹³⁶⁵ G20 Riyadh Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

¹³⁶⁶ G20 Riyadh Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

¹³⁶⁷ G20 Riyadh Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

contributing to economic growth.”¹³⁶⁸ To promote holistic and joint approaches to openness, and mitigate negative spillovers arising from regulatory heterogeneity, the G20 actions will need to be guided by the good regulatory principles of market openness: be transparent and non-discriminatory. In the decision-making the fundamental aspect of transparency refers to the openness and inclusiveness of the policy-making process, in particular the opportunity for stakeholders to participate in formal or informal public consultations. Thus for the G20 members as policy-makers, “transparency is crucial because it enhances the efficiency of regulations by revealing the costs and benefits of policy decisions, reducing the risk of capture by specialized interests, helping remove economic distortions that might undermine domestic policy objectives, and improving public confidence in governmental and regulatory performance.”¹³⁶⁹ Non-discrimination means that all like goods and services seeking to enter the national market, irrespective of whether digitally enabled or delivered, should have equal access, regardless of origin.¹³⁷⁰

Thus, summing up, to comply with this feature of the commitment the G20 actions should be: a) transparent: helping reduce the costs of operating across different markets and clarifying the rules that apply to different products by providing up-to-date information and enabling access for different stakeholders to the policy-making process; and b) non-discriminatory: ensuring that domestic incumbents are not favored over foreign firms, or certain foreign firms over others, when operating in the digital space and selling like products in view of levelling the playing field.¹³⁷¹

Protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights

As the OECD notes in its relevant policy brief, “with the increasing complexity of the online environment, consumers may be vulnerable to actual or potential risks and challenges, which may affect their ability to participate effectively in the digital transformation.”¹³⁷² Key objectives include but not limited to “targeted policies, investment in ICT access and competencies, and education and awareness campaigns.”¹³⁷³

Examples of a state-run policies that are designed to protect and empower consumers in the digital age are as follows:

- Improvement of market monitoring and law enforcement to detect and tackle against unfair commercial practices;
- Developing targeted education and awareness programs referring to ICT literacy and ICT skills;
- Encourage consumer organizations and businesses to take into account unique issues faced by vulnerable consumers, etc.¹³⁷⁴

¹³⁶⁸ Principles for Market Openness in the Digital Age, OECD (Paris) 21 December 2018. Access Date: 20 January 2021.

[http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=TAD/TC/WP\(2018\)17/FINAL&docLanguage=En](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=TAD/TC/WP(2018)17/FINAL&docLanguage=En)

¹³⁶⁹ Principles for Market Openness in the Digital Age, OECD (Paris) 21 December 2018. Access Date: 20 January 2021.

[http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=TAD/TC/WP\(2018\)17/FINAL&docLanguage=En](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=TAD/TC/WP(2018)17/FINAL&docLanguage=En)

¹³⁷⁰ Principles for Market Openness in the Digital Age, OECD (Paris) 21 December 2018. Access Date: 20 January 2021.

[http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=TAD/TC/WP\(2018\)17/FINAL&docLanguage=En](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=TAD/TC/WP(2018)17/FINAL&docLanguage=En)

¹³⁷¹ Principles for Market Openness in the Digital Age, OECD (Paris) 21 December 2018. Access Date: 20 January 2021.

[http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=TAD/TC/WP\(2018\)17/FINAL&docLanguage=En](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=TAD/TC/WP(2018)17/FINAL&docLanguage=En)

¹³⁷² Challenges to Consumer Policy in the Digital Age, OECD (Paris) 6 September 2019. Access Date: 19 January 2021.

<https://www.oecd.org/going-digital/topics/digital-consumers/challenges-to-consumer-policy-in-the-digital-age.pdf>

¹³⁷³ Challenges to Consumer Policy in the Digital Age, OECD (Paris) 6 September 2019. Access Date: 19 January 2021.

<https://www.oecd.org/going-digital/topics/digital-consumers/challenges-to-consumer-policy-in-the-digital-age.pdf>

¹³⁷⁴ Challenges to Consumer Policy in the Digital Age, OECD (Paris) 6 September 2019. Access Date: 19 January 2021.

<https://www.oecd.org/going-digital/topics/digital-consumers/challenges-to-consumer-policy-in-the-digital-age.pdf>

This aspect also requires actions by the G20 members to tackle the challenges related to privacy and data protection and intellectual property rights.

Privacy and data protection

Following the OECD works on privacy and data protection such as the OECD Guidelines Governing the Protection of Privacy and Transborder Flows of Personal Data,¹³⁷⁵, we consider that these aspects should not be treated separately.

The notion of “privacy protection” is inseparable from the notion of “laws protecting privacy” that is “national laws or regulations, the enforcement of which has the effect of protecting personal data.”¹³⁷⁶

Against the context of the commitment under consideration, ‘data protection’ refers to the notions of “consumer data” and “personal data” that are closely intertwined but do not completely overlap. The term “consumer data” is intended to capture data concerning consumers, where such data have been collected, traded or used as part of a commercial relationship.¹³⁷⁷ “Personal data” refers to “any information relating to an identified or identifiable individual (data subject).”¹³⁷⁸

The OECD Privacy Framework suggests the following actions that could be taken by a state to promote privacy and data protection:

- Develop national privacy strategies that reflect a co-ordinated approach across governmental bodies;
- Adopt laws protecting privacy;
- Establish and maintain privacy enforcement authorities with the governance, resources and technical expertise necessary to exercise their powers effectively and to make decisions on an objective, impartial and consistent basis;
- Encourage and support self-regulation, whether in the form of codes of conduct or otherwise;
- Provide for reasonable means for individuals to exercise their rights;
- Provide for adequate sanctions and remedies in case of failures to comply with laws protecting privacy;
- Consider the adoption of complementary measures, including education and awareness raising, skills development, and the promotion of technical measures which help to protect privacy;
- Consider the role of actors other than data controllers, in a manner appropriate to their individual role; and

¹³⁷⁵ OECD Guidelines on the Protection of Privacy and Transborder Flows of Personal Data, OECD (Paris) 2013. Access Date: 19 January 2021.

<https://www.oecd.org/sti/ieconomy/oecdguidelinesontheprivacyandtransborderflowsdatapersonaldata.htm>

¹³⁷⁶ OECD Guidelines on the Protection of Privacy and Transborder Flows of Personal Data, OECD (Paris) 2013. Access Date: 19 January 2021.

<https://www.oecd.org/sti/ieconomy/oecdguidelinesontheprivacyandtransborderflowdatapersonaldata.htm>

¹³⁷⁷ Consumer Data Rights and Competition – Background note, OECD (Paris) 2013. Access Date: 19 January 2021.

[https://one.oecd.org/document/DAF/COMP\(2020\)1/en/pdf](https://one.oecd.org/document/DAF/COMP(2020)1/en/pdf)

¹³⁷⁸ OECD Guidelines on the Protection of Privacy and Transborder Flows of Personal Data, OECD (Paris) 2013. Access Date: 19 January 2021.

<https://www.oecd.org/sti/ieconomy/oecdguidelinesontheprivacyandtransborderflowsdatapersonaldata.htm>

- Ensure that there is no unfair discrimination against data subjects.¹³⁷⁹

The OECD also specifies the notions of “data controller” and “privacy enforcement authority” that are mentioned in the list of suggested actions.

“Data controller” means a party who, according to national law, is competent to decide about the contents and use of personal data regardless of whether or not such data are collected, stored, processed or disseminated by that party or by an agent on its behalf.¹³⁸⁰

“Privacy enforcement authorities” means any public body that is responsible for enforcing laws protecting privacy, and that has powers to conduct investigations or pursue enforcement proceedings.¹³⁸¹

Intellectual property rights

Following the World Intellectual Property Organization’s (WIPO) Handbook, we understand the “intellectual property rights” (IPR) as “the legal rights which result from intellectual activity in the industrial, scientific, literary and artistic fields.”¹³⁸² WIPO also specifies that these laws “aims at safeguarding creators and other producers of intellectual goods and services by granting them certain time-limited rights to control the use made of those productions.”¹³⁸³

Against this background, the G20 actions may refer but not limited to facilitating better legal protection of:

- Patents;
- Copyrights and related rights;
- Trademarks;
- Industrial designs and integrated circuits;
- Geographical indicators;
- IPR proprietors against unfair competition.¹³⁸⁴

Security

According to the OECD “digital security” refers to “economic and social aspects of cybersecurity as opposed to purely technical aspects and those related to criminal law enforcement and national and international security.”¹³⁸⁵ Addressing security risks is essential for economic and social prosperity. Regarding “digital security risks” the OECD notes the following:

¹³⁷⁹ The OECD Privacy Framework, OECD (Paris) 2013. Access Date: 19 January 2021.

https://www.oecd.org/sti/ieconomy/oecd_privacy_framework.pdf

¹³⁸⁰ The OECD Privacy Framework, OECD (Paris) 2013. Access Date: 19 January 2021.

https://www.oecd.org/sti/ieconomy/oecd_privacy_framework.pdf

¹³⁸¹ The OECD Privacy Framework, OECD (Paris) 2013. Access Date: 19 January 2021.

https://www.oecd.org/sti/ieconomy/oecd_privacy_framework.pdf

¹³⁸² WIPO Intellectual Property Handbook, WIPO (Geneva) 2004. Access Date: 13 January 2021.

https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_489.pdf

¹³⁸³ WIPO Intellectual Property Handbook, WIPO (Geneva) 2004. Access Date: 13 January 2021.

https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_489.pdf

¹³⁸⁴ WIPO Intellectual Property Handbook, WIPO (Geneva) 2004. Access Date: 13 January 2021.

https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_489.pdf

¹³⁸⁵ Digital Security Risk Management for Economic and Social Prosperity, OECD (Paris) 2015. Access Date: 19 January 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/digital/ieconomy/digital-security-risk-management.pdf>

“Digital security risk as a category of risk related to the use, development and management of the digital environment in the course of any activity. This risk can result from the combination of threats and vulnerabilities in the digital environment. They can undermine the achievement of economic and social objectives by disrupting the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the activities and/or the environment. Digital security risk is dynamic in nature. It includes aspects related to the digital and physical environments, the people involved in the activity and the organizational processes supporting it.”¹³⁸⁶

Ensuring the digital security requires cooperation of all “stakeholders” considered as “the governments, public and private organizations, and the individuals, who rely on the digital environment for all or part of their economic and social activities.”¹³⁸⁷

Accordingly to comply with this commitment feature the G20 should lead by example in implementation of a holistic public policy approach to digital security risk management and establishing co-ordination mechanisms at the domestic, regional and international levels, which ensure that all stakeholders understand digital security risk and how to manage it, take responsibility for the management of digital security, manage digital security risk in a transparent manner; cooperate, including across borders.

To foster trust and confidence in the digital environment at the national level the G20 members may implement strategies which include measures such as:

- Adopting a comprehensive framework to manage digital security risk to the government’s own activities;
- Establishing co-ordination mechanisms among all relevant governmental actors to ensure that their management of digital security risk is compatible and enhances economic and social prosperity;
- Ensuring the establishment of one or more Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT), also known as Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT), at national level and, where appropriate, encourage the emergence of public and private CSIRTs working collaboratively, including across borders;
- Using their market position to foster digital security risk management across the economy and society, including through public procurement policies, and the recruitment of professionals with appropriate risk management qualification;
- Encouraging the use of international standards and best practices on digital security risk management, and promoting their development and review through open, transparent and multi-stakeholder processes;
- Adopting innovative security techniques to manage digital security risk in order to assure that information is appropriately protected at rest as well as in transit, and taking into account the benefits of appropriate limitations on data collection and retention;
- Coordinating and promoting public research and development on digital security risk management with a view to fostering innovation;

¹³⁸⁶ Digital Security Risk Management for Economic and Social Prosperity, OECD (Paris) 2015. Access Date: 19 January 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/digital/ieconomy/digital-security-risk-management.pdf>

¹³⁸⁷ Digital Security Risk Management for Economic and Social Prosperity, OECD (Paris) 2015. Access Date: 19 January 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/digital/ieconomy/digital-security-risk-management.pdf>

- Supporting the development of a skilled workforce that can manage digital security risk, in particular by addressing digital security risk management in broader skills strategies. This could include fostering the development of in-service risk management training and certification and supporting the development of digital skills across the population through national education programs, notably in higher education;
- Adopting and implementing a comprehensive framework to help mitigate cybercrime, drawing on existing international instruments;
- Allocating sufficient resources to effectively implement the strategy.¹³⁸⁸

Cooperation at the international level may include:

- Participating in relevant regional and international fora, and establishing bilateral and multilateral relationships to share experience and best practices; and promoting an approach to national digital security risk management that does not increase the risk to other countries;
- Providing, on a voluntary basis as appropriate, assistance and support to other countries, and establishing national points of contacts for addressing cross-border requests related to digital security risk management issues in a timely manner;
- Working to improve responses to domestic and cross-border threats, including through CSIRTs¹³⁸⁹ co-operation, coordinated exercises and other tools for collaboration.¹³⁹⁰

The commitment requires the G20 members to support “fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.”¹³⁹¹ To achieve full compliance (+1 score), a G20 member should demonstrate strong willingness to fulfil the task that implies taking actions in all three spheres that go beyond mere verbal support or participation in a discussion on a topic without further implementation in a legislative form, resources allocation, etc. Partial compliance (0 score) could be given if a G20 member takes actions either matching only one or two key areas or even all three key areas but at least one area out of three is not supported with a strong action. Also, a 0 score could be given if a G20 member takes an action matching any of three key areas, but this action could not be regarded as a strong one. We consider lack of any actions as a prerequisite for giving a G20 member a –1 score.

¹³⁸⁸ Digital Security Risk Management for Economic and Social Prosperity, OECD (Paris) 2015. Access Date: 19 January 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/digital/ieconomy/digital-security-risk-management.pdf>

¹³⁸⁹ Recommendations of the Council on Digital Security of Critical Activities, OECD (Paris). Access Date: 19 January 2021. <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0456>

¹³⁹⁰ Digital Security Risk Management for Economic and Social Prosperity, OECD (Paris) 2015. Access Date: 19 January 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/digital/ieconomy/digital-security-risk-management.pdf>

¹³⁹¹ Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 13 January 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member does no action aimed at fostering open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment; empowering and protecting consumers while addressing issues related to privacy, data protection and intellectual property rights; or addressing digital security risks.
0	G20 member takes actions in ONE or TWO of the areas: fostering open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment; empowering and protecting consumers while addressing issues related to privacy, data protection and intellectual property rights; and addressing digital security risks.
+1	G20 member takes strong actions that match all THREE areas: fostering open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment; empowering and protecting consumers while addressing issues related to privacy, data protection and intellectual property rights; and addressing digital security risks.

*Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov
Lead Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 18 January 2021, the Public Tender 0005/2020 was opened, the bidding process for the Preventive and Corrective Maintenance of the Digital Document Management System (former GDE, Electronic Document Management), the integrated system of labeling, unique numbering, monitoring and recording of movements of all actions and files of the entire National Public Sector, which allows the complete digital processing of electronic files and is administered by the Undersecretariat of Administrative Innovation of the Ministry of Public Innovation, dependent on the Chief of Cabinet of Ministers of the Nation.¹³⁹²

On 28 January 2021, National Director of Personal Data Protection Eduardo Cimato participated in the event for the “International Day for the Protection of Personal Data,” 40th anniversary of Convention 108, carried out by the Council of Europe and the Ibero-American Data Protection Network, where the policies adopted in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of the role of control authorities in the protection of personal data were discussed.¹³⁹³

On 24 February 2021, the Access to Public Information Agency released a series of criteria on how the data of those people who have been vaccinated against the COVID-19 should be treated. In this sense, some of the fundamental principles of the current regulation regarding the protection of personal data and access to public information are indicated. In a context of health crisis, both in the country and worldwide, and the general shortage of vaccines, there is great public interest in knowing how they are distributed, as well as if the distribution is being carried out in accordance with the “Strategic Plan for Vaccination against COVID-19 in the Argentine Republic,” published on the website of the Ministry of Health of the Nation.¹³⁹⁴

¹³⁹² Avanza la licitación de la plataforma integral de Gestión Documental Digital [The tender for the comprehensive Digital Document Management platform advances], Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/avanza-la-licitacion-de-la-plataforma-integral-de-gestion-documental-digital>

¹³⁹³ Día Internacional de la Protección de Datos Personales [International Day for the Protection of Personal Data], Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/dia-internacional-de-la-proteccion-de-datos-personales>

¹³⁹⁴ Access to information, personal data and vaccination, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/acceso-la-informacion-datos-personales-y-vacunacion>

On 23 March 2021, Secretary of Planning and Policies of Science, Technology and Innovation Diego Hurtado representing the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, participated in the 2021 Korea-Latin America Digital Cooperation Forum whose central theme was the “Association for the Innovation and Digital Inclusion” organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Korea. Secretary Hurtado “celebrated the organization of this forum, the purpose of which is to consolidate efforts to share experiences in the face of digital transformation and promote Korea-Latin America cooperation in the areas of digital infrastructure, digital government, smart city and cybersecurity.”¹³⁹⁵

On 4 May 2021, national director of Consumer Defense Sebastián Barocelli chaired the meeting of the Technical Committee No. 7 for the Defense of the Consumer of Mercosur, on the 30th anniversary of the Treaty of Asunción. The participating authorities highlighted the central axes of the future agenda, “focused on the status of citizenship, the problem of hypervulnerable consumers, the over-indebtedness of consumers, good commercial practices among suppliers, and the need to involve civil society through academia and consumer associations. The member countries highlighted collaboration and joint work to respond to the needs of consumers.”¹³⁹⁶

Argentina has taken actions in all three aspects of the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Australia: 0

Australia has partially complied with the commitment on supporting fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 9 December 2020, the Australia-Singapore Digital Economy Agreement launched. The agreement, covering such important issues as personal data protection, e-invoicing, paperless customs procedures, and electronic certification for agricultural exports, made it easier for Australian exporters to do business in Singapore.¹³⁹⁷

Australia has addressed digital security tasks, issues related to privacy, data protection and intellectual property rights but has not taken any steps to foster open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment.

Thus, Australia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

¹³⁹⁵ Argentina participó del Foro de Cooperación Digital Corea-Latinoamérica 2021 [Argentina participated in the 2021 Korea-Latin America Digital Cooperation Forum], Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 23 March 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-participo-del-foro-de-cooperacion-digital-corea-latinoamerica-2021>

¹³⁹⁶ Argentina encabezó el Comité Técnico de Defensa del Consumidor en los 30 años del Mercosur [Argentina headed the Technical Committee for the Defense of the Consumer in the 30 years of Mercosur], Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-encabezo-el-comite-tecnico-de-defensa-del-consumidor-en-los-30-anos-del-mercosur>

¹³⁹⁷ Australia-Singapore digital trade agreement kicks-off, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Barton) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 28 January 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/simon-birmingham/media-release/australia-singapore-digital-trade-agreement-kicks>

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 2 December 2020, Federal Government published the decree of the regulatory structure of the National Data Protection Authority (ANPD), as an organ of the Presidency of the Republic, with the objective of complying with and giving effect to the General Law for the Protection of Personal Data, thus enabling adequate level of protection of the personal data of natural persons in Brazil.¹³⁹⁸

On 25 February 2021, Brazilian Government affiliated technology intelligence company Serpro launched an educational platform, which offers professional training and certification for the public and private sectors in subjects related to privacy and protection of personal data.¹³⁹⁹

On 22 March 2021, Ministry of Justice and Public Security, through the National Consumer Secretariat (Senacon), signed a technical cooperation agreement with the ANPD. The union of the bodies aims at the inspection and data protection of all consumers in the country.¹⁴⁰⁰

On 30 March 2021, Law No. 14,129, which brings together the principles, rules and tools for Digital Government, was sanctioned with vetoes by President Jair Bolsonaro and published in the Official Gazette. The text establishes rules and instruments for the digital provision of public services, which should also be accessible in mobile applications. Access to the Digital Government platforms is free.¹⁴⁰¹

On 5 April 2021, the Brazilian government launched system for security control in compliance with data protection law. A tool developed by the Digital Government Secretariat of the Ministry of Economy allows the investigation of security and privacy flaws in the systems, contracts and processes in which the personal data of any citizen needed to be analyzed. Fourteen different levels of risk are ascertained automatically. It is sufficient for the citizen's data protection officer within the federal government to complete a questionnaire on the specific case online.¹⁴⁰²

On 8 April 2021, the National Consumer Secretariat determined the registration of companies on the Consumidor.gov.br platform. Ordinance No. 12 was published in the Federal Official Gazette. The initiative was motivated by the significant increase in consumer demand during the coronavirus pandemic, in addition to the need for social distance in this period of exceptionality. The obligation only applies to companies or their respective economic groups if they have gross revenues of at least one hundred million reais in the last fiscal year; have reached a monthly average of 1,000 or more complaints in their customer service channels in the last fiscal year; or are sued in more than five hundred lawsuits that discuss consumer relationships. In case of non-compliance with the ordinance,

¹³⁹⁸ Federal Government publishes the regulatory structure of the National Data Protection Authority, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/anpd/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-publica-a-estrutura-regimental-da-autoridade-nacional-de-protecao-de-dados>

¹³⁹⁹ Federal Government Launches Educational LGPD Platform, Serpro (Brasilia) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.serpro.gov.br/menu/noticias/noticias-2021/serpro-lancamento-plataforma-lgpd>

¹⁴⁰⁰Data protection bodies come together to strengthen security, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/justica-e-seguranca/2021/03/orgaos-de-protecao-de-dados-se-unem-para-reforcar-seguranca>

¹⁴⁰¹ Digital Government Law is sanctioned to increase public efficiency, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/lei-do-governo-digital-e-sancionada-para-aumentar-eficiencia-publica>

¹⁴⁰² Government launches system for security control in compliance with data protection law, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/governo-lanca-sistema-para-controle-de-seguranca-em-atendimento-a-lei-de-protecao-de-dados>

false or misleading data in fulfilling the requirements, the supplier may be investigated for an infraction against the consumer protection and defense rules.¹⁴⁰³

On 10 May 2021, the Ministries of Tourism and Justice launched courses on consumer rights. Tourism service providers and tourists from all over the country can enroll for free in one of the courses offered by the federal government related to consumer protection. The qualifications aim to offer legal certainty to companies and the citizen, in addition to improving the quality of consumer relations between the parties.¹⁴⁰⁴

Brazil has taken actions in all three aspects of the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment to foster an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, protect and empowering consumers, and address the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 2 December 2020, Minister of Justice David Lametti introduced a Charter Statement on the Bill C-11: An Act to enact the Consumer Privacy Protection Act and the Personal Information and Data Protection Tribunal Act and to make related and consequential amendments to other Acts, also known as Digital Charter Implementation Act 2020.¹⁴⁰⁵ The bill, if passed by Parliament, would introduce Consumer Privacy Protection Act, which will modernize Canada's existing private sector privacy law, and will also create the new Personal information and Data Protection Tribunal Act, which will create the Personal Information and Data Tribunal, an entity that can impose administrative monetary penalties for privacy violations. Finally, the Act will repeal Part 2 of the existing Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act and turn it into stand-alone legislation, the Electronic Documents Act.¹⁴⁰⁶ A number of provisions under the proposed digital charter relate to transparency, accountability, and oversight by public institutions, attempting to limit the regulatory impact on privacy interests of citizens and businesses.¹⁴⁰⁷

On 6 May 2021, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry François-Philippe Champagne launched the Cyber Security Innovation Network program. Canada pledged to support the program's

¹⁴⁰³ National Consumer Secretariat determines the registration of companies on the Consumidor.gov.br platform, Brazilian government (Brasilia) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mj/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/secretaria-nacional-do-consumidor-determina-o-cadastro-de-empresas-na-plataforma-consumidor-gov.br>

¹⁴⁰⁴ Ministries of Tourism and Justice offer courses on consumer rights, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/turismo/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerios-do-turismo-e-da-justica-ofertam-cursos-sobre-direitos-dos-consumidores>

¹⁴⁰⁵ Bill C-11: An Act to enact the Consumer Privacy Protection Act and the Personal Information and Data Protection Tribunal Act and to make related and consequential amendments to other Acts, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 23 November 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/csj-sjc/pl/charter-charte/c11.html>

¹⁴⁰⁶ Bill summary: Digital Charter Implementation Act, 2020, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/062.nsf/eng/00120.html>

¹⁴⁰⁷ Bill C-11: An Act to enact the Consumer Privacy Protection Act and the Personal Information and Data Protection Tribunal Act and to make related and consequential amendments to other Acts, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2 December 2020 23 November 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/csj-sjc/pl/charter-charte/c11.html>

implementation with an investment of CAD80 million over four years, funding the creation of a national network of centers of expertise on cyber security, affiliated with post-secondary institutions, in collaboration with private sector, non-profit organizations, provincial/territorial/municipal governments and other Canadian post-secondary institutions.¹⁴⁰⁸

On 14 May 2021, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages and Minister responsible for Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency Darren Fisher announced the Federal Government's CAD750,000 investment to Ignite Fredericton, a non-profit business counselling organization, to "implement a provincial cybersecurity talent development strategy."¹⁴⁰⁹

Canada has taken actions in all three issue areas related to digital growth: fostering open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment; empowering and protecting consumers while addressing issues related to privacy, data protection and intellectual property rights; and addressing digital security risks.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

China: 0

China has partially complied with the commitment on supporting fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 24 November 2020, Xinhua announced the release of "Implementation Plan on Effectively Solving the Difficulties of the Elderly in Using Intelligent Technology." The plan insists on deploying new, more comprehensive and more straight-forward services for the elderly. The plan also proposes that in the future the elderly should not encounter any problems in using their smartphones. The technologies should meet all the basic needs of the elderly.¹⁴¹⁰

On 12 March 2021, the 14th Five-Year Plan was announced. According to the plan, China will enhance the merger of digital economy with the «real» economy. Also, the "new infrastructure" (5G, data centers, software etc.) will see enhanced investments. Moreover, artificial intelligence, big data, blockchain, cloud computing and cybersecurity were mentioned as digital industries to be fostered. The government will invest in the industries and create a good and safe environment for the development of digital economy.¹⁴¹¹

On 1 May 2021, "Measures for the Supervision and Administration of Online Transactions" came into effect. The document was created in response to the issue of supervision of e-commerce. The measures map out a series of standardized transaction behaviors and list operators' main

¹⁴⁰⁸ Government of Canada investing to position Canada as a global leader in cyber security, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/05/government-of-canada-investing-to-position-canada-as-a-global-leader-in-cyber-security.html>.

¹⁴⁰⁹ Federal Government Supports Growth in Cybersecurity Sector, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/news/2021/05/federal-government-supports-growth-in-cybersecurity-sector.html>.

¹⁴¹⁰ The General Office of the State Council issued the "Implementation Plan on Effectively Solving the Difficulties of the Elderly in Using Intelligent Technology," Xinhua (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 28 January 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-11/24/content_5563861.htm

¹⁴¹¹ The Fourteenth Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China and the Outline of Long-Term Goals for 2035, Xinhua (Beijing) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <http://politics.people.com.cn/n1/2021/0313/c1001-32050444.html>

responsibilities. The measurers will make it easier to protect the rights, interests and security of consumers.¹⁴¹²

China has addressed digital security tasks, issues related to privacy, data protection and intellectual property rights but has not taken any steps to foster open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

France: +1

France has fully complied with the commitment on supporting fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights; and security.

In December 2020, France resumed collection of its digital tax on tech companies; starting from July 2019 the 3 per cent digital services tax applies to revenues deemed to have been generated in France by digital companies, wherever they are established, which make annual supplies of taxable services of more than EUR25 million in France and EUR750 million worldwide; in February 2020, the French tax administration confirmed that companies liable for digital tax could postpone to December 2020 the payment of the instalments due in April and October 2020; the final 2020 amount due will be paid in 2021.¹⁴¹³

On 21 January 2021, the French National Assembly adopted a draft amendment to the draft bill “Consolidating the principles of the Republic,” which would have the consequence of modifying the French Law for Trust in the Digital Economy of 21 June 2004; the new obligations will apply to all platforms, whether established in France or abroad; (i) which list, rank or share content uploaded by third parties (such as social media platforms and search engines); and (ii) whose activity in France exceeds a threshold of user connections. The law is called to be in place before European-wide Digital Service Act is put in place, and will put platform operators under more onerous obligations in relation to online harmful content (including apologies of crimes or terrorism, incitement to racial or religious hatred), including cooperation with authorities in the fight against the dissemination of harmful content, implementation of reporting tools and notice action, complaint and redress mechanism, transparency reporting and risk-auditing mechanism.¹⁴¹⁴

On 15 February 2021, it was reported that France was pushing for the EU’s upcoming regulations on Big Tech (Digital Services Act) to be changed so that member states could individually wield more power to punish bad behavior, police more types of content and force tech companies to remove illegal content (currently, only countries where tech companies have their headquarters can enforce the EU’s laws).¹⁴¹⁵

On 31 March 2021, it was reported that according to the French highest administrative court Council of State ruling organizations can deploy legal and technical safeguards to meet their obligations under EU data protection law when seeking to prevent US authorities from accessing personal data stored

¹⁴¹² The "Measures for the Supervision and Administration of Online Transactions" will come into effect on May 1 this year, Xinhua (Beijing) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-03/16/content_5593218.htm

¹⁴¹³ France to resume collection of digital tax, Pinsent Masons (Paris) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.pinsentmasons.com/out-law/news/france-to-resume-collection-of-digital-tax>

¹⁴¹⁴ Ahead of time, online platforms may have to anticipate the Digital Service Act in France, Lexology (London) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=1174ed22-9390-40a9-8fdd-366680580810>

¹⁴¹⁵ France pushes for big changes to proposed EU tech regulation, Financial Times (London) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.ft.com/content/5e41d0cf-a83c-4817-997e-a353858137ab>

with their outsourcing providers; the ruling was made in relation to data processing operations subject to the US surveillance framework concerning the data hosting arrangements (on Amazon's affiliate's servers in Europe) within the French vaccination program for COVID-19.¹⁴¹⁶

On 1 April 2021, transition period ended with respect to application of the revised French data protection supervisory authority (CNIL) guidance on the practical procedures for collecting consent concerning cookies and other trackers (issued in October 2020) – making the guidance mandatory; the Revised Guidelines provide the CNIL's guidance on how to read and comply with the relevant provisions of the Data Protection Act.¹⁴¹⁷

On 5 April 2021, it was reported that CNIL questioned Apple's privacy compliance, having indicated that Apple may not be obtaining proper consent when using first-party tracking methods such as cookies, which may be characterized as a potential major breach of regulations.¹⁴¹⁸

On 16 April 2021, it was reported that the Council of State was to decide whether to allow the widespread retention of connection data; several decrees put forward by the French government request operators to store data such as identifiers, IP addresses, names and associated addresses, and lists of telephone antennas used, for criminal investigations or national security purposes, which is assessed as breach of the EU regulation.¹⁴¹⁹

On 20 April 2021, it was reported that France starting from 29 April 2021 would become the first EU country to start testing digital COVID-18 travel certificates as part of a Europe-wide scheme that Brussels hopes will allow people to travel more freely within the bloc by the summer.¹⁴²⁰

In February 2021, it was reported that President Emmanuel Macron pledged to allocate new investment (in different sources from EUR500 million to EUR1 billion for development of France's national security strategy and assisting companies and public authorities boost their cyber defense capabilities; it was further reported that President Macron set the goal to triple the annual sales of French cyber-security companies to EUR25 billion in 2025 from EUR7.3 billion in 2019, and double the number of jobs in the sector by 2025.^{1421, 1422} In the same month, France launched the ExpertCyber initiative that certifies French companies that both install and maintain security products, as well as provide incident response services; organizations in any sector can use the ExpertCyber directory to check whether a particular company is certified, or to search for providers that meet their specific requirements; dozens of service providers have apparently been convinced that the ExpertCyber label might give them an edge when pitching for business from organizations

¹⁴¹⁶ French GDPR ruling addresses US surveillance powers, Pinsent Masons (Paris) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.pinsentmasons.com/out-law/news/french-gdpr-ruling-addresses-us-surveillance-powers>

¹⁴¹⁷ France: The cookies transition period will end in a few days – starting April 1st, organizations must comply with the CNIL's revised guidelines on cookies and trackers, Lexology (London) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=f10f5a9a-46aa-407b-9616-6a09a057d14a>

¹⁴¹⁸ France's Data Protection Authority Has Questions About Apple's Privacy Compliance, CPO Magazine (Singapore) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.cpomagazine.com/data-protection/frances-data-protection-authority-has-questions-about-apples-privacy-compliance/>

¹⁴¹⁹ France to decide whether to allow widespread retention of connection data, Euractiv (Brussels) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/data-protection/news/france-to-decide-whether-to-allow-widespread-retention-of-connection-data/>

¹⁴²⁰ France is first EU member state to start testing digital Covid travel certificate, The Guardian (London) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/apr/20/france-is-first-eu-member-state-to-start-testing-digital-covid-travel-certificate>

¹⁴²¹ France to Boost Cyber Security Defenses After Attacks, Insurance Journal (San Diego) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/international/2021/02/18/601658.htm>

¹⁴²² Emmanuel Macron pledges €1bn for cybersecurity after hospital ransomware attacks, Healthcare IT News (Portland) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/emea/emmanuel-macron-pledges-1bn-cybersecurity-after-hospital-ransomware-attacks>

contending with surging ransomware attacks and an attack surface enlarged for COVID-19-related reasons.¹⁴²³

France has taken actions in all three issue areas related to digital growth: fostering open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment; empowering and protecting consumers while addressing issues related to privacy, data protection and intellectual property rights; and addressing digital security risks.

Thus, France is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment on supporting fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 16 December 2020, Germany passed a draft bill for a “Second Bill To Increase The Security of Information Technology Systems.” The purpose was to implement proceedings to avert threats to cyber and information security for the state, the economy and society including Significant extension of the powers of the Federal Office for Information Security and Expansion of obligations affecting operators of critical infrastructures and companies of special public interest.¹⁴²⁴

On 19 January 2021, the 10th Amendment of the German Competition Act entered into force. It was implemented to provide the German Federal Cartel Office with an efficient instrument against alleged digital monopolists to keep digital markets open. The Amendment also introduced changes to the German Competition Act concerning antitrust investigations procedure cartel damage claims.¹⁴²⁵

On 19 January 2021, the German government announced initiative on the rolling out gigabit capable internet connections nationwide by 2025 and to ensure across-the-board mobile communications coverage.¹⁴²⁶

On 19 January 2021, Germany unveiled another coronavirus stimulus package, with EUR50 billion for a raft of projects addressing climate change, innovation, solar and wind power, and digitization.¹⁴²⁷

Germany has taken actions in all three aspects of the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Sergei Vasilkovsky

¹⁴²³ French certification scheme for infosec service providers off to promising start, The Daily Swig (Manchester) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://portswigger.net/daily-swig/french-certification-scheme-for-infosec-service-providers-off-to-promising-start>

¹⁴²⁴ Regulatory Pressure For Cybersecurity Increases: Key Aspects of the German Federal Government’s Draft Bill for an IT Security Act 2.0 and Next Steps in the Legislative Process (Berlin) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=b3fc4c47-2835-44d0-9775-fb8ffe2dee0a>

¹⁴²⁵ “Digitalization Act”: Significant Changes to German Antitrust Rules, Gibson Dunn (Berlin) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gibsondunn.com/digitalization-act-significant-changes-to-german-antitrust-rules/>

¹⁴²⁶ Resolving the crisis, progressing with structural transformation, the Federal Government (Berlin) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/annual-economic-report-2021-1845890>

¹⁴²⁷ Resolving the crisis, progressing with structural transformation, the Federal Government (Berlin) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/annual-economic-report-2021-1845890>

India: 0

India has partially complied with the commitment on supporting fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 24th November 2020, India released the list of 43 mobile apps, deemed a threat to public and national security, that will be blocked in India, including e-commerce apps.¹⁴²⁸

On 9th December 2020, India, together with Better Than Cash Alliance, co-organized a joined Peer Exchange in order to promote digital payments and to work jointly towards the goal of “Digital India for all.”¹⁴²⁹

India has addressed digital security tasks, issues related to fostering open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, but has not taken any steps to fight the issue of privacy, data protection and intellectual property rights.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with the commitment on supporting fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 29 December 2020, the Central Bank issued Regulation No. 22/23/PBI/2020 pertaining to the restructuring of the regulatory framework of payment systems, including the reclassification of the activities of payment service operators, and shifting the regulatory framework from an entity-based approach to activity and risk-based approach, enabling Central Bank to better mitigate potential risks in the country’s financial system; the regulation also issues new requirements with regards to share ownership and capital, which could impact foreign investors in the payment services industry. The regulation is part of the Indonesia 2025 Payment System Blueprint aimed at supporting banking digitalization, integration of the digital economy and interlink between fintech and the banking sector, as well as ensuring innovation, consumer protection, and healthy business competition, and safeguarding national interests in cross-border digital economy and finance transactions.¹⁴³⁰

On 16 February 2021, it was reported that the Financial Services Authority (OJK) was to release the guidelines for digital banks operations by the middle of 2021; instead of detailed regulation OJK made a choice for the set of guiding principles on how banks operate digitally and mitigate any of their risks that may occur.¹⁴³¹

On 13 April 2021, President Joko Widodo issued a presidential executive order to augment the institutional authority of the National Cyber and Crypto Agency as an agency reporting directly to the

¹⁴²⁸ Government of India blocks 43 mobile apps from accessing by users in India, Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 1 February 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1675335>

¹⁴²⁹ India and UN-Based Better Than Cash Alliance organized a joint Peer learning exchange on fintech solutions for responsible digital payments at the last mile, Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 9 December 2021. Access Date: 1 February 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1679436>

¹⁴³⁰ Bank Indonesia Issues Regulation on Payment Systems, ASEAN Briefing (Jakarta) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aseanbriefing.com/news/bank-indonesia-issues-regulation-on-payment-systems/>

¹⁴³¹ Guidelines for digital banks in Indonesia to be released by mid-year, The Straits Times (Singapore) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/guidelines-for-digital-banks-in-indonesia-to-be-released-by-mid-year>

president, enhancing both its agility and authority outside individual ministry, and coordinating ministry frameworks, and to strengthen the agency's structure, functions, responsibilities and funding base, thereby boosting its efficiency and enhancing national security, sovereignty, and data protection. The above decree is expected to be followed by three related decrees pertaining to the release of Indonesia's first national cybersecurity strategy 2020-24, the management of national cyber crises, and vital national information infrastructure.¹⁴³²

On 3 May 2021, it was reported that the Commodity Futures Trade Regulatory Agency proposed imposing a final income tax on any transaction involving a digital currency on licensed exchanges; the proposal was at the time under review by other regulators.¹⁴³³

Indonesia has taken actions in all three aspects of the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with the commitment to foster an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, protect and empowering consumers, and address the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 25 April 2021, the Government of Italy presented the National Recovery and Resilience Plan to the Parliament. The plan is a part of the European Next Generation EU EUR750 billion package, aimed at environmental transition and carbon-neutral recovery from the pandemic-induced crisis. EUR40.32 billion of the EUR191.5 billion Italian package (around 27 per cent) are to be spent on the digitalization priorities. Among them are: migration to the cloud of central and local public administrations; creating a national infrastructure and supporting administrations in the transformation path; enhanced interoperability between government data; digitization of key procedures/user interfaces; state-of-the-art digital services for citizens; strengthening cybersecurity; enhancing citizens' basic digital skills; introducing new regulatory framework to speed up procurement of information and communications technologies and encourage interoperability by administrations; supporting justice reform interventions through investments in digitization and management of the backlog of cases.

On 30 April 2021, the Ministry of Technological Innovation and Digital Transition put forward the "Italia Digitale 2026" program to support the implementation of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan.¹⁴³⁴ The five goals under the program are: spread digital identity, ensuring it is used by 70 per cent of the population; close the digital skills gap, with at least 70 per cent of the population being digitally skilled; bring about 75 per cent of Italian public administration offices to use cloud services; achieve at least 80 per cent of essential public services delivered online; ensure universal access to ultra-wideband networks.¹⁴³⁵ "Italia Digitale 2026" also provided for the implementation of

¹⁴³² Indonesia responds to the cyber dark side, Lowy Institute (Sydney) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/indonesia-responds-cyber-dark-side>

¹⁴³³ Indonesia proposes tax on digital currency transactions, Coingeek (Montreal) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://coingeek.com/indonesia-proposes-tax-on-digital-currency-transactions/>

¹⁴³⁴ Next Generation Italia, the government plan approved, Italian Ministry of Technological Innovation and Digital Transition (Rome) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://innovazione.gov.it/notizie/articoli/next-generation-italia-approvato-il-piano-del-governo/>

¹⁴³⁵ Digital Italy 2026, Italian Ministry of Technological Innovation and Digital Transition (Rome) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://innovazione.gov.it/dipartimento/focus/italia-digitale-2026/#gli-obiettivi-italia-digitale-2026>

the National Cyber Security Perimeter framework over the upcoming five years. Its objectives include increasing cyber protection of public administration offices and critical infrastructure; strengthening technical capabilities for the continuous assessment and audit of the security of electronic equipment and applications used for the provision of critical services; and enhancing skills of law enforcement and public security personnel.¹⁴³⁶

Italy has taken actions in all three aspects of the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with the commitment on supporting fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 24 November 2020, an appeal for opinions was announced on a draft revision to the Guidelines for Promotion of Competition in the Telecommunications Business Field.¹⁴³⁷

On 18 December 2020, another appeal for opinions was announced on draft revision to the Guidelines for Promotion of Competition in the Telecommunications Business Field. On the same date, guidelines based on previously shared opinions were released with an ordinance to four telecommunications carrier-related associations to start complying with them.¹⁴³⁸

On 2 December 2020, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications announced establishment of the Internet Traffic Study Group to discuss and study various issues on the Internet route from an overall perspective to ensure the quality of internet services and appealed for public proposals on various issues on the Internet route and countermeasures.¹⁴³⁹

On 4 December 2020, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications announced appeal for opinions on draft revision to Commentary for Guidelines for Protection of Personal Information in Telecommunications Business, a draft of the Guidelines for Issuance of a Business Improvement Order to Prevent Hindrance in Ensuring the Secrecy of Communications, and a draft Reference Document on How to Obtain Consent.¹⁴⁴⁰

¹⁴³⁶ The strategic role of Cybersecurity, Ministry of Technological Innovation and Digital Transition (Rome) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://innovazione.gov.it/notizie/articoli/il-ruolo-strategico-della-cybersecurity/>

¹⁴³⁷ Appeal for Opinions on Draft Revision to Guidelines for Promotion of Competition in the Telecommunications Business Field, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (Tokyo) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/eng/pressrelease/2020/11/24_04.html

¹⁴³⁸ Appeal for Opinions on Draft Revision to Guidelines for Promotion of Competition in the Telecommunications Business Field, Release of Revised Guidelines, and Request for Compliance with Guidelines, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (Tokyo) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/eng/pressrelease/2020/12/18_09.html

¹⁴³⁹ Appeal for Proposals to Ensure the Quality of Internet Services in New Daily Lives, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (Tokyo) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/eng/pressrelease/2020/12/02_02.html

¹⁴⁴⁰ Appeal for Opinions on Draft Revision to Commentary for Guidelines for Protection of Personal Information in Telecommunications Business, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/eng/pressrelease/2020/12/04_03.html

On 25 December 2020, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications released Master Plan 3.0 on the Regional Development of Information Communications and Technology (ICT) Infrastructure, providing for infrastructure development in disadvantaged areas for ICT and accelerated development of 5G infrastructure.¹⁴⁴¹

On 3 June 2020, the Act to Improve the Transparency and Fairness of Specified Digital Platforms was promulgated. The act brings significant effect on the business practices of certain digital platform operators active in the Japanese market as it requires them to: (i) disclose information such as terms and conditions of their transaction with counter parties (such as merchants operating online stores on the digital platforms); (ii) develop fair procedures and systems; and (iii) submit an annual report on their business operations to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.¹⁴⁴² It also empowers the government to assess compliance, publicize the results of its assessment, and take necessary actions to enforce compliance, including issuing fines for violations. The act provides that it will become effective on or before 2 June 2021.¹⁴⁴³ The act's enforcement date was later stipulated by Japan's Cabinet as 1 February 2021.¹⁴⁴⁴

On 15 January 2021, Japan signed its first of such kind Comprehensive Memorandum of Cooperation in the Field of Information and Communications Technology with the Ministry of Communications of the Republic of India, which contains among others provisions on cyber security.¹⁴⁴⁵

On 22 January 2021, the State Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications presented the ASEAN-Japan ICT Work Plan 2021 on cooperation and collaboration in the ICT field between Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEANS), which contains among others provisions on cyber security.¹⁴⁴⁶

On 26 January 2021, the Cabinet in its order defined categories and scales of businesses to designate "specified digital platforms" under the Act to Improve the Transparency and Fairness of Specified Digital Platforms; in particular, (i) businesses operating comprehensive online shopping malls selling goods and having sales of 300 billion yen or more per fiscal year in Japan, and (ii) businesses operating application stores and having sales of 200 billion yen or more per fiscal year in Japan were defined as those subject to the act.¹⁴⁴⁷

¹⁴⁴¹ Release of Master Plan 3.0 on the Regional Development of ICT Infrastructure, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (Tokyo) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/eng/pressrelease/2020/12/25_01.html

¹⁴⁴² Global competition around the world: Japan, Lexology (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=76fd2569-c913-466c-af3c-83d5f570cd71>

¹⁴⁴³ Japanese Legislature Passes Act to Regulate Big Tech Platforms, Winston and Strawn LLP (Chicago) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.winston.com/en/competition-corner/japanese-legislature-passes-act-to-regulate-big-tech-platforms.html#!/closed_state

¹⁴⁴⁴ Cabinet Decisions Made on Two Cabinet Orders for the Act on Improving Transparency and Fairness of Digital Platforms, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0126_003.html

¹⁴⁴⁵ Signing of the First Comprehensive Memorandum of Cooperation in the Field of Information and Communications Technology with the Ministry of Communications of the Republic of India, Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications 15 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/eng/pressrelease/2021/1/15_07.html

¹⁴⁴⁶ Result of First ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting with Japan, Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications 22 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/eng/pressrelease/2021/1/25_01.html

¹⁴⁴⁷ Cabinet Decisions Made on Two Cabinet Orders for the Act on Improving Transparency and Fairness of Digital Platforms, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0126_003.html

On 4 February 2021, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry established a study group on the “digital industry” to discuss ways to accelerate digital transformation in business, and achieve growth by providing new value to society while coping with changes in the global competitive environment.¹⁴⁴⁸ Further, on 1 March 2021, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry established a study group on international taxation in the digital economy to elaborate ideal approaches to fair international taxation that contributes to enhancement of Japanese companies’ competitiveness and vitalization of the Japanese economy amid the acceleration of economic digitalization.¹⁴⁴⁹

On 24 February 2021, the 26th EU-Japan ICT dialogue meeting took place: Japan presented its efforts to improve 5G security, and the Smart City Information Security Guidelines, while the EU expressed interest in Japan’s call for cooperation through the activities of the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre; the parties agreed to continue exchanging opinions in the field of cybersecurity.¹⁴⁵⁰

On 26 February 2021, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications 2021 recipients of Cybersecurity Encouragement Prizes of Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications; the Ministry has been recognizing individuals and organizations showing outstanding achievements in the forefront fields of cybersecurity since 2017.¹⁴⁵¹

On 4 March 2021, the National Police Agency, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry jointly released the Report on the Status of the Occurrence of Acts of Unauthorized Computer Access and the Progress of Research and Development on Technology Relating to Access Control Features, as part of their efforts to develop environments that hinder unauthorized computer access in order to prevent crimes.¹⁴⁵²

From 8 to 12 March 2021, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Industrial Cyber Security Center of Excellence under the Information-technology Promotion Agency, in collaboration with the government of the United States hosted the Japan-US Industrial Control Systems Cybersecurity Week; as an integral part of the Cybersecurity Week, Japan, the US, and the European Union have for the first time launched the Japan-US-EU seminars on cybersecurity in the post-COVID environment.¹⁴⁵³

Japan has taken actions in all three aspects of the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

¹⁴⁴⁸ Study Group on Creation of Digital Industry to be Inaugurated, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0204_001.html

¹⁴⁴⁹ “Study Group on International Taxation in the Digital Economy” to be Inaugurated, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0301_001.html

¹⁴⁵⁰ Result of 26th Japan-EU ICT Policy Dialogue, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (Tokyo) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April. https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/eng/pressrelease/2021/2/26_07.html

¹⁴⁵¹ Announcement of Recipients of Cybersecurity Encouragement Prizes of Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (Tokyo) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/eng/pressrelease/2021/2/26_08.html

¹⁴⁵² Report Compiled on the Status of the Occurrence of Acts of Unauthorized Computer Access and the Progress of Research and Development on Technology Relating to Access Control Features, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0304_004.html

¹⁴⁵³ Japan-US Industrial Control Systems Cybersecurity Week for the Indo-Pacific Region in FY2020, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0315_001.html

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with the commitment on supporting fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 7 December 2020, the Financial Services Commission unveiled its plans to introduce a routine inspection of personal data protection at financial institutions to ensure consistency in data protection and improve accountability. The plans include establishing specific inspection standards according to the data lifecycle, providing feedbacks on a regular basis through Financial Security Institute and setting up self-inspection guidelines for financial institutions.¹⁴⁵⁴

On 6 January 2021, the Government of Korea presented the 2021 Action Plan for Digital New Deal. The Digital New Deal is a national innovation project that invests a total of KRW58.2 trillion (approximately USD51.6 billion) into advance data, network and AI-based economic structure, digital infrastructure and regulatory reform. The government aims to create 900,000 new jobs in information communications and technology (ICT)-related spheres by 2025.¹⁴⁵⁵

On 25 February 2021, the Government of Korea presented the 4th Basic Plan for Nurturing and Supporting Scientific Talents for 2021 – 2025 period. The Plan outlines three main policy goals: attract talents with capabilities to respond to future changes; sustain and expand the scientific talent pool; and advance ecosystem for “transforming into a country that attracts talented workforce.” The Ministry of Science and ICT estimated a total of more than KRW25 trillion (approximately USD22.2 billion) would be invested from relevant departments and local governments to support 180 thousand future researchers in promising areas such as Artificial Intelligence technologies, biotechnologies and renewables.¹⁴⁵⁶

On 23 March 2021, Secretary of Planning and Policies of Science, Technology and Innovation Diego Hurtado representing Argentina’s Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, participated in the 2021 Korea-Latin America Digital Cooperation Forum whose central theme was the “Association for the Innovation and Digital Inclusion” organized by Korea’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Secretary Hurtado celebrated the organization of this forum, the purpose of which is to consolidate efforts to share experiences in the face of digital transformation and promote Korea-Latin America cooperation in the areas of digital infrastructure, digital government, smart city and cybersecurity.¹⁴⁵⁷

On 7 April 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs Eui-Yong Chung invited Mexico’s National Digital Strategy Coordination of Mexico to participate virtually in the 2021 Korea-Latin America Digital Cooperation Forum. The head of the National Digital Strategy Coordination Carlos Emiliano Calderón Mercado “highlighted the importance of digital sovereignty for information security, since each country must maintain control of its technological operation and strengthen technical measures to reduce cybersecurity risks, under a continuous improvement model. Likewise, he explained that technological autonomy offers countries the opportunity to define the training areas for their public

¹⁴⁵⁴ FSC to Introduce Routine Inspection of Personal Data Protection at Financial Institutions, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 07 December 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.fsc.go.kr/eng/pr010101/22547>

¹⁴⁵⁵ 2021 Action Plan for Digital New Deal, Ministry of Science and ICT (Seoul) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2021. <https://english.msit.go.kr/eng/bbs/view.do?sCode=eng&mId=4&mPid=2&pageIndex=2&bbsSeqNo=42&nttSeqNo=483&searchOpt=ALL&searchTxt=>

¹⁴⁵⁶ Establish the 4th Basic Plan for Nurturing and Supporting Scientific Talents (2021 – 2025), Ministry of Science and ICT (Seoul) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2021. <https://english.msit.go.kr/eng/bbs/view.do?sCode=eng&mId=4&mPid=2&pageIndex=&bbsSeqNo=42&nttSeqNo=490&searchOpt=ALL&searchTxt=>

¹⁴⁵⁷ Argentina participó del Foro de Cooperación Digital Corea-Latinoamérica 2021, Government of Argentina 23 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-participo-del-foro-de-cooperacion-digital-corea-latinoamerica-2021>

servants, as well as the possibility of implementing focused strategies and tools compatible with the infrastructure, the reuse of source code and a greater use of standards. open. He pointed out that information security management implies carrying out institutional evaluations to make a timely detection of vulnerabilities, mitigate risks against possible threats and coordinate between institutions, the implementation of a protocol for incident management. cybernetics, with the aim of standardizing the actions of identification, protection, detection, response and recovery of information in the event of a cybersecurity incident.”¹⁴⁵⁸

Korea has taken actions in all three aspects of the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 19 January 2021, “the Tax Administration Service (SAT) reiterated its commitment to taxpayers to safeguard their confidential information, which is provided when they carry out procedures on the Portal with the use of the Password or the e.signature.”¹⁴⁵⁹ The SAT constantly carries out “actions to identify situations that put taxpayers’ operations at risk: Identifies atypical behaviors in the issuance of invoices; sends messages through the Tax Mailbox informing about operations that need to be corrected in order to avoid fines or other more severe measures; disables passwords at risk or passwords of taxpayers who have been reported by the health and public registry authorities as deceased to avoid identity theft and the improper use of their data.”¹⁴⁶⁰

On 25 January 2021, “in order to reduce risk situations for students and teachers as Internet users, in addition to contributing to making girls, boys, adolescents and young people less vulnerable to harmful content of the digital age, the National College of Technical Professional Education and Microsoft, presented the e-Book Digital Security Essentials...This joint action seeks to generate in the student community a culture of digital coexistence, raise awareness about habits and behaviors in risk situations, as well as good practices, in addition to helping to protect privacy, increase security and teach how to be a good digital citizen.”¹⁴⁶¹

¹⁴⁵⁸ Soberanía digital, estrategia clave para la seguridad de la información, plantea la CEDN ante Ministerios de TIC de Corea y Latinoamérica [Digital sovereignty, a key strategy for information security, raises the CEDN before ICT Ministries of Korea and Latin America], Mexican Government (Mexico City) 7 April 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/cedn/es/articulos/soberania-digital-estrategia-clave-para-la-seguridad-de-la-informacion-plantea-la-cedn-ante-ministerios-de-tic-de-corea-y-latinoamerica>

¹⁴⁵⁹ Seguridad y protección de datos del contribuyente [Taxpayer data security and protection], Mexican Government (Mexico City) 19 January 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sat/prensa/seguridad-y-proteccion-de-datos-del-contribuyente-011-2021>

¹⁴⁶⁰ Seguridad y protección de datos del contribuyente [Taxpayer data security and protection], Mexican Government (Mexico City) 19 January 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sat/prensa/seguridad-y-proteccion-de-datos-del-contribuyente-011-2021>

¹⁴⁶¹ Boletín SEP no. 20 Fortalece CONALEP la formación de alumnos y profesores con una nueva herramienta para fomentar la Seguridad Digital [SEP Bulletin no. 20 CONALEP strengthens the training of students and teachers with a new tool to promote Digital Security], Mexican Government (Mexico City) 25 January 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-sep-no-20-fortalece-conalep-la-formacion-de-alumnos-y-profesores-con-una-nueva-herramienta-para-fomentar-la-seguridad-digital>

On 25 March 2021, General Guidelines for the Protection of Personal Data for the Public Sector entered into force. It obligated subjects to enable on its institutional Internet portal, a section called “Protection of Personal Data.”¹⁴⁶²

On 7 April 2021, Carlos Emiliano Calderón Mercado, head of the National Digital Strategy Coordination, was invited by Korea’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Eui-Yong Chung to participate virtually in the 2021 Korea-Latin America Digital Cooperation Forum. He “highlighted the importance of digital sovereignty for information security, since each country must maintain control of its technological operation and strengthen technical measures to reduce cybersecurity risks, under a continuous improvement model. Likewise, he explained that technological autonomy offers countries the opportunity to define the training areas for their public servants, as well as the possibility of implementing focused strategies and tools compatible with the infrastructure, the reuse of source code and a greater use of standards. open. He pointed out that information security management implies carrying out institutional evaluations to make a timely detection of vulnerabilities, mitigate risks against possible threats and coordinate between institutions, the implementation of a protocol for incident management. cybernetics, with the aim of standardizing the actions of identification, protection, detection, response and recovery of information in the event of a cybersecurity incident.”¹⁴⁶³

On 23 April 2021, Cyber Incident Response Center of the National Guard’s Scientific Directorate issued Responsible digital identity recommendations. It explained what information can be stolen, what situations are the riskiest and gave advice on how to protect the data and what to do in case of fraud.¹⁴⁶⁴

On 3 May 2021, Federal Consumer Prosecutor’s Office issued the Code of Ethics in Electronic Commerce. It is a set of values and principles that all member suppliers must observe in activities related to electronic commerce, in order to: respect and promote the rights of the consumer population, promote a culture of responsible consumption, promote human rights of consumers, promote ethical and responsible digital advertising, protect vulnerable groups, encourage self-regulation.¹⁴⁶⁵

Mexico has taken actions in all three aspects of the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

¹⁴⁶² Personal data protection, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/cenetec/acciones-y-programas/proteccion-de-datos-personales-267758>

¹⁴⁶³ Soberanía digital, estrategia clave para la seguridad de la información, plantea la CEDN ante Ministerios de TIC de Corea y Latinoamérica [Digital sovereignty, a key strategy for information security, raises the CEDN before ICT Ministries of Korea and Latin America], Mexican Government (Mexico City) 7 April 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/cedn/es/articulos/soberania-digital-estrategia-clave-para-la-seguridad-de-la-informacion-plantea-la-cedn-ante-ministerios-de-tic-de-corea-y-latinoamerica>

¹⁴⁶⁴ Identidad digital responsable [Responsible digital identity], Mexican Government (Mexico City) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/gncertmx/articulos/105224>

¹⁴⁶⁵ Código de Ética en materia de Comercio Electrónico [Code of Ethics in Electronic Commerce], Mexican Government (Mexico City) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/profeco/es/articulos/codigo-de-etica-en-materia-de-comercio-electronico>

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 28 December 2020, the Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation promulgated the Order No. 777 “On Implementation of Recommendations on Certification of Communication Devices Used in Public Access Networks Allowing Functioning of Important Objects of Critical Information Infrastructure.”¹⁴⁶⁶ The Recommendations are a restricted circulation document that has never been presented for public discussion.

On 28 December 2020, the Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation promulgated the Order No. 779 “On Technical and Organizational Measures to Promote Information Security of Public Access Networks Allowing Functioning of Important Objects of Critical Information Infrastructure.”¹⁴⁶⁷

On 28 December 2020, the Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation promulgated the Order No.780 “On Detecting Threats to Stability, Security and Integrity of the Internet and public access networks in the Russian Federation.”¹⁴⁶⁸ The list of threat to stability, security and integrity of information networks in Russia hasn’t been presented for public consideration.

On 15 February 2021, the Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation declared starting of the federal project “Cadres for the Digital Economy” aimed at wider spread of digital skills among administrative personnel, governmental officials and education specialists.¹⁴⁶⁹

On 18 February 2021, the Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation initiated the “KLIK” program that is designed to facilitate digital transformation of Russia’s economy by wider spread of digital skills, especially data-related competencies. Vice Minister Eugeney Kislyakov said that the program would contribute to further improvement of the effectiveness of business and government bodies’ performance.¹⁴⁷⁰

On 03 March 2021, the Ministry Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation presented amendments to the Federal Law “On Personal Data.” The Ministry

¹⁴⁶⁶ Order №777 “On Implementation of Recommendations on Certification of Communication Devices Used in Public Access Networks Allowing Functioning of Important Objects of Critical Information Infrastructure,” Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/documents/7446/>

¹⁴⁶⁷ Order №789 “On Technical and Organizational Measures to Promote Information Security of Public Access Networks Allowing Functioning of Important Objects of Critical Information Infrastructure,” Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/documents/7442/>

¹⁴⁶⁸ Order №780 “On Detecting Threats to Stability, Security and Integrity of the Internet and public access networks in the Russian Federation,” Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/documents/7450/>

¹⁴⁶⁹ Start of the “Digital Economy” educational program, Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/40374/>

¹⁴⁷⁰ Selection for Digital Economy Training Started, Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/40394/>

proposed to introduce several restrictions on personal data operators to limit their capability to identify an information owner with exceptions implying threats to a subject's health and security.¹⁴⁷¹

On 12 May 2021, the Ministry Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation and the Internet Initiatives Development Fund launched a joint initiative to accelerate development of Russian IT start-ups. The program is designed to promote skills and competencies development among information technology entrepreneurs along with boosting start-ups investment attractiveness.¹⁴⁷²

Russia has taken actions in all three aspects of the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 30 December 2020, Saudi Arabia approved the launch of new digital economy policy to encourage investment, accelerate local technical leadership and to attract international partnerships based on transfer of expertise and cooperation in the field of innovation and technical and digital transformation.¹⁴⁷³

On 10 March 2021, Saudi Arabia approved the establishment of the Digital Government Authority. The Authority is tasked with preparing the national eGovernment strategy; overseeing digital government platforms, websites, services and networks; establishing technical standards for government digital transformation models; and regulating Saudi Arabia's government cloud. The launch of the Authority is expected to further accelerate digital transformation and the provision of e-government services in the Kingdom.¹⁴⁷⁴

Saudi Arabia has taken actions in all three aspects of the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

¹⁴⁷¹ Ministry of Digital Development of Russia to Discuss Amendments to the Federal Law "On Personal Data," Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/40498/>

¹⁴⁷² Ministry of Digital Development of Russia Invites Russian IT Strat-Ups to Participate in Acceleration Program, Ministry of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://digital.gov.ru/ru/events/40934/>

¹⁴⁷³ Saudi Arabia launches digital economy policy to become competitive, diversify, Saudi Gazette (Riyadh) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/601959>

¹⁴⁷⁴ Access Alert: Saudi Arabia's New Digital Government Authority, Access Partnership (Riyadh) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.accesspartnership.com/access-alert-ksas-new-digital-government-authority/>

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 19 January 2021, South Africa launched a new educational program for public servants to promote digital skills. Another aim of the program is to teach public officials necessary crisis management and leadership skills. The program is a joint venture in partnership with the Ecole Nationale d'Administration of France.¹⁴⁷⁵

On 25 February 2021, the National Treasury announced allocation of ZAR217 billion (approximately USD14 billion) to promote economic growth. The sum is said to be spent over the next three years. Over the medium term, ZAR5.3 billion (approximately USD3.6 billion) would be set aside for the Department of Science and Innovation to scale up interventions supporting the local production of ventilators, nano satellites, hydrogen fuel cell technologies, and renewable energy research development and pilots.¹⁴⁷⁶

On 25 February 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that the Department of Basic Education had submitted amendments to the national school curriculum. Some schools in South Africa were said to incorporate the new coding and robotics curriculum in 2021. The new curriculum was submitted for consideration by the Council for Quality Assurance in General and Further Education and Training.¹⁴⁷⁷

On 11 March 2021, South Africa decided to relocate extra funds to fulfil the obligations under the National Student Financial Aid Scheme. Further reprioritization is considered as a part of the Medium-Term Budget process that would take place later this year.¹⁴⁷⁸

South Africa takes steps to promote digital security and empower consumers by means of skills development. However, no actions aimed at fostering open, fair, and non-discriminatory have been founded within the monitoring period.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 4 December 2020, Regulation 31324 on the Processing of Personal Data and Protection of Privacy in the Electronic Communication Sector was published in the Official Gazette; the

¹⁴⁷⁵ Public servants to get training on digital transformation, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/public-servants-get-training-digital-transformation>

¹⁴⁷⁶ R217 billion allocated for economic growth programmes, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/r217-billion-allocated-economic-growth-programmes>

¹⁴⁷⁷ Some schools to start piloting coding, robotics curriculum, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/some-schools-start-piloting-coding-robotics-curriculum>

¹⁴⁷⁸ NSFAS to release funds for new qualifying students, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 13 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/nsfas-release-funds-new-qualifying-students>

Regulation has been developed in accordance with the general personal data protection rules established in the Electronic Communication Law and the Personal Data Protection Law, and is aimed to ensure the protection and privacy of personal data in the communications sector and the regulation of procedures and principles regarding operators' relevant data protection obligations. The Regulation defines the minimum technical and administrative measures that must be taken by operators to ensure the safety of their services and personal data, including establishing required security policies; protection of personal data against data breaches such as unauthorized or unlawful access to, or the damage, loss, or disclosure of such data; ensuring the security of systems storing personal data. The Regulation further clarifies the procedures and principles that apply to the obligation to obtain consent.¹⁴⁷⁹

On 22 December 2020, the Data Protection Authority published a new decision, numbered 2020/966, which highlights the importance of the general principles that personal data processed must be accurate and up-to-date. The Decision emphasizes that the data controller has an active duty of care and that it is crucial to verify that personal data is accurate and up to date. The Decision states that in order to ensure the accuracy and timeliness of the data, the channels for collecting personal data must be clearly defined. In addition, reasonable measures must be taken, such as checking through verification codes, to avoid harm to the data owner due to the inaccuracy of personal data.¹⁴⁸⁰

On 30 December 2020, it was reported that President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan signed the country's new national cyber security plan (2020-2023) prepared by Turkey's Transport and Infrastructure Ministry in coordination with the non-governmental organizations, universities, public and private sectors; Turkey's National Cyber Security Strategy and Action Plan include 40 actions and 75 implementation steps in relation to strategic objectives, including to protect the cybersecurity of critical infrastructure, to develop national technological tools for operational needs and to enhance the competencies of teams fighting cyber threats.¹⁴⁸¹

On 12 January 2021, it was reported that the Data Protection Authority launched an investigation into WhatsApp over its new data-sharing rules (sharing of more personal data with Facebook), while the Competition Authority opened a probe into Facebook and WhatsApp and suspended the messenger's new data collection rules in the country. The investigations will look into such issues, as general compliance with personal data protection legislation, data processing conditions and data transfer abroad.¹⁴⁸²

On 12 March 2021, Turkey unveiled the details of a major new economic reform package as pledged by the president last November; as a part of the reform a digital tax office will be established which

¹⁴⁷⁹ The Regulation on the Processing of Personal Data and Protection of Privacy in the Electronic Communication Sector Published | Turkey, ICLG (Ankara) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://iclg.com/briefing/15242-the-regulation-on-the-processing-of-personal-data-and-protection-of-privacy-in-the-electronic-communication-sector-published-turkey>

¹⁴⁸⁰ Turkey: New decision of the Turkish Data Protection Authority, Lexology (London) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=9add5710-ca4f-445a-93c7-ff73c73a913e>

¹⁴⁸¹ Turkey reveals its three-year cybersecurity plan, TRT World (Istanbul) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://www.trtworld.com/magazine/turkey-reveals-its-three-year-cybersecurity-plan-42820>

¹⁴⁸² Turkish watchdog opens WhatsApp probe over new rules, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/science-technology/turkish-watchdog-opens-whatsapp-probe-over-new-rules/2107212>

will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week to enable the public to carry out transactions in the digital environment without personally visiting a tax office.¹⁴⁸³

On 15 March 2021, it was reported that Turkey promoted the establishment of a “cyber security cluster,” made up of local companies that produce software and hardware, aiming to make indigenous products dominant in the country; the cluster currently comprises 180 Turkish companies.¹⁴⁸⁴

On 5 April 2021, it was reported that Turkish Data Protection Authority launched a direct investigation into Facebook over a user data leak.¹⁴⁸⁵

Turkey has taken actions in all three aspects of the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 16 March 2021, the UK published the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy. It stated the bearing of new capabilities for the National Cyber Force. Learning from the pandemic, it bolstered national resilience with a new Situation Centre at the heart of government, improving use of data and the ability to anticipate and respond to future crises.¹⁴⁸⁶

On 30 April 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office published the UK/EU and Eurasian Economic Community: Trade and Cooperation Agreement, there were fixed the existing levels of liberalisation in UK and EU markets, confirming both sides’ leadership in this area and commitment to openness, as well as obligations on net neutrality, which fulfilled the UK’s dual aims of securing commitments towards an open internet and protecting the safety of users online.¹⁴⁸⁷

On 10 May 2021, the fourth annual report on the National Cyber Security Centre’s Active Cyber Defence programme was released. It disclosed it had taken down more scams in the last year than in

¹⁴⁸³ Turkey announces landmark new economic reform package, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/economy/turkey-announces-landmark-new-economic-reform-package/2173910>

¹⁴⁸⁴ Turkey promotes indigenous ‘Cyber Security Cluster’: Defense industries head, Hurriyet (Ankara) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://www.hurriyetcailynews.com/turkey-promotes-indigenous-cyber-security-cluster-defense-industries-head-163129>

¹⁴⁸⁵ Turkey launches probe into Facebook over data leak, Hurriyet (Ankara) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://www.hurriyetcailynews.com/turkey-launches-probe-into-facebook-over-data-leak-163708>

¹⁴⁸⁶ Integrated Review sets vision for stronger, more secure, prosperous and resilient nation, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/975077/Global_Britain_in_a_Competitive_Age_the_Integrated_Review_of_Security_Defence_Development_and_Foreign_Policy.pdf

¹⁴⁸⁷ UK/EU and EAEC: Trade and Cooperation Agreement [TS No.8/2021], Government of the United Kingdom (London) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agreements-reached-between-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-and-the-european-union/summary-explainer>

the previous three years combined as the organization moved to further protect the UK public and critical services such as the National Health Service during the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁴⁸⁸

The United Kingdom has taken actions in all three aspects of the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

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

Analyst: Sergei Vasilkovsky

United States: 0

United States has partially complied with the commitment to foster an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, protect and empowering consumers, and address the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 14 December 2020, the Federal Trade Commission, in cooperation with 19 federal, state, and local law enforcement partners announced a “nationwide crackdown on scams that target consumers with fake promises of income and financial independence that have no basis in reality,” nicknamed “Operation Income Illusion.” The crackdown encompassed more than 50 law enforcement actions targeting work-from-home and employment scams, pyramid schemes, investment scams, bogus coaching courses, and other schemes.¹⁴⁸⁹

On 3 February 2021, the Federal Trade Commission announced that it had sent refunds totaling around USD4.7 million to 10,249 victims of the Digital Altitude business coaching scheme.¹⁴⁹⁰

On 22 February 2021, the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency announced seven grant awards to the Secure and Resilient Mobile Network Infrastructure project. The awards, totaling USD9.75 million, were aimed at “developing protections for legacy cellular networks — 2G, 3G and 4G, building security into the newly launched 5G network, and developing end-to-end protection of network traffic, including a standardized secure voice capability for unclassified government communications.”¹⁴⁹¹

On 8 March 2021, the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency announced two additional grant awards to the Secure and Resilient Mobile Network Infrastructure project. The two awards, USD915,000 and USD1.2 million, respectively, are focused on developing solutions designed to “improve the

¹⁴⁸⁸ Active Cyber Defence – The fourth Year, the National Cyber Security Centre (London) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/files/Active-Cyber-Defence-ACD-The-Fourth-Year.pdf>

¹⁴⁸⁹ As Scammers Leverage Pandemic Fears, FTC and Law Enforcement Partners Crack Down on Deceptive Income Schemes Nationwide, Federal Trade Commission (Washington, DC) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2020/12/scammers-leverage-pandemic-fears-ftc-law-enforcement-partners>

¹⁴⁹⁰ FTC Sends Nearly \$4.7 Million to Victims of Digital Altitude Business Coaching Scheme, Federal Trade Commission (Washington, DC) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2021/02/ftc-sends-nearly-47-million-victims-digital-altitude-business>

¹⁴⁹¹ News Release: DHS Announces Seven R&D Awards to Help Secure Nation's Mobile Network Infrastructure, Department of Homeland Security (Washington, DC) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/news/2021/02/22/news-release-dhs-announces-rd-awards-help-secure-mobile-network-infrastructure#>

government's visibility into mobile device network traffic to identify malware, attacks or attempts to extract data from or through mobile devices."¹⁴⁹²

On 12 May 2021, President Joseph Biden signed the Executive Order on Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity. The Order aims to: remove barriers to threat information sharing between government and the private sector; modernize and implement stronger cybersecurity standards in the federal government; improve software supply chain security; establish a cybersecurity safety review board; create a standard playbook for responding to cyber incidents; improve detection of cybersecurity incidents on federal government networks; and improve investigative and remediation capabilities.¹⁴⁹³

The United States has taken actions in two of the three issue areas related to digital growth: empowering and protecting consumers while addressing issues related to privacy, data protection and intellectual property rights; and addressing digital security risks.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

European Union: 0

The European Union has partially complied with the commitment to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment, and protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy, data protection, intellectual property rights, and security.

On 16 December 2020, was adopted the new EU's Cybersecurity Strategy in the Digital Decade. It stated that the EU should boost the security of essential services and strength collective capabilities and international stability in cyberspace.¹⁴⁹⁴

On 2 March 2021, the Agency for Cybersecurity and the Computer Emergency Response Team for the EU Institutions, Bodies and Agencies announced the signature of a memorandum of understanding to enhance the cybersecurity.¹⁴⁹⁵

On 23 April 2021, the European Union's lead data protection supervisor called for remote biometric surveillance in public places to be banned outright under incoming AI legislation.¹⁴⁹⁶

On 12 May 2021, the Commission proposed new rules and actions aiming to turn Europe into the global hub for trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (AI). The combination of the first-ever legal framework on AI and a new Coordinated Plan with Member States would guarantee the safety and

¹⁴⁹² News Release: DHS Announces Two R&D Projects to Enhance Mobile Network Traffic Security, Department of Homeland Security (Washington, DC) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/news/2021/03/08/news-release-dhs-announces-two-rd-projects-enhance-mobile-network-traffic-security>

¹⁴⁹³ Executive Order on Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity, the White House (Washington, DC) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/05/12/executive-order-on-improving-the-nations-cybersecurity/>

¹⁴⁹⁴ The EU's Cybersecurity Strategy in the Digital Decade (Brussels) 16 December 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/eus-cybersecurity-strategy-digital-decade>

¹⁴⁹⁵ ENISA and CERT-EU sign Agreement to start their Structured Cooperation (Brussels) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.enisa.europa.eu/news/enisa-news/enisa-and-cert-eu-sign-agreement-to-start-their-structured-cooperation>

¹⁴⁹⁶ EU's top data protection supervisor urges ban on facial recognition in public (Brussels) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://techcrunch.com/2021/04/23/eus-top-data-protection-supervisor-urges-ban-on-facial-recognition-in-public>

fundamental rights of people and businesses, while strengthening AI uptake, investment and innovation across the EU.¹⁴⁹⁷

On 12 May 2021, the European Commission launched a public consultation on the formulation of a set of principles to promote and uphold EU values in the digital space. These principles aimed to guide the EU and Member States in designing digital rules and regulations that deliver the benefits of digitalisation for all citizens.¹⁴⁹⁸

The European Union has taken actions to support fostering an open, fair, and non-discriminatory environment and security, but no actions regarding protecting and empowering consumers, while addressing the challenges related to privacy have been founded.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Sergei Vasilkovsky

¹⁴⁹⁷ Europe fit for the Digital Age: Commission proposes new rules and actions for excellence and trust in Artificial Intelligence (Brussels) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/europe-fit-digital-age-commission-proposes-new-rules-and-actions-excellence-and-trust-artificial>

¹⁴⁹⁸ Europe's Digital Decade: Commission launches consultation and discussion on EU digital principles (Brussels) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2288

6. International Taxation: Tax Systems

“We will continue our cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada		0	
China		0	
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia			+1
Italy			+1
Japan		0	
Korea		0	
Mexico	-1		
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa		0	
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.50 (75%)	

Background

International taxation has been a longstanding item of importance on the G20’s agenda. As early as the first G20 leaders’ summit in 2008, G20 leaders committed to medium-term actions to promote tax information exchange and transparency through the work of tax authorities and under the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).¹⁴⁹⁹ In the Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy adopted in 2008, G20 leaders recognized the importance of tax cooperation to promoting integrity in financial markets.

At the subsequent summit in London in 2009, G20 leaders pledged to “take action against non-cooperative jurisdictions, including tax havens,” which do not meet international standards of tax transparency.¹⁵⁰⁰ In an annexed summit outcome document, the Declaration on Strengthening the Financial System, G20 leaders committed to facilitating the access of developing countries to “the benefits of a new cooperative tax environment.”¹⁵⁰¹

¹⁴⁹⁹ Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, G20 Information Centre (Washington DC) 15 November 2008. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2008/2008declaration1115.html>

¹⁵⁰⁰ London Summit – Leaders’ Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 April 2009. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0402.pdf>

¹⁵⁰¹ Declaration on Strengthening the Financial System – London Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 April 2009. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009ifi.pdf>

In September 2009, G20 leaders convened at the ensuing summit in Pittsburgh and noted collective progress in fighting non-cooperative jurisdictions. In the leaders' statement, G20 leaders committed to advancing "momentum in dealing with tax havens, money laundering, proceeds of corruption, terrorist financing, and prudential standards."¹⁵⁰²

At the Seoul summit in 2010, G20 leaders reiterated their commitment to "preventing non-cooperative jurisdictions from posing risks to the global financial system and welcomed the ongoing efforts by the FSB, Global Forum on Tax Transparency and Exchange of Information (Global Forum), and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), based on comprehensive, consistent and transparent assessment."¹⁵⁰³ Furthermore, the leaders pledged to "build sustainable revenue bases for inclusive growth and social equity by improving developing country tax administration systems and policies and highlighting the relationship between non-cooperative jurisdictions and development."¹⁵⁰⁴

In November 2011, G20 leaders convened in Cannes, France, and adopted outcome documents that contained unilateral commitments on tax reform. G20 members such as the United States, France, Japan, India, Italy, and Germany individually committed to policy actions such as growth-friendly reduction of tax expenditures and other employment-friendly tax reforms.¹⁵⁰⁵ In the summit declaration, G20 leaders collectively reaffirmed their commitment to protecting "public finances and the global financial system from the risks posed by tax havens and non-cooperative jurisdictions," with an emphasis on supporting tax systems in Least Developed Countries.¹⁵⁰⁶

At the Los Cabos Summit in 2012, G20 leaders renewed their "commitment to strengthen transparency and comprehensive exchange of information" and welcomed the "OECD report on the practice of automatic information exchange," reaffirming the leaders' intention to implement this practice.¹⁵⁰⁷ Moreover, G20 leaders highlighted "the need to prevent base erosion and profit shifting," also under the framework of the OECD.¹⁵⁰⁸ At the same summit, G20 leaders adopted the Los Cabos Growth and Jobs Action Plan, which contains a commitment to engage in tax and expenditure reforms to improve debt-to-GDP ratios and strengthen medium-term foundations for growth.¹⁵⁰⁹

At the St. Petersburg Summit in 2013, G20 leaders dedicated a section of the leaders' declaration to "Addressing Base Erosion and Profit Shifting, Tackling Tax Avoidance, and Promoting Tax Transparency and Automatic Exchange of Information."¹⁵¹⁰ This includes a commitment to improve "rules to tackle tax avoidance, harmful practices, and aggressive tax planning" and "ensure

¹⁵⁰² G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 25 February 2021. www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communiqu0925.html

¹⁵⁰³ The Seoul Summit Document, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 November 2010. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/g20seoul-doc.html>

¹⁵⁰⁴ The Seoul Summit Document, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 November 2010. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/g20seoul-doc.html>

¹⁵⁰⁵ 2011 G20 Cannes Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 4 November 2011. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2011cannes.html>

¹⁵⁰⁶ Cannes Summit Final Declaration – Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

¹⁵⁰⁷ G20 Leaders Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 25 February 2021. www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html

¹⁵⁰⁸ G20 Leaders Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

¹⁵⁰⁹ The Los Cabos Growth and Jobs Action Plan, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos-actionplan.html>

¹⁵¹⁰ G20 Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

confidentiality and the proper use of information exchanged” under the proposed “new single standard for automatic exchange of information.”¹⁵¹¹ Other summit commitments from 2013 elucidated the need to share expertise, build the capacity of developing countries, and tackle tax crimes.¹⁵¹²

At the Brisbane Summit in 2014, G20 leaders welcomed “progress on the G20/OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Action Plan to modernize international tax rules.”¹⁵¹³ They also committed to enhancing tax transparency, combating cross-border tax evasion, building tax administration capacity and other tax-related areas of work.¹⁵¹⁴

In 2015, at the Antalya Summit in Turkey, G20 leaders reaffirmed “previous commitments to information exchange on-Request as well as to automatic exchange of information.”¹⁵¹⁵ They also pledged to “strengthen developing economies’ engagement in the international tax agenda.”¹⁵¹⁶

At the Hangzhou Summit hosted by China in September 2016, G20 leaders committed to continue their “support for international tax cooperation to achieve a globally fair and modern international tax system and to foster growth, including advancing on-going cooperation on base erosion and profits shifting,” exchange of tax information, capacity-building for developing countries, growth-promoting tax policies, tax certainty, and taxation-based channels of terrorist financing.¹⁵¹⁷ In addition, the Hangzhou Action Plan attributed a section to “Tax for Growth,” which included commitments on coordinated tax policies for a “fair and efficient international tax system.”¹⁵¹⁸

At the 2017 summit hosted by Germany in Hamburg, G20 leaders reiterated their pledge to a “globally fair and modern international tax system” and the BEPS package.¹⁵¹⁹ The leaders emphasized the implementation of agreed international standards on tax transparency, tax certainty, capacity-building, tax evasion, and emerging tax challenges from a digitalized economy.¹⁵²⁰ The spotlight on tax cooperation was further advanced by the Hamburg Action Plan, which inscribed a commitment to enhancing international tax cooperation, automatic exchange of information, and tax aid effectiveness, among other areas.¹⁵²¹

¹⁵¹¹ G20 Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

¹⁵¹² G20 Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

¹⁵¹³ G20 Leaders' Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communiqué.html>

¹⁵¹⁴ G20 Leaders' Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communiqué.html>

¹⁵¹⁵ G20 Leaders' Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communiqué.html>

¹⁵¹⁶ G20 Leaders' Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communiqué.html>

¹⁵¹⁷ G20 Leaders' Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communiqué.html>

¹⁵¹⁸ Hangzhou Action Plan, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-action.html>

¹⁵¹⁹ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁵²⁰ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁵²¹ G20 Hamburg Action Plan, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 25 February 2021. www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-g20-hamburg-action-plan.html

At the 2018 summit hosted in Buenos Aires, Argentina, G20 leaders emphasized the importance of secure sustainable tax systems.¹⁵²² They also recognized the tax implications of digitalization of the economy and the importance of tax capacity-building for developing countries. The leaders echoed previous pledges on the BEPS package and committed to “a globally fair, sustainable and modern international tax system based in particular on tax treaties and transfer pricing rules.”¹⁵²³

In 2019, G20 leaders convened in Osaka, Japan, and reiterated their commitment to “a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.”¹⁵²⁴ They further echoed previous pledges to tax capacity-building in developing countries, as well as the Inclusive Framework on BEPS and its efforts to address tax challenges arising from digitalization.¹⁵²⁵ They noted the importance of enhanced cooperation through tax treaties, exchange of financial account information, implementation of OECD and tax transparency standards, tax capacity-building, and the BEPS package.¹⁵²⁶

The consistent prominence of international taxation as an agenda item at the G20 leaders’ level reflects the breadth and depth of this issue area. In the G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration adopted on 21 November 2020, G20 leaders continued their track record of emphasis on international taxation by committing that “we will continue our cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.”¹⁵²⁷

Commitment Features

The present commitment is situated in the following paragraph of the G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration on International Taxation:

“We will continue our cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system. We welcome the Reports on the Blueprints for Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 approved for public release by the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS. Building on this solid basis, we remain committed to further progress on both pillars and urge the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS to address the remaining issues with a view to reaching a global and consensus-based solution by mid-2021. We welcome the report approved by the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS on the tax policy implications of virtual currencies. We welcome the progress made on implementing the internationally agreed tax transparency standards and on the established automatic exchange of information. We will continue our support to developing countries in strengthening their tax capacity to build sustainable tax revenue bases.”¹⁵²⁸

To define the key terms in this commitment, “cooperation” is understood to mean “the action or process of working together to the same end.”¹⁵²⁹ “Fair” is defined as treating one “in a way that is

¹⁵²² G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁵²³ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁵²⁴ G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁵²⁵ G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁵²⁶ G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁵²⁷ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Riyadh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

¹⁵²⁸ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Riyadh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

¹⁵²⁹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

right or reasonable” or as one expects or deserves.¹⁵³⁰ In the context of taxation, “fair” is understood in the context of individuals and corporations paying their due share of taxes.¹⁵³¹ As an objective, fair taxation can be facilitated by policies that seek to address tax avoidance through the designation of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions, or other measures to prevent base erosion and profit shifting practices that undermine the integrity of taxation systems.¹⁵³²

“Sustainable” is understood to mean the ability to continue over a long time or be maintained with momentum.¹⁵³³ “Modern” means designed and made using “recently developed ideas, methods or styles.”¹⁵³⁴ For example, efforts to strive for a modern tax system may include adjusting the design and administration of tax systems and international rules to respond to digital transformations in the global economy.¹⁵³⁵ Other elements of a modern tax system may include e-invoicing and voluntary compliance and self-assessment procedures, which seek to remove obstacles for growth, mitigate cyclical volatility, and improve the re-distributional aspects of taxation.¹⁵³⁶

The concept of the “international tax system” refers to the architecture of rules, controls, and instruments that govern cross-border taxation, striving to ensure stability, certainty and consistency as the underpinning principles of this international regulatory regime.¹⁵³⁷ The international tax regime predominantly focuses on individual and corporate income tax, addressing issues such as the allocation of taxing rights between source and resident countries. International taxation and effective governance thereof are essential for business activities, investment attraction, comparative advantages in international trade, curbing crime and corruption, and a range of distributional and growth-related domestic political economy issues. Hence, the importance of policy coordination between G20 economies in the issue area of international taxation cannot be understated.

To contextualize the scope of actions that constitute “cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system,” one may draw upon fifteen actions developed under the OECD/G20 BEPS Project. Actions by G20 governments in line with the areas provided below may be considered to fall within the parameters of the present commitment. The indicative list constitutes a set of rules and instruments to address tax evasion and improve domestic and international taxation architectures:

- “Action 1 Tax Challenges Arising from Digitalisation: dealing with the large range of tax challenges arising from the digitalization of the economy to develop a consensus-based solution by mid-2021

¹⁵³⁰ Fair, Cambridge English Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/fair>

¹⁵³¹ Fair Taxation: EU updates list of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions, European Commission (Brussels) 18 February 2020. Access Date: 1 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_262

¹⁵³² Joint Action for Efficient and Fair Taxation, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Paris) 20 July 2013. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/about/secretary-general/joint-action-efficient-fair-taxation.htm>

¹⁵³³ Sustainable, Cambridge English Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/sustainable>

¹⁵³⁴ Modern, Cambridge English Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/modern>

¹⁵³⁵ Tax and Digitalization, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Paris) March 2019. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/going-digital/tax-and-digitalisation.pdf>

¹⁵³⁶ Modern Tax Systems, Parliament of Australia (Canberra) n.d. Access Date: 1 April 2021.

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Tax_and_Revenue/Taxpayerengagement/Report_1/section?id=committees%2Freportrep%2F024169%2F25967

¹⁵³⁷ Global Taxation, International Chamber of Commerce (Paris) n.d. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://iccwbo.org/global-issues-trends/competitive-markets/global-taxation/>

- Action 2 Neutralising the Effects of Hybrid Mismatch Arrangements: preventing hybrid mismatch arrangements from being used for BEPS while minimising impact on cross-border trade and investment
- Action 3 Controlled Foreign Company: reducing the incentive of taxpayers to shift income from a market country into foreign subsidiaries in a low-tax jurisdiction
- Action 4 Limitation on Interest Deductions: establishing rules that link an entity's net interest deductions to its level of economic activity within the jurisdiction
- Action 5 Harmful Tax Practices: countering harmful tax practices with a focus on improving transparency
- Action 6 Prevention of Tax Treaty Abuse: developing model tax treaty provisions and recommendations to prevent treaty abuse
- Action 7 Permanent Establishment Status: preventing artificial avoidance of permanent establishment status in tax treaties through commissionaire structures and more
- Actions 8-10 Transfer Pricing: guidance for applying the arm's length principle
 - Action 8 Intangibles
 - Action 9 Risks and Capital
 - Action 10 High-Risk Transactions
- Action 11 BEPS Data Analysis: collecting and analyzing data on the economic and fiscal effects of tax avoidance behaviours and on the impact of measures proposed under the BEPS Project
- Action 12 Mandatory Disclosure Rules: requiring taxpayers and advisors to disclose aggressive tax planning arrangements to tax authorities
- Action 13 Country-by-Country Reporting: improving tax transparency
- Action 14 Mutual Agreement Procedure: making dispute resolution between jurisdiction more timely, effective, and efficient
- Action 15 Multilateral Instrument: implementing the tax treaty-related BEPS recommendations to address vulnerabilities in existing tax treaties"¹⁵³⁸

In the context of the commitment's paragraph (reproduced above) and previous commitments made by G20 leaders on international taxation, the scoring of this commitment is divided into two pillars of cooperation: 1) bilateral or plurilateral cooperation and 2) cooperation through multilateral frameworks. While the former refers to state-to-state cooperation, often ad hoc in nature or based on "coalitions of the willing" arrangements such as Memoranda of Understanding, the latter form of cooperation takes place through channels of established multilateral institutions. Such multilateral

¹⁵³⁸ BEPS Actions, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Paris) Access Date: 25 February 2021.
<https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/beps-actions/>

institutions may include, but are not limited to, the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS, United Nations agencies, and other summits such as the G7 and BRICS.¹⁵³⁹

The depth dimension, or the strength of the action required to demonstrate compliance, is qualified by the phrase “continue our cooperation.” This is interpreted to mean the G20 leaders are building on already existing work.

Full compliance, or a score of +1, is assigned to G20 members that demonstrate substantial policy action in both pillars of the commitment by working with other governments. The G20 member must cooperate through both bilateral/plurilateral inter-state channels and multilateral frameworks to demonstrate they have continued to cooperate on this issue. This can include financial pledges, legislative and legal action, the establishment of partnerships, high-level meetings and summits, draft proposals, technical assistance projects, signature and ratification of international agreements etc. Members that take strong action in one of the two dimensions, but slightly less than strong action in the other will still receive a score for full compliance.

Partial compliance includes all actions that are less than strong. This includes verbal reaffirmations of the commitment through a public statement, simply attending a meeting with no evidence of the members’ individual contribution etc. A member receives a score of 0 if it demonstrates less than strong compliance across the commitment. In other words, full compliance necessitates strong policy action on at least one of the dimensions of cooperation at the inter-state level. If the G20 member introduced reforms to its domestic tax policies with no cross-border implications, yet the policy actions align with the objectives of the OECD/G20 BEPS Project, such actions would still fall within the scope of partial compliance.

Non-compliance, denoted by -1, is scored by G20 members that did not engage in any cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member did NOT continue its cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable and modern international tax system.
0	G20 member PARTIALLY continued its cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system through bilateral/plurilateral arrangements OR multilateral institutions.
+1	G20 member FULLY continued its cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system through bilateral/plurilateral arrangements AND multilateral institutions.

*Compliance Director: Angela Min Yi Hou
Lead Analyst: Chan Wai Suet Gi Gi*

Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with its commitment to continue cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable and modern international tax system.

On 28 January 2021, Argentina signed an agreement with the US to exchange country-by-country reporting on the tax affairs of large multinational groups, allowing assessments of multinational companies’ tax avoidance activities through inappropriate transfer pricing or other means.¹⁵⁴⁰

¹⁵³⁹ About the Inclusive Framework on BEPS, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Paris) Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/beps-about.htm/>

On 12 March 2021, Argentina enacted Law No. 27613, which introduced tax incentives for real estate investment and a voluntary disclosure program on the possession of national and/or foreign currency.¹⁵⁴¹

On 20 March 2021, the government presented a proposal to change individual and corporate income tax laws. It proposed to raise income tax bracket rates for large companies to compensate for the shortfall created by the pandemic. It further proposed to maintain a 25 per cent tax rate on small companies and create a 7 per cent tax on the distribution of profits for companies.¹⁵⁴²

Argentina has pursued bilateral arrangements with the US to facilitate exchange of information on large multinational enterprises. It has also pursued domestic reforms in digital taxation and monitoring of foreign currency possession. However, Argentina has yet to demonstrate continued cooperation in international taxation through multilateral institutions.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Faadil Butt

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 3 December 2020, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) released an updated Practice Statement Law Administration (PSLA) 2015/4 pertaining to Advance Pricing Arrangements (APA).¹⁵⁴³ This Practice Statement intends to clarify the practice and procedures to ATO staff when working with APAs and promote transparency by helping taxpayers understand the approval and review process.¹⁵⁴⁴

On 10 December 2020, the ATO announced updates to Practical Compliance Guideline (PCG) 2017/4, a document concerning cross-border financing agreements and transactions.¹⁵⁴⁵ The updated version contains Schedule 3, which concerns interest-free loans between parties and outlines the risk assessment of international related-party dealings to ensure compliance with transfer pricing rules.^{1546,1547}

¹⁵⁴⁰ US, Argentina agree to exchange country-by-country reports on large multinationals, MNE Tax (Washington, DC) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://mnetax.com/us-argentina-agree-to-exchange-country-by-country-reports-of-large-multinational-42276>

¹⁵⁴¹ Argentina: National Executive Branch enacts Law No. 27,613 that provides tax benefits for real estate projects and the voluntary declaration of national or foreign currency in Argentina and abroad, Global Compliance News (Frankfurt) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://globalcompliancenews.com/argentina-national-executive-branch-enacts-law-no-27613-that-provides-tax-benefits-for-real-estate-projects-and-the-voluntary-declaration-of-national-or-foreign-currency-in-argentina-and-abroad-120320/>

¹⁵⁴² Argentina will raise income tax for large companies, Rio Times (Rio de Janeiro) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://riotimesonline.com/brazil-news/mercosur/mercosur-latin-america-caribbean/argentina-will-raise-income-tax-for-large-companies/>

¹⁵⁴³ Practice Statement Law Administration, Australian Taxation Office (Canberra) 23 July 2015. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.ato.gov.au/law/view/document?DocID=PSR/PS20154/NAT/ATO/00001&PiT=99991231235958#LawTimeline>

¹⁵⁴⁴ Practice Statement Law Administration, Australian Taxation Office (Canberra) 23 July 2015. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.ato.gov.au/law/view/document?DocID=PSR/PS20154/NAT/ATO/00001&PiT=99991231235958#LawTimeline>

¹⁵⁴⁵ Practical Compliance Guideline PCG 2017/4, Australian Taxation Office (Canberra) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.ato.gov.au/law/view/document?docid=COG/PCG20174/NAT/ATO/00001#H193>

¹⁵⁴⁶ Australia: Updated ATO guidance, cross-border related-party financing arrangement, KPMG (Amstelveen) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 9 May 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2020/12/tnf-australia-updated-ato-guidance-cross-border-related-party-financing-arrangements.html>

On 17 December 2020, Australia passed the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019.¹⁵⁴⁸ The amendment strengthens the anti-money laundering and terrorism financing framework through enhancing customer identification, restricting shell banks, requiring stricter bank due diligence and expanding allowances of tip-off to external auditors.¹⁵⁴⁹

On 3 March 2021, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Australia and Belgium took effect. The MOU established an arbitration process provided in Part VI of the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).¹⁵⁵⁰ This MOU was signed in accordance with Article 25 of the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion between Australia and Belgium.¹⁵⁵¹

On 12 March 2021, Member of Parliament Josh Frydenberg announced that the government reaffirms its commitment to support the OECD in addressing harmful tax practices. Specifically, the government plans to introduce legislation in Parliament which will reform the Offshore Banking Unit.¹⁵⁵²

On 1 April 2021, the ATO released a synthesized text to facilitate understanding of the Agreement between the government of Australia and the government of Indonesia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income as modified by the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent BEPS.¹⁵⁵³

On 21 April 2021, the ATO released the Draft PCG 2021/D3, which outlines the ATO's assessment of risk associated with hybrid mismatch rules, as well as the level of supporting information the Commissioner of Taxation expects taxpayers to have in order to demonstrate compliance.¹⁵⁵⁴

Through bilateral arrangements with Belgium and Indonesia, domestic legislative actions, and cooperation under the framework of multilateral institutions, Australia has demonstrated full commitment to advancing cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

¹⁵⁴⁷ Practical Compliance Guideline PCG 2017/4, Australian Taxation Office (Canberra) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.ato.gov.au/law/view/document?docid=COG/PCG20174/NAT/ATO/00001#H193>

¹⁵⁴⁸ Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, Parliament of Australia (Canberra) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bld=r6431

¹⁵⁴⁹ Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, Parliament of Australia (Canberra) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bld=r6431

¹⁵⁵⁰ Memorandum of Understanding on the Mode of Application on the Implementation of Part VI of the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting between the competent authorities of Australia and the Kingdom of Belgium, Australian Taxation Office (Canberra) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ato.gov.au/law/view/view.htm?docid=%22MOU%2FBelgium%22>

¹⁵⁵¹ Memorandum of Understanding on the Mode of Application on the Implementation of Part VI of the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting between the competent authorities of Australia and the Kingdom of Belgium, Australian Taxation Office (Canberra) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ato.gov.au/law/view/view.htm?docid=%22MOU%2FBelgium%22>

¹⁵⁵² Amending Australia's Offshore Banking Unit Regime, Australian Taxation Office (Canberra) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://ministers.treasury.gov.au/ministers/josh-frydenberg-2018/media-releases/amending-australias-offshore-banking-unit-regime-0>

¹⁵⁵³ Synthesized Text of the MLI and The Agreement Between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on income, Australian Taxation Office (Canberra) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.ato.gov.au/law/view/document?DocID=MLI/MLI-Indonesia-agreement>

¹⁵⁵⁴ Draft Practical Compliance Guideline, Australian Taxation Office (Canberra) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.ato.gov.au/law/view/document?DocID=DPC/PCG2021D3/NAT/ATO/00001>

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jessica Johnson

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 18 December 2020, the Federal Region Court of the 3rd Region judged in Resp 1.759.081-SP that payments for engineering and administrative assistance services should not be considered as royalties in the context of the Brazil-Spain double taxation treaty.¹⁵⁵⁵

On 1 December 2020, the Ministry of Economy clarified that cryptocurrency transactions may entail reporting requirements to tax authorities. This clarification on tax reporting was prompted by a consultation request submitted by the Board of Trade of the State of São Paulo, which inquired how cryptocurrencies could be used by corporations under domestic laws and the relevant regulations therein.¹⁵⁵⁶

On 25 February 2021, the Senate approved three new treaties for the elimination of double taxation and the prevention of tax evasion and avoidance, respectively signed with Switzerland, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates in alignment with the base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) framework.¹⁵⁵⁷

On 11 March 2021, the Financial Activities Control Council published Resolution No. 36/2021, which regulates the adoption of policies, procedures and internal controls to prevent money laundering, terrorist financing, and the financing of weapons of mass destruction.¹⁵⁵⁸

On 16 March 2021, as part of a national campaign to combat domestic tax evasion, Brazil issued 35 arrest warrants for companies in the coffee industry accused of evaded taxes. The national campaign extends across 39 cities in four states.¹⁵⁵⁹

On 16 March 2021, Brazil's double taxation treaty with Switzerland entered into force. This treaty protects cross-border workers from double taxation, includes an anti-abuse clause, and establishes exchange of information according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's BEPS framework.¹⁵⁶⁰

Brazil has demonstrated substantial bilateral efforts in signing double taxation treaties with Switzerland, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates. It has also demonstrated domestic action to improve its taxation system by addressing emerging developments in financial assets such as

¹⁵⁵⁵ New outlook for Brazil on withholding tax on service remittances abroad, International Tax Review (London) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/b1rhrj2q325cd1/new-outlook-for-brazil-on-withholding-tax-on-service-remittances-abroad>

¹⁵⁵⁶ Cryptocurrency or digital currency in the integralization of corporate capital, JD Supra (New York) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/cryptocurrency-or-digital-currency-in-9487408/>

¹⁵⁵⁷ Brazilian Senate approves three new treaties for the avoidance of double taxation, Ernst and Young (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/brazilian-senate-approves-three-new-treaties-for-the-avoidance-of-double-taxation

¹⁵⁵⁸ New Brazilian AML Regulation, Almeida Advogados Corporate law (Sao Paulo) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.almeidalaw.com.br/en/midia/2021/03/new-brazilian-aml-regulation/>

¹⁵⁵⁹ Brazil cracks down on coffee firms for alleged tax fraud, NASDAQ (New York) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/brazil-cracks-down-on-coffee-firms-for-alleged-tax-fraud-2021-03-16>

¹⁵⁶⁰ Switzerland – Double Taxation Treaty with Brazil Entering into Force, KPMG (Zurich) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2021/04/flash-alert-2021-119.html>

cryptocurrencies, adopting policies against terrorist financing, and combatting tax evasion in alignment with the BEPS framework.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Faadil Butt

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 27-28 January 2021, Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland, along with Ministers of Finance from Germany, Italy, Indonesia, Jamaica and the UK, emphasized the need for a multilateral digital tax solution at the public meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)/G20 Inclusive Framework.¹⁵⁶¹

On 19 April 2021, Canada's 2021 budget announced a digital service tax as an interim measure towards reaching a multilateral agreement on digital taxation under the base erosion and profit shifting.¹⁵⁶² The digital service tax will levy 3 per cent revenue from online marketplaces, social media, online advertising and the sale of user data.¹⁵⁶³

On 19 April 2021, Canada's 2021 budget announced limitations on excessive interest deductions by large companies, proposed to eliminate the tax benefits of hybrid mismatch arrangements and enhance mandatory disclosure rules on income tax.¹⁵⁶⁴ The budget proposed CAD304 million to strengthen the Canada Revenue Agency's ability to increase cooperation with international partners and combat tax evasion and aggressive tax avoidance.¹⁵⁶⁵ It also proposed improving transfer pricing rules to prevent inappropriate shifting of corporate income out of Canada.¹⁵⁶⁶

On 19 April 2021, Canada's 2021 budget proposed CAD4.6 million to enable the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada to develop its expertise on virtual currencies and prevent money laundering and terrorist financing activities. The budget also proposed to "address legislative gaps and streamline the revocation process to prevent abuse of charitable status" by terrorist entities.¹⁵⁶⁷

Canada has contributed to multilateral negotiations on digital tax solutions and proposed financial resources domestically to increase cross-border cooperation and combat hybrid mismatch, tax evasion and terrorist financing activities. However, Canada has not continued its tax cooperation on a bilateral basis.

¹⁵⁶¹ This week in tax: Janet Yellen raises hope for digital tax agreement, International Tax Review (London) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/b1qbd4l2twjm64/this-week-in-tax-janet-yellen-raises-hope-for-digital-tax-agreement>

¹⁵⁶² Budget 2021, Annex 7: Consultations on Other Tax Measures: Supplementary Information, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/report-rapport/anx7-en.html>

¹⁵⁶³ Budget 2021, Annex 7: Consultations on Other Tax Measures: Supplementary Information, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/report-rapport/anx7-en.html>

¹⁵⁶⁴ Budget 2021, Part 4: Fair and Responsible Government, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/report-rapport/p4-en.html>

¹⁵⁶⁵ Budget 2021, Part 4: Fair and Responsible Government, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/report-rapport/p4-en.html>

¹⁵⁶⁶ Budget 2021, Part 4: Fair and Responsible Government, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/report-rapport/p4-en.html>

¹⁵⁶⁷ Budget 2021, Part 4: Fair and Responsible Government, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/report-rapport/p4-en.html>

Thus, Canada received a score of 0.

Analyst: Oya Darici

China: 0

China has partially complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 5 February 2021, the State Taxation Administration (STA) reaffirmed that China will strengthen its cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on global taxation issues, after a meeting between the Director of the STA Wang Jun and the Director of the OECD's Center for Tax Policy and Administration Pascal Saint-Amans.¹⁵⁶⁸ China stated that it will “participate in the global tax governance for the digital economy,” “help developing countries enhance tax collection and management capabilities,” and “keep pushing forward for bilateral taxation cooperation.”¹⁵⁶⁹

On 26 February 2021, Minister of Finance Liu Kun stated that China will support the efforts of the G20 to forge an international deal on digital taxation.¹⁵⁷⁰

On 5 March 2021, China stated that it “will actively participate in the formulation of international rules and technical standards on data security, digital currency and data tax” in a draft of the 14th Five-Year Plan and long-term objectives for 2035.¹⁵⁷¹

China made verbal commitments to the OECD and the G20 to facilitate a multilateral digital tax agreement and formulate international rules on digital currency. However, China has yet to engage in bilateral actions of cross-border tax cooperation.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Erica Matsui

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 25 November 2020, the Ministry of Finance sent notices to major technological companies, such as Facebook and Amazon, “to pay the 2020 instalment” of the digital service tax.¹⁵⁷² The goal of this measure is to ensure that digital services are taxed in the same places where they profit.¹⁵⁷³

¹⁵⁶⁸ China, OECD to boost cooperation on taxation, China Internet Information Center (Beijing) 6 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. http://www.china.org.cn/china/Off_the_Wire/2021-02/06/content_77193417.htm

¹⁵⁶⁹ China, OECD to boost cooperation on taxation, China Internet Information Center (Beijing) 6 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. http://www.china.org.cn/china/Off_the_Wire/2021-02/06/content_77193417.htm

¹⁵⁷⁰ Global digital tax efforts get China boost, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/03/content_WS603ee8a5c6d0719374af9db1.html

¹⁵⁷¹ China to actively take part in formulating int'l rules on data security, digital currency, China Internet Information Center (Beijing) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. http://www.china.org.cn/china/Off_the_Wire/2021-03/05/content_77277336.htm

¹⁵⁷² France Orders Tech Giants to Pay Digital Tax, Reuters (Paris) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-usa-tax-idUKKBN28522M>

¹⁵⁷³ Taxing Tech, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.) March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2021/03/taxing-big-tech-and-the-future-of-digital-services-tax-christie.htm>

On 25-26 November 2020, France attended the 2020 Intra-European Organisation of Tax Administrations (IOTA) Forum to identify best practices in combating value-added tax (VAT) fraud.¹⁵⁷⁴ The goal of this forum is to increase awareness of emerging trends in VAT fraud and build a multilateral network to address the problem.

On 2 December 2020, France authorised an extension of the cross-border taxation agreement with Germany, which entered into force on 13 May 2020 until 31 March 2021 due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.¹⁵⁷⁵ The goal of the agreement is to avoid double taxation of cross-border workers who worked from home, rather than in the country where they would otherwise work if not for COVID-related travel restrictions.

On 2 December 2020, France authorised an extension of the cross-border taxation agreement with Switzerland, which entered into force on 13 May 2020 until 31 March 2021 due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.¹⁵⁷⁶

On 2 December 2020, France authorised an extension of the cross-border taxation agreement with Belgium, which entered into force on 15 May 2020 until 31 March 2021 due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.¹⁵⁷⁷

On 2 December 2020, the General Directorate of Public Finances authorised an extension of the cross-border taxation agreement with Italy, which entered into force on 16 July 2020 until 31 March 2021 due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.¹⁵⁷⁸

On 7 December 2020, France authorised an extension of the cross-border taxation agreement with Luxembourg, which entered into force on 16 July 2020 until 31 March 2021 due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.¹⁵⁷⁹

On 9 December 2020, France attended the annual meeting of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes to recognise the progress made in the implementation of the standard on tax transparency and support the provision of capacity-building

¹⁵⁷⁴ 2020 IOTA Forum on Combating VAT Fraud, IOTA-Tax (Budapest) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.iota-tax.org/news/2020-iota-forum-combating-vat-fraud>

¹⁵⁷⁵ Amicable Agreement with Germany for Cross-Border Workers (COVID19), Tax Administration of France (Paris) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://www.impots.gouv.fr/portail/files/media/10_conventions/Allemagne/Allemagne_accord_amicable_covid19.pdf

¹⁵⁷⁶ Amicable Agreement with Switzerland for Cross-Border Workers (COVID19), Tax Administration of France (Paris) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://www.impots.gouv.fr/portail/files/media/10_conventions/Suisse/Suisse_accord_amicable_covid19.pdf

¹⁵⁷⁷ Amicable Agreement with Belgium for Cross-Border Workers (COVID19), Tax Administration of France (Paris) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://www.impots.gouv.fr/portail/files/media/10_conventions/Belgique/Belgique_accord_amicable_covid19.pdf

¹⁵⁷⁸ Amicable Agreement with Italy for Cross-Border Workers (COVID19), Tax Administration of France (Paris) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://www.impots.gouv.fr/portail/files/media/10_conventions/Italie/accord_covid-19_fr_it_2020_12_28.pdf

¹⁵⁷⁹ Amicable Agreement with Luxembourg for Cross-Border Workers (COVID19), Tax Administration of France (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://www.impots.gouv.fr/portail/files/media/10_conventions/Luxembourg/accord_covid-19_fr_lux.pdf

technical assistance to developing countries.¹⁵⁸⁰ The goal of the three-day event was to encourage greater fairness and transparency in international tax systems.¹⁵⁸¹

On 11 December 2021, the Administrative Supreme Court overturned a Paris Court of Appeal decision, dated 1 March 2018, which concluded an absence of permanent establishment under the France-Ireland Tax Treaty.¹⁵⁸² This decision marks the first time that the Administrative Supreme Court used the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development comments to “expand its definition of a dependent agent constitutive of a permanent establishment.”¹⁵⁸³

On 25 February 2021, Minister Delegate to the Minister of the Economy, Finance and Recovery Agnès Pannier-Runacher supported the public country-by-country reporting initiative proposed by the Portuguese Presidency of the Competitiveness Council (COMPET).¹⁵⁸⁴ This initiative aims to improve tax transparency and “ensure that all economic actors contribute in a fair and equitable manner to the economy of the various countries where they conduct their business.”¹⁵⁸⁵

On 4 March 2021, the Ministry of Economics and Finance removed the Bahamas from the list of non-cooperative states and territories in tax matters, which is published in the Official Journal of the French Republic.¹⁵⁸⁶ The Ministry seeks to promote cooperation with the Bahamas to “eradicate harmful tax practices” and foster a “commitment to the international regulatory standards on tax cooperation and exchange of information for tax purposes.”¹⁵⁸⁷

On 6 April 2021, Minister of the Economy and Finance Bruno Le Maire welcomed US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen’s pledge to work on a global corporate minimum tax.¹⁵⁸⁸

On 8 April 2021, Minister Le Maire supported a US proposal to resume international talks on taxing major digital multinational corporations.¹⁵⁸⁹ The goal of these talks is to prevent multinationals from shifting their profits to low-tax jurisdictions.¹⁵⁹⁰

¹⁵⁸⁰ 2020 Global Forum Plenary Meeting, Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes (Paris) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/tax/transparency/documents/2020-gf-plenary-meeting-statement-of-outcomes.pdf>

¹⁵⁸¹ International Community Reaches Important Milestone in Fight Against Tax Evasion, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/tax/exchange-of-tax-information/international-community-reaches-important-milestone-in-fight-against-tax-evasion.htm>

¹⁵⁸² France Tax Developments: Key Permanent Establishment Decision, PWC Law Firm (Paris) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.pwcavocats.com/fr/ealertes/ealertes-international/2020/france-tax-developments-key-permanent-establishment-decision.html>

¹⁵⁸³ French Administrative Supreme Court Expands its Definition of a Dependent Agent Constitutive of a Permanent Establishment, Ernst and Young Tax News (Paris) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://taxnews.ey.com/news/2020-2905-french-administrative-supreme-court-expands-its-definition-of-a-dependent-agent-constitutive-of-a-permanent-establishment>

¹⁵⁸⁴ Ministers Discuss Public Country-by-Country Reporting Proposal, KPMG Euro Tax Flash (Amstelveen) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2021/02/etf-443-ministers-discuss-public-country-by-country-reporting-proposal.html>

¹⁵⁸⁵ Informal Video Conference of Internal Market and Industry Ministers, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/compet/2021/02/25/>

¹⁵⁸⁶ The Bahamas Removed from the French List of Non-Cooperative States and Territories in Tax Matters, Bahamas Financial Services Board (Nassau) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/PressRelease/67584/The-Bahamas-Removed-From-The-French-List-Of-Non-Cooperative-States-And-Territories-In-Tax-Matters>

¹⁵⁸⁷ The Bahamas Removed from the French List of Non-Cooperative States and Territories in Tax Matters, Bahamas Financial Services Board (Nassau) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/PressRelease/67584/The-Bahamas-Removed-From-The-French-List-Of-Non-Cooperative-States-And-Territories-In-Tax-Matters>

¹⁵⁸⁸ France Sees Global Tax Deal in Reach After U.S. Pledge, Reuters (Paris) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-imf-worldbank-taxation-france-idUSKBN2BT1LR>

Through bilateral channels with European partners, France continued international tax cooperation through its cross-border taxation agreements. Furthermore, France pursued multilateral cooperation in seeking greater tax transparency and preventing harmful tax practices by participating in high-level meetings of the IOTA Forum, the Global Forum, and the COMPET. Domestically, France's actions to implement the digital service tax have also improved the standard of taxation for multinational companies.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Saarah Khan

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 2 December 2020, Germany extended its cross-border taxation agreement with France, which entered into force on 13 May 2020 until 31 March 2021 due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.¹⁵⁹¹ The goal of the agreement is to avoid double taxation of cross-border workers who worked from home, rather than in the country where they would otherwise work if not for COVID-related travel restrictions.

On 18 December 2020, Germany deposited its instrument of ratification for the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) (MLI), which entered into force on 1 April 2021.¹⁵⁹² By ratifying the MLI, Germany joins the MLI's strong commitment to prevent the abuse of tax treaties and BEPS by multinational enterprises.¹⁵⁹³

On 18 December 2020, Germany and Japan applied MLI provisions to their Bilateral Convention for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance.¹⁵⁹⁴

On 12 January 2021, Germany and the UK signed a new protocol, to be added to the existing double tax treaty signed in 2010, to highlight both parties' intention to include the standard outlined in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) BEPS project on treaty abuse,

¹⁵⁸⁹ U.S. Proposal to Unblock Global Tax Talks 'Interesting' -France, Reuters (Paris) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-oecd-tax-france-us-idUSKBN2BV2F4>

¹⁵⁹⁰ U.S. Proposal to Unblock Global Tax Talks 'Interesting' -France, Reuters (Paris) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-oecd-tax-france-us-idUSKBN2BV2F4>

¹⁵⁹¹ Amicable Agreement with Germany for Cross-Border Workers (COVID19), Tax Administration of France (Paris) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://www.impots.gouv.fr/portail/files/media/10_conventions/Allemagne/Allemagne_accord_amicable_covid19.pdf

¹⁵⁹² Germany and Pakistan deposit their instrument of ratification for the Multilateral BEPS Convention and other updates, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Paris) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/germany-and-pakistan-deposit-their-instrument-of-ratification-for-the-multilateral-beps-convention-and-other-updates.htm>

¹⁵⁹³ Germany and Pakistan deposit their instrument of ratification for the Multilateral BEPS Convention and other updates, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Paris) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/germany-and-pakistan-deposit-their-instrument-of-ratification-for-the-multilateral-beps-convention-and-other-updates.htm>

¹⁵⁹⁴ Application of the MLI to the Tax Treaty between Japan and Germany, Ministry of Finance of Japan (Tokyo) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/mli_ger.html

tax evasion and avoidance.¹⁵⁹⁵ Changes include amending the wording of the treaty and adding Article 30A.¹⁵⁹⁶ The protocol is not yet in force.¹⁵⁹⁷

On 26 January 2021, at the virtual World Economic Forum, Chancellor Angela Merkel stated that there should be a minimum level of taxation for digital companies, with the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrating the need for action.¹⁵⁹⁸ Chancellor Merkel expressed her desire for the international community to continue and expand the OECD's work in this regard, particularly with the new United States administration, and hoped that the international community will be more successful in implementing competition law globally.¹⁵⁹⁹

On 27-28 January 2021, Minister of Finance Olaf Scholz, along with Ministers of Finance from Canada, Italy, Indonesia, Jamaica and the United Kingdom, emphasized the need for a multilateral digital tax solution at the public meeting of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework.¹⁶⁰⁰ At this meeting, Minister Scholz emphasized the importance of an international agreement by mid-2021, and affirmed that the government is actively striving for an international solution on both pillars of the Inclusive Framework on BEPS.¹⁶⁰¹

On 15 February 2021, the Federal Ministry of Finance initiated the departmental vote on the draft of the Tax Haven Defense Act.¹⁶⁰² The Tax Haven Defense Act aims to prevent individuals and companies from continuing business relationships with non-cooperative countries that harbour a lack of tax transparency and unfair competition. The goal is to make future business expenses and business expenses associated with tax havens no longer tax-deductible.¹⁶⁰³ Stricter rules would apply to income from intermediate companies in tax havens and taxpayers who have business relationships

¹⁵⁹⁵ Protocol to the UK/Germany Double Taxation Convention, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955611/Germany-UK-2021-Protocol-to-the-Double-Taxation-Convention-not-in-force_01_14_21.pdf

¹⁵⁹⁶ Protocol to the UK/Germany Double Taxation Convention, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955611/Germany-UK-2021-Protocol-to-the-Double-Taxation-Convention-not-in-force_01_14_21.pdf

¹⁵⁹⁷ Protocol to the UK/Germany Double Taxation Convention, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955611/Germany-UK-2021-Protocol-to-the-Double-Taxation-Convention-not-in-force_01_14_21.pdf

¹⁵⁹⁸ The Chancellor at the online World Economic Forum in Davos: Reset After the Pandemic, German Federal Government (Berlin) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/merkel-wef-1845646>

¹⁵⁹⁹ Speech by Federal Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel at the World Economic Forum's Davos Dialogue on 26 January 2021 (video conference), German Federal Government (Berlin) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/speech-by-federal-chancellor-dr-angela-merkel-at-the-world-economic-forum-s-davos-dialogue-on-26-january-2021-video-conference--1846772>

¹⁶⁰⁰ This week in tax: Janet Yellen raises hope for digital tax agreement, International Tax Review (London) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/b1qbd4l2twjm64/this-week-in-tax-janet-yellen-raises-hope-for-digital-tax-agreement>

¹⁶⁰¹ BMF Monthly Report March 2021: Spotlight: international corporate taxation, German Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Monatsberichte/2021/03/Inhalte/Kapitel-2b-Schlaglicht/2b-internationale-unternehmensbesteuerung.html>

¹⁶⁰² BMF Monthly Report March 2021: Spotlight: international corporate taxation, German Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Monatsberichte/2021/03/Inhalte/Kapitel-2b-Schlaglicht/2b-internationale-unternehmensbesteuerung.html>

¹⁶⁰³ BMF Monthly Report March 2021: Spotlight: international corporate taxation, German Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Monatsberichte/2021/03/Inhalte/Kapitel-2b-Schlaglicht/2b-internationale-unternehmensbesteuerung.html>

with tax havens.¹⁶⁰⁴ If enacted, the Act will be applicable to the EU's list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes.¹⁶⁰⁵

On 19 February 2021, Germany and Cyprus signed a new protocol amending the existing bilateral tax treaty. The new protocol implements the BEPS minimum standards that address treaty shopping, implements the Principal Purpose Test, and addresses business profits attributable to permanent establishments.¹⁶⁰⁶

On 24 March 2021, the Federal Cabinet adopted the Draft Act Implementing the Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive to impose stricter rules on aggressive tax planning, through which the government aims to “effectively counteract tax avoidance strategies used by multinational corporations.”¹⁶⁰⁷ The legislation also advances the harmonization of EU corporate tax law, and through this Act, Germany is taking steps to further fulfill the standards set out in the EU's Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive.¹⁶⁰⁸

On 6 April 2021, Germany and France welcomed US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's pledge to work on a global corporate minimum tax rate which countries aim to agree to by mid-year. Finance Minister Olaf Scholz hopes that this action will help put an end to “the worldwide race to the bottom in taxation.”¹⁶⁰⁹

Germany has advocated for and participated in international institutions to cooperate for a fair and modern international taxation system through its participation in the Inclusive Framework meeting on BEPS and the World Economic Forum, as well as its ratification of the MLI. Germany has further improved international tax cooperation through bilateral arrangements with Japan, France, the UK and Cyprus.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jeffrey Vandespyker

India: +1

India fully complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

¹⁶⁰⁴ BMF Monthly Report March 2021: Spotlight: international corporate taxation, German Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Monatsberichte/2021/03/Inhalte/Kapitel-2b-Schlaglicht/2b-internationale-unternehmensbesteuerung.html>

¹⁶⁰⁵ The Latest on BEPS and Beyond: March 2021, Ernst and Young Global Tax Desk Network (New York) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://assets.ey.com/content/dam/ey-sites/ey-com/en_gl/topics/tax/tax-alerts-pdf/ey-the-latest-on-beps-and-beyond-march-2021.pdf

¹⁶⁰⁶ Cyprus and Germany sign protocol to amend tax treaty, International Tax Review (Cyprus) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/b1rdkgsclrj06d/cyprus-and-germany-sign-protocol-to-amend-tax-treaty>

¹⁶⁰⁷ Scholz: “A key step towards greater tax fairness,” Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/2021-03-24-bill-to-fight-tax-avoidance.html>

¹⁶⁰⁸ Scholz: “A key step towards greater tax fairness,” Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/2021-03-24-bill-to-fight-tax-avoidance.html>

¹⁶⁰⁹ Germany and France see global tax deal, Ireland has doubts, Reuters (Berlin) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-imf-worldbank-taxation-germany-idUSKBN2BT17F>

On 1 February 2021, India published the Union Budget 2021, which amended the scope of the equalisation levy that applies to non-resident e-commerce operators.^{1610,1611} It expanded the definition of “e-commerce supply and service” to include “online sale of goods” and “online provision of services.”¹⁶¹² According to a statement of the Ministry of Commerce released in January 2021, this amendment is in line with the suggestions put forth by Action 1 of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).¹⁶¹³

On 2 March 2021, the Supreme Court delivered a ruling on software licensing and provided further certainty regarding the taxation of cross-border payments on the use of software.¹⁶¹⁴ The Supreme Court decided that the amount paid by end-users to non-resident software manufacturers for the use or resale of the software through End-User Licence Agreements cannot be classified as a royalty.¹⁶¹⁵ In making this ruling, the Court “noted the importance of the Commentary on Article 12 of the OECD Model Tax Convention.”¹⁶¹⁶

On 20 April 2021, the Union Cabinet gave ex-post facto approval for amendments to the Finance Bill 2021, which clarified the scope of the equalization levy on e-commerce to involve “acceptance of the offer for sale, placing the purchase order, acceptance of the purchase order, supply of goods or provision of services” that take place online.^{1617, 1618} The amendments also clarified that the equalization levy will not be applied to the sale of goods and services owned by residents or permanent establishments in India.¹⁶¹⁹

On 5 April 2021, the Central Board of Direct Taxes issued amendments to the Income Tax Rules, which increased the CbCR threshold for multinational enterprises from INR55 billion to INR64

¹⁶¹⁰ Indian Finance Bill 2021 appears to expand scope of the equalisation levy, *International Tax Review* (London) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/b1qsfng38gyl28/indian-finance-bill-2021-appears-to-expand-scope-of-the-equalisation-levy>

¹⁶¹¹ India to defend Equalisation Levy as a level-playing tax, *The Hindustan Times* (New Delhi) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/business/india-to-defend-equalisation-levy-as-a-level-playing-tax-101616840257671.html>

¹⁶¹² Indian Finance Bill 2021 appears to expand scope of the equalisation levy, *International Tax Review* (London) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/b1qsfng38gyl28/indian-finance-bill-2021-appears-to-expand-scope-of-the-equalisation-levy>

¹⁶¹³ India to defend Equalisation Levy as a level-playing tax, *The Hindustan Times* (New Delhi) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/business/india-to-defend-equalisation-levy-as-a-level-playing-tax-101616840257671.html>

¹⁶¹⁴ Indian Supreme Court’s Ruling on Software Licensing Fees, *International Tax Review* (London) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/b1r0m0llgv9fnf/deep-dive-indian-supreme-courts-ruling-on-software-licensing-fees>

¹⁶¹⁵ Indian Supreme Court’s Ruling on Software Licensing Fees, *International Tax Review* (London) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/b1r0m0llgv9fnf/deep-dive-indian-supreme-courts-ruling-on-software-licensing-fees>

¹⁶¹⁶ India: Impact and Analysis of The Supreme Court Decision on Characterization and Taxation Of Software Payments, *The National Law Review* (Western Springs) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/india-impact-and-analysis-supreme-court-decision-characterization-and-taxation>

¹⁶¹⁷ Cabinet gives ex-post facto approval for amendments to Finance Bill, 2021, *The Hindu* (New Delhi) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/cabinet-gives-ex-post-facto-approval-for-amendments-to-finance-bill-2021/article34367764.ece>

¹⁶¹⁸ India notifies digital tax threshold of Rs 2 crore and 300,000 users, *Business Standard* (New Delhi) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-notifies-digital-tax-threshold-of-rs-2-croreand-300-000-users-121050400156_1.html

¹⁶¹⁹ Cabinet Approves Amendments To Finance Bill 2021, *Business Standard* (Mumbai) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-cm/cabinet-approves-amendments-to-finance-bill-2021-121042001116_1.html

billion.¹⁶²⁰ This amendment reduces the reporting burden on multinational enterprises and aligns it with the OECD's country-by-country reporting standards.¹⁶²¹

On 28 April 2021, the Union Cabinet approved an agreement with the UK on Customs Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance on Customs Matters.¹⁶²² This agreement provides a legal framework for the exchange of information to prevent and investigate customs offences.¹⁶²³

On 3 May 2021, India announced a revenue threshold of INR20 million and a limit of 300,000 users over which non-resident technology firms will have to pay taxes under the Significant Economic Presence principle. The application of the principle is deferred until 2022-23 to allow for a multilateral digital tax solution anticipated from OECD negotiations.¹⁶²⁴

India has enacted domestic measures to strengthen its tax base with cross-border implications, under the guidance of multilateral frameworks such as the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS and the OECD Model Tax Convention. It has also pursued bilateral arrangements with the UK to strengthen the exchange of information on the taxation of cross-border trade.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Neebarika Hemrajani

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 26 November 2020, Indonesia notified Japan that it had completed its internal procedures for the entering into effect of the provisions of the Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting with respect to the tax treaty between Japan and Indonesia.¹⁶²⁵

On 27-28 January 2021, Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani Indrawati, along with Ministers of Finance from Canada, Germany, Italy, Jamaica and the United Kingdom, emphasized the need for a multilateral digital tax solution at the public meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)/G20 Inclusive Framework.¹⁶²⁶

¹⁶²⁰ India: CBDT Relaxes Master File And Country By Country Reporting (CbCR) Rules, Mondaq (New York) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/india/transfer-pricing/1055906/cbdt-relaxes-master-file-and-country-by-country-reporting-cbcr-rules>

¹⁶²¹ India: CBDT Relaxes Master File And Country By Country Reporting (CbCR) Rules, Mondaq (New York) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/india/transfer-pricing/1055906/cbdt-relaxes-master-file-and-country-by-country-reporting-cbcr-rules>

¹⁶²² Cabinet approves customs co-operation agreement with the UK, BusinessLine (New Delhi) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/cabinet-approves-customs-co-operation-agreement-with-the-uk/article34429486.ece>

¹⁶²³ Cabinet approves India-UK deal on information sharing, Customs cooperation, Business Standard (New Delhi) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/cabinet-approves-india-uk-deal-on-information-sharing-customs-cooperation-121042900016_1.html

¹⁶²⁴ India notifies digital tax threshold of Rs 2 crore and 300,000 users, Business Standard (New Delhi) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-notifies-digital-tax-threshold-of-rs-2-croreand-300-000-users-121050400156_1.html

¹⁶²⁵ The Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent BEPS will Have Effect with respect to the Tax Treaty with Indonesia, Ministry of Finance of Japan (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20201204ind_e.html

¹⁶²⁶ This week in tax: Janet Yellen raises hope for digital tax agreement, International Tax Review (London) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/b1qbd4l2twjm64/this-week-in-tax-janet-yellen-raises-hope-for-digital-tax-agreement>

On 21 February 2021, Indonesia announced that taxes on debt security earnings for non-residents will be lowered from 20 per cent to 10 per cent to avoid double taxation. This aligns domestic law with previously signed bilateral and multilateral treaties.¹⁶²⁷

On 3 March 2021, President Joko Widodo encouraged domestic taxpayers to file their annual income tax return reports online and ahead of the 31 March deadline, in an effort to promote online services and modernize the domestic tax system.¹⁶²⁸

On 9 March 2021, the bilateral agreement signed with Singapore on the promotion and protection of investments came into effect after ratification by both states. Novel measures included joint statements by tax authorities in the event of disputes, subjecting claims arising from taxation measures to a special regime, as well as measures against double taxation and corruption. These measures will help align the tax policies of both countries and create arbitration and dispute settlement mechanisms.¹⁶²⁹

On 16 March 2021, the tax agency updated the XML schema for the automatic exchange of information to comply with the common reporting standard and the US Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act. This brings domestic reporting into compliance with US and international standards and increases tax transparency.¹⁶³⁰

Indonesia has continued its cooperation for a globally fair, suitable and modern international tax system through bilateral arrangements with Singapore and aligning automatic exchange of information practices with that of the United States. Indonesia has also engaged in multilateral cooperation and calling for a collective digital tax solution, while reforming its domestic taxation on debt security earnings.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Faadil Butt

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 2 December 2020, Italy extended the cross-border taxation agreement with France, which entered into force on 16 July 2020 until 31 March 2021 due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.¹⁶³¹

On 27-28 January 2021, Minister of the Economy and Finance Roberto Gualtieri, along with Ministers of Finance from Canada, Germany, Indonesia, Jamaica and the UK, emphasized the need

¹⁶²⁷ Indonesia Issues Implementing Rules of Investment Law Reform, Bloomberg (New York) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-21/indonesia-issues-implementing-rules-for-investment-law-reform>

¹⁶²⁸ Tax Revenue Raised, National Independence Increased, Indonesian Government Website (Jakarta) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/editorial/2629/penerimaan-pajak-naik-kemandirian-bangsa-terdongkrak>

¹⁶²⁹ New Procedural Rights for Investors as Indonesia-Singapore BIT Comes into Force, Herbert Smith Freehills LLP (London) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=d3a85fad-1294-4652-9339-b56cbc163a75>

¹⁶³⁰ Indonesia Tax Agency Updates XML Schema for CRS, FATCA Reporting, Bloomberg Tax (New York) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report-international/indonesia-tax-agency-updates-xml-schema-for-crs-fatca-reporting>

¹⁶³¹ Amicable Agreement with Italy for Cross-Border Workers (COVID19), Tax Administration of France (Paris) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://www.impots.gouv.fr/portail/files/media/10_conventions/italie/accord_covid-19_fr_it_2020_12_28.pdf

for a multilateral digital tax solution at the public meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)/G20 Inclusive Framework.¹⁶³² At the meeting, Minister Gualtieri called for a global response to the challenges of digitalization and reform of the existing tax rules to guarantee more stability and certainty in the taxation of multinational enterprises.¹⁶³³ He called for establishing a global minimum effective tax rate to tackle base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) issues, and reducing incentives for multinational enterprises to move profits to low-tax jurisdictions.¹⁶³⁴ Minister Gualtieri also affirmed that the review of international tax rules and the mid-2021 deadline is a top priority for Italy's G20 agenda. He announced Italy's commitment to 1) endorsing the OECD's reporting framework for automatic exchange of information on crypto-assets; 2) on BEPS, endorsing the review of the minimum standards on country-by-country reporting, mutual agreement procedures, and the revised methodology to review the minimum standard on tax treaty abuse; and 3) on tax and development, strengthening domestic resource mobilization in developing countries through the enhancement of their capacity in tax policy and tax administration. Finally, Minister Gualtieri announced that Italy will mandate the OECD to report to the G20 on the benefits of developing country participation in the Inclusive Framework, update last year's report "Tax Policy and COVID-19," and present a new report on "Tax Policy after COVID-19" in October.¹⁶³⁵

On 30 April 2021, Italy submitted its recovery plan to the European Commission to be eligible for the European Union's COVID relief funding. Part of the recovery plan includes reforms to the tax code.¹⁶³⁶

Italy has continued its cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable and modern international tax system through a bilateral arrangement with France and continued cooperation through multilateral institutions. On the latter, Italy has provided leadership to reach international solutions to taxation issues through the OECD, under its G20 presidency, and through cooperation with the UK as this year's G7 host.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jeffrey Vandespyster

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

¹⁶³² This week in tax: Janet Yellen raises hope for digital tax agreement, International Tax Review (London) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/b1qbd4l2twjm64/this-week-in-tax-janet-yellen-raises-hope-for-digital-tax-agreement>

¹⁶³³ Speech by Minister of the Economy and Finance Roberto Gualtieri at the "11th meeting of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS," Italian Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Rome) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mef.gov.it/en/ufficio-stampa/articoli/2019_2023-Roberto_Gualtieri/Minister-Gualtieris-speech-at-the-OECD-G20-Inclusive-Framework-on-BEPS/

¹⁶³⁴ Speech by Minister of the Economy and Finance Roberto Gualtieri at the "11th meeting of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS," Italian Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Rome) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mef.gov.it/en/ufficio-stampa/articoli/2019_2023-Roberto_Gualtieri/Minister-Gualtieris-speech-at-the-OECD-G20-Inclusive-Framework-on-BEPS/

¹⁶³⁵ Speech by Minister of the Economy and Finance Roberto Gualtieri at the "11th meeting of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS," Italian Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Rome) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mef.gov.it/en/ufficio-stampa/articoli/2019_2023-Roberto_Gualtieri/Minister-Gualtieris-speech-at-the-OECD-G20-Inclusive-Framework-on-BEPS/

¹⁶³⁶ Italy submits its Recovery Plan to EU Commission just before deadline, Reuters (Rome) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-eu-recovery-italy-idUSKBN2CI30C>

On 26 November 2020, Japan's tax treaty with Indonesia began to apply the provisions of the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.¹⁶³⁷

On 18 December 2020, Japan applied the Convention for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance to its treaties with Germany and Pakistan.¹⁶³⁸

On 30 December 2020, the government completed the mutual notifications necessary for the entry into force of the Convention between Japan and the Republic of Peru for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance with Peru.¹⁶³⁹

On 18 January 2021, the government announced tax relief plans targeting foreign nationals.¹⁶⁴⁰ The plan exempts foreign nationals' overseas assets from inheritance taxes and applies a flat income tax rate of 20 per cent on earnings from investment assets.¹⁶⁴¹ The goal of this measure is to increase international talent acquisition.

On 20 January 2021, the government signed the Convention between Japan and Georgia for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance.¹⁶⁴²

On 2 February 2021, the National Tax Agency received details on approximately 2.06 million offshore accounts held by Japanese individuals and corporations that amounted to approximately JPY10 trillion. The information was acquired "under an internationally agreed standard to prevent tax evasion."¹⁶⁴³

On 12 February 2021, the government completed the mutual notifications necessary for the entry into force of the Convention between Japan and the Kingdom of Spain for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance.¹⁶⁴⁴

¹⁶³⁷ The Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent BEPS will Have Effect with respect to the Tax Treaty with Indonesia, Ministry of Finance of Japan (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20201204ind_e.html

¹⁶³⁸ Tax Treaties Covered by the Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent BEPS will be Increased [Germany and Pakistan], Ministry of Finance of Japan (Tokyo) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20210108mli.html

¹⁶³⁹ Entry into force of the Tax Convention between Japan and Peru, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press23e_000030.html

¹⁶⁴⁰ Japan eyes tax breaks on overseas assets for foreigners, Asahi Shimbun (Osaka) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/13978710>

¹⁶⁴¹ Policy Speech by the Prime Minister to the 204th Session of the Diet, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202101/_00013.html

¹⁶⁴² New Tax Convention with Georgia was Signed, Ministry of Finance of Japan (Tokyo) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20210129Geo_e.html

¹⁶⁴³ Japan gets details on 2 mil. Offshore accounts to combat tax evasion, Mainichi Shimbun (Tokyo) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20210203/p2g/00m/Obu/079000c>

¹⁶⁴⁴ New Tax Convention with Spain will Enter into Force, Ministry of Finance of Japan (Tokyo) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20210215Spa.html

On 18 February 2021, the government completed the mutual notifications necessary for the entry into force of the Convention between Japan and Malaysia for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance.¹⁶⁴⁵

On 22 March 2021, Japan started negotiations with Ukraine for a new Convention to replace the current Tax Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation.¹⁶⁴⁶

Japan continued its cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system through bilateral arrangements to prevent tax evasion and avoidance. Japan has further applied multilateral provisions and standards to its bilateral taxation treaties but did not make contributions through multilateral institutions.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Erica Matsui

Korea: 0

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 6 January 2021, the Ministry of Finance announced a revised tax break for foreigners. Foreign researchers will be eligible for a 50 per cent tax break for five years under conditions such as education, experience, and employment.¹⁶⁴⁷ The goal of this measure is to promote international talent acquisition.

On 26 January 2021, the National Assembly ratified a double tax agreement with Cambodia, which seeks to foster bilateral cooperation and avoid double taxation of income and property.¹⁶⁴⁸

On 22 February 2021, the Ministry of Economy and Finance announced a 20 per cent tax on cryptocurrency investments exceeding KRW2.5 million, starting in January 2022, in order to increase taxes of digital assets.¹⁶⁴⁹

On 15 March 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Hong Nam-ki announced a plan to expand tax incentives for foreign companies in digital and green industries, as well as a plan to create a “high-tech investment zone” within free economic zones and national industrial complexes.¹⁶⁵⁰

On 15 March 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Nam-ki revealed that the government will create new rules to regulate digital businesses, such as online platforms and over-the-top media services, to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.¹⁶⁵¹

¹⁶⁴⁵ Tax Treaties Covered by the Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent BEPS will be Increased [Malaysia], Ministry of Finance of Japan (Tokyo) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021.

https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20210305mli.html

¹⁶⁴⁶ Commencement of negotiations for the Tax Convention with Ukraine, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002986.html

¹⁶⁴⁷ S. Korea has ‘no plans’ to raise fuel taxes, cut inheritance tax, Korea Herald (Seoul) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210106000997>.

¹⁶⁴⁸ South Korea passes bill to ratify tax deal, Khmer Times (Phnom Penh) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50807137/south-korea-passes-bill-to-ratify-tax-deal/>

¹⁶⁴⁹ Seoul to tax crypto gains, bring in more regulations, Korea Herald (Seoul) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210222000880>

¹⁶⁵⁰ More tax incentives set for high-tech foreign firms to boost FDI, Korea Herald (Seoul) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210315000926>

¹⁶⁵¹ 221st Meeting on International Economic Affairs, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. <https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5088>

On 15 March 2021, in prosecuting tax evasion through digital currencies, the National Tax Service seized KRW36.6 billion from 2416 individuals who hid assets through virtual currencies.¹⁶⁵²

Korea has continued its engagement in international cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable and modern international tax system through bilateral arrangements with Cambodia and domestic regulations on digital currency and e-commerce. However, Korea has yet to participate in cooperation under multilateral frameworks of tax governance.

Thus, Korea receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Erica Matsui

Mexico: -1

Mexico has failed to comply with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 8 December 2020, tax authorities published new rules to amend the income tax law and the value-added-tax (VAT) on digital services. The amendments allow temporary blocking of non-residents' access to digital services if they fail to remit withholding tax payments. The amendments also expanded the scope of digital services applicable to the VAT to include intermediation services.¹⁶⁵³

On 11 March 2021, Minister of Finance Arturo Herrera announced that the government will discuss tax reforms with local authorities.¹⁶⁵⁴ Treasury Undersecretary Gabriel Yorio expressed a desire to close the tax evasion gap in 2021 before restructuring the tax system.¹⁶⁵⁵

Despite domestic efforts to strengthen the digital service tax and a verbal affirmation of Mexico's goal to close the tax evasion gap, Mexico has not demonstrated any further action to continue cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable and modern international tax system. It has not engaged in bilateral/plurilateral inter-state channels nor multilateral frameworks to advance this commitment.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Neeharika Hemrajani

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 26 November 2020, Russia confirmed the completion of its internal procedures for the Covered Tax Agreements under Article 35(7)(a)(i) of the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty

¹⁶⁵² South Korea Seizes Funds in Cryptocurrency Tax Evasion Probe, Bloomberg Tax (Arlington) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report/south-korea-seizes-funds-in-cryptocurrency-tax-evasion-probe>

¹⁶⁵³ Mexico amends tax rules applying to digital service providers, online platforms, MNE Tax (Monterrey) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://mnetax.com/mexico-amends-tax-rules-applying-to-digital-service-providers-online-platforms-42363>

¹⁶⁵⁴ Mexico to evaluate the need for tax reform after midterm elections, Reuters (Mexico City) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mexico-economy-exclusive-idUSKBN2B3341>

¹⁶⁵⁵ Mexico's Finance Secretary estimates the economy could 'easily' grow more than 5% in 2021, The Rio Times (Rio de Janeiro) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://riotimesonline.com/brazil-news/mercotur/mexico/mexicos-finance-secretary-estimates-economy-could-easily-grow-more-than-5-in-2021/>

Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.¹⁶⁵⁶ The Convention endeavours to prevent tax avoidance on a multilateral scale and build upon existing cross-border tax standards.¹⁶⁵⁷

On 14 December 2020, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin approved the protocol on amending the Convention for the avoidance of double taxation with Luxembourg.¹⁶⁵⁸ The protocol entered into force on 5 March 2021.¹⁶⁵⁹ This action ensures that revenue paid abroad in the form of interests and dividends is taxed at the same rates as in Russia, at 15 per cent.¹⁶⁶⁰

On 27 December 2020, Prime Minister Mishustin approved the protocol on amending the Convention for the avoidance of double taxation with Malta.¹⁶⁶¹

On 26 January 2021, State Secretary-Deputy Finance Minister Alexei Valerievich Sazanov stated that the bill on denouncing the double taxation treaty with the Netherlands is being prepared “for submission to the State Duma in February.”¹⁶⁶² This action is part of an ongoing domestic effort to revise double taxation agreements and increase the tax rate for dividends brought abroad to offshore jurisdictions from 2 per cent to 15 per cent.¹⁶⁶³

On 5 February 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin emphasized the need “to step up work on converging tax legislation” at the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council Meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan.¹⁶⁶⁴

On 22-23 February 2021, President Vladimir Putin and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko agreed to expand bilateral cooperation between economic and tax service agencies.¹⁶⁶⁵ Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov stated that the two countries will hold consultations between their tax services with a view to specify further bilateral measures.¹⁶⁶⁶

¹⁶⁵⁶ The Russian Federation, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (Paris) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/tax/treaties/beps-ml-i-notification-article-35-7-b-russian-federation.pdf>

¹⁶⁵⁷ OECD Reports on BEPS MLI Developments for Bahrain, Chile, Indonesia, Russia, Kazakhstan, MNE Tax (Vienna) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://mnetax.com/oecd-reports-on-beps-ml-i-developments-for-bahrain-chile-indonesia-russia-kazakhstan-41527>

¹⁶⁵⁸ Mikhail Mishustin Approves the Protocol on Amending the Double Taxation Agreement with Luxembourg for Ratification, The Russian Government (Moscow) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/docs/41110/>

¹⁶⁵⁹ Luxembourg Ratifies Protocol on Tax Agreement with Russia, TASS (Moscow) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1263241>

¹⁶⁶⁰ Mikhail Mishustin Approves the Protocol on Amending the Double Taxation Agreement with Luxembourg for Ratification, The Russian Government (Moscow) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/docs/41110/>

¹⁶⁶¹ Mikhail Mishustin Approves Submission for Ratification of a Protocol on Amending the Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation with Malta, The Russian Government (Moscow) 27 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/docs/41229/>

¹⁶⁶² Bill on Denouncing Treaty with Netherlands to be Submitted to Lower House in February, TASS (Moscow) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1249053>

¹⁶⁶³ Bill on Denouncing Treaty with Netherlands to be Submitted to Lower House in February, TASS (Moscow) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1249053>

¹⁶⁶⁴ Meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council, The Russian Government (Almaty) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41468/>

¹⁶⁶⁵ Putin, Lukashenko Agree to Boost Work Between Economic Agencies, TASS (Moscow) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1259703>

¹⁶⁶⁶ Putin, Lukashenko Agree to Boost Work Between Economic Agencies, TASS (Moscow) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1259703>

On 1 April 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin declared that the government will simplify the tax-paying procedures for businesses to a single tax payment.¹⁶⁶⁷ The goal of this initiative is to improve domestic tax infrastructure and ease of business.¹⁶⁶⁸

On 13 April 2021, Deputy Finance Minister Sazanov reaffirmed the possibility of denouncing the tax convention with the Netherlands.¹⁶⁶⁹ This action aims to prevent multinationals from shifting their profits to low-tax jurisdictions.¹⁶⁷⁰

Russia has pursued bilateral channels to improve taxation agreements with Luxembourg and Malta and plan for future cooperation with Belarus. Russia has also taken important steps in realizing its multilateral commitment to international tax cooperation by completing the internal procedures of the MLI and supporting the improvement of international tax systems within the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Saarah Khan

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to continue cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 2 December 2020, Saudi Arabia signed a double tax treaty with Taiwan in Riyadh. It took effect on 1 January 2021; this agreement will facilitate bilateral cooperation on taxes and tariffs.¹⁶⁷¹

On 2 December 2020, Saudi Arabia hosted the 12th edition of the Compliance and Anti-Money Laundering Seminar. Governor of the Central Bank Ahmed Bin Abdul Karim Al-Kholifey spoke about Saudi Arabia's adoption of "procedures and international standards for combating money laundering and terrorist financing that has been developed by the Financial Action Task Force."¹⁶⁷²

On 1 April 2021, Saudi Arabia's agreement with Switzerland for the avoidance of double taxation regarding taxes on income and capital took effect. This agreement adopted base erosion and profit shifting standards to include an anti-abuse clause and provisions for the exchange of information upon request.¹⁶⁷³

Saudi Arabia has continued to engage in international cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable and modern international tax system through bilateral arrangements, hosting multilateral conferences, and strengthening domestic regulations against money laundering and terrorist financing based on international frameworks.

¹⁶⁶⁷ Government Meeting, The Russian Government (Moscow) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41864/>

¹⁶⁶⁸ Government Meeting, The Russian Government (Moscow) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41864/>

¹⁶⁶⁹ Denunciation of Tax Convention with the Netherlands Fairly Probable, Says Russian Ministry, TASS (Moscow) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1277495>

¹⁶⁷⁰ Denunciation of Tax Convention with the Netherlands Fairly Probable, Says Russian Ministry, TASS (Moscow) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://tass.com/economy/1277495>

¹⁶⁷¹ Taiwan, Saudi Arabia sign agreement on avoidance of double taxation, Focus Taiwan (Taipei) 12 October 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://focustaiwan.tw/politics/202012100009>

¹⁶⁷² Fraud, corruption tackled during COVID-19: Saudi Central Bank, Arab News (Riyadh) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1771736/business-economy>

¹⁶⁷³ Entry into force of double taxation agreements with Brazil and Saudi Arabia, State Secretariat for International Finance (Berne) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021.

<https://www.sif.admin.ch/sif/en/home/dokumentation/fachinformationen/dba-brasilien-saudiarabien.html>

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Sharif Fatourehchi

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to continue cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 24 February 2021, Minister of Finance Tito Mboweni delivered the 2021 Budget Review, which proposed amendments to avoid the double taxation of returns from hybrid debt instruments.^{1674,1675,1676} The review also proposed amendments to controlled foreign company anti-diversionary rules to prevent circumvention by taxpayers.¹⁶⁷⁷ The budget provided ZAR3 billion to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) to “participate meaningfully in global tax compliance initiatives” while it expanded auditing and investigative abilities to prevent the abuse of transfer pricing, tax base erosion and tax crime.¹⁶⁷⁸ The budget committed to a unilateral digital service tax if a multilateral agreement proved unsuccessful.¹⁶⁷⁹

On 1 April 2021, South Africa and Kuwait signed the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty-Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.¹⁶⁸⁰ However, the Convention has not been ratified.¹⁶⁸¹

On 7 April 2021, SARS Commissioner Edward Kieswetter announced plans to collect taxes from ZAR400 billion of offshore holdings by South Africans, acting on the automatic exchange of information received from 87 countries.^{1682,1683}

On 7 May 2021, the SARS started asking for taxpayers’ cryptocurrency transactions in audit letters to collect capital gains tax on cryptocurrency trades.¹⁶⁸⁴

Although South Africa has not shown substantial action under multilateral frameworks to improve the international tax system, it has pursued domestic tax reforms to reduce double taxation and

¹⁶⁷⁴ South Africa: Tax provisions in budget 2021, KPMG (Johannesburg) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/02/tnf-south-africa-tax-provisions-budget-2021.html>

¹⁶⁷⁵ South Africa’s Minister of Finance delivers 2021 Budget Review, Ernst and Young (London) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/south-africa-s-minister-of-finance-delivers-2021-budget-review

¹⁶⁷⁶ Budget 2021/22 – Limiting The Potential For Double Taxation Under The Hybrid Debt Anti-Avoidance Rules, South Africa Tax Guide (Pretoria) 27 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.sataguide.co.za/budget-2021-22-limiting-the-potential-for-double-taxation-under-the-hybrid-debt-anti-avoidance-rules/>

¹⁶⁷⁷ South Africa: Tax provisions in budget 2021, KPMG (Johannesburg) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/02/tnf-south-africa-tax-provisions-budget-2021.html>

¹⁶⁷⁸ South Africa’s Minister of Finance delivers 2021 Budget Review, Ernst and Young (London) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/south-africa-s-minister-of-finance-delivers-2021-budget-review

¹⁶⁷⁹ South Africa: Tax provisions in budget 2021, KPMG (Johannesburg) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/02/tnf-south-africa-tax-provisions-budget-2021.html>

¹⁶⁸⁰ Status overview of all DTAs and Protocols, South African Revenue Service (Pretoria) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.sars.gov.za/legal-counsel/international-treaties-agreements/double-taxation-agreements-protocols/>

¹⁶⁸¹ Status overview of all DTAs and Protocols, South African Revenue Service (Pretoria) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.sars.gov.za/legal-counsel/international-treaties-agreements/double-taxation-agreements-protocols/>

¹⁶⁸² SARS eyes offshore wealth, eNCA (Johannesburg) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.enca.com/business/sars-eyes-offshore-wealth>

¹⁶⁸³ SARS wants a closer look at the ‘R400 billion’ South Africans have stashed overseas, BusinessTech (Lytelton) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/wealth/484571/sars-targets-south-africans-with-money-overseas-what-to-expect/>

¹⁶⁸⁴ SARS is coming after these 3 tax streams, BusinessTech (Lytelton) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/banking/488741/sars-is-coming-after-these-3-tax-streams/>

strengthen the SARS' ability to combat transfer pricing and tax erosion with the goal of meeting international standards. It also pursued bilateral actions by signing the Convention with Kuwait.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Oya Darici

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to continue cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 30 December 2020, the authorities of Turkey and the United States began negotiations on the exchange of Country-by-Country Reporting (CbCR) on large multinational corporations to improve transparency in international tax systems.¹⁶⁸⁵

On 1 May 2021, Turkey added cryptocurrency platforms to a list of firms covered by anti-money laundering and terrorism financing regulations. This aims to prevent firms from funding terrorist organizations domestically and abroad.¹⁶⁸⁶

Turkey has taken substantial domestic action to counter terrorist financing and money laundering and began to explore bilateral cooperation with the US on CbCR. However, its bilateral partnership has not yet come into fruition and Turkey has not fulfilled its commitment to improve the international tax system through multilateral institutions.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Sharif Fatourehchi

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to continue to cooperate for a globally fair, sustainable, and modern international tax system.

On 24 December 2020, the United Kingdom and the European Union reached an agreement on the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement.¹⁶⁸⁷ As the UK no longer benefits from EU directives as of 1 January 2021, sections within this new agreement ensure that both parties maintain Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) standards of tax transparency, anti-tax avoidance, anti-money laundering, counter-terrorist financing and more.¹⁶⁸⁸ The agreement was signed on 30 December 2020 and became provisionally applicable starting 1 January 2021.¹⁶⁸⁹

¹⁶⁸⁵ US, Turkey negotiating exchange of MNE country-by-country reports, MNE Tax 4 (Washington) January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://mnetax.com/us-turkey-negotiating-exchange-of-mne-country-by-country-reports-41915>

¹⁶⁸⁶ Turkey adds crypto firms to money laundering, terror financing rules, Reuters (London) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/technology/turkey-adds-crypto-firms-money-laundering-terror-financing-rules-2021-05-01/>

¹⁶⁸⁷ EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement: protecting European interests, ensuring fair competition, and continued cooperation in areas of mutual interest, European Commission (Brussels) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2531

¹⁶⁸⁸ Agreements reached between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agreements-reached-between-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-and-the-european-union#history>

¹⁶⁸⁹ Press release: Signature of the EU-UK agreement, European Council (Brussels) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/30/press-release-signature-of-the-eu-uk-agreement-30-december-2020/>

On 29 December 2020, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) announced that reporting under the EU Directive on Administrative Cooperation would be modified.¹⁶⁹⁰ Reporting would now only be required for cross-border arrangements applicable under Category D of the directive that "share substantial common growth with the Mandatory Disclosure Rules developed by the OECD."¹⁶⁹¹

On 12 January 2021, the UK signed a new protocol with Germany, to be added to the existing double tax treaty signed in 2010, to highlight both parties' intention to include the standard outlined in the OECD base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) project on treaty abuse, tax evasion and avoidance.¹⁶⁹² Changes include amending the wording of the treaty and adding Article 30A.¹⁶⁹³ The protocol is not yet in force.¹⁶⁹⁴

On 27-28 January 2021, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak, along with Ministers of Finance from Canada, Germany, Italy, Jamaica and Indonesia, emphasized the need for a multilateral digital tax solution at the public meeting of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework.¹⁶⁹⁵

On 19 February 2021, HMRC published a text which incorporated the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty-Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (MLI) and the 2007 UK-Saudi Arabia Double Taxation Convention and protocol.¹⁶⁹⁶ This text reiterates the provisions of the MLI, which replaced sections of the Convention and the protocol as well as the dates they take effect.¹⁶⁹⁷

On 23 February 2021, the UK and Sweden signed an amending protocol to update the Sweden-UK income tax treaty.¹⁶⁹⁸ The amendment contained changes to the preamble language, which describe the intentions to eliminate double taxation on income taxes and capital gain taxes while discouraging opportunities for tax evasion or avoidance. The protocol is yet to be ratified by both states.¹⁶⁹⁹

¹⁶⁹⁰ Report a cross-border arrangement to HMRC, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-a-cross-border-arrangement-to-hmrc#history>

¹⁶⁹¹ IEIM645000 – Hallmarks: Category D, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 30 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/hmrc-internal-manuals/international-exchange-of-information/ieim645000>

¹⁶⁹² Protocol to the UK/Germany Double Taxation Convention, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955611/Germany-UK-2021-Protocol-to-the-Double-Taxation-Convention-not-in-force_01_14_21.pdf

¹⁶⁹³ Protocol to the UK/Germany Double Taxation Convention, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955611/Germany-UK-2021-Protocol-to-the-Double-Taxation-Convention-not-in-force_01_14_21.pdf

¹⁶⁹⁴ Protocol to the UK/Germany Double Taxation Convention, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955611/Germany-UK-2021-Protocol-to-the-Double-Taxation-Convention-not-in-force_01_14_21.pdf

¹⁶⁹⁵ This week in tax: Janet Yellen raises hope for digital tax agreement, International Tax Review (London) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/b1qbd4l2twjm64/this-week-in-tax-janet-yellen-raises-hope-for-digital-tax-agreement>

¹⁶⁹⁶ Saudi Arabia: tax treaties, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 23 December 2009. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/saudi-arabia-tax-treaties#history>

¹⁶⁹⁷ Saudi Arabia: tax treaties, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 23 December 2009. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/saudi-arabia-tax-treaties#history>

¹⁶⁹⁸ Sweden: tax treaties, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 December 2013. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sweden-tax-treaties>

¹⁶⁹⁹ Sweden: tax treaties, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 December 2013. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sweden-tax-treaties>

On 3 March 2021, the Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak delivered the Budget Speech and outlined that income tax, VAT, and capital gains tax will not increase. Chancellor Sunak also announced a GBP100 million package to equip the HMRC to act against tax avoidance and evasion.¹⁷⁰⁰

On 11 March 2021, the UK published the Finance Bill 2021, which includes legislation on tax changes and plans to act against tax avoidance and evasion, which will take effect at the beginning of the 2022 tax year.¹⁷⁰¹

On 23 March 2021, the government published its “Tax Policies and Consultations Update (Spring 2021),” which seeks to improve the quality of tax policy and legislation by striving for greater visibility, transparency, and accessibility for taxpayers, Members of Parliament, tax professionals and other stakeholders.¹⁷⁰² These measures are an integral part of the government’s ten-year plan to create a trusted and modern tax system.¹⁷⁰³

On 15 April 2021, in the overall Committee of the whole House, the government introduced amendments pertaining to hybrid and other mismatches in its Finance Bill 2021.¹⁷⁰⁴

On 19 April 2021, Her Majesty’s Treasury added new Regulations to the International Tax Compliance Regulations SI 2015/878 to allow new agreements reached with other jurisdictions up to 20 April 2021 to be adopted.¹⁷⁰⁵ The new agreements came into force on 14 May 2021 and aim to improve international tax compliance.¹⁷⁰⁶

On 22 April 2021, the HMRC published factsheet CC/FS59, which provides details on the penalties charged in relation to CbCR.¹⁷⁰⁷ Penalties can be given for inaccurate information and failure to meet the commitments outlined in the Taxes (BEPS) (Country-by-Country Reporting) Regulations 2016.¹⁷⁰⁸

On 26 April 2021, the Global Anti-Corruption Sanctions Regulations 2021 came into effect.¹⁷⁰⁹ This legislation allows the government to impose sanctions on individuals involved in serious corruption,

¹⁷⁰⁰ Budget Speech 2021, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/budget-speech-2021>

¹⁷⁰¹ Finance Bill 2021 Published, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/finance-bill-2021-published>

¹⁷⁰² Government strengthens tax policymaking with over 30 updates, consultations and documents publishes, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-strengthens-tax-policymaking-with-over-30-updates-consultations-and-documents-published>

¹⁷⁰³ Government strengthens tax policymaking with over 30 updates, consultations and documents publishes, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 1 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-strengthens-tax-policymaking-with-over-30-updates-consultations-and-documents-published>

¹⁷⁰⁴ Amendments 17 to 42 to Clause 36 and Schedule 7: Hybrid and other mismatches, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/978205/210415_Clause_36_amendments_EN.pdf

¹⁷⁰⁵ The International Tax Compliance (Amendment) Regulations 2021, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2021/485/made>

¹⁷⁰⁶ The International Tax Compliance (Amendment) Regulations 2021, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2021/485/made>

¹⁷⁰⁷ Compliance checks; country-by-country reporting penalties-CC/FS59, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/compliance-checks-country-by-country-reporting-penalties-ccfs59>

¹⁷⁰⁸ Compliance checks; country-by-country reporting penalties-CC/FS59, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/compliance-checks-country-by-country-reporting-penalties-ccfs59>

¹⁷⁰⁹ The Global Anti-Corruption Sanctions Regulations 2021, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2021/488/regulation/1/made>

including bribery and misappropriation of property, in an effort to create autonomous anti-corruption legislation post-Brexit.¹⁷¹⁰

The UK has continued its cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable and modern international tax system through bilateral arrangements with the EU, Germany, Sweden and other G20 members. It has also cooperated in multilateral frameworks through implementing the MLI and creating treaties that align with the OECD's standards on tax avoidance and evasion.

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

Analyst: Jessica Johnson

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to continue cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable and modern international tax system.

In January 2021, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) published its investigation concluding that Austria, Spain, the UK, India, Italy and Turkey's digital services tax regimes were discriminatory to American companies and inconsistent with principles of international taxation.¹⁷¹¹ The USTR commenced the public notice and comment process on possible trade actions against such countries.¹⁷¹²

On 25 February 2021, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen expressed her intention to participate in multilateral dialogues on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) and overcome prior disagreements in anticipation of her first meeting with G20 counterparts.¹⁷¹³

On 26 February 2021, Treasury Secretary Yellen expressed that the US would reverse its previous stance and stop pushing for safe harbour implementation in Pillar One of the BEPS Framework and work toward an international agreement on digital commerce and a global minimum corporate tax.¹⁷¹⁴ This action advances the goal of achieving a global deal on digital taxation in 2021.¹⁷¹⁵

On 5 April 2021, Senate Finance Committee Chair Senator Ron Wyden and Senators Sherrod Brown and Mark Warner released a framework for reforming US international tax policy.¹⁷¹⁶ The document called for changes to the global intangible low-taxed income (GILTI) system, which would split

¹⁷¹⁰ The Global Anti-Corruption Sanctions Regulations 2021, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2021/488/regulation/4/made>

¹⁷¹¹ USTR releases findings of Section 301 investigation on DST regimes of Austria, Spain and the UK, and 301 findings on Vietnam's currency valuation practices, Ernst and Young (London) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/ustr-releases-findings-of-section-301-investigation-on-dst-regim

¹⁷¹² UK Tax Round Up – April 2021, JDSUPRA (California) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/uk-tax-round-up-april-2021-1107413/>

¹⁷¹³ Letter from Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen to G20 Colleagues, US Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0034>

¹⁷¹⁴ OECD Issues report to G20 finance ministers and Central Bank governors and hosts webcast on the outcomes of the G20 meeting and other tax developments, Ernst and Young LLP (Rotterdam) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://taxnews.ey.com/news/2021-0506-oecd-issues-report-to-g20-finance-ministers-and-central-bank-governors-and-hosts-webcast-on-the-outcomes-of-the-g20-meeting-and-other-tax-developments>

¹⁷¹⁵ US Drops Digital Tax Demand, Opening Door to Global Deal, Bloomberg News (New York) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-26/scholz-says-u-s-drops-demand-that-digital-tax-must-be-optional>

¹⁷¹⁶ Overhauling International Taxation: A framework to invest in the American people by ensuring multinational corporations pay their fair share, Senate Finance Committee (Washington D.C.) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/040121%20Overhauling%20International%20Taxation.pdf>

revenue reporting for multinational corporations to a country-by-country system, thus eliminating the incentive to funnel revenue reporting to tax havens.¹⁷¹⁷

On 7 April 2021, the Department of the Treasury released the Made in America Tax Plan.¹⁷¹⁸ The plan would make changes to the GILTI system by removing a tax exemption on the first 10 per cent of foreign profits earned by US companies. The plan also introduced the Stopping Harmful Inversions and Ending Low-tax Development's system, which conforms to the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework by removing tax deductions on profits earned in low-tax foreign jurisdictions.^{1719,1720}

The US has continued its cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable and modern international tax system through participating in multilateral dialogues on the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS, with specific reference to taxation on digital commerce and a global minimum corporate tax. The US government has taken steps to curb harmful tax practices, prevent base erosion, and implement country-by-country reporting systems. However, the US has not taken bilateral actions to improve the international tax system.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Brett Szmul

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to continue cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable and modern international tax system.

On 27 November 2020, the European Council approved a comprehensive assessment outlining its priorities on enhancing global cooperation with tax revenue agencies of non-EU countries, focusing on the spheres of digital commerce and tax governance.¹⁷²¹

On 24 December 2020, the UK and the EU reached an agreement on the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement.¹⁷²² As the UK no longer benefits from EU directives as of 1 January 2021, sections within this new agreement ensure that both parties maintain Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) standards of tax transparency, anti-tax avoidance, anti-money

¹⁷¹⁷ Report on recent US international tax developments – 9 April 2021, Ernst and Young International Tax and Transaction Services (Washington D.C.) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/report-on-recent-us-international-tax-developments-9-april-2021

¹⁷¹⁸ The Made in America Tax Plan, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/MadeInAmericaTaxPlan_Report.pdf

¹⁷¹⁹ Treasury Department reports on President Biden's "Made in America Tax Plan," Thomson Reuters (Carrollton) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://tax.thomsonreuters.com/news/treasury-department-reports-on-president-bidens-made-in-america-tax-plan/>

¹⁷²⁰ Proposed US tax reform, KPMG Ireland (Dublin) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://home.kpmg/ie/en/home/insights/2021/04/proposed-us-tax-reform.html>

¹⁷²¹ Fair and effective taxation: Council adopts conclusions, European Council (Brussels) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/11/27/council-conclusions-on-fair-and-effective-taxation-in-times-of-recovery-on-tax-challenges-linked-to-digitalisation-and-on-tax-good-governance-in-the-eu-and-beyond/>

¹⁷²² EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement: protecting European interests, ensuring fair competition, and continued cooperation in areas of mutual interest, European Commission (Brussels) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2531

laundering, counter-terrorist financing and more.¹⁷²³ The agreement was signed on 30 December 2020 and became provisionally applicable starting 1 January 2021.¹⁷²⁴

On 22 February 2021, the EU added Dominica and removed Barbados from its list of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions, after a review conducted as part of its ongoing strategy for external taxation.¹⁷²⁵ Several other changes were made to official designations of countries cooperating with EU tax authorities.

On 25 February 2021, a majority of EU Ministers endorsed a directive proposed by the European Commission which would require large multinational corporations to publicly disclose income taxes paid in each EU member state.¹⁷²⁶

On 3 March 2021, the EU ambassadors gave a mandate to the Portuguese Presidency of the European Council to begin negotiations with the Parliament and the Commission on a final agreement requiring large multinational corporations to publicly disclose income taxes paid in each EU member state. The Parliament agreed to begin negotiations with the goal of finalizing the agreement no later than 30 June 2021.¹⁷²⁷

On 30 March 2021, the European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs adopted a motion calling on the EU to immediately engage in negotiations for a global digital tax and an agreement governing the rules of tax residency for digital companies, with an aim to conform with the G20/OECD BEPS framework.¹⁷²⁸ The Committee also endorsed the idea of a European Digital Tax if international negotiations failed to implement a digital tax on the global level.¹⁷²⁹

The EU has continued its cooperation for a globally fair, sustainable and modern international tax system through bilateral arrangements, monitoring external jurisdictions' compliance with international tax regulations, and advancing tax transparency agreements with the UK. The EU has also continued its cooperation through multilateral frameworks to develop international tax transparency standards and information exchange mechanisms.

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

Analyst: Brett Szmul

¹⁷²³ Agreements reached between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agreements-reached-between-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-and-the-european-union#history>

¹⁷²⁴ Press release: Signature of the EU-UK agreement, European Council (Brussels) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/30/press-release-signature-of-the-eu-uk-agreement-30-december-2020/>

¹⁷²⁵ Timeline – EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions, European Council (Brussels) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-list-of-non-cooperative-jurisdictions/timeline-eu-list-of-non-cooperative-jurisdictions/>

¹⁷²⁶ The Latest on BEPS and Beyond: March 2021, Ernst and Young Global Tax Desk Network (New York) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/the-latest-on-beps-and-beyond-march-2021-edition

¹⁷²⁷ The Latest on BEPS and Beyond: March 2021, Ernst and Young Global Tax Desk Network (New York) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/the-latest-on-beps-and-beyond-march-2021-edition

¹⁷²⁸ Report on digital taxation: OECD negotiations, tax residency of digital companies and a possible European Digital Tax, Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (Brussels) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/231823/A9-0103_2021_EN.pdf

¹⁷²⁹ EU Parliament committee adopts resolution on digital taxation, MNE Tax (Washington D.C.) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://mnetax.com/eu-parliament-committee-adopts-resolution-on-digital-taxation-43198>

7. International Taxation: BEPS

“We remain committed to further progress on both pillars and urge the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS to address the remaining issues with a view to reaching a global and consensus-based solution by mid-2021.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia	-1		
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China		0	
France			+1
Germany			+1
India	-1		
Indonesia			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico		0	
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa	-1		
Turkey	-1		
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.35 (68%)	

Background

On 19 July 2013, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) issued the Action Plan on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).¹⁷³⁰ On 6 September 2013, at the St. Petersburg Summit, the G20 leaders fully endorsed “the ambitious and comprehensive Action Plan — originated in the OECD — aimed at addressing base erosion and profit shifting with mechanism to enrich the Plan as appropriate,” welcomed “the establishment of the G20/OECD BEPS project” and encouraged all interested countries to participate.¹⁷³¹ Implementation details of the BEPS Action Plan developed thereafter constitute the BEPS package with 15 actions that equip governments with the necessary domestic and international instruments to ensure that profits are taxed where economic activities that generate the profits are performed and where value is created.¹⁷³² The BEPS package also gives businesses greater certainty by reducing disputes over the application of international tax

¹⁷³⁰ Action Plan on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (Paris) 19 July 2013. Access Date: 11 January 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/action-plan-on-base-erosion-and-profit-shifting-9789264202719-en.htm>

¹⁷³¹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration St. Petersburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 11 January 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovanij/gruppa-dvadtsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadtsati/sankt-peterburg-2013/Saint_Petersburg_Declaration_ENG.pdf

¹⁷³² BEPS Actions, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (Paris) 2015. Access Date: 11 January 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/beps-actions/>

rules and by standardizing compliance requirements. The OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS was established to expand the coverage of measures to tackle BEPS and brings together 137 countries and jurisdictions to collaborate on implementing its recommendations.¹⁷³³ Commitments to address BEPS have been reiterated at all subsequent G20 summits since St. Petersburg.

In 2019 in Osaka G20 leaders reaffirmed the importance of the worldwide implementation of the BEPS package and enhanced tax certainty. They welcomed the progress on addressing the tax challenges arising from digitalization and endorsed the work program that consists of a two-pillar approach, developed by the Inclusive Framework on BEPS.

In 2020 in Riyadh summit declaration G20 leaders welcomed the Reports on the Blueprints for Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 approved for public release by the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) and committed to further progress on both pillars and urged the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS to address the remaining issues with a view to reaching a global and consensus-based solution by mid-2021.

Commitment Features

This commitment refers to BEPS Action 1 Tax Challenges Arising from Digitalisation. It is the top priority for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)/G20 Inclusive Framework. In May 2019, the Inclusive Framework issued the Programme of Work to Develop a Consensus Solution to the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy.¹⁷³⁴ It explores technical design implementation issues that must be refined to develop a comprehensive and consensus-based solution. It includes concrete proposals for the two challenges facing the international income tax in the digital economy: changing the allocation of taxing rights through a coherent and concurrent review of the profit allocation and nexus rules (Pillar 1) and remaining BEPS issues and minimum taxation (Pillar 2).¹⁷³⁵

We remain committed to further progress on both pillars and urge the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS to address the remaining issues with a view to reaching a global and consensus-based solution by mid-2021.

Commitment requires taking actions on both pillars.

Pillar 1- Re-allocation of taxing rights

- Addresses the question of business presence and activities without physical presence;
- Will determine where tax should be paid and on what basis;
- Will determine what portion of profits could or should be taxed in the jurisdictions where customers and/or users are located.

Key elements of Pillar One can be grouped into three components: a new taxing right for market jurisdictions over a share of residual profit calculated at an multinational enterprise group (or segment) level; a fixed return for certain baseline marketing and distribution activities taking place

¹⁷³³ OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (Paris) 2015. Access Date: 11 January 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/flyer-inclusive-framework-on-beps.pdf>

¹⁷³⁴ Programme of Work to Develop a Consensus Solution to the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy, OECD (Paris) 29 May 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/programme-of-work-to-develop-a-consensus-solution-to-the-tax-challenges-arising-from-the-digitalisation-of-the-economy.pdf>

¹⁷³⁵ Programme of Work to Develop a Consensus Solution to the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy, OECD (Paris) 29 May 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/programme-of-work-to-develop-a-consensus-solution-to-the-tax-challenges-arising-from-the-digitalisation-of-the-economy.pdf>

physically in a market jurisdiction; and processes to improve tax certainty through effective dispute prevention and resolution mechanisms.¹⁷³⁶

Taking actions on or actively publicly supporting these components is necessary to comply with this part of the commitment.

Pillar 2 – Global anti-base erosion mechanism

- Will help to stop the shifting of profits to low or no tax jurisdiction facilitated by new technologies;
- Will ensure a minimum level of tax is paid by multinational enterprises;
- Levels the playing field between traditional and digital companies;

Pillar Two addresses remaining BEPS challenges and is designed to ensure that large internationally operating businesses pay a minimum level of tax regardless of where they are headquartered or the jurisdictions they operate in. It does so via a number of interlocking rules that seek to (i) ensure minimum taxation while avoiding double taxation or taxation where there is no economic profit, (ii) cope with different tax system designs by jurisdictions as well as different operating models by businesses, (iii) ensure transparency and a level playing field, and (iv) minimise administrative and compliance costs.¹⁷³⁷

Taking actions on or actively publicly supporting these components is necessary to comply with this part of the commitment.

To achieve full compliance G20 member needs to implement actions on both pillars or publicly support OECD process (in case when G20 member does not want to proceed with actions without a consensus solution). If a G20 member takes actions only on one of the pillars, it receives a score of 0. If G20 member does not take any actions and does not support OECD process it receives a score of –1.

Scoring Guidelines

–1	G20 member does not take any actions to further progress on both pillars
0	G20 member takes actions or publicly supports OECD process on Pillar 1 OR Pillar 2
+1	G20 member takes actions or publicly supports OECD process on Pillar 1 AND Pillar 2

*Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov
Lead Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 31 January 2021, Argentina notified the Qatar Government that it had completed the internal requirements for the entry into force of the Tax Treaty for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and

¹⁷³⁶ Tax Challenges Arising from Digitalization – Report on Pillar One Blueprint: Inclusive Framework on BEPS, OECD (Paris) 8-9 October 2020. Access Date: 11 January 2021. https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/beba0634-en/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/beba0634-en&_csp_=71b32056ea489ac3c26f0ea639f0fb6e&itemIGO=oeed&itemContentType=book

¹⁷³⁷ Tax Challenges Arising from Digitalization – Report on Pillar Two Blueprint: Inclusive Framework on BEPS, OECD (Paris) 8-9 October 2020. Access Date: 11 January 2021. https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/abb4c3d1-en/1/2/1/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/abb4c3d1-en&_csp_=e7df02b7273c00f57848cd6d74af0543&itemIGO=oeed&itemContentType=book#section-d1e494

the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion With Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital (the Treaty) signed between Argentina and Qatar.¹⁷³⁸

On 17 February 2021, Argentina and the US agreed to exchange country-by-country reports. The information exchanged through the Country-by-Country reporting will be used by the tax authorities to assess certain risks such as erosion of the tax base and risks related to the transfer of profit and, when appropriate, for economic and statistical analysis.¹⁷³⁹

Argentina has taken measures to address one of the pillars of G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Australia: -1

Australia has not complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.

Australia has taken no action and publicly supports only Pillar 1 of the OECD process.

Thus, Australia receives a score of -1.¹⁷⁴⁰

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 25 February 2021, Brazil approved three new treaties for the elimination of double taxation and the prevention of tax evasion and avoidance between Brazil and Switzerland, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates. The Treaties are now pending enactment by the President's sanction. The Treaties' provisions are partially aligned with the standards of OECD and its BEPS action plans.¹⁷⁴¹

On 1 March 2021, Brazil introduced legal act Contribuição sobre Intervenção no Domínio Econômico-Internet (640/2021). It will impose tax at a rate of 3 per cent on gross revenue from: advertising, sponsorship or merchandising, content targeting, collection, distribution or treatment of users' data, incentive or influence for the use of services, payment platform, exploitation or dissemination of images, text, video or sound related to a natural or legal person, entities subject to

¹⁷³⁸ Argentina-Qatar tax treaty enters into force, EY (London) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/argentina-qatar-tax-treaty-enters-into-force

¹⁷³⁹ Argentina: Exchanges of country-by-country reports, agreement with United States, KPMG (Amstelveen) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/02/tnf-argentina-exchanges-cbc-reports-agreement-united-states.html>

¹⁷⁴⁰ This score of non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: Government of Australia <https://www.australia.gov.au/>; Australia Treasury <https://treasury.gov.au/>; Australian Taxation Office <https://www.ato.gov.au/>; Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet <https://pmc.gov.au/>.

¹⁷⁴¹ Brazilian Senate approves three new treaties for the avoidance of double taxation, EY (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/brazilian-senate-approves-three-new-treaties-for-the-avoidance-of-double-taxation

this tax would be legal entities which, as a consequence of exportation of the listed activities in Brazil, accrued revenue in Brazil or abroad.¹⁷⁴²

Brazil has taken measures to address both pillars of G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.

On 19 April 2020, the Government of Canada presented the Budget 2021.¹⁷⁴³ The budget included an annex, providing detailed information on the proposed Digital Services Tax (DST) and invited input from stakeholders. The proposed tax is intended to ensure that revenue earned by large businesses – foreign or domestic – from engagement with online users in Canada, including through the collection, processing and monetizing of data and content contributions from those users, is subject to Canadian tax. The DST is intended to be interim in nature – it would apply as of 1 January 2022 until an acceptable multilateral approach comes into effect with respect to the implicated businesses.¹⁷⁴⁴

On 5 June 2021, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland took part in the G7 Finance Ministers' Meeting in London, United Kingdom. The communiqué, signed by all the participants contained strong support for the “efforts underway through the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework to address the tax challenges arising from globalisation and the digitalisation of the economy and to adopt a global minimum tax.” The G7 ministers and central bank governors also committed to reach an “equitable solution on the allocation of taxing rights, with market countries awarded taxing rights on at least 20 per cent of profit exceeding a 10 per cent margin for the largest and most profitable multinational enterprises.”¹⁷⁴⁵

Canada took action on Pillar 1 and Pillar 2.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

China: 0

China has partially complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

¹⁷⁴² Brazil: Review of digital services tax proposals, KPMG (Amstelveen) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/04/tnf-brazil-review-of-digital-services-tax-proposals.html>

¹⁷⁴³ Government of Canada highlights Budget 2021 investments to create a healthy environment for a healthy economy, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-highlights-budget-2021-investments-to-create-a-healthy-environment-for-a-healthy-economy.html>.

¹⁷⁴⁴ Annex 7: Consultations on Other Tax Measures: Supplementary Information, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021 <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/report-rapport/anx7-en.html>.

¹⁷⁴⁵ G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Communiqué, HM Treasury (London) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 18 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/g7-finance-ministers-meeting-june-2021-communication/g7-finance-ministers-and-central-bank-governors-communication>

On 12 March 2021, the 14th Five-Year Plan was announced. According to the plan, China will improve the management services of international taxation. International taxation was chosen as an important area of work of the Chinese government.¹⁷⁴⁶

On 29 March 2021, it was announced that China will adopt a broad range of digitalized measures to regulate tax collections and optimize tax payment services through 2025. The new technologies will also help with real-time verification and monitoring of the invoice issuance process, which will help to prevent tax fraud.¹⁷⁴⁷

China is taking action and publicly supports only Pillar 1 of the OECD process.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

France: +1

France has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 4 December 2020, France resumed collection of its digital services tax. “The 3 per cent digital services tax applies to revenues deemed to have been generated in France by digital companies, wherever they are established, which make annual supplies of taxable services of more than EUR25 million in France and EUR750 million worldwide. The tax applies to advertising revenues from services that rely on data collected from internet users, revenues from the provision of a linking service between internet users and the sale of user data for advertising purposes. However, online sales and the digital provision of digital content for buying or selling are expressly excluded from the tax.”¹⁷⁴⁸

As of March 23, France has implemented a digital service tax.¹⁷⁴⁹

On 5 June 2021, Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire took part in the G7 Finance Ministers’ Meeting in London, United Kingdom. The communique, signed by all the participants contained strong support for the “efforts underway through the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework to address the tax challenges arising from globalisation and the digitalisation of the economy and to adopt a global minimum tax.” The G7 ministers and central bank governors also committed to reach an “equitable solution on the allocation of taxing rights, with market countries awarded taxing rights on at least 20 per cent of profit exceeding a 10 per cent margin for the largest and most profitable multinational enterprises.”¹⁷⁵⁰

France has shown progress on the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS.

¹⁷⁴⁶ The Fourteenth Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China and the Outline of Long-Term Goals for 2035, Xinhua (Beijing) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <http://politics.people.com.cn/n1/2021/0313/c1001-32050444.html>

¹⁷⁴⁷ Digital measures to optimize tax collections, China Daily (Beijing) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 31 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/30/content_WS60626187c6d0719374afbc03.html

¹⁷⁴⁸ France to resume collection of digital tax, Pinsent Masons (Paris) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.pinsentmasons.com/out-law/news/france-to-resume-collection-of-digital-tax>

¹⁷⁴⁹ What European OECD Countries Are Doing about Digital Services Taxes (Washington DC) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://taxfoundation.org/digital-tax-europe-2020/>

¹⁷⁵⁰ G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Communiqué, HM Treasury (London) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 18 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/g7-finance-ministers-meeting-june-2021-communication/g7-finance-ministers-and-central-bank-governors-communication>

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 28 January 2021, Federal Minister of Finance Olaf Scholz took part in the 11th Meeting of the Inclusive Framework on BEPS and made a speech on tax challenges arising from digitalization and the future of international taxation in the framework of the panel discussion.¹⁷⁵¹

On 1 February 2021, Germany made public an answer to the inquiry of several Bundestag deputies concerning, inter alia, its position on taxation in the digital economy. The government expressed its support to the OECD-led process and mentioned it would take further measures concerning digital taxes after the common decision on Pillars 1 and 2 is achieved within the Inclusive Framework.¹⁷⁵²

On 5 June 2021, Finance Minister Olaf Scholz took part in the G7 Finance Ministers' Meeting in London, United Kingdom. The communique, signed by all the participants contained strong support for the "efforts underway through the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework to address the tax challenges arising from globalisation and the digitalisation of the economy and to adopt a global minimum tax." The G7 ministers and central bank governors also committed to reach an "equitable solution on the allocation of taxing rights, with market countries awarded taxing rights on at least 20 per cent of profit exceeding a 10 per cent margin for the largest and most profitable multinational enterprises."¹⁷⁵³

Germany has publicly supported the OECD-led process on Pillar 1 and Pillar 2. Thus, it receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

India: -1

India has failed to comply with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

No information on India's actions on Pillar 1 or Pillar 2 during the monitoring period was found.

Thus, India is awarded a score of -1.¹⁷⁵⁴

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

¹⁷⁵¹ Draft Agenda. 11th Meeting of the Inclusive Framework on BEPS, OECD (Paris) January 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/agenda-oecd-g20-inclusive-framework-on-beps-meeting-january-2021.pdf>

¹⁷⁵² Drucksache 19/26319, German Bundestag (Berlin) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://dipbt.bundestag.de/dip21/btd/19/263/1926319.pdf>

¹⁷⁵³ G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Communiqué, HM Treasury (London) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 18 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/g7-finance-ministers-meeting-june-2021-communication/g7-finance-ministers-and-central-bank-governors-communication>

¹⁷⁵⁴ This score of non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: Public Information Bureau <https://www.pib.gov.in/indexd.aspx>; National Portal of India <https://www.india.gov.in/>; Government of India Income Tax Department <https://www.incometaxindia.gov.in/pages/default.aspx>; India Ministry of Finance <https://finmin.nic.in/>.

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 24 March 2021, Indonesia issued “Government Regulation in Lieu of Law No. 1 Year 2020 (Perppu-1) followed by the publication of Law No. 2 Year 2020 (Law No. 2) in early 2020, whose agenda also includes the taxation of the digital economy. Along with the implementing Minister of Finance regulation as well as [double taxation] regulation, Indonesia mandates the imposition of [value added tax] on Trading Through Electronic System (PMSE) activities. Income tax obligation will also apply to foreign traders, service providers and/or organisers of PMSE with significant economic presence although implementing regulations have yet to be issued as many are curious to find out how it will line up along the framework prescribed within the BEPS 2.0 blueprints issued by the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework.”¹⁷⁵⁵

In April 2021, Indonesia “delayed the introduction of an income tax or Electronic Transaction Tax on offshore digital businesses that have a significant economic presence in Indonesia until consensus-based solution is reached.” Indonesia “temporarily applied a 0 per cent [personal income tax] rate for additional income received from government by health sector workers dealing with COVID-19. Indonesia also provided import duty relief for air and marine transportation vehicles.”¹⁷⁵⁶

On 27 and 28 January 2021, the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS held a public meeting to provide an update on its ongoing international tax work. Minister of Finance of Indonesia Sri Mulyani Indrawati “stated that, once countries reach an agreement, Indonesia intends to focus on implementation when it assumes the G20 Presidency in 2022. She also called for the creation of a multilateral convention to easily implement the solution in a coordinated manner.”¹⁷⁵⁷

Indonesia has shown progress on the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 5 June 2021, Minister of Economy and Finance Daniele Franco took part in the G7 Finance Ministers’ Meeting in London, United Kingdom. The communique, signed by all the participants contained strong support for the “efforts underway through the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework to address the tax challenges arising from globalisation and the digitalisation of the economy and to

¹⁷⁵⁵ COVID-19 transforms Indonesia’s digital economy and TP landscape, International Tax Review (London) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.internationaltaxreview.com/article/b1r2w08ycnp7hg/covid-19-transforms-indonesias-digital-economy-and-tp-landscape>

¹⁷⁵⁶ OECD Secretary-General Tax Report to G20 Finance Ministers and Central bank Governors, OECD (Paris) April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/oecd-secretary-general-tax-report-g20-finance-ministers-april-2021.pdf>

¹⁷⁵⁷ OECD Inclusive Framework political leaders promote global consensus following OECD’s public consultation on Pillar One and Two Blueprints, EY (London) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://taxnews.ey.com/news/2021-0234-oecd-inclusive-framework-political-leaders-promote-global-consensus-following-oecd-public-consultation-on-pillar-one-and-two-blueprints?uAlertID=Sdpercent2FG8rua1oj6percent2FI58EZ2AiApercent3Dpercent3D>

adopt a global minimum tax.” The G7 ministers and central bank governors also committed to reach an “equitable solution on the allocation of taxing rights, with market countries awarded taxing rights on at least 20 per cent of profit exceeding a 10 per cent margin for the largest and most profitable multinational enterprises.”¹⁷⁵⁸

Italy took action on Pillar 1 and Pillar 2.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov

Japan: +1

Japan fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 5 June 2021, Finance Minister Taro Aso took part in the G7 Finance Ministers’ Meeting in London, United Kingdom. The communique, signed by all the participants contained strong support for the “efforts underway through the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework to address the tax challenges arising from globalisation and the digitalisation of the economy and to adopt a global minimum tax.” The G7 ministers and central bank governors also committed to reach an “equitable solution on the allocation of taxing rights, with market countries awarded taxing rights on at least 20 per cent of profit exceeding a 10 per cent margin for the largest and most profitable multinational enterprises.”¹⁷⁵⁹

Japan took action on Pillar 1 and Pillar 2.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 22 and 29 December 2020, Korea enacted the 2021 Tax Reform bill. Amendments to the country’s tax regime imply some changes in regulations concerning the deduction method in the foreign tax credit regime: the carryforward period for excess foreign tax credits is extended from 5 years to 10 years. Also, the reform provides a capital gains tax regime for the disposal of virtual assets: gains delivered from the disposal of virtual assets by a foreign individual or foreign corporation are categorized as “other income” subject to withholding tax at the lesser of 11 per cent of the transfer price or 22 per cent of the net capital gains. All the changes are effective after 1 January 2021.¹⁷⁶⁰

Korea has taken actions on both pillars of the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS to address the remaining taxation issues, associated with digital growth.

¹⁷⁵⁸ G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Communiqué, HM Treasury (London) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 18 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/g7-finance-ministers-meeting-june-2021-communicue/g7-finance-ministers-and-central-bank-governors-communicue>

¹⁷⁵⁹ G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Communiqué, HM Treasury (London) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 18 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/g7-finance-ministers-meeting-june-2021-communicue/g7-finance-ministers-and-central-bank-governors-communicue>

¹⁷⁶⁰ Korea enacts 2021 tax reform bill, EY Global (London) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/korea-enacts-2021-tax-reform-bill

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 29 December 2020, “the Miscellaneous Tax Resolution for 2021 was published in the Official Gazette. It included measures regarding value added tax (VAT) and digital services. The changes to the VAT rules for digital services include the following. As a result of modifications to the VAT law for 2021, it is clarified that foreign residents (whether individuals or legal entities) providing digital services through an intermediary that collects and withholds 100 per cent of the VAT on the sales or transaction price for the foreign residents, are not required to register in the federal tax registry. The legislative measures repeal a requirement for those providing digital ‘intermediation’ services between third parties to file an update of economic activities. The legislation also includes a rule to the list of requirements to issue the Comprobante Fiscal Digital por Internet by residents in Mexico that provide intermediation services between third parties to suppliers of goods and services residing abroad. In various rules, the concept of individuals who sell goods, provide services, grant accommodation or provide for the ‘temporary use or enjoyment of goods’ through technological platforms is expanded. The legislation modifies the rule for determining the income limit and treating the withholding made by the technological platforms as the final payment. Also, the legislation withdraws a rule that allowed individuals with business activities that obtain income from operations through technological platforms to credit the income tax withholding. There are new rules for individuals with business activities of selling goods or providing services through the internet via technological platforms. Regarding income received directly from purchasers of the goods or services, these individuals (if considering the tax paid as a ‘definitive’ payment) must determine their taxable profit, calculate their income tax, and credit the tax withheld by the technological platforms and make the advanced income tax payment by submitting a return (known in English as the ‘Income tax payment of individuals in technological platforms return’).”¹⁷⁶¹

Mexico has taken actions to address Pillar 1 of the Inclusive framework, but no actions on second pillar were found.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 23 November 2020, Russia has issued the Federal Law No. 374-FZ concerning amendments to the Tax Code.¹⁷⁶² As from 1 January 2021, the possibility of securing a zero rate for dividends by means of the look-through approach is no longer an option. The new rules make it even more difficult than before to use existing mechanisms for remitting payments abroad at a low rate of tax,

¹⁷⁶¹ Mexico: Tax legislative changes for 2021 and digital services, KPMG (Amstelveen) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/01/tnf-mexico-tax-legislative-changes-2021-digital-services.html>

¹⁷⁶² Federal Law 23 November 2020 N 374-FZ ‘On Amendments to the Tax Code of the Russian Federation and selected law of the Russian Federation, Rossiyskaya Gazeta (Moscow) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://rg.ru/2020/11/26/nalogi-dok.html>

and in particular the look-through approach. Also, the Federal Law amends the provisions of Article 284.2 that apply to income from the sale or other disposal of shares or ownership interests in foreign entities, but only if the state of residence of those foreign entities is not on the Finance Ministry's list of states and territories that provide preferential tax treatment and/or do not require the disclosure or provision of information on financial operations.¹⁷⁶³

Russia has taken actions on Pillar 2 of the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS to address the remaining taxation issues, associated with digital growth, but no action matching Pillar 1 has been found within the monitoring period.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 2 March 2021, the General Authority of Zakat and Tax released guidelines about value added tax (VAT) registration and payment for online and e-commerce transactions and activities. The guidelines (available in Arabic) provide that it is mandatory for online enterprises to register for VAT if their annual turnover exceeds SAR375,000 (approximately USD100,000). VAT registration is optional if yearly sales fall between SAR187,500 and SAR375,000. Online stores are defined as any digital platform that is used for e-commerce activities, and includes activities on Instagram, Whatsapp, Facebook, and LinkedIn, among others.¹⁷⁶⁴

Saudi Arabia has shown moderate progress on the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

South Africa: -1

South Africa has not complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

No actions taken by South Africa on Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 of the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework on BEPS were discovered within the monitoring period.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of -1.¹⁷⁶⁵

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

¹⁷⁶³ Key changes in corporate tax law in 2021, EY (Moscow) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. https://www.ey.com/en_ru/tax/tax-alert/2021/01/ey-key-changes-in-corporate-tax-law-in-2021-20-january-2021-eng

¹⁷⁶⁴ Saudi Arabia: VAT guidelines for e-commerce, KPMG (Amstelveen) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/03/tnf-saudi-arabia-vat-guidelines-e-commerce.html>

¹⁷⁶⁵ This score of non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: Government of South Africa <https://www.gov.za/>; South African Revenue Service <https://www.sars.gov.za/>; National Treasury <http://www.treasury.gov.za/>; The Presidency <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/>.

Turkey: –1

Turkey has failed to comply with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

No information on Turkey's actions on Pillar 1 or Pillar 2 during the monitoring period was found.

Thus, Turkey is awarded a score of –1.¹⁷⁶⁶

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

From 1 April 2020, the UK government introduced a 2 per cent digital tax on the revenues of search engines, social media services and online marketplaces which derive value from UK users.¹⁷⁶⁷

In December 2020, the UK published the paper “[value added tax] (VAT) and the Sharing Economy: Call for Evidence.” The aim of this call for evidence was to test the government's view of the VAT challenges the Sharing Economy creates. The paper, inter alia, states that the UK government has been closely involved in the OECD-led process on Pillars 1 and 2.¹⁷⁶⁸

On 5 June 2021, Chancellor Rishi Sunak took part in the G7 Finance Ministers' Meeting in London, United Kingdom. The communique, signed by all the participants contained strong support for the “efforts underway through the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework to address the tax challenges arising from globalisation and the digitalisation of the economy and to adopt a global minimum tax.” The G7 ministers and central bank governors also committed to reach an “equitable solution on the allocation of taxing rights, with market countries awarded taxing rights on at least 20 per cent of profit exceeding a 10 per cent margin for the largest and most profitable multinational enterprises.”¹⁷⁶⁹

Despite taking its own domestic measures on taxation in the digital economy without waiting for the final OECD process outcomes, the UK has publicly supported OECD process on Pillars 1 and 2.

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

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

¹⁷⁶⁶ This score of non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: Presidency of the Republic of Turkey <https://www.tccb.gov.tr/en/>; Ministry of Treasury and Finance <https://en.hmb.gov.tr>; Turkey Revenue Administration <https://www.gib.gov.tr/en>; The Grand National Assembly of Turkey <https://global.tbmm.gov.tr/index.php/EN/yd/>.

¹⁷⁶⁷ Digital Services Tax, UK Government (London) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-the-digital-services-tax/digital-services-tax>.

¹⁷⁶⁸ VAT and the Sharing Economy: Call for Evidence, HM Treasury (London) December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/942573/Call_for_Evidence_-_VAT_and_the_Sharing_Economy.pdf.

¹⁷⁶⁹ G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Communiqué, HM Treasury (London) 5 June 2021. Access Date:

18 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/g7-finance-ministers-meeting-june-2021-communication/g7-finance-ministers-and-central-bank-governors-communication>

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 5 June 2021, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen took part in the G7 Finance Ministers' Meeting in London, United Kingdom. The communique, signed by all the participants contained strong support for the “efforts underway through the G20/OECD Inclusive Framework to address the tax challenges arising from globalisation and the digitalisation of the economy and to adopt a global minimum tax.” The G7 ministers and central bank governors also committed to reach an “equitable solution on the allocation of taxing rights, with market countries awarded taxing rights on at least 20 per cent of profit exceeding a 10 per cent margin for the largest and most profitable multinational enterprises.”¹⁷⁷⁰

The United States took action on Pillar 1 and Pillar 2.

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

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to further progress on both of the G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).

On 18 January 2021, the European Commission launched the public consultation on the digital levy. The new initiative proposal is expected to be finalized by mid-2021. The levy will help address the issue of fair taxation related to the digitalization of the economy and, at the same time, is intended to not interfere with the ongoing work at the G20 and OECD level on a reform of the international corporate tax framework.¹⁷⁷¹

Despite taking its own domestic measures on taxation in the digital economy without waiting for the final OECD process outcomes, the EU has highlighted that its own internal proposals should not interfere with the OECD work on Pillar 1 and Pillar 2.

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

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

¹⁷⁷⁰ G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Communiqué, HM Treasury (London) 5 June 2021. Access Date: 18 June 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/g7-finance-ministers-meeting-june-2021-communicue/g7-finance-ministers-and-central-bank-governors-communicue>

¹⁷⁷¹ A fair & competitive digital economy – digital levy, European Commission (Brussels) January 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12836-Digital-Levy/public-consultation_ru.

8. Crime and Corruption: Threats

“We reiterate our strong commitment to tackle all sources, techniques and channels of these threats.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina	-1		
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India		0	
Indonesia			+1
Italy	-1		
Japan		0	
Korea		0	
Mexico		0	
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa	-1		
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.40 (70%)	

Background

Addressing money laundering and terrorism financing is a well-established goal of the G20 as it is a serious economic and societal concern. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) states that “these activities generate financial flows that involve the diversion of resources away from economically- and socially-productive uses—and these diversions can have negative impacts on the financial sector and external stability of member states.”¹⁷⁷² Therefore, is it essential to implement effective anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing regimes in order to alleviate the corruptive effects these activities have, and to promote and protect the stability and integrity of the financial markets.¹⁷⁷³

At the 1989 G7 Paris Summit, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) was founded to set a global standard for anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing.¹⁷⁷⁴ It is a 33-member organization

¹⁷⁷² Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism – Topics, International Monetary Fund (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.imf.org/external/np/leg/amlcft/eng/aml1.htm#financingterrorism>

¹⁷⁷³ Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism – Topics, International Monetary Fund (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.imf.org/external/np/leg/amlcft/eng/aml1.htm#financingterrorism>

¹⁷⁷⁴ Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism – Topics, International Monetary Fund (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.imf.org/external/np/leg/amlcft/eng/aml1.htm#financingterrorism>

and works closely with the IMF, the World Bank, the United Nations, and other key international organizations.¹⁷⁷⁵

At the 2008 Washington Summit, G20 members reaffirmed their support for the continuation of the FATF in its efforts against money laundering and terrorist financing, along with their support of the World Bank-UN Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative.¹⁷⁷⁶

At the 2009 Pittsburgh Summit, G20 leaders committed to maintain their momentum and results in combating money laundering and terrorist financing and continued their support for the efforts made by the FATF.¹⁷⁷⁷

At the 2010 Toronto Summit, the G20 members reiterated their support for the FATF and encouraged the FATF to continue “monitoring and enhancing global compliance with the anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing international standards.”¹⁷⁷⁸ Furthermore, G20 members encouraged FATF to keep states accountable through regularly updating a public list of jurisdictions that have strategic deficiencies in this area.¹⁷⁷⁹

At the 2011 Cannes Summit, G20 members supported the efforts made by the FATF of identifying and engaging jurisdictions that have deficiencies with their Anti-Money Laundering/Counter-Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT).¹⁷⁸⁰ G20 urged all states that were lacking in sufficient progress or compliance to strengthen their AML/CFT systems in alignment with the FATF.¹⁷⁸¹ Furthermore, G20 members called for the implementation of the FATF standards for transparency in areas such as cross-border wires, beneficial ownership, customer due diligence, and due diligence.¹⁷⁸²

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, G20 members affirmed their support for the renewal of the FATF mandate, and adopted the revised standards of the FATF.¹⁷⁸³

At the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, G20 members reiterated their commitment to the FATF’s efforts to fight money laundering and terrorist financing and stated that one of their priorities was to identify and monitor high risk jurisdictions that have deficiencies in their AML/CFT strategies, while recognizing states that have made positive progress towards the FATF’s standards.¹⁷⁸⁴

¹⁷⁷⁵ Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism – Topics, International Monetary Fund (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.imf.org/external/np/leg/amlcft/eng/aml1.htm#financingterrorism>

¹⁷⁷⁶ Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2008. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2008/2008declaration1115.html>

¹⁷⁷⁷ G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 June 2009. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0925.html>

¹⁷⁷⁸ The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communique.html>

¹⁷⁷⁹ The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communique.html>

¹⁷⁸⁰ Cannes Summit Final Declaration – Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access Date: 1 March 2021. [g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html)

¹⁷⁸¹ Cannes Summit Final Declaration – Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access Date: 1 March 2021. [g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html)

¹⁷⁸² Cannes Summit Final Declaration – Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access Date: 1 March 2021. [g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html)

¹⁷⁸³ G20 Leaders Declaration Los Cabos, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

¹⁷⁸⁴ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html#aml>

The 2016 Hangzhou Summit called upon G20 members, the IMF, and the World Bank Group to “intensify their support for domestic capacity building to help countries improve their compliance with global anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism and prudential standards.”¹⁷⁸⁵

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 members committed to advance the effective implementation of the global standards of transparency and beneficial ownership of legal persons and arrangements in order to continue combating money laundering and terrorism financing.¹⁷⁸⁶

At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, G20 members committed to regulate crypto-assets for anti-money laundering and countering terrorist financing in a way that is aligned with the FATF’s standards.¹⁷⁸⁷

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 members reaffirmed their commitment of the full, effective, and swift implementation of the amended FATF standards to virtual assets, such as crypto-assets, as well as related providers for anti-money laundering and combating terrorist financing.¹⁷⁸⁸

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, G20 members affirmed their support of the AML/CFT policy that was outlined in the FATF’s report on COVID-19.¹⁷⁸⁹ G20 members reaffirmed their support for the FATF and the global standard it has set out to prevent and combat money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing.¹⁷⁹⁰ G20 members also reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen “the FATF’s Global Network of regional bodies, including by supporting their expertise in mutual evaluations, and call for the full, effective and swift implementation of the FATF standards worldwide” alongside their strong commitment “to tackle all sources, techniques and channels of these threats.”¹⁷⁹¹

Commitment Features

This commitment requires G20 members to take into account all three areas involved in money-laundering and terrorist financing crimes, which are the sources, techniques, and the channels of these threats. In order for G20 members to fully comply, strong action must be taken to address all three areas for both money-laundering as well as terrorist financing.

To “reiterate” is understood as “commitments that have been established in the past. It should not be considered a new initiative; however, new efforts in the area should be made.”¹⁷⁹² In the context of this commitment, it entails that the G20 members will make further efforts and improvements to the previously established commitments from past summits, including their work with the FATF.

¹⁷⁸⁵ G20 Leaders' Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communication.html>

¹⁷⁸⁶ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁷⁸⁷ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁷⁸⁸ G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁷⁸⁹ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

¹⁷⁹⁰ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

¹⁷⁹¹ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

¹⁷⁹² Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

“Strong commitment” is understood as “effective or efficient especially in a specified direction.”¹⁷⁹³ In the context of this commitment, it entails that the G20 members will take concrete actions to address crime and corruption.

“Tackle” is understood as “to seize, take hold of, or grapple with especially with the intention of stopping or subduing.”¹⁷⁹⁴ For this commitment, it refers to “preventing and combating money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing.”¹⁷⁹⁵

“All” is understood as “the whole amount, quantity, or extent of.”¹⁷⁹⁶ For this commitment, it entails comprehensive action to address sources, techniques and channels of money laundering and terrorist financing.

“Sources” is understood as “the place something comes from or starts at, or the cause of something.”¹⁷⁹⁷ In the context of this commitment, it refers to identifying “a point of origin or procurement” of the money that is involved in money-laundering or terrorist financing.¹⁷⁹⁸ Sources of money laundering include, but are not limited to “white collar crimes...and drug related crimes...internet-based frauds and other use of internet technologies in fraudulent predicate activities...smuggling of goods and contraband.”¹⁷⁹⁹ Sources of terrorist financing include, but are not limited to “legitimate sources, including through abuse of charitable entities or legitimate businesses and self-financing, criminal activity, state sponsors and activities in failed states and other safe havens” as well as, “small cash-intensive businesses.”¹⁸⁰⁰

“Techniques” is understood as “a method of accomplishing a desired aim.”¹⁸⁰¹ In the context of this commitment, it refers to preventing and combating methods of money-laundering and terrorist financing. Methods of money laundering include but are not limited to, “the use of the international trade regime, cash couriers, alternative remittance systems and complex corporate structures.”¹⁸⁰² Methods of terrorist financing are similar to those of money laundering, including, but not limited to, “the use of the financial system...the physical movement of money...[as well as] through the international trade system.”¹⁸⁰³

¹⁷⁹³ Strong, Merriam Webster Dictionary (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/strong>

¹⁷⁹⁴ Tackle, Merriam Webster Dictionary (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/tackle>

¹⁷⁹⁵ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

¹⁷⁹⁶ All, Merriam Webster Dictionary (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/all>

¹⁷⁹⁷ Source, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/source>

¹⁷⁹⁸ Source, Merriam Webster Dictionary (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/source>

¹⁷⁹⁹ Global Money Laundering & Terrorist Financing Threat Assessment, Financial Action Task Force (Paris) July 2010. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/Global%20Threat%20Assessment.pdf>

¹⁸⁰⁰ Global Money Laundering & Terrorist Financing Threat Assessment, Financial Action Task Force (Paris) July 2010. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/Global%20Threat%20Assessment.pdf>

¹⁸⁰¹ Technique, Merriam Webster Dictionary (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/technique>

¹⁸⁰² Money Laundering, The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Vienna) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.unodc.org/westandcentralafrica/en/newrosenwebsite/anti-corruption/money-laundering.html>

¹⁸⁰³ Financial Action Task Force: Terrorist Financing (Paris) 29 February 2008. Access Date: 1 March 2021. p. 21. <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/FATF%20Terrorist%20Financing%20Typologies%20Report.pdf>

“Channel” is understood as “a way of communicating with people or getting something done.”¹⁸⁰⁴ In the context of this commitment, it refers to the avenues groups and organizations involved in money-laundering or terrorist financing crimes go through for communication or action. Channels of money-laundering or terrorist financing include, but are not limited to, the financial and trade systems, corporate structures, as well as technological and digital mechanisms.^{1805,1806,1807}

“Threat” is understood as “the possibility that something unwanted will happen, or a person or thing that is likely to cause something unwanted to happen.”¹⁸⁰⁸ In the context of this commitment, it refers to global “money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing.”¹⁸⁰⁹

Money laundering refers to the act of concealing the illicit origin of large amounts of illegally acquired profits through crimes.¹⁸¹⁰ Terrorist financing “involves the solicitation, collection or provision of funds with the intention that they may be used to support terrorist acts or organizations.”¹⁸¹¹ These funds may come from both legal and illegal sources.¹⁸¹² It should be noted that “the primary goal of individuals or entities involved in the financing of terrorism is therefore not necessarily to conceal the sources of the money but to conceal both the financing and the nature of the financed activity.”¹⁸¹³

Since the methods used in money laundering and the financing of terrorism are in many cases identical, “[a]n effective anti-money laundering/counter financing of terrorism framework must therefore address both risk issues: it must prevent, detect and punish illegal funds entering the financial system and the funding of terrorist individuals, organizations and/or activities.”¹⁸¹⁴

For the depth component, or the strength of the action required to be deemed compliant with this commitment, G20 members reiterated their strong commitment and therefore actions should reflect that. Actions compliant to this commitment include continuous support of the FATF and other relevant programs, through the allocation of funds and personnel, legislation and enforcement. Compliant actions must go beyond verbal references and reaffirmation and conferences.

¹⁸⁰⁴ Channel, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/channel>

¹⁸⁰⁵ Financial Action Task Force: Terrorist Financing, Financial Action Task Force (Paris) 29 February 2008. Access Date: 1 March 2021. p. 21. <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/FATF%20Terrorist%20Financing%20Typologies%20Report.pdf>

¹⁸⁰⁶ Money Laundering, The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Vienna) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021.

<https://www.unodc.org/westandcentralafrica/en/newrosenwebsite/anti-corruption/money-laundering.html>

¹⁸⁰⁷ Global Money Laundering & Terrorist Financing Threat Assessment, Financial Action Task Force (Paris) July 2010. Access Date: 1 March 2021. p. 8. <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/Global%20Threat%20Assessment.pdf>

¹⁸⁰⁸ Threat, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/threat>

¹⁸⁰⁹ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

¹⁸¹⁰ Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism – Topics, International Monetary Fund (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021 <https://www.imf.org/external/np/leg/amlcft/eng/aml1.htm#financingterrorism>

¹⁸¹¹ Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism – Topics, International Monetary Fund (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021 <https://www.imf.org/external/np/leg/amlcft/eng/aml1.htm#financingterrorism>

¹⁸¹² Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism – Topics, International Monetary Fund (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021 <https://www.imf.org/external/np/leg/amlcft/eng/aml1.htm#financingterrorism>

¹⁸¹³ Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism – Topics, International Monetary Fund (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021 <https://www.imf.org/external/np/leg/amlcft/eng/aml1.htm#financingterrorism>

¹⁸¹⁴ Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism – Topics, International Monetary Fund (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021 <https://www.imf.org/external/np/leg/amlcft/eng/aml1.htm#financingterrorism>

In order for a G20 member to achieve full compliance (+1), strong action must be taken to tackle all three areas of sources, techniques and channels of the threats of money laundering and terrorist financing.

In order to achieve partial compliance (0), the G20 members must take strong action to tackle two of the three areas of sources, techniques and channels of these money laundering and terrorist financing.

In order to achieve non-compliance (-1), G20 members must take strong action to tackle none or one of the three areas of sources, techniques and channels of these money laundering and terrorist financing.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member has NOT taken strong action to tackle all sources, techniques AND channels of these threats.
0	G20 member has taken strong action to tackle TWO of the three areas of sources, techniques OR channels of these threats.
+1	G20 member has taken strong action to tackle all sources, techniques AND channels of these threats.

*Compliance Director: Jennifer Miao Wang
Lead Analyst: Ilan Hughes*

Argentina: -1

Argentina failed to comply with its commitments to tackle all three areas of sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist funding, or proliferation financing.

Argentina has not taken any significant action to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing by combatting money laundering, terrorist funding, and proliferation financing.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of -1.¹⁸¹⁵

Analyst: Beatrice McLeod

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitments to tackle all three areas of sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist funding, or proliferation financing.

On 10 December 2020, both Houses of Parliament in Australia motioned to pass the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020 (The Amendment Act).¹⁸¹⁶ The act aims to “implement incremental reform” most relevantly in the areas of customer due diligence and correspondent banking relationships.^{1817,1818}

¹⁸¹⁵ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/>, <https://www.clarin.com/>, <https://www.lanacion.com.ar/> and <https://www.bbc.com>, <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/search>, <https://www.economia.gob.ar/en/>, <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/cryptocurrency/argentina.php>, <https://iclg.com/practice-areas/lending-and-secured-finance-laws-and-regulations/argentina>, <https://thelawreviews.co.uk/title/the-anti-bribery-and-anti-corruption-review/argentina>, https://uk.practicallaw.thomsonreuters.com/5-521-1293?_lrTS=20210203140659598, <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/jefatura>, <http://www.cancilleria.gov.ar/>, www.bcra.gov.ar, batimes.com.ar, www.ambito.com.ar.

¹⁸¹⁶ Australia moves – incrementally – towards AML/CTF compliance, Allen & Overy LLP (New York) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/australia-moves-incrementally-towards-51891/>

¹⁸¹⁷ Australia moves – incrementally – towards AML/CTF compliance, Allen & Overy LLP (New York) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/australia-moves-incrementally-towards-51891/>

On 17 December 2020, the Amendment Act received royal assent and the Australian Government officially passed the act.^{1819,1820} The Amendment Act “gives effect to the recommendations from the Financial Action Task Force...[and] introduced changes to...customer identification procedures, correspondent banking relationships, tipping-off offences, access to information, and the cross-border movements of money.”¹⁸²¹ The majority of these changes are expected to come into effect on 18 June 2021, with a few coming into effect by 18 June 2022.¹⁸²²

Australia has taken meaningful steps to tackle all three anti-money laundering and terrorist financing areas through its consistent efforts to hold corporations and bodies to account while taking on an active role in the international sphere.

Thus, Australia has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Burhan Anees Khan

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with their commitment to tackling all sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist financing, or proliferation financing.

On 9 December 2020, President Jair Bolsonaro launched Brazil’s Anti-Corruption Plan to combat money laundering and terrorist financing between 2020-2025.¹⁸²³ The plan specifically addresses facets of money laundering or terrorist financing by establishing international cooperation between public officials responsible for detecting acts of corruption, creating whistleblower protections, and supporting research that allows for the dissemination of knowledge on anti-corruption.¹⁸²⁴

On 11 March, 2021, Brazil’s Financial Activities Control Council published two new regulations that aims to regulate “the form of adoption of policies, procedures and internal controls to prevent money laundering (AML), terrorist financing (CTF) and financing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) that allow compliance with the provisions of”¹⁸²⁵ the federal Money Laundering Prevention Laws.¹⁸²⁶ These newly proposed regulations also emphasize a greater attention

¹⁸¹⁸ Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Rules Instrument 2007 (No. 1), Federal Register of Legislation (Canberra) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2020C01058>

¹⁸¹⁹ Australia moves – incrementally – towards AML/CTF compliance, Allen & Overy LLP (New York) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/australia-moves-incrementally-towards-51891/>

¹⁸²⁰ Changes to Australia’s anti-money laundering and terrorism financing framework, Ashurst Australia (Sydney) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.ashurst.com/en/news-and-insights/legal-updates/changes-to-australias-anti-money-laundering-and-terrorism-financing-framework/>

¹⁸²¹ Changes to Australia’s anti-money laundering and terrorism financing framework, Ashurst Australia (Sydney) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.ashurst.com/en/news-and-insights/legal-updates/changes-to-australias-anti-money-laundering-and-terrorism-financing-framework/>

¹⁸²² Changes to Australia’s anti-money laundering and terrorism financing framework, Ashurst Australia (Sydney) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.ashurst.com/en/news-and-insights/legal-updates/changes-to-australias-anti-money-laundering-and-terrorism-financing-framework/>

¹⁸²³ Anti-Corruption Plan launched for the period 2020 to 2025, Government of Brazil (Brasília) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/casacivil/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020/dezembro/lancado-plano-anticorruptcao-para-oo-periodo-de-2020-a-2025>

¹⁸²⁴ Anti-Corruption Plan Diagnosis and Actions of the Federal Government, Interministerial Committee to Combat Corruption (Brasília) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/cgu/pt-br/anticorruptcao/plano-anticorruptcao.pdf>

¹⁸²⁵ COAF Resolution No. 36, of March 10, 2021, Financial Activities Control Council (Brasilia) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/resolucao-coaf-n-36-de-10-de-marco-de-2021-307765911>

¹⁸²⁶ COAF Resolution No. 36, of March 10, 2021, Financial Activities Control Council (Brasilia) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/resolucao-coaf-n-36-de-10-de-marco-de-2021-307765911>

to new technologies and products, and the role they may play in AML/CTF/WMD activities.¹⁸²⁷ These regulations are proposed to come into force on 1 June 2021.¹⁸²⁸

On 18 March 2020, the government of Brazil moderated a global webinar, held by the Financial Action Group, on the theme of money laundering through the use of trade.¹⁸²⁹ More than two thousand representatives from both private and the public sector attended this event to discuss current challenges that authorities face when combating money laundering within trade.¹⁸³⁰

Brazil has moved to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing by establishing an anti-corruption plan, as well as enacting new AML/CTF regulations that tackles all three key areas of sources, techniques, and channels.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Keab Sharma

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to tackle all three areas of sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist funding, or proliferation financing.

On 30 November 2020, the Department of Finance Canada released its “Fall Economic Statement.”¹⁸³¹ In this document, the department proposed an increase of CAD606 million in the next five years to fund the hiring of more auditors to address offshore tax havens.¹⁸³² Furthermore, the document proposed some of this funding will be used to “strengthen its ability to fight tax crimes such as money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/TF) by upgrading tools and increasing international cooperation.”¹⁸³³ Finally, the document suggests revisions to the Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act (PCMLTFA) to “strengthen criminal penalties and the registration framework for money services businesses,” amongst other changes.¹⁸³⁴

On 8 December 2020, the Financial Transaction and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC) issued new ML/TF indicators, which can be used to identify potential red flags that may initiate

¹⁸²⁷ COAF Resolution No. 36, of March 10, 2021, Financial Activities Control Council (Brasilia) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/resolucao-coaf-n-36-de-10-de-marco-de-2021-307765911>

¹⁸²⁸ COAF Resolution No. 36, of March 10, 2021, Financial Activities Control Council (Brasilia) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/resolucao-coaf-n-36-de-10-de-marco-de-2021-307765911>

¹⁸²⁹ Gafi Webinar: Money laundering through trade is still a global threat, Federal Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/coaf/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ultimas-noticias/webinar-gafi-lavagem-de-dinheiro-por-meio-do-comercio-ainda-e-ameaca-mundial>

¹⁸³⁰ Gafi Webinar: Money laundering through trade is still a global threat, Federal Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/coaf/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ultimas-noticias/webinar-gafi-lavagem-de-dinheiro-por-meio-do-comercio-ainda-e-ameaca-mundial>

¹⁸³¹ Supporting Canadians and Fighting Covid 19: Fall Economic Statement 2020, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 20 November 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/fes-eea/2020/report-rapport/toc-tdm-en.html>

¹⁸³² Supporting Canadians and Fighting Covid 19: Fall Economic Statement 2020, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 20 November 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/fes-eea/2020/report-rapport/toc-tdm-en.html>

¹⁸³³ Supporting Canadians and Fighting Covid 19: Fall Economic Statement 2020, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 20 November 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/fes-eea/2020/report-rapport/toc-tdm-en.html>

¹⁸³⁴ Supporting Canadians and Fighting Covid 19: Fall Economic Statement 2020, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 20 November 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/fes-eea/2020/report-rapport/toc-tdm-en.html>

suspicious financial transactions.¹⁸³⁵ These new indicators are applicable to all reporting entities, and are subjected to the PCMLTFA.¹⁸³⁶ The indicators also requires reporting entities to submit any suspicious transactions involving “banks, cryptoasset businesses, money service businesses, and other forms of financial institutions,”¹⁸³⁷ for example, to the PCMLTFA.¹⁸³⁸

On 11 December 2020, Minister of Public Safety Bill Blair announced that CAD98.9 million would be spent on new law enforcement units designed to address money laundering within Ontario, British Columbia, Quebec, and Alberta.¹⁸³⁹ In addition, Minister Blair announced the creation of the “Counter Illicit Finance Alliance” within British Columbia.¹⁸⁴⁰ These measures will help regulate possible financial crimes within casinos and other industries that are frequently targeted by money launderers.¹⁸⁴¹

On 19 April 2021, the Federal Government released its 2021 Budget.¹⁸⁴² This document states that CAD4.6 million will be spent on the FINTRAC so it can “build its expertise related to virtual currency...and develop and administer a cost recovery scheme for its compliance activities.”¹⁸⁴³ Furthermore, the budget includes legislative proposals focused on reducing the use of charitable organizations as channels of terrorist financing.¹⁸⁴⁴ These legislative changes would: “allow for the immediate revocation of charitable status for organizations listed as a terrorist entity,”¹⁸⁴⁵ “prevent individuals with a known history of supporting terrorism from becoming a director, trustee, or similar official of a registered charity,”¹⁸⁴⁶ and “allow for the revocation of charitable status when a charity provides false statements for the purpose of maintaining their registration.”¹⁸⁴⁷

¹⁸³⁵ Money laundering and terrorist financing indicators – Virtual currency transactions, Financial Transaction and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (Ottawa) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://www.fintrac-canafe.gc.ca/guidance-directives/transaction-operation/indicators-indicateurs/vc_mltf-eng

¹⁸³⁶ Money laundering and terrorist financing indicators – Virtual currency transactions, Financial Transaction and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (Ottawa) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://www.fintrac-canafe.gc.ca/guidance-directives/transaction-operation/indicators-indicateurs/vc_mltf-eng

¹⁸³⁷ Crypto Regulatory Affairs: Canada Issues Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Indicators For Cryptoassets, Elliptic Enterprises Limited (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<https://www.elliptic.co/blog/canada-issues-money-laundering-and-terrorist-financing-indicators-for-crypto>

¹⁸³⁸ Crypto Regulatory Affairs: Canada Issues Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Indicators For Cryptoassets, Elliptic Enterprises Limited (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<https://www.elliptic.co/blog/canada-issues-money-laundering-and-terrorist-financing-indicators-for-crypto>

¹⁸³⁹ Feds launching new anti-money laundering units in B.C., Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, Global News (Toronto) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7517509/new-federal-anti-money-laundering-units/>

¹⁸⁴⁰ Feds launching new anti-money laundering units in B.C., Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, Global News (Toronto) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7517509/new-federal-anti-money-laundering-units/>

¹⁸⁴¹ Feds launching new anti-money laundering units in B.C., Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, Global News (Toronto) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7517509/new-federal-anti-money-laundering-units/>

¹⁸⁴² Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. Page 309. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/home-accueil-en.html>

¹⁸⁴³ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. Page 309. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/home-accueil-en.html>

¹⁸⁴⁴ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. Page 309. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/home-accueil-en.html>

¹⁸⁴⁵ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. Page 309. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/home-accueil-en.html>

¹⁸⁴⁶ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. Page 309. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/home-accueil-en.html>

¹⁸⁴⁷ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. Page 309. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/home-accueil-en.html>

On 4 May 2021, FINTRA published its 2021 version of the Compliance program Requirements, which is set to come into force on 1 June 2021.¹⁸⁴⁸ This updated guide's objective is to ensure all REs comply with the PCMLTFA, as well as any other associated regulations.¹⁸⁴⁹ These requirements entails all reporting entities to establish and implement a compliance program, with elements such as appointing compliance officers or conducting risk assessment when necessary, in order to identify possible sources of money laundering or terrorist financing.¹⁸⁵⁰

Canada has taken action to fight money laundering and terrorist financing in all three key areas monetary commitments, as well as through legislation, and the compliance program requirements.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Nathan Ye

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment to tackle all sources, techniques and channels of money laundering and terrorist financing.

On 4 January 2021, the People's Bank of China (PBOC) issued an amended draft of the "Financial Institution Anti-money Laundering Anti-terrorist Financing Supervisory Administrative Measures."¹⁸⁵¹ This measure aims to "preventing and dissolving financial risk, raising the effectiveness of anti-money laundering regulation and raising the level of financial institution anti-money laundering work."¹⁸⁵² This draft also seeks to restructure anti-money laundering (AML) efforts in China in accordance with the assessment the Financial Action Task Force made in 2019, and to resolve the range of inadequacies that the assessment had highlighted.¹⁸⁵³

On 5 February 2021, China's economic decision makers signed the "Memorandum of Understanding on the Launch of Cross-boundary Wealth."¹⁸⁵⁴ In Provision 9 of the document, the PBOC, "agrees to provide guidance to Mainland banks to comply with obligations relating to...anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism in accordance with relevant legal requirements."¹⁸⁵⁵

¹⁸⁴⁸ Compliance program requirements, Financial Transactions and Reports analysis Centre of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.fintrac-canafe.gc.ca/guidance-directives/compliance-conformite/Guide4/4-eng>

¹⁸⁴⁹ Compliance program requirements, Financial Transactions and Reports analysis Centre of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.fintrac-canafe.gc.ca/guidance-directives/compliance-conformite/Guide4/4-eng>

¹⁸⁵⁰ Compliance program requirements, Financial Transactions and Reports analysis Centre of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.fintrac-canafe.gc.ca/guidance-directives/compliance-conformite/Guide4/4-eng>

¹⁸⁵¹ PBOC Releases Draft Version of Amended Anti-money Laundering, Anti-terrorist Financing Regulations, China Banking News (N/A) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.chinabankingnews.com/2021/01/04/pboc-releases-draft-version-of-amended-anti-money-laundering-anti-terrorist-financing-regulations/>

¹⁸⁵² PBOC Releases Draft Version of Amended Anti-money Laundering, Anti-terrorist Financing Regulations, China Banking News (N/A) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.chinabankingnews.com/2021/01/04/pboc-releases-draft-version-of-amended-anti-money-laundering-anti-terrorist-financing-regulations/>

¹⁸⁵³ PBOC Releases Draft Version of Amended Anti-money Laundering, Anti-terrorist Financing Regulations, China Banking News (N/A) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.chinabankingnews.com/2021/01/04/pboc-releases-draft-version-of-amended-anti-money-laundering-anti-terrorist-financing-regulations/>

¹⁸⁵⁴ Memorandum of Understanding on supervisory cooperation under the Cross-boundary Wealth Management Connect, Hong Kong Monetary Authority (Hong Kong) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.hkma.gov.hk/media/eng/doc/key-information/press-release/2021/20210205e4a1.pdf>

¹⁸⁵⁵ Memorandum of Understanding on supervisory cooperation under the Cross-boundary Wealth Management Connect, Hong Kong Monetary Authority (Hong Kong) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.hkma.gov.hk/media/eng/doc/key-information/press-release/2021/20210205e4a1.pdf>

On 11 February 2021, Premier Li Keqiang signed a decree that unveiled new regulation on prevention and handling of illegal fundraising, which will come in place on 1 May 2021.¹⁸⁵⁶ This new regulation aims to remove a source of corruption in China, by decreasing the number of illegal fundraising cases.¹⁸⁵⁷

On 25 February 2021, China held a virtual meeting on money laundering.¹⁸⁵⁸ The meeting highlighted past successes and future steps, including China's goals in advancing amendments to the AML law, enhancing coordination amongst AML departments, strengthening the risk-based AML supervision, and participating in global AML governance.¹⁸⁵⁹

On 26 March 2021, the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission issued a notice on “preventing the illegal flow of loans for business purposes into the real estate sector.”¹⁸⁶⁰ This notice aims to urge banking institutions to revamp their operations by strengthening client reviews and clearly defining a “blacklist” of violations.

On 16 April 2021, the PBOC released “Measures for the Supervision of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing of Financial Institutions,” which will be in effect 1 August 2021.¹⁸⁶¹ This document specifies the AML requirements for financial institutions, will require institutions to conduct self-assessments and establish internal control systems.¹⁸⁶² This document will also include micro-credit companies and wealth management subsidiaries as obliged AML actors.¹⁸⁶³

China has taken actions to combat money laundering and terrorist financing in all three key areas through legislation, as well as active participation in the fight against anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing.

Thus, China has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Veniamin Veselovsky

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to tackle all sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering and terrorist financing.

¹⁸⁵⁶ Premier Signs Decree Unveiling the Regulation on Prevention and Handling of Illegal Fundraising, China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (Beijing) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202102/10/WS6023ee87a31024ad0baa8aa4.html>

¹⁸⁵⁷ Premier Signs Decree Unveiling the Regulation on Prevention and Handling of Illegal Fundraising, China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (Beijing) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202102/10/WS6023ee87a31024ad0baa8aa4.html>

¹⁸⁵⁸ PBC Holds 2021 Anti-Money Laundering Virtual Work Conference, The People's Bank of China (Beijing) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688241/3688777/3688780/4197750/index.html>

¹⁸⁵⁹ PBC Holds 2021 Anti-Money Laundering Virtual Work Conference, The People's Bank of China (Beijing) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688241/3688777/3688780/4197750/index.html>

¹⁸⁶⁰ The General Office of the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission, the General Office of the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, and the General Office of the People's Bank of China issued the “Notice on Preventing the Illegal Flow of Loans for Business Purposes into the Real Estate Sector, China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (Beijing) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <http://www.cbirc.gov.cn/cn/view/pages/ItemDetail.html?docId=973377&itemId=915&generalType=0>

¹⁸⁶¹ China: Central Bank issues measures for supervision and administration of AML/CFT, OneTrust DataGuidance (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.dataguidance.com/news/china-central-bank-issues-measures-supervision-and>

¹⁸⁶² China: Central Bank issues measures for supervision and administration of AML/CFT, OneTrust DataGuidance (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.dataguidance.com/news/china-central-bank-issues-measures-supervision-and>

¹⁸⁶³ China: Central Bank issues measures for supervision and administration of AML/CFT, OneTrust DataGuidance (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.dataguidance.com/news/china-central-bank-issues-measures-supervision-and>

On 9 December 2020, Minister for Economy, Finance, and Recovery Bruno Le Maire announced that France will make Know Your Client procedures compulsory for all cryptocurrency transactions in the country.¹⁸⁶⁴ Such changes are part of France's larger effort to fight money laundering and terrorist financing after arresting 29 individuals in September linked to a financing scheme of Islamist extremists in Syria using cryptocurrencies.¹⁸⁶⁵ Le Maire's proposal is meant "to strengthen the control of financial funds" because "cryptocurrencies pose a real problem of terrorist financing."¹⁸⁶⁶

On 6 March 2021, the French government passed an order to increase internal control on financial systems in the form of asset freezing measures to fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.¹⁸⁶⁷ The order granted the French Prudential Supervision and Resolution Authority increased jurisdiction over the banking, payment, and investment service sectors in ensuring they comply with anti-money laundering (AML) and counter terrorist financing (CTF) practices.¹⁸⁶⁸

On 23 March 2021, the French Government passed the action plan against Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing.¹⁸⁶⁹ The action plan included five priority axes: preventing risk in both the financial and non-financial sector by intensifying inspections; increasing transparency by further developing the national registry listing the financial assets of public associations; increasing the powers of France's intelligence service to detect, prosecute, and sanction suspicious activity; freezing assets with suspected links to money laundering or terrorism financing; strengthening national policies and playing a leading role in promoting international cooperation on the EU level.¹⁸⁷⁰

On 4 April 2021, the French government published Decree No. 2021-387 to counteract the anonymity of virtual assets.¹⁸⁷¹ The Decree amended the existing ALM and CFT regime by clarifying the prohibition on the use of anonymous electronic money for the purchase of digital assets and

¹⁸⁶⁴ France announces strict cryptocurrency KYC rules to fight money laundering and terrorist financing (Paris) 11 December 2020. Access date: 8 May 2021. <https://amlintelligence.com/2020/12/france-announces-strict-cryptocurrency-kyc-rules-to-fight-money-laundering-and-terrorist-financing/>

¹⁸⁶⁵ France announces strict cryptocurrency KYC rules to fight money laundering and terrorist financing (Paris) 11 December 2020. Access date: 8 May 2021. <https://amlintelligence.com/2020/12/france-announces-strict-cryptocurrency-kyc-rules-to-fight-money-laundering-and-terrorist-financing/>

¹⁸⁶⁶ France announces strict cryptocurrency KYC rules to fight money laundering and terrorist financing (Paris) 11 December 2020. Access date: 8 May 2021. <https://amlintelligence.com/2020/12/france-announces-strict-cryptocurrency-kyc-rules-to-fight-money-laundering-and-terrorist-financing/>

¹⁸⁶⁷ Decree of February 25, 2021 amending the decree of January 6, 2021 relating to the system and control in the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism and freezing of assets and prohibition of the provision or use of funds or economic resources (Paris) 6 March 2021. Access date: 26 April 2021.

<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/download/pdf?id=URjHGUS3Mla2ACFEemX493YeQ3-8TceGo4mVNW7rSU=>

¹⁸⁶⁸ Decree of February 25, 2021 amending the decree of January 6, 2021 relating to the system and control in the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism and freezing of assets and prohibition of the provision or use of funds or economic resources (Paris) 6 March 2021. Access date: 26 April 2021.

<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/download/pdf?id=URjHGUS3Mla2ACFEemX493YeQ3-8TceGo4mVNW7rSU=>

¹⁸⁶⁹ Fight against money laundering and terrorist financing: update of the government action plan (2021-2022), Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 23 March 2021. Access date: 8 May 2021.

<https://www.economie.gouv.fr/lutte-blanchiment-capitaux-financement-terrorisme-mise-jour-plan-action>

¹⁸⁷⁰ Fight against money laundering and terrorist financing: update of the government action plan (2021-2022), Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 23 March 2021. Access date: 8 May 2021.

<https://www.economie.gouv.fr/lutte-blanchiment-capitaux-financement-terrorisme-mise-jour-plan-action>

¹⁸⁷¹ Decree No. 2021-387 of April 2, 2021 relating to the fight against the anonymity of virtual assets and strengthening the national system for the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism (Paris) 4 April 2021. Access date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000043328577?r=9N7CtzLsO6>

imposing an obligation on digital asset service providers to identify their customers prior to any transaction.¹⁸⁷² The Decree became active on 1 May 2021.¹⁸⁷³

On 5 April 2021, the European Union's Global Facility on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism, of which Expertise France is a main implementing partner, met with United Arab Emirates' Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to explore various venues of implementing multi-agency AML and CFT programs to disrupt and dismantle illicit networks.¹⁸⁷⁴ Glenn McDowell from the EU AML/CFT Global Facility commented on the importance of creating a multi-agency, stating "financial crime is growing in sophistication and complexity, so we are delighted to be able to share our respective knowledge, skills, and experience with the UAE."¹⁸⁷⁵

France has fully complied with its commitment to tackle all sources, techniques, and channels of these threats. It has identified internal sources of money laundering and terrorist financing through orders and decrees; it has prevented and combated methods of money laundering and terrorist financing by strengthening domestic institutions; and it has involved other international avenues and agencies through action and communication to create a comprehensive order against money laundering and terrorist financing.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Darya Rabbar

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment to tackle all three areas of sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist funding, or proliferation financing.

On 16 December 2020, the German Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, Christine Lambrecht, presented a draft bill of the Financial Marketing Integrity Strengthening Act to reform the Federal Financial Supervisory Authority.¹⁸⁷⁶ The Act includes measures aiming to protect investors and consumers, and to combat terrorist financing (TF) and money laundering, and is planned to come into force on 1 July 2021.¹⁸⁷⁷

On 28 December 2020, the Federal Ministry of the Interior of Germany published a report, titled "Sectoral Risk Analysis," on the issue of TF through (the abuse of) non-profit organizations (NPOs) in Germany.¹⁸⁷⁸ This report intends to outline and investigate the risks of TF through the abuse of

¹⁸⁷² Decree No. 2021-387 of April 2, 2021 relating to the fight against the anonymity of virtual assets and strengthening the national system for the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism (Paris) 4 April 2021. Access date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000043328577?r=9N7CtzLsO6>

¹⁸⁷³ Decree No. 2021-387 of April 2, 2021 relating to the fight against the anonymity of virtual assets and strengthening the national system for the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism (Paris) 4 April 2021. Access date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000043328577?r=9N7CtzLsO6>

¹⁸⁷⁴ UAE, European Union host workshops on combating money laundering and terrorist financing (Abu Dhabi) 26 April 2021. Access date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.wam.ae/en/details/1395302929868>

¹⁸⁷⁵ UAE, European Union host workshops on combating money laundering and terrorist financing (Abu Dhabi) 26 April 2021. Access date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.wam.ae/en/details/1395302929868>

¹⁸⁷⁶ More 'Bite' for the Financial Supervisory Authority, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Financial_markets/Articles/2021-02-03-more-bite-for-the-financial-supervisory-authority.html

¹⁸⁷⁷ More 'Bite' for the Financial Supervisory Authority, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Financial_markets/Articles/2021-02-03-more-bite-for-the-financial-supervisory-authority.html

¹⁸⁷⁸ Sectoral risk analysis, Federal Ministry of the Interior (Berlin) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/downloads/DE/publikationen/themen/sicherheit/sectorale-risikoanalyse.html>

NPOs in detail, and also provides recommendations for action, such as urging for closer cooperation between financial and law enforcement authorities, as well as examining potential measures in the banking sector to counteract the risks of TF.¹⁸⁷⁹

On 10 February 2021, the German Federal Government adopted a draft of the Act to Amend the Anti-Money Laundering Transparency Register and Financial Information Act.¹⁸⁸⁰ This draft aims to “further improve the fight against money laundering under criminal law and even go beyond the minimum international requirements.”¹⁸⁸¹ The draft proposes the “all-crimes approach,” which expands the “basis of criminal activity that underpins money laundering.”¹⁸⁸² Under this draft, any activity related to trafficking illegally obtained assets, including objects, into the legal economy can be prosecuted, “meaning that money laundering can be penalized more frequently than in the past.”¹⁸⁸³

Germany has taken actions to combat money laundering and terrorist financing through legislation that tackles the sources, techniques, and channels of these crimes.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Zhuojia Qiu

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to tackle the sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist funding, or proliferation financing.

On 18 March 2021, India and other members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) announced at the 36th meeting of the Council of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure that a joint anti-terrorism exercise, “Pabbi-Antiterror-2021,” will be held during this calendar year.¹⁸⁸⁴ At the meeting, “[d]ecisions have been made to improve cooperation between the competent authorities of the SCO member states in identifying and suppressing channels that finance terrorist activities.”¹⁸⁸⁵

On 8 April 2021, India agreed to work jointly with Sri Lanka to combat terrorist entities.¹⁸⁸⁶ While continuing their actions against drug trafficking, the two states intend to strengthen the existing

¹⁸⁷⁹ Sectoral risk analysis, Federal Ministry of the Interior (Berlin) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/downloads/DE/publikationen/themen/sicherheit/sectorale-risikoanalyse.html>

¹⁸⁸⁰ Government draft of the Anti-Money Laundering Transparency Register and Financial Information Act published, Noerr (Munich) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.noerr.com/en/newsroom/news/governmentdraftoftheantimoneylaunderingtransparencyregisterandfinancialinformationactpublished>

¹⁸⁸¹ Combating Money Laundering Using an All-Crimes Approach. New Law in Germany Aims to Improve the Fight Against Money Laundering, Actico (Immenstaad) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.actico.com/blog-en/combating-money-laundering-in-germany-using-an-all-crimes-approach-new-law-improves-aml/>

¹⁸⁸² Combating Money Laundering Using an All-Crimes Approach. New Law in Germany Aims to Improve the Fight Against Money Laundering, Actico (Immenstaad) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.actico.com/blog-en/combating-money-laundering-in-germany-using-an-all-crimes-approach-new-law-improves-aml/>

¹⁸⁸³ Combating Money Laundering Using an All-Crimes Approach. New Law in Germany Aims to Improve the Fight Against Money Laundering, Actico (Immenstaad) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.actico.com/blog-en/combating-money-laundering-in-germany-using-an-all-crimes-approach-new-law-improves-aml/>

¹⁸⁸⁴ India, Pakistan, China to participate in SCO joint anti-terrorism exercise this year, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 21 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-pakistan-china-to-participate-in-sco-joint-anti-terrorism-exercise-this-year/articleshow/81617992.cms>

¹⁸⁸⁵ India, Pakistan, China to participate in SCO joint anti-terrorism exercise this year, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 21 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-pakistan-china-to-participate-in-sco-joint-anti-terrorism-exercise-this-year/articleshow/81617992.cms>

¹⁸⁸⁶ India and Sri Lanka agree to jointly work against terror groups, fugitives, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-and-sri-lanka-agree-to-jointly-work-against-terror-groups-fugitives/articleshow/81970767.cms>

cooperation mechanisms, with an emphasis on sharing real time intelligence to designate “nodal points” for timely and effective handling of security challenges.¹⁸⁸⁷

On 8 April 2021, India and the Maldives agreed to enhance capacity building mechanisms to counter terror, as well as a de-radicalization effort, including efforts in combating terrorist financing.¹⁸⁸⁸ Such “cooperation will include assistance and capacity building for the security and law enforcement agencies and other relevant agencies of the Maldives as well as collaboration and the exchange of best practices in the areas of counter-terrorism.”¹⁸⁸⁹

India has taken action to tackle sources and techniques of terrorist financing. However, India has not taken new actions to tackle channels of this threat.

Thus, the India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Anna Ivanova

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with the commitment to tackle all sources, techniques and channels of money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing.

On 14 January 2021, President Joko Widodo announced his commitment to strengthening the anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing strategies in Indonesia.¹⁸⁹⁰ The 2020-2024 National Strategy for the Countermeasure and Eradication of Money Laundering and Terrorism Funding Crimes has five main focuses: “improved ability of private sectors to detect indications or potential of money laundering, terrorism financing and funding for the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by taking into account risk assessments; increased efforts to prevent money laundering and terrorism financing by taking into account risk assessment; greater effectiveness of eradication of money laundering and terrorism financing by taking into account risk assessments; optimizing asset recovery by taking into account risk assessments; and greater effectiveness of targeted financial sanctions in disrupting terrorist activities, terrorists, terrorist organizations, and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.”¹⁸⁹¹

On 14 January 2021, Coordinating Minister of Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto presented the draft of the Bill on Restrictions on Currency Transactions and the Bill on Confiscation of Criminal Assets at Indonesia’s Annual Coordination Meeting for the Prevention and Eradication of Money

¹⁸⁸⁷ India and Sri Lanka agree to jointly work against terror groups, fugitives, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-and-sri-lanka-agree-to-jointly-work-against-terror-groups-fugitives/articleshow/81970767.cms>

¹⁸⁸⁸ Joint Press Release on First Meeting of India-Maldives Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism, Countering Violent Extremism and De-Radicalisation, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33782/Joint+Press+Release+on+First+Meeting+of+IndiaMaldives+Joint+Working+Group+on+Counter+Terrorism+Countering+Violent+Extremism+and+DeRadicalisation>

¹⁸⁸⁹ Joint Press Release on First Meeting of India-Maldives Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism, Countering Violent Extremism and De-Radicalisation, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33782/Joint+Press+Release+on+First+Meeting+of+IndiaMaldives+Joint+Working+Group+on+Counter+Terrorism+Countering+Violent+Extremism+and+DeRadicalisation>

¹⁸⁹⁰ Gov’t to Boost Synergy to Eradicate Money Laundering, Terrorism Financing, Cabinet Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 15 January 2021. Access date: 15 March 2021. <https://setkab.go.id/en/govt-to-boost-synergy-to-eradicate-money-laundering-terrorism-financing/>

¹⁸⁹¹ Gov’t to Boost Synergy to Eradicate Money Laundering, Terrorism Financing, Cabinet Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 15 January 2021. Access date: 15 March 2021. <https://setkab.go.id/en/govt-to-boost-synergy-to-eradicate-money-laundering-terrorism-financing/>

Laundering and Terrorist Financing.¹⁸⁹² These bills are intended to become law in 2021.¹⁸⁹³ Both bills are focused on preventing money laundering and terrorist financing as extensions of the 2020-2024 National Strategy.¹⁸⁹⁴

Indonesia has taken actions to combat money laundering and terrorist financing in all three key areas through its implementation of the 2020-2024 National Strategy.

Thus, Indonesia has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Alisha Bhimji

Italy: -1

Italy has failed to comply with its commitments to tackle all three areas of sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist funding, or proliferation financing.

On 25 March 2021, the Bank of Italy began the two-day webinar titled “Anti-Money Laundering: the Italian Experience.”¹⁸⁹⁵ This webinar aims to outline the existing Italian legislation on anti-money laundering (AML) and terrorist financing, as well as the AML regime, and the role the Financial Intelligence Unit will play in tackling AML.¹⁸⁹⁶

Italy has not taken significant action to tackle techniques and channels of money laundering and terrorist financing, as per the depth component of this commitment.

Thus, Italy receives a score of -1.¹⁸⁹⁷

Analyst: Beatrice McLeod

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to tackle all three areas of sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist funding, or proliferation financing.

On 7 February 2021, Japan’s Financial Services Agency announced plans to implement artificial intelligence systems to detect suspicious money-laundering or terrorist financing activities, within

¹⁸⁹² Coordinating Minister for the Economy: Support the Criminal Asset Confiscation Bill and the Bill on Limiting Currency Transactions as a Priority, Financial Transactions Reporting and Analysis Centre (Jakarta) 4 February 2021. Access date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.ppatk.go.id/news/read/1118/menko-perekonomian-dukung-ruu-perampasan-aset-tindak-pidana-dan-ruu-pembatasan-transaksi-uang-kartal-sebagai-prioritas.html>

¹⁸⁹³ Kick to Prevent Money Laundering: Restricted Currency Transactions, CBC Indonesia (Jakarta) 14 January 2021. Access date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.cnbcindonesia.com/news/20210114145914-4-215961/jurus-cegah-pencucian-uang-transaksi-uang-kartal-dibatasi>

¹⁸⁹⁴ This bill is important to strengthen anti-money laundering and prevention of terrorist financing, Kanton (Jakarta) 14 January 2021. Access date: 19 March 2021. <https://nasional.kontan.co.id/news/2-ruu-ini-penting-perkuat-anti-pencucian-uang-dan-pencegahaan-pendanaan-terorisme>

¹⁸⁹⁵ Webinar: "Anti-Money Laundering: the Italian Experience," Banca D'Italia (Rome) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bancaditalia.it/media/notizia/webinar-anti-money-laundering-the-italian-experience/>

¹⁸⁹⁶ "Anti-Money Laundering: the Italian Experience," Banca D'Italia (Rome) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.bancaditalia.it/compiti/ricerca-economica/cooperazione-tecnica-internazionale/seminari-2021/seminario-2-2021/index.html>

¹⁸⁹⁷ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <https://www.governo.it/it/il-governo>, <https://www.nytimes.com/>, <https://www.giustizia.it/giustizia/>, and <https://www.bbc.com>, <https://amlintelligence.com/2021/01/exclusive-inside-italys-fight-against-money-laundering/>, <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/cryptoassets/italy.php>, <https://www.bancaditalia.it/>, <https://www.istat.it/it/cerca-nel-sito>, <https://www.cnel.it/>, <https://www.camera.it/leg18/1>, <https://www.oecd.org/italy/governmentofitalyusefullinks.htm>, <https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/>

fiscal 2021.¹⁸⁹⁸ These plans aim to prevent them suspicious financial activities at the source, and to strengthen measures against money laundering.¹⁸⁹⁹

On 26 March 2021, the Japanese Financial Services Agency issued a frequently asked questions (FAQs) about its anti-money laundering and counter terrorism financing (AML/CTF) guidelines.¹⁹⁰⁰ These FAQs are aimed to clarify and aid the understanding of AML/CTF guidelines that are already in place.¹⁹⁰¹

On 31 March 2021, The Japanese Financial Services Agency announced that it will adopt the travel rule set by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which were developed to combat money laundering, by April 2022.¹⁹⁰² When implemented, these legislations that require virtual asset service providers to disclose transaction data for both senders and recipients.^{1903,1904} These rules aim to provide “a number of measures to prevent cryptocurrencies from being used for money laundering and terrorist financing.”¹⁹⁰⁵

Japan has taken steps against terrorist financing and money-laundering by tackling its channels and sources but has not taken significant action in combating the techniques used in AML/CTF.

Thus, Japan received a score of 0.

Analyst: Aimaan Shergill

Korea: 0

Korea has partially complied with its commitments to tackle all three areas of sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist financing, or proliferation financing

On 23 March 2021, the Financial Services Commission (FSC) announced that Korea’s anti-money laundering safeguards for cryptocurrency businesses will “come into effect” on 25 March 2021.¹⁹⁰⁶ These safeguards, according to the Commission, will require Virtual Asset Service Providers to “file

¹⁸⁹⁸ Japan FSA banks on AI to bust money laundering. World News Monitor (Vienna) 07 February 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://world-news-monitor.com/technology/2021/02/07/japan-fsa-banks-on-ai-to-bust-money-laundering/>

¹⁸⁹⁹ Japan FSA banks on AI to bust money laundering. World News Monitor (Vienna) 07 February 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://world-news-monitor.com/technology/2021/02/07/japan-fsa-banks-on-ai-to-bust-money-laundering/>

¹⁹⁰⁰ Japan: FSA releases FAQ on AML/CFT guidelines, OneTrust DataGuidance (London) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.dataguidance.com/news/japan-fsa-releases-faq-amlcft-guidelines>

¹⁹⁰¹ About "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about Maneron Terrorism Financing Countermeasure Guidelines," Japan Financial Services Agency (Tokyo) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. https://www.fsa.go.jp/news/r2/2021_amlcft_faq/2021_amlcft_faq.html

¹⁹⁰² Financial Services Agency asks cryptocurrency industry group to introduce travel rules, Cointelegraph Japan (Tokyo) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://jp.cointelegraph.com/news/fatf-travel-rule-will-be-implemented-from-april-2022>

¹⁹⁰³ Notification of transfer source / destination information (travel rules) when transferring cryptographic assets, Financial Services Agency Japan (Tokyo) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.fsa.go.jp/news/r2/sonota/20210331.html>

¹⁹⁰⁴ Japan's FSA asks cryptocurrency industry group to introduce FATF travel rule, Cointelegraph (New York) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://cointelegraph.com/news/japan-s-fsa-asks-cryptocurrency-industry-group-to-introduce-fatf-travel-rule>

¹⁹⁰⁵ Japan's FSA asks cryptocurrency industry group to introduce FATF travel rule, Cointelegraph (New York) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://cointelegraph.com/news/japan-s-fsa-asks-cryptocurrency-industry-group-to-introduce-fatf-travel-rule>

¹⁹⁰⁶ South Korea's anti-money laundering rules to be live on 25 March, The Paypers (Seoul) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://thepappers.com/cryptocurrencies/south-koreas-anti-money-laundering-rules-to-be-live-on-25-march--1247920>

suspicious transaction reports with the FSC...subject themselves to compliance inspections...[and] verify their customers' identities.”¹⁹⁰⁷

On 22 April 2021, regulators from the Government of Korea announced that they will be creating guidelines to strengthen the monitoring of cross-border transactions connected with cryptocurrency.¹⁹⁰⁸ Authorities will monitor signs of illegal trading and team up with global institutions to “systematically deal with unlawful acts”¹⁹⁰⁹ made through overseas exchanges due to concern about a potential increase in money laundering and fraud risk.¹⁹¹⁰ The goal is to curb illicit overseas cryptocurrency transactions that take advantage of arbitrage trading opportunities.¹⁹¹¹

On 23 April 2021, the FSC announced that it now requires digital currency exchanges and other financial companies to strengthen their monitoring and oversight of transactions.¹⁹¹² According to the FSC, the new regulation is instituted to better identify the criminal use of agencies such as Bitcoin, and will also require exchanges to partner with local banking institutions.¹⁹¹³ Per the FSC, the goal will be to ensure that there will be “no illegal cryptocurrency transaction in the country.”¹⁹¹⁴

Korea has begun to take measures to tackle money laundering in terms of its channels and techniques, but lacks measures against its sources. Furthermore, the majority of Korea's actions are focused on money laundering, but did not address the concerns of terrorist financing.

Thus, Korea receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Burhan Anees Khan

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to tackle all three areas of sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist funding, or proliferation financing.

On 30 November 2020, the Mexican Ministry of Finance (SHCP) released a list of requirements for the registrations of individuals and entities “that offer, on a professional basis, the exchange and custody of virtual assets with the Mexican Revenue Service [(SAT)].”¹⁹¹⁵ This list of requirements is a modification of the Anti-Money Laundering Act that was enacted in 2012, and now requires virtual currency exchanges and custody to be ultimately analyzed by the Financial Intelligence Unit of

¹⁹⁰⁷ South Korea's anti-money laundering rules to be live on 25 March, The Paypers (Seoul) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://thepappers.com/cryptocurrencies/south-koreas-anti-money-laundering-rules-to-be-live-on-25-march--1247920>

¹⁹⁰⁸ South Korea to Curb Illegal Cross-Border Crypto Trading, Crypto Briefing (Seoul) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://cryptobriefing.com/south-korea-to-curb-illegal-cross-border-crypto-trading/>

¹⁹⁰⁹ South Korea to Curb Illegal Cross-Border Crypto Trading, Crypto Briefing (Seoul) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://cryptobriefing.com/south-korea-to-curb-illegal-cross-border-crypto-trading/>

¹⁹¹⁰ South Korea to Curb Illegal Cross-Border Crypto Trading, Crypto Briefing (Seoul) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://cryptobriefing.com/south-korea-to-curb-illegal-cross-border-crypto-trading/>

¹⁹¹¹ South Korea to Curb Illegal Cross-Border Crypto Trading, Crypto Briefing (Seoul) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://cryptobriefing.com/south-korea-to-curb-illegal-cross-border-crypto-trading/>

¹⁹¹² South Korea pledges crackdown on money laundering via digital agencies, Coingeek (Seoul) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://coingeek.com/south-korea-pledges-crackdown-on-money-laundering-via-digital-currencies/>

¹⁹¹³ South Korea pledges crackdown on money laundering via digital agencies, Coingeek (Seoul) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://coingeek.com/south-korea-pledges-crackdown-on-money-laundering-via-digital-currencies/>

¹⁹¹⁴ South Korea pledges crackdown on money laundering via digital agencies, Coingeek (Seoul) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://coingeek.com/south-korea-pledges-crackdown-on-money-laundering-via-digital-currencies/>

¹⁹¹⁵ Mexican Government issues registration requirements to those who exchange and custody virtual assets, White and Case (New York) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.whitecase.com/publications/alert/mexican-government-issues-registration-requirements-those-who-exchange-and>

Mexico.¹⁹¹⁶ Through these requirements, the SHCP and the SAT hope to increase the focus on provisions of services involving virtual assets in order to prevent and combat against money laundering.¹⁹¹⁷

On 9 December 2020, Mexico's Senate approved a reform bill for the Bank of Mexico to acquire foreign currency from local banks that were excess from cash remittances and tourism.¹⁹¹⁸ The bill aimed to manage money laundering risks inherent in foreign currency transactions.¹⁹¹⁹

Through the reform bill, Mexico has taken action in tackling the channel of money laundering. However, they have only taken preliminary actions in the form of the list of requirements in monitoring the source and channel of online money laundering crime, but has not taken further action to implement legislation. Furthermore, the majority of their initiatives are centered around money laundering, but not many actions have been taken to counter terrorist financing.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Keab Sharma

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to tackle all sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering and terrorist financing.

On 10 January 2021, amendments to the Federal Law on anti-money laundering and terrorism financing came into force. From now on, Russia's financial watchdogs would receive all information regarding money withdrawal / lettering operations if a sum is more than RUB600,000 (approximately USD8,000). Also, all postal money transfers exceeding RUB100,000 (approximately USD1,300) would be put under control.¹⁹²⁰

On 20 January 2021, the State Duma's Committee on Financial Market approved the draft law imposing penalties on undeclared financial actives in cryptocurrencies. The fines vary from 300RUB (approximately USD5) for individuals to RUB50,000 (approximately USD680) for companies; in some cases the draft implies confiscation up to 40 percent of transferred money if it is done with a crypto wallet registered abroad.¹⁹²¹

On 19 February 2021, Russia's Federal Financial Monitoring (Rosfinmonitoring) announced establishment of a digital service to supervise transactions in cryptocurrencies that might be

¹⁹¹⁶ Mexican Government issues registration requirements to those who exchange and custody virtual assets, White and Case (New York) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.whitecase.com/publications/alert/mexican-government-issues-registration-requirements-those-who-exchange-and>

¹⁹¹⁷ Mexican Government issues registration requirements to those who exchange and custody virtual assets, White and Case (New York) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.whitecase.com/publications/alert/mexican-government-issues-registration-requirements-those-who-exchange-and>

¹⁹¹⁸ WSJ Mexico Working on an Alternative to Bill That Would Force Central Bank to Buy Dollars, Wall Street Journal (Mexico City) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/mexico-working-on-alternative-to-bill-that-would-force-central-bank-to-buy-dollars-11611311401>

¹⁹¹⁹ Considerations about the account of the reform project for the Bank of Mexico to acquire foreign currency in cash, approved by the Senate, Bank of Mexico (Mexico City) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.banxico.org.mx/marco-normativo/d/%7B318AF7D5-846B-EE69-FC64-CC9445D76402%7D.pdf>

¹⁹²⁰ New Rules For Control Over Cash Transactions Entered Into Force In The Russian Federation, Izvestiya (Moscow) 10 January 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://iz.ru/1109557/2021-01-10/v-rf-vstupili-v-silu-novye-pravila-kontroli-za-operatciami-s-nalichnymi>

¹⁹²¹ The Financial Market Committee Approves A Bill That Provides For Penalties For Hiding Funds In E-Wallets, Financial Market Committee of the State Duma (Moscow) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <http://www.komitet2-12.km.duma.gov.ru/Novosti-Komiteta/item/25071748/>

associated with criminal activities. Rosfinmonitoring's Director Yuri Chihanchin, called the new system "Prozrachnyi Monitoring" ("Transparent Monitoring") that is said to be capable of analyzing all kinds of transactions in cryptocurrencies. The system is planned to start functioning later in 2021.¹⁹²²

On 12 March 2021, the Advisory Council of the Interdepartmental Commission on Combating Laundering of Criminally Obtained Incomes, Financing of Terrorism and Financing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction conducted a meeting with representatives from the National Council of the Financial Market, the Association of Russian Banks, the Association of Russian Banks, and the Federal Notary Chamber.¹⁹²³ During the meeting, Ilya Yasinky, the director of the Department for Financial Monitoring and Currency Control of the Bank of Russia, discussed the draft of the federal law no. 1116372-7 meant to amend certain legislative acts to better assess the risk of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs of suspicious transactions.¹⁹²⁴

On 23 March 2021, Rosfinmonitoring announced that it is policing crypto to fiat transactions.¹⁹²⁵ Rosfinmonitoring announced that they are working with the central bank to develop a framework to track suspicious crypto to fiat transactions.¹⁹²⁶ Deputy Chief of Rosfinmonitoring Herman Neglyad stated, "banks have already begun to pay attention to exchange operations, that is, when they see that an operation has come after the exchange of virtual assets for hard currency, they have already begun to evaluate them and actually inform us about these operations."¹⁹²⁷

Russia has taken tentative action to combat money laundering and terrorist financing in two of the three key areas. Russia has addressed the source and techniques of such threats but has not taken action to fully tackle their channels.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Darya Rabbar

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with the commitment to tackle all three areas of sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist funding, or proliferation financing.

On 26 November 2020, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Ghada Waly and Saudi Arabia's President of Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority Mazin Bin Ibrahim Al-Kahmous signed a USD10 million funding agreement in support of a global operational network of anti-corruption law enforcement authorities to limit money laundering activities.¹⁹²⁸ This agreement will support "anti-corruption law enforcement authorities to enhance informal

¹⁹²² Rosfinmonitoring Has Created A Service For Monitoring Criminal Transactions With Cryptocurrency, Kommersant (Moscow) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4701696>

¹⁹²³A Meeting of The Advisory Council At The IAC on AML/CFT/ Forum Was Held (Moscow) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.fedsfm.ru/releases/4978>

¹⁹²⁴A Meeting of The Advisory Council At The IAC on AML/CFT/ Forum Was Held (Moscow) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.fedsfm.ru/releases/4978>

¹⁹²⁵ Russia's money laundering watchdog monitoring crypto to ruble transactions (New York) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://cointelegraph.com/news/russia-s-money-laundering-watchdog-monitoring-crypto-to-ruble-transactions>

¹⁹²⁶ Russia's money laundering watchdog monitoring crypto to ruble transactions (New York) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://cointelegraph.com/news/russia-s-money-laundering-watchdog-monitoring-crypto-to-ruble-transactions>

¹⁹²⁷ Russia's money laundering watchdog monitoring crypto to ruble transactions (New York) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://cointelegraph.com/news/russia-s-money-laundering-watchdog-monitoring-crypto-to-ruble-transactions>

¹⁹²⁸ UNODC, Saudi Arabia's Nazaha Sign USD10 Million Funding Agreement for Global Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Network, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Vienna) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2020/November/unodc-saudi-arabias-nazaha-sign-10m-funding-agreement-for-global-anti-corruption-law-enforcement-network.html>

cooperation through regular meetings; an online hub and secure communication platform; and knowledge- and capacity-building programmes and tools.¹⁹²⁹

On 2 December 2020, the Central Bank Governor Ahmed Alkholifey announced Saudi Arabia's strengthened regulatory and legislative framework which aims to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.¹⁹³⁰ This action was taken to enhance the kingdom's compliance with the international standards of the Financial Action Task Force, and will be "taking appropriate measures to prevent cybercrimes and is encouraging financial institutions to enhance electronic and digital payments amid the Covid-19 pandemic,"¹⁹³¹ as well as taking all necessary procedures and measures to manage the increased risks by developing appropriate policies.¹⁹³²

Saudi Arabia has taken actions to combat money laundering and terrorist financing in the channels and techniques but lacks action in regard to the sources of money laundering and terrorist financing.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Zhuojia Qiu

South Africa: -1

South Africa has failed to comply with its commitment to tackle all three areas of sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist funding, or proliferation financing.

South Africa has taken minimal action and made no new commitments to address sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering and terrorist financing.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of -1.¹⁹³³

Analyst: Nathan Ye

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with the commitment to tackle all sources, techniques and channels of money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing.

On 27 December 2020, Turkey passed Law no. 7262 on Preventing Financing of Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.¹⁹³⁴ The law was enacted to comply with the United Nations Security

¹⁹²⁹ UNODC, Saudi Arabia's Nazaha Sign USD10 Million Funding Agreement for Global Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Network, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Vienna) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2020/November/unodc-saudi-arabias-nazaha-sign-10m-funding-agreement-for-global-anti-corruption-law-enforcement-network.html>

¹⁹³⁰ Saudi Arabia strengthens its regulatory framework to combat money laundering, The National News (Abu Dhabi) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/business/economy/saudi-arabia-strengthens-its-regulatory-framework-to-combat-money-laundering-1.1121837>

¹⁹³¹ Saudi Arabia strengthens its regulatory framework to combat money laundering, The National News (Abu Dhabi) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/business/economy/saudi-arabia-strengthens-its-regulatory-framework-to-combat-money-laundering-1.1121837>

¹⁹³² Saudi Arabia strengthens its regulatory framework to combat money laundering, The National News (Abu Dhabi) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/business/economy/saudi-arabia-strengthens-its-regulatory-framework-to-combat-money-laundering-1.1121837>

¹⁹³³ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <http://www.treasury.gov.za/>, <https://www.bbc.com>, <https://www.gov.za/#>, <https://infobrics.org/>, <https://www.imf.org/en/Home>, <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/>, <https://www.timeslive.co.za/>, <https://www.fic.gov.za/media/Pages/mediareleases.aspx>, <https://apnews.com/hub/south-africa>, <https://www.reuters.com/>, <https://www.saps.gov.za/index.php>, <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/>, <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/>, <http://www.treasury.gov.za/default.aspx>, <https://www.resbank.co.za/en/home/what-we-do/Prudentialregulation/anti-money-laundering-and-counteracting-the-financing-of-terrorism>

Council counterterrorism resolution, and in response to a 2019 report from the Financial Action Task Force.¹⁹³⁵ Six of the forty-three articles of the law are to combat the techniques and channels of terrorist financing and money laundering.¹⁹³⁶

On 16 April 2021, the Central Bank of Turkey announced a legislation that will ban the direct and indirect use of cryptocurrencies, as well as other digital assets, as a method of payment.¹⁹³⁷ This legislation was enacted due to the high risk these transactions may entail, as they are frequently used in money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/TF) crimes.¹⁹³⁸

On 1 May 2021, the government of Turkey published a presidential decree that announced that cryptocurrency exchanges are now included on a list of firms that is covered by Turkey's anti-money laundering and terrorist financing regulations, and immediately went into force following its publication in the Turkey Official Gazette.¹⁹³⁹ The decree requires crypto asset service providers to be responsible and ensure that their assets are not being used illegally in crimes such as ML/TF.¹⁹⁴⁰

Turkey has taken action to combat money laundering and terrorist financing through the banning the use of cryptocurrencies as payment exchanges, as well as through multiple legislations that tackle all three key areas.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alisha Bhimji

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment to tackle all sources, techniques and channels of money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing.

On 17 December 2020, Her Majesty's Treasury and the Home Office published a major report assessing the national risk of money laundering and terrorist financing.¹⁹⁴¹ The report states that the UK will continue to build on several of its past anti-money laundering (AML)/combating terrorism financing (CTF) strategies.¹⁹⁴² Furthermore, the report acknowledges the increased risk in money

¹⁹³⁴ Turkey: Parliament Passes Law to Suppress Financing of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation, Library of Congress (Washington D.C.) 27 December 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/turkey-parliament-passes-law-to-suppress-financing-of-weapons-of-mass-destruction-proliferation/>

¹⁹³⁵ Turkey: Draft Law Threatens Civil Society, Human Rights Watch (New York) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/12/24/turkey-draft-law-threatens-civil-society>

¹⁹³⁶ New bill covering finance, charities puts strain on Turkey's civil society and voters, Ahval News (Ankara) 20 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://ahvalnews.com/turkish-parliament/new-bill-covering-finance-charities-puts-strain-turkeys-civil-society-and-voters>

¹⁹³⁷ Turkey to ban use of cryptocurrencies for buying goods, services, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/business/finance/turkey-to-ban-use-of-cryptocurrencies-for-buying-goods-services>

¹⁹³⁸ Turkey to ban use of cryptocurrencies for buying goods, services, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/business/finance/turkey-to-ban-use-of-cryptocurrencies-for-buying-goods-services>

¹⁹³⁹ Turkey adds cryptocurrency exchanges to terror funding rules, CTV News (Istanbul) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/world/turkey-adds-cryptocurrency-exchanges-to-terror-funding-rules-1.5410206>

¹⁹⁴⁰ Turkey adds cryptocurrency exchanges to terror funding rules, CTV News (Istanbul) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/world/turkey-adds-cryptocurrency-exchanges-to-terror-funding-rules-1.5410206>

¹⁹⁴¹ National risk assessment of money laundering and terrorist financing 2020, UK Parliament (London) December 2020. Access date: 20 March 2020. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/945411/NRA_2020_v1.2_FOR_PUBLICATION.pdf

¹⁹⁴² National risk assessment of money laundering and terrorist financing 2020, UK Parliament (London) December 2020. Access date: 20 March 2020. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/945411/NRA_2020_v1.2_FOR_PUBLICATION.pdf

laundering and terrorist financing crimes during the COVID-19 pandemic, and more emphasis was placed on emerging sectors such as Cryptoassets.¹⁹⁴³

On 16 March 2021, the Financial Conduct Authority launched criminal proceedings against the National Westminster Bank Plc, whose systems allegedly failed to monitor and scrutinize the movement of 365 GBP million.¹⁹⁴⁴ The goal of this policy decision is to reduce the sources of money laundering.

On 16 March 2021, UK's Cabinet Office published a policy paper that reaffirmed Britain's commitment to AML and CFT. Specifically, the UK will continue to "increase the number of trained financial investigators within [their] police forces; overhaul [their] Suspicious Activity Reports regime to ensure critical intelligence informs their investigations; and bolster the National Economic Crime Centre."¹⁹⁴⁵ Moreover, the UK will presently introduce new legislation to tackle economic crime, "including the use of UK corporate structures in facilitating high-end money laundering."¹⁹⁴⁶

On 25 March 2021, the UK Government amended their Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds Regulation 2017 to change the definition of High-Risk Third Countries.¹⁹⁴⁷ This amendment will allow the UK to independently define high risk third world countries.¹⁹⁴⁸ The released list of high-risk countries aligns more closely with the Financial Action Task Force, which will "give effect to FATF [Financial Action Task Force] global standards on high-risk third countries."¹⁹⁴⁹

In March and April 2021, the UK's Revenue and Customs hosted a collection of training workshops, alongside the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, to raise exposure to AML/CFT in the UAE.¹⁹⁵⁰ These workshops "form a key part of the UAE's wide range of activities to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing, including initiatives to facilitate international and domestic cooperation."¹⁹⁵¹

The United Kingdom has taken actions to combat money laundering and terrorist financing in all three key areas through amending legislation, as well as expressing continued and improved support for previous initiatives.

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

Analyst: Veniamin Veselovsky

¹⁹⁴³ UK Government publishes its 2020 UK National Risk Assessment (NRA) of money laundering and terrorist financing, Norton Rose Fulbright, Financial Services: Regulation Tomorrow (London) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.regulationtomorrow.com/eu/uk-government-publishes-its-2020-uk-national-risk-assessment-nra-of-money-laundering-and-terrorist-financing/>

¹⁹⁴⁴ FCA starts criminal proceedings against NatWest Plc, Financial Conduct Authority (London) 16 March 2021. Access date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.fca.org.uk/news/press-releases/fca-starts-criminal-proceedings-against-natwest-plc>

¹⁹⁴⁵ FCA starts criminal proceedings against NatWest Plc, Financial Conduct Authority (London) 16 March 2021. Access date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.fca.org.uk/news/press-releases/fca-starts-criminal-proceedings-against-natwest-plc>

¹⁹⁴⁶ Global Britain in a Competitive Age: the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, Cabinet Office (London) 16 March 2021. Access date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/global-britain-in-a-competitive-age-the-integrated-review-of-security-defence-development-and-foreign-policy>

¹⁹⁴⁷ The Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing (Amendment) (High-Risk Countries) Regulation 2021, UK Government (London) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2021/392/regulation/2/made>

¹⁹⁴⁸ The Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing (Amendment) (High-Risk Countries) Regulation 2021, UK Government (London) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2021/392/regulation/2/made>

¹⁹⁴⁹ Explanatory Memorandum to the Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing (Amendment) (High-Risk Countries) Regulation 2021, UK Government (London) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2021/392/pdfs/uksiem_20210392_en.pdf

¹⁹⁵⁰ UAE, UK host anti-money laundering training sessions, Gulf News (Dubai) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://gulfnews.com/business/banking/uae-uk-host-anti-money-laundering-training-sessions-1.1619337665262>

¹⁹⁵¹ UAE, UK host anti-money laundering training sessions, Gulf News (Dubai) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://gulfnews.com/business/banking/uae-uk-host-anti-money-laundering-training-sessions-1.1619337665262>

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to tackle all three areas of sources, techniques, and channels of money laundering, terrorist funding, or proliferation financing.

On 1 January 2020, the Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that requires financial institutions to enhance their “due diligence” regarding correspondent accounts established by foreign institutions and private banks that are maintained for non-US personal.¹⁹⁵² This act will increase scrutiny organizations such as Al-Qaeda’s use of money laundering to fund its terrorist activities.¹⁹⁵³ This act also includes the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2020 (AML Act), which seeks to codify the risk-based approach to anti-money laundering/countering terrorism financing (AML/CTF) compliance, modernize AML/CTF systems, “coordination, cooperation, and information-sharing among financial institutions, U.S. financial regulators and foreign financial regulators,”¹⁹⁵⁴ as well as expand enforcement and investigation-related power of the United States Department of the Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN).¹⁹⁵⁵

On 1 January 2021, the Congress passed the NDAA, which aims to broaden anti-money laundering reforms, mainly through the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA), which is embedded in this larger legislation.¹⁹⁵⁶ The CTA creates a beneficial ownership registry with the FinCEN, and requires all reporting companies to disclose information on their beneficial owners to FinCEN.¹⁹⁵⁷ The goal of this registry is to “crack down on anonymous shell companies, which have long been the vehicle of choice for money launderers, terrorists, and criminals.”¹⁹⁵⁸

On 2 March 2021, the Department of State released the 2021 edition of the “International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, Volume II: Money Laundering.”¹⁹⁵⁹ This report focuses on outlining the threats specific to narcotics-related money laundering in various countries around the globe, and reviews the actions these countries have taken, as well as their vulnerabilities.¹⁹⁶⁰

¹⁹⁵² New legislation may portend wave of anti-money laundering enforcement. 19 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021 <https://www.forbes.com/sites/insider/2021/04/19/new-legislation-may-portend-wave-of-anti-money-laundering-enforcement/?sh=1f526b36259f>

¹⁹⁵³ New legislation may portend wave of anti-money laundering enforcement. 19 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021 <https://www.forbes.com/sites/insider/2021/04/19/new-legislation-may-portend-wave-of-anti-money-laundering-enforcement/?sh=1f526b36259f>

¹⁹⁵⁴ The Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2020: Congress Enacts the Most Sweeping AML Legislation Since Passage of the USA PATRIOT Act, *The National Law Review* (Chicago) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 15 May 15, 2021. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/anti-money-laundering-act-2020-congress-enacts-most-sweeping-aml-legislation-passage>

¹⁹⁵⁵ The Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2020: Congress Enacts the Most Sweeping AML Legislation Since Passage of the USA PATRIOT Act, *The National Law Review* (Chicago) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 15 May 15, 2021. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/anti-money-laundering-act-2020-congress-enacts-most-sweeping-aml-legislation-passage>

¹⁹⁵⁶ New Legislation May Portend Wave of Anti-Money Laundering Enforcement, *Forbes* (Jersey City) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/insider/2021/04/19/new-legislation-may-portend-wave-of-anti-money-laundering-enforcement/?sh=5cd24621259f>

¹⁹⁵⁷ New Legislation May Portend Wave of Anti-Money Laundering Enforcement, *Forbes* (Jersey City) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/insider/2021/04/19/new-legislation-may-portend-wave-of-anti-money-laundering-enforcement/?sh=5cd24621259f>

¹⁹⁵⁸ New Legislation May Portend Wave of Anti-Money Laundering Enforcement, *Forbes* (Jersey City) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/insider/2021/04/19/new-legislation-may-portend-wave-of-anti-money-laundering-enforcement/?sh=5cd24621259f>

¹⁹⁵⁹ International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, Volume II: Money Laundering, United States Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (Washington DC) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 15, 2021. https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/21-00620-INLSR-Vol2_Report-FINAL.pdf

¹⁹⁶⁰ International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, Volume II: Money Laundering, United States Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (Washington DC) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 15, 2021. https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/21-00620-INLSR-Vol2_Report-FINAL.pdf

The United States has fully complied with its commitment through the NDAA and the CTA. These actions have contributed to tackling the sources, techniques and channels involved in money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/TF) activities. Furthermore, through the 2021 international Narcotics Control Strategy Report, the United States has identified specific techniques used in ML/TF crimes.

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

Analyst: Aimaan Shergill

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to tackle two of the three sources, techniques or channels of money laundering, terrorist funding, or proliferation financing.

On 8 December 2020, the European Investment Bank (EIB) released a comprehensive Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism Framework.¹⁹⁶¹ This framework contains key anti-money Laundering and combating terrorist financing (AML/CTF) principles that are applicable to EIB activities.¹⁹⁶² This framework aims to prevent EIB Group, as well as its governing bodies, from being associated or used for crimes involving money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/TF).¹⁹⁶³

On 9 December 2020, the European Commission adopted a new Counter-Terrorism Agenda for the European Union.¹⁹⁶⁴ This agenda sets out a way forward for actions to counter terrorism at the EU level, looking to better anticipate, prevent, protect and respond to terrorist threats.¹⁹⁶⁵ The Counter-Terrorism Agenda aims at anticipating, preventing, protecting and responding to attacks by identifying vulnerabilities and subsequently preventing attacks addressing radicalization, reducing vulnerability of cities and people, a stronger mandate for Europol, stepping up operational support and prosecution and victims' rights to better respond to attacks.¹⁹⁶⁶

On 5 February 2021, European Council renewed the EU terrorist list for a further six months.¹⁹⁶⁷ This list sets out persons, groups, and entities subject to restrictive measures, including the freezing

¹⁹⁶¹ Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism Framework, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/publications/eib-group-anti-money-laundering-policy-and-combating-finance-of-terrorism-framework>

¹⁹⁶² Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism Framework, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/publications/eib-group-anti-money-laundering-policy-and-combating-finance-of-terrorism-framework>

¹⁹⁶³ Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism Framework, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/publications/eib-group-anti-money-laundering-policy-and-combating-finance-of-terrorism-framework>

¹⁹⁶⁴ A Counter-Terrorism Agenda for the EU: Anticipate, Prevent, Protect, Respond, European Commission (Brussels) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/pdf/09122020_communication_commission_european_parliament_the_council_eu_agenda_counter_terrorism_po-2020-9031_com-2020_795_en.pdf

¹⁹⁶⁵ A Counter-Terrorism Agenda for the EU: Anticipate, Prevent, Protect, Respond, European Commission (Brussels) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/pdf/09122020_communication_commission_european_parliament_the_council_eu_agenda_counter_terrorism_po-2020-9031_com-2020_795_en.pdf

¹⁹⁶⁶ Security Union: A Counter-Terrorism Agenda and stronger Europol to boost the EU's resilience, European Commission (Brussels) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2326

¹⁹⁶⁷ Fight against terrorism: Council renews the EU terrorist list for a further six months, European Council (Brussels) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/02/05/fight-against-terrorism-council-renews-the-eu-terrorist-list-for-a-further-six-months/>

of their financial assets in the EU and prohibiting EU operators from making funds and economic resources available to them.¹⁹⁶⁸

On 24 February 2021, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) adopted the “Package for Fair and Simple Taxation.”¹⁹⁶⁹ Within this package, the EESC “proposed launching a European pact to effectively combat tax fraud, evasion and avoidance and money laundering.”¹⁹⁷⁰

On 29 March 2021, the European Parliament published its Anti-Money-Laundering Package 2021: titled “Strengthening the Framework.”¹⁹⁷¹ This package is “an action plan for a new single EU Anti-money-laundering system,” and outlines areas for future actions and proposals.^{1972,1973} Furthermore, this package focuses on a proposal to partially transfer the existing anti-money laundering (AML) Directive into regulation, which will be directly application to all Member States of the EU.¹⁹⁷⁴ There is also a focus on an EU-wide AML supervisor system, as well as improving coordination and support mechanism for each Member States’ Financial Intelligence Units.¹⁹⁷⁵

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment through its published reports and frameworks that outlined the plans to tackle all three key areas of sources, techniques, and channels of ML/TF.

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

Analyst: Anna Ivanova

¹⁹⁶⁸ Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/142, Official Journal of the European Union (Brussels) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2021/142>

¹⁹⁶⁹ Package for fair and simple taxation, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions-information-reports/opinions/package-fair-and-simple-taxation>

¹⁹⁷⁰ Package for fair and simple taxation, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions-information-reports/opinions/package-fair-and-simple-taxation>

¹⁹⁷¹ Anti-money-laundering pack 2021: Strengthening the framework, European Parliament Research Service (Brussels) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/662624/EPRS_BRI\(2021\)662624_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/662624/EPRS_BRI(2021)662624_EN.pdf)

¹⁹⁷² Anti-money-laundering pack 2021: Strengthening the framework, European Parliament Research Service (Brussels) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/662624/EPRS_BRI\(2021\)662624_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/662624/EPRS_BRI(2021)662624_EN.pdf)

¹⁹⁷³ Anti-money-laundering pack 2021: Strengthening the framework, European Parliament Research Service (Brussels) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/662624/EPRS_BRI\(2021\)662624_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/662624/EPRS_BRI(2021)662624_EN.pdf)

¹⁹⁷⁴ Anti-money-laundering pack 2021: Strengthening the framework, European Parliament Research Service (Brussels) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/662624/EPRS_BRI\(2021\)662624_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/662624/EPRS_BRI(2021)662624_EN.pdf)

¹⁹⁷⁵ Anti-money-laundering pack 2021: Strengthening the framework, European Parliament Research Service (Brussels) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/662624/EPRS_BRI\(2021\)662624_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/662624/EPRS_BRI(2021)662624_EN.pdf)

9. Labour and Employment: Job Protection

“We will continue to support workers through training and reskilling policies.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina	-1		
Australia		0	
Brazil		0	
Canada			+1
China		0	
France			+1
Germany			+1
India	-1		
Indonesia			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico	-1		
Russia	-1		
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa		0	
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average Score	+0.35 (68%)		

Background

Since G20 first made distinctive commitments to protect the labour market and employment workforce at the 2009 London Summit.¹⁹⁷⁶ Since then, the G20 has adopted different targets throughout the years regarding this issue area. The continually shifting focus of the G20’s goals for the labour and employment issue area has been largely influenced by the various crises and global issues that have arisen throughout the previous decade. Such events include the 2008 financial crisis and the rapid rise of technological advancements and automation of the workforce. The evolution of this commitment area’s goals not only reflect the fragility of the labour and employment commitment area, but also demonstrates the flexibility of the members regarding their responses to the crises and changes often faced by the labour market and employment workforce.

At the 2009 London Summit, the issue of labour and employment emerged for the first time as a distinctive commitment area.¹⁹⁷⁷ The G20 members declared their commitment towards supporting workers affected by the 2008 economic crisis by providing financial support and funding additional

¹⁹⁷⁶ Global Plan for Recovery and Reform, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 2 April 2009. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0402.html>

¹⁹⁷⁷ Global Plan for Recovery and Reform, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 2 April 2009. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0402.html>

job opportunities.¹⁹⁷⁸ As well, the members iterated their goal to create labour markets that treated both men and women equally.¹⁹⁷⁹

At the 2010 Seoul Summit, job creation was stated as an important feature of economic recovery and therefore, a priority of the G20.¹⁹⁸⁰ The members were particularly supportive of this measure as a means of providing “social protection, decent work and also to ensure accelerated growth in low income countries (LICs).”¹⁹⁸¹

At the 2011 Cannes Summit, the G20 members noted the weakness of the global economic recovery and reiterated their support for job creation as a means of effective economic recovery.¹⁹⁸² The members introduced an Action Plan for Growth and Jobs, which outlined a plan to “address short term vulnerabilities, restore financial stability and strengthen the medium-term foundations for growth.”¹⁹⁸³ Additionally, the members iterated their commitment to supporting work opportunities for youth through the creation of a G20 Task Force on Employment.¹⁹⁸⁴

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, the members of the G20 released the Los Cabos Growth and Jobs Action Plan as the members agreed that creating sustainable and quality jobs was the utmost priority of this summit’s agenda.¹⁹⁸⁵ The leaders highlighted the fragile global economic recovery following the 2008 global recession and iterated their commitment towards reducing poverty and increasing the welfare of individuals around the world.¹⁹⁸⁶ This would be achieved through job creation, skills training, and reducing barriers to education.¹⁹⁸⁷ Moreover, the members focused on creating decent work and quality jobs for youth, women, and other at-risk groups, to ensure that they were not left behind in the recovery process.¹⁹⁸⁸

At the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, promoting inclusive economic growth and job creation remained as primary goals for the G20 members.¹⁹⁸⁹ The members outlined a plethora of commitments towards spurring jobs, ensuring labour protections, enacting targeted funding with the aim of incorporating under-represented groups into the labour market, increasing social cohesion through coordinated labour and market policies, funding apprenticeships and training programs, and more

¹⁹⁷⁸ Global Plan for Recovery and Reform, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 2 April 2009. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0402.html>

¹⁹⁷⁹ Global Plan for Recovery and Reform, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 2 April 2009. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0402.html>

¹⁹⁸⁰ The G20 Seoul Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 11 November 2010. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/g20seoul.pdf>

¹⁹⁸¹ The G20 Seoul Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 11 November 2010. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/g20seoul.pdf>

¹⁹⁸² Communiqué: G20 Leaders Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-communique-111104-en.html>

¹⁹⁸³ Cannes Summit Final Declaration – Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

¹⁹⁸⁴ Communiqué: G20 Leaders Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-communique-111104-en.html>

¹⁹⁸⁵ G20 Leaders Declaration: Los Cabos Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

¹⁹⁸⁶ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: St. Petersburg Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

¹⁹⁸⁷ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: St. Petersburg Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

¹⁹⁸⁸ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: St. Petersburg Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

¹⁹⁸⁹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: St. Petersburg Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

effective employment services. Moreover, the G20 members recognized the importance of creating country-specific job creation action plans to operate within each member's respective constitutional laws. Finally, the G20 members committed to establishing cohesive and coordinated macroeconomic, financial, fiscal, education, skills development, innovation, employment, and social protection policies as a means of establishing inclusive and sustainable growth.

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, the leaders iterated their commitment towards reducing the gap in participation rates between men and women in the labour market by 25 per cent by 2025.¹⁹⁹⁰ As well, they stated their commitment to bringing more than 100 million women into their collective workforces while while creating quality jobs.¹⁹⁹¹ The G20 members further built upon their inclusive policies by committing to reduce youth unemployment rates through the implementation of a collective Employment Plan.¹⁹⁹² This Employment Plan outlines a framework for investments in apprenticeships, education and training programs, and funding incentive programs for youth to pursue entrepreneurship.¹⁹⁹³

At the 2015 Antalya Summit, the G20 Antalya Youth Goal was established to reduce the number of at-risk youth from being permanently left behind in the labour market by 15 per cent by 2025.¹⁹⁹⁴ This goal was significant because it set up a framework for the G20 members to measure their success at protecting youth employment opportunities for the proceeding 10 years. In addition, the G20 presented the G20 Skills Strategy for Developing and Using Skills for the 21st Century in partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the ILO.¹⁹⁹⁵ The skills strategy outlined the need to promote inclusive economic growth through encouraging enterprises to invest in the skills of its workers, promoting the participation of under-represented workers in the labour market, investing in foundational skills such as literacy and numeracy, and reducing barriers to accessing quality education.¹⁹⁹⁶

At the 2016 Hangzhou Summit¹⁹⁹⁷ and 2017 Hamburg Summit¹⁹⁹⁸, the focus of the labour and employment commitment area primarily shifted towards responding to the effects of automation and rapid technological advances upon the labour market. The members were particularly concerned about the economic inequalities that might arise for workers who lack digital skills.¹⁹⁹⁹ In response to

¹⁹⁹⁰ G20 Leaders' Communiqué: 2014 Brisbane Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communication.html>

¹⁹⁹¹ G20 Leaders' Communiqué: 2014 Brisbane Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communication.html>

¹⁹⁹² G20 Leaders' Communiqué: 2014 Brisbane Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communication.html>

¹⁹⁹³ G20 Leaders' Communiqué: 2014 Brisbane Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communication.html>

¹⁹⁹⁴ Annex III: G20 Policy Principles for Promoting Better Youth Employment Outcomes, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 4 September 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/G20-Policy-Principles-for-Promoting-Better-Youth-Unemployment-Outcomes.pdf>

¹⁹⁹⁵ The G20 Skills Strategy for Developing and Using Skills for the 21st Century, OECD (Paris) 23 July 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/g20/topics/employment-and-social-policy/The-G20-Skills-Strategy-for-Developing-and-Using-Skills-for-the-21st-Century.pdf>

¹⁹⁹⁶ The G20 Skills Strategy for Developing and Using Skills for the 21st Century, OECD (Paris) 23 July 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/g20/topics/employment-and-social-policy/The-G20-Skills-Strategy-for-Developing-and-Using-Skills-for-the-21st-Century.pdf>

¹⁹⁹⁷ G20 Leaders' Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communication.html>

¹⁹⁹⁸ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

¹⁹⁹⁹ G20 Leaders' Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communication.html>

these recent advancements, the G20 stated their commitment to providing digital skills for workers through partnerships within the academic and business sectors.²⁰⁰⁰

At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, the G20 members emphasized their commitment to establishing an inclusive and fair framework for job creation.²⁰⁰¹ In particular, this summit introduced the Menu of Policy Options for the Future of Work, which included measures to improve the digital and entrepreneurship skills, increasing workforce participations amongst vulnerable sectors of society, strengthening social protections, mobilizing resources from public, private, and multilateral partnerships, and promoting general vocational and skills training.²⁰⁰² As well, the G20 members stated their support for promoting decent jobs for you and reiterated their commitment to the Antalya Youth Goal.²⁰⁰³

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, the issue of labour and employment took on a youthful lens, with a particular focus on reducing barriers to meaningful youth employment by improving employment opportunities and skills training for youth.²⁰⁰⁴ The G20 members also iterated their support of increasing labour market participation amongst old age workers, women, and persons with disabilities. Additionally, the members stated their commitment towards increasing job creation and raising the quality of employment.²⁰⁰⁵

Although the labour and employment commitment has been a primary focus of the G20 since 2009, its relevance became further underscored upon the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020. The varying approaches adopted by governments towards containing the pandemic have resulted in detrimental ramifications upon the global economy that will likely be felt for several years to come. G20 members, as well as other countries, have been battling staggering rates of job loss and other economic challenges throughout the pandemic. Such economic circumstances thus underscore the growing significance of mitigating job loss and rebuilding strong economies in the wake of the pandemic.

With this goal in mind, the G20 leaders reiterated their continued commitment towards supporting workers through training and reskilling policies at the 2020 Riyadh Summit. Moreover, the members highlighted the devastating effects of the pandemic upon labour markets and acknowledged the millions of jobs that have been lost worldwide. Finally, the G20 leaders recognized the detrimental effects of the current labour market conditions upon the participation of women and youth within the sector. The members thus restated their commitment towards achieving the G20 Antalya Youth Goal of reducing the percentage of at-risk youth from being left behind in the labour market by 15 per cent by 2025. And although the members reiterated their commitment towards addressing and mitigating the employment barriers faced by youth as in summits past, there was a greater emphasis placed upon overall recovery from the economically damaging effects of the pandemic. Thus, the commitment made by the G20 members towards implementing training and reskilling policies highlights importance of providing workers with the skills they need to remain and re-enter the workforce as the members continue to build back their economies in light of the pandemic.

²⁰⁰⁰ G20 Leaders' Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communication.html>

²⁰⁰¹ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

²⁰⁰² G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

²⁰⁰³ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

²⁰⁰⁴ G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

²⁰⁰⁵ G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

Commitment Features

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, the members of the G20 committed to continuing to support workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

The term “support” means to assist or help.²⁰⁰⁶ In this context, the actions implemented by members can be defined as “supportive” to workers insofar as they are designed with the intention of helping workers by protecting jobs and providing workers with the skills necessary to either enter or re-enter the labour market. Moreover, “train” is defined as “to teach so as to make fit, qualified, or proficient.”²⁰⁰⁷ Thus, “training policies” refers to programs or initiatives that provide workers who are entering the labour market with the education and skills they need to enter the workforce. Examples of such initiatives include funding workshops to provide recent university graduates with practical skills, apprenticeships and vocational training programs that provide hands-on job training, developing school and university materials that promote entrepreneurship, and national job grant programs that provide funding for workplaces to further train their employees. Finally, “reskilling” is defined as “the process of learning new skills so you can do a different job, or of training people to do a different job.”²⁰⁰⁸ So, “reskilling policies” refer to programs or initiatives that provide skilled workers with the platform to gain additional skills that are applicable to one or more sectors outside of their own. Examples of such initiatives includes funding programs for recently unemployed workers to gain a certification in a program outside of their occupation.

To achieve full compliance, members must take national action towards supporting workers by implementing both training and reskilling policies. Members can achieve partial compliance if they take action towards supporting workers through the implementation of either training or reskilling policies. Negative compliance results from a lack of supportive measures being established for workers such that neither training nor reskilling policies are implemented.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member does not take action towards supporting workers and fails to implement training OR reskilling policies.
0	G20 member takes action towards supporting workers by implementing either training OR reskilling policies.
+1	G20 member takes action towards supporting workers by implementing training AND reskilling policies.

*Compliance Director: Alyssa Atef
Lead Analyst: Meixi Zhang*

Argentina: -1

Argentina has failed to comply with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

Argentina has not taken any action towards funding neither training nor reskilling programs. No actions were found for this report after searching publicly available online sources published by the government, relevant ministries, and international organizations.

²⁰⁰⁶ Support, Meriam-Webster 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/support>

²⁰⁰⁷ Train, Meriam-Webster 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/train>

²⁰⁰⁸ Reskilling, Cambridge Dictionary 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/reskilling>

Thus, Argentina receives a score of -1 .²⁰⁰⁹

Analyst: Hayley Spens

Australia: 0

Australia has partially complied with its commitment to continue to supporting workers through training and reskilling policies.

On 9 March 2021, Australia announced the expansion of its targeted wage subsidy program as part of the government's National Economic Recovery Plan.²⁰¹⁰ The Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidy program supports businesses and training organizations to take on new apprentices and trainees.²⁰¹¹ The program provides a 50 per cent subsidy for wages paid to apprentices between October 2020 and September 2021.²⁰¹² The government estimates that this expansion will generate around 70,000 new apprentice and trainee roles, with the government investing around AUD1.2 billion.²⁰¹³

Australia has partially complied with its commitment to continue to supporting workers through implementing training policies. In particular, Australia has implemented measures to support training roles through the expansion of the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidy, which is estimated to generate additional apprenticeships and trainee positions. Australia, however, has yet to take action towards implementing reskilling policies.

Thus, Australia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Dorottya Szekely

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing job training and reskilling policies.

On 2 March 2021, the Secretariat of Productivity, Employment and Competitiveness, along with the Ministry of Economy, partnered with the World Economic Forum to hold the first "Brazil Skills Accelerator Initiative" meeting.²⁰¹⁴ The Accelerator Initiative aims to upskill the Brazilian labour market through enrolling 8 million Brazilians in national job training programs.²⁰¹⁵

²⁰⁰⁹ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/>, <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/trabajo>, <https://www.ilo.org/global/lang-en/index.htm>, <https://www.ambito.com>, and <https://www.batimes.com.ar/>.

²⁰¹⁰ Thousands of New Apprentice and Trainee Jobs, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/thousands-new-apprentice-and-trainee-jobs>

²⁰¹¹ Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements, Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.dese.gov.au/boosting-apprenticeship-commencements>

²⁰¹² Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements, Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.dese.gov.au/boosting-apprenticeship-commencements>

²⁰¹³ Thousands of New Apprentices and Trainee Jobs, Liberal Party NSW (Canberra) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://nsw.liberal.org.au/Shared-Content/News/2021/Thousands-of-new-apprentices-and-trainee-jobs>

²⁰¹⁴ World Economic Forum Holds First Brazil Skills Accelerator Initiative Co-Chair Meeting, World Economic Forum (New York) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.weforum.org/press/2021/03/world-economic-forum-holds-first-brazil-skills-accelerator-initiative-co-chair-meeting/>

²⁰¹⁵ World Economic Forum Holds First Brazil Skills Accelerator Initiative Co-Chair Meeting, World Economic Forum (New York) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.weforum.org/press/2021/03/world-economic-forum-holds-first-brazil-skills-accelerator-initiative-co-chair-meeting/>

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing a national job training program. Brazil, however, has yet to take national action with respect to its commitment towards supporting workers through the implementation of reskilling policies.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Simren Ravina Sharma

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitments to support workers through training and reskilling policies.

On 17 February 2021, the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion declared that the Government of Canada will be investing CAD62 million over five years into the Union Training and Innovation Program (UTIP).²⁰¹⁶ The UTIP sponsors 68 projects that are a part of the Union Training and Innovation Program.²⁰¹⁷ The UTIP employs a two-pronged strategy, investing in training equipment and materials, and aiding innovation in apprenticeships across Canada.²⁰¹⁸ The UTIP program ensures that the quality of training within unions across Canada is upheld and reduces barriers for worker participation.²⁰¹⁹

On 23 February 2021, the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion announced that CAD4.78 million would be invested into the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy program.²⁰²⁰ This program is targeted towards helping Black youth in Canada gain meaningful employment.²⁰²¹ The program will partner with various local organizations to provide “mentorships, pre-employment preparation, essential skills training, and employment retention skills training.”²⁰²²

As of 2 March 2021, Canada has provided an additional CAD1.5 billion to provinces and territories through the Workforce Development Agreements (WDAs).²⁰²³ As a result, provinces and territories

²⁰¹⁶ Government of Canada invests in training to help Canadians become certified in the skilled trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Toronto) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-invests-in-training-to-help-canadians-in-toronto-ontario-become-certified-in-skilled-trades.html>

²⁰¹⁷ Government of Canada invests in training to help Canadians become certified in the skilled trades, Cision Newswire (Toronto) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-invests-in-training-to-help-canadians-become-certified-in-the-skilled-trades-817896194.html>

²⁰¹⁸ Government of Canada invests in training to help Canadians become certified in the skilled trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Toronto) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-invests-in-training-to-help-canadians-in-toronto-ontario-become-certified-in-skilled-trades.html>

²⁰¹⁹ Government of Canada invests in training to help Canadians become certified in the skilled trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Toronto) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-invests-in-training-to-help-canadians-in-toronto-ontario-become-certified-in-skilled-trades.html>

²⁰²⁰ Empowering Black youth to achieve meaningful careers, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 23 February 2021. Access Date 27 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/02/empowering-black-youth-to-achieve-meaningful-careers.html>

²⁰²¹ Empowering Black youth to achieve meaningful careers, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 23 February 2021. Access Date 27 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/02/empowering-black-youth-to-achieve-meaningful-careers.html>

²⁰²² Empowering Black youth to achieve meaningful careers, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 23 February 2021. Access Date 27 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/02/empowering-black-youth-to-achieve-meaningful-careers.html>

²⁰²³ Helping workers in New Brunswick develop the skills they need to find good jobs, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/03/helping-workers-in-new-brunswick-develop-the-skills-they-need-to-find-good-jobs.html>

will be able to provide skills training, financial assistance, and benefits to workers and employers within the labour market who have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁰²⁴

On 19 April 2021, the Canadian government announced a new budget which directs CAD470 million over a period of three years towards a new apprenticeship program.²⁰²⁵ The proposed funding will provide small to medium sized employers incentives to hire first-year apprentices.²⁰²⁶ The budget also proposes a plan to invest CAD960 million in a Sectoral Workforce Solutions Program.²⁰²⁷ This funding would provide approximately 90,000 Canadian workers with skilled work training.²⁰²⁸

Canada fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies by promoting innovation in the apprenticeship sector and removing barriers to worker training. Moreover, investments into WDAs have enabled provinces and territories to implement reskilling programs within their respective jurisdictions.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Tourang Movabedi

China: 0

The Chinese government has partially complied with its commitment towards supporting workers through training and reskilling policies.

On 27 November 2020, President Xi Jinping announced to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) that China would train 1,000 administrative and specialized personnel in the ASEAN countries' health sector as part of the China-ASEAN Human Resources Training Program of Health Silk Road from 2020-2022.²⁰²⁹

On 9 December 2020, the Chinese Ministry of Education, in partnership with 11 local universities and the China Center for Disease Control and Prevention, announced the launch of training

²⁰²⁴ Government of Canada invests in training to help Canadians become certified in the skilled trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Toronto) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-invests-in-training-to-help-canadians-in-toronto-ontario-become-certified-in-skilled-trades.html>

²⁰²⁵ Federal budget provides funding for new apprenticeship service, supports skilled trades, Daily Commercial News (Toronto) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/government/2021/04/federal-budget-provides-funding-for-new-apprenticeship-service-supports-skilled-trades>

²⁰²⁶ Federal budget provides funding for new apprenticeship service, supports skilled trades, Daily Commercial News (Toronto) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/government/2021/04/federal-budget-provides-funding-for-new-apprenticeship-service-supports-skilled-trades>

²⁰²⁷ Federal budget provides funding for new apprenticeship service, supports skilled trades, Daily Commercial News (Toronto) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/government/2021/04/federal-budget-provides-funding-for-new-apprenticeship-service-supports-skilled-trades>

²⁰²⁸ Federal budget provides funding for new apprenticeship service, supports skilled trades, Daily Commercial News (Toronto) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/government/2021/04/federal-budget-provides-funding-for-new-apprenticeship-service-supports-skilled-trades>

²⁰²⁹ Remarks by H.E. Xi Jinping President of the People's Republic of China At the Opening Ceremony of the 17th China-ASEAN Expo and China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Beijing) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1836117.shtml

programs targeted towards increasing the number of public health professionals.²⁰³⁰ The programs will emphasize on-the-job training for post-graduate and doctoral level public health education.²⁰³¹

On 24 December 2020, the Chinese Ministry of Education held a career forum for 2021 university graduates from Hubei to provide quality employment assurance for Hubei-based graduates in response to the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁰³² At the forum, Vice Minister of Education Weng Tiehui announced that seven policy measures would soon be implemented by the government.²⁰³³ Of the seven measures, notable policies include the requirement for provinces, cities, and large industries to add and fulfill quotas for hiring Hubei-based graduates, along with assistance being provided to graduates from vulnerable sectors of society to grow their employable skills and promote entrepreneurship.²⁰³⁴ Vice Minister Tiehui also announced the launch of a new employment service system for university graduates that will provide recent graduates access to job postings within the government.²⁰³⁵

On 16 April 2021, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security announced the implementation of a training program targeted at professional and technical personnel within the professions of engineering and project management.²⁰³⁶ The training program aims to contribute towards building a national self-reliance upon the country's own scientific and technological sectors, with an emphasis on spurring innovative development.²⁰³⁷ In order to contribute towards this goal, the training program intends to improve both the quality and ability of technical and professional workers.²⁰³⁸ Prospective trainees are required to pass the training assessment to obtain a certificate of completion.²⁰³⁹

²⁰³⁰ Universities and China CDC launch innovative programs to train more public health professionals, Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202012/t20201222_506993.html

²⁰³¹ Universities and China CDC launch innovative programs to train more public health professionals, Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202012/t20201222_506993.html

²⁰³² Career fair organized for Hubei 2021 graduates, Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202012/t20201208_504211.html

²⁰³³ Career fair organized for Hubei 2021 graduates, Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202012/t20201208_504211.html

²⁰³⁴ Career fair organized for Hubei 2021 graduates, Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202012/t20201208_504211.html

²⁰³⁵ Career fair organized for Hubei 2021 graduates, Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202012/t20201208_504211.html

²⁰³⁶ Notice of the General Office of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security on Printing and Distributing the Advanced Training Project Plan of the Professional and Technical Talents Knowledge Update Project in 2021, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Beijing) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://www.mohrss.gov.cn//xxgk2020/fdzdgknr/zcfg/gfxwj/rcrs/202104/t20210420_413110.html?keywords=

²⁰³⁷ Notice of the General Office of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security on Printing and Distributing the Advanced Training Project Plan of the Professional and Technical Talents Knowledge Update Project in 2021, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Beijing) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://www.mohrss.gov.cn//xxgk2020/fdzdgknr/zcfg/gfxwj/rcrs/202104/t20210420_413110.html?keywords=

²⁰³⁸ Notice of the General Office of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security on Printing and Distributing the Advanced Training Project Plan of the Professional and Technical Talents Knowledge Update Project in 2021, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Beijing) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://www.mohrss.gov.cn//xxgk2020/fdzdgknr/zcfg/gfxwj/rcrs/202104/t20210420_413110.html?keywords=

²⁰³⁹ Notice of the General Office of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security on Printing and Distributing the Advanced Training Project Plan of the Professional and Technical Talents Knowledge Update Project in 2021, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (Beijing) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://www.mohrss.gov.cn//xxgk2020/fdzdgknr/zcfg/gfxwj/rcrs/202104/t20210420_413110.html?keywords=

On 19 April 2021, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security released a work plan announcing an increase in vocational education and training in digital technologies, with emphasis on artificial intelligence, big data, and cloud computing.²⁰⁴⁰

China has taken actions towards supporting workers by investing in on-the-job training, vocational education and youth talent building to train workers. However, China has failed to implement reskilling policies.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Joy Chan

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment towards supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

On 20 January 2021, Minister of Labour, Employment and Integration Elisabeth Borne announced a set of measures by which the ministry-sponsored Employment Center and local employment missions will use to provide training courses in accordance with the 1 Youth 1 Solution plan.²⁰⁴¹ Although 1 Youth 1 Solution was initially announced as part of the France Relaunch COVID-19 recovery package on 3 September 2020, these recent updates provide a concrete action plan for regional authorities to implement youth training programs as mandated by the central government.²⁰⁴² It states that both local missions and the regional Employment Center office will work with local officials overseeing the implementation of the 1 Youth 1 Solution plan to create objectives for training people under the age of 30.²⁰⁴³ This action reflects France's commitment to providing the 131,000 training courses mandated by the 1 youth 1 solution plan, along with its broader goal of training its workforce to hold jobs in strategic and emerging sectors.²⁰⁴⁴

On 26 April 2021, Minister of the Economy and Finance Bruno Le Maire announced that EUR50 million will be used to retrain cast-metal workers made redundant by the automotive industry's shift towards electric vehicles.²⁰⁴⁵

On 27 April 2021, Minister Le Maire and German Minister of Finance Olaf Scholz held a joint press conference regarding their national recovery and resilience plans. France and Germany announced plans for the EU to invest EUR750 billion towards support vocational training programs as part of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan.²⁰⁴⁶ The National Recovery and Resilience Plan details plans on the allocation of funds provided by the European Union's Recovery and Resilience Facility.

²⁰⁴⁰ Govt policy moves from past week, The State Council (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202104/28/content_WS608899f5c6d0df57f98d8b18.html

²⁰⁴¹ Official Bulletin: Work, Employment, Vocational training, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Integration (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 8 April 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/2021.4.travail.pdf>

²⁰⁴² Launch of the Recovery Plan on September 3, 2020, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Relaunch (Paris) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/plan-de-relance/lancement-plan-relance-3-septembre-2020>

²⁰⁴³ Official Bulletin: Work, Employment, Vocational training, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Integration (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 8 April 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/2021.4.travail.pdf>

²⁰⁴⁴ Official Bulletin: Work, Employment, Vocational training, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Integration (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 8 April 2021. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/2021.4.travail.pdf>

²⁰⁴⁵ France Plans \$61M Fund to Help Auto Workers Threatened by Shift to EVs, Automotive News Europe (Detroit) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://europe.autonews.com/automakers/france-plans-61m-fund-help-auto-workers-threatened-shift-evs>

²⁰⁴⁶ Joint Press Conference by Bruno Le Marie and Olaf Scholz to Present the French and German National Recovery and Resilience Plans, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Relaunch (Paris) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/conference-presse-conjointe-bruno-le-maire-olaf-scholz-pnrr>

The National Recovery and Resilience Plan is a part of the France Relaunch plan, which aims to provide an economic recovery from COVID-19 in manner which will support a competitive and environmentally sustainable industry.²⁰⁴⁷

France has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies. The member has achieved this by establishing plans to fund worker training programs and by allocating funding towards retraining programs for displaced workers within the automotive industry.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Trachsell

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to support workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

On 10 December 2020, the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs developed a funding guideline for their Secure Apprenticeships program (also called the Secure Training Places) program to include additional training contracts and expand enterprise eligibility for receiving funding.²⁰⁴⁸ The Ministry also significantly eased funding requirements and extended transfer bonuses and grants for training wages until mid-2021.²⁰⁴⁹ Finally, the program expansion will provide a training bonus to companies that enrolled in training programs beginning from 24 June 2020 to 31 July 2020.²⁰⁵⁰

On 22 February 2021, Chancellor Angela Merkel and Education Minister Anja Karliczek launched the Digital Education Initiative in an online event as part of Germany's ongoing efforts to offer continuing education for all.²⁰⁵¹ This initiative is specifically aimed towards re-skilling students and workers to be oriented for working within the increasingly digitized workforce.²⁰⁵² Under this initiative, the government is funding multiple programs including the "Vocational Training 4.0" initiative, which aims to ensure that vocational training and education is catered towards the future by incorporating IT and media literacy into curriculums.²⁰⁵³ This includes identifying and addressing the

²⁰⁴⁷ Joint Press Conference by Bruno Le Marie and Olaf Scholz to Present the French and German National Recovery and Resilience Plans, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Relaunch (Paris) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/conference-presse-conjointe-bruno-le-maire-olaf-scholz-pnrr>

²⁰⁴⁸ More Support for Training Companies in the Corona Pandemic, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Service/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/2020/mehr-unterstuetzung-ausbildungsbetriebe-corona-pandemie.html>

²⁰⁴⁹ More Support for Training Companies in the Corona Pandemic, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Service/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/2020/mehr-unterstuetzung-ausbildungsbetriebe-corona-pandemie.html>

²⁰⁵⁰ More Support for Training Companies in the Corona Pandemic, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Service/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/2020/mehr-unterstuetzung-ausbildungsbetriebe-corona-pandemie.html>

²⁰⁵¹ New Digital Education initiative in Germany supported by Chancellor Merkel, European Commission (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en/blog/neue-initiative-digitale-bildung-deutschland-digitaloffensive-mit-kanzlerin-support>

²⁰⁵² New Digital Education initiative in Germany supported by Chancellor Merkel, European Commission (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en/blog/neue-initiative-digitale-bildung-deutschland-digitaloffensive-mit-kanzlerin-support>

²⁰⁵³ What the Federal Government is doing to boost digital learning, Office of the Federal Government (Berlin) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/initiative-digitale-bildung-1860804>

training needs of selected occupations at an early stage.²⁰⁵⁴ For the first time, the Chancellor announced her patronage of an app, called “Stadt | Land | DatenFluss,” created by the German Adult Education Centre Association and aimed at providing accessible digital skills training to workers.²⁰⁵⁵

On 17 March 2021, Germany further expanded the Secure Apprenticeships Program to allow more firms to be eligible for funding by increasing the threshold of the maximum number of company workers from 249 workers to 499 workers so as to expand program eligibility.²⁰⁵⁶ Small and medium-sized enterprises, which are particularly at-risk of shouldering economic burdens during the COVID-19 pandemic, were already receiving funding through the program if they either hired new or additional trainees or acquired workers from companies that became insolvent due to the COVID-19 pandemic for further training.²⁰⁵⁷

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to support workers through implementing training and reskilling policies. In particular, Germany has established a set of comprehensive vocational training and apprenticeship programs that will increase the country’s inventory jobs, assist job seekers in gaining employment, and increase the accessibility of digital reskilling initiatives aimed at preparing workers for the future.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Nouran El Atreby

India: -1

India has failed to comply with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

India has not taken any action towards funding neither training nor reskilling programs. No actions were found for this report after searching publicly available online sources published by the government, relevant ministries, and news outlets.

Thus, India receives a score of -1.²⁰⁵⁸

Analyst: Bubneet Dhillon

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

On 23 February 2021, Economic Affairs Minister Airlangga Hartarto announced the batch 12 of the Pre-Employment Card Program.²⁰⁵⁹ This program was first introduced in April 2020 as a

²⁰⁵⁴ What the Federal Government is doing to boost digital learning, Office of the Federal Government (Berlin) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/initiative-digitale-bildung-1860804>

²⁰⁵⁵ New Digital Education Initiative in Germany supported by Chancellor Merkel, European Commission (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en/blog/neue-initiative-digitale-bildung-deutschland-digitaloffensive-mit-kanzlerin-support>

²⁰⁵⁶ Germany boosts incentives for companies offering vocational training, Reuters (Berlin) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-germany-retraining-idUSL8N2LE5TY>

²⁰⁵⁷ Secure Apprenticeship Positions, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Arbeit/Aus-und-Weiterbildung/Ausbildungsfoerderung/ausbildungsplaetze-sichern.html#doce1bfb4b9-205f-44a8-a24d-0f415f01a033bodyText1>

²⁰⁵⁸ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <https://www.india.gov.in/>, <https://labour.gov.in/>, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>, and <https://www.indiatoday.in/>

development and social protection program because of the labour-market repercussions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁰⁶⁰ The Pre-Employment Card Program is a semi-social assistance service, consisting of both monetary and skills-based compensation.²⁰⁶¹ It is a free program open to anyone over 18 years of age and not currently enrolled in formal education.²⁰⁶² The Ministry of Manpower is set to collaborate with credible institutions and instructors to assist those who are unemployed, seeking job training, or working in the informal sector.²⁰⁶³ Participants are granted non-cash credits to purchase online courses on eight digital platforms accessible through the Employment Information System.²⁰⁶⁴ Courses are available on a host of subjects, including languages, graphic design, computer science, aesthetics and customer service.²⁰⁶⁵ After course completion, participants are awarded with a certificate and monthly payments of IDR600,000 which can be used to buy necessities.²⁰⁶⁶ Program objectives include “developing new and improved skills of the workforce, increasing their productivity and competitiveness in the labour market and supporting entrepreneurship development.”²⁰⁶⁷ A budget of IDR10 trillion has been allocated for this program, with IDR1 million going towards training assistance in the first semester of 2021.²⁰⁶⁸

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies by expanding their Pre-Employment Card Program, which provides both training and reskilling opportunities for workers who are unemployed, seeking employment, or looking to upgrade their skills.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Bianca Piccone

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

²⁰⁵⁹ Government Officially Opens Batch 12 Of the Pre-employment Card Program, VOI (Jakarta) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://voi.id/en/news/34984/government-officially-opens-batch-12-of-the-pre-employment-card-program>

²⁰⁶⁰ Government Officially Opens Batch 12 Of the Pre-employment Card Program, VOI (Jakarta) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://voi.id/en/news/34984/government-officially-opens-batch-12-of-the-pre-employment-card-program>

²⁰⁶¹ Government Officially Opens Batch 12 Of the Pre-employment Card Program, VOI (Jakarta) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://voi.id/en/news/34984/government-officially-opens-batch-12-of-the-pre-employment-card-program>

²⁰⁶² Gov't Kicks Off This Year's Pre-Employment Card Program, Office of Assistant to Deputy Cabinet Secretary for State Documents & Translation, Cabinet Secretariat of The Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://setkab.go.id/en/govt-kicks-off-this-years-pre-employment-card-program/>

²⁰⁶³ Gov't Kicks Off This Year's Pre-Employment Card Program, Office of Assistant to Deputy Cabinet Secretary for State Documents & Translation, Cabinet Secretariat of The Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://setkab.go.id/en/govt-kicks-off-this-years-pre-employment-card-program/>

²⁰⁶⁴ Pre-Employment Card Program (Program Kartu Prakerja), Social Protection for Employment Community (Brasilia) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://socialprotection.org/fr/discover/publications/spec-infographic-series-pre-employment-card-program-program-kartu-prakerja-%E2%80%93>

²⁰⁶⁵ Pre-Employment Card Program (Program Kartu Prakerja), Social Protection for Employment Community (Brasilia) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://socialprotection.org/fr/discover/publications/spec-infographic-series-pre-employment-card-program-program-kartu-prakerja-%E2%80%93>

²⁰⁶⁶ Pre-Employment Card Program (Program Kartu Prakerja), Social Protection for Employment Community (Brasilia) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://socialprotection.org/fr/discover/publications/spec-infographic-series-pre-employment-card-program-program-kartu-prakerja-%E2%80%93>

²⁰⁶⁷ Pre-Employment Card Program (Program Kartu Prakerja), Social Protection for Employment Community (Brasilia) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://socialprotection.org/fr/discover/publications/spec-infographic-series-pre-employment-card-program-program-kartu-prakerja-%E2%80%93>

²⁰⁶⁸ Gov't Kicks Off This Year's Pre-Employment Card Program, Office of Assistant to Deputy Cabinet Secretary for State Documents & Translation, Cabinet Secretariat of The Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://setkab.go.id/en/govt-kicks-off-this-years-pre-employment-card-program/>

On 12 December 2020, the Italian government implemented a national plan to create additional pathways for workers to both obtain new skills training and upgrade their existing skills.²⁰⁶⁹ The plan consists of a three-pronged approach to directly connect with low-skilled and under-qualified adults to prevent alienation from the job market, upgrading basic skills and offering reskilling programs, and synchronizing in-demand labour market skills with educational offerings and training programs.²⁰⁷⁰ This three-pronged approach aims to create an effective process to both train and reskill workers, while reducing barriers to entering the labour market.²⁰⁷¹

On 22 January 2021, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies signed a decree to focus on the training and retraining of assets within the labour market.²⁰⁷² In particular, the decree requires that all collective agreements must provide training programs and that time be allotted for skills development courses.²⁰⁷³ This decree aims to provide more training and upskilling resources that will benefit both workers and employers.²⁰⁷⁴

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies. The member has implemented a decree to ensure that employers ensure training programs for their employees and has developed a national approach to combat underemployment and unemployment through providing support for the training and reskilling of low-skilled and under-qualified adults.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Hayley Spens

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

On 31 January 2021, the Ministry of Defense released a report detailing Japan's Defense Budget and Programs. In the report, the Ministry outlined plans for the enhancement of re-employment support programs for uniformed officers. The ministry's plans include offering new vocational training courses with an emphasis on training and reskilling female officers.²⁰⁷⁵

²⁰⁶⁹ Italy: National strategic plan for upskilling and reskilling adults, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Rome) 2 January 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news-and-press/news/italy-national-strategic-plan-upskilling-and-reskilling-adults>

²⁰⁷⁰ Italy: National strategic plan for upskilling and reskilling adults, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Rome) 2 January 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news-and-press/news/italy-national-strategic-plan-upskilling-and-reskilling-adults>

²⁰⁷¹ Italy: National strategic plan for upskilling and reskilling adults, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Rome) 2 January 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news-and-press/news/italy-national-strategic-plan-upskilling-and-reskilling-adults>

²⁰⁷² New Skills Fund, 500 million euros in 2021: applications until 30 June, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Thessaloniki) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Fondo-Nuove-Competenze-500-milioni-di-euro-nel-2021-domande-sino-al-30-giugno.aspx>

²⁰⁷³ New Skills Fund, 500 million euros in 2021: applications until 30 June, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Thessaloniki) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Fondo-Nuove-Competenze-500-milioni-di-euro-nel-2021-domande-sino-al-30-giugno.aspx>

²⁰⁷⁴ New Skills Fund, 500 million euros in 2021: applications until 30 June, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Thessaloniki) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Fondo-Nuove-Competenze-500-milioni-di-euro-nel-2021-domande-sino-al-30-giugno.aspx>

²⁰⁷⁵ Defense Programs and Budget of Japan (Tokyo) 30 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.mod.go.jp/e/d_act/d_budget/2021/20210201.pdf

On 12 February 2021, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga held a “Novel Coronavirus Response” meeting to discuss implementing training and reskilling programs as a means to alleviating pressure on the Japanese labour.²⁰⁷⁶ The government increased the scope of their “Support System for Job Seekers” program where non-permanent workers, women, single parents, and the unemployed will be granted subsidies if they partake in public training qualification courses, such as vocational or IT training.²⁰⁷⁷

On 16 March 2021, Prime Minister Suga expanded the budget for the “Support System for Job Seekers” program and discussed preparing training modules for single parents to enable them to receive job training while on government subsidies.²⁰⁷⁸

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies by promoting public participation in training and reskilling programs through granting subsidies to vulnerable citizens.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Simren Ravina Sharma

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

On 25 November 2020, President Moon Jae-in announced the Korean government’s plan to train individuals to promote artificial intelligence (AI) in connection with the Korean New Deal. The government has established 12 graduate schools which specialise in AI.²⁰⁷⁹ The government also set a target of fostering 100,000 AI experts through expanding upskilling programs for industrial site workers to learn AI and gain employment in the AI sector.²⁰⁸⁰

On 7 December 2020, the Korean Economic Policy Bureau released its 2021 Economic Policies, which included the expansion of the young adult jobs program to provide employment for 100,000 qualifying young Koreans.²⁰⁸¹ The program focuses on providing work experience and training in a variety of areas, including digital jobs and remote work.²⁰⁸² The policy measure also underlined a commitment to supporting companies that provide training programs with public project opportunities.²⁰⁸³

²⁰⁷⁶ 55th Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202102/_00007.html

²⁰⁷⁷ Ministerial Meeting on Emergency Response Measures for Non-Permanent Workers and Others Affected by the Novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202103/_00014.html

²⁰⁷⁸ Ministerial Meeting on Emergency Response Measures for Non-Permanent Workers and Others Affected by the Novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202103/_00014.html

²⁰⁷⁹ Remarks by President Moon Jae-in at Event to Promote AI in Connection with Korean New Deal, Office of the President (Seoul) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/914>

²⁰⁸⁰ Remarks by President Moon Jae-in at Event to Promote AI in Connection with Korean New Deal, Office of the President (Seoul) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/914>

²⁰⁸¹ 2021 Economic Policies, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5033>

²⁰⁸² 2021 Economic Policies, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5033>

²⁰⁸³ 2021 Economic Policies, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5033>

On 16 February 2021, President Moon announced that the government will expand the employment safety net, advance vocational training by providing practical job-searching assistance, foster the national employment support program, encourage youth entrepreneurship initiatives, develop a plan for women who are primary caregivers to re-enter the workforce.²⁰⁸⁴ This request was made to all Korean ministries and agencies to help overcome the state of employment in January 2020.²⁰⁸⁵

On 2 March 2021, the Ministry of Employment and Labour (MOEL) announced that it will improve its vocational training system to collaborate with businesses, universities, and private institutions to allow non-technology majors to be employed in digital technology sectors.²⁰⁸⁶ It projects a future workforce of approximately 17,000 people working within the technological industry.²⁰⁸⁷ MOEL will expand talent development projects by leveraging the inter-ministerial collaboration budget system. This will allow youth to enter rapidly growing industries, such as the technology and environmental sectors.²⁰⁸⁸ MOEL will also create vocational training programs targeted at specific industries to allow for unemployed persons to become re-employed.²⁰⁸⁹ This announcement supports the employment of vulnerable groups who were negatively affected by the employment crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. MOEL will also fund the establishment of the Lifelong Skills Development for All program, which will allow adults to gain vocational employment skills.²⁰⁹⁰ The program will cover a range of skills-based learnings, including digital proficiency and humanities knowledge.²⁰⁹¹

On 1 April 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Hong Nam-Ki announced the development of training programs for medical personnel to support the export of Korea's disease control system.²⁰⁹²

On 13 April 2021, President Moon publicly requested his cabinet to strengthen vocational training, with emphasis on training in future industries such as digital, data, artificial intelligence, and software.²⁰⁹³

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies by investing in measures to both train future employees to enter the labour market and upskill current workers within the labour market. Korea has further demonstrated their commitment to supporting workers by investing in youth entrepreneurship and stimulating job growth within rapidly growing sectors of the economy through training and reskilling initiatives.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Joy Chan

²⁰⁸⁴ Remarks by President Moon Jae-in at 7th Cabinet Meeting, Office of the President (Seoul) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/943>

²⁰⁸⁵ Remarks by President Moon Jae-in at 7th Cabinet Meeting, Office of the President (Seoul) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/943>

²⁰⁸⁶ 2021 Work Report (Recovery, Inclusiveness, and Leap Forward Korea 2021), Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1594

²⁰⁸⁷ 2021 Work Report (Recovery, Inclusiveness, and Leap Forward Korea 2021), Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1594

²⁰⁸⁸ 2021 Work Report (Recovery, Inclusiveness, and Leap Forward Korea 2021), Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1594

²⁰⁸⁹ 2021 Work Report (Recovery, Inclusiveness, and Leap Forward Korea 2021), Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1594

²⁰⁹⁰ 2021 Work Report (Recovery, Inclusiveness, and Leap Forward Korea 2021), Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1594

²⁰⁹¹ 2021 Work Report (Recovery, Inclusiveness, and Leap Forward Korea 2021), Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1594

²⁰⁹² 7th Meeting to Promote BIG3, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5100>

²⁰⁹³ Opening Remarks by President Moon Jae-in at 16th Cabinet Meeting, Office of the President (Seoul) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/968>

Mexico: –1

Mexico has failed to comply with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

Mexico has not taken any action towards funding neither training nor reskilling programs. No actions were found for this report after searching publicly available online sources published by the government, relevant ministries, and international organizations.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of –1.²⁰⁹⁴

Analyst: Aline Nayir

Russia: –1

Russia has failed to comply with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

On 19 January 2021, the University of the Ministry of Construction announced a series of free online conferences throughout the month of January.²⁰⁹⁵ There were three webinars hosted throughout the month of January dedicated to facilitating discussions on and providing digitization training for the construction sector.²⁰⁹⁶ All attendees received a participation certificate from the University of the Ministry of Construction.²⁰⁹⁷

On 26 January 2021, the University of the Ministry of Construction announced a series of free online conferences for the month of February.²⁰⁹⁸ These webinars covered a range of topics, including “Artificial Intelligence for Solving the Problem of the Construction Industry” and “Information Modeling of Territorial Planning Projects and Legal Regulation in Digital Urban Planning.”²⁰⁹⁹ There

²⁰⁹⁴ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <https://www.reuters.com/>, <https://www.eluniversal.com.mx/>, <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar>, <https://mexiconewsdaily.com/>, <https://www.aljazeera.com/>, <https://laborrights.org/>, <https://www.utoronto.ca/news/>, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/>, <https://www.shrm.org/>, <https://www.gob.mx/segob>, <https://www.gob.mx/sedena>, <https://www.banxico.org.mx/noticias/noticias001.html>, <https://www.gob.mx/sct>, <https://wecglobal.org/>, <https://ioewec.newsletter.ioe-emp.org/industrial-relations-and-labour-law-november-2020/news/>, <https://www.ilo.org/>, https://strabajo.edomex.gob.mx/capacitacion_trabajo, <https://icati.edomex.gob.mx/>

²⁰⁹⁵ Webinars on information modeling technologies in construction, Ministry of Construction and Housing and Communal Services of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://minstroyrf.gov.ru/press/vebinary-po-tekhnologiyam-informatsionnogo-modelirovaniya-v-stroitelstve-proydu-tv-yanvare-na-ploshch/>

²⁰⁹⁶ Webinars on information modeling technologies in construction, Ministry of Construction and Housing and Communal Services of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://minstroyrf.gov.ru/press/vebinary-po-tekhnologiyam-informatsionnogo-modelirovaniya-v-stroitelstve-proydu-tv-yanvare-na-ploshch/>

²⁰⁹⁷ Webinars on information modeling technologies in construction, Ministry of Construction and Housing and Communal Services of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 19 January 2021. Date Accessed: 25 March 2021. <https://minstroyrf.gov.ru/press/vebinary-po-tekhnologiyam-informatsionnogo-modelirovaniya-v-stroitelstve-proydu-tv-yanvare-na-ploshch/>

²⁰⁹⁸ Webinars Building Information Modeling Technologies, Ministry of Construction and Housing and Communal Services of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://minstroyrf.gov.ru/press/vebinary-po-tekhnologiyam-informatsionnogo-modelirovaniya-v-stroitelstve-proydu-tv-fevrale-na-ploshch/>

²⁰⁹⁹ Webinars Building Information Modeling Technologies, Ministry of Construction and Housing and Communal Services of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://minstroyrf.gov.ru/press/vebinary-po-tekhnologiyam-informatsionnogo-modelirovaniya-v-stroitelstve-proydu-tv-fevrale-na-ploshch/>

were seven educational webinars hosted during the month of February. All attendees received a participation certificate from the University of the Ministry of Construction.²¹⁰⁰

On 15 March 2021, the University of the Ministry of Construction and the City of Moscow's Department of Urban Development Policy announced a "Digital Standards in Construction" conference to be held on 17-18 March 2021.²¹⁰¹ The conference focused on discussing state policies on the digitalisation of urban planning, implementation of BIM technologies in the construction process, and the implementation of "new educational standards in the construction industry."²¹⁰² All attendees received a participation certificate from the University of the Ministry of Construction.²¹⁰³

Overall, Russia has failed to comply with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies. Although the member sponsored various educational conferences to facilitate discussions about the digitalization of the workforce and of training programs, these conferences are not part of a broader policy initiative to train and reskill workers.

Thus, Russia receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Tourang Movahedi

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling programs.

On 20 March 2021, the Ministry of Tourism's Human Capital Development Agency launched their "Your Future is in Tourism" campaign.²¹⁰⁴ The campaign contributes to Saudi Arabia's goal to expand the country's tourism sector and create 100,000 industry jobs by the end of 2021.²¹⁰⁵ The campaign offers various qualification and training programs to equip citizens both within in or newly entering the tourism sector with the necessary skills to meet international standards.²¹⁰⁶ These programs will help recent graduates gain "basic skills" and strengthen experienced workers' pre-existing skills within the sector.²¹⁰⁷

²¹⁰⁰ Webinars Building Information Modeling Technologies, Ministry of Construction and Housing and Communal Services of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 26 January 2021. Date Accessed: 25 March 2021. <https://minstroyrf.gov.ru/press/vebinary-po-tehnologiyam-informacionnogo-modelirovaniya-v-stroitelstve-proydu-t-v-fevrale-na-ploshch/>

²¹⁰¹ The introduction of digital standards in construction, Ministry of Construction and Housing and Communal Services of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://minstroyrf.gov.ru/press/vnedrenie-tsifrovyykh-standartov-v-stroitelstvo-obsudyat-na-konferentsii-v-moskve-17-18-marta/>

²¹⁰² The introduction of digital standards in construction, Ministry of Construction and Housing and Communal Services of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://minstroyrf.gov.ru/press/vnedrenie-tsifrovyykh-standartov-v-stroitelstvo-obsudyat-na-konferentsii-v-moskve-17-18-marta>

²¹⁰³ The introduction of digital standards in construction, Ministry of Construction and Housing and Communal Services of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://minstroyrf.gov.ru/press/vnedrenie-tsifrovyykh-standartov-v-stroitelstvo-obsudyat-na-konferentsii-v-moskve-17-18-marta/>

²¹⁰⁴ "Your Future is in Tourism" campaign meant to help create 1mln jobs for Saudis, ZAWYA (Dubai) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/economy/story/Your_Future_is_in_Tourism_campaign_meant_to_help_create_1mln_jobs_for_Saudis-ZAWYA20210320053615/

²¹⁰⁵ "Your Future is in Tourism" campaign meant to help create 1mln jobs for Saudis, ZAWYA (Dubai) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/economy/story/Your_Future_is_in_Tourism_campaign_meant_to_help_create_1mln_jobs_for_Saudis-ZAWYA20210320053615/

²¹⁰⁶ Tourism Human Capital Development Programs, Ministry of Tourism (Riyadh) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://eservices.taqat.sa/Eservices_Individual/ProgramDetails.aspx?Id=9

²¹⁰⁷ Tourism Human Capital Development Programs, Ministry of Tourism (Riyadh) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://eservices.taqat.sa/Eservices_Individual/ProgramDetails.aspx?Id=9

On 8 April 2021, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology announced the implementation of the Distance Cooperative Training Program.²¹⁰⁸ The program is intended to better prepare recent university graduates entering the workforce by providing said graduates with “educational and practical activities” such as counselling sessions and specialized courses.²¹⁰⁹ This program is focused on skill development in “communications and information technology.”²¹¹⁰ This program aims to help recent graduates obtain skills needed for the digital demands of the labour market.²¹¹¹

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies by offering training to youth entering the workforce in tandem with reskilling programs for workers embarking on a new career.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Aline Nayir

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

On 3 March 2021, the Minister for the Department of Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities introduced the National Youth Policy.²¹¹² The National Youth Policy is intended to support South African youth over the span of ten years.²¹¹³ The first measures announced under the program include a basic income grant to ease youth unemployment rates, a national work-readiness training program, and an additional grant program to encourage youth entrepreneurship and foster over 100,000 young entrepreneurs within the next three years.²¹¹⁴

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to continue supporting workers by implementing a youth-focused policy targeted at training South African youth and promoting entrepreneurship within their cohort. South Africa, however, has failed to take action towards supporting workers through implementing national reskilling programs.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Dorottya Szekeley

²¹⁰⁸ The Ministry of Communications Launches the Second Version of the “Distance Cooperative Training Program,” Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Riyadh) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.mcit.gov.sa/ar/media-center/news/595537>

²¹⁰⁹ The Ministry of Communications Launches the Second Version of the “Distance Cooperative Training Program,” Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Riyadh) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.mcit.gov.sa/ar/media-center/news/595537>

²¹¹⁰ The Ministry of Communications Launches the Second Version of the “Distance Cooperative Training Program,” Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Riyadh) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.mcit.gov.sa/ar/media-center/news/595537>

²¹¹¹ The Ministry of Communications Launches the Second Version of the “Distance Cooperative Training Program,” Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Riyadh) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.mcit.gov.sa/ar/media-center/news/595537>

²¹¹² Basic income grant and removal of work experience requirements proposed for people under 35 in South Africa, Business Tech (Pretoria) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/finance/472492/basic-income-grant-and-removal-of-work-experience-requirements-proposed-for-people-under-35-in-south-africa/>

²¹¹³ Basic income grant and removal of work experience requirements proposed for people under 35 in South Africa, Business Tech (Pretoria) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/finance/472492/basic-income-grant-and-removal-of-work-experience-requirements-proposed-for-people-under-35-in-south-africa/>

²¹¹⁴ Basic income grant and removal of work experience requirements proposed for people under 35 in South Africa, Business Tech (Pretoria) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/finance/472492/basic-income-grant-and-removal-of-work-experience-requirements-proposed-for-people-under-35-in-south-africa/>

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

On 1 December 2020, the Ministry of Education announced it will be accepting internship applications from university students for the nation's Internship Mobilization Project as of 2021.²¹¹⁵ An online portal was created to deliver accessible information about youth internship opportunities and gaining merit and proficiency in employment.²¹¹⁶ The education ministry also cooperated with vocational high schools to increase the production capacity of the schools despite the COVID-19 pandemic.²¹¹⁷

On 17 December 2020, the EU delegation to Turkey signed the last eight contracts under the "Facility for Refugees in Turkey," with monetary aid to be used by Turkey to assist refugee projects.²¹¹⁸ The country has allocated funding for technical education, vocational training, private sector employment, and entrepreneur enterprises to support refugees.²¹¹⁹

On 27 January 2021, Turkey's efforts at refugee job protection were also acknowledged at the closing event of the "Reinforcement of Turkey's National Asylum System" in Ankara.²¹²⁰ Co-financed by Turkey and implemented by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the project has allowed Turkey to enroll 678 people in a variety of job training programs throughout the past three years.²¹²¹

On 28 April 2021, Deputy Minister of National Education Mahmut Özer chaired a meeting to discuss next steps for the ongoing projects aimed at integrating Syrian refugees into the workforce through vocational training.²¹²² The meeting evaluated improvements in technical education projects and vocational training centres.²¹²³ Through the ministry's ongoing projects, the Turkish government aims to increase the per cent of Syrian trainees in these centres from 2 per cent to 10 per cent.²¹²⁴

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to continue to supporting workers through implementing training policies. The member has invested in measures aimed at providing vocational

²¹¹⁵ Vocational High School Aim 1 Billion Lira Production, TR Ministry of Education (Ankara) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://mtegm.meb.gov.tr/www/meslek-liseleri-bu-yil-1-milyar-lira-uretim-geliri-hedefliyor/icerik/2879>

²¹¹⁶ Vocational High School Aim 1 Billion Lira Production, TR Ministry of Education (Ankara) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://mtegm.meb.gov.tr/www/meslek-liseleri-bu-yil-1-milyar-lira-uretim-geliri-hedefliyor/icerik/2879>

²¹¹⁷ Internship Applications Started Within the Scope of Internship Mobilization Project, TR Ministry of Education (Ankara) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://mtegm.meb.gov.tr/www/staj-seferberligi-projesi-kapsaminda-staj-basvurulari-basladi/icerik/2819>

²¹¹⁸ EU finishes contracting \$7.3B refugee deal with Turkey, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/eu-finishes-contracting-73b-refugee-deal-with-turkey/2080358>

²¹¹⁹ EU finishes contracting \$7.3B refugee deal with Turkey, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/eu-finishes-contracting-73b-refugee-deal-with-turkey/2080358>

²¹²⁰ Closing Event of the Reinforcement of Turkey's National Asylum System Project, UNHCR (Ankara) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.unhcr.org/tr/en/27161-closing-event-of-the-reinforcement-of-turkeys-national-asylum-system-project.html>

²¹²¹ Closing Event of the Reinforcement of Turkey's National Asylum System Project, UNHCR (Ankara) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.unhcr.org/tr/en/27161-closing-event-of-the-reinforcement-of-turkeys-national-asylum-system-project.html>

²¹²² Access of Syrian Refugees to Vocational Education Centers Will Be Provided for Their Social and Economic Integration, Republic of Turkey Ministry of National Education (Ankara) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.meb.gov.tr/access-of-syrian-refugees-to-vocational-education-centers-will-be-provided-for-their-social-and-economic-integration/haber/23098/en>

²¹²³ Syrian refugees in Turkey receive vocational training, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/syrian-refugees-in-turkey-receive-vocational-training/2223451>

²¹²⁴ Syrian refugees in Turkey receive vocational training, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/syrian-refugees-in-turkey-receive-vocational-training/2223451>

training and support for entrepreneurship for refugees, along with an internship program aimed at training and preparing youth for the workforce. Turkey, however, has yet to take action towards implementing reskilling policies.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Nouran El Atreby

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

On 9 December 2020, the Department of Education provided an update that approximately 400 free courses “will be available to adults without a full qualification at Level 3 (A-level equivalent) from April 2021 to help them gain in-demand skills and open up further job opportunities.”²¹²⁵ This initiative is a part of the Lifetime Skills Guarantee program that was first announced by Prime Minister Boris Johnson in September 2020.²¹²⁶ The Lifetime Skills Guarantee program is intended to provide an accessible avenue for adults to gain employable skills and improve their opportunities for securing or upgrading their employment.²¹²⁷

On 9 December 2020, the Department of Education provided an update about the expansion of the free skills boot camps facilitated by an increase of GBP43 million in funding for the program.²¹²⁸ The initiative is part of the broader Lifetime Skills Guarantee program.²¹²⁹ The boot camps are 12 to 16 weeks in length and offer courses on digital and technical skills.²¹³⁰ Moreover, the bootcamps are designed to help participants gain skills specific to their desired sector of employment and improve their likelihood of securing an employment interview.²¹³¹ The additional funding “will enable greater availability across the country and a wider range of course subjects on offer to meet the skills needs of local areas.”²¹³²

On 3 March 2021, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak announced that the government is providing an additional GBP126 million in funding for their Plan for Jobs program.²¹³³ This funding will be used to establish an additional 40,000 traineeships and enable businesses to hire apprentices

²¹²⁵ Adults to gain new skills on 400 free courses, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/adults-to-gain-new-skills-on-400-free-courses>

²¹²⁶ Major expansion of post-18 education and training to level up and prepare workers for post-COVID economy, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-expansion-of-post-18-education-and-training-to-level-up-and-prepare-workers-for-post-covid-economy>

²¹²⁷ Adults to gain new skills on 400 free courses, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/adults-to-gain-new-skills-on-400-free-courses>

²¹²⁸ National Skills Fund, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-skills-fund>

²¹²⁹ Major expansion of post-18 education and training to level up and prepare workers for post-COVID economy, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-expansion-of-post-18-education-and-training-to-level-up-and-prepare-workers-for-post-covid-economy>

²¹³⁰ National Skills Fund, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-skills-fund>

²¹³¹ National Skills Fund, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-skills-fund>

²¹³² National Skills Fund, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-skills-fund>

²¹³³ Budget 2021 sets path for recovery, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/budget-2021-sets-path-for-recovery>

by paying businesses a GBP3,000 incentive for each apprentice hired, double the original amount offered to businesses.²¹³⁴

The UK has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies. The UK has implemented measures to support workers by increasing funding for on-the-job training programs and skills training. In particular, the UK has launched a comprehensive skills training program that will present both training and reskilling offerings for adult participants. The program is intended to either prepare participants for work and lead them to their next employment opportunity or provide participants with the opportunity to upgrade their skills.

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

Analyst: Bubneet Dhillon

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment towards supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies.

On 14 January 2021, the Department of Labor announced that it will award USD40 million to fund training programs in the healthcare sector as part of the H1B Rural Healthcare Grant Program.²¹³⁵ The announcement notes that employers in the healthcare sector, non-profit healthcare organizations affiliated with medical facilities, healthcare industry and/or occupation associations and similar entities are eligible to receive the grant.²¹³⁶ Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training John Pallasch described the action as aiming to provide “more and better trained healthcare workers” to underserved rural areas, while also “boosting economic opportunity.”²¹³⁷

On 15 January 2021, the Department of Labor announced that it will allocate USD40 million to community colleges through the Strengthening Community College Training Grants program to increase their capacity to train workers for entering the labour market.²¹³⁸ This action aims to help unemployed workers find employment by providing training, especially in “critical industries, such as health care, logistics and cybersecurity.”²¹³⁹ Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training John Pallasch described the action as aiming to “help workers to reskill with industry-recognized credentials and accelerated pathways to degrees.”²¹⁴⁰

On 19 January 2021, the Department of Labor announced that it will invest USD145 million in funding for reskilling and training programs as part of the H-1B One Workforce Grant Program.²¹⁴¹ This action aims to reskill current workers and train new workers for “critical industries, such as IT,

²¹³⁴ Budget 2021 sets path for recovery, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/budget-2021-sets-path-for-recovery>

²¹³⁵ U.S. Department of Labor Announces \$40 Million to Address Rural Health Care Workforce Shortages, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 8 April 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210114-0>

²¹³⁶ U.S. Department of Labor Announces \$40 Million to Address Rural Health Care Workforce Shortages, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 8 April 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210114-0>

²¹³⁷ U.S. Department of Labor Announces \$40 Million to Address Rural Health Care Workforce Shortages, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 8 April 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210114-0>

²¹³⁸ U.S. Department of Labor Awards \$40 Million in Strengthening Community College Training Grants, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 7 April 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210115-1>

²¹³⁹ U.S. Department of Labor Awards \$40 Million in Strengthening Community College Training Grants, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 7 April 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210115-1>

²¹⁴⁰ U.S. Department of Labor Awards \$40 Million in Strengthening Community College Training Grants, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 7 April 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210115-1>

²¹⁴¹ U.S. Department of Labor Announces \$145 Million to Invest in Workforce Training for Key U.S. Economic Sectors, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 9 April 2021.

<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210119>

advanced manufacturing and transportation.”²¹⁴² Assistant Secretary Pallasch described the action as reflecting One Workforce’s larger goal of creating “pathways for local job seekers to enter middle- to high-skilled occupations.”²¹⁴³

On 31 March 2021, the White House announced the launch of President Joseph Biden’s American Jobs Plan, which includes a commitment to investing in workforce development.²¹⁴⁴ Although no further actions have yet to be implemented in accordance with the plan, the plan itself calls on Congress to invest in worker training, including a USD40 billion investment “in a new Dislocated Workers Program and sector-based training.”²¹⁴⁵

On 9 April 2021, the White House announced President Biden’s Fiscal Year 2022 Discretionary Funding Request, which includes a commitment to investing in workforce development.²¹⁴⁶ Although the budget will not come into effect until 1 October 2021, the budget plans to invest in worker training and reskilling, including a USD3.7 billion investment in “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Grants to make training available to dislocated workers, low-income adults and disadvantaged youth hurt by the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.”²¹⁴⁷

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies. It has done so by funding both public and private sector initiatives to provide training and reskilling opportunities to current and future workers.

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

Analyst: Alexander Trachsell

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through training and reskilling policies.

On 24 November 2020, the Council of the EU ratified a recommendation on vocational education and training for “Sustainable Competitiveness, Social Fairness and Resilience.”²¹⁴⁸ This measure highlights the reforms necessary for building the lifelong systems required to support a resilient labour market in Europe.²¹⁴⁹ The recommendation includes the support for granting additional funding to the Centres of Vocational Excellence, an institution that coordinates with local partners such as employers, research centres, and development agencies, to develop “skills ecosystems,” that

²¹⁴² U.S. Department of Labor Announces \$145 Million to Invest in Workforce Training for Key U.S. Economic Sectors, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 9 April 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210119>

²¹⁴³ U.S. Department of Labor Announces \$145 Million to Invest in Workforce Training for Key U.S. Economic Sectors, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 9 April 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210119>

²¹⁴⁴ Fact Sheet: The American Jobs Plan, The White House (Washington) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 9 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/31/fact-sheet-the-american-jobs-plan/>

²¹⁴⁵ Fact Sheet: The American Jobs Plan, The White House (Washington) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 9 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/31/fact-sheet-the-american-jobs-plan/>

²¹⁴⁶ The President’s FY 2022 Discretionary Request, The White House (Washington) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/FY2022-Discretionary-Request.pdf>

²¹⁴⁷ The President’s FY 2022 Discretionary Request, The White House (Washington) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/FY2022-Discretionary-Request.pdf>

²¹⁴⁸ EU policy in the field of vocational education and training, European Commission (Luxembourg) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/eu-policy-in-the-field-of-vocational-education-and-training_vet_en

²¹⁴⁹ EU policy in the field of vocational education and training, European Commission (Luxembourg) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/eu-policy-in-the-field-of-vocational-education-and-training_vet_en

aid in regional worker development.²¹⁵⁰ The Centres of Vocation Excellence aim to provide jobseekers and existing employees with the skills and training needed by local employers.²¹⁵¹

Starting in 2021, the European Commission sector on Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion released funding instruments for upskilling and reskilling workers, accessible through financial intermediaries, national authorities, and the European Commission.²¹⁵² As part of the package of funding instruments, a program called “InvestEU” was created to provide social investment and offer its participants a skills-based curriculum that will encompass the demand and supply aspect of acquiring in-demand skills. This program is targeted towards students and learners, small and medium sized enterprises, and instructors.²¹⁵³ The expected budget from 2021–2027 for the program is EUR26.2 billion.²¹⁵⁴ The European Commission is also offering grants through the ESF + EaSI Strand, with a dedicated budget of EUR676 million to be released throughout 2021–2027.²¹⁵⁵ This grant program offers “support for innovative approaches in the field of upskilling and reskilling.”²¹⁵⁶ The European Commission is incentivizing member states to fund public and private initiatives toward training and reskilling the workforce.²¹⁵⁷

On 4 March 2021, the European Commission released the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan. This Action Plan outlines 20 key principles for “fair and well-functioning labour markets” and “proposes headline targets for the EU to reach by 2030.”²¹⁵⁸ The three EU targets to reach by 2030 are to have 78 per cent of the population aged 20 to 64 employed by 2030, 60 per cent of adults participating in training every year by 2030 and the reduction of at least 15 million people at risk of poverty or social exclusion.²¹⁵⁹ The Action Plan lays out quarterly deadlines regarding upskilling to be met during the current mandate which extends until the end of 2024.²¹⁶⁰

On 4 March 2021, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission Valdis Dombrovskis reflected on the Action Plan as he called for an investment in “high-quality and inclusive education,

²¹⁵⁰ EU policy in the field of vocational education and training, European Commission (Luxembourg) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/eu-policy-in-the-field-of-vocational-education-and-training-vet_en

²¹⁵¹ EU policy in the field of vocational education and training, European Commission (Luxembourg) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/eu-policy-in-the-field-of-vocational-education-and-training-vet_en

²¹⁵² EU funding instruments for upskilling and reskilling, European Commission (Luxembourg) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1530&langId=en>

²¹⁵³ EU funding instruments for upskilling and reskilling, European Commission (Luxembourg) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1530&langId=en>

²¹⁵⁴ EU funding instruments for upskilling and reskilling, European Commission (Luxembourg) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1530&langId=en>

²¹⁵⁵ EU funding instruments for upskilling and reskilling, European Commission (Luxembourg) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1530&langId=en>

²¹⁵⁶ EU funding instruments for upskilling and reskilling, European Commission (Luxembourg) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1530&langId=en>

²¹⁵⁷ EU funding instruments for upskilling and reskilling, European Commission (Luxembourg) 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1530&langId=en>

²¹⁵⁸ The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, European Commission (Luxembourg) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-action-plan_en

²¹⁵⁹ The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, European Commission (Luxembourg) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-action-plan_en

²¹⁶⁰ The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, European Commission (Luxembourg) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-action-plan_en

training, skills and innovation.”²¹⁶¹ He called for EU members to look at how to invest in training and skills development, specifically, digital skills, as the EU copes with the new realities brought on by COVID-19.²¹⁶² Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis also called on Member States to develop policy packages that combine temporary and permanent measures to address the labour market challenges caused by the pandemic.²¹⁶³ These initiatives should reflect hiring and transition incentives, initiatives to boost up-skilling and re-skilling, and improving employment services.²¹⁶⁴

On 22 April 2021, the European Commission launched a public consultation regarding the subject of life-long learning.²¹⁶⁵ In an effort to build a diverse and sustainable workforce, the European Commission is considering the implementation of short, targeted learning courses to help workers gain accredited “micro-credentials.”²¹⁶⁶ The goal of this initiative is to improve job opportunities by creating formal learning courses for workers to gain the skills demanded of them by the rapidly-evolving job market.²¹⁶⁷ The COVID-19 pandemic, along with the green and digital transitions, have highlighted the necessity for up-skilling and re-skilling as a means of ensuring that citizens can fully participate in society and reach their fullest professional potential.²¹⁶⁸ These goals are in unison with the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan.²¹⁶⁹

On 27 April 2021, Minister Bruno Le Maire and German Minister of Finance Olaf Scholz held a joint press conference regarding their national recovery and resilience plans. France and Germany announced plans for the EU to invest EUR750 billion towards support vocational training programs as part of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan.²¹⁷⁰ The National Recovery and Resilience Plan

²¹⁶¹ Remarks by Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis on the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan and Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_21_1024

²¹⁶² Remarks by Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis on the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan and Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_21_1024

²¹⁶³ Remarks by Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis on the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan and Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_21_1024

²¹⁶⁴ Remarks by Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis on the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan and Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_21_1024

²¹⁶⁵ Education and skills: Commission launches public consultation to support lifelong learning and employability, European Commission (Brussels) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=9984&furtherNews=yes>

²¹⁶⁶ Education and skills: Commission launches public consultation to support lifelong learning and employability, European Commission (Brussels) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=9984&furtherNews=yes>

²¹⁶⁷ Education and skills: Commission launches public consultation to support lifelong learning and employability, European Commission (Brussels) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=9984&furtherNews=yes>

²¹⁶⁸ Education and skills: Commission launches public consultation to support lifelong learning and employability, European Commission (Brussels) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=9984&furtherNews=yes>

²¹⁶⁹ Education and skills: Commission launches public consultation to support lifelong learning and employability, European Commission (Brussels) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=9984&furtherNews=yes>

²¹⁷⁰ Joint Press Conference by Bruno Le Marie and Olaf Scholz to Present the French and German National Recovery and Resilience Plans, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Relaunch (Paris) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/conference-presse-conjointe-bruno-le-maire-olaf-scholz-pnrr>

details plans on the allocation of funds provided by the European Union’s Recovery and Resilience Facility.²¹⁷¹

On 28 April 2021, the European Commission launched an additional public consultation forum in regards to individual learning accounts, which is a training incentive program that grants individuals training whether be spent on “quality-assured training, guidance, or validation services.”²¹⁷² The public consultation was conducted via online survey to promote organizations and private citizens to share their opinions on whether or not individual learning accounts are effective in helping adults learn necessary job skills.²¹⁷³

The EU has fully complied with its commitment to supporting workers through implementing training and reskilling policies by investing in skills training centres, providing additional funding in the education and training sectors to bolster skills development, launching a social program to support the training, reskilling, and upskilling of workers, and creating a targeted program for students and small businesses to acquire in-demand skills.

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

Analyst: Bianca Piccone

²¹⁷¹ Joint Press Conference by Bruno Le Marie and Olaf Scholz to Present the French and German National Recovery and Resilience Plans, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Relaunch (Paris) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/conference-presse-conjointe-bruno-le-maire-olaf-scholz-pnrr>

²¹⁷² Individual learning accounts: public consultation launched, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1511&newsId=9994&furtherNews=yes>

²¹⁷³ Individual learning accounts: public consultation launched, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1511&newsId=9994&furtherNews=yes>

10. Gender: Inequalities

“As many women have been disproportionately affected by the crisis, we will work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China	-1		
France			+1
Germany			+1
India		0	
Indonesia			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa		0	
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.65 (83%)	

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected women and girls across numerous spheres, such as health, economics, security and social protection.²¹⁷⁴ According to UN Women and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the crisis’s economic impact will considerably raise women’s poverty rate, with approximately 47 million females being pushed into extreme destitution by 2021.²¹⁷⁵ Impoverished girls who already face health and safety challenges managing their menstrual hygiene, sexual and reproductive health without access to clean water and other basic needs are even more vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus and its consequences.²¹⁷⁶ In April 2020, the UN Secretary-General acknowledged that “limited gains in gender equality and women’s rights made over the decades are in danger of being rolled back due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” making it

²¹⁷⁴ How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

²¹⁷⁵ COVID-19 will widen poverty gap between women and men, new UN Women and UNDP data shows, United Nations Development Programme (New York) 2 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/news-centre/news/2020/_COVID-19_will_widen_poverty_gap_between_women_and_men_.html

²¹⁷⁶ How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

imperative to address the outbreak's regressive effects on gender equality.²¹⁷⁷ Such impacts can be exacerbated for the most vulnerable groups of women, such as migrant workers, refugees, marginalized racial and ethnic groups, single-parent households and youth.²¹⁷⁸

School closures, overburdened health systems, and existing gender norms have created an increased demand on females to undertake unpaid care and domestic work, such as catering to their family's basic survival needs and caring for the sick.²¹⁷⁹ For women, this creates obstacles in balancing paid work or entering the labour force. UN Women estimates that the COVID-19 crisis will lead to a "prolonged dip in women's income and labour force participation."²¹⁸⁰ Besides, young women and girls living in poverty, with disabilities or in rural, isolated locations are more likely to abandon their education to compensate for increased care and domestic work at home.²¹⁸¹ Evidence from past epidemics reveals that such females are at an exceptionally high risk of not returning to school even after a pandemic is over.²¹⁸² Estimates show that an additional 11 million girls may abandon their education by the end of the COVID-19 crisis.²¹⁸³ They are also more prone to child marriage and other kinds of violence as a means to alleviate their families' economic burdens.²¹⁸⁴ Hence, the pandemic's economic impacts are likely to increase sexual exploitation and disrupt efforts to end child marriage.²¹⁸⁵ The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) estimates that an additional 3 million child marriages will occur between 2020 and 2030.²¹⁸⁶

Concerning the health response to COVID-19, currently, women represent 70 per cent of the global health workforce.²¹⁸⁷ Nevertheless, they are paid considerably less than their male counterparts.²¹⁸⁸ The gender pay gap in the health sector, at 25 per cent, is higher than the 16 per cent overall gender

²¹⁷⁷ Put women and girls at centre of COVID-19 recovery: UN Secretary-General, United Nations (New York) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/04/1061452>

²¹⁷⁸ COVID-19 and its economic toll on women: The story behind the numbers, UN Women (New York) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/feature-covid-19-economic-impacts-on-women>

²¹⁷⁹ How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

²¹⁸⁰ Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Women, United Nations (New York) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/report/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women-en-1.pdf>

²¹⁸¹ How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

²¹⁸² How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

²¹⁸³ Over 11 million girls may not go back to school after the COVID-19 crisis, UNESCO (Paris) 28 August 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse/girlseducation>

²¹⁸⁴ How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

²¹⁸⁵ New UNFPA projections predict calamitous impact on women's health as COVID-19 pandemic continues, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.unfpa.org/press/new-unfpa-projections-predict-calamitous-impact-womens-health-covid-19-pandemic-continues>

²¹⁸⁶ New UNFPA projections predict calamitous impact on women's health as COVID-19 pandemic continues, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.unfpa.org/press/new-unfpa-projections-predict-calamitous-impact-womens-health-covid-19-pandemic-continues>

²¹⁸⁷ COVID-19 and its economic toll on women: The story behind the numbers, UN Women (New York) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/feature-covid-19-economic-impacts-on-women>

²¹⁸⁸ COVID-19 and its economic toll on women: The story behind the numbers, UN Women (New York) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/feature-covid-19-economic-impacts-on-women>

pay gap in other sectors.²¹⁸⁹ According to UN Women, “women typically earn less and hold less secure jobs than men. With plummeting economic activity, women are particularly vulnerable to layoffs and loss of livelihoods.”²¹⁹⁰

The outbreak of COVID-19 has also left women vulnerable to a “shadow pandemic” of gender-based violence.²¹⁹¹ Emerging data and reports have shown a notable surge in domestic abuse.²¹⁹² In numerous countries, violence reports and emergency calls have risen by 25 per cent since distancing measures, quarantine and movement restrictions were enacted.²¹⁹³ In November 2020, UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, said that “violence against women is also a pandemic – one that pre-dates the virus and will outlive it...there has never been a more important moment to resolve to put our combined resources and commitment behind the biggest issues, and to end violence against women and girls, for good.”²¹⁹⁴

At the 2009 London Summit, G20 members briefly mentioned building “a fair and family-friendly labour market for both women and men.”²¹⁹⁵ They also committed to “support employment by stimulating growth, investing in education and training, and through active labour market policies.”²¹⁹⁶

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, G20 members committed to “advance gender equality in all areas, including skills training, wages and salaries, treatment in the workplace, and responsibilities in care-giving.”²¹⁹⁷ In regards to fostering inclusion, G20 leaders recognized the need to encourage and expand economic opportunities for women.²¹⁹⁸ They pledged to “take concrete actions to overcome the barriers hindering women’s full economic and social participation and to expand economic opportunities for women in G20 economies.”²¹⁹⁹

At the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, the focus on gender-equality peaked when compared to previous years.²²⁰⁰ G20 leaders focused on endorsing financial education for women and girls, committing to

²¹⁸⁹ COVID-19 and its economic toll on women: The story behind the numbers, UN Women (New York) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/feature-covid-19-economic-impacts-on-women>

²¹⁹⁰ COVID-19 and its economic toll on women: The story behind the numbers, UN Women (New York) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/feature-covid-19-economic-impacts-on-women>

²¹⁹¹ Gender-based violence: We must flatten the curve of this shadow pandemic, Africa Renewal (New York) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/november-december-2020/gender-based-violence-we-must-flatten-curve-shadow-pandemic>

²¹⁹² How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

²¹⁹³ COVID-19: Emerging gender data and why it matters, UN Women (New York) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://data.unwomen.org/resources/covid-19-emerging-gender-data-and-why-it-matters>

²¹⁹⁴ Gender-based violence: We must flatten the curve of this shadow pandemic, Africa Renewal (New York) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/november-december-2020/gender-based-violence-we-must-flatten-curve-shadow-pandemic>

²¹⁹⁵ G20 Leaders' Conclusions on Gender, 2008-2014, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 January 2015. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/conclusions/gender-l.pdf>

²¹⁹⁶ The G20 London Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 April 2009. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-09-london.html>

²¹⁹⁷ The G20 Los Cabos Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-12-loscabos.html>

²¹⁹⁸ The G20 Los Cabos Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-12-loscabos.html>

²¹⁹⁹ The G20 Los Cabos Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-12-loscabos.html>

²²⁰⁰ G20 Leaders' Conclusions on Gender, 2008-2014, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 January 2015. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/conclusions/gender-l.pdf>

craft and take targeted actions to increase “incentives, financial literacy, education and consumer protection for...vulnerable groups such as women.”²²⁰¹

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, G20 members agreed to reduce “the gap in participation rates between men and women in [G20 members] by 25 per cent by 2025,...[and] to bring more than 100 million women into the labour force.”²²⁰² The Brisbane Action Plan committed to tackling long-term and structural unemployment, “[supporting citizens] particularly youth and women, to gain and maintain quality employment [as well as] enhancing social cohesion and reducing inequality.”²²⁰³

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 leaders committed to reducing gender compensation gaps and take “further action to improve the quality of female employment and eliminate employment discrimination.”²²⁰⁴ They planned to address such issues by promoting “effective wage policies, removing barriers women face when striving for higher-paying, higher-quality jobs, tackling occupational and sectoral segregation and fostering women’s career prospects including through entrepreneurship.”²²⁰⁵ Additionally, they also acknowledged the need to provide quality education, training, social protection policies and legal reforms to females, promoting policies that “help women and men reconcile work and family lives in a more equitable manner.”²²⁰⁶ They also committed to “provide women with protection against all forms of violence.”²²⁰⁷

At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, G20 members pledged to “continue to promote initiatives aimed at ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls and gender-based violence.”²²⁰⁸ Leaders also recognized the need to promote women’s economic empowerment through “access to quality and affordable care infrastructure and parental leave.”²²⁰⁹ G20 members also committed to encourage and “promote women’s access to leadership and decision-making positions.”²²¹⁰

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 leaders focused on addressing the gender gap in unpaid care work, recognizing that it “remains a major obstacle to women’s participation in the labour market.”²²¹¹ They were also resolute to end all forms of discrimination against women, combat stereotypes and

²²⁰¹ The 2013 G20 St. Petersburg Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) March 2014. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-13-stpetersburg.html>

²²⁰² The 2014 G20 Brisbane Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 December 2014. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-14-brisbane.html>

²²⁰³ G20 Leaders' Conclusions on Gender, 2008-2014, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 January 2015. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/conclusions/gender-l.pdf>

²²⁰⁴ The 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 October 2017. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-17-hamburg.html>

²²⁰⁵ The 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 October 2017. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-17-hamburg.html>

²²⁰⁶ The 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 October 2017. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-17-hamburg.html>

²²⁰⁷ The 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 October 2017. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-17-hamburg.html>

²²⁰⁸ The 2019 G20 Buenos Aires Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 December 2018. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-18-buenosaires.html>

²²⁰⁹ The 2019 G20 Buenos Aires Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 December 2018. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-18-buenosaires.html>

²²¹⁰ The 2019 G20 Buenos Aires Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 December 2018. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-18-buenosaires.html>

²²¹¹ The 2019 G20 Osaka Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 July 2019. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-19-osaka.html>

support “girls’ and women’s education and training, including providing quality primary and secondary education.”²²¹²

Commitment Features

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, G20 leaders committed to “work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities,” with the recognition that women have been “disproportionately affected” by the pandemic and the intention to not “undermine the progress made in recent decades” to empower women.²²¹³ “Women” is understood to mean female individuals aged 18 years or more.²²¹⁴ “Girls” refers to female individuals below the age of 18 years.²²¹⁵

To “work to ensure” is understood to mean applying international diplomacy to make something certain to happen.²²¹⁶ This can include drafting proposals, encouraging new initiatives or putting forward new ideas.²²¹⁷

“Pandemic” is understood to mean the COVID-19 crisis.²²¹⁸

To “widen” is understood to mean increasing the scope or extent of something.²²¹⁹

“Gender inequalities” is understood to mean unequal access to or enjoyment of rights in various social, legal and cultural situations due to one’s sex and/or gender identity.²²²⁰ As the COVID-19 pandemic has strained resources and limited institutional capabilities of numerous countries, this commitment outlines the pandemic’s disproportionate effects on women in three key spheres: Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence.²²²¹ As part of this commitment, G20 members must take actions directed at the three spheres mentioned in response to efforts to mitigate the pandemic’s impacts on women.

“Health” is understood to mean a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.²²²² Examples of actions that support women’s health affected by the COVID-19 pandemic include enacting provisions for pre- and post-natal healthcare, increasing access to sexual and reproductive health services, promoting education on menstrual hygiene, providing quality care and support for survivors of gender-based violence, funding greater

²²¹² The 2019 G20 Osaka Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 July 2019. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-19-osaka.html>

²²¹³ G20 Saudi Arabia 2020 Riyadh Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

²²¹⁴ Gender: Education and Training, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/compliance/2019osaka-final/11-2019-osaka-final-compliance-gender-education.pdf>

²²¹⁵ Convention on the Rights of the Child, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Geneva) 20 November 1989. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>

²²¹⁶ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²²¹⁷ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²²¹⁸ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²²¹⁹ Widen, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/widen>

²²²⁰ Gender Inequality, European Institute for Gender Equality (Vilnius) n.d. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://eige.europa.eu/thesaurus/terms/1182>

²²²¹ How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

²²²² Constitution of the World Health Organization, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/about/who-we-are/constitution>

access to essential medicines or health insurance coverage, and reallocating resources to ensure access to clean water and sanitation facilities.²²²³

“Economic security” is understood to mean the ability of individuals, households or communities to cover their essential needs sustainably and with dignity.²²²⁴ Examples of actions that support women’s economic security disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic include enacting provisions to reduce economic shocks such as providing unemployment insurance relief, drafting proposals to ensure women’s access to social protections like paid sick leave, funding efforts to reduce pandemic-related lay-offs and job cuts, increasing access to affordable childcare support, and recognizing the importance of unpaid care and domestic work.²²²⁵

“Gender-based violence” is understood to mean harmful acts directed at an individual based on their gender and includes sexual, physical, mental and economic harm inflicted in public or in private as well as threats of violence, coercion and manipulation.²²²⁶ Examples of actions that support women who experience gender-based violence due to situations brought by the COVID-19 pandemic include reallocating and increasing health, social, judicial and/or police services to respond to such cases, enacting national response plans with measures to eliminate all forms of violence, increasing security measures to prevent violence against women in deserted urban or rural public spaces and transportation services, and drafting proposals to aid or support women trapped at home with their abusers.²²²⁷

To “undermine” is understood to mean weakening or ruining something by degrees.²²²⁸ Examples include resisting or impairing efforts put forth by other actors.²²²⁹

“Progress made in recent decades” is understood to mean the relevant UN declarations, processes, and calls to action to empower women and girls.²²³⁰ Goal 3 of the UN Millennium Development Goals aimed to promote gender equality and empower women with a specific target of eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education in all levels of education by no later than 2015.²²³¹ Although much progress was made towards women’s equality in education and employment, the UN recognized the need to address other areas of gender inequality such as violence against women and women’s unequal access to opportunities in the labour market.²²³² As part of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Goal 5 also aims to achieve gender equality and empower all

²²²³ How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

²²²⁴ What is Economic Security?, International Committee of the Red Cross (Geneva) 18 June 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/introduction-economic-security>

²²²⁵ How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

²²²⁶ Gender-based Violence, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Geneva) 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.unhcr.org/gender-based-violence.html>

²²²⁷ How COVID-19 Impacts Women and Girls, UN Women (New York) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/explainer/covid19/en/index.html>

²²²⁸ Undermine, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/undermine>

²²²⁹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²²³⁰ G20 Saudi Arabia 2020 Riyadh Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

²²³¹ The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015, United Nations (New York) 1 July 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%2015\).pdf](https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%2015).pdf)

²²³² The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015, United Nations (New York) 1 July 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%2015\).pdf](https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%2015).pdf)

women and girls with targets including eliminating all forms of violence against women and recognizing unpaid care and domestic work.²²³³

As well, this commitment has a depth component of how strong the action taken by the G20 member is.²²³⁴ A G20 member must take significant action on either the domestic or international level for full compliance. Partial actions could include verbal reaffirmation of the commitment or attending meetings that discuss gender inequalities.²²³⁵ For strong actions, a G20 member would have to initiate a program or new law, and/or contribute financial or technical assistance to ensure the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities in relation to the health, economic security and/or gender-based violence spheres previously stated.²²³⁶

Actions on the domestic level would include verbal reaffirmations, allocating money and budgetary resources, creating new offices, departments, and/or programs, and/or enacting domestic legislations to reduce gender inequalities.²²³⁷ Actions on the international level would include sponsoring, signing or ratifying international treaties, financing or sending personnel to international organizations such as UN Women, and/or providing international financial support directly and/or through international institutions in support of women affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.²²³⁸

To achieve full compliance, the G20 member can take strong actions in two spheres and some action in one sphere to reduce gender inequalities, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected women disproportionately: Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence. Alternatively, the G20 member can take strong actions in all three spheres to reduce gender inequalities, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected women disproportionately that have been mentioned previously.

For a score of partial compliance, the G20 member has taken strong actions in one sphere and some actions in the other two spheres to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in at least one of the three spheres affecting women disproportionately: Health, Economic Security and/or Gender-Based Violence. Alternatively, the G20 member can take strong actions in at least one of the three spheres to reduce gender inequalities, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected women disproportionately that have been mentioned previously.

For a score of non-compliance, the G20 member has completed less than the aforementioned criteria.

²²³³ Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations (New York) 25 September 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

²²³⁴ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²²³⁵ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²²³⁶ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²²³⁷ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²²³⁸ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member has NOT taken strong steps to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in ANY of the three spheres affecting women disproportionately, OR the G20 member has taken weak steps in only ONE of the three spheres (health, economic security OR gender-based violence).
0	G20 member has taken strong steps to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in at least ONE of the three spheres affecting women disproportionately, OR the G20 member has taken strong steps in ONE sphere and weak steps in the other TWO spheres (health, economic security OR gender-based violence).
+1	G20 member has taken strong steps to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in ALL three spheres affecting women disproportionately, OR the G20 member has taken strong steps in at least TWO spheres and weak steps in ONE other sphere (health, economic security AND/OR gender-based violence).

Compliance Director: Brandon Yih

Lead Analyst: Samantha Moura Novais de Quadros

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 25 November 2020, Minister of Productive Development Matías Kulfas launched the “Zero Tolerance for Violence Against Women” campaign.²²³⁹ This campaign aims to eradicate and raise awareness surrounding gender-based violence in the field of production and the workplace.²²⁴⁰

On 10 December 2020, Argentina hosted the Women Economic Forum, an annual global business conference and gathering of women entrepreneurs and leaders.²²⁴¹ The purpose of this forum is to promote and pursue initiatives for women’s empowerment and economic entrepreneurship.²²⁴² The conference was attended by over 150 allied countries and global chapters.²²⁴³

On 11 December 2020, the National Congress passed the Voluntary Interruption of Pregnancy Bill (IVE) along with the Bill for Comprehensive Healthcare during Pregnancy and Early Childhood.²²⁴⁴ The IVE Bill legalized abortion in Argentina and the Minister of Women, Gender and Diversity Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta stated that women will no longer be forced “to carry out a clandestine abortion and put her life or health at risk.”²²⁴⁵

On 16 December 2020, Minister of Women, Gender and Diversity Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta and the Executive Director of the YPF Foundation Ofelia Cedola signed a strengthening and technical

²²³⁹ Campaign “Zero Tolerance for Violence Against Women,” Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 25 November 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/campana-tolerancia-cero-la-violencia-contra-las-mujeres>

²²⁴⁰ Campaign “Zero Tolerance for Violence Against Women,” Ministry of Productive Development (Buenos Aires) 25 November 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/campana-tolerancia-cero-la-violencia-contra-las-mujeres>

²²⁴¹ WEF Argentina 2020, Women Economic Forum Argentina (Buenos Aires) n.d. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.wefargentina2020.org>

²²⁴² WEF Argentina 2020, Women Economic Forum Argentina (Buenos Aires) n.d. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.wefargentina2020.org>

²²⁴³ WEF Argentina 2020, Women Economic Forum Argentina (Buenos Aires) n.d. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.wefargentina2020.org>

²²⁴⁴ Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta: “It will be law,” Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/elizabeth-gomez-alcorta-sera-ley>

²²⁴⁵ Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta: “It will be law,” Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/elizabeth-gomez-alcorta-sera-ley>

cooperation agreement to implement joint projects on gender, equality and diversity policies in the energy, science and technology sectors.²²⁴⁶ This agreement will also promote greater participation of women in the energy sector through scholarships and other programs.²²⁴⁷

On 12 January 2021, the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (MGyD) inaugurated the first headquarters of the Comprehensive Assistance Network for Gender-Based Violence in Moreno.²²⁴⁸ The main objective of this Network is to implement prevention and protection policies for people affected by gender-based violence throughout the entire country.²²⁴⁹

On 14 January 2021, President Alberto Fernandez alongside the Minister of Health Ginés González García, signed the enactment of the IVE Bill and the Law on Comprehensive Healthcare During Pregnancy and Early Childhood.²²⁵⁰ Both laws aim to support women's reproductive decisions.²²⁵¹ President Fernandez emphasized that this law would end the criminalization of women who undertake abortion and prevent them from all the dangers that clandestine termination entails.²²⁵²

On 28 January 2021, the MGyD, in coordination with the Ministry of Women, Gender Policies and Sexual Diversity of the Province of Buenos Aires and the municipalities of Ensenada and Berisso, launched the first day of the national prevention campaign, "United Argentina Against Gender Violence."²²⁵³ This campaign aims to generate and make tools available for the prevention of gender-based violence in all parts of Argentina through audiovisual contents, digital training workshops and other campaign tools.²²⁵⁴

²²⁴⁶ We signed a strengthening and technical cooperation agreement with the YPF Foundation, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/generos/firmamos-un-convenio-de-fortalecimiento-y-cooperacion-tecnica-con-la-fundacion-ypf>

²²⁴⁷ We signed a strengthening and technical cooperation agreement with the YPF Foundation, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/generos/firmamos-un-convenio-de-fortalecimiento-y-cooperacion-tecnica-con-la-fundacion-ypf>

²²⁴⁸ We inaugurated in Moreno the first headquarters of the Comprehensive Assistance Network for Gender-Based Violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/inauguramos-en-moreno-la-primera-sede-de-la-red-de-asistencia-integral-de-las-violencias>

²²⁴⁹ We inaugurated in Moreno the first headquarters of the Comprehensive Assistance Network for Gender-Based Violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/inauguramos-en-moreno-la-primera-sede-de-la-red-de-asistencia-integral-de-las-violencias>

²²⁵⁰ The Minister Participated in The Promulgating the Laws on IVE and Comprehensive Health Care During Pregnancy and Early Childhood, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministro-participo-en-el-acto-de-promulgacion-de-las-leyes-de-ive-y-del-cuidado-integral>

²²⁵¹ The Minister Participated in The Promulgating the Laws on IVE and Comprehensive Health Care During Pregnancy and Early Childhood, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministro-participo-en-el-acto-de-promulgacion-de-las-leyes-de-ive-y-del-cuidado-integral>

²²⁵² The Minister Participated in The Promulgating the Laws on IVE and Comprehensive Health Care During Pregnancy and Early Childhood, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministro-participo-en-el-acto-de-promulgacion-de-las-leyes-de-ive-y-del-cuidado-integral>

²²⁵³ In Ensenada, we held the first day of the "United Argentina Against Gender Violence" campaign, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/realizamos-en-ensenada-la-primera-jornada-de-la-campana-argentina-unida-contra-las>

²²⁵⁴ In Ensenada, we held the first day of the "United Argentina Against Gender Violence" campaign, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/realizamos-en-ensenada-la-primera-jornada-de-la-campana-argentina-unida-contra-las>

On 13 February 2021, the MGyD created the Integrated System of Cases of Gender-Based Violence.²²⁵⁵ This initiative aims to nationally systemize available information on cases and complaints of incidents of gender-based violence, in order to support the creation of public policies aimed at preventing gender-based violence throughout Argentina.²²⁵⁶

On 24 February 2021, Argentina ratified the International Labor Organization Convention 190 on violence and harassment in the workplace.²²⁵⁷ The agreement outlines the challenges and harassment that women endure in the workplace and provides legislative suggestions to prevent and punish violence against women in the public sector.²²⁵⁸

On 3 March 2021, Argentina announced the construction of Comprehensive Territorial Centers for Gender and Diversity policies within the framework of the National Plan of Action against Gender-Based Violence.²²⁵⁹ The territorial centers will consist of interdisciplinary teams that will develop actions aimed at the prevention of violence, access to justice, and promotion of gender equality.²²⁶⁰ Argentina announced an investment of ARS2.1 billion into this project.²²⁶¹

On 8 March 2021, President Fernandez alongside the Minister of Women, Gender, and Diversity Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta, the Minister of the Interior Eduardo de Pedro and provincial governors signed the Federal Agreement for a United Argentina against Gender Violence.²²⁶² The agreement seeks to prevent and address femicides and gender-based violence, and to strengthen the provincial and municipal gender areas.²²⁶³ Furthermore, the agreement also promotes a hierarchization and strengthening of provincial gender areas, who are responsible for comprehensive assistance and protection of those in situations of gender-based violence.²²⁶⁴

²²⁵⁵ The Government created a system of integration of information on cases of gender-based violence, Erreius (Buenos Aires) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.erreius.com/actualidad/14/civil-persona-y-patrimonio/Nota/1064/el-gobierno-creo-un-sistema-de-integracion-de-la-informacion-sobre-los-casos-de-violencia-de-genero>

²²⁵⁶ The Government created a system of integration of information on cases of gender-based violence, Erreius (Buenos Aires) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.erreius.com/actualidad/14/civil-persona-y-patrimonio/Nota/1064/el-gobierno-creo-un-sistema-de-integracion-de-la-informacion-sobre-los-casos-de-violencia-de-genero>

²²⁵⁷ The Ratification Process of ILO Convention Was Completed, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/culmino-el-proceso-de-ratificacion-del-convenio-190-de-la-oit-0>

²²⁵⁸ The Ratification Process of ILO Convention Was Completed, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/culmino-el-proceso-de-ratificacion-del-convenio-190-de-la-oit-0>

²²⁵⁹ The National Government announced the construction of comprehensive territorial centers, Chief of Cabinet of Ministers (Buenos Aires) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-anuncio-la-construccion-de-centros-territoriales-integrales-de>

²²⁶⁰ The National Government announced the construction of comprehensive territorial centers, Chief of Cabinet of Ministers (Buenos Aires) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-anuncio-la-construccion-de-centros-territoriales-integrales-de>

²²⁶¹ The national government will invest 2.1 billion pesos for the construction of Comprehensive Territorial Centers for Gender and Diversity Policies, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-invertira-2100-millones-de-pesos-para-la-construccion-de-centros>

²²⁶² Gomez Alcorta will tour all the provinces of the country to implement the Federal Agreement to Prevent and Address Gender Violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/gomez-alcorta-recorrera-todas-las-provincias-del-pais-para-poner-en-marcha-el-acuerdo>

²²⁶³ Gomez Alcorta will tour all the provinces of the country to implement the Federal Agreement to Prevent and Address Gender Violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/gomez-alcorta-recorrera-todas-las-provincias-del-pais-para-poner-en-marcha-el-acuerdo>

²²⁶⁴ Federal Agreement for a United Argentina against Gender Violence is signed, San Luis News Agency (San Luis) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://agenciasanluis.com/notas/2021/03/08/firman-el-acuerdo-federal-para-una-argentina-unida-contra-la-violencia-de-genero/>

On 15 March 2021, Minister Alcorta issued a joint statement alongside European Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen and Namibia's Minister of Gender Equality Doreen Sioka at the General Discussion of the Commission on the Status of Women.²²⁶⁵ The statement reaffirmed the need to ensure compliance with international obligations on gender equality and the need to eradicate the feminization of poverty and violence against women and girls.²²⁶⁶

On 16 March 2021, the MGYD in partnership with the Comprehensive Medical Attention Program launched a series of regional meetings on "older people against gender-based violence" with the focus on retirement centers across Argentina.²²⁶⁷ These regional meetings aim to generate tools for prevention and early detection of gender-based violence and promote actions to combat gender-based violence as part of the national prevention campaign, "United Argentina Against Gender-Based Violence."²²⁶⁸ These regional meetings started in Buenos Aires on 16 March 2021 and will continue until 1 September 2021, ending with the Cuyo Region of Mendoza, San Juan and San Luis.²²⁶⁹

On 31 March 2021, Argentina and 20 countries (Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Panama, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay) united and established the "Group of Friends for Gender Equality," following Mexico's leadership.²²⁷⁰ This group aims at centralizing public policies and promoting coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.²²⁷¹

On 8 April 2021, Minister Alcorta signed agreements with the Argentine Central Workers' Central Union to promote the gender perspective and equal participation of women in the union sphere.²²⁷²

²²⁶⁵ Statement by the European Union, Namibia and Argentina at the High-Level Event of the Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations (New York) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/94998/statement-european-union-namibia-and-argentina-high-level-event-group-friends-elimination_en

²²⁶⁶ Statement by the European Union, Namibia and Argentina at the High-Level Event of the Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations (New York) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/94998/statement-european-union-namibia-and-argentina-high-level-event-group-friends-elimination_en

²²⁶⁷ We work with older people in the prevention and tackling of gender-based violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 10 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trabajamos-con-personas-mayores-en-la-prevencion-y-el-abordaje-de-violencias-de-genero>

²²⁶⁸ We work with older people in the prevention and tackling of gender-based violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 10 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trabajamos-con-personas-mayores-en-la-prevencion-y-el-abordaje-de-violencias-de-genero>

²²⁶⁹ We work with older people in the prevention and tackling of gender-based violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 10 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trabajamos-con-personas-mayores-en-la-prevencion-y-el-abordaje-de-violencias-de-genero>

²²⁷⁰ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

²²⁷¹ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

²²⁷² We work together with the workers' federations for greater participation of women and diversity in union spaces, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trabajamos-junto-las-centrales-de-trabajadores-por-una-mayor-participacion-de-mujeres-y>

This agreement seeks to recognize the structural inequalities present in the work force and reduce situations of violence.²²⁷³

On 14 April 2021, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security's Undersecretary for Inclusion Policies in the Workplace of the Ministry Pamela Ares participated in United Nations Women Argentina's first meeting of the Steering Committee of the Socioeconomic Recovery Program to the Crisis caused by COVID-19 from a Gendered Perspective.²²⁷⁴ This initiative focuses on strengthening the economic autonomy of women in Argentina by increasing their participation in the labour market with more equal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work as well as promoting better working conditions.²²⁷⁵ Undersecretary Ares highlighted the need for a maternity and paternity leave regime to promote equality in the labour market.²²⁷⁶

On 21 April 2021, Minister Alcorta and the Executive Director of the National Agency for Controlled Materials Ramiro Urristi signed a cooperation agreement aimed at jointly developing projects on gender, equality, diversity, preventive measures with attention on gender-based violence.²²⁷⁷ One project is the Federal Disarmament Campaign with a Gender Perspective, which focuses on controlling the possession and carrying of weapons by people with a history of gender-based violence.²²⁷⁸

On 28 April 2021, Minister of Social Development Daniel Arroyo and the Minister of Women, Gender Policies and Sexual Diversity of the Province of Buenos Aires Estela Díaz signed a cooperation agreement to promote the active inclusion of victims of gender-based violence in the Empower Work program.²²⁷⁹ This program aims to implement socio-productive, socio-labour and/or socio-community projects in Buenos Aires with the participation of victims of gender-based violence to help such persons strengthen their economic autonomy.²²⁸⁰

On 3 May 2021, Minister Arroyo and the Secretary of Socio-Urban Integration Fernanda Miño launched the Integrar es Salud ("Integrate is Health") program to manage the health emergency and

²²⁷³ We work together with the workers' federations for greater participation of women and diversity in union spaces, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trabajamos-junto-las-centrales-de-trabajadores-por-una-mayor-participacion-de-mujeres-y>

²²⁷⁴ First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Socio-economic Recovery Program to the Crisis caused by COVID-19 from a Gendered Perspective, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security (Buenos Aires) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/primer-encuentro-del-comite-directivo-del-programa-de-recuperacion-socioeconomica-la-crisis>

²²⁷⁵ First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Socio-economic Recovery Program to the Crisis caused by COVID-19 from a Gendered Perspective, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security (Buenos Aires) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/primer-encuentro-del-comite-directivo-del-programa-de-recuperacion-socioeconomica-la-crisis>

²²⁷⁶ First Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Socio-economic Recovery Program to the Crisis caused by COVID-19 from a Gendered Perspective, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security (Buenos Aires) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/primer-encuentro-del-comite-directivo-del-programa-de-recuperacion-socioeconomica-la-crisis>

²²⁷⁷ We work together with the ANMaC to prevent and address situations of gender-based violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trabajamos-de-manera-conjunta-con-la-anmac-para-prevenir-y-abordar-las-situaciones-de>

²²⁷⁸ We work together with the ANMaC to prevent and address situations of gender-based violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trabajamos-de-manera-conjunta-con-la-anmac-para-prevenir-y-abordar-las-situaciones-de>

²²⁷⁹ Empower Work will include people in situations of gender-based violence in the province of Buenos Aires, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/potenciar-trabajo-incluire-personas-en-situacion-de-violencia-de-genero-de-la-provincia-de>

²²⁸⁰ Empower Work will include people in situations of gender-based violence in the province of Buenos Aires, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/potenciar-trabajo-incluire-personas-en-situacion-de-violencia-de-genero-de-la-provincia-de>

strengthen community care in COVID-19 hotspot neighborhoods.²²⁸¹ This program will equip and manage the continued operation of community spaces, promote health and preventive actions by health and social work teams, provide teaching materials and new internet and telephone access points for youth and their families, and generate work in local communities led by socio-productive enterprises.²²⁸² Argentina has invested over ARS614 million into this program and aims to reach over 32,000 families in 219 hotspot neighborhoods across 20 provinces in the first stage.²²⁸³

On 8 May 2021, the MGYD launched a series of territorial operations as part of the Programa Acompañar (“Accompany Program”), which provides economic and psychosocial support to people facing situations of gender-based violence.²²⁸⁴ This program provides economic support equivalent to the Salario Mínimo, Vital y Móvil (“Minimum Living and Mobile Salary”) for six months with the municipal state providing psychosocial support.²²⁸⁵ The Minimum Living and Mobile Salary is the lowest remuneration that a person without family should receive in cash within a single legal working day in order to guarantee adequate food, decent housing, education, clothing, healthcare, transportation and other social services.²²⁸⁶

On 12 May 2021, the Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers Santiago Cafiero, Minister Alcorta, and the Secretary for Equality and Diversity Policies Cecilia Merchán, presented the National Plan for Equality in Diversity (2021-2023).²²⁸⁷ This plan includes over 200 commitments that will be assumed by various Argentinean ministries and agencies in order to reduce gender and sexual identity inequalities in work, health, education, politics, and more areas of life.²²⁸⁸

Argentina has fully complied with the commitment to help reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic by demonstrating strong actions in the spheres of gender-based violence and health such as implementing programs to assist survivors of gender-based violence and limited actions in the Economic Security sphere such as implementing gender-sensitive economic programs.

Thus, Argentina has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Leena Badri

²²⁸¹ We launched the “Integrar es Salud” program to strengthen care in hotspot neighborhoods, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/lanzamos-el-programa-integrar-es-salud-para-fortalecer-los-cuidados-en-barrios-populares>

²²⁸² We launched the “Integrar es Salud” program to strengthen care in hotspot neighborhoods, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/lanzamos-el-programa-integrar-es-salud-para-fortalecer-los-cuidados-en-barrios-populares>

²²⁸³ We launched the “Integrar es Salud” program to strengthen care in hotspot neighborhoods, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/lanzamos-el-programa-integrar-es-salud-para-fortalecer-los-cuidados-en-barrios-populares>

²²⁸⁴ Territorial operations started to accompany people in situations of gender violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/empezaron-los-operativos-territoriales-para-acompanar-personas-situacion-de-violencia-de>

²²⁸⁵ Territorial operations started to accompany people in situations of gender violence, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/empezaron-los-operativos-territoriales-para-acompanar-personas-situacion-de-violencia-de>

²²⁸⁶ How much is the Minimum Living and Mobile Salary in Argentina, *Ámbito Financiero* (Buenos Aires) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.ambito.com/economia/salario/cuanto-es-el-minimo-vital-y-movil-la-argentina-n5100480>

²²⁸⁷ The National Government assumes 200 commitments to reduce gender inequalities, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <http://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-asume-200-compromisos-para-reducir-las-desigualdades-de-genero>

²²⁸⁸ The National Government assumes 200 commitments to reduce gender inequalities, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <http://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-asume-200-compromisos-para-reducir-las-desigualdades-de-genero>

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 25 November 2020, Minister for Families and Social Services Anne Ruston announced a provision of AUD1.125 million to be shared by three Indigenous organisations over the next two years to trial new family violence services in the Northern Territory.²²⁸⁹

On 11 December 2020, the National Federation Reform Council (NFRC) endorsed the terms of reference for the Women's Safety Taskforce.²²⁹⁰ This is in line with Prime Minister Scott Morrison's announcement on 29 May 2020 concerning the establishment of an NFRC Taskforce on Women's Safety to reduce violence against women and their children.²²⁹¹

On 30 December 2020, Prime Minister Morrison announced a provision of up to AUD36 million from the Indigenous Advancement Strategy over the next three years.²²⁹² This fund will be used to deliver more girls academies to "support more than 5,600 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls across the country."²²⁹³

On 26 February 2021, the Council of Australian Governments released the first progress report on the implementation of the Fourth Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022.²²⁹⁴ The report stated the completion of 18 initiatives per original schedule and one initiative ahead of schedule.²²⁹⁵

On 8 March 2021, Prime Minister Morrison announced an AUD18 million campaign to protect women from family and domestic violence.²²⁹⁶ This is the third in the series of Stop it at the Start campaigns.²²⁹⁷ The series aim to influence young people and intervene before attitudes and behaviours develop that may lead to violence against women and gender inequality.²²⁹⁸

²²⁸⁹ International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/payne/2020/international-day-elimination-violence-against-women>

²²⁹⁰ Establishment of a National Federation Reform Council Women's Safety Taskforce, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/establishment-national-federation-reform-council-women-s-safety-taskforce>

²²⁹¹ Establishment of a National Federation Reform Council Women's Safety Taskforce, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/establishment-national-federation-reform-council-women-s-safety-taskforce>

²²⁹² More support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls and young women, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/wyatt/2020/more-support-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-girls-and-young-women>

²²⁹³ More support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls and young women, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/wyatt/2020/more-support-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-girls-and-young-women>
²²⁹⁴ Release of first progress report for the Fourth Action Plan, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/release-first-progress-report-fourth-action-plan>

²²⁹⁵ Release of first progress report for the Fourth Action Plan, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/release-first-progress-report-fourth-action-plan>

²²⁹⁶ Remarks, International Women's Day, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/remarks-international-womens-day>

²²⁹⁷ Future Women Leadership Summit 2021, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 12 March 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://ministers.pmc.gov.au/payne/2021/future-women-leadership-summit-2021>

²²⁹⁸ Stop it at the Start campaign, Department of Social Services (Canberra) 14 August 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/remarks-international-womens-day>

On 6 April 2021, Prime Minister Morrison and Minister for Women Marise Payne co-chaired the first Cabinet Taskforce meeting on women's security and economic security.²²⁹⁹ The meeting was focused on identifying and addressing gaps in existing programs on women's issues.²³⁰⁰

On 12 April 2021, Australia released the second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.²³⁰¹ This Plan builds on the first National Action Plan to protect women's human rights and increase their participation in peace and security processes.²³⁰² Additionally, the National Action Plan includes tackling increased gender-based violence exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.²³⁰³

On 27 April 2021, Minister Payne attended the 14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women.²³⁰⁴ There were discussions about practical measures towards gender equality and women's human rights in the region, including ways to support women and girls impacted by COVID-19.²³⁰⁵ Through the new Pacific Women Lead program, Australia would be increasing support for regional gender equality through an investment of AUD170 million over five years.²³⁰⁶

On 11 May 2021, Prime Minister Morrison announced a landmark package of almost AUD3.4 billion to support women's rights in the 2021-2022 Budget.²³⁰⁷ This package includes AUD1.1 billion for women's safety, AUD1.9 billion to support women's economic security of which AUD1.7 billion is for improving the affordability of childcare services, and AUD351.6 million for measures to enhance women's health and wellbeing.²³⁰⁸ The new Budget aims to combat domestic violence through the Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLS), especially for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, improve family and justice responses, address sexual harassment, increase women's

²²⁹⁹ Remarks, Cabinet Women's Taskforce Meeting – Australian Parliament House, ACT, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/remarks-cabinet-womens-taskforce-meeting-australian-parliament-house-act>

²³⁰⁰ Women's cabinet taskforce discusses 'practical' budget measures in first meeting, The Guardian (London) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/apr/06/womens-cabinet-taskforce-discusses-practical-budget-measures-in-first-meeting>

²³⁰¹ Australia's second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women (Canberra) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australias-second-national-action-plan-women-peace-and-security>

²³⁰² Australia's second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women (Canberra) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australias-second-national-action-plan-women-peace-and-security>

²³⁰³ Australia's second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women (Canberra) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australias-second-national-action-plan-women-peace-and-security>

²³⁰⁴ Australia stands with Pacific women, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women (Canberra) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australia-stands-pacific-women>

²³⁰⁵ Australia stands with Pacific women, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women (Canberra) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australia-stands-pacific-women>

²³⁰⁶ Australia stands with Pacific women, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women (Canberra) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australia-stands-pacific-women>

²³⁰⁷ Budget delivering for Australian women, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/budget-delivering-australian-women>

²³⁰⁸ Budget delivering for Australian women, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/budget-delivering-australian-women>

workforce participation, promote women's leadership opportunities, and support women's healthcare.²³⁰⁹

Australia has taken strong concrete steps to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in all three spheres that affect women disproportionately: Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence.

Thus, Australia has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Dong (Delia) Liu

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in the recent decades.

On 26 November 2020, Minister of Women, Family and Human Rights Damares Alves hosted the second National Meeting of Policy Organizations for Women to strengthen dialogue among Brazil's federal, state and municipal leaders.²³¹⁰ The meeting focused on women facing unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic and strategies to prevent femicide.²³¹¹

On 26 November 2020, Brazil allocated BRL335 million to expand access and care for pregnant women and premature newborns in the Unified Health System during the COVID-19 pandemic.²³¹² This investment is a part of Brazil's goals for reducing neonatal infant mortality rates, childhood mortality rates and maternal mortality rates.²³¹³

On 7 December 2020, the Head of the National Secretariat of Policies for Women (SNPM) Cristiane Britto led a virtual meeting with United Nations Women and the European Union to discuss good practices for the prevention and mitigation of political violence against women.²³¹⁴ This meeting focused on exchanging experiences between nations and aimed to guarantee political rights to women and strengthen inclusive democracy in Brazil.²³¹⁵

²³⁰⁹ Budget delivering for Australian women, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/budget-delivering-australian-women>

²³¹⁰ Debate on the prevention of femicide and unemployment among women marks the opening of a meeting with OPMs, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/novembro/debate-sobre-prevencao-do-feminicidio-e-desemprego-de-mulheres-marcam-abertura-de-encontro-com-opms>

²³¹¹ Debate on the prevention of femicide and unemployment among women marks the opening of a meeting with OPMs, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/novembro/debate-sobre-prevencao-do-feminicidio-e-desemprego-de-mulheres-marcam-abertura-de-encontro-com-opms>

²³¹² Federal Government invests R\$335 million to expand care and prevention of prematurity, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-investe-r-335-milhoes-para-ampliar-o-cuidado-e-prevencao-a-prematuridade>

²³¹³ Federal Government invests R\$335 million to expand care and prevention of prematurity, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-investe-r-335-milhoes-para-ampliar-o-cuidado-e-prevencao-a-prematuridade>

²³¹⁴ Authorities discuss good practices in preventing political violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/autoridades-discutem-boas-praticas-de-prevencao-a-violencia-politica-contra-mulheres>

²³¹⁵ Authorities discuss good practices in preventing political violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/autoridades-discutem-boas-praticas-de-prevencao-a-violencia-politica-contra-mulheres>

On 8 December 2020, Brazil invested BRL13 million in the state of Bahia for actions to prevent and combat violence against women.²³¹⁶ This funding includes integrating the Safe and Protected Woman program, guaranteeing services to women experiencing violent situations, maintaining buses in the sewing production units, purchasing trunk trucks, and acquiring more than 8,000 food baskets as part of contingency plans to address impacts by the COVID-19 pandemic.²³¹⁷

On 9 December 2020, Brazil established an intersectoral committee under the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (MMFDH), to be responsible for elaborating on the National Plan to Combat Femicide.²³¹⁸ This committee also includes members from the SNPM, the National Secretariat for Children and Adolescents, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security (MJSP), the Ministry of Citizenship, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Education.²³¹⁹

On 12 December 2020, Brazil allocated BRL15 million to the state of Goiás for the construction of three Brazilian Women's Houses (CMB), professional training courses for women in need, and over 1700 food baskets for vulnerable women in the state.²³²⁰

On 14 December 2020, Brazil allocated BRL5.2 million to prevent violence against women in the state of Acre.²³²¹ These funds will be used for the construction of three CMBs and the reinforcement of public policies for women in socially vulnerable situations, including a project focused on combating violence against indigenous women in the countryside.²³²²

On 20 December 2020, the MMFDH launched the Qualifica Mulher (“Qualify Women”) pilot project, which aims to create a network of partnerships among governmental authorities and private entities in order to increase the employability of women facing socially vulnerable situations.²³²³ This project offers professional courses in person or online and facilitates financial education and entrepreneurship workshops.²³²⁴ The COVID-19 pandemic was a key factor in the implementation

²³¹⁶ In Bahia, Minister Damares announces investment of R\$13 million in public policies for women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/na-bahia-ministra-damares-anuncia-investimento-de-r-13-mi-em-politicas-publicas-para-mulheres>

²³¹⁷ In Bahia, Minister Damares announces investment of R\$13 million in public policies for women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/na-bahia-ministra-damares-anuncia-investimento-de-r-13-mi-em-politicas-publicas-para-mulheres>

²³¹⁸ Government institutes group for the elaboration of the National Plan to Combat Femicide, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/governo-institui-grupo-para-elaboracao-do-plano-nacional-de-enfrentamento-ao-feminicidio>

²³¹⁹ Government institutes group for the elaboration of the National Plan to Combat Femicide, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/governo-institui-grupo-para-elaboracao-do-plano-nacional-de-enfrentamento-ao-feminicidio>

²³²⁰ Federal Government invests R\$15 million in shares for women in GO, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/governo-federal-investe-r-15-mi-em-acoes-para-as-mulheres-em-go>

²³²¹ Federal Government allocates R\$5.2 million to prevent violence against women in AC, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/governo-federal-destina-r-5-2-mi-para-prevencao-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher-no-ac>

²³²² Federal Government allocates R\$5.2 million to prevent violence against women in AC, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/dezembro/governo-federal-destina-r-5-2-mi-para-prevencao-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher-no-ac>

²³²³ Ordinance No. 3175, of December 10, 2020, National Press (Brasilia) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/portaria-n-3.175-de-10-de-dezembro-de-2020-293539155>

²³²⁴ Ordinance No. 3175, of December 10, 2020, National Press (Brasilia) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/portaria-n-3.175-de-10-de-dezembro-de-2020-293539155>

of the Qualifica Mulher project as an initiative to promote women's economic autonomy.²³²⁵ More than 25,700 women have received training and attended entrepreneurship workshops.²³²⁶

On 28 January 2021, the MJSP launched and coordinated Operation "Resguardo" in 26 states and the Federal District.²³²⁷ The operation's goal is to combat and prevent crimes of violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in domestic settings.²³²⁸ As part of this operation, police investigated complaints and surveyed open court orders specific to violence against women.²³²⁹ Complaints from Ligue 180, a free service for reporting human rights violations and violence against women launched by the MMFDH, assisted this operation.²³³⁰ In total, more than 10,300 attackers were arrested.²³³¹

On 29 January 2021, the Ministry of Health allocated more than BRL11.2 million to the municipality of Manaus in order to reinforce care and support for pregnant women and postpartum women during the COVID-19 pandemic.²³³² This funding supplements institutional support for managers and healthcare professionals in Primary Health Care units and maternity hospitals.²³³³

On 23 February 2021, Minister Alvez hosted a meeting with the Special Secretary of Policies and Promotion of Women in Rio de Janeiro, Joyce Gama, on the development of nano-entrepreneurship for women in order to address the rise in female unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic

²³²⁵ More than 25,700 socially vulnerable women receive training and entrepreneurship courses, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/mais-de-25-7-mil-mulheres-em-vulnerabilidade-social-recebem-cursos-de-capacitacao-e-empreendedorismo>

²³²⁶ More than 25,700 socially vulnerable women receive training and entrepreneurship courses, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/mais-de-25-7-mil-mulheres-em-vulnerabilidade-social-recebem-cursos-de-capacitacao-e-empreendedorismo>

²³²⁷ Civil Police triggers 'Rescue' operation to combat crimes of violence against women, Government of the State of Amazonas (Manaus) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <http://www.amazonas.am.gov.br/2021/01/policia-civil-deflagra-operacao-resguardo-para-combater-crimes-de-violencia-contr-a-mulher>

²³²⁸ Civil Police triggers 'Rescue' operation to combat crimes of violence against women, Government of the State of Amazonas (Manaus) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <http://www.amazonas.am.gov.br/2021/01/policia-civil-deflagra-operacao-resguardo-para-combater-crimes-de-violencia-contr-a-mulher>

²³²⁹ Civil Police triggers 'Rescue' operation to combat crimes of violence against women, Government of the State of Amazonas (Manaus) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <http://www.amazonas.am.gov.br/2021/01/policia-civil-deflagra-operacao-resguardo-para-combater-crimes-de-violencia-contr-a-mulher>

²³³⁰ Operation to protect women and reporting channels are highlighted in live, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/operacao-de-protecao-as-mulheres-e-canais-de-denuncias-sao-destaque-em-live>

²³³¹ Operation to protect women and reporting channels are highlighted in live, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/operacao-de-protecao-as-mulheres-e-canais-de-denuncias-sao-destaque-em-live>

²³³² Ministry of Health allocates more than R\$11.2 million to assist pregnant women and postpartum women in Manaus, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-destina-mais-de-r-11-2-milhoes-para-assistencia-a-gestantes-e-puerperas-em-manaus>

²³³³ Ministry of Health allocates more than R\$11.2 million to assist pregnant women and postpartum women in Manaus, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-destina-mais-de-r-11-2-milhoes-para-assistencia-a-gestantes-e-puerperas-em-manaus>

and the need to invest in women's economic autonomy.²³³⁴ At the meeting, the topic of violence against women during the pandemic was also addressed with concern.²³³⁵

On 8 March 2021, Minister of Health Eduardo Pazuello and the First Lady Michelle Bolsonaro opened the Flores da Lapa Reference Center in Rio de Janeiro, which aims to guarantee full protection for socially vulnerable women with a focus on female victims of gender-based violence and sexual violence.²³³⁶ The Ministry of Health reallocated BRL13 million to the municipality of Rio de Janeiro in order to support the new Reference Center's operations.²³³⁷

On 16 March 2021, Minister Alvez reaffirmed the importance of women's work for a post-pandemic economic recovery at the India-Brazil-South Africa Trilateral Cooperation Forum.²³³⁸ Minister Alvez highlighted Brazil's public policies of income transfers during the COVID-19 pandemic like emergency aid, training programs to promote women's economic autonomy, and measures to eliminate discrimination and violence against women.²³³⁹ At the forum, the three countries emphasized their commitment to reduce gender inequality and further encourage mutual cooperation on such issues.²³⁴⁰

On 1 April 2021, the Ministry of Health launched a series of video lessons in partnership with the Pan American Health Organization to guide health professionals on good practices for assisting pregnant and puerperal women in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.²³⁴¹ This series includes 10 videos addressing topics such as risk factors for pregnant women with COVID-19, laboratory diagnoses, telemedicine and prenatal care.²³⁴²

On 5 April 2021, the MMFDH signed cooperation agreements with the municipalities of Hortolandia and Guaruja in the state of São Paulo in order to streamline and improve the flow of

²³³⁴ Ministry discusses actions to promote nano-entrepreneurship among women in Rio de Janeiro, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/fevereiro/ministerio-discute-aco-es-para-fomentar-o-nanoempreendedorismo-entre-mulheres-no-rio-de-janeiro>

²³³⁵ Ministry discusses actions to promote nano-entrepreneurship among women in Rio de Janeiro, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/fevereiro/ministerio-discute-aco-es-para-fomentar-o-nanoempreendedorismo-entre-mulheres-no-rio-de-janeiro>

²³³⁶ Minister Pazuello and First Lady, Michelle Bolsonaro, inaugurated service to assist women in situations of social vulnerability, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-pazuello-e-primeira-dama-michelle-bolsonaro-inauguram-servico-para-atender-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-social>

²³³⁷ Minister Pazuello and First Lady, Michelle Bolsonaro, inaugurated service to assist women in situations of social vulnerability, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-pazuello-e-primeira-dama-michelle-bolsonaro-inauguram-servico-para-atender-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-social>

²³³⁸ Country actions to protect and value women are presented to India and South Africa, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/aco-es-do-pais-para-a-protecao-e-valorizacao-das-mulheres-sao-apresentadas-para-a-india-e-a-africa-do-sul>

²³³⁹ Country actions to protect and value women are presented to India and South Africa, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/aco-es-do-pais-para-a-protecao-e-valorizacao-das-mulheres-sao-apresentadas-para-a-india-e-a-africa-do-sul>

²³⁴⁰ Country actions to protect and value women are presented to India and South Africa, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/aco-es-do-pais-para-a-protecao-e-valorizacao-das-mulheres-sao-apresentadas-para-a-india-e-a-africa-do-sul>

²³⁴¹ Ministry of Health and PAHO launch video classes to qualify the assistance to pregnant women and puerperal women, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-e-opas-lancam-videoaulas-para-qualificacao-da-assistencia-a-gestantes-e-puerperas>

²³⁴² Ministry of Health and PAHO launch video classes to qualify the assistance to pregnant women and puerperal women, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-e-opas-lancam-videoaulas-para-qualificacao-da-assistencia-a-gestantes-e-puerperas>

reports on and responses to human rights violations.²³⁴³ These agreements aim to improve the reporting platforms of Dial 100 and Dial 180, which are free services operating 24 hours for people to report human rights violations and violence against women respectively.²³⁴⁴

On 7 April 2021, the MMFDH supported the launch of the “Todos por Elas” project, which is an educational platform using videos and interactive material to foster dialogue and combat violence against women.²³⁴⁵ This project was developed by the Commercial, Industrial and Services Association of Goiás and focuses on companies and their employees.²³⁴⁶

On 16 April 2021, the Ministry of Health allocated BRL247 million to states and municipalities to improve quality healthcare access for pregnant women and postpartum women using prenatal services from public healthcare networks.²³⁴⁷ This funding goes towards strengthening early identification and monitoring of pregnant and postpartum women with flu syndromes or severe acute respiratory syndromes with suspicion or confirmation of COVID-19.²³⁴⁸ This investment is aimed at reducing maternal and infant mortality rates during the COVID-19 pandemic.²³⁴⁹

On 20 April 2021, Minister Alves, Governor of the Federal District Ibaneis Rocha and First Lady Bolsonaro attended the opening of the first CMB in Ceilandia, the most populated region in the Federal District.²³⁵⁰ During this event, a Technical Cooperation Agreement of the Safe and Protected Women Program was signed by figures from the federal and district governments, the Court of Justice of the Federal District and Territories, and the Public Defender’s Office of the Federal District.²³⁵¹ This Agreement aims to expand existing public services for female victims of violence

²³⁴³ Dial 100 and Dial 180 are integrated into two municipalities in Sao Paulo, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/disque-100-e-ligue-180-sao-integrados-a-dois-municipios-de-sao-paulo>

²³⁴⁴ Dial 100 and Dial 180 are integrated into two municipalities in Sao Paulo, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/disque-100-e-ligue-180-sao-integrados-a-dois-municipios-de-sao-paulo>

²³⁴⁵ All for them: platform trains companies and employees on combating violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/todos-por-elas-plataforma-capacita-empresas-e-funcionarios-sobre-combate-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher>

²³⁴⁶ All for them: platform trains companies and employees on combating violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/todos-por-elas-plataforma-capacita-empresas-e-funcionarios-sobre-combate-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher>

²³⁴⁷ Ministry of Health allocates R\$247 million in actions for pregnant women and women who have recently given birth, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ms-destina-r-247-milhoes-em-aco-es-estrategicas-de-apoio-a-gestacao-pre-natal-e-puerperio>

²³⁴⁸ Ministry of Health allocates R\$247 million in actions for pregnant women and women who have recently given birth, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ms-destina-r-247-milhoes-em-aco-es-estrategicas-de-apoio-a-gestacao-pre-natal-e-puerperio>

²³⁴⁹ Ministry of Health allocates R\$247 million in actions for pregnant women and women who have recently given birth, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ms-destina-r-247-milhoes-em-aco-es-estrategicas-de-apoio-a-gestacao-pre-natal-e-puerperio>

²³⁵⁰ Inauguration of the House of Brazilian Women in Ceilandia (DF), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/inaugurada-a-casa-da-mulher-brasileira-de-ceilandia-df>

²³⁵¹ Inauguration of the House of Brazilian Women in Ceilandia (DF), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/inaugurada-a-casa-da-mulher-brasileira-de-ceilandia-df>

through specialized services from the public healthcare system, opportunities for justice, social assistance networks, and promotions of women's economic independence.²³⁵²

On 29 April 2021, the MMFDH launched the Qualify for Entrepreneurship in Pernambuco initiative in partnership with the Federal Rural University of Pernambuco.²³⁵³ This initiative is part of the MMFDH's Qualifica Mulher project, which aims to promote female economic autonomy, and is an attempt at regionalization of the Qualifica Mulher project in order to better meet economic needs of different regions of Brazil.²³⁵⁴ This initiative covers courses in entrepreneurship, social media, waste management, hospitality in health units, hospital sanitation and hygiene, and food production, and is aimed at socially vulnerable women living in Jaboatão dos Guararapes, Paulista, São Lourenço da Mata and Recife.²³⁵⁵

On 6 May 2021, Brazil participated in a virtual meeting on "Measures implemented in Latin America against violence against women in the COVID-19 pandemic," hosted by the Organization of American States.²³⁵⁶ The Director of the Department of Policies to Combat Violence against Women of the MMFDH Grace Justa shared Brazil's initiatives to combating gender-based violence with other states in attendance.²³⁵⁷

On 11 May 2021, President Jair Bolsonaro signed a law that institutes the National Risk Assessment Form, which contains 27 questions to map cases of women in violent situations.²³⁵⁸ This legal instrument for public security agencies will be used to prevent and manage crimes relating to domestic and family violence against women and will be used during the reporting of an incident at a police station.²³⁵⁹

On 13 May 2021, President Bolsonaro sanctioned Law No. 14,151/21, which determined that pregnant women must remain away from face-to-face activities during the COVID-19 pandemic and

²³⁵² Inauguration of the House of Brazilian Women in Ceilandia (DF), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/inaugurada-a-casa-da-mulher-brasileira-de-ceilandia-df>

²³⁵³ Project will qualify 1400 women in vulnerable situations in Pernambuco, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/projeto-vai-qualificar-1-4-mil-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-em-pernambuco>

²³⁵⁴ Project will qualify 1400 women in vulnerable situations in Pernambuco, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/projeto-vai-qualificar-1-4-mil-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-em-pernambuco>

²³⁵⁵ Project will qualify 1400 women in vulnerable situations in Pernambuco, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/projeto-vai-qualificar-1-4-mil-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-em-pernambuco>

²³⁵⁶ Brazil shares actions to combat violence against women during the pandemic at an OAS meeting, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/brasil-compartilha-acoes-para-combate-a-violencia-contra-mulher-durante-a-pandemia-em-reuniao-da-oea>

²³⁵⁷ Brazil shares actions to combat violence against women during the pandemic at an OAS meeting, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/brasil-compartilha-acoes-para-combate-a-violencia-contra-mulher-durante-a-pandemia-em-reuniao-da-oea>

²³⁵⁸ Sanctioned law that implements a unified form to combat violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/sancionada-lei-que-implementa-formulario-unificado-para-combate-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher>

²³⁵⁹ Sanctioned law that implements a unified form to combat violence against women, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/sancionada-lei-que-implementa-formulario-unificado-para-combate-a-violencia-contra-a-mulher>

work through teleworking or other remote methods.²³⁶⁰ This new law provides protection for pregnant women by mandating that pregnant women cannot be working in person near other people.²³⁶¹

Brazil has taken strong actions in all three spheres of Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities. Brazil has focused on combating violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic through funding additional safehouses, improving report hotlines such as Dial 180, and introducing educational campaigns. Brazil has also focused on women's health through increasing access to quality prenatal or postnatal care, and on women's economic security through funding training programs and online courses to promote economic autonomy.

Thus, Brazil has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Isabella Li

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 7 December 2020, Minister of International Development Karina Gould announced at the virtual global conference “Strengthening Women’s Role in Building and Sustaining Peace: From Commitments to Results,” hosted by Vietnam and the United Nations, that Canada will be providing CAD8.5 million over five years to UN Women to empower women, prevent violence and promote social cohesion in Southeast Asia.²³⁶² This is part of a joint five year programme launched by Canada, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and UN Women to expand and strengthen women’s leadership and participation in conflict prevention, resolution and recovery in South-East Asia.²³⁶³ Canada’s financial commitment will help address gender equality and discrimination against women and girls in ASEAN member states, as targeted violence against women in Southeast Asia has been on the rise due to the COVID-19 pandemic.²³⁶⁴ The new programme reflects the commitment of ASEAN and Canada to promote gender equality and to respond to an increasingly widespread call across the globe for women to be empowered to lead and participate in peace and development.²³⁶⁵

On 8 December 2020, Minister of International Development Karina Gould announced in a meeting with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Canada’s support of four projects totalling over CAD25 million to advance the economic empowerment of rural women, internally displaced persons,

²³⁶⁰ Law determines remote work for pregnant women during the pandemic, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/lei-determina-trabalho-remoto-para-gestantes-durante-a-pandemia>

²³⁶¹ Law determines remote work for pregnant women during the pandemic, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/lei-determina-trabalho-remoto-para-gestantes-durante-a-pandemia>

²³⁶² Canada announces support to empower women in Southeast Asia and help build sustainable peace, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-support-to-empower-women-in-southeast-asia-and-help-build-sustainable-peace.html>

²³⁶³ Canada announces support to empower women in Southeast Asia and help build sustainable peace, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-support-to-empower-women-in-southeast-asia-and-help-build-sustainable-peace.html>

²³⁶⁴ Canada announces support to empower women in Southeast Asia and help build sustainable peace, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-support-to-empower-women-in-southeast-asia-and-help-build-sustainable-peace.html>

²³⁶⁵ ASEAN, Canada and UN Women jointly launch a 5-year programme to advance Women, Peace and Security Agenda, UN Women Asia and the Pacific (Jakarta) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2021/02/asean-canada-and-un-women-jointly-launch-a-5-year-programme>

persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups in Ukraine.²³⁶⁶ Through investments, Canada aims to support the Government of Ukraine to enhance the economic security of women, especially those affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine.²³⁶⁷

On 15 December 2020, Canada invested in 63 organizations to prevent human trafficking and to support survivors.²³⁶⁸ This funding will support these organizations in identifying and counselling survivors of trafficking, providing transition and second stage housing, mental health services, and employment services and supports, as well as training and tools to gain financial independence.²³⁶⁹ At the time of this announcement, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and for Rural Economic Development Maryam Monsef stated: “In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become even more challenging to escape situations of human trafficking and to access supports, making the important work of organizations that provide these services even more essential.”²³⁷⁰

On 17 December 2020, Canada announced that an agreement has been reached with the Canada Women’s Foundation and Women’s Shelters Canada to provide funding, in the amount of CAD36.3 million, for gender-based violence support, to these frontline organizations.²³⁷¹ The funding will continue to help address the immediate needs of organizations that provide a range of gender-based violence supports and services, such as emergency helplines, crisis and resources centres, counselling support, crisis intervention, drop-in services and support groups.²³⁷² This funding towards these frontline organizations is in recognition of their increased demand, due to the high rates of gender-

²³⁶⁶ Canada announces support to improve safety and economic opportunity for women and most vulnerable in Ukraine, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-support-to-improve-safety-and-economic-opportunities-for-women-and-most-vulnerable-in-ukraine.html>

²³⁶⁷ Canada announces support to improve safety and economic opportunity for women and most vulnerable in Ukraine, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-support-to-improve-safety-and-economic-opportunities-for-women-and-most-vulnerable-in-ukraine.html>

²³⁶⁸ Government of Canada invests in 63 organizations to prevent human trafficking and to support survivors, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-invests-in-63-organizations-to-prevent-human-trafficking-and-to-support-survivors.html>

²³⁶⁹ Government of Canada invests in 63 organizations to prevent human trafficking and to support survivors, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-invests-in-63-organizations-to-prevent-human-trafficking-and-to-support-survivors.html>

²³⁷⁰ Government of Canada invests in 63 organizations to prevent human trafficking and to support survivors, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-invests-in-63-organizations-to-prevent-human-trafficking-and-to-support-survivors.html>

²³⁷¹ Government of Canada announces agreement with the Canadian Women’s Foundation and Women’s Shelters Canada to provide funding for gender-based violence supports, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-announces-agreement-with-the-canadian-womens-foundation-and-womens-shelters-canada-to-provide-funding-for-gender-based-violenc.html>

²³⁷² Government of Canada announces agreement with the Canadian Women’s Foundation and Women’s Shelters Canada to provide funding for gender-based violence supports, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-announces-agreement-with-the-canadian-womens-foundation-and-womens-shelters-canada-to-provide-funding-for-gender-based-violenc.html>

based violence against women and girls, that has intensified as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.²³⁷³

On 28 January 2021, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Joel Lightbound announced an investment of CAD249,750 for the La Maison pour femmes immigrantes (House for Immigrant Women).²³⁷⁴ This funding is to allow the organization to continue to promote social and systemic changes towards gender equality and is focused on the needs of immigrant and Quebecer women and children victims of domestic violence living in the Quebec City region.²³⁷⁵

On 3 February 2021, Minister Monsef announced that up to CAD2.5 million in funding will be allocated for a new project named Advancing Gender Equity for Black Women and Girls in Canada to Respond to COVID-19.²³⁷⁶ This project aims to advance gender equity through the engagement with Black women's community organizations and prevent gender-based violence against Black women and girls during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.²³⁷⁷ This project will be launched by the Women's Centre for Social Justice in collaboration with the Canadian Women's Foundation and Battered Women's Support Services.²³⁷⁸

On 11 February 2021, Minister Monsef announced that the country would invest CAD100 million to support women impacted by the pandemic through the creation of a new call for proposals called Feminist Response and Recovery Fund, which will provide funding for projects helping those in greatest need.²³⁷⁹ The women's program provides funding to eligible organizations in three priority areas, including, ending violence against women and girls, improving women's and girls' economic security and prosperity and by encouraging women and girls in leadership and decision-making

²³⁷³ Government of Canada announces agreement with the Canadian Women's Foundation and Women's Shelters Canada to provide funding for gender-based violence supports, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-announces-agreement-with-the-canadian-womens-foundation-and-womens-shelters-canada-to-provide-funding-for-gender-based-violenc.html>

²³⁷⁴ Government of Canada announces investment in women's organization in the Quebec Region, Government of Canada (Quebec) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/01/government-of-canada-announces-investment-in-womens-organization-in-the-quebec-region.html>

²³⁷⁵ Government of Canada announces investment in women's organization in the Quebec Region, Government of Canada (Quebec) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/01/government-of-canada-announces-investment-in-womens-organization-in-the-quebec-region.html>

²³⁷⁶ Government of Canada Takes Further Action to Advance Gender Equity for Black Women and Girls in Canada, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-takes-further-action-to-advance-gender-equity-for-black-women-and-girls-in-canada.html>

²³⁷⁷ Government of Canada Takes Further Action to Advance Gender Equity for Black Women and Girls in Canada, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-takes-further-action-to-advance-gender-equity-for-black-women-and-girls-in-canada.html>

²³⁷⁸ Government of Canada Takes Further Action to Advance Gender Equity for Black Women and Girls in Canada, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-takes-further-action-to-advance-gender-equity-for-black-women-and-girls-in-canada.html>

²³⁷⁹ Government of Canada to Invest \$100 Million to Support Women Impacted by the Pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-invest-100-million-to-support-women-impacted-by-the-pandemic.html>

roles.²³⁸⁰ This is in an effort to take strong action to prevent the COVID-19 pandemic from rolling back progress or reversing the hard-won gains of women in Canada.²³⁸¹

On 1 March 2021, Minister Gould announced at the Virtual High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Situation in Yemen, convened by the United Nations, Sweden and Switzerland, that Canada would be pledging CAD69.9 million in funding in continued response to the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected people in Yemen in 2021.²³⁸² This new funding will be provided to UN agencies, the Red Cross, and other non-governmental organizations, and will provide life-saving food and support health care, clean water and sanitation.²³⁸³ In line with its Feminist International Assistance Policy, Canada's humanitarian assistance will also focus on the urgent needs of women and girls, who are disproportionately affected by the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis in Yemen.²³⁸⁴ This funding aims to support Yemeni access to quality health care and ensure access to clean water and sanitation facilities, especially for women and girls who have been disproportionately affected by the crisis.²³⁸⁵

On 2 March 2021, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng, co-hosted the Canada-Sweden Ideas Roundtable with Anna Hallberg, Sweden's Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs, alongside women entrepreneurs from both countries, to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing women entrepreneurs as both countries work toward an economic recovery that is sustainable and inclusive.²³⁸⁶ The roundtable discussion allowed both Canada and Sweden to commit to working together "on advancing gender equality and collaborating to support women entrepreneurs and remove barriers to their success."²³⁸⁷

On 5 March 2021, Canada announced CAD29.5 million in development assistance for six projects to support high-quality education, peace and economic prosperity in Colombia caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the crisis in Venezuela.²³⁸⁸ This funding aims to support the economic

²³⁸⁰ Government of Canada to Invest \$100 Million to Support Women Impacted by the Pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-invest-100-million-to-support-women-impacted-by-the-pandemic.html>

²³⁸¹ Government of Canada to Invest \$100 Million to Support Women Impacted by the Pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-invest-100-million-to-support-women-impacted-by-the-pandemic.html>

²³⁸² Canada announces new funding in continued response to humanitarian crisis in Yemen, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/canada-announces-new-funding-in-continued-response-to-humanitarian-crisis-in-yemen.html>

²³⁸³ Canada announces new funding in continued response to humanitarian crisis in Yemen, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/canada-announces-new-funding-in-continued-response-to-humanitarian-crisis-in-yemen.html>

²³⁸⁴ Canada announces new funding in continued response to humanitarian crisis in Yemen, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/canada-announces-new-funding-in-continued-response-to-humanitarian-crisis-in-yemen.html>

²³⁸⁵ Canada announces new funding in continued response to humanitarian crisis in Yemen, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/canada-announces-new-funding-in-continued-response-to-humanitarian-crisis-in-yemen.html>

²³⁸⁶ Canada and Sweden co-host virtual round table with women entrepreneurs, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/canada-and-sweden-co-host-virtual-round-table-with-women-entrepreneurs.html>

²³⁸⁷ Canada and Sweden co-host virtual round table with women entrepreneurs, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/canada-and-sweden-co-host-virtual-round-table-with-women-entrepreneurs.html>

²³⁸⁸ Canada announces projects in Colombia to support most vulnerable populations, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/canada-announces-projects-in-colombia-to-support-most-vulnerable-populations.html>

empowerment of rural women and youth, as well as to address the increase in post-peace agreement violence, particularly sexual and gender-based violence against Afro-Colombian women and girls.²³⁸⁹

On 8 March 2021, Canada hosted a two-day summit titled “Canada’s Feminist Response and Recovery” to mark International Women’s Day.²³⁹⁰ The Summit brought together politicians, experts, feminist leaders and those with lived experience to examine how COVID-19 is impacting the lives of women in Canada, as women have been on the front lines of the crisis.²³⁹¹ The Summit focused on the steps that governments, civil society and all Canadians can take to ensure an inclusive pandemic recovery by advancing gender equality.²³⁹²

On 8 March 2021, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development Ahmed Hussen announced investments in two women’s organizations.²³⁹³ The ministry will provide CAD250,000 in funding to the Woman Abuse Council of Toronto and CAD205,752 to support the North York Women’s Centre.²³⁹⁴ The purpose of these investments is to continue advancing the gender equality initiatives of the aforementioned organizations in their communities.²³⁹⁵

On 15 March 2021, Minister Monsef announced an additional CAD8.7 million in emergency funding will be allocated to the Government of Quebec to support victims of sexual violence and domestic violence due to the COVID-19 pandemic.²³⁹⁶ This funding is for women’s shelters, organizations helping victims of sexual violence and domestic violence, and organizations providing assistance or services to women in situations that may be susceptible to violence.²³⁹⁷

On 31 March 2021, Canada and 20 countries (Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Panama, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay) established the “Group of Friends for Gender Equality,” following Mexico’s leadership.²³⁹⁸ This group aims at centralizing public

²³⁸⁹ Canada announces projects in Colombia to support most vulnerable populations, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/canada-announces-projects-in-colombia-to-support-most-vulnerable-populations.html>

²³⁹⁰ Government of Canada to host Canada’s Feminist Response and Recovery Summit to mark International Women’s Day, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-host-canadas-feminist-response-and-recovery-summit-to-mark-international-womens-day.html>

²³⁹¹ Canada’s Feminist Response and Recovery Summit, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://gesummitfeministrecovery.ca>

²³⁹² Canada’s Feminist Response and Recovery Summit, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://gesummitfeministrecovery.ca>

²³⁹³ Canada’s Feminist Response and Recovery Summit, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://gesummitfeministrecovery.ca>

²³⁹⁴ Canada’s Feminist Response and Recovery Summit, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://gesummitfeministrecovery.ca>

²³⁹⁵ Canada’s Feminist Response and Recovery Summit, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://gesummitfeministrecovery.ca>

²³⁹⁶ Statement by Minister Monsef and Minister Charest on support for victims of sexual violence and domestic violence in Quebec in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Quebec) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/03/statement-by-minister-monsef-and-minister-chairest-on-support-for-victims-of-sexual-violence-and-domestic-violence-in-quebec-in-response-to-the-covi.html>

²³⁹⁷ Statement by Minister Monsef and Minister Charest on support for victims of sexual violence and domestic violence in Quebec in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Quebec) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/03/statement-by-minister-monsef-and-minister-chairest-on-support-for-victims-of-sexual-violence-and-domestic-violence-in-quebec-in-response-to-the-covi.html>

²³⁹⁸ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero>

policies and promoting coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.²³⁹⁹

On 7 April 2021, Minister Monsef announced that the federal government would invest CAD7.7 million into 16 women and equality-seeking organizations in the province of Ontario.²⁴⁰⁰ This funding will allow these organizations to increase their capacity to continue their work addressing gender equality issues in their communities, through helping women find full-time employment and ensuring that they are able to access critical health services and social supports, and will allow these organizations to overcome the unique challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on women.²⁴⁰¹

On 19 April 2021, Canada released their budget for 2021, which recognizes the disproportionate impact that COVID-19 has had on women, and includes many investments centered around women's economic recovery.²⁴⁰² The Budget 2021's key measures towards a feminist economy recovery include investments totaling almost CAD30 billion over the next five years in a Canada-wide early learning and child care plan which aims to reduce fees for parents, an investment of CAD146.9 million into strengthening the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy to provide greater access to financing, mentorship and training for women entrepreneurs, an investment of CAD315.4 million to increase direct financial assistance for low-income women and children fleeing violence to help with their rent payments and CAD250 million to support the construction, repair and operating costs of an estimated 560 units of transitional housing and shelter spaces for women and children fleeing violence.²⁴⁰³ These sustained investments will work towards building a post-pandemic recovery that is inclusive of women and that addresses systemic gender inequality issues.²⁴⁰⁴

On 6 May 2021, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages Melanie Joly announced that the Canada would allocate more than CAD5.8 million in non-repayable contributions through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency to nine organizations providing business and advisory services to women in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island.²⁴⁰⁵ This investment is aimed at helping organizations that

²³⁹⁹ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero>

²⁴⁰⁰ Minister Monsef announces \$7.7 million investment in 16 women's and equality-seeking organizations in Ontario, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/04/minister-monsef-announces-77-million-investment-in-16-womens-and-equality-seeking-organizations-in-ontario.html>

²⁴⁰¹ Minister Monsef announces \$7.7 million investment in 16 women's and equality-seeking organizations in Ontario, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/04/minister-monsef-announces-77-million-investment-in-16-womens-and-equality-seeking-organizations-in-ontario.html>

²⁴⁰² Budget 2021 will invest in women's economic recovery, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-will-invest-in-womens-economic-recovery.html>

²⁴⁰³ Budget 2021 will invest in women's economic recovery, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-will-invest-in-womens-economic-recovery.html>

²⁴⁰⁴ Budget 2021 will invest in women's economic recovery, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-will-invest-in-womens-economic-recovery.html>

²⁴⁰⁵ ACOA investments support resources and opportunities for women entrepreneurs across Atlantic Canada, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (Dartmouth) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/news/2021/05/acoa-investments-support-resources-and-opportunities-for-women-entrepreneurs-across-atlantic-canada.html>

empower women entrepreneurs with tools they need to maintain or expand their businesses, and offset the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁴⁰⁶

Through its increased investments in gender equality abroad, the creation of new programs at the domestic level that are focused on promoting the economic security and empowerment of women, and the multitude of investments into Canadian organizations that prevent and support victims of gender-based violence, Canada has taken strong actions in the spheres of Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence at both the domestic and international levels and therefore, has fully complied with its commitment to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Delaney Murphy

China: –1

China has failed to comply with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 6 March 2020, President Xi Jinping spoke of the protection of women's rights and women's development on multiple occasions at the fourth annual session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.²⁴⁰⁷ President Xi stated that women represent an important force, driving social development and progress.²⁴⁰⁸ He addressed the importance for party committees and governments at all levels to fully understand the significance of developing women's undertakings.²⁴⁰⁹ These include increases in attention, support and effort to severely crack down on illegal and criminal acts that infringe on women's rights.²⁴¹⁰

On 19 November 2020, the President of the All-China Women's Federation Shen Yueyue chaired a symposium in Beijing with experts in attendance to discuss efforts to promote the development of women and children in the Fourteenth Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025).²⁴¹¹ At the symposium, participants provided suggestions on solving inadequacies faced by women and children in relation to economic development, livelihoods and social participation.²⁴¹² This symposium also focused on

²⁴⁰⁶ ACOA investments support resources and opportunities for women entrepreneurs across Atlantic Canada, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (Dartmouth) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/news/2021/05/acoa-investments-support-resources-and-opportunities-for-women-entrepreneurs-across-atlantic-canada.html>

²⁴⁰⁷ Xi Jinping on protection of women's rights, XINHUA (Beijing) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2021/0308/c90000-9826589.html>

²⁴⁰⁸ Xi Jinping on protection of women's rights, XINHUA (Beijing) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2021/0308/c90000-9826589.html>

²⁴⁰⁹ Xi Jinping on protection of women's rights, XINHUA (Beijing) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2021/0308/c90000-9826589.html>

²⁴¹⁰ When Xi Jinping visited the members of the medical and health education sector who participated in the CPPCC meeting, he emphasized that the protection of people's health should be placed on the strategic position of priority development and efforts to build a high-quality and balanced basic public education service system Wang Yang participated in the visit and discussion, Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 6 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://www.mca.gov.cn/article/xw/tt/202103/20210300032328.shtml>

²⁴¹¹ ACWF President Presides over Symposium on Women and Children's Development in the 14th Five-Year Plan Period, All-China Women's Federation (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2021.

<http://www.womenofchina.cn/womenofchina/html1/news/leaders/20112/8445-1.htm>

²⁴¹² ACWF President Presides over Symposium on Women and Children's Development in the 14th Five-Year Plan Period, All-China Women's Federation (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2021.

<http://www.womenofchina.cn/womenofchina/html1/news/leaders/20112/8445-1.htm>

targets to eliminate gender discrimination in employment and to improve rural maternal and child health services.²⁴¹³

On 23 February 2021, the General Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the General Office of the State Council issued the “Opinions on Accelerating the Rejuvenation of Rural Talents.”²⁴¹⁴ Article 25 of the publication addressed the government’s intention to speed up the development of rural vocational education to encourage veterans, laid-off workers, migrant workers, high-quality farmers and left-behind women to apply for higher vocational colleges to decrease the gender gap in workforces.²⁴¹⁵ Institutions can appropriately lower the admission scores for the above populations on the corresponding quality tests.²⁴¹⁶

On 9 April 2021, the Office of the State Council approved China’s Action Plan Against Human Trafficking for the period of 2021 to 2030.²⁴¹⁷ To effectively prevent and combat human trafficking crimes in China and abroad, the government plans to protect women’s rights, regulate prostitution and marriage registrations, reinforce gender equality education, support women in rural and poverty-stricken areas with employment and/or entrepreneurship, and assist victims of trafficking with counselling and resettlement.²⁴¹⁸ The government also aims to strengthen exchanges and cooperation for anti-trafficking work with international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and United Nations Women.²⁴¹⁹

China has not taken sufficient action or made any collaborative commitments to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in any of the three spheres affecting women disproportionately (health, economic security and gender-based violence).

²⁴¹³ ACWF President Presides over Symposium on Women and Children’s Development in the 14th Five-Year Plan Period, All-China Women’s Federation (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2021.

<http://www.womenofchina.cn/womenofchina/html1/news/leaders/20112/8445-1.htm>

²⁴¹⁴ China Office and State Affairs Office issued opinions “Accelerate the revitalization of rural talents,” Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

http://www.moe.gov.cn/s78/A01/s4561/jgfwzx_zcwj/202103/t20210308_518402.html

²⁴¹⁵ China Office and State Affairs Office issued opinions “Accelerate the revitalization of rural talents,” Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

http://www.moe.gov.cn/s78/A01/s4561/jgfwzx_zcwj/202103/t20210308_518402.html

²⁴¹⁶ China Office and State Affairs Office issued opinions “Accelerate the revitalization of rural talents,” Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

http://www.moe.gov.cn/s78/A01/s4561/jgfwzx_zcwj/202103/t20210308_518402.html

²⁴¹⁷ Notice of the General Office of the State Council on Printing and Distributing China’s Action Plan against Human Trafficking (2021-2030), The State Council (Beijing) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2021-04/28/content_5603574.htm

²⁴¹⁸ Notice of the General Office of the State Council on Printing and Distributing China’s Action Plan against Human Trafficking (2021-2030), The State Council (Beijing) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2021-04/28/content_5603574.htm

²⁴¹⁹ Notice of the General Office of the State Council on Printing and Distributing China’s Action Plan against Human Trafficking (2021-2030), The State Council (Beijing) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2021-04/28/content_5603574.htm

Thus, China receives a score of -1 .²⁴²⁰

Analyst: Laura Bustos

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 25 November 2020, Minister Delegate in charge of Citizenship Marlène Schiappa launched an initiative in partnership with TikTok to promote the website Arrêtons les Violence (Stop the Violence) on the TikTok app.²⁴²¹ The website is used to report sexual and gender-based violence and the aim of the initiative is to allow young girls to find advice, their rights, laws, concrete cases as well as educational and awareness resources against domestic violence.²⁴²²

On 15 December 2020, Minister of Solidarity and Health Olivier Véran and Minister Delegate for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunities at the Prime Minister's Office Elisabeth Moreno announced that an additional EUR4 million has been added to the government budget.²⁴²³ The aim is to help the government fight against menstrual insecurity in 2021 by increasing the accessibility of periodic protection, particularly women in precarious situations, for all women in France.²⁴²⁴ The additional funds brings the total budget for fighting menstrual insecurity to EUR5 million.²⁴²⁵

On 16 February 2021, the National Assembly passed an anti-radicalism bill focused on tackling Islamist extremism and separatism.²⁴²⁶ The bill, titled "Supporting respect for the principles of the republic" cracks down on a variety of practices not formally attached to a specific religion such as polygamy,

²⁴²⁰ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <https://www.gov.cn/english/>, <http://search.mof.gov.cn/>, <http://www.moj.gov.cn/>, <http://www.mca.gov.cn/>, <http://www.mps.gov.cn/>, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/, <http://en.moe.gov.cn/>, <http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/>, <http://en.nhc.gov.cn/>, <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/>, <http://www.ilo.org>, <https://en.unesco.org/>, <http://www.womenofchina.cn/>, <https://newssearch.chinadaily.com.cn/>, <https://chinadigitaltimes.net/china-news/main/law/>, <http://www.china.org.cn/>, <http://www.wsic.ac.cn/>, <http://en.people.cn/>, <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/governmentandpolicy/>, <http://www.cnwomen.com.cn/>, <http://www.nwccw.gov.cn/>, and <https://www.cwdf.org.cn/en/>

²⁴²¹ Marlène Schiappa launches a partnership with the Tik Tok network against domestic violence, French Ministry of the Interior (Paris) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

²⁴²² Marlène Schiappa launches a partnership with the Tik Tok network against domestic violence, French Ministry of the Interior (Paris) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

²⁴²³ Olivier Véran and Elisabeth Moreno bring the budget allocated by the State to fight against menstrual insecurity to 5 million euros in 2021, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/olivier-veran-et-elisabeth-moreno-portent-a-5-millions-d-euros-le-budget-alloue>

²⁴²⁴ Olivier Véran and Elisabeth Moreno bring the budget allocated by the State to fight against menstrual insecurity to 5 million euros in 2021, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/olivier-veran-et-elisabeth-moreno-portent-a-5-millions-d-euros-le-budget-alloue>

²⁴²⁵ Olivier Véran and Elisabeth Moreno bring the budget allocated by the State to fight against menstrual insecurity to 5 million euros in 2021, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/olivier-veran-et-elisabeth-moreno-portent-a-5-millions-d-euros-le-budget-alloue>

²⁴²⁶ French MPs approve bill to combat Islamist extremism, France 24 (Paris) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210216-french-mps-approve-bill-to-combat-islamist-extremism>

forced marriages and banning virginity certificates and tests.²⁴²⁷ As indicated by the World Health Organization (WHO), virginity tests are a violation of women's human rights since it is impossible to prove the occurrence of sexual intercourse by inspecting the hymen, either visually or physically.²⁴²⁸

On 23 February 2021, the Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation Frédérique Vidal announced that the Regional Centre for University and School Work university residences and university health services will all be equipped with free hygienic products.²⁴²⁹ The aim of this is to improve gender equality, class attendance and subsequently lead to improved employment and education for women and girls.²⁴³⁰

On 25 February 2021, France, the WHO and the non-governmental organization Women in Global Health, launched a new global initiative on the position of women in the health and care sector.²⁴³¹ The initiative was created in response to the gender pay-gap and position disparity highlighted between men and women in the health sector by the pandemic.²⁴³² The initiative aims to introduce measures to accomplish the following in the health sector: increase the number of women in leadership positions, get unpaid work recognized and reduce the gender pay gap, protect women against gender-based violence at work and guarantee safe working conditions.²⁴³³ Regarding this initiative, Minister Véran has stated that “promoting the position of women, who play a crucial role at the heart of our health systems and are often the first to be affected by growing inequality, is more necessary than ever...this initiative is a further step towards tangible gender equality in the health and care sector.”²⁴³⁴

On 8 March 2021, the French National Standards Association (AFNOR), the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity launched an initiative aimed at establishing an

²⁴²⁷ France passes anti-radicalism bill that worries Muslims, AP News (Paris) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/polygamy-radicalism-secularism-elections-france-cbee2c916aa8c35380562277f0025c2b>

²⁴²⁸ French government condemns reality TV 'virginity test,' BBC News (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-56600958>

²⁴²⁹ The Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation announces free periodical coverage, Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (Paris) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid157167/la-ministre-de-l-enseignement-superieur-de-la-recherche-et-de-l-innovation-annonce-la-gratuite-des-protections-periodiques.html>

²⁴³⁰ The Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation announces free periodical coverage, Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (Paris) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid157167/la-ministre-de-l-enseignement-superieur-de-la-recherche-et-de-l-innovation-annonce-la-gratuite-des-protections-periodiques.html>

²⁴³¹ Global health – Gender equality/launch of the initiative on the position of women in the health and care sector – Communiqué issued by the Minister for Solidarity and Health, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/priority-sectors/health/news/article/global-health-gender-equality-launch-of-the-initiative-on-the-position-of-women>

²⁴³² Global health – Gender equality/launch of the initiative on the position of women in the health and care sector – Communiqué issued by the Minister for Solidarity and Health, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/priority-sectors/health/news/article/global-health-gender-equality-launch-of-the-initiative-on-the-position-of-women>

²⁴³³ Global health – Gender equality/launch of the initiative on the position of women in the health and care sector – Communiqué issued by the Minister for Solidarity and Health, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/priority-sectors/health/news/article/global-health-gender-equality-launch-of-the-initiative-on-the-position-of-women>

²⁴³⁴ Global health – Gender equality/launch of the initiative on the position of women in the health and care sector – Communiqué issued by the Minister for Solidarity and Health, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/priority-sectors/health/news/article/global-health-gender-equality-launch-of-the-initiative-on-the-position-of-women>

international standard on gender equality.²⁴³⁵ The goal of this initiative is to create a normative reference, entitled AFNOR-SPEC, that will constitute a technical guide detailing the best practices relating to the internal and external activities undertaken by public and private French organizations.²⁴³⁶ The guide will cover the following topics: education, health and sexual reproductive rights, prevention and elimination of gender-based violence, the rights of women and girls and female economic empowerment.²⁴³⁷

On 29 March 2021, France and Mexico co-chaired the first portion of the Generation Equality Forum.²⁴³⁸ This first portion happened in Mexico City from 29 March 2021 until 31 March 2021, and the second portion is scheduled to occur on 30 June 2021 until 2 July 2021 in Paris, France.²⁴³⁹ Convened by UN Women in response to the effect that COVID has had on women and girls, the forum is a civil-society driven event that brings together civil society, public authorities, local government, the private sector and the media.²⁴⁴⁰ The purpose of the forum is to develop partnerships that will allow countries to swiftly implement large scale actions addressing gender equality.²⁴⁴¹

On 31 March 2021, France and 20 countries (Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, Germany, Japan, Korea, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Panama, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay) established the “Group of Friends for Gender Equality,” following Mexico’s leadership.²⁴⁴² This group aims at centralizing public

²⁴³⁵ Communiqué issued by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity – International Women’s Day: toward an international standard on gender equality, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

²⁴³⁶ Communiqué issued by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity – International Women’s Day: toward an international standard on gender equality, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

²⁴³⁷ Communiqué issued by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity – International Women’s Day: toward an international standard on gender equality, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

²⁴³⁸ The Generation Equality Forum, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) n.d. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/news-and-events/generation-equality-forum-2021/article/the-generation-equality-forum>

²⁴³⁹ Generation Equality Forum, UN Women (New York) n.d. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/beijing-plus-25/generation-equality-forum>

²⁴⁴⁰ The Generation Equality Forum, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) n.d. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/news-and-events/generation-equality-forum-2021/article/the-generation-equality-forum>

²⁴⁴¹ The Generation Equality Forum, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) n.d. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/news-and-events/generation-equality-forum-2021/article/the-generation-equality-forum>

²⁴⁴² Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

policies and promoting coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.²⁴⁴³

On 15 April 2021, the National Assembly voted unanimously to pass legislation that increased the minimum age of sexual consent in France to 15 years of age.²⁴⁴⁴ According to the legislation, sexual relations with anyone under the age of 15 is considered to be rape and is punishable by up to 20 years in prison.²⁴⁴⁵ The legislation was introduced as a way of preventing future instances of sexual assault.²⁴⁴⁶

France has taken strong steps to address issues of gender inequality, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, both domestically and internationally in the all three spheres of Economic Security, Gender-Based Violence and Health through international initiatives and events, information sharing, the allocation of funds and through amending and passing new legislation.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Diana Anton

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 6 January 2021, the federal government proposed the draft law, the Second Management Positions Act – FÜPoG II.²⁴⁴⁷ The draft law further develops and improves the Management Positions Act (FÜPoG) that came into force in 2015 by making it mandatory for private and public sector German businesses to include more women on their executive boards.²⁴⁴⁸ The law was passed by the German Parliament on 11 June 2021.²⁴⁴⁹

²⁴⁴³ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero>

²⁴⁴⁴ French parliament approves landmark bill setting age of sexual consent at 15, France 24 (Paris) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210415-french-parliament-approves-landmark-bill-setting-age-of-sexual-consent-at-15>

²⁴⁴⁵ France toughens law on sex with minors under age 15, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/france-toughens-law-on-sex-with-minors-under-age-15/a-57220223>

²⁴⁴⁶ French parliament approves landmark bill setting age of sexual consent at 15, France 24 (Paris) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210415-french-parliament-approves-landmark-bill-setting-age-of-sexual-consent-at-15>

²⁴⁴⁷ Law to supplement and amend the regulations for the equal participation of women in management positions in the private sector and in the public service (Second Management Positions Act – FÜPoG II), Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/service/gesetze/zweites-fuehrungspositionengesetz-fuepog-2-164226>

²⁴⁴⁸ Law to supplement and amend the regulations for the equal participation of women in management positions in the private sector and in the public service (Second Management Positions Act – FÜPoG II), Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/service/gesetze/zweites-fuehrungspositionengesetz-fuepog-2-164226>

²⁴⁴⁹ Law to supplement and amend the regulations for the equal participation of women in management positions in the private sector and in the public service (Second Management Positions Act – FÜPoG II), Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/service/gesetze/zweites-fuehrungspositionengesetz-fuepog-2-164226>

On 14 January 2021, Germany donated EUR1 million to the Rapid Response Window initiative.²⁴⁵⁰ The Rapid Response Window is a UN initiative that provides women with financial support for travel, childcare and dedicated training to facilitate their involvement in peace processes.²⁴⁵¹ This donation makes Germany the initiative's biggest donor to date.²⁴⁵²

On 6 February 2021, Federal Minister of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth Franziska Giffey presented a letter of protection to safeguard girls from genital mutilation abroad.²⁴⁵³ Developed in coordination with non-governmental organizations and the federal government, the letter should be carried by all girls when traveling abroad since it clearly states that there is a risk of up to 15 years of prison time if female genital mutilation is carried out, both within Germany and abroad.²⁴⁵⁴ The aim of this letter is to discourage families from performing genital mutilation on their daughters while traveling by outlining the penal consequences and the possibility of having their residency permits revoked.²⁴⁵⁵

As of 24 February 2021, the German Cabinet has formally adopted a new National Action Plan to implement the United Nations Agenda, "Women, Peace and Security."²⁴⁵⁶ The four priorities of the Action Plan to be undertaken by Germany include: crisis prevention, the participation of women in peace processes, protection against sexual violence as well as support for survivors and strengthening the participation of women in crisis management.²⁴⁵⁷ This is the first strategy with strictly binding indicators in order to measure progress.²⁴⁵⁸

On 17 March 2021, Germany held and organized the event, "On the Path to Economic Justice and Rights: Working towards Women's Economic Empowerment," in coordination with the Leadership

²⁴⁵⁰ No peace without women: Rapid Response Window strengthens women in peace processes, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/internationale-organisationen/vereintenationen/rapid-response-window/2433638>

²⁴⁵¹ Statement by Federal Foreign Minister Heiko Maas on the occasion of the official opening of the Rapid Response Window of the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-rapid-response-window/2433846>

²⁴⁵² No peace without women: Rapid Response Window strengthens women in peace processes, German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/internationale-organisationen/vereintenationen/rapid-response-window/2433638>

²⁴⁵³ Take decisive action against genital mutilation: Minister Giffey presents a letter of protection, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/entschieden-gegen-genitalverstueummelung-vorgehen-ministerin-giffey-stellt-schutzbrief-vor--165700>

²⁴⁵⁴ Take decisive action against genital mutilation: Minister Giffey presents a letter of protection, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/entschieden-gegen-genitalverstueummelung-vorgehen-ministerin-giffey-stellt-schutzbrief-vor--165700>

²⁴⁵⁵ Take decisive action against genital mutilation: Minister Giffey presents a letter of protection, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/entschieden-gegen-genitalverstueummelung-vorgehen-ministerin-giffey-stellt-schutzbrief-vor--165700>

²⁴⁵⁶ New national Action Plan on the UN Agenda "Women, Peace and Security" adopted, German Federal Government (Berlin) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/suche/aktionsplan-zur-agenda-frauen-frieden-und-sicherheit-1861314>

²⁴⁵⁷ No peace without women: New Action Plan for the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the Federal Cabinet, German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 23 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/menschenrechte/05-frauen/women-conflict-prevention/291532>

²⁴⁵⁸ Speech by Foreign Minister Heiko Maas to the German Bundestag in the debate on International Women's Day on 8 March, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-international-women-day/2446526>

Structure of the Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights of the Generation Equality Forum.²⁴⁵⁹

On 17 March 2021, Germany along with the Council of Europe and the German Council of Women hosted the webinar, “Digital Gender Gaps and Opportunities: Fostering equal participation and ending violence against women in a connected age” during the 65th session of the UN Commission on Women’s Rights.²⁴⁶⁰ During the event, panelists presented possible strategies to improve the digital participation and empowerment of women online and to eradicate online gender based violence.²⁴⁶¹ The webinar was organized in response to the increase in online violence against women of all ages, origins and religions during the pandemic, particularly on social media platforms.²⁴⁶²

On 18 March 2021, Germany along with the United States, Chile and Women for Women International hosted the event “Marginalized women in fragile and conflict settings – How to make their voices count?”²⁴⁶³ The event looked at cross-regional policies, the implementation of mechanisms that enable the inclusion and representation of marginalized women and intersectional and rights-based approaches.²⁴⁶⁴ The aim of the event was to reflect on the challenges that prevent the empowerment of marginalized women in precarious and conflict settings.²⁴⁶⁵

On 19 March 2021, Germany, Bangladesh, South Africa, the International Organization for Migration, United Nations Fund for Population Activities, United Nations Women, United Nations Children’s Fund and the Women in Migration Network co-organized the event, “Ensuring Migrant Women’s Effective Participation in Public Life and Elimination of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.”²⁴⁶⁶ This event demonstrated the urgency of working with all stakeholders during COVID-19 to help prevent and respond to gender-based violence against migrant women and girls.²⁴⁶⁷

On 31 March 2021, Germany and 20 countries (Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Japan, Korea, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Panama, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay) united and established the “Group

²⁴⁵⁹ Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

²⁴⁶⁰ Digital Gender Gaps and Opportunities: Fostering equal participation and ending violence against women in a connected age, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021.

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/side-event-csw-65-2021>

²⁴⁶¹ High level webinar discusses innovative strategies to ending online violence against girls and women, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/-/high-level-webinar-discusses-innovative-strategies-to-ending-online-violence-against-girls-and-wom-1>

²⁴⁶² High level webinar discusses innovative strategies to ending online violence against girls and women, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/-/high-level-webinar-discusses-innovative-strategies-to-ending-online-violence-against-girls-and-wom-1>

²⁴⁶³ Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decisions-making in public life 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

²⁴⁶⁴ Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decisions-making in public life 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

²⁴⁶⁵ Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decisions-making in public life 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

²⁴⁶⁶ Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

²⁴⁶⁷ Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

of Friends for Gender Equality,” following Mexico’s leadership.²⁴⁶⁸ This group aims at centralizing public policies and promoting coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.²⁴⁶⁹

On 15 April 2021, the German Bundestag approved a draft law for the establishment of the Federal Equality Foundation.²⁴⁷⁰ The foundation will work by showing where more equality is needed, networking and supporting those committed to gender equality, and by discussing gender equality with citizens.²⁴⁷¹ The aim of the foundation is to enable women and men to lead a self-determined life so that they can develop their potential regardless of gender.²⁴⁷²

On 3 May 2021, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth signed an agreement with the Bremen Senator for Finance Dietmar Strehl on behalf of the Bremen Senate to implement digital services for family and children services.²⁴⁷³ This is part of the Online Access Act, which stipulates that all administrative services must be available online by the end of 2022.²⁴⁷⁴ Online services would include daycare service registration, applications for benefits for abortion, applications for benefits due to pregnancy, and application for parental allowances.²⁴⁷⁵ The Federal Government of Germany will invest EUR134 million to increase digital access to family benefits.²⁴⁷⁶

Through the organization of informational events and amending legislation, Germany has demonstrated strong action in Economic Security and Health initiatives as well demonstrated action in implementing public awareness campaigns about Gender-Based Violence towards women and girls during COVID-19 at both the international and national levels.

Thus, Germany has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Diana Anton

²⁴⁶⁸ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

²⁴⁶⁹ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

²⁴⁷⁰ Bundestag resolves to establish a “Federal Equality Foundation,” Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/bundestag-beschliesst-errichtung-einer-bundesstiftung-gleichstellung--176922>

²⁴⁷¹ Bundestag resolves to establish a “Federal Equality Foundation,” Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/bundestag-beschliesst-errichtung-einer-bundesstiftung-gleichstellung--176922>

²⁴⁷² Bundestag resolves to establish a “Federal Equality Foundation,” Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/bundestag-beschliesst-errichtung-einer-bundesstiftung-gleichstellung--176922>

²⁴⁷³ 134 million euros for digital access to family benefits, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/134-millionen-euro-fuer-digitalen-zugang-zu-familienleistungen-178780>

²⁴⁷⁴ 134 million euros for digital access to family benefits, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/134-millionen-euro-fuer-digitalen-zugang-zu-familienleistungen-178780>

²⁴⁷⁵ 134 million euros for digital access to family benefits, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/134-millionen-euro-fuer-digitalen-zugang-zu-familienleistungen-178780>

²⁴⁷⁶ 134 million euros for digital access to family benefits, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/134-millionen-euro-fuer-digitalen-zugang-zu-familienleistungen-178780>

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the COVID-19 pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 21 January 2021, Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Child Development Ram Mohan Mishra chaired a webinar on menstrual hygiene as part of National Girl Child Week celebrations with participants from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and several state governments.²⁴⁷⁷ The webinar highlighted the need to educate and spread awareness to girls on menstruation needs and other issues relating to puberty through inter-state mechanisms.²⁴⁷⁸

On 1 February 2021, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman announced an investment of INR10 billion for a special welfare scheme for tea workers in Assam and West Bengal with the focus on women and their children.²⁴⁷⁹ The goal of this scheme is to protect “weaker and vulnerable sections” of Indian society during the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁴⁸⁰

On 22 February 2021, the Ministry of Labour and Employment’s Employees’ State Insurance Corporation announced policy changes to improve services for insured women.²⁴⁸¹ One policy change is a relaxation in contributory conditions covering sickness and maternity benefits between January to June 2021.²⁴⁸² This policy was changed due to COVID-19 lockdown measures that has at times led to the non-entitlement of sickness and maternity benefits for many insured female workers.²⁴⁸³

On 16 March 2021, the Council of State approved the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare’s Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which amends the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.²⁴⁸⁴ The bill increases women’s access to abortion by allowing women to get an abortion within 20 weeks of one doctor’s advice and 20-24 weeks on two doctors’ advice, instead

²⁴⁷⁷ Secretary Ministry of Women and Child Development chairs a Webinar on Menstrual Hygiene, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1690939>

²⁴⁷⁸ Secretary Ministry of Women and Child Development chairs a Webinar on Menstrual Hygiene, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1690939>

²⁴⁷⁹ Rs.1000 Crore to be provided for Welfare Scheme for tea workers of Assam and West Bengal especially Women and Children, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1693884>

²⁴⁸⁰ Rs.1000 Crore to be provided for Welfare Scheme for tea workers of Assam and West Bengal especially Women and Children, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1693884>

²⁴⁸¹ ESIC takes major policy initiatives for better services to insured workers/insured women, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1700244>

²⁴⁸² ESIC takes major policy initiatives for better services to insured workers/insured women, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1700244>

²⁴⁸³ ESIC takes major policy initiatives for better services to insured workers/insured women, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1700244>

²⁴⁸⁴ Rajya Sabha passes the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2021, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1705381>

of 12 weeks on one doctor's advice and 12-20 weeks on two doctors' advice.²⁴⁸⁵ This bill also increases access to abortion for women who become pregnant as a result of sexual assault.²⁴⁸⁶

On 18 March 2021, Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani reaffirmed that gender equality makes economic sense and discussed a future agenda to promote gender equality at the India-Brazil-South Africa Trilateral Cooperation Forum.²⁴⁸⁷ At the forum, the three countries highlighted how the year 2020 has brought women's rights into prominence and emphasized their commitment to reduce the gender gap and foster mutual cooperation.²⁴⁸⁸

On 20 March 2021, Indian Railways under the Ministry of Railways issued guidelines to all Zonal Railways and Production Units in order to combat crimes against women in trains and in railway premises.²⁴⁸⁹ These guidelines include a short term plan of keeping watch on suspects and routine visits to vulnerable locations including bathrooms, abandoned buildings and waiting rooms by duty officers and other staff members.²⁴⁹⁰ These guidelines also include a long term plan of improving infrastructure such as video surveillance technology and light masts.²⁴⁹¹ The guidelines also focus on training and sensitizing all railway employees and contractual staff on reporting incidents of violence against women as well as on publicizing notices to all passengers like attaching helpline numbers on train tickers.²⁴⁹²

On 21 March 2021, India achieved its target of operationalizing 70,000 Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres by 31 March 2021.²⁴⁹³ Focusing on COVID-19 prevention and non-COVID-19 essential health services, these AB-HWCs provide care for pregnant women and child births, neonatal and infant healthcare services, and general reproductive health services among other primary healthcare services.²⁴⁹⁴

On 2 April 2021, India allocated USD300,000 in funding to UN Women in support for gender equality and women empowerment.²⁴⁹⁵

²⁴⁸⁵ Why Amendments to Medical Termination of Pregnancy Bill Don't Go Far Enough, The Wire (New Delhi) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://thewire.in/health/medical-termination-of-pregnancy-amendment-bill-women-abortions>

²⁴⁸⁶ Why Amendments to Medical Termination of Pregnancy Bill Don't Go Far Enough, The Wire (New Delhi) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://thewire.in/health/medical-termination-of-pregnancy-amendment-bill-women-abortions>

²⁴⁸⁷ Sixth India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum Meeting Held, Indian Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1705296>

²⁴⁸⁸ Sixth India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum Meeting Held, Indian Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1705296>

²⁴⁸⁹ Indian Railway issues guidelines to prevent incidents of crime against women in trains and in railway premises, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1706251>

²⁴⁹⁰ Indian Railway issues guidelines to prevent incidents of crime against women in trains and in railway premises, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1706251>

²⁴⁹¹ Indian Railway issues guidelines to prevent incidents of crime against women in trains and in railway premises, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1706251>

²⁴⁹² Indian Railway issues guidelines to prevent incidents of crime against women in trains and in railway premises, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1706251>

²⁴⁹³ India has crossed a key milestone in universal primary healthcare, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1706381>

²⁴⁹⁴ India has crossed a key milestone in universal primary healthcare, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1706381>

²⁴⁹⁵ India contributes \$300,000 to UN Women, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/india-contributes-300000-to-un-women/articleshow/81868903.cms>

While India has taken strong actions towards reducing gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in the sphere of Economic Security through welfare schemes and policy changes, India has taken limited actions in the other two spheres of Health and Gender-Based Violence.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Rachel Zack

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 25 November 2020, the Ministry of National Development Planning launched the Knowledge Hub for Reproductive Health in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Indonesia and the University of Indonesia's Faculty of Public Health.²⁴⁹⁶ The Hub is meant to support the improvement of maternal and child health, family planning, and reproductive health in Indonesia.²⁴⁹⁷

On 10 December 2020, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (PPPA), in partnership with UNFPA Indonesia and United Nations Women, launched the Guidelines for the Protection of Women's Rights from Discrimination and Gender-Based Violence in Pandemic Situations.²⁴⁹⁸ These Guidelines are aimed at governmental ministries and agencies, local governmental organizations and program or service providers related to women.²⁴⁹⁹ These Guidelines focus on preventing and handling stigma and discrimination on women caused by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as documenting and monitoring cases of discrimination and violence against women.²⁵⁰⁰

On 16 December 2020, PPPA implemented the Official Development Assistance program in collaboration with the Korean Ministry of Gender and Family Equality.²⁵⁰¹ This program is meant to increase women's economic empowerment, fight child marriage, domestic violence, human

²⁴⁹⁶ Knowledge Sharing Key to Improving Reproductive Health, United Nations Population Fund (Jakarta) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://indonesia.unfpa.org/en/news/knowledge-sharing-key-improving-reproductive-health>

²⁴⁹⁷ Knowledge Sharing Key to Improving Reproductive Health, United Nations Population Fund (Jakarta) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://indonesia.unfpa.org/en/news/knowledge-sharing-key-improving-reproductive-health>

²⁴⁹⁸ A Guide to Protecting Women from Gender-Based Violence during the Pandemic Launched, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/2992/panduan-perlindungan-perempuan-dari-kekerasan-berbasis-gender-selama-pandemi-diluncurkan>

²⁴⁹⁹ A Guide to Protecting Women from Gender-Based Violence during the Pandemic Launched, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/2992/panduan-perlindungan-perempuan-dari-kekerasan-berbasis-gender-selama-pandemi-diluncurkan>

²⁵⁰⁰ A Guide to Protecting Women from Gender-Based Violence during the Pandemic Launched, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/2992/panduan-perlindungan-perempuan-dari-kekerasan-berbasis-gender-selama-pandemi-diluncurkan>

²⁵⁰¹ Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

trafficking, and the current COVID-19 pandemic.²⁵⁰² The program provides vocational training such as classes in sewing, beauty care, cooking, e-commerce and information technology training.²⁵⁰³

On 29 December 2020, the PPPA signed a memorandum of understanding with Permodalan Nasional Madani to strengthen women's empowerment in entrepreneurship.²⁵⁰⁴ The memorandum is on the "Participation of Women in Ultra Micro and Micro Business Actors in Women's Empowerment and Child Protection."²⁵⁰⁵

On 31 December 2020, Indonesia and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund signed the 2021-2025 Country Program Action Plan (CPAP) worth USD150 million to support development for Indonesian women and children with disabilities.²⁵⁰⁶ This CPAP aims to double the number of households using clean drinking water to 15 per cent, and increase access to health, social or law enforcement services for female and male victims of violence from 10 per cent to 20 per cent.²⁵⁰⁷

On 4 January 2021, Minister of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Bintang Puspayoga attended the Indonesian Political Women Caucus Webinar entitled "Reflections on the End of 2020 towards 2021, Quo Vadis Indonesian Women," stated that, in view of COVID-19 challenges, she would use all networks and stakeholders to provide assistance and consultations in order to strengthen the economic role of women, to prevent violence against women and children, along with empowering village women through programs to improve women's leadership.²⁵⁰⁸

On 29 January 2021, Indonesia and the UNFPA signed the 2021-2025 CPAP worth USD27.5 million to guarantee universal access to sexual and reproductive health information and services with a focus

²⁵⁰² Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

²⁵⁰³ Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

²⁵⁰⁴ The Synergy Between the Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection and Permodalan Nasional Madani Strengthens Women's Economic Empowerment, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3016/sinergi-kemen-pppa-dan-pt-pnm-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan>

²⁵⁰⁵ The Synergy Between the Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection and Permodalan Nasional Madani Strengthens Women's Economic Empowerment, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3016/sinergi-kemen-pppa-dan-pt-pnm-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan>

²⁵⁰⁶ Agrees on CPAP 2021-2025 Worth US\$150 million Indonesia-UNICEF Carry Out 7 Goals of Indonesian Child Welfare, Ministry of National Development Planning (Jakarta) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.bappenas.go.id/id/berita-dan-siaran-pers/sepakati-cpap-2021-2025-senilai-us-150-juta-indonesia-unicef-usung-7-tujuan-kesejahteraan-anak-indonesia/>

²⁵⁰⁷ Agrees on CPAP 2021-2025 Worth US\$150 million Indonesia-UNICEF Carry Out 7 Goals of Indonesian Child Welfare, Ministry of National Development Planning (Jakarta) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.bappenas.go.id/id/berita-dan-siaran-pers/sepakati-cpap-2021-2025-senilai-us-150-juta-indonesia-unicef-usung-7-tujuan-kesejahteraan-anak-indonesia/>

²⁵⁰⁸ Reflections on Women's Empowerment in 2020, Minister of PPPA: Support the Advancement of Women, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3019/refleksi-pemberdayaan-perempuan-tahun-2020-menteri-pppa-dukung-kemajuan-perempuan>

for women and children.²⁵⁰⁹ The Ministry of National Development Planning is leading the CPAP's implementation with five main goals of reducing maternal mortality, implementing maternal health and family planning services, increasing youth welfare, reducing violence against women, and integrating population data information.²⁵¹⁰

On 3 February 2021, Indonesia signed a decree that banned abusive dress codes for female students and teachers in Indonesia's state schools.²⁵¹¹ This is meant to end discrimination and to give women and children their agency back.²⁵¹²

On 9 February 2021, Minister Puspayoga attended the Focus Group Discussion hosted by the National Awakening Party Faction and stressed the urgent need to ratify the Draft Bill on the Elimination of Sexual Violence (RUU PKS).²⁵¹³ This Draft Bill was removed from the 2020 Prolegnas ("National Legislation Program") and the PPPA has pushed for the Draft Bill's re-inclusion in the 2021 Prolegnas.²⁵¹⁴ The House of Representative included RUU PKS into the 2021 Prolegnas at a plenary session.²⁵¹⁵

On 8 March 2021, the PPPA launched the Call Center Service for Women and Children (SAPA 129) in partnership with PT Telekomunikasi Indonesia (Telkom Indonesia).²⁵¹⁶ The SAPA 129 service aims to increase access for victims or eyewitnesses to report cases of violence against women and children as well as to allow data collection on such cases.²⁵¹⁷ This dial service can also be accessed through WhatsApp in order to further increase access to the SAPA 129 service.²⁵¹⁸

²⁵⁰⁹ Signing CPAP 2021-2025, RI-UNFPA Focus on Increasing Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services, Ministry of National Development Planning (Jakarta) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.bappenas.go.id/id/berita-dan-siaran-pers/teken-cpap-2021-2025-ri-unfpa-fokus-tingkatkan-akses-layanan-kesehatan-seksual-dan-reproduksi>

²⁵¹⁰ Signing CPAP 2021-2025, RI-UNFPA Focus on Increasing Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services, Ministry of National Development Planning (Jakarta) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.bappenas.go.id/id/berita-dan-siaran-pers/teken-cpap-2021-2025-ri-unfpa-fokus-tingkatkan-akses-layanan-kesehatan-seksual-dan-reproduksi>

²⁵¹¹ News Release Indonesia: Dress Codes Discriminate Against Women, Human Rights Watch (Jakarta) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/03/18/indonesia-dress-codes-discriminate-against-women-girls>

²⁵¹² News Release Indonesia: Dress Codes Discriminate Against Women, Human Rights Watch (Jakarta) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/03/18/indonesia-dress-codes-discriminate-against-women-girls>

²⁵¹³ Re-entering Prolegnas, Minister Bintang: Pushes the PKS Bill to be the 2021 Priority Agenda, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3043/masuk-kembali-ke-prolegnas-menteri-bintang-dorong-ruu-pks-jadi-agenda-prioritas-2021>

²⁵¹⁴ Re-entering Prolegnas, Minister Bintang: Pushes the PKS Bill to be the 2021 Priority Agenda, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3043/masuk-kembali-ke-prolegnas-menteri-bintang-dorong-ruu-pks-jadi-agenda-prioritas-2021>

²⁵¹⁵ Plenary of DPR Agrees on 33 Priority Prolegnas Bills 2021, House of Representative of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.dpr.go.id/berita/detail/id/32239/t/Paripurna+DPR+Sepakati+33+RUU+Prolegnas+Prioritas+2021>

²⁵¹⁶ Ministry of PPPA Launches SAPA 129 Call Center, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3085/kemen-pppa-luncurkan-call-center-sapa-129>

²⁵¹⁷ Ministry of PPPA Launches SAPA 129 Call Center, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3085/kemen-pppa-luncurkan-call-center-sapa-129>

²⁵¹⁸ Ministry of PPPA Launches SAPA 129 Call Center, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3085/kemen-pppa-luncurkan-call-center-sapa-129>

While Indonesia has taken strong actions towards reducing gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in the spheres of Health and Gender-Based Violence through international partnerships, national programs, and policy changes, Indonesia has only taken limited steps in the sphere of Economic Security.

Thus, Indonesia has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Annabelle Bourzeix

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 23 November 2020, Minister for Family and Equal Opportunities Elena Bonetti and the Single Guarantee Committees network signed a memorandum of understanding to continue their collaboration to offer assistance to women victims of violence.²⁵¹⁹ The main goal of the program is to raise awareness, training and information on combating gender-based violence.²⁵²⁰

On 25 November 2020, Minister of Public Education Lucia Azzolina announced the launch of a competition of ideas for female students, intending to encourage dialogue, preventing and combating violent behaviour and indifference.²⁵²¹ The competition, “The new Red Code,” aimed at primary and secondary schools, was also promoted by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Justice.²⁵²²

On 3 December 2020, Minister Bonetti, Abi Federcasse from the Italian Federation of Cooperative Credit Banks and Rural Banks, the National Body for Microcredit and Italian Caritas, signed a memorandum of understanding to establish a guarantee fund for the “Microcredit of Freedom.”²⁵²³

²⁵¹⁹ Gender Violence, Bonetti and Single Guarantee Committees for Equal Opportunities together: Women are not alone, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.
<http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/violenza-di-genere-bonetti-e-comitati-unic-di-garanzia-per-le-pari-oppportunita-insieme-le-donne-non-sono-sole/>

²⁵²⁰ Gender Violence, Bonetti and Single Guarantee Committees for Equal Opportunities together: Women are not alone, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.
<http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/violenza-di-genere-bonetti-e-comitati-unic-di-garanzia-per-le-pari-oppportunita-insieme-le-donne-non-sono-sole/>

²⁵²¹ International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women: an ideas competition for students. Azzolina: “The school is a gentle weapon to counter this phenomenon.” Bonafede: “No form of discrimination and oppression is acceptable, Ministry of Education (Rome) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.
<https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/giornata-internazionale-per-l-eliminazione-della-violenza-contro-le-donne-un-concorso-di-idee-per-gli-studenti-azzolina-la-scuola-arma-gentile-per-con>

²⁵²² International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women: an ideas competition for students. Azzolina: “The school is a gentle weapon to counter this phenomenon.” Bonafede: “No form of discrimination and oppression is acceptable, Ministry of Education (Rome) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.
<https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/giornata-internazionale-per-l-eliminazione-della-violenza-contro-le-donne-un-concorso-di-idee-per-gli-studenti-azzolina-la-scuola-arma-gentile-per-con>

²⁵²³ Micro-credit of freedom for women victims of violence is born. A memorandum of understanding between the Minister for Equal Opportunities and the Family, Abi, Federcasse, Italian Caritas, the National Microcredit Organization, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021.
<http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/nasce-il-microcredito-di-liberta-per-le-donne-vittime-di-violenza-un-protocollo-di-intesa-tra-ministra-pari-oppportunita-e-famiglia-abi-federcasse-caritas-italiana-ente-nazionale-microcre/>

With an initial endowment of EUR3 million, the fund serves as a financial instrument for the economic emancipation of women victims of male violence from forms of economic subjections.²⁵²⁴

On 30 December 2020, the Ministry of Economy and Finance published the state budget law for the financial year of 2021 and a multi-year budget for the three years of 2021 to 2023.²⁵²⁵ The budget allocates EUR50 million to support and enhance organizational measures favouring working mothers' return after childbirth.²⁵²⁶ The Ministry of Economic Development has also forecasted a budget of EUR20 million for 2021 and 2022 to strengthen, promote and support female entrepreneurship.²⁵²⁷ Additionally, the budget allocates expenditures of EUR2 million per year to guarantee and implement the presence and institution of psychological professionals in penitentiaries.²⁵²⁸ The psychologists should have expertise in intensified cognitive-behavioural treatments for perpetrators of crimes against women, which would be applied to prevent recidivism.²⁵²⁹

On 12 January 2021, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies announced the Second Circolare, regulating extraordinary leave for parents of children in lower secondary school or parents of children with disabilities in the event of suspension of teaching or closure of daycares, through amendments passed in Law n. 176 on 18 December 2020.²⁵³⁰ It stated that for the working days of leave taken, working parents who need to stay with their children would be paid 50 per cent of their salary.²⁵³¹

On 18 January 2021, the Ministry of Economy and Finance published a breakdown of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan.²⁵³² This plan aims to make Italy a more equitable, green and inclusive country focused on six missions: digitalization, innovation, competitiveness and culture; green revolution and ecological transition; infrastructure for sustainable mobility; education and research;

²⁵²⁴ Micro-credit of freedom for women victims of violence is born. A memorandum of understanding between the Minister for Equal Opportunities and the Family, Abi, Federcasse, Italian Caritas, the National Microcredit Organization, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021.

<http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/nasce-il-microcredito-di-liberta-per-le-donne-vittime-di-violenza-un-protocollo-di-intesa-tra-ministra-pari-oppportunita-e-famiglia-abi-federcasse-caritas-italiana-ente-nazionale-microcre/>

²⁵²⁵ State budget for the financial year 2021 and multi-year budget for the three-year period 2021-2023, Official Gazette of the Italian Republic (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/12/30/20G00202/sg>

²⁵²⁶ State budget for the financial year 2021 and multi-year budget for the three-year period 2021-2023, Official Gazette of the Italian Republic (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/12/30/20G00202/sg>

²⁵²⁷ State budget for the financial year 2021 and multi-year budget for the three-year period 2021-2023, Official Gazette of the Italian Republic (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/12/30/20G00202/sg>

²⁵²⁸ State budget for the financial year 2021 and multi-year budget for the three-year period 2021-2023, Official Gazette of the Italian Republic (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/12/30/20G00202/sg>

²⁵²⁹ State budget for the financial year 2021 and multi-year budget for the three-year period 2021-2023, Official Gazette of the Italian Republic (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/12/30/20G00202/sg>

²⁵³⁰ COVID-19: extraordinary leave for parents with children in DAD in the "red zones" or with severe disabilities, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/COVID-19-congedo-straordinario-per-genitori-con-figli-in-DAD-nelle-zone-rosse-o-con-disabilita-grave.aspx>

²⁵³¹ COVID-19: extraordinary leave for parents with children in DAD in the "red zones" or with severe disabilities, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/COVID-19-congedo-straordinario-per-genitori-con-figli-in-DAD-nelle-zone-rosse-o-con-disabilita-grave.aspx>

²⁵³² Next Generation Italia, the Plan to design the future of the country, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/focus/Next-Generation-Italia-il-Piano-per-disegnare-il-futuro-del-Paese/>

inclusion and cohesion; and health.²⁵³³ The plan mobilizes over EUR300 billion for the 2021-2026 budget planning, committing to Education, Research and Labour improvements with a focus on women, youth and the southern population.²⁵³⁴ Expressly, Minister Bonetti has stated that EUR6 billion of the National Relaunch and Resilience plan will be allocated to funding kindergartens, female work, and entrepreneurship.²⁵³⁵

On 6 February 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation reaffirmed its commitment to the elimination of female genital mutilation.²⁵³⁶ Italy affirmed that they are committed to that end by working with international organisations, starting with the negotiations in the UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council, and with bilateral relationships with interested third countries, and through the Italian Cooperation projects.²⁵³⁷

On 19 February 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs Luigi Di Maio reaffirmed Italy's commitment to promoting women's empowerment.²⁵³⁸ He noted that the recent approval of the Fourth National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, and the allocation of EUR3 million over the next three years by the Italian Parliament, will support their commitment to promote the involvement of women in peace and mediation processes that ensure agreements and societies that are more inclusive and sustainable.²⁵³⁹

On 22 February 2021, Minister Bonetti participated in the opening of the proceedings of Women20, the G20 engagement group tasked with making proposals and recommendations on gender equality

²⁵³³ Next Generation Italia, the Plan to design the future of the country, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/focus/Next-Generation-Italia-il-Piano-per-disegnare-il-futuro-del-Paese/>

²⁵³⁴ Next Generation Italia, the Plan to design the future of the country, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/focus/Next-Generation-Italia-il-Piano-per-disegnare-il-futuro-del-Paese/>

²⁵³⁵ Italy Celebrates Women – But It's A Long Road to Gender Parity, Forbes Magazine (New Jersey) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/iredominioni/2021/03/08/italy-celebrates-women-but-its-a-long-road-to-gender-parity/?sh=333ae8083b20>

²⁵³⁶ International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 6 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/02/6-febbraio-giornata-internazionale-contro-le-mutilazioni-genitali-femminili_0.html

²⁵³⁷ International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 6 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/02/6-febbraio-giornata-internazionale-contro-le-mutilazioni-genitali-femminili_0.html

²⁵³⁸ Message by Minister Di Maio on the occasion of the Presentation of the 4th Action Plan implementing the "Women, Peace and Security" Agenda organised by Rome's "La Sapienza" University, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2021/02/messaggio-del-ministro-di-maio-in-occasione-della-presentazione-del-iv-piano-d-azione-in-attuazione-dell-agenda-donne-pace-e-sicurezza-organizzato-dall-universita-la-sapienza-di-roma.html

²⁵³⁹ Message by Minister Di Maio on the occasion of the Presentation of the 4th Action Plan implementing the "Women, Peace and Security" Agenda organised by Rome's "La Sapienza" University, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2021/02/messaggio-del-ministro-di-maio-in-occasione-della-presentazione-del-iv-piano-d-azione-in-attuazione-dell-agenda-donne-pace-e-sicurezza-organizzato-dall-universita-la-sapienza-di-roma.html

to G20 members.²⁵⁴⁰ During Minister Bonetti's address to the Women20 group, she remarked the importance of empowering women as a fundamental element for gender equality.²⁵⁴¹

On 22 February 2021, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and the National Institute of Social Security issued the 32nd Circolare.²⁵⁴² This circolare clarified that employers can be exempt from contributions for the employment of women in the two years of 2021-2022 in the amount of 100 per cent, up to EUR6,000 per year if they hire women categorized as "disadvantaged workers."²⁵⁴³

On 8 March 2021, the National Institute for the Promotion of the Health of Migrant Populations and the Fighting of Poverty Diseases activated the "Health and Protection of Women Service" to care for vulnerable women in need of health and/or psychological assistance.²⁵⁴⁴ A multi-professional team that includes professionals such as doctors, psychologists, nurses, social workers and lawyers would provide care and tools for prevention such as information, and guidance for both Italian and foreign women.²⁵⁴⁵ This service will target health care but also recognize and promote women's rights.²⁵⁴⁶

On 15 March 2021, the Official Gazette published Decree Law 13 March 2021, n. 30, containing urgent measures to cope with the spread of COVID-19 and support interventions for workers with minor children in distance learning or quarantine.²⁵⁴⁷ The decree detailed the possibilities of "smart working," temporary leaves and a babysitting bonus for working parents.²⁵⁴⁸

On 15 March 2021, Minister held a bilateral meeting with the Austrian Federal Minister for Women, Family, Youth and Integration Susanne Raab on the sidelines of the 65th edition of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65).²⁵⁴⁹ They discussed the strategies and action plans of their

²⁵⁴⁰ The Minister for Equal Opportunities and the Family, Prof. Elena Bonetti, speaks at the first meeting of the G20 Women20 chaired by Italy, Ministry for Equal Opportunities and the Family (Rome) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/la-ministra-per-le-pari-oppportunita-e-la-famiglia-prof-ssa-elena-bonetti-interviene-alla-prima-riunione-del-women20-del-g20-presieduto-dallitalia/>

²⁵⁴¹ The Minister for Equal Opportunities and the Family, Prof. Elena Bonetti, speaks at the first meeting of the G20 Women20 chaired by Italy, Ministry for Equal Opportunities and the Family (Rome) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/la-ministra-per-le-pari-oppportunita-e-la-famiglia-prof-ssa-elena-bonetti-interviene-alla-prima-riunione-del-women20-del-g20-presieduto-dallitalia/>

²⁵⁴² Contribution waiver for hiring women, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Esonero-contributivo-per-assunzione-donne.aspx>

²⁵⁴³ Contribution waiver for hiring women, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Esonero-contributivo-per-assunzione-donne.aspx>

²⁵⁴⁴ Violence against women, Ministry of Health (Rome) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioContenutiDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&id=4498&area=Salute%20donna&menu=societa>

²⁵⁴⁵ In Rome, the INMP opens the interdisciplinary service dedicated to the care and assistance of the most vulnerable women, the National Institute for the Promotion of the Health of Migrant Populations and the Fighting of Poverty Diseases (Rome) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.inmp.it/ita/News-e-media/Archivio-Notizie/8-marzo.-A-Roma-l-INMP-apre-il-servizio-interdisciplinare-dedicato-alla-cura-e-all-assistenza-delle-donne-piu-fragili>

²⁵⁴⁶ In Rome, the INMP opens the interdisciplinary service dedicated to the care and assistance of the most vulnerable women, the National Institute for the Promotion of the Health of Migrant Populations and the Fighting of Poverty Diseases (Rome) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.inmp.it/ita/News-e-media/Archivio-Notizie/8-marzo.-A-Roma-l-INMP-apre-il-servizio-interdisciplinare-dedicato-alla-cura-e-all-assistenza-delle-donne-piu-fragili>

²⁵⁴⁷ COVID-19: smart working, leave and babysitting bonus available to working parents, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/pagine/covid19-smartworking-congedi-e-bonus-baby-sitting-a-disposizione-dei-genitori-lavoratori.aspx/>

²⁵⁴⁸ COVID-19: smart working, leave and babysitting bonus available to working parents, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/pagine/covid19-smartworking-congedi-e-bonus-baby-sitting-a-disposizione-dei-genitori-lavoratori.aspx/>

²⁵⁴⁹ CSW65, bilateral meeting between Minister Bonetti and Austrian Minister Raab, Ministry for Equal Opportunities and the Family (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/csw65-incontro-bilaterale-tra-la-ministra-bonetti-e-la-ministra-austriaca-raab/>

respective governments for combating violence against women, assessing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women's lives and initiating recovery efforts, instituting equal opportunities in the access of female students to science, technology, engineering and mathematical subjects, and supporting female leadership.²⁵⁵⁰

On 19 March 2021, Minister Bonetti participated in the general debate during the CSW65.²⁵⁵¹ Minister Bonetti talked with political leaders, representatives of the United Nations, and international organizations about the opportunity to rebuild from the pandemic with co-responsibility between women and men.²⁵⁵²

On 20 March 2021, the Ministry of Family introduced a new law for family support, entitling families with children under the age of 21 to a monthly check worth EUR250 per child.²⁵⁵³ The state has dedicated a budget of EUR23 billion for this initiative, with payments planned to begin in July 2021.²⁵⁵⁴ This initiative aims to support parents, favour birth rates, and promote employment, especially among women.²⁵⁵⁵ The law is part of the more comprehensive "Family Act Reform," which will be integrated in the following months to strengthen policies that support and incentivize education, parental leave, female employment and financial autonomy.²⁵⁵⁶

On 22 March 2021, Minister of Health Roberto Speranza signed a decree authorizing the expenditure of EUR3 million spread over the financial years of 2021, 2022 and 2023, for endometriosis research.²⁵⁵⁷ The research aims to produce results with an explicit applicative orientation for the diagnosis and treatment of endometriosis.²⁵⁵⁸ This research will target a women's health issue that affects at least three million Italian women.²⁵⁵⁹

²⁵⁵⁰ CSW65, bilateral meeting between Minister Bonetti and Austrian Minister Raab, Ministry for Equal Opportunities and the Family (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/csw65-incontro-bilaterale-tra-la-ministra-bonetti-e-la-ministra-austriaca-raab/>

²⁵⁵¹ CSW65 – March 19. The intervention of Minister Bonetti to the general discussion, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/csw65-19-marzo-intervento-della-ministra-bonetti-alla-discussione-generale/>

²⁵⁵² CSW65 – March 19. The intervention of Minister Bonetti to the general discussion, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/csw65-19-marzo-intervento-della-ministra-bonetti-alla-discussione-generale/>

²⁵⁵³ Italy Introduces Kid's Check In Support Of Families (and Family-Making), Forbes Magazine (Jersey City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/irenedominioni/2021/03/31/italy-introduces-kids-check-in-support-of-families-and-family-making/?sh=1c6a8ccf4795>

²⁵⁵⁴ Italy Introduces Kid's Check In Support Of Families (and Family-Making), Forbes Magazine (Jersey City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/irenedominioni/2021/03/31/italy-introduces-kids-check-in-support-of-families-and-family-making/?sh=1c6a8ccf4795>

²⁵⁵⁵ Italy Introduces Kid's Check In Support Of Families (and Family-Making), Forbes Magazine (Jersey City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/irenedominioni/2021/03/31/italy-introduces-kids-check-in-support-of-families-and-family-making/?sh=1c6a8ccf4795>

²⁵⁵⁶ Italy Introduces Kid's Check In Support Of Families (and Family-Making), Forbes Magazine (Jersey City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/irenedominioni/2021/03/31/italy-introduces-kids-check-in-support-of-families-and-family-making/?sh=1c6a8ccf4795>

²⁵⁵⁷ World Endometriosis Day The Ministry of Health lights up yellow Call for three million for research, Ministry of Health (Rome) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5777

²⁵⁵⁸ World Endometriosis Day The Ministry of Health lights up yellow Call for three million for research, Ministry of Health (Rome) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5777

²⁵⁵⁹ World Endometriosis Day The Ministry of Health lights up yellow Call for three million for research, Ministry of Health (Rome) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5777

On 29 March 2021, Minister Bonetti joined the first event of the Generation Equality Forum, which took place in Mexico City with UN Women.²⁵⁶⁰ She addressed participants through videoconference and reaffirmed Italy's commitment to national gender equality.²⁵⁶¹ She also confirmed that Italy will be taking part in the upcoming forums against gender violence and will hold a ministerial-level conference within the G20 dedicated exclusively to female empowerment for the first time ever.²⁵⁶²

On 13 April 2021, Minister Bonetti formally invited the ministers of the G20 members and of the guest countries to the Ministerial Conference dedicated to female empowerment scheduled for 26 August 2021.²⁵⁶³ The event will be aimed at enhancing women's talent and leadership as well as promoting women's rights and combating gender-based violence.²⁵⁶⁴ The results of the discussion will be brought to the attention of G20 Leaders before the summit in October 2021.²⁵⁶⁵

On 22 April 2021, the Ministry of Health, in partnership with the Breast Units of the Tor Vergata University of Rome and the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, announced the initiative of "In the Hearth of Health," a communication and information campaign aimed at promoting a culture of prevention for pathologies of reproductive health, specifically breast cancer.²⁵⁶⁶ The initiative will start at the end of May 2021 and will provide an instrument for women to increase their knowledge of cancer prevention measures.²⁵⁶⁷ The program will also offer the possibility for women who are identified to be at greater risk for breast cancer to have a free telephone medical consultation and to visit the Universities' Breast Units.²⁵⁶⁸ The initiative is directly linked to the promotion of women's health, which has been compromised by the pandemic, especially at the early stages when the COVID-19 outbreak caused a slowdown in the implementation of screening programs and early diagnoses of pathologies.²⁵⁶⁹

On 23 April 2021, Minister of Labour and Social Policies Andrea Orlando sent a letter to the private social security and assistance bodies of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies to take the most appropriate initiatives to ensure the widest participation of women in governing bodies of institutions

²⁵⁶⁰ The Generation Equality Forum Kicks off in Mexico City, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/3784/>

²⁵⁶¹ The Generation Equality Forum Kicks off in Mexico City, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/3784/>

²⁵⁶² The Generation Equality Forum Kicks off in Mexico City, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/3784/>

²⁵⁶³ G20. Minister Bonetti writes to the Ministers of the participating countries to invite them to the Ministerial Conference on 26 August dedicated to the empowerment of women, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/g20-la-ministra-bonetti-scrive-ai-ministri-dei-paesi-partecipanti-per-invitarli-alla-conferenza-ministeriale-del-26-luglio-dedicata-allempowerment-delle-donne/>

²⁵⁶⁴ G20. Minister Bonetti writes to the Ministers of the participating countries to invite them to the Ministerial Conference on 26 August dedicated to the empowerment of women, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/g20-la-ministra-bonetti-scrive-ai-ministri-dei-paesi-partecipanti-per-invitarli-alla-conferenza-ministeriale-del-26-luglio-dedicata-allempowerment-delle-donne/>

²⁵⁶⁵ G20. Minister Bonetti writes to the Ministers of the participating countries to invite them to the Ministerial Conference on 26 August dedicated to the empowerment of women, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/g20-la-ministra-bonetti-scrive-ai-ministri-dei-paesi-partecipanti-per-invitarli-alla-conferenza-ministeriale-del-26-luglio-dedicata-allempowerment-delle-donne/>

²⁵⁶⁶ National Women's Health Day, Ministry of Health (Rome) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioNotizieDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5436>

²⁵⁶⁷ National Women's Health Day, Ministry of Health (Rome) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioNotizieDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5436>

²⁵⁶⁸ National Women's Health Day, Ministry of Health (Rome) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioNotizieDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5436>

²⁵⁶⁹ National Women's Health Day, Ministry of Health (Rome) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/donna/dettaglioNotizieDonna.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5436>

and in representative assemblies.²⁵⁷⁰ The letter was meant to reinforce the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies' commitment to counteracting the repercussions that COVID-19 has had on women's living and working conditions as well as reinforcing the idea that gender equality is a priority action.²⁵⁷¹

On 28 April 2021, the National Control Room, chaired by Minister Bonetti, met to discuss the adoption of the next National Strategic Plan on male violence against women.²⁵⁷² During the meeting, Minister Bonetti outlined the actions planned to strengthen the government's interventions on the anti-violence front.²⁵⁷³ In particular, she discussed the allocation of EUR30 million for resources for anti-violence centers and shelters in 2021.²⁵⁷⁴

On 28 April 2021, Minister Bonetti took part in the "Advancing Women in Private Sector Leadership: A G20/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Review of Progress" promoted by the OECD in collaboration with the Italian presidency of the G20.²⁵⁷⁵ The event promotes inclusive growth and gender equality and supports commitments to strengthen women's leadership in the private sector.²⁵⁷⁶ During the event, Minister Bonetti noted that women would be at the center of their joint commitment for post-pandemic social, cultural, and economic recovery and encouraged event members to seize the opportunity to define gender policies for empowerment and female leadership in a shared vision.²⁵⁷⁷

Italy has fully complied with their commitment to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, in all three spheres of Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence, affecting women disproportionately through financial support of educational, employment and health programs related to gender-based violence.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Laura Bustos

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine progress made in recent decades.

²⁵⁷⁰ Orlando sends a letter to supervised bodies for gender equality in governing bodies and representative assemblies, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Orlando-invia-lettera-a-Enti-vigilati-per-parita-di-genere.aspx>

²⁵⁷¹ Orlando sends a letter to supervised bodies for gender equality in governing bodies and representative assemblies, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Orlando-invia-lettera-a-Enti-vigilati-per-parita-di-genere.aspx>

²⁵⁷² Violence Against Women, Ministry Bonetti Reconstitutes The National Control Booth, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/violenza-contro-le-donne-la-ministra-bonetti-ricostituisce-la-cabina-di-regia-nazionale>

²⁵⁷³ Violence Against Women, Ministry Bonetti Reconstitutes The National Control Booth, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/violenza-contro-le-donne-la-ministra-bonetti-ricostituisce-la-cabina-di-regia-nazionale>

²⁵⁷⁴ Violence Against Women, Ministry Bonetti Reconstitutes The National Control Booth, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/violenza-contro-le-donne-la-ministra-bonetti-ricostituisce-la-cabina-di-regia-nazionale>

²⁵⁷⁵ Advancing Women with Minister Bonetti, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/advancing-women-con-la-ministra-bonetti/>

²⁵⁷⁶ Advancing Women with Minister Bonetti, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/advancing-women-con-la-ministra-bonetti/>

²⁵⁷⁷ Advancing Women with Minister Bonetti, Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/advancing-women-con-la-ministra-bonetti/>

On 26 February 2021, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare designated 1 March 2021 to 8 March 2021 as “Women’s Health Week” in order to promote women’s health as a national movement.²⁵⁷⁸ This campaign will include virtual events, video messages and articles written by health experts in order to spread awareness to the Japanese general public on women’s health issues.²⁵⁷⁹

On 8 March 2021, Minister of State for Gender Equality and Minister in Charge of Women’s Empowerment Tamayo Marukawa issued a statement on International Women’s Day where she emphasized the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on women and reaffirmed Japan’s commitment to gender equality.²⁵⁸⁰ Minister Marukawa announced that based on these ideas, the Cabinet formed the Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality in December 2020.²⁵⁸¹ The plan aims to implement measures to increase women’s participation in leadership positions and to create a gender-equal society within the 2030s.²⁵⁸²

On 15 March 2021, Minister Marukawa emphasized the importance of increasing the proportion of women in leadership positions at the United Nations Economic and Social Council’s 65th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.²⁵⁸³ Minister Marukawa stated that Japan drafted the 2020 Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality with these considerations in mind.²⁵⁸⁴

On 31 March 2021, the State Minister for Foreign Affairs Takashi Uto attended a ministerial meeting hosted by Mexico for the formal establishment of the Group of Friends for Gender Equality during the Generation Equality Forum in Mexico City.²⁵⁸⁵ This Group of Friends aims to foster cooperation among like-minded countries striving towards gender equality and women’s empowerment.²⁵⁸⁶ At this meeting, Minister Uto announced that the Government of Japan has decided to participate in the Actions Coalitions focusing on gender-based violence.²⁵⁸⁷

On 1 April 2021, Japan contributed USD1.9 million to the United Nations Women’s Safe and Prosperous District Programme, which focuses on securing women’s livelihoods in Papua New

²⁵⁷⁸ About the release of special web contents for “Women’s Health Week,” Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_16897.html

²⁵⁷⁹ About the release of special web contents for “Women’s Health Week,” Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_16897.html

²⁵⁸⁰ Minister’s Message on International Women’s Day 2021, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.gender.go.jp/english_contents/international/un/iwd/iwd_2021.html

²⁵⁸¹ Minister’s Message on International Women’s Day 2021, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.gender.go.jp/english_contents/international/un/iwd/iwd_2021.html

²⁵⁸² Minister’s Message on International Women’s Day 2021, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.gender.go.jp/english_contents/international/un/iwd/iwd_2021.html

²⁵⁸³ Pandemic Reveals Extent of Gender Inequality in World’s Political, Social, Economic Systems, Says Secretary-General, as Women’s Commission Opens Session, United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases (New York) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/wom2204.doc.htm>

²⁵⁸⁴ Pandemic Reveals Extent of Gender Inequality in World’s Political, Social, Economic Systems, Says Secretary-General, as Women’s Commission Opens Session, United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases (New York) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/wom2204.doc.htm>

²⁵⁸⁵ State Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. UTO’s video message at a Ministerial Meeting hosted by the Government of Mexico for the Formal Establishment of the Group of Friends for Gender Equality on the occasion of Generation Equality Forum in Mexico City, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page6e_000235.html

²⁵⁸⁶ State Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. UTO’s video message at a Ministerial Meeting hosted by the Government of Mexico for the Formal Establishment of the Group of Friends for Gender Equality on the occasion of Generation Equality Forum in Mexico City, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page6e_000235.html

²⁵⁸⁷ State Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. UTO’s video message at a Ministerial Meeting hosted by the Government of Mexico for the Formal Establishment of the Group of Friends for Gender Equality on the occasion of Generation Equality Forum in Mexico City, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page6e_000235.html

Guinea that have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁵⁸⁸ This programme aims to improve working conditions in Tari, Wewak and Alotau markets by increasing access to clean water and sanitation facilities as well as security services.²⁵⁸⁹ This programme also aims to increase access to financial tools for market vendors in recognition that over 60 per cent of market vendors who are women in Papua New Guinea.²⁵⁹⁰ This programme will focus on promoting digital financial tools and on training women in various different trades to access new economic opportunities during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁵⁹¹

On 6 April 2021, Japan contributed USD1.3 million in funding to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to support efforts to protect the health and dignity of women and girls in Libya.²⁵⁹² Started on 1 April 2021, this UNFPA project in Libya is mainly focused on addressing the lack of sexual and reproductive health services and the increase in gender-based violence due to the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁵⁹³ On gender-based violence, this project aims to provide quality services such as psychological support, case management or referrals for healthcare, maintaining safe spaces for females, and raising awareness on the issue.²⁵⁹⁴ On sexual and reproductive health, this project aims to support obstetric and infant care services through mobile teams into conflict areas or areas affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, distribute medical equipment, train frontline health workers on COVID-19 prevention, and improve risk communications.²⁵⁹⁵

On 22 April 2021, Japan allocated an additional USD1 million to support the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund COVID-19 response measures in Zimbabwe.²⁵⁹⁶ These measures focus on providing responsive and preventive care to vulnerable children and women covering issues like gender-based violence and primary healthcare.²⁵⁹⁷

²⁵⁸⁸ Japan contributes USD1.9 million to secure women's livelihoods during COVID-19 pandemic, The Information Center for COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://covid19.info.gov.pg/index.php/2021/04/08/japan-contributes-usd19-million-to-secure-womens-livelihoods-during-covid-19-pandemic>

²⁵⁸⁹ Japan contributes USD1.9 million to secure women's livelihoods during COVID-19 pandemic, The Information Center for COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://covid19.info.gov.pg/index.php/2021/04/08/japan-contributes-usd19-million-to-secure-womens-livelihoods-during-covid-19-pandemic>

²⁵⁹⁰ Japan contributes USD1.9 million to secure women's livelihoods during COVID-19 pandemic, The Information Center for COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://covid19.info.gov.pg/index.php/2021/04/08/japan-contributes-usd19-million-to-secure-womens-livelihoods-during-covid-19-pandemic>

²⁵⁹¹ Japan contributes USD1.9 million to secure women's livelihoods during COVID-19 pandemic, The Information Center for COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://covid19.info.gov.pg/index.php/2021/04/08/japan-contributes-usd19-million-to-secure-womens-livelihoods-during-covid-19-pandemic>

²⁵⁹² UNFPA and the Government of Japan join hands to provide essential health and gender-based violence services to women and girls in Libya, United Nations Population Fund Libya (Tripoli) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021.

<https://libya.unfpa.org/en/news/unfpa-and-government-japan-join-hands-provide-essential-health-and-gender-based-violence>

²⁵⁹³ UNFPA and the Government of Japan join hands to provide essential health and gender-based violence services to women and girls in Libya, United Nations Population Fund Libya (Tripoli) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021.

<https://libya.unfpa.org/en/news/unfpa-and-government-japan-join-hands-provide-essential-health-and-gender-based-violence>

²⁵⁹⁴ UNFPA and the Government of Japan join hands to provide essential health and gender-based violence services to women and girls in Libya, United Nations Population Fund Libya (Tripoli) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021.

<https://libya.unfpa.org/en/news/unfpa-and-government-japan-join-hands-provide-essential-health-and-gender-based-violence>

²⁵⁹⁵ UNFPA and the Government of Japan join hands to provide essential health and gender-based violence services to women and girls in Libya, United Nations Population Fund Libya (Tripoli) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021.

<https://libya.unfpa.org/en/news/unfpa-and-government-japan-join-hands-provide-essential-health-and-gender-based-violence>

²⁵⁹⁶ Japan further supports COVID-19 response in Zimbabwe, United Nations Children's Fund Zimbabwe (Harare) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/zimbabwe/press-releases/japan-further-supports-covid-19-response-zimbabwe>

²⁵⁹⁷ Japan further supports COVID-19 response in Zimbabwe, United Nations Children's Fund Zimbabwe (Harare) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/zimbabwe/press-releases/japan-further-supports-covid-19-response-zimbabwe>

On 26 April 2021, Japan launched a joint project with the Government of Vietnam and the UNFPA on reducing harms on vulnerable populations due to the COVID-19 pandemic such as the increased incidents of gender-based violence and the lack of access to quality sexual and reproductive health services.²⁵⁹⁸ The Government of Japan is providing over USD2.8 million to support this project from April 2021 to March 2022.²⁵⁹⁹ This joint project focuses on enhancing protection services for victims of gender-based violence, strengthening preventive work by raising awareness on gender-based violence, and ensuring continuous sexual and reproductive health services in emergency situations with additional concern for ethnic minorities and those living in remote locations.²⁶⁰⁰

While Japan has taken limited actions domestically to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, Japan has taken strong actions internationally through funding various projects and programs in support of women's Health and Economic Security as well as efforts to combat Gender-Based Violence.

Thus, Japan has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Leena Badri

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 24 November 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the Second International Conference on Action with Women and Peace with the theme of "Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict – Ensuring Survivor-centered Approach."²⁶⁰¹ The conference specifically discussed the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on sexual violence in conflicts and plans to support survivors after the pandemic.²⁶⁰²

On 16 December 2020, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (MOGEF) implemented the Official Development Assistance program in collaboration with the Indonesian Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection.²⁶⁰³ This program is meant to increase women's economic empowerment, fight child marriage, domestic violence, human trafficking, and the current COVID-

²⁵⁹⁸ The Government of Viet Nam, the Government of Japan and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) join hands to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable population groups in Viet Nam, United Nations Population Fund (Hanoi) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://vietnam.unfpa.org/en/news/government-viet-nam-government-japan-and-united-nations-population-fund-unfpa-join-hands>

²⁵⁹⁹ The Government of Viet Nam, the Government of Japan and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) join hands to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable population groups in Viet Nam, United Nations Population Fund (Hanoi) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://vietnam.unfpa.org/en/news/government-viet-nam-government-japan-and-united-nations-population-fund-unfpa-join-hands>

²⁶⁰⁰ The Government of Viet Nam, the Government of Japan and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) join hands to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable population groups in Viet Nam, United Nations Population Fund (Hanoi) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://vietnam.unfpa.org/en/news/government-viet-nam-government-japan-and-united-nations-population-fund-unfpa-join-hands>

²⁶⁰¹ 2nd International Conference on Action with Women and Peace Takes Place, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321384

²⁶⁰² 2nd International Conference on Action with Women and Peace Takes Place, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321384

²⁶⁰³ Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

19 pandemic.²⁶⁰⁴ The program provides vocational training such as classes in sewing, beauty care, cooking, e-commerce and information technology training.²⁶⁰⁵

On 19 January 2021, MOGEF announced that government support for childcare services will be expanded and service quality will be enhanced in order to alleviate childcare burdens, especially due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁶⁰⁶ This plan would include increasing annual support hours by the government by 120 hours up to 840 hours a year and for households with low income, single parent households or disabled parent/child, the percentage of government support for childcare services will be increased by five per cent to cover 90 per cent.²⁶⁰⁷ MOGEF will also provide anti-epidemic materials to childcare workers visiting households such as masks and hand sanitizer as well as temporarily providing a linkage service on a childcare mobile application when households require childcare services at night, on weekends or in short-notice due to emergencies.²⁶⁰⁸

On 25 January 2021, Minister of Gender Equality and Family Chung Young-ai introduced standard guidelines for the prevention of secondary victimization of female victims of violence at workplaces.²⁶⁰⁹ These guidelines aim to encourage public institutions to improve their organizational culture and prevent violence against women at workplaces.²⁶¹⁰ The guidelines highlight preventive measures and education institution chiefs and members should take, punishment for perpetrators, and measures to handle complaints.²⁶¹¹

On 18 February 2021, Korea introduced the 2021 Implementation Plan of the Second Gender Equality Policy Basic Plan, which set plans for the year on promoting conditions for work-life balance, ending sexual violence against women and improving health for women among other targets.²⁶¹² On work-life balance, Korea announced an expansion of childcare infrastructure such as

²⁶⁰⁴ Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women’s Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

²⁶⁰⁵ Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women’s Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

²⁶⁰⁶ Government support for childcare service to be expanded up to 840 hours a year/Percentage of government support to be increased 5%, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707536

²⁶⁰⁷ Government support for childcare service to be expanded up to 840 hours a year/Percentage of government support to be increased 5%, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707536

²⁶⁰⁸ Government support for childcare service to be expanded up to 840 hours a year/Percentage of government support to be increased 5%, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707536

²⁶⁰⁹ MOGEF comes up with “standard guidelines for the prevention of secondary victimization of women victims of violence,” Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707539

²⁶¹⁰ MOGEF comes up with “standard guidelines for the prevention of secondary victimization of women victims of violence,” Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707539

²⁶¹¹ MOGEF comes up with “standard guidelines for the prevention of secondary victimization of women victims of violence,” Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707539

²⁶¹² Effort for a gender-equal society where everyone respects each other and lives in harmony Gender Equality Committee finalizes “National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325,” Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707607

introducing and expanding pilot programs of community childcare.²⁶¹³ The Plan also includes starting seven “local digital gender-based crimes consulting centers” with the launch of a department focused on digital gender crimes within the MOGEF, and ensuring eight OB/GYN clinics are disabled-friendly in order to protect the right of disabled women to have access to pregnancy and birthing healthcare services.²⁶¹⁴

On 4 March 2021, Korea announced the implementation of new measures aimed at increasing the recovery of women’s labour force participation, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁶¹⁵ New programs include a revised supplementary budget with a focus on the rapid creation of jobs in both the private sector and public sector, expansions of services that support job seekers, and the creation of a subsidy paid to businesses hiring women.²⁶¹⁶ The new measures are expected to create more than 780,000 women’s jobs.²⁶¹⁷

On 4 March 2021, Korea announced increased support for childcare in response to the COVID-19 pandemic with the objective of minimizing the negative impacts of the pandemic on women’s employment.²⁶¹⁸ Measures include the extension of emergency support for family care expenses to help mitigate the burden of female workers who were forced to use unpaid family care leave to take care of children left at home due to school closures.²⁶¹⁹ This includes KRW50,000 a day for up to 10 days during the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁶²⁰

On 15 March 2021, President Moon Jae-in urged Senior Secretaries to “implement, as planned, the extension of special employment support and the designation of additional business lines eligible for such support, as well as customized job programs for young people and women together with the public employment projects.”²⁶²¹ His remarks aimed to encourage the prioritization of gender equality initiatives, and subsequently lead to improved employment for women and girls.²⁶²²

²⁶¹³ Effort for a gender-equal society where everyone respects each other and lives in harmony Gender Equality Committee finalizes “National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325,” Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707607

²⁶¹⁴ Effort for a gender-equal society where everyone respects each other and lives in harmony Gender Equality Committee finalizes “National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325,” Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707607

²⁶¹⁵ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women’s employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women’s jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

²⁶¹⁶ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women’s employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women’s jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

²⁶¹⁷ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women’s employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women’s jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

²⁶¹⁸ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women’s employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women’s jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

²⁶¹⁹ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women’s employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women’s jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

²⁶²⁰ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women’s employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women’s jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

²⁶²¹ Opening Remarks by President Moon Jae-in at Meeting with His Senior Secretaries, Office of the President (Seoul) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/955>

²⁶²² Opening Remarks by President Moon Jae-in at Meeting with His Senior Secretaries, Office of the President (Seoul) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://english1.president.go.kr/Briefingspeeches/Speeches/955>

On 23 March 2021, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) announced that it will invest USD7 million by 2024 to address gender-based violence in Laos.²⁶²³ In partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund, KOICA plans to establish a violence prevention and response center for women in Vientiane, dispatch experts from South Korea to help train local personnel in counseling and assist the Laotian government in drawing up a mid- to long-term strategy to address violence against women while also mitigating exacerbated gender-based violence due to the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁶²⁴

On 31 March 2021, Korea and 20 countries (Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Panama, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay) united and established the “Group of Friends for Gender Equality,” following Mexico’s leadership.²⁶²⁵ This group aims at centralizing public policies and promoting coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.²⁶²⁶

Korea has taken strong actions towards reducing gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in the spheres of Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence through increasing access to affordable childcare services, enacting provisions to reduce economic shocks, and introducing national plans to eliminate violence against women. Korea has only taken some limited actions in the Health sphere.

Thus, Korea has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Rana Al-Fayez

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with its commitments to work to ensure that the COVID-19 pandemic does not widen gender inequality and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 25 November 2020, the National Institute for Women (INMUJERES) and the Senate of the Republic signed a collaboration agreement to promote and monitor the incorporation of gender perspectives and the principle of equality between women and men in the work of the Federal

²⁶²³ KOICA establishes a system to prevent and respond to violence against women in Laos, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.koica.go.kr/koica_kr/990/subview.do?enc=Zm5jdDF8QEB8JTJGYmJzJTJGa29pY2Ffa3lIMkYxNTEIMkYzNzA0MzglMkZhcjRjbFZpZXcuZG8IM0ZwYyWdlJTNEMSUyNnNyY2hDb2x1bW4lM0QlMjZzcmNoV3JkTjNEJTl2YmJzQ2xTZXEIM0QlMjZiYnNpCzGVuV3JkU2VxJTNEJTl2cmdzQmduZGVVdHlIM0QlMjZyZ3NFbmkZVN0ciUzRCUyNmIzVmld01pbmUIM0RmYWxzZSUyNnBhc3N3b3JkTjNEJTl2

²⁶²⁴ KOICA establishes a system to prevent and respond to violence against women in Laos, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Seongnam) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.koica.go.kr/koica_kr/990/subview.do?enc=Zm5jdDF8QEB8JTJGYmJzJTJGa29pY2Ffa3lIMkYxNTEIMkYzNzA0MzglMkZhcjRjbFZpZXcuZG8IM0ZwYyWdlJTNEMSUyNnNyY2hDb2x1bW4lM0QlMjZzcmNoV3JkTjNEJTl2YmJzQ2xTZXEIM0QlMjZiYnNpCzGVuV3JkU2VxJTNEJTl2cmdzQmduZGVVdHlIM0QlMjZyZ3NFbmkZVN0ciUzRCUyNmIzVmld01pbmUIM0RmYWxzZSUyNnBhc3N3b3JkTjNEJTl2

²⁶²⁵ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

²⁶²⁶ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

Legislative Power.²⁶²⁷ The President of the Senate Eduardo Ramírez pledged to approve legal reforms that guarantee wage equity, as well as the end of gender-based violence, addressing the protection of all fundamental rights for women, and the punishment for any conduct that violates these rights.²⁶²⁸ The President of INMUJERES Nadine Gasman Zylbermann stated that INMUJERES will monitor actions that involve the Legislative Power in the National Program for Equality between Women and Men, as well as conduct research and dissemination projects on the situation of Mexican women in various regions of the country for legislative work.²⁶²⁹ Additionally, the INMUJERES, partnered with the Legislative Power, committed to analyze legal norms and follow up with their implementation in order to promote the human rights of women and girls.²⁶³⁰

On 22 December 2020, the decree approving the National Program for Equality between Women and Men (PROIGUALDAD “Pro-Equality” 2020-2024) and the document originated from the National Development Plan were published in the Official Gazette of the Federation.²⁶³¹ The Program articulates and commits to closing historical gaps of inequality, guaranteeing the wellbeing of females, responding to female citizen’s demands, and upholding women’s human rights.²⁶³² The INMUJERES, the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit and the Ministry of Public Function will monitor the implementation of the Program’s priority objectives, strategies and actions.²⁶³³ The promulgation of the aforementioned decree makes the examination of PROIGUALDAD 2020-2024 measures mandatory for Federal Public Administration’s agencies and entities.²⁶³⁴

On 27 January 2021, Mexico extended the Second Change Programme, which allows women to learn empowerment, leadership skills and entrepreneurship by running a greenhouse.²⁶³⁵ This initiative aims to help decrease poverty and help increase female empowerment.²⁶³⁶

²⁶²⁷ INMUJERES and the Senate sign a collaboration agreement for the well-being of the country’s women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-y-senado-firman-convenio-de-colaboracion-por-el-bienestar-de-las-mujeres-del-pais?idiom=es>

²⁶²⁸ INMUJERES and the Senate sign a collaboration agreement for the well-being of the country’s women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-y-senado-firman-convenio-de-colaboracion-por-el-bienestar-de-las-mujeres-del-pais?idiom=es>

²⁶²⁹ INMUJERES and the Senate sign a collaboration agreement for the well-being of the country’s women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

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²⁶³⁰ INMUJERES and the Senate sign a collaboration agreement for the well-being of the country’s women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-y-senado-firman-convenio-de-colaboracion-por-el-bienestar-de-las-mujeres-del-pais>

²⁶³¹ With Pro Igualdad, the Government of Mexico places women and girls at the centre of transformation, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/con-el-proigualdad-el-gobierno-de-mexico-coloca-a-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-en-el-centro-de-la-transformacion-260129?idiom=es>

²⁶³² With Pro Igualdad, the Government of Mexico places women and girls at the centre of transformation, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/con-el-proigualdad-el-gobierno-de-mexico-coloca-a-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-en-el-centro-de-la-transformacion-260129?idiom=es>

²⁶³³ With Pro Igualdad, the Government of Mexico places women and girls at the centre of transformation, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/con-el-proigualdad-el-gobierno-de-mexico-coloca-a-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-en-el-centro-de-la-transformacion-260129?idiom=es>

²⁶³⁴ With Pro Igualdad, the Government of Mexico places women and girls at the centre of transformation, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/con-el-proigualdad-el-gobierno-de-mexico-coloca-a-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-en-el-centro-de-la-transformacion-260129?idiom=es>

²⁶³⁵ Women in Mexico sow seeds of hope through the ‘Second Chance’ programme, UN Women (New York) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/1/feature-women-in-mexico-sow-seeds-of-hope>

On 11 February 2021, the Chamber of Deputies and UN Women, as part of the Spotlight initiative in Mexico, signed a memorandum of understanding which seeks to promote a non-binding parliamentary alliance to discuss and develop legislative proposals concerning the eradication of violence against females.²⁶³⁷ This program will establish activities that prioritize the prevention and care of violence as well as the promotion of actions which guarantee the full access of women's rights.²⁶³⁸ Additionally, this memorandum will install periodic working groups with commissions such as those of Gender Equality, Human Rights, Justice, Government and Population, Rights of Children and Adolescents, Constitutional Points, Public Safety, Youth and Sexual Diversity and Health, among other collaborative actions.²⁶³⁹

On 24 February 2021, Mexico and the United Nations collaborated to work on the UN Women's Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls programme to help remove language barriers in COVID-19 health campaigns and indigenous gender-based violence.²⁶⁴⁰ This initiative aims to help break down the language barriers for indigenous individuals in Mexico in regard to COVID-19 health campaigns and to help prevent violence against indigenous women.²⁶⁴¹

On 26 February 2021, the Secretary of the Secretariat of Public Education (SEP) Delfina Gómez Álvarez led a meeting with educational authorities to discuss and promote actions that prevent and eradicate violence against women in higher education institutions.²⁶⁴² Secretary Gómez Álvarez reaffirmed the Government of Mexico and SEP's commitment to work towards specific actions that guarantee female's right to education as well as their right to an equitable, inclusive and violence-free instruction.²⁶⁴³ During the meeting, Secretary Gómez Álvarez also stated that the SEP will launch actions to encourage young mothers and pregnant women to continue their studies, creating inclusive

²⁶³⁶ Women in Mexico sow seeds of hope through the 'Second Chance' programme, UN Women (New York) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/1/feature-women-in-mexico-sow-seeds-of-hope>

²⁶³⁷ INMUJERES testifies to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding within the framework of the Spotlight initiative, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-atestigua-firma-de-memorando-de-entendimiento-en-el-marco-de-la-iniciativa-spotlight>

²⁶³⁸ INMUJERES testifies to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding within the framework of the Spotlight initiative, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-atestigua-firma-de-memorando-de-entendimiento-en-el-marco-de-la-iniciativa-spotlight>

²⁶³⁹ INMUJERES testifies to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding within the framework of the Spotlight initiative, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-atestigua-firma-de-memorando-de-entendimiento-en-el-marco-de-la-iniciativa-spotlight?idiom=es>

²⁶⁴⁰ 'Our voices are being heard': Indigenous women in Mexico break down language barriers to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in their communities, UN Women (New York) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/2/feature-indigenous-women-in-mexico-break-down-language-barriers-to-respond-to-covid-19>

²⁶⁴¹ 'Our voices are being heard': Indigenous women in Mexico break down language barriers to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in their communities, UN Women (New York) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/2/feature-indigenous-women-in-mexico-break-down-language-barriers-to-respond-to-covid-19>

²⁶⁴² Delfina Gómez Álvarez reinforces work to prevent and eradicate violence against women in HEIs, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/refuerza-delfina-gomez-alvarez-trabajos-para-prevenir-y-erradicar-la-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-en-las-ies?idiom=es>

²⁶⁴³ Delfina Gómez Álvarez reinforces work to prevent and eradicate violence against women in HEIs, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/refuerza-delfina-gomez-alvarez-trabajos-para-prevenir-y-erradicar-la-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-en-las-ies?idiom=es>

learning environments, strengthening autonomy for girls and adolescents and accelerating measures to achieve full gender equality in educational spaces.²⁶⁴⁴

On 18 March 2021, Mexico joined Bolivia in strengthening legal sanctions against violence around women in politics.²⁶⁴⁵ This initiative aims at amending eight national laws to prevent violence against women in politics.²⁶⁴⁶ This reaffirms a greater emphasis in decreasing gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁶⁴⁷

On 25 March 2021, the INMUJERES, the Mexican Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Transgender, Crossdresser, and Intersex coalition and the Coalition and Dilo Inclusive Schools, organized the webinar “Exercise of sexual rights and reproductive rights of girls and women with disabilities.”²⁶⁴⁸ In the webinar, the INMUJERES reaffirmed its commitment to promote and strengthen collaborative actions between institutions, civil organizations and other societal organs to help eliminate barriers that prevent the free and true exercise of women’s rights.²⁶⁴⁹ The INMUJERES also committed to work towards the independence and prevention of violence against women and girls with disabilities.²⁶⁵⁰ The purpose of the webinar was to discuss the importance of recognizing and increasing the visibility of reproductive rights of females with disabilities.²⁶⁵¹ The program also aimed to reduce the stigma and discrimination surrounding disabled females and the exercise of their sexuality.²⁶⁵²

On 31 March 2021, Mexico and 20 countries (Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Ireland, Lebanon, Norway, the Netherlands, Panama, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay) united and established the “Group of

²⁶⁴⁴ Delfina Gómez Álvarez reinforces work to prevent and eradicate violence against women in HEIs, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/refuerza-delfina-gomez-alvarez-trabajos-para-prevenir-y-erradicar-la-violencia-contra-las-mujeres-en-las-ies?idiom=es>

²⁶⁴⁵ Mexico joins Bolivia in efforts to stop violence against women in politics, UN Women (New York) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/feature-mexico-joins-bolivia-in-efforts-to-stop-violence-against-women-in-politics>

²⁶⁴⁶ Mexico joins Bolivia in efforts to stop violence against women in politics, UN Women (New York) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/feature-mexico-joins-bolivia-in-efforts-to-stop-violence-against-women-in-politics>

²⁶⁴⁷ Mexico joins Bolivia in efforts to stop violence against women in politics, UN Women (New York) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/feature-mexico-joins-bolivia-in-efforts-to-stop-violence-against-women-in-politics>

²⁶⁴⁸ Women and girls with disabilities: challenges in the recognition and guarantee of their sexual and reproductive rights, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mujeres-y-ninas-con-discapacidad-retos-en-el-reconocimiento-y-garantia-de-sus-derechos-sexuales-y-derechos-reproductivos?idiom=es>

²⁶⁴⁹ Women and girls with disabilities: challenges in the recognition and guarantee of their sexual and reproductive rights, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mujeres-y-ninas-con-discapacidad-retos-en-el-reconocimiento-y-garantia-de-sus-derechos-sexuales-y-derechos-reproductivos?idiom=es>

²⁶⁵⁰ Women and girls with disabilities: challenges in the recognition and guarantee of their sexual and reproductive rights, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mujeres-y-ninas-con-discapacidad-retos-en-el-reconocimiento-y-garantia-de-sus-derechos-sexuales-y-derechos-reproductivos?idiom=es>

²⁶⁵¹ Women and girls with disabilities: challenges in the recognition and guarantee of their sexual and reproductive rights, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mujeres-y-ninas-con-discapacidad-retos-en-el-reconocimiento-y-garantia-de-sus-derechos-sexuales-y-derechos-reproductivos?idiom=es>

²⁶⁵² Women and girls with disabilities: challenges in the recognition and guarantee of their sexual and reproductive rights, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mujeres-y-ninas-con-discapacidad-retos-en-el-reconocimiento-y-garantia-de-sus-derechos-sexuales-y-derechos-reproductivos?idiom=es>

Friends for Gender Equality.”²⁶⁵³ The launch of the group was led by the Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Relations Martha Delgada Peralta with the aim of centralizing public policies and promote coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.²⁶⁵⁴

On 7 April 2021, the Senate of the Republic and UN Women signed a General Collaboration Agreement with the purpose of creating a foundation to develop and execute actions aimed at analyzing and shaping non-binding legislative proposals concerning the protection of women and girls from gender-based violence, and the reduction of gender inequalities in Mexico.²⁶⁵⁵ Specific initiatives include the active participation of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies in harmonizing legal frameworks concerning the criminal offense of femicide, obstetric violence, gender discrimination, the recognition of the gender identity of trans people and the sexual as well as reproductive rights of all women.²⁶⁵⁶ The President of the Senate Board of Directors Eduardo Ramírez stated that “the signing of the agreement commits the senators to carry out the pending legislative agenda in favor of the [female] population.”²⁶⁵⁷

On 14 April 2021, the INMUJERES held the 23rd Ordinary Session of the National System of Equality between Women and Men.²⁶⁵⁸ At this session, INMUJERES and various state agencies, independent organizations and other entities at the federal, state and municipal levels, worked together to plan the implementation and monitoring of the PROIGUALDAD 2020-2024 program.²⁶⁵⁹ At this session, the Chamber of Deputies and the INMUJERES signed a collaboration agreement on promoting and following up on the incorporation of a gendered perspective and principles of gender equality in the Federal Government’s work, public policies and programs.²⁶⁶⁰

²⁶⁵³ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

²⁶⁵⁴ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero?idiom=es>

²⁶⁵⁵ INMUJERES testifies to the signing of an agreement between the Senate and UN Women in favor of the women of Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-atestigua-firma-de-convenio-entre-el-senado-y-onu-mujeres-en-favor-de-las-mujeres-de-mexico>

²⁶⁵⁶ INMUJERES testifies to the signing of an agreement between the Senate and UN Women in favor of the women of Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-atestigua-firma-de-convenio-entre-el-senado-y-onu-mujeres-en-favor-de-las-mujeres-de-mexico>

²⁶⁵⁷ INMUJERES testifies to the signing of an agreement between the Senate and UN Women in favor of the women of Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-atestigua-firma-de-convenio-entre-el-senado-y-onu-mujeres-en-favor-de-las-mujeres-de-mexico>

²⁶⁵⁸ INMUJERES holds the 23rd Ordinary Session of the National System of Equality between Women and Men, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/el-inmujeres-realiza-la-23-sesion-ordinaria-del-sistema-nacional-de-igualdad-entre-mujeres-y-hombres>

²⁶⁵⁹ INMUJERES holds the 23rd Ordinary Session of the National System of Equality between Women and Men, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/el-inmujeres-realiza-la-23-sesion-ordinaria-del-sistema-nacional-de-igualdad-entre-mujeres-y-hombres>

²⁶⁶⁰ INMUJERES holds the 23rd Ordinary Session of the National System of Equality between Women and Men, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/el-inmujeres-realiza-la-23-sesion-ordinaria-del-sistema-nacional-de-igualdad-entre-mujeres-y-hombres>

On 12 May 2021, the INMUJERES hosted a virtual panel with the Mexican Center for Philanthropy, Oxfam and the Centro de Estudios Espinosa Yglesias on the National Care System.²⁶⁶¹ This panel aims to highlight the situation that Mexican women face in regard to unpaid work.²⁶⁶² The INMUJERES noted an aim to promote legislations and public policies for the social redistribution of care in four ways so that women can participate in the labor market on equal terms.²⁶⁶³ The INMUJERES will promote the recognition of the right to care in Mexico's legal system, build a broader care agenda in the PROIGUALDAD 2020-2024 program, and ensure that the National Care System includes three key aspects: attention to care; economic autonomy; and peace and security.²⁶⁶⁴

Mexico has taken strong actions to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in the spheres of Gender-Based Violence and Economic Security, through programs aimed at female poverty, wage inequality, and cooperation with other countries. Furthermore, Mexico has taken actions regarding sexual and reproductive rights.

Thus, Mexico has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Jennifer Lam

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 2 December 2020, the Russian Embassy in Guatemala hosted a bilateral meeting between representatives of the Russian Embassy and Guatemala country representatives to United Nations Women to discuss the topic of gender-based violence.²⁶⁶⁵ Both parties discussed the possibility of “exchanging experience and best practices in this area, not only in the bilateral, but also in the multilateral format of the Eurasia-Central America axis.”²⁶⁶⁶ The representatives from both countries concluded that this initial meeting would lead to future discussions and joint action to prevent gender-based violence in both respective countries in the future.²⁶⁶⁷

On 7 December 2020, the Deputy Speaker of the Federation Council Galina Karelova, announced at the meeting of the Council of the Eurasian Women's Forum that the Third Eurasian Women's Forum would be focused on “Women: Global Mission in the New Reality” and will be held in-

²⁶⁶¹ System of care in Mexico: urgency for the economic empowerment of women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/sistema-de-cuidados-en-mexico-urgencia-para-el-empoderamiento-economico-de-las-mujeres>

²⁶⁶² System of care in Mexico: urgency for the economic empowerment of women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/sistema-de-cuidados-en-mexico-urgencia-para-el-empoderamiento-economico-de-las-mujeres>

²⁶⁶³ System of care in Mexico: urgency for the economic empowerment of women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/sistema-de-cuidados-en-mexico-urgencia-para-el-empoderamiento-economico-de-las-mujeres>

²⁶⁶⁴ System of care in Mexico: urgency for the economic empowerment of women, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/sistema-de-cuidados-en-mexico-urgencia-para-el-empoderamiento-economico-de-las-mujeres>

²⁶⁶⁵ Talks with the head of UN Women in Guatemala, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://special.mid.ru/web/guest/maps/gt/-/asset_publisher/0n4XEaQLbbjN/content/id/4466133

²⁶⁶⁶ Talks with the head of UN Women in Guatemala, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://special.mid.ru/web/guest/maps/gt/-/asset_publisher/0n4XEaQLbbjN/content/id/4466133

²⁶⁶⁷ Talks with the head of UN Women in Guatemala, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://special.mid.ru/web/guest/maps/gt/-/asset_publisher/0n4XEaQLbbjN/content/id/4466133

person from 13 to 15 October 2021.²⁶⁶⁸ The Forum discussions will be focused on the role and the mission of women in ensuring global security, social progress, public health development, achieving a balance in the context of global digitalization, addressing environmental challenges and climate change and transition to new models of economic growth.²⁶⁶⁹ Deputy Speaker Karelova stated that twenty of the projects announced at the past Forum, aimed at supporting the empowerment of women, have been implemented and focus on holding space for women in politics, science and innovation and leadership roles.²⁶⁷⁰ The forthcoming Forum will be an opportunity to discuss the impacts of COVID-19 on women, and to implement new projects focused on women empowerment.²⁶⁷¹

On 22 December 2020, the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Dmitry Chumakov signed an agreement on the new contribution of USD10 million by the Russian Federation for United Nations Development Program projects supporting youth employment, wellbeing and innovation potential.²⁶⁷² This funding aims to create and support employment opportunities, to offer quality social services, and to improve access to education and health for youth, particularly girls and young women, through projects across Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.²⁶⁷³

On 25 January 2021, the Ministry of Health published the third version of guidelines for organizing medical care for pregnant women, women in labour, parturient women and newborns with COVID-19.²⁶⁷⁴ These guidelines aim to ensure that the provision of medical care for these patients is uniform throughout the Russian Federation.²⁶⁷⁵

On 21 February 2021, representatives from Russia attended an online meeting alongside 56 representatives from Argentina, Belgium, Canada, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Romania, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to

²⁶⁶⁸ New Projects of Eurasian Women’s Forum Presented in Moscow, Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Moscow) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://iacis.ru/News/Partners/New_Projects_of_Eurasian_Womens_Forum_Presented_in_Moscow

²⁶⁶⁹ New Projects of Eurasian Women’s Forum Presented in Moscow, Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Moscow) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://iacis.ru/News/Partners/New_Projects_of_Eurasian_Womens_Forum_Presented_in_Moscow

²⁶⁷⁰ New Projects of Eurasian Women’s Forum Presented in Moscow, Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Moscow) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://iacis.ru/News/Partners/New_Projects_of_Eurasian_Womens_Forum_Presented_in_Moscow

²⁶⁷¹ New Projects of Eurasian Women’s Forum Presented in Moscow, Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Moscow) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://iacis.ru/News/Partners/New_Projects_of_Eurasian_Womens_Forum_Presented_in_Moscow

²⁶⁷² Russia to expand its support to UNDP youth programming, United Nations Development Programme in Europe and Central Asia (New York) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/russia-expand-support-undp-youth-programming.html>

²⁶⁷³ Russia to expand its support to UNDP youth programming, United Nations Development Programme in Europe and Central Asia (New York) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/russia-expand-support-undp-youth-programming.html>

²⁶⁷⁴ The Russian Ministry of Health has released the third version of the guidelines for organizing medical care for pregnant women and newborns with COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Moscow) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2021/01/25/15909-minzdrav-rossii-vypustil-tretyu-versiyu-metodrekomentatsiy-po-organizatsii-medpomoschi-beremennym-i-novorozhdennym-s-covid-19>

²⁶⁷⁵ The Russian Ministry of Health has released the third version of the guidelines for organizing medical care for pregnant women and newborns with COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Moscow) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2021/01/25/15909-minzdrav-rossii-vypustil-tretyu-versiyu-metodrekomentatsiy-po-organizatsii-medpomoschi-beremennym-i-novorozhdennym-s-covid-19>

discuss increasing the number of women in the nuclear power industry.²⁶⁷⁶ The project coordinator of the Council of the Eurasian Women's Forum Angelica Khaperskaya presented the "Russian experience in achieving gender balance in science and technology during the meeting."²⁶⁷⁷ Russia will continue to play a role in increasing the number of women in the nuclear industry by joining the international working group on this matter, as well as by attracting women to the nuclear industry through discussions at the Third Eurasian Women's Forum in October 2021.²⁶⁷⁸

On 4 March 2021, the Club of Women Parliamentarians held a joint meeting to discuss problems of demography in the regions, social measures to support large families, legislative counteraction to domestic violence, problems of regional health care, and hot meals for school children.²⁶⁷⁹ The issues discussed in this meeting will form the agenda that the women parliamentarians will advocate for in Parliament, including the projects of the Eurasian Women's Forum's Council, social support for families, healthcare and the prevention of domestic violence.²⁶⁸⁰

On 22 March 2021, the Ministry of Health's National Medical Research Centre for Therapy and Preventive Medicine launched the ReForma social project in partnership with the Responsible for the Future foundation, which focuses on helping mothers on maternity leave to engage in healthy lifestyles.²⁶⁸¹ This project offers 50 webinars with doctors and 26 online training sessions over three months and focuses on nutrition, health, physical activity, and psychological support.²⁶⁸²

On 6 April 2021, Russia announced that regions will be able to receive subsidies for the modernization of primary health care, which includes the construction and modernization of buildings for polyclinics, fieldsher-obstetric centers and general practice departments in both urban and rural areas.²⁶⁸³ At least RUB500 billion will be allocated for this program until 2025 and of which RUB90 billion is solely for 2021.²⁶⁸⁴

On 21 April 2021, President Vladimir Putin announced new support measures to aid single-parent families and pregnant women during his annual address to the Federal Assembly in Moscow.²⁶⁸⁵ In

²⁶⁷⁶ Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-uvlicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

²⁶⁷⁷ Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-uvlicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

²⁶⁷⁸ Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-uvlicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

²⁶⁷⁹ A meeting of the Club of Women Parliamentarians and Women of the Krasnoyarsk Territory, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-zasedanie-kluba-zhenshchin-parlamentariev-i-zhenshchin-predstavlyayushchikh-partiyu-ldpr/>

²⁶⁸⁰ A meeting of the Club of Women Parliamentarians and Women of the Krasnoyarsk Territory, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-zasedanie-kluba-zhenshchin-parlamentariev-i-zhenshchin-predstavlyayushchikh-partiyu-ldpr/>

²⁶⁸¹ ReForma: A New Project for Mothers on Maternity Leave, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://eawf.ru/en/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/reforma-novyy-proekt-dlya-mam-v-dekrete/>

²⁶⁸² ReForma: A New Project for Mothers on Maternity Leave, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://eawf.ru/en/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/reforma-novyy-proekt-dlya-mam-v-dekrete/>

²⁶⁸³ The government will expand state support measures as part of the modernization of primary health care, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41904/>

²⁶⁸⁴ The government will expand state support measures as part of the modernization of primary health care, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41904/>

²⁶⁸⁵ Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly, President of Russia (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65418>

his speech, President Putin stated that he has instructed the government to develop, by 1 July 2021, a comprehensive system of support for families with children, including a new benefit for all children in single-parent households aged between eight and 16 years old, which will total up to approximately RUB5,650 yearly, per family.²⁶⁸⁶ He also announced support for pregnant women with financial difficulties, through a monthly subsidy of RUB6,350 for women who register at a maternity centre during early pregnancy.²⁶⁸⁷ Finally, President Putin announced that parents who are forced to leave work to care for a sick child, which is oftentimes the mother, will now be able to continue to receive 100 per cent of their salary, while caring for their child, up to seven years old.²⁶⁸⁸ These new announcements will work towards financially supporting pregnant women and single-parent families in order to minimise the financial burden they might face, as well as encouraging the participation of women in the labour force.²⁶⁸⁹

On 23 April 2021, Deputy Prime Minister for Social Policy, Labour, Health and Pension Provision Tatyana Golikova hosted a meeting of the Russian Tripartite Commission on a draft governmental decree on a program for organizing vocational training and education for certain Russian citizens until 2024 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labour market.²⁶⁹⁰ The eligible citizens would be those over age 50, those of pre-retirement age, and women on leave to care for young children.²⁶⁹¹ The plan is for at least 168,800 people to undergo vocational training and education in 2021 and at least 125,000 people annually from 2022 to 2024.²⁶⁹²

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to ensure that the COVID-19 pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades, including high-level political meetings that demonstrate a willingness to discuss and address some of the issues facing women and girls, the announcement of new financial supports for pregnant women and single-parent families, and the work of the Council of the Eurasian Women's Forum, with support from the government, to increase women's Economic Security. However, Russia has not taken any concrete actions to reduce the gender inequalities caused by COVID-19 in the Health sphere, nor has Russia implemented any tangible policies that address the prevention of Gender-Based Violence or offer support to women and girls who have survived such violence.

Thus, Russia has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Delaney Murphy

²⁶⁸⁶ Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly, President of Russia (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65418>

²⁶⁸⁷ Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly, President of Russia (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65418>

²⁶⁸⁸ Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly, President of Russia (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65418>

²⁶⁸⁹ Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly, President of Russia (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65418>

²⁶⁹⁰ Tatyana Golikova held a meeting of the Russian Tripartite Commission for the Regulation of Social and Labour Relations, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/42048/>

²⁶⁹¹ Tatyana Golikova held a meeting of the Russian Tripartite Commission for the Regulation of Social and Labour Relations, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/42048/>

²⁶⁹² Tatyana Golikova held a meeting of the Russian Tripartite Commission for the Regulation of Social and Labour Relations, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/42048/>

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 25 November 2020, the Saudi Public Prosecution Office announced new penalties for abuse against women, which includes any physical, psychological or sexual assaults against women.²⁶⁹³ Penalties include a minimum jail sentence between one month to one year for the act of attacking a woman as well as a minimum fine of SAR5,000 up to SAR50,000.²⁶⁹⁴

On 16 December 2020, the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) and the World Health Organization launched a new project to support the delivery of essential health services in Yemen.²⁶⁹⁵ The project provides support through the Minimum Service Package, which includes reproductive and maternal health services for up to 1.8 million people.²⁶⁹⁶

On 2 January 2021, the Ministry of Interior's Department of Civil Affairs announced that Saudi women no longer need a guardian's permission to change personal data.²⁶⁹⁷ This would allow Saudi Arabian women to change their family name, name of children, marital status and more through an online booking with the Department of Civil Affairs.²⁶⁹⁸

On 2 February 2021, the KSRelief and the Islamic Development Bank signed a financial contribution memorandum to support the Global Muslim Philanthropy Fund for Children on two projects with a total investment of USD9.16 million.²⁶⁹⁹ One project, in partnership with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, focuses on providing health and nutritional services for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.²⁷⁰⁰ This project aims to provide primary health services to 20,000 pregnant women or women who have just given birth, and health services for 150 childbirth cases.²⁷⁰¹

On 8 February 2021, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman announced new legal reforms to remove inconsistencies, speed up verdicts and boost the Saudi legal system's efficiency.²⁷⁰² The reforms include

²⁶⁹³ Saudi Arabia cracks down on abuse against women with prison term, up to \$13,332 fine, Al Arabiya (Dubai) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2020/11/25/Saudi-Arabia-cracks-down-on-abuse-against-women-with-prison-minimum-up-to-13-332-fi>

²⁶⁹⁴ Saudi Arabia cracks down on abuse against women with prison term, up to \$13,332 fine, Al Arabiya (Dubai) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2020/11/25/Saudi-Arabia-cracks-down-on-abuse-against-women-with-prison-minimum-up-to-13-332-fi>

²⁶⁹⁵ New WHO-KSRelief partnership to support delivery of essential health services in Yemen, Saudi Gazette (Cairo) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/601472/SAUDI-ARABIA/New-WHO-KSRelief-partnership-to-support-delivery-of-essential-health-services-in-Yemen>

²⁶⁹⁶ New WHO-KSRelief partnership to support delivery of essential health services in Yemen, Saudi Gazette (Cairo) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/601472/SAUDI-ARABIA/New-WHO-KSRelief-partnership-to-support-delivery-of-essential-health-services-in-Yemen>

²⁶⁹⁷ Saudi women no longer need guardian's permission to change personal data: Report, Al Arabiya (Dubai) 2 January 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/01/02/Saudi-women-Saudi-women-no-longer-need-guardian-s-permission-to-change-personal-date-Report>

²⁶⁹⁸ Saudi women no longer need guardian's permission to change personal data: Report, Al Arabiya (Dubai) 2 January 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/01/02/Saudi-women-Saudi-women-no-longer-need-guardian-s-permission-to-change-personal-date-Report>

²⁶⁹⁹ KSrelief Signs Memorandum to Contribute Financially to Global Muslim Philanthropy Fund for Children, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2185853>

²⁷⁰⁰ KSrelief Signs Memorandum to Contribute Financially to Global Muslim Philanthropy Fund for Children, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2185853>

²⁷⁰¹ KSrelief Signs Memorandum to Contribute Financially to Global Muslim Philanthropy Fund for Children, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2185853>

²⁷⁰² Legal reforms deliver justice for all, Arab News (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1806711>

four new laws: the Personal Status Law, the Civil Transactions Law, the Penal Code for Discretionary Sanctions, and the Law of Evidence.²⁷⁰³ These reforms are focused on removing legal discrepancies and providing a system of checks and balances to avoid painful consequences imposed on women.²⁷⁰⁴ The Personal Status Law, focused on provisions relating to family matters, wills and inheritance, will be the first of the four laws to be referred to the Council of Ministers for study and review.²⁷⁰⁵

On 21 February 2021, the Ministry of Defense announced that women will be able to sign up online to join the Saudi Arabian Army, Royal Saudi Air Defense, Royal Saudi Navy, Royal Saudi Strategic Missile Force, and Armed Forces Medical Services as soldiers, lance corporals, corporals, sergeants, and staff sergeants.²⁷⁰⁶ This is a part of the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030 Agenda, which includes introducing reforms to advance Saudi Arabian women in a variety of fields.²⁷⁰⁷

On 5 March 2021, the KSRelief inspected the progress of a project in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund to provide emergency services to women and girls affected by gender-based violence in Yemen.²⁷⁰⁸ This project aims to enhance mechanisms of protecting women and girls from gender-based violence and empower victims through professional and vocational training programs to reintegrate them into Yemeni society.²⁷⁰⁹

As of 8 March 2021, the Ministry of Culture stated that the Ministry has reached a new gender balance of 50 per cent in the workplace, which aligns with Saudi Arabia's mission of empowerment for the Vision 2030 agenda.²⁷¹⁰ The Ministry of Culture's top positions are held by women such as chief executive officers, managing directors as well as operational managers.²⁷¹¹

On 8 March 2021, Minister of Commerce and Investment Majid bin Abdullah Al-Qasabi launched a new program to encourage Saudi women to join the accounting profession.²⁷¹² Organized by the Saudi Organization for Certified Public Accountants, the program includes training, qualification, entrepreneurship and employment streams in order to empower women and increase female participation in the national economy.²⁷¹³

²⁷⁰³ Legal reforms deliver justice for all, Arab News (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1806711>

²⁷⁰⁴ Legal reforms deliver justice for all, Arab News (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1806711>

²⁷⁰⁵ Legal reforms deliver justice for all, Arab News (Riyadh) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1806711>

²⁷⁰⁶ Saudi Arabia opens military recruitment to women in latest move for inclusivity, Al Arabiya (Dubai) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/02/21/Saudi-Vision-2030-Saudi-Arabia-opens-military-recruitment-to-women-in-latest-move-for-inclusivity-/>

²⁷⁰⁷ Saudi Arabia opens military recruitment to women in latest move for inclusivity, Al Arabiya (Dubai) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/gulf/2021/02/21/Saudi-Vision-2030-Saudi-Arabia-opens-military-recruitment-to-women-in-latest-move-for-inclusivity-/>

²⁷⁰⁸ KSRelief inspects empowerment project in Yemen, Arab News (Aden) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1820096/saudi-arabia>

²⁷⁰⁹ KSRelief inspects empowerment project in Yemen, Arab News (Aden) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1820096/saudi-arabia>

²⁷¹⁰ Saudi Culture Ministry achieves gender balance with women in key roles, Arab News (Jeddah) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1821571/saudi-arabia>

²⁷¹¹ Saudi Culture Ministry achieves gender balance with women in key roles, Arab News (Jeddah) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1821571/saudi-arabia>

²⁷¹² Saudi Arabia launches women's accountancy program, Arab News (Riyadh) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1822231/saudi-arabia>

²⁷¹³ Saudi Arabia launches women's accountancy program, Arab News (Riyadh) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1822231/saudi-arabia>

On 26 March 2021, Secretary General of the Family Affairs Council Hala bint Mazyad Al-Twajjri affirmed Saudi Arabia's commitment to enact legislative and procedural measures to protect women's rights at the 65th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.²⁷¹⁴ Secretary General Al-Twajjri noted that this included the elimination of discrimination against women and the protection of women from violence.²⁷¹⁵ Secretary General Al-Twajjri noted that these actions are aligned with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, including the National Transformation Program, which aims to increase Saudi women's participation in the labour market.²⁷¹⁶

On 29 March 2021, Saudi Arabia's Human Rights Commission and the Mawaddah Charitable Association signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen coordination in protecting human rights and spread awareness to reduce domestic violence.²⁷¹⁷ Under this memorandum, an independent body will be established to manage the issue of domestic violence and to support efforts to develop specialized centers to rehabilitate victims of domestic abuse.²⁷¹⁸

On 22 April 2021, the Saudi Human Resources Development Fund introduced a new initiative to boost female employment in the private sector by subsidizing transport costs in partnership with vehicle for hire company, Careem.²⁷¹⁹ This initiative allows women to receive an 80 per cent discount on the cost of each journey, with the ceiling of support increased to SAR1,100 a month for those with a monthly wage of SAR6,000 or less, and SAR800 for those earning between SAR6,001 to SAR8,000 per month.²⁷²⁰ This initiative aims to reduce the burden of transport costs for Saudi women working in the private sector.²⁷²¹

On 22 April 2021, the Ministry of Health introduced a blueprint for women's right to health, which includes sexual and reproductive healthcare services.²⁷²² The blueprint notes that women are entitled to assistance in childbearing in case of delayed pregnancy, physical and moral support, and receiving clinical examinations in order to prevent cancer and fragility diseases, especially if risk factors are present.²⁷²³ The blueprint also notes that women are entitled to maternity care appropriate to her cultural and religious background, and to receive information in a language that she understands.²⁷²⁴

²⁷¹⁴ Saudi Arabia "keen to protect women's rights," Arab News (New York) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1832581/saudi-arabia>

²⁷¹⁵ Saudi Arabia "keen to protect women's rights," Arab News (New York) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1832581/saudi-arabia>

²⁷¹⁶ Saudi Arabia "keen to protect women's rights," Arab News (New York) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1832581/saudi-arabia>

²⁷¹⁷ Saudi signs MoU to combat domestic violence, Middle East Monitor (London) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20210330-saudi-sings-mou-to-combat-domestic-violence/>

²⁷¹⁸ Saudi signs MoU to combat domestic violence, Middle East Monitor (London) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20210330-saudi-sings-mou-to-combat-domestic-violence/>

²⁷¹⁹ Saudi transport program extends support for women, Arab News (Riyadh) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1846841/saudi-arabia>

²⁷²⁰ Saudi transport program extends support for women, Arab News (Riyadh) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1846841/saudi-arabia>

²⁷²¹ Saudi transport program extends support for women, Arab News (Riyadh) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1846841/saudi-arabia>

²⁷²² Saudi Arabia issues blueprint for women's reproductive health rights, Gulf News (Abu Dhabi) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/saudi/saudi-arabia-issues-blueprint-for-womens-reproductive-health-rights-1.78678400>

²⁷²³ Saudi Arabia issues blueprint for women's reproductive health rights, Gulf News (Abu Dhabi) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/saudi/saudi-arabia-issues-blueprint-for-womens-reproductive-health-rights-1.78678400>

²⁷²⁴ Saudi Arabia issues blueprint for women's reproductive health rights, Gulf News (Abu Dhabi) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/saudi/saudi-arabia-issues-blueprint-for-womens-reproductive-health-rights-1.78678400>

Saudi Arabia has taken strong concrete actions to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in all three spheres of Health, Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence.

Thus, Saudi Arabia has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Annabelle Bourzeix

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender equalities and undermine the progress made in the recent decades.

On 27 November 2020, the Minister of Social Development Lindiwe Zulu relaunched the Gender-Based Violence Command Centre (GBVCC) in Pretoria, which will be expanded in order to accommodate sufficient resources.²⁷²⁵ The GBVCC functions 24 hours a day and victims of gender-based violence can contact GBVCC to speak with a social worker for assistance and counselling through a toll-free phone number or text message or Skype.²⁷²⁶

On 11 January 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa deemed gender-based violence and femicide to be the country's second pandemic.²⁷²⁷ South Africa is addressing gender-based violence and femicide by collaborating with civil society to create behavioural change in taxi drivers and taxi marshals.²⁷²⁸ Further actions include sensitizing religious leaders to issues with the patriarchal system and gender-based violence.²⁷²⁹ President Ramaphosa's address also presents actions to economically empower women such as training for business women in order for them to access public procurement opportunities.²⁷³⁰

On 4 February 2021, President Ramaphosa launched the first Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Response Fund.²⁷³¹ In one day, the private sector pledged ZAR128 million for the GBVF.²⁷³² This fund is for the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.²⁷³³ The National Strategic Plan has six pillars: Accountability, Coordination and Leadership; Prevention

²⁷²⁵ Minister Lindiwe Zulu relaunched Gender-Based Violence Command Centre, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-lindiwe-zulu-relaunches-gender-based-violence-command-centre-27-nov-26-nov-2020>

²⁷²⁶ Minister Lindiwe Zulu relaunched Gender-Based Violence Command Centre, South African Government (Pretoria) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-lindiwe-zulu-relaunches-gender-based-violence-command-centre-27-nov-26-nov-2020>

²⁷²⁷ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid>

²⁷²⁸ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid>

²⁷²⁹ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid>

²⁷³⁰ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid>

²⁷³¹ Presidency on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Response Fund, South African Government (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/gbvf-response-5-feb-2021-0000>

²⁷³² Presidency on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Response Fund, South African Government (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/gbvf-response-5-feb-2021-0000>

²⁷³³ Presidency on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Response Fund, South African Government (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/gbvf-response-5-feb-2021-0000>

and Rebuilding Social Cohesion; Justice, Safety and Protection; Response, Care, Support and Healing; Economic Power; and Research and Information Management.²⁷³⁴

On 2 March 2021, President Ramaphosa discussed South Africa's commitment to further financial and economic inclusion of African women with Queen Máxima of the Netherlands, the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development.²⁷³⁵ President Ramaphosa underscored the four main challenges of African women to financial inclusion, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁷³⁶ President Ramaphosa also conveyed the tangible actions South Africa has taken to include women financially.²⁷³⁷ For example, South Africa is developing the Financial Inclusion Policy.²⁷³⁸ This is a national policy that ensures 40 per cent of public procurement favours women.²⁷³⁹ This meeting with Queen Máxima solidified the mutual desire to continue to work towards the shared goal of the economic empowerment of women.²⁷⁴⁰

As of 2 March 2021, South Africa assigned district coordinators to fight gender-based violence in each district, created a multi-sectoral Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Technical Committee, provided 167 women shelter and 3,811 victims of gender-based violence psychosocial support.²⁷⁴¹ In addition, South Africa allocated around ZAR3 million for women's shelters supporting victims of GBVF.²⁷⁴² These implementations were taken in accordance with the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide 2020-2030.²⁷⁴³

As of 3 March 2021, the National Development Agency and the Department of Social Development granted funds for community service organizations as part of the Victim Empowerment Programme.²⁷⁴⁴ The Victim Empowerment Programme aims to strengthen preventative and support

²⁷³⁴ Presidency on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Response Fund, South African Government (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/gbvf-response-5-feb-2021-0000>

²⁷³⁵ President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-and-un-special-advocate-queen-maxima-share-commitment-financial>

²⁷³⁶ President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-and-un-special-advocate-queen-maxima-share-commitment-financial>

²⁷³⁷ President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-and-un-special-advocate-queen-maxima-share-commitment-financial>

²⁷³⁸ President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-and-un-special-advocate-queen-maxima-share-commitment-financial>

²⁷³⁹ President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-and-un-special-advocate-queen-maxima-share-commitment-financial>

²⁷⁴⁰ President Cyril Ramaphosa and UN Special Advocate Queen Maxima share commitment on financial and economic inclusion of African women, South African Government (Pretoria) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-and-un-special-advocate-queen-maxima-share-commitment-financial>

²⁷⁴¹ Premier Sisi Ntombela: Free State State of the Province Address 2021, South African Government (Bloemfontein) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/fs-sopa-2-mar-2021-0000>

²⁷⁴² Premier Sisi Ntombela: Free State State of the Province Address 2021, South African Government (Bloemfontein) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/fs-sopa-2-mar-2021-0000>

²⁷⁴³ Premier Sisi Ntombela: Free State State of the Province Address 2021, South African Government (Bloemfontein) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/fs-sopa-2-mar-2021-0000>

²⁷⁴⁴ National Development Agency responds to Newzroom Afrika interview on Criminal Assets Recovery Account Programme, South African Government (Johannesburg) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-development-agency-responds-newzroom-afrika-interview-criminal-assets-recovery>

services for survivors of gender-based violence and femicide.²⁷⁴⁵ The National Development Agency received approval to fund 312 civil society organizations with ZAR85.6 million.²⁷⁴⁶ As part of this funding, ZAR36.75 million has been distributed to approved community service organizations.²⁷⁴⁷

On 8 March 2021, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor called on post-pandemic leadership to focus on the discrimination that women face at The Motsepe Foundation's International Women's Day Summit.²⁷⁴⁸ For example, women face discrimination for unpaid care work, unequal pay, unemployment, and barriers to accessing employment, which have all been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁷⁴⁹ Government emergency relief measures only pertain to women in formal sectors, meaning that there was unequal access to financial support.²⁷⁵⁰

On 11 March 2021, Minister of Tourism Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane introduced the Tourism Recovery Plan which prioritizes the inclusion and economic empowerment of women and girls using the approach of gender mainstreaming.²⁷⁵¹ This comes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁷⁵² Gender mainstreaming equally considers the interests and concerns of women and men in order to promote inclusivity.²⁷⁵³ This acknowledges that women and men have different access and need for resources, power, rights and institutions, which became particularly apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁷⁵⁴ Minister Kubayi-Ngubane recognized how the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately impacted women-owned businesses, which led to the introduction of the approach of gender-mainstreaming in policy-making.²⁷⁵⁵

²⁷⁴⁵ National Development Agency responds to Newzroom Afrika interview on Criminal Assets Recovery Account Programme, South African Government (Johannesburg) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-development-agency-responds-newzroom-afrika-interview-criminal-assets-recovery>

²⁷⁴⁶ National Development Agency responds to Newzroom Afrika interview on Criminal Assets Recovery Account Programme, South African Government (Johannesburg) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

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²⁷⁴⁷ National Development Agency responds to Newzroom Afrika interview on Criminal Assets Recovery Account Programme, South African Government (Johannesburg) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/youth-development-agency-responds-newzroom-afrika-interview-criminal-assets-recovery>

²⁷⁴⁸ Minister Naledi Pandor: The Motsepe Foundation's International Women's Day Summit, South African Government (Pretoria) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-naledi-pandor-motsepe-foundation%E2%80%99s-international-women%E2%80%99s-day-summit-8-mar-2021>

²⁷⁴⁹ Minister Naledi Pandor: The Motsepe Foundation's International Women's Day Summit, South African Government (Pretoria) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-naledi-pandor-motsepe-foundation%E2%80%99s-international-women%E2%80%99s-day-summit-8-mar-2021>

²⁷⁵⁰ Minister Naledi Pandor: The Motsepe Foundation's International Women's Day Summit, South African Government (Pretoria) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-naledi-pandor-motsepe-foundation%E2%80%99s-international-women%E2%80%99s-day-summit-8-mar-2021>

²⁷⁵¹ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane: 2021 Women in MICE Awards, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-ngubane-2021-women-mice-awards-11-mar-2021-0000>

²⁷⁵² Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane: 2021 Women in MICE Awards, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-ngubane-2021-women-mice-awards-11-mar-2021-0000>

²⁷⁵³ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane: 2021 Women in MICE Awards, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-ngubane-2021-women-mice-awards-11-mar-2021-0000>

²⁷⁵⁴ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane: 2021 Women in MICE Awards, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-ngubane-2021-women-mice-awards-11-mar-2021-0000>

²⁷⁵⁵ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane: 2021 Women in MICE Awards, South African Government (Pretoria) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-mmamoloko-kubayi-ngubane-2021-women-mice-awards-11-mar-2021-0000>

On 17 March 2021, the National Development Agency's Men's GBVF Dialogue rallied pledges from men in the Lejweleputswa District.²⁷⁵⁶ The GBVF Dialogue is a platform for conversations that bring about social change.²⁷⁵⁷ The National Development Agency is engaging cross-sectoral organizations and community stakeholders, pledging zero tolerance to gender-based violence.²⁷⁵⁸ The National Development Agency also funds seven GBVF organizations in the Lejweleputswa District with programming that supports those affected by GBVF.²⁷⁵⁹ This work is especially relevant as the COVID-19 pandemic has increased reports of violence against women and girls.²⁷⁶⁰

On 18 March 2021, Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities Maite Nkoana-Mashabane reaffirmed that gender equality makes economic sense and discussed a future agenda to promote gender equality at the India-Brazil-South Africa Trilateral Cooperation Forum.²⁷⁶¹ At the forum, the three countries highlighted how the year 2020 has brought women's rights into prominence and emphasized their commitment to reduce the gender gap and foster mutual cooperation.²⁷⁶²

On 19 March 2021, Minister of Social Development Lindiwe Zulu led the human rights walk against gender-based violence and femicide in Diepsloot, a hotspot for gender-based violence.²⁷⁶³ This walk raised awareness about gender-based violence and engaged community organizations and victim-empowerment services.²⁷⁶⁴

On 19 March 2021, South Africa co-organized the event "Ensuring migrant women's effective participation in public life and elimination of sexual and gender-based violence" with Germany, Bangladesh, the International Organization for Migration, United Nations Population Fund, UN Women, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and the Women in Migration Network for the 65th Commission on the Status of Women.²⁷⁶⁵ The event highlights the specific

²⁷⁵⁶ National Development Agency on the Men's Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Dialogue, South African Government (Johannesburg) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/national-development-agency-men%E2%80%99s-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-gbvf-dialogue-17-mar>

²⁷⁵⁷ National Development Agency on the Men's Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Dialogue, South African Government (Johannesburg) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/national-development-agency-men%E2%80%99s-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-gbvf-dialogue-17-mar>

²⁷⁵⁸ National Development Agency on the Men's Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Dialogue, South African Government (Johannesburg) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/national-development-agency-men%E2%80%99s-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-gbvf-dialogue-17-mar>

²⁷⁵⁹ National Development Agency on the Men's Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Dialogue, South African Government (Johannesburg) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/national-development-agency-men%E2%80%99s-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-gbvf-dialogue-17-mar>

²⁷⁶⁰ National Development Agency on the Men's Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Dialogue, South African Government (Johannesburg) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/national-development-agency-men%E2%80%99s-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-gbvf-dialogue-17-mar>

²⁷⁶¹ Sixth India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum Meeting Held, Indian Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1705296>

²⁷⁶² Sixth India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum Meeting Held, Indian Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 4 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1705296>

²⁷⁶³ Minister Lindiwe Zulu leads human rights walk against gender-based violence and femicide, South African Government (Pretoria) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-lindiwe-zulu-leads-human-rights-walk-against-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-0>

²⁷⁶⁴ Minister Lindiwe Zulu leads human rights walk against gender-based violence and femicide, South African Government (Pretoria) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-lindiwe-zulu-leads-human-rights-walk-against-gender-based-violence-and-femicide-0>

²⁷⁶⁵ Media Advisory: UN's Commission on the Status of Women highlights women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

needs and barriers migrant women and girls face, emphasizing the urgency of responding to gender-based violence against women migrants, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁷⁶⁶

On 31 March 2021, South Africa and 20 countries (Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Panama, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Uruguay) united and established the “Group of Friends for Gender Equality,” following Mexico’s leadership.²⁷⁶⁷ This group aims at centralizing public policies and promoting coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.²⁷⁶⁸

On 22 April 2021, the Commission for Gender Equality presented its review of the first six months of the Government’s Emergency Response Action Plan (ERAP) on GBVF.²⁷⁶⁹ The ERAP on GBVF was first introduced in 2019 as a ZAR1.6 billion plan to address GBVF.²⁷⁷⁰ This review, which is an implementation report, contains instructive findings for civil society, policymakers, the private sector, the development sector, the government, and other relevant actors.²⁷⁷¹ It highlights positive interventions and those that did not achieve its intended goal, shaping future efforts to address gender inequalities.²⁷⁷²

On 28 April 2021, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Blade Nzimande announced the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (PSETA) in response to the exacerbated social inequities from the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁷⁷³ PSETA is a partnership with the Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Microsoft South Africa and Afrika

²⁷⁶⁶ Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

²⁷⁶⁷ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero>

²⁷⁶⁸ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero>

²⁷⁶⁹ Commission for Gender Equality launches Review Report on Government’s Emergency Response Action Plan on Gender-based Violence and Femicide, South African Government (Johannesburg) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/virtual-media-launch-19-apr-2021-0000>

²⁷⁷⁰ Chairperson Tamara Mathebula: Emergency Response Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, South African Government (Johannesburg) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/chairperson-tamara-mathebula-emergency-response-action-plan-gender-based-violence-and>

²⁷⁷¹ Commission for Gender Equality launches Review Report on Government’s Emergency Response Action Plan on Gender-based Violence and Femicide, South African Government (Johannesburg) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/virtual-media-launch-19-apr-2021-0000>

²⁷⁷² Chairperson Tamara Mathebula: Emergency Response Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, South African Government (Johannesburg) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/chairperson-tamara-mathebula-emergency-response-action-plan-gender-based-violence-and>

²⁷⁷³ Minister Blade Nzimande: Launch of PSETA Microsoft – Afrika Tikkun Global Skills Initiative South Africa, South African Government (Pretoria) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-launch-pseta-microsoft-afrika-tikkun-global-skills-initiative-south>

Tikkun Services that aims to equip unemployed women and youth with digital skills.²⁷⁷⁴ This creates more opportunities for the economic inclusion of women.²⁷⁷⁵

On 30 April 2021, Deputy President David Mabuza introduced the commitment to prioritize women in land ownership under the Beneficiary Selection and Land Allocation Policy and the Land Tenure Rights Act Amendment Bill.²⁷⁷⁶ This emphasizes the prominent role women play in society and the importance of tackling the discrimination women face.²⁷⁷⁷

South Africa has taken strong concrete actions in reducing gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in regard to the Gender-Based Violence sphere, but South Africa has only taken limited actions in regard to the Health and Economic Security spheres.

Thus, South Africa has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Isabella Li

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 7 January 2021, the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services hosted seminars on “Financial Literacy and Women’s Economic Empowerment” over radio programs and online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁷⁷⁸ The seminars reached 440,000 people and focused on raising awareness to women on issues like money management, investment instruments, complaint mechanisms and other financial literacy tools.²⁷⁷⁹

On 18 February 2021, Minister of Family, Labour and Social Services Zehra Zumrut Selçuk announced that the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services will aim to include over 450,000 more workplaces through İŞKUR, a public employment service.²⁷⁸⁰ In order to reduce the

²⁷⁷⁴ Minister Blade Nzimande: Launch of PSETA Microsoft – Afrika Tikkun Global Skills Initiative South Africa, South African Government (Pretoria) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-launch-pseta-microsoft-afrika-tikkun-global-skills-initiative-south>

²⁷⁷⁵ Minister Blade Nzimande: Launch of PSETA Microsoft – Afrika Tikkun Global Skills Initiative South Africa, South African Government (Pretoria) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-launch-pseta-microsoft-afrika-tikkun-global-skills-initiative-south>

²⁷⁷⁶ Parliament on Freedom Day, South African Government (Cape Town) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/parliament-freedom-day-28-apr-2021-0000>

²⁷⁷⁷ Deputy President David Mabuza: Covie community land handover ceremony, South African Government (Pretoria) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-president-david-mabuza-covie-community-land-handover-ceremony-30-apr-2021-0000>

²⁷⁷⁸ Minister Selçuk: “We Reached 440 Thousand People Through Financial Literacy and Women’s Economic Empowerment Seminars,” Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (Ankara) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-finansal-okuryazarlik-ve-kadinlarin-ekonomik-guclenmesi-seminerleriyle-440-bin-kisiye-ulastik/>

²⁷⁷⁹ Minister Selçuk: “We Reached 440 Thousand People Through Financial Literacy and Women’s Economic Empowerment Seminars,” Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (Ankara) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-finansal-okuryazarlik-ve-kadinlarin-ekonomik-guclenmesi-seminerleriyle-440-bin-kisiye-ulastik/>

²⁷⁸⁰ Minister Selçuk: “We Will Get Together With Our Workers and Employers for the Revitalization of the Labor Market,” Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (Ankara) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-iscucu-piyasasinin-canlanmasi-icin-iscilerimiz-ve-isverenlerimizle-daha-fazla-bir-araya-gelecegiz/>

consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on the workforce, there are plans to provide job and vocational counseling to over 2.2 million people, especially women, youth and disabled people.²⁷⁸¹

On 9 March 2021, the Ministry of Justice and Ankara University signed a cooperation protocol to support steps in combating violence against women.²⁷⁸² This protocol aims to conduct academic studies to investigate violence against women by criminal perpetrators in order to identify causes of violence and establish preventive measures on gender-based violence.²⁷⁸³

On 20 March 2021, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan signed a presidential decree to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention, a Council of Europe treaty on preventing domestic violence and combating violence against women.²⁷⁸⁴ Minister Selçuk stated that women's rights will continue to be guaranteed in domestic legislation like the Constitution and that the Turkish legal system is "dynamic and strong enough to implement new regulations according to need."²⁷⁸⁵

On 22 March 2021, Turkey allocated TRY56 billion to the Social Protection Shield Program.²⁷⁸⁶ The goal of this program is to provide women services for working life, social security, social services and social assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁷⁸⁷

On 9 April 2021, Minister Selçuk attended the Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation Meeting on Combating Violence Against Women hosted by Minister of the Interior Suleyman Soylu at the Security and Emergency Situations Coordination Center.²⁷⁸⁸ At the meeting, Minister Selçuk emphasized that the Fourth National Action Plan covering 2021 to 2025 will focus on implementing more legislation combating all types of violence against women, increasing accessibility of services for women, and supporting victims of violence.²⁷⁸⁹

²⁷⁸¹ Minister Selçuk: "We Will Get Together With Our Workers and Employers for the Revitalization of the Labor Market," Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (Ankara) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-iscucu-piyasasinin-canlanmasi-icin-iscilerimiz-ve-isverenlerimizle-daha-fazla-bir-araya-gelecegiz/>

²⁷⁸² Ministry-University Cooperation on Combating Violence Against Women, Press and Public Relations Consultancy (Ankara) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://basin.adalet.gov.tr/kadina-yonelik-siddetle-mucadelede-yargi-universite-ibirligi>

²⁷⁸³ Ministry-University Cooperation on Combating Violence Against Women, Press and Public Relations Consultancy (Ankara) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://basin.adalet.gov.tr/kadina-yonelik-siddetle-mucadelede-yargi-universite-ibirligi>

²⁷⁸⁴ Turkey withdraws from Istanbul Convention, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkey-withdraws-from-istanbul-convention/2182168>

²⁷⁸⁵ Minister Selçuk: "The Guarantee of Women's Rights is the Current Arrangements in Our Internal Legislation, Being Our Constitution First," Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-haklarinin-teminati-anayasamiz-basta-olmak-uzere-ic-mevzuatimizdaki-mevcut-duzenlemelerdir/>

²⁷⁸⁶ Minister Selçuk Attended the "From the Pandemic Perspective: The New Normal of Women in Turkey" Event Organized by KADEM, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadem-tarafindan-duzenlenen-pandemi-perspektifinden-turkiye-de-kadınların-yeni-normali-etkinligine-katildi/>

²⁷⁸⁷ Minister Selçuk Attended the "From the Pandemic Perspective: The New Normal of Women in Turkey" Event Organized by KADEM, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadem-tarafindan-duzenlenen-pandemi-perspektifinden-turkiye-de-kadınların-yeni-normali-etkinligine-katildi/>

²⁷⁸⁸ Minister Selçuk Attended the Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation Meeting on Combating Violence Against Women, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadina-yonelik-siddetle-mucadele-koordinasyon-izleme-ve-degerlendirme-toplantısına-katildi/>

²⁷⁸⁹ Minister Selçuk Attended the Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation Meeting on Combating Violence Against Women, Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadina-yonelik-siddetle-mucadele-koordinasyon-izleme-ve-degerlendirme-toplantısına-katildi/>

On 19 April 2021, Minister Selçuk announced a new initiative to help increase women employment by training 8,000 individuals.²⁷⁹⁰ This initiative will train women on establishing cooperatives and provide training to women and men already involved in cooperatives.²⁷⁹¹ This initiative will also establish a consultant pool and provide consultancy service training for 1,000 women.²⁷⁹²

On 29 April 2021, Minister of Family and Social Services Derya Yanik announced that private supervised nurseries, daycare centers and children's clubs affiliated with the Ministry of Family and Social Services will continue to operate for those working in essential public services exempt from restrictions implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁷⁹³ These childcare services will continue to operate despite full closure of non-essential businesses in order to support those working in the sectors of production, security, health and social services.²⁷⁹⁴

Turkey has taken strong steps to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in the sphere of Economic Security through programs to increase women's labour market participation. However, Turkey has only taken some limited steps to reduce gender inequalities in the Gender-Based Violence sphere and limited steps in the Health sphere.

Thus, Turkey has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Jennifer Lam

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 1 December 2020, the UK announced GBP7 million in humanitarian and remittance funding to provide support to almost 750,000 people living in eight Southern African countries, including Madagascar, affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁷⁹⁵ This funding includes water, hygiene and sanitation services, food security assistance and gender-based violence protection measures, including mental health care, behavior change campaigns and access to protection networks.²⁷⁹⁶

²⁷⁹⁰ Minister Selçuk: "We Will Give Awareness Training To 8 Thousand People To Increase Female Employment," Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-istihdaminin-arttirilmesi-icin-8-bin-kisiye-farkindalik-egitimi-verecegiz/>

²⁷⁹¹ Minister Selçuk: "We Will Give Awareness Training To 8 Thousand People To Increase Female Employment," Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-istihdaminin-arttirilmesi-icin-8-bin-kisiye-farkindalik-egitimi-verecegiz/>

²⁷⁹² Minister Selçuk: "We Will Give Awareness Training To 8 Thousand People To Increase Female Employment," Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/bakan-selcuk-kadin-istihdaminin-arttirilmesi-icin-8-bin-kisiye-farkindalik-egitimi-verecegiz/>

²⁷⁹³ Minister of Family and Social Services Yanik: "In the period of complete closure, our daycare centers will be open only for the children of families who are exempt from the restrictions," Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/aile-ve-sosyal-hizmetler-bakani-yanik-tam-kapanma-doneminde-sadece-kisitlamalardan-muaf-olan-ailelerin-cocuklari-icin-kreslerimiz-acik-olacak/>

²⁷⁹⁴ Minister of Family and Social Services Yanik: "In the period of complete closure, our daycare centers will be open only for the children of families who are exempt from the restrictions," Ministry of Family and Social Services (Ankara) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.aile.gov.tr/haberler/aile-ve-sosyal-hizmetler-bakani-yanik-tam-kapanma-doneminde-sadece-kisitlamalardan-muaf-olan-ailelerin-cocuklari-icin-kreslerimiz-acik-olacak/>

²⁷⁹⁵ UK provides COVID-19 humanitarian and remittance relief fund to Africa, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-provides-covid-19-humanitarian-and-remittance-relief-fund-to-africa>

²⁷⁹⁶ UK provides COVID-19 humanitarian and remittance relief fund to Africa, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-provides-covid-19-humanitarian-and-remittance-relief-fund-to-africa>

On 9 December 2020, Minister for Africa James Duddridge announced that the UK would contribute GBP21.8 million for Somalia's long-term security and stability wherein GBP8 million would be specifically for supporting Somalia's health services like antenatal care and vaccinations for women and children.²⁷⁹⁷

On 10 December 2020, the UK launched a 10-week call for evidence including knowledge, opinions and experiences of victims and support organizations, in order to tackle violence against women and girls.²⁷⁹⁸

On 15 December 2020, Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock published the Gender Pay Gap in Medicine Review, highlighting the structural barriers in medicine for women.²⁷⁹⁹ According to which, the Government has committed to tackle the gap by dismantling barriers, making senior roles more accessible to women, improving pay transparency and promoting cultural changes.²⁸⁰⁰

On 17 December 2020, Minister for Women and Equalities Liz Truss addressed the UK's new approach to tackle inequality across the UK.²⁸⁰¹ The three-way approach involves "delivering fairness through modernization, increased choice and openness," "concentrating on data and research" and "taking [a] big[er] and broad[er] look...at the challenges."²⁸⁰² In addition, Minister Truss announced the discontinuation of unconscious bias training in government and civil service, as it is shown to have reinforced stereotypes and exacerbated biases.²⁸⁰³

On 11 January 2021, Minister for Mental Health, Suicide Prevention and Patient Safety Nadine Dorries introduced the Safer Medicines in Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Consortium, which brings together 16 leading organizations including the National Health Service under a united pledge to fulfill information needs of pregnant and breastfeeding women and healthcare professionals through accessible and consistent advice.²⁸⁰⁴ This new initiative aims to ensure pregnant and breastfeeding women are able to make informed decisions about their own healthcare.²⁸⁰⁵

²⁷⁹⁷ UK Minister reiterates UK commitment to Somalia and the region's response to the threat of Al-Shabaab, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-minister-reiterates-uk-commitment-to-somalia-and-the-regions-response-to-the-threat-of-al-shabaab>

²⁷⁹⁸ Nationwide call for views on tackling violence against women and girls, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nationwide-call-for-views-on-tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls>

²⁷⁹⁹ Government takes forward plans to cut gender pay gap in medicine, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-takes-forward-plans-to-cut-gender-pay-gap-in-medicine>

²⁸⁰⁰ Government takes forward plans to cut gender pay gap in medicine, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-takes-forward-plans-to-cut-gender-pay-gap-in-medicine>

²⁸⁰¹ Fight For Fairness, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/fight-for-fairness>

²⁸⁰² Fight For Fairness, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/fight-for-fairness>

²⁸⁰³ Fight For Fairness, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/fight-for-fairness>

²⁸⁰⁴ New partnership pledges clear and consistent evidence-based guidance on medicines for pregnant and breastfeeding women, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-partnership-pledges-clear-and-consistent-evidence-based-guidance-on-medicines-for-pregnant-and-breastfeeding-women--2>

²⁸⁰⁵ New partnership pledges clear and consistent evidence-based guidance on medicines for pregnant and breastfeeding women, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-partnership-pledges-clear-and-consistent-evidence-based-guidance-on-medicines-for-pregnant-and-breastfeeding-women--2>

On 14 January 2021, the UK launched the Ask for ANI codeword scheme with independent pharmacies and Boots to allow victims of domestic abuse to ask for help discreetly.²⁸⁰⁶ Trained staff in participating pharmacies will offer victims a safe and private space where the situation can be understood.²⁸⁰⁷ The launch of the codeword scheme is committed in recognition of the impact of COVID-19 restrictions, as to provide a further lifeline for victims who are trapped by their perpetrators.²⁸⁰⁸

On 14 January 2021, Home Secretary Priti Patel announced new laws to reform pre-charge bail in order to provide better protection for victims and witnesses in cases of violent and sexual offences.²⁸⁰⁹ The full package of reforms will be called “Kay’s Law” and will enable police to impose strict conditions on suspects in high-harm cases including most cases of domestic and sexual violence.²⁸¹⁰

On 22 January 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced the New Health and Wellbeing Fund, which focuses on mothers living in black, Asian or minority ethnic communities or deprived areas of the UK.²⁸¹¹ This new fund will aid 19 projects to promote nutrition, learning, language development and mental health during pregnancy and post-birth for women with each project receiving a share of up to GBP7.6 million across three years.²⁸¹² This fund aims to reduce health inequalities in the UK.²⁸¹³

On 1 February 2021, the UK confirmed an additional GBP40 million to a previously GBP99.5 million funding commitment to help victims of rape and domestic abuse during the pandemic and beyond.²⁸¹⁴ Out of the GBP40 million funding, GBP20.7 million will go to local, community-based services, GBP16 million to adviser recruitment, GBP2 million to small specialist organizations and GBP1.3 million to remote and online services.²⁸¹⁵ In addition, the UK Government also launched the

²⁸⁰⁶ Pharmacies launch codeword scheme to offer ‘lifeline’ to domestic abuse victims, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pharmacies-launch-codeword-scheme-to-offer-lifeline-to-domestic-abuse-victims>

²⁸⁰⁷ Pharmacies launch codeword scheme to offer ‘lifeline’ to domestic abuse victims, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pharmacies-launch-codeword-scheme-to-offer-lifeline-to-domestic-abuse-victims>

²⁸⁰⁸ Pharmacies launch codeword scheme to offer ‘lifeline’ to domestic abuse victims, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pharmacies-launch-codeword-scheme-to-offer-lifeline-to-domestic-abuse-victims>

²⁸⁰⁹ Home Secretary to introduce “Kay’s Law” reform to better protect victims, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-to-introduce-kays-law-reform-to-better-protect-victims>

²⁸¹⁰ Home Secretary to introduce “Kay’s Law” reform to better protect victims, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-to-introduce-kays-law-reform-to-better-protect-victims>

²⁸¹¹ Winners announced of £7.6 million fund to help give babies the best start in life, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/winners-announced-of-76-million-fund-to-help-give-babies-the-best-start-in-life>

²⁸¹² Winners announced of £7.6 million fund to help give babies the best start in life, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/winners-announced-of-76-million-fund-to-help-give-babies-the-best-start-in-life>

²⁸¹³ Winners announced of £7.6 million fund to help give babies the best start in life, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/winners-announced-of-76-million-fund-to-help-give-babies-the-best-start-in-life>

²⁸¹⁴ Extra £40m to help victims during pandemic and beyond, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-40m-to-help-victims-during-pandemic-and-beyond>

²⁸¹⁵ Extra £40m to help victims during pandemic and beyond, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-40m-to-help-victims-during-pandemic-and-beyond>

#ItStillMatters campaign that aims to “raise awareness amongst victims and survivors [of domestic abuse] of the support available.”²⁸¹⁶

On 12 February 2021, Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing Eddie Hughes announced an allocation of GBP125 million to councils across England to support domestic abuse victims and their children.²⁸¹⁷ The fund will go to ensure access to life-saving support, including “therapy, advocacy and counselling in safe accommodation.”²⁸¹⁸ This funding is for a new legal duty on councils to ensure victims and their children are able to access adequate support in safe accommodation as part of the government’s Domestic Abuse Bill to come into effect in several months.²⁸¹⁹

On 23 February 2021, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) granted employers a six-month extension to 5 October 2021 to report their gender pay gap information.²⁸²⁰ The gender pay gap regulation enforcement is aimed to encourage employers to ‘demonstrate the steps they are taking to reduce long-term pay gaps through detailed action plans.’²⁸²¹ If employers fail to report their gender pay gap data, the EHRC has the power to investigate and impose unlimited fines on employers after court action.²⁸²² The gender pay gap regulation enforcement was suspended in March 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19.²⁸²³

On 1 March 2021, the Home Office announced the allocation of GBP500,000 to successful organisations that will research domestic abuse perpetrators.²⁸²⁴ It is to develop a stronger understanding of the issue and strengthen the evidence base for existing works.²⁸²⁵

On 5 March 2021, Minister Truss called for flexible working to be a standard option for employees to help level-up the UK, boost opportunities for women and reduce geographic inequality as the country recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁸²⁶

²⁸¹⁶ Extra £40m to help victims during pandemic and beyond, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-40m-to-help-victims-during-pandemic-and-beyond>

²⁸¹⁷ £125 million allocated to councils to support domestic abuse victims and their children, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/125-million-allocated-to-councils-to-support-domestic-abuse-victims-and-their-children>

²⁸¹⁸ £125 million allocated to councils to support domestic abuse victims and their children, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/125-million-allocated-to-councils-to-support-domestic-abuse-victims-and-their-children>

²⁸¹⁹ £125 million allocated to councils to support domestic abuse victims and their children, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/125-million-allocated-to-councils-to-support-domestic-abuse-victims-and-their-children>

²⁸²⁰ Gender pay gap regulation enforcement to start in October, Equality and Human Rights Commission (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/gender-pay-gap-regulation-enforcement-start-october>

²⁸²¹ Gender pay gap regulation enforcement to start in October, Equality and Human Rights Commission (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/gender-pay-gap-regulation-enforcement-start-october>

²⁸²² Gender pay gap regulation enforcement to start in October, Equality and Human Rights Commission (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/gender-pay-gap-regulation-enforcement-start-october>

²⁸²³ Gender pay gap regulation enforcement to start in October, Equality and Human Rights Commission (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/gender-pay-gap-regulation-enforcement-start-october>

²⁸²⁴ New laws to protect victims added to Domestic Abuse Bill, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-laws-to-protect-victims-added-to-domestic-abuse-bill>

²⁸²⁵ New laws to protect victims added to Domestic Abuse Bill, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-laws-to-protect-victims-added-to-domestic-abuse-bill>

On 8 March 2021, the UK launched the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council (GEAC) to empower women and girls across the world as countries recover from the pandemic.²⁸²⁷ The GEAC will focus on supporting action on education, economic empowerment and ending violence against women.²⁸²⁸

On 15 March 2021, the House of Commons debated about the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, which aims to have an impact on victims of crimes, perpetrators and the safety of the wider community.²⁸²⁹ The Bill was criticized for its insufficiency in addressing violence against women amid the controversy of the policing of the Sarah Everard vigil in London, which “ended with women being handcuffed on the floor and removed from the gathering.”²⁸³⁰

On 15 March 2021, Prime Minister Boris Johnson chaired a meeting of the Criminal Justice Taskforce to provide immediate reassurance of safety for women and girls after the death of Sarah Everard.²⁸³¹ The UK will double the size of the Safer Streets fund in order to provide neighbourhood measures like better lighting and video surveillance.²⁸³² The UK will also launch pilots of Project Vigilant across the country, which includes measures such as police officers attending areas surrounding nightclubs and bars both in uniform and plain clothes in order to better ensure the safety of women, with increased patrols near closing times.²⁸³³

On 31 March 2021, the UK and 20 countries (Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Ireland, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Panama, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Uruguay) united and established the “Group of Friends for Gender Equality,” following Mexico’s leadership.²⁸³⁴ This group aims at centralizing public policies and

²⁸²⁶ Government says in the interest of employers and employees to make offer of flexible working standard, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-says-in-the-interest-of-employers-and-employees-to-make-offer-of-flexible-working-standard>

²⁸²⁷ Government launches G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-g7-gender-equality-advisory-council>

²⁸²⁸ Government launches G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-g7-gender-equality-advisory-council>

²⁸²⁹ Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill House of Commons, Second Reading, 15 March and 16 March 2021, Local Government Association (London) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.local.gov.uk/parliament/briefings-and-responses/police-crime-sentencing-and-courts-bill-house-commons-second>

²⁸³⁰ PM defends policing bill amid criticism it fails to protect women, BBC (London) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-56399860>

²⁸³¹ Government moves to provide reassurance to women and girls, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-moves-to-provide-reassurance-to-women-and-girls-15-march-2021>

²⁸³² Government moves to provide reassurance to women and girls, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-moves-to-provide-reassurance-to-women-and-girls-15-march-2021>

²⁸³³ Government moves to provide reassurance to women and girls, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-moves-to-provide-reassurance-to-women-and-girls-15-march-2021>

²⁸³⁴ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero>

promoting coordinated efforts in multilateral forums as a means to accelerate gender equality and protect the human rights of women and girls.²⁸³⁵

On 1 April 2021, the Ministry of Justice announced that the new Victims' Code has entered into force with better support from the police, courts and other criminal justice agencies for victims of crimes.²⁸³⁶ The new Victims' Code enables victims of rape and sexual violence to choose the sex of their police interviewer and provides clearer advice on when they can have their evidence pre-recorded before trial instead of suffering the stress of cross-examination in a courtroom.²⁸³⁷

On 29 April 2021, the House of Commons and the House of Lords passed the Domestic Abuse Bill and signed it into law.²⁸³⁸ The Domestic Abuse Act will protect victims of domestic abuse and clamp down perpetrators further.²⁸³⁹ It includes a wider definition of domestic abuse that extends beyond physical violence, prohibition of cross-examination from abusers in the courtroom, access to special measures for victims in the courtroom, provision of immediate protection from abusers and new Domestic Abuse Protection Orders that aim to change perpetrators' behaviour.²⁸⁴⁰ The newest amendments include new or extended offence of non-fatal strangulation, controlling or coercive behaviour and threats to share intimate images.²⁸⁴¹ Under this new Act, those who are homeless due to domestic abuse will receive priority in accommodations found by councils in order to ensure victims do not stay with their abuser in fear of being homeless.²⁸⁴²

The United Kingdom has taken strong steps to reduce gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in the spheres of Health and Gender-Based Violence that affect women disproportionately. However, the United Kingdom has only taken limited steps to reduce gender inequalities in the sphere of Economic Security.

Thus, the United Kingdom has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Dong (Delia) Liu

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

²⁸³⁵ Mexico and 20 countries join forces for women and girls by establishing the 'Group of friends for gender equality', Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mexico-y-20-paises-unen-esfuerzos-por-las-mujeres-y-las-ninas-al-establecer-el-grupo-de-amigos-y-amigas-para-la-igualdad-de-genero>

²⁸³⁶ New Victims' Code comes into force, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-victims-code-comes-into-force>

²⁸³⁷ New Victims' Code comes into force, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-victims-code-comes-into-force>

²⁸³⁸ Landmark Domestic Abuse Bill receives Royal Assent, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-domestic-abuse-bill-receives-royalassent>

²⁸³⁹ Landmark Domestic Abuse Bill receives Royal Assent, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-domestic-abuse-bill-receives-royalassent>

²⁸⁴⁰ Landmark Domestic Abuse Bill receives Royal Assent, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-domestic-abuse-bill-receives-royalassent>

²⁸⁴¹ New laws to protect victims added to Domestic Abuse Bill, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-laws-to-protect-victims-added-to-domestic-abuse-bill>

²⁸⁴² More support for domestic abuse victims and their children as Domestic Abuse Bill receives Royal Assent, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-support-for-domestic-abuse-victims-and-their-children-as-domestic-abuse-bill-receives-royal-assent>

On 25 November 2020, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo released a statement on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, affirming the United States' commitment to end violence against women, stand with and empower survivors, and emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic stronger than before.²⁸⁴³ Pompeo acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected women in the fields of gender-based violence and job insecurity, and pledged to improve circumstances for women in this regard.²⁸⁴⁴

On 4 January 2021, the Department of Labor awarded USD4 million in grant funding to the International Labor Organization “to improve worker rights in rural sectors of the Indo-Pacific with a focus on women’s rights.”²⁸⁴⁵ The project “seeks to improve compliance with labor standards, including occupational safety and health standards, and to address wage inequality and workplace discrimination against women in targeted rural sectors in the Philippines and other Indo-Pacific countries.”²⁸⁴⁶

On 14 January 2021, the Department of State announced the launch of the United Women’s Economic Development Network, which will “advance women’s economic empowerment and entrepreneurship, a major facet of US foreign policy, in line with the White House-led Women’s Global Development and Prosperity Initiative.”²⁸⁴⁷ The network will focus on providing entrepreneurship, networking and cross-country partnership opportunities for businesswomen.²⁸⁴⁸

On 22 January 2021, the Department of Justice announced a grant of USD5.3 million for “Training and Services to End Violence Against Women with Disabilities.”²⁸⁴⁹ The grant seeks to support groups and organizations involved in response to disabled women who are victims of gender-based violence including sexual assault and domestic violence.²⁸⁵⁰ This grant will provide training and resources to improve the capacity of and collaboration between these organizations.²⁸⁵¹

On 28 January 2021, President Joseph Biden signed a Presidential Memorandum allocating USD32.5 million to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which helps protect vulnerable women

²⁸⁴³ Observance of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/observance-of-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women/index.html>

²⁸⁴⁴ Observance of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/observance-of-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women/index.html>

²⁸⁴⁵ US Department of Labor to Award \$4 Million Grant to Improve Worker Rights in Rural Sectors of the Indo-Pacific With a Focus on Women’s Rights, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20210104>

²⁸⁴⁶ US Department of Labor to Award \$4 Million Grant to Improve Worker Rights in Rural Sectors of the Indo-Pacific With a Focus on Women’s Rights, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20210104>

²⁸⁴⁷ Launch of United Women’s Economic Development Network, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/launch-of-united-womens-economic-development-network/index.html>

²⁸⁴⁸ Training and Services to End Violence Against Women with Disabilities, US Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=331050>

²⁸⁴⁹ Training and Services to End Violence Against Women with Disabilities, US Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=331050>

²⁸⁵⁰ Training and Services to End Violence Against Women with Disabilities, US Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=331050>

²⁸⁵¹ Training and Services to End Violence Against Women with Disabilities, US Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=331050>

and girls.²⁸⁵² Secretary of State Antony Blinken noted that the UNFPA will “help improve the lives of women and children around the world by expanding the base of partners implementing US health assistance and increasing access to critical health services, including HIV/AIDS care for key populations, family planning information and services, and effective tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment.”²⁸⁵³ Secretary of State Blinken particularly highlighted the importance of increasing women’s access to healthcare in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which he noted has disproportionately affected women.²⁸⁵⁴

On 25 February 2021, the Department of Labor awarded a USD5 million grant to Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere for their efforts to “reduce child labor in Ethiopia’s coffee fields using a gender-focused approach.”²⁸⁵⁵ It pledges to “work with vulnerable women and girls in the country’s coffee sector to challenge community social norms and traditions that promote child labor and gender inequality, and transform structures such as laws, policies and institutions to be more gender equitable and help reduce child labor there.”²⁸⁵⁶ The project focuses on women’s labour rights and improved economic outcomes for women and girls.²⁸⁵⁷

On 26 February 2021, the Department of Defense announced an independent review commission on sexual assault in the military.²⁸⁵⁸ The commission will focus on holding those who committed acts of sexual violence in the military accountable as well as reviewing the “climate [and] culture” of the military and discussing strategies to prevent further sexual violence.²⁸⁵⁹ The commission intends to present its initial recommendations within 60 days and began its investigation on 24 March 2021.²⁸⁶⁰

On 3 March 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) promoted their Hear Her campaign, which seeks to bring attention to pregnancy-related health issues.²⁸⁶¹ The promotion involved an announcement that American Olympic athlete Allyson Felix would be joining the

²⁸⁵² Prioritizing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights in U.S. Foreign Policy, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.state.gov/prioritizing-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-reproductive-rights-in-u-s-foreign-policy/>

²⁸⁵³ Prioritizing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights in U.S. Foreign Policy, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.state.gov/prioritizing-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-reproductive-rights-in-u-s-foreign-policy/>

²⁸⁵⁴ Prioritizing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights in U.S. Foreign Policy, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.state.gov/prioritizing-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-reproductive-rights-in-u-s-foreign-policy/>

²⁸⁵⁵ US Department of Labor Awards \$5M Grant to Reduce Child Labor in Ethiopia’s Coffee Fields Using a Gender-Focused Approach, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20210225>

²⁸⁵⁶ US Department of Labor Awards \$5M Grant to Reduce Child Labor in Ethiopia’s Coffee Fields Using a Gender-Focused Approach, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20210225>

²⁸⁵⁷ US Department of Labor Awards \$5M Grant to Reduce Child Labor in Ethiopia’s Coffee Fields Using a Gender-Focused Approach, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20210225>

²⁸⁵⁸ Former White House Advisor to Lead DOD Commission on Sexual Assault, US Department of Defense (Washington D.C.) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2518232/former-white-house-advisor-to-lead-dod-commission-on-sexual-assault/>

²⁸⁵⁹ Former White House Advisor to Lead DOD Commission on Sexual Assault, US Department of Defense (Washington D.C.) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2518232/former-white-house-advisor-to-lead-dod-commission-on-sexual-assault/>

²⁸⁶⁰ Former White House Advisor to Lead DOD Commission on Sexual Assault, US Department of Defense (Washington D.C.) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2518232/former-white-house-advisor-to-lead-dod-commission-on-sexual-assault/>

²⁸⁶¹ Allyson Felix, Track and Field Star, Joins Hear Her Campaign to Raise Awareness about Maternal Mortality, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0302-allyson-felix-hear-her-campaign.html>

campaign.²⁸⁶² In doing so, the CDC says it hopes to bring greater attention to pregnancy-related health risks women face, especially women of color in the United States.²⁸⁶³

On 3 March 2021, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) committed to “undertake a robust national outreach campaign to ensure that eligible families know about the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children’s (WIC) benefits and offer new easy ways for them to enroll.”²⁸⁶⁴ Through the American Rescue Plan, President Joe Biden has called on Congress to commit large investments into the WIC.²⁸⁶⁵ The investments should reach eligible mothers and children and support innovation in WIC such as waivers and demonstration projects in order to improve service delivery.²⁸⁶⁶ The investments should also increase access to fruits and vegetables in grocery stores and farmers markets for WIC participants by temporarily increasing the amount given to each participant to USD35 per person, per month.²⁸⁶⁷ The WIC program aims to support the health of new mothers and young children with nutritious diets and better healthcare.²⁸⁶⁸

On 10 March 2021, the House of Representatives passed HR 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which provides USD880 million to mothers and their children in expanded access to fruits and vegetables.²⁸⁶⁹ This is part of an initiative to ensure Americans – in particular those in vulnerable communities, such as women – have access to food, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic to which the USDA acknowledges has exacerbated existing inequalities in food access.²⁸⁷⁰

On 17 March 2021, the House of Representatives renewed the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which added firearm restrictions for convicted domestic abusers and expanded protections for gay, bisexual and transgender people.²⁸⁷¹ VAWA builds upon programs such as violence

²⁸⁶² Allyson Felix, Track and Field Star, Joins Hear Her Campaign to Raise Awareness about Maternal Mortality, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0302-allyson-felix-hear-her-campaign.html>

²⁸⁶³ Allyson Felix, Track and Field Star, Joins Hear Her Campaign to Raise Awareness about Maternal Mortality, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0302-allyson-felix-hear-her-campaign.html>

²⁸⁶⁴ FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration’s Actions to Reduce Food Insecurity Amid the COVID-19 Crisis, US Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/usda-003721>

²⁸⁶⁵ FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration’s Actions to Reduce Food Insecurity Amid the COVID-19 Crisis, US Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/usda-003721>

²⁸⁶⁶ FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration’s Actions to Reduce Food Insecurity Amid the COVID-19 Crisis, US Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/usda-003721>

²⁸⁶⁷ FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration’s Actions to Reduce Food Insecurity Amid the COVID-19 Crisis, US Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/usda-003721>

²⁸⁶⁸ FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration’s Actions to Reduce Food Insecurity Amid the COVID-19 Crisis, US Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/usda-003721>

²⁸⁶⁹ FACT SHEET: United States Department of Agriculture Provisions in H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan, US Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/usda-004221>

²⁸⁷⁰ FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration’s Actions to Reduce Food Insecurity Amid the COVID-19 Crisis, US Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/news-item/usda-003721>

²⁸⁷¹ House Renews Landmark Domestic Violence Bill, but Obstacles Wait in Senate, The New York Times (New York) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/17/us/politics/violence-against-women-act.html>

prevention and housing assistance for domestic abuse victims, reaffirms legal protections for victims and their families, and will more aggressively focus resources on minority communities.²⁸⁷²

On 18 March 2021, the US along with Chile, Germany and Women for Women International hosted the event “Marginalized women in fragile and conflict settings – How to make their voices count?”²⁸⁷³ The event looked at cross-regional policies, the implementation of mechanisms that enable the inclusion and representation of marginalized women and intersectional and rights-based approaches.²⁸⁷⁴ The aim of the event was to reflect on the challenges that prevent the empowerment of marginalized women in precarious and conflict settings.²⁸⁷⁵

On 6 April 2021, the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights announced they would be undertaking a “comprehensive review” of the Department’s regulations regarding the implementation of Title IX (gender equality) law.²⁸⁷⁶ The action will be “gathering the public’s views and insights on the issue of sexual harassment in school environments, including sexual violence, and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity” and determine what changes, if any, need to be made based on this feedback.²⁸⁷⁷

On 12 April 2021, Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra announced USD12 million would be made available over the next four years for Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies.²⁸⁷⁸ This will expand access to maternal and prenatal health care for women in rural areas, a particularly vulnerable and underserved demographic in the United States, with a focus on Black women.²⁸⁷⁹

²⁸⁷² House Renews Landmark Domestic Violence Bill, but Obstacles Wait in Senate, The New York Times (New York) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/17/us/politics/violence-against-women-act.html>

²⁸⁷³ Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decisions-making in public life 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021.

²⁸⁷⁴ Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decisions-making in public life 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021.

²⁸⁷⁵ Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decisions-making in public life 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021.

²⁸⁷⁶ Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights Launches Comprehensive Review of Title IX Regulations to Fulfill President Biden’s Executive Order Guaranteeing an Educational Environment Free from Sex Discrimination, US Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/department-educations-office-civil-rights-launches-comprehensive-review-title-ix-regulations-fulfill-president-bidens-executive-order-guaranteeing-educational-environment-free-sex-discrimination>

²⁸⁷⁷ Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights Launches Comprehensive Review of Title IX Regulations to Fulfill President Biden’s Executive Order Guaranteeing an Educational Environment Free from Sex Discrimination, US Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/department-educations-office-civil-rights-launches-comprehensive-review-title-ix-regulations-fulfill-president-bidens-executive-order-guaranteeing-educational-environment-free-sex-discrimination>

²⁸⁷⁸ HHS Marks Black Maternal Health Week by Announcing Measures to Improve Maternal Health Outcomes, US Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/04/12/hhs-marks-black-maternal-health-week-announcing-measures-improve-maternal.html>

²⁸⁷⁹ HHS Marks Black Maternal Health Week by Announcing Measures to Improve Maternal Health Outcomes, US Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/04/12/hhs-marks-black-maternal-health-week-announcing-measures-improve-maternal.html>

On 26 April 2021, the Department of Labor announced USD3.5 million in grant funding to increase the number of women in registered apprenticeships and non-traditional occupations.²⁸⁸⁰ The program will provide women with pre-apprenticeship skills, ongoing orientation in the apprenticeship and non-traditional occupation career environment, and set up support groups, networks and support services for women in these occupations.²⁸⁸¹ The goal is to address and combat gender disparity in the fields of apprenticeships and non-traditional occupations.²⁸⁸²

On 11 May 2021, the Department of Health and Human Services awarded USD40 million in American Rescue Plan funding to emergency home visiting funds in order to support children and families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁸⁸³ The Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program aids the delivery of high quality, voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services to pregnant women and children living in communities vulnerable to poor maternal and child health outcomes.²⁸⁸⁴

While the United States has taken strong actions towards reducing gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in regard to the Health sphere, the United States has only taken limited and weak actions in regard to both the Gender-Based Violence and Economic Security spheres.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Rachel Zack

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to work to ensure that the pandemic does not widen gender inequalities and undermine the progress made in recent decades.

On 24 November 2020, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) published a handbook to help eliminate sexism in the workplace, specifically in EU institutions and agencies.²⁸⁸⁵ The aim of this handbook is to help organizations ensure that both women and men employees feel safe, respected and fulfilled in the workplace.²⁸⁸⁶

On 25 November 2020, the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy introduced the EU's new Action Plan on Gender Equality and

²⁸⁸⁰ US Department of Labor Announces \$3.5M Funding Opportunity to Place More Women in Registered Apprenticeships, Nontraditional Occupations, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210426>

²⁸⁸¹ US Department of Labor Announces \$3.5M Funding Opportunity to Place More Women in Registered Apprenticeships, Nontraditional Occupations, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210426>

²⁸⁸² US Department of Labor Announces \$3.5M Funding Opportunity to Place More Women in Registered Apprenticeships, Nontraditional Occupations, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210426>

²⁸⁸³ HHS Awards \$40 Million in American Rescue Plan Funding to Support Emergency Home Visiting Assistance for Families Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic, US Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/05/11/hhs-awards-40-million-american-rescue-plan-funding-support-emergency-home-visiting-assistance-families-affected-covid-19-pandemic.html>

²⁸⁸⁴ HHS Awards \$40 Million in American Rescue Plan Funding to Support Emergency Home Visiting Assistance for Families Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic, US Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/05/11/hhs-awards-40-million-american-rescue-plan-funding-support-emergency-home-visiting-assistance-families-affected-covid-19-pandemic.html>

²⁸⁸⁵ Sexism at work: How can we stop it?, European Institute for Gender Equality (Vilnius) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://eige.europa.eu/news/sexism-work-how-can-we-stop-it>

²⁸⁸⁶ Sexism at work: How can we stop it?, European Institute for Gender Equality (Vilnius) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://eige.europa.eu/news/sexism-work-how-can-we-stop-it>

Women's Empowerment in External Action 2021-2025 (GAP III), which aims to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in all external actions of the EU.²⁸⁸⁷ The GAP III details that at least 85 per cent of all new actions throughout the EU's external relations will contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment by 2025 with a specific focus on fighting gender-based violence and promoting the socio-economic and political empowerment of women and girls.²⁸⁸⁸ The GAP III also places renewed emphasis on universal access to healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls.²⁸⁸⁹

On 9 December 2020, the European Union and the Tony Elumelu Foundation formed a EUR20 million partnership to support more than 2,500 African women entrepreneurs through increased access to finance and venture capital investment.²⁸⁹⁰ The initiative addresses barriers such as funding, knowledge, and market constraints through gender-sensitive entrepreneurship training and seed capital for female-run businesses.²⁸⁹¹ The goal of this program is to "help women participate in economic development, realise their full potential and accelerate economic inclusion."²⁸⁹²

On 27 January 2021, the European Commission and the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States signed a new initiative of EUR14.5 million with the United Nations Capital Development Fund in order to support the potential of digital finance.²⁸⁹³ This initiative is aimed at increasing access to digital technology and financial literacy tools for more than 600,000 women, youth and entrepreneurs living in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.²⁸⁹⁴ The initiative hopes to enhance the capacity of women and youth living in these regions to absorb economic shocks due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁸⁹⁵

On 8 February 2021, the European Commission launched an open public consultation on a new legislative initiative to better support victims and prosecute perpetrators of gender-based violence.²⁸⁹⁶

²⁸⁸⁷ Gender Action Plan – putting women and girls' rights at the heart of the global recovery for a gender-equal world, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2184

²⁸⁸⁸ Gender Action Plan – putting women and girls' rights at the heart of the global recovery for a gender-equal world, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2184

²⁸⁸⁹ Gender Action Plan – putting women and girls' rights at the heart of the global recovery for a gender-equal world, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2184

²⁸⁹⁰ EU-Africa partnership: EU and the Tony Elumelu Foundation join forces to improve economic empowerment of women, European Commission (Brussels) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2353

²⁸⁹¹ EU-Africa partnership: EU and the Tony Elumelu Foundation join forces to improve economic empowerment of women, European Commission (Brussels) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2353

²⁸⁹² EU-Africa partnership: EU and the Tony Elumelu Foundation join forces to improve economic empowerment of women, European Commission (Brussels) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2353

²⁸⁹³ COVID-19: Team Europe supports African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to access finance through digital technology, European Commission (Brussels) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_188

²⁸⁹⁴ COVID-19: Team Europe supports African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to access finance through digital technology, European Commission (Brussels) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_188

²⁸⁹⁵ COVID-19: Team Europe supports African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to access finance through digital technology, European Commission (Brussels) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_188

²⁸⁹⁶ Combating gender-based violence – protecting victims and punishing offenders, European Commission (Brussels) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12682-Preventing-and-combating-gender-based-violence/public-consultation>

The European Commission launched this consultation to gather the views of the public on the measures taken by the EU member states to address gender-based violence against women and domestic violence.²⁸⁹⁷

On 4 March 2021, the EU adopted an Action Plan to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights, which puts gender equality at its core and establishes, amongst others, targets for women's participation in the labour market.²⁸⁹⁸ The document specifically states that the EU will dedicate an overall budget of EUR1.55 billion to the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme, which will promote “gender equality, equal treatment and equal rights of all in order to promote more democratic, diverse and open societies.”²⁸⁹⁹

On 4 March 2021, the European Commission presented a proposal on pay discrimination and transparency to ensure that women and men in the EU receive equal pay for equal work.²⁹⁰⁰ The legislative proposal introduces enforcement mechanics focusing on two core elements of equal pay: measures to ensure pay transparency for workers and employers as well as better access to justice for victims of pay discrimination.²⁹⁰¹

On 5 March 2021, the European Commission released the 2021 Report on Gender Equality in the EU.²⁹⁰² The document outlines the European Union's policy objectives around gender inequality and highlights the available data on the gendered impact of the COVID-19 crisis for each area of the strategy policy.²⁹⁰³ The document specifically states that the Commission will put forward a Recommendation on the prevention of harmful practices against women related to Female Genital Mutilation as announced in the Gender Equality Strategy.²⁹⁰⁴ The report also states that the Commission continues to fund projects tackling FGM through the EU's Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme, and its successor, the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values program.²⁹⁰⁵ To improve monitoring and tracking progress of each of the 27 EU member states on meeting the Gender Equality Strategy, the European Commission launched a Gender Equality Strategy Monitoring Portal, which is accessible to the general public.²⁹⁰⁶

On 5 March 2021, the European Union adopted a EUR130 million assistance package through the Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis in order to support Syrian refugees and local

²⁸⁹⁷ Combating gender-based violence – protecting victims and punishing offenders, European Commission (Brussels) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12682-Preventing-and-combatting-gender-based-violence/public-consultation>

²⁸⁹⁸ The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-action-plan_en

²⁸⁹⁹ The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-action-plan_en

²⁹⁰⁰ Pay Transparency: Commission proposes measures to ensure equal pay for equal work, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_881

²⁹⁰¹ Pay Transparency: Commission proposes measures to ensure equal pay for equal work, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_881

²⁹⁰² 2021 Report on Gender Equality in the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-report-on-gender-equality-in-the-eu_en

²⁹⁰³ 2021 Report on Gender Equality in the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-report-on-gender-equality-in-the-eu_en

²⁹⁰⁴ 2021 Report on Gender Equality in the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-report-on-gender-equality-in-the-eu_en

²⁹⁰⁵ 2021 Report on Gender Equality in the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-report-on-gender-equality-in-the-eu_en

²⁹⁰⁶ International Women's Day 2021: COVID-19 pandemic is a major challenge for gender equality, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1011

communities in Jordan and Lebanon through social protection and healthcare services.²⁹⁰⁷ The support package for Lebanon includes EUR45 million for social protection and assistance of the most vulnerable in Lebanon and the development of a comprehensive national social protection system, EUR29 million to increase access to healthcare services, and EUR10 million to increase access to essential water services.²⁹⁰⁸ The support package for Jordan includes EUR8 million for the protection of women and children.²⁹⁰⁹

On 5 March 2021, the EIGE released its report on the COVID-19 outbreak between March 2020 to September 2020 and on cases concerning intimate partner violence against women in the EU.²⁹¹⁰ This report provides recommendations for the EU and its member states on how to better support and protect victims of gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁹¹¹

On 15 March 2021, the European Commission, Argentina and Namibia issued a joint statement at the General Discussion of the Commission on the Status of Women.²⁹¹² The statement reaffirmed the need to ensure compliance with international obligations on gender equality and the need to eradicate the feminization of poverty and violence against women and girls.²⁹¹³

On 24 March 2021, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) adopted the exploratory opinion titled, “Challenges of Teleworking: organization of working time, work life balance and the right to disconnect.”²⁹¹⁴ In this opinion, the EESC focused on the risk of teleworking serving as a double burden of paid and unpaid work and the unequal division of domestic work between women and men.²⁹¹⁵ The EESC urged all EU member states to promptly implement the Work-Life Balance Directive and a “Care Deal for Europe,” which makes available accessible and affordable care services for children and other people with special needs.²⁹¹⁶ This opinion recognizes the need to

²⁹⁰⁷ EU adopts €130 million support package for Syrian refugees and local communities in Jordan and Lebanon, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_986

²⁹⁰⁸ EU adopts €130 million support package for Syrian refugees and local communities in Jordan and Lebanon, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_986

²⁹⁰⁹ EU adopts €130 million support package for Syrian refugees and local communities in Jordan and Lebanon, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_986

²⁹¹⁰ The Covid-19 pandemic and intimate partner violence against women in the EU, European Institute for Gender Equality (Vilnius) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://eige.europa.eu/publications/covid-19-pandemic-and-intimate-partner-violence-against-women-eu>

²⁹¹¹ The Covid-19 pandemic and intimate partner violence against women in the EU, European Institute for Gender Equality (Vilnius) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://eige.europa.eu/publications/covid-19-pandemic-and-intimate-partner-violence-against-women-eu>

²⁹¹² Statement by the European Union, Namibia and Argentina at the High-Level Event of the Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations (New York) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/94998/statement-european-union-namibia-and-argentina-high-level-event-group-friends-elimination_en

²⁹¹³ Statement by the European Union, Namibia and Argentina at the High-Level Event of the Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations (New York) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/94998/statement-european-union-namibia-and-argentina-high-level-event-group-friends-elimination_en

²⁹¹⁴ Challenges of Teleworking: organization of working time, work life balance and the right to disconnect, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions-information-reports/opinions/challenges-teleworking-organization-working-time-work-life-balance-and-right-disconnect>

²⁹¹⁵ EESC delves into the challenges of teleworking, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/news-media/news/eesc-delves-challenges-teleworking>

²⁹¹⁶ EESC delves into the challenges of teleworking, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/news-media/news/eesc-delves-challenges-teleworking>

urgently address the effects of telework on gender inequality in order to better support women's economic security during the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁹¹⁷

On 14 April 2021, the European Commission announced a new Strategy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (2021-2025), focusing on preventing human trafficking in general, bringing traffickers to justice, and protecting and empowering victims.²⁹¹⁸ The Strategy focuses on women and children and seeks to improve early identification of victims, strengthen referrals for additional assistance or protection, enhance victim empowerment programs and facilitate reintegration through gender-specific and child-sensitive training of police officers, social workers, border guards and healthcare staff.²⁹¹⁹ This Strategy recognizes that women and children are the most vulnerable to trafficking and sexual violence, and thus, must be prioritized.²⁹²⁰

On 11 May 2021, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) in the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality approved a report recognizing that the right to health, specifically sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR), are fundamental women's rights and cannot be watered down or withdrawn in any manner.²⁹²¹ The MEPs called on all EU member states to ensure access to high quality SRHR and to remove all barriers impeding full access to them, which includes the guaranteed access to safe and legal abortion.²⁹²²

Although the European Union has taken strong concrete actions towards reducing gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in regard to the Economic Security and Gender-Based Violence spheres, the European Union has only taken limited actions in regard to the Health sphere.

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

Analyst: Rana Al-Fayez

²⁹¹⁷ EESC delves into the challenges of teleworking, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/news-media/news/eesc-delves-challenges-teleworking>

²⁹¹⁸ Fighting trafficking in human beings: New strategy to prevent trafficking, break criminal business models, protect and empower victims, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1663

²⁹¹⁹ Fighting trafficking in human beings: New strategy to prevent trafficking, break criminal business models, protect and empower victims, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1663

²⁹²⁰ Fighting trafficking in human beings: New strategy to prevent trafficking, break criminal business models, protect and empower victims, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1663

²⁹²¹ EU countries should ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health, European Parliament (Brussels) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210510IPR03806/eu-countries-should-ensure-universal-access-to-sexual-and-reproductive-health>

²⁹²² EU countries should ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health, European Parliament (Brussels) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210510IPR03806/eu-countries-should-ensure-universal-access-to-sexual-and-reproductive-health>

11. Gender: Economic Participation

“We will take steps to remove the barriers to women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia		0	
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China		0	
France		0	
Germany			+1
India		0	
Indonesia			+1
Italy		0	
Japan		0	
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa		0	
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.50 (75%)	

Background

Women’s active participation in the economy is crucial for economic growth and sustainable development around the world.²⁹²³ Despite considerable efforts in progress, many women are currently still left out of the labour markets.²⁹²⁴ Data from the International Labour Organization (ILO) indicates that the average rate of labour force participation for men, aged 25 to 54, is almost twice the number for women from the same age group.²⁹²⁵ Meanwhile, they are overrepresented in unpaid work, including household activities and childcare and temporary employment under precarious conditions.²⁹²⁶

According to UN Women, women are often paid less than men, resulting in a “gender wage gap” of an estimated 23 per cent.²⁹²⁷ In addition, mothers face a potential “motherhood wage penalty,”

²⁹²³ Labour statistics on women, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021.

<https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/women/>

²⁹²⁴ Facts and Figures: Economic Empowerment, UN Women (New York) July 2018. Access Date: 28 February 2021.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures#notes>

²⁹²⁵ Labour statistics on women, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021.

<https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/women/>

²⁹²⁶ Labour statistics on women, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021.

<https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/women/>

²⁹²⁷ Facts and Figures: Economic Empowerment, UN Women (New York) July 2018. Access Date: 28 February 2021.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures#notes>

meaning a fall in pay due to childbirth, which rises with the number of children (or the number of periods of maternal leave).²⁹²⁸ They also encounter more disadvantages when planning to start businesses and thus less likely to eventually become entrepreneurs than their male counterparts.²⁹²⁹

Increasing women's participation in economic and entrepreneurial activities is essential for achieving gender equality, which underpins the efforts towards realizing the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.²⁹³⁰ The 2018 World Economic Forum stated that “empowering women to participate equally in the global economy could add [USD28 trillion] in GDP growth by 2025.”²⁹³¹

The G20 recognizes and repeatedly emphasize the importance of engaging women's participation in the global economy. At the 2009 London Summit, the G20 leaders first declared a commitment to promote gender equality, agreeing to “build a fair and family-friendly labour market for both women and men.”²⁹³² They recognized that challenges to the world economy affect “the lives of women, men and children in every country,” with disproportionate impacts on the poorest and the most vulnerable population and called for a joint resolution to enable recovery and reform from economic crises.²⁹³³

At the 2010 Summits in Toronto and Seoul, the G20 started to pay special attention to the promotion of gender equality and inclusive economic growth. In the Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth, the G20 leaders committed to promoting gender equality together.²⁹³⁴ They then endeavoured to identify the impact of “gender gaps” as part of the “barriers to increasing investment in skills development and productivity” in the Multi-Year Action Plan on Development.²⁹³⁵

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, the G20 Leaders committed to taking “concrete actions to overcome the barriers hindering women's full economic social participation and to expand economic opportunities for women in G20 economies,” which includes access to financial services and financial education.²⁹³⁶ The Los Cabos Summit importantly marked the first time for the G20 leaders to dedicate separate commitments and promise concrete steps towards removing barriers and expanding opportunities for women's full economic participation in society.²⁹³⁷

At the 2013 St Petersburg Summit, G20 leaders committed to assisting women to overcome barriers to find and remain in employment, outlining specific measures to increase financial inclusion and financial literacy for women and girls through collaborations with the OECD/International Network

²⁹²⁸ The motherhood pay gap: A review of the issues, theory and international evidence, International Labour Office (Geneva) 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2021.

https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/@publ/documents/publication/wcms_348041.pdf

²⁹²⁹ Facts and Figures: Economic Empowerment, UN Women (New York) July 2018. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures#notes>

²⁹³⁰ Facts and Figures: Economic Empowerment, UN Women (New York) July 2018. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures#notes>

²⁹³¹ This is why women must play a greater role in the global economy, World Economic Forum (Geneva) 24 January 2018. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/01/this-is-why-women-must-play-a-greater-role-in-the-global-economy/>

²⁹³² G20 Leaders' Conclusions on Gender, 2008-2014, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 5 January 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/conclusions/gender-l.pdf>

²⁹³³ G20 Action Plan for Recovery and Reform (London), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 April 2009. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0402.html>

²⁹³⁴ G20 Leaders' Conclusions on Gender, 2008-2014, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 5 January 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/conclusions/gender-l.pdf>

²⁹³⁵ G20 Leaders' Conclusions on Gender, 2008-2014, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 5 January 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/conclusions/gender-l.pdf>

²⁹³⁶ G20 Leaders' Conclusions on Gender, 2008-2014, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 5 January 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/conclusions/gender-l.pdf>

²⁹³⁷ G20 Leaders' Conclusions on Gender, 2008-2014, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 5 January 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/conclusions/gender-l.pdf>

for Financial Education (INFE) and the World Bank Group.²⁹³⁸ In the 2014 Brisbane Action Plan, the G20 again committed to promoting greater participation and better quality for women's employment in the labour market, aiming to reduce the gap of labour force participation rates between men and women in G20 member countries by 25 per cent by 2025 and to "bring more than 100 million women into the labour force."²⁹³⁹ This marked the first time G20 members agreed to a timeline and incorporated numeric targets to improve women's economic participation.

The G20 established an official engagement group, named "Women 20 (W20)," during the 2015 Antalya Summit cycle to further efforts in achieving gender equality and women's economic empowerment.²⁹⁴⁰ The 2016 Hangzhou Summit then marked the first time the G20 Leaders committed to supporting policies that encourage greater participation of women entrepreneurs and women-led firms in the global economy.²⁹⁴¹

The 2017 Hamburg Summit outlined the establishment of several initiatives in support of women's entrepreneurship and marked the first time the G20 Leaders dedicated a separate section to specify their commitments in "Women's Empowerment."²⁹⁴² They recognized that equal access to economic opportunities is fundamental for achieving gender equality, which forms a prerequisite for sustainable and inclusive growth.²⁹⁴³ Between the years 2017 and 2018, the G20 members launched the #eSkills4Girls initiative to promote opportunities and equal participation for women and girls in the digital economy via enhanced access to information and communication technology (ICT) and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).²⁹⁴⁴ They also established Women Entrepreneurs Financing Initiative (We-Fi), hosted by the World Bank Group, to reduce barriers to financial inclusion and enhance women's access to capital, markets and technical assistance.²⁹⁴⁵ Additionally, they organized a Business Women Leaders' Taskforce to explore methods to increase women's economic participation and make relevant recommendations at the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit.²⁹⁴⁶

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, the G20 Leaders placed significant emphasis on women's empowerment. They committed to addressing the "gender gap in unpaid care work," which they identified as a major obstacle that impedes women's participation in the labour market.²⁹⁴⁷

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, albeit held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the G20 Leaders echoed the relevant UN declarations and the 2019 Osaka summit in many aspects of women's

²⁹³⁸ G20 Leaders' Conclusions on Gender, 2008-2014, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 5 January 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/conclusions/gender-l.pdf>

²⁹³⁹ G20 Leaders' Conclusions on Gender, 2008-2014, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 5 January 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/conclusions/gender-l.pdf>

²⁹⁴⁰ Women's Summit Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 October 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151017-w20.html>

²⁹⁴¹ G20 Leaders' Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communicue.html>

²⁹⁴² G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

²⁹⁴³ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

²⁹⁴⁴ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

²⁹⁴⁵ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

²⁹⁴⁶ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

²⁹⁴⁷ G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

empowerment.²⁹⁴⁸ They reaffirmed the importance of women’s and girl’s empowerment and recognized the enhancement of women’s participation as a key driver of economic growth.²⁹⁴⁹ They also committed to further action to reduce gender pay gaps and combat stereotypes to end all forms of discrimination against women, including gender-based violence.²⁹⁵⁰ Under the Saudi Presidency, the G20 commenced the Private Sector Alliance for the Empowerment and Progression of Women’s Economic Representation (EMPOWER) for women’s advancement in leadership positions in the realm.²⁹⁵¹

Commitment Features

The G20 commitment is to take steps to remove the barriers to women’s 1) economic participation and 2) entrepreneurship.²⁹⁵² As the world continues to experience setbacks from the COVID-19 pandemic, the G20 Leaders also promised actions to mitigate any widening of gender inequalities or undermining of the progress over recent decades.²⁹⁵³ The goal of the commitment is to eliminate any impediment to increasing the overall level of women’s participation in the labour market and enhancing the quality of their employment, while assisting women in any entrepreneurial endeavours.

“To take steps” means to take any form of particular action towards the realization of a proposed goal. These actions can include, but not limited to, initiating new programs, implementing new policies, voicing verbal support and reinforcing existing efforts to eliminate things that prevent women from participating in the labour market and entrepreneurship.

“To remove” is understood to mean the elimination of gender-based hardship for women’s full participation in the economy and successful entrepreneurship. “Barriers” is understood to mean any obstacles that undermine women’s ability to fully participate in the labour market and global economy, as well as to engage and achieve success in entrepreneurship.

“Women” refers to female persons aged 15 and above, who are either employed, unemployed or absent in the labour force.²⁹⁵⁴ Furthermore, the extent of “women’s economic participation” in society uses labour force participation rate as the main indicator; it measures the proportion of a country’s working-age female population that actively engages in the labour market, including those working and looking for work.²⁹⁵⁵

“Entrepreneurship” is understood to mean any commercial activity conducted by an independent business owner for profits.

²⁹⁴⁸ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

²⁹⁴⁹ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

²⁹⁵⁰ G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>; Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

²⁹⁵¹ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

²⁹⁵² Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

²⁹⁵³ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

²⁹⁵⁴ Labour Force Participation Rate, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_LFPR_EN.pdf

²⁹⁵⁵ Labour Force Participation Rate, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. https://www.ilo.org/ilostat-files/Documents/description_LFPR_EN.pdf

According to the ILO, there are two levels of women’s economic participation: 1) employment and 2) management.²⁹⁵⁶ Therefore, both the unemployment and underemployment of women reflect these obstacles. On the one hand, unemployment refers to the gap between female share in the working-age population and female share in employment, illustrating “hurdles to access paid work.”²⁹⁵⁷ On the other hand, underemployment indicates the gap between female share in employment and female share in the management, underscoring the existence of a “glass ceiling.”²⁹⁵⁸ An action that addresses both elements would have more breadth than another action that only addresses either element. Moreover, an action that brings structural reform beneficial for the promotion of gender equality in the long term would have more breadth than another remedial measure aimed to undo the damage due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As well, this commitment has a depth component of how strong the action taken by the G20 member is. A G20 member must take significant action on both the domestic and international levels for full compliance. If a G20 member only takes partial action on one or both levels, it would only be considered partial compliance. Partial actions could include verbal reaffirmation of the commitment or attending meetings that discuss women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship. For strong actions, a G20 would have to initiate a program or new law, contribute financial or technical assistance or implement policy changes to remove gender-based barriers by promoting women’s full participation in the labour market and economy and implementing specific measures to promote women’s engagement and success in entrepreneurship.

Women entrepreneurs encounter certain gender-based barriers to the initiation and growth of their businesses; these disadvantages can include, while not limited to, discriminatory property, matrimonial and inheritance laws and/or cultural practices, limitations on mobility, lack of voice and representation and unequal shares of family and household responsibilities. The G20 members should also recognize that women entrepreneurs are not a homogenous group.²⁹⁵⁹

To achieve full compliance, G20 members must take concrete actions to eradicate obstacles for women’s full participation in the labour market and economy, as well as implement specific measures to promote women’s engagement and success in entrepreneurship. Efforts to remove gender-based barriers to women’s full participation in the labour market and economy include both initiatives to address “hurdles to access paid work” and “glass ceiling.”²⁹⁶⁰ These steps feature social policies and programs that increase women’s labour force participation rate, reduce the gender pay gap, improve work conditions, enhance access to paid full-time employment, eliminate gender stereotypes, encourage the equal division of household and childcare responsibilities, promote representation of women in leadership positions and more.²⁹⁶¹ Efforts to remove barriers to women’s engagement and success in entrepreneurship include social policies and programs that enable women entrepreneurs’

²⁹⁵⁶ Labour statistics on women, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/women/>

²⁹⁵⁷ Labour statistics on women, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/women/>

²⁹⁵⁸ Labour statistics on women, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/women/>

²⁹⁵⁹ Promoting Women’s Entrepreneurship Development and Gender Equality, Phase III, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. https://www.ilo.org/asia/projects/WCMS_099683/lang--en/index.htm

²⁹⁶⁰ Labour statistics on women, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://ilostat.ilo.org/topics/women/>

²⁹⁶¹ Gender equality in the G20 – Additional analysis from the time dimension, International Labour Organization (Tokyo) 22-24 April 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2021. https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---cabinet/documents/publication/wcms_713377.pdf

access to commercial credits from formal financial service providers, more lucrative markets, ongoing training in aspects like finance and technology and more.²⁹⁶²

Partial compliance entails the G20 member’s ability to take action to remove gender-based barriers in at least one of the objectives: either the improvement of women’s full participation in the economy or the implementation of social policies that enhance the business environment for female entrepreneurs. For a score of non-compliance, the G20 member has completed none of the aforementioned criteria.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member does NOT take any action to remove barriers to women’s full participation in the labour market and economy NOR does it implement any specific measure to promote women’s engagement and success in entrepreneurship.
0	G20 member partially removes gender-based barriers by promoting women’s full participation in the labour market and economy OR implementing specific measures to promote women’s engagement and success in entrepreneurship.
+1	G20 member fully removes gender-based barriers by promoting to women’s full participation in the labour market and economy AND implementing specific measures to promote women’s engagement and success in entrepreneurship.

*Compliance Director: Wenny (Yiyao) Jin
Lead Analyst: Nour Elassinty*

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to to remove the barriers to women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 24 November 2020, the National Administration of Social Security enacted Resolution 418/2020, which aimed to ensure that non-sexist language is used in all official documentation within the national administration.²⁹⁶³ The goal of this resolution is to work towards creating an official environment where gender does not play a role in hindering any individual’s (especially women’s) economic opportunities.²⁹⁶⁴

On 18 December 2020, the Matanza Riachuelo Basin Authority enacted Resolution 275/2020, which mandated the procedure of appointing representatives to their Board of Directors to consider gender parity.²⁹⁶⁵ The goal of this resolution is to ensure that women occupy leadership positions within the Matanza Riachuelo Basin Authority.²⁹⁶⁶ On the same day, the Ministry of Economy’s Federal Bureau of Economic Policies with a Gender Perspective (formalized on 23 December 2020) assessed Argentina’s 2020 performance regarding gender in relation to the economy and set their goals for 2021.²⁹⁶⁷ In setting the 2021 economic gender goals, the Bureau met with specific provincial officials from Tierra del Fuego, Catamarca, San Juan, Córdoba, Entre Ríos, Río Negro, Misiones, Tucuman,

²⁹⁶² Promoting Women’s Entrepreneurship Development and Gender Equality, Phase III, International Labour Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. https://www.ilo.org/asia/projects/WCMS_099683/lang-en/index.htm

²⁹⁶³ Resolution 418/2020, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/237689/20201125>

²⁹⁶⁴ Resolution 418/2020, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/237689/20201125>

²⁹⁶⁵ Resolution 275/2020, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239164/20201224?busqueda=1>

²⁹⁶⁶ Resolution 275/2020, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/237689/20201125?busqueda=1>

²⁹⁶⁷ Federal Bureau of Economic Policies with Gender Perspective, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/informe_mf-genero.pdf

La Rioja and La Pampa individually and with officials from the remaining provinces collectively, whereof, at such meetings, the Bureau had the provinces commit to working towards policies that advance women's status in the economy.²⁹⁶⁸ The goal of having the provinces make these commitments is to ensure that Argentina's provincial governments work in tandem with the national government in working to advance women's status in the economy.²⁹⁶⁹

On 22 December 2020, the Ministry of Public Works enacted Resolution 193/2020, which implements the "Program for the Transversalization of Gender and Diversity Policies," a program which promotes equality in the public sphere to build a more just and inclusive society.²⁹⁷⁰ The goal of this resolution is to expand and promote women's equitable employment in the public sphere, especially in the Ministry of Public Works.²⁹⁷¹

On 23 December 2020, the National Parks Administration enacted Resolution 431/2020, which created the "Advisory Committee on Gender, Equality and Diversity Policies" under the National Parks Administration.²⁹⁷² This committee was created to advise and recommend courses of action to the National Parks Administration Board of Directors that generate public policies on issues of gender, equality, diversity and the elimination of violence.²⁹⁷³ The goal of this resolution is to expand and promote women's equitable employment in the public sphere, specifically for those women working for and/or with the National Parks Administration.²⁹⁷⁴

On 23 December 2020, the Ministry of Economy enacted "Resolution 704/2020," which formally established the Federal Board of Economic Policies with a Gender Perspective ("la Mesa Federal de Políticas Económicas con Perspectiva de Género") under the Ministry of Economy.²⁹⁷⁵ The ministry created this board to promote gender equality everywhere in Argentina, to improve the technical capacities of economic decision makers (providing analysis and building a set of indicators with a gendered perspective), to promote dialogue between the National Public Administration with the provincial administrations and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires in tackling gender-economic issues, to strengthen economic policy tools with a gender perspective and map the data collected and missing by jurisdiction (specifically on gender gaps).²⁹⁷⁶ The goal is to create a government entity that can, in a focused and specialized manner, especially considering the disproportionately negative effect that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on women's economic opportunities, work towards restoring women's "access to basic rights."²⁹⁷⁷

²⁹⁶⁸ Federal Bureau of Economic Policies with Gender Perspective, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/informe_mf-genero.pdf

²⁹⁶⁹ Federal Bureau of Economic Policies with Gender Perspective, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/informe_mf-genero.pdf

²⁹⁷⁰ Resolution 193/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239215/20201228?busqueda=1>

²⁹⁷¹ Resolution 193/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239215/20201228?busqueda=1>

²⁹⁷² Resolution 431/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239274/20201229?busqueda=1>

²⁹⁷³ Resolution 431/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239274/20201229?busqueda=1>

²⁹⁷⁴ Resolution 431/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239274/20201229?busqueda=1>

²⁹⁷⁵ Resolution 704/2020, Ministry of Economy, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239169/20201224>

²⁹⁷⁶ Resolution 704/2020, Ministry of Economy, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239169/20201224>

²⁹⁷⁷ Resolution 704/2020, Ministry of Economy, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239169/20201224>

On 1 January 2021, Argentina's 2021 National Budget came into effect and allocated ARS1.3 trillion to public policies that contribute to closing gaps in gender.²⁹⁷⁸ The goal of such public policies is to reduce the economic disparities between men and women.²⁹⁷⁹

On 6 January 2021, Resolution 4/2021 was enacted, which saw the Matanza Riachuelo Basin Authority join the "Gender and Diversity Network of the Ministry of Public Works," a joint public-sector alliance which works to achieve gender equality in the public sphere (specifically within the Ministry of Public Works).²⁹⁸⁰ The goal of this resolution is to expand and promote women's equitable employment in the public sphere, specifically for those women working for and/or with the Matanza Riachuelo Basin Authority.²⁹⁸¹

On 21 February 2021, representatives from Argentina attended an online meeting alongside 56 representatives from Russia, Belgium, Canada, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Romania, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to discuss increasing the number of women in the nuclear power industry.²⁹⁸²

On 8 March 2021, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of the Nation enacted Resolution 8/2021, which created the "Public registry of complaints filed against magistrates for situations related to gender violence" in the area of the Plenary of the Council of the Magistracy.²⁹⁸³ This public registry serves as an institution that survivors of gender violence from magistrates can go to report incidents, whereof, following reports from survivors, appropriate legal action can be taken.²⁹⁸⁴ While the goal of creating this public registry was not directly having to do with women's involvement in the economy, through working against abuses by public magistrates which disproportionately affect women, this initiative serves to aid women in terms of accessibility to government services (which, in turn, aids women in advancing their economic status through government initiatives).²⁹⁸⁵ On the same day, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship enacted Resolution 38/2021, which instructed a variety of foreign affairs offices under the Ministry to implement policies that reduce gender inequalities of opportunity and treatment and created a "Gender Observatory" to design policies to reduce the gender gap.²⁹⁸⁶ The goal of this resolution is to work to

²⁹⁷⁸ Budget: Law 27591, Legislation and Official Notices, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/238364/20201214>

²⁹⁷⁹ D'Alessandro: "The Budget is the tool we have to transform societies into more just an inclusive," Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/dalessandro-el-presupuesto-es-la-herramienta-que-tenemos-para-transformar-las-sociedades-en>

²⁹⁸⁰ Resolution 4/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239658/20210108?busqueda=1>

²⁹⁸¹ Resolution 4/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239658/20210108?busqueda=1>

²⁹⁸² Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-uvlicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

²⁹⁸³ Resolution 8/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/241646/20210310?busqueda=1>

²⁹⁸⁴ Resolution 8/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/241646/20210310?busqueda=1>

²⁹⁸⁵ Resolution 8/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/241646/20210310?busqueda=1>

²⁹⁸⁶ Resolution 38/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/241604/20210309?busqueda=1>

improve women's employment opportunities and quality of employment within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship.²⁹⁸⁷

On 30 March 2021, the Ministry of Economy's Federal Bureau of Economic Policies with a Gender Perspective implemented a new financial training course which will teach up to 800 people how to use the "financial tools of the banking system and the capital market to promote the financial inclusion of people who work in the National Public Administration."²⁹⁸⁸ The goal of this training course is to promote the economic opportunities of those individuals who have traditionally been marginalized within the National Public Administration (with women being a plurality within this marginalized group).²⁹⁸⁹

On 15 April 2021, the Ministry of Transportation enacted Resolution 116/2021, which approved the "Strategic Plan for the incorporation of gender perspective in the scope of competence of the Ministry of Transport – 2020-2023" which is "aimed at mainstreaming the gender perspective in the competition policies of the Ministry of Transportation as thus also in the organizations and companies acting in its jurisdictional orbit."²⁹⁹⁰ The goal of this resolution is to fight discrimination against women within the Ministry of Transportation by mainstreaming and institutionally integrating the gender perspective.²⁹⁹¹

On 22 April 2021, the Chair of Ministers Secretariat for Public Innovation enacted Resolution 38/2021, which resolved to create the "G + T Center – Gender Center In Technology" under the Public Innovation Secretariat of the Head of Ministers Cabinet.²⁹⁹² Moving forward, this center will work to implement its nine point plan to promote women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The goal of this resolution is to work towards the "development of a more just, equitable and supportive society."²⁹⁹³

On 23 April 2021, the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity enacted Resolution 186/2021, which created the "Producir" program.²⁹⁹⁴ This program is designed to provide economic aid to survivors of gender-based violence, most notably women.²⁹⁹⁵ The goal of this program is to "promote the development of life projects with economic independence for women and LGBTI+

²⁹⁸⁷ Resolution 38/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/241604/20210309?busqueda=1>

²⁹⁸⁸ The course on financial tools with a gender perspective for State workers was presented, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-presento-el-curso-sobre-herramientas-financieras-con-perspectiva-de-genero-para-las-0>

²⁹⁸⁹ The course on financial tools with a gender perspective for State workers was presented, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-presento-el-curso-sobre-herramientas-financieras-con-perspectiva-de-genero-para-las-0>

²⁹⁹⁰ Resolution 116/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/243146/20210419?busqueda=1>

²⁹⁹¹ Resolution 116/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/243146/20210419?busqueda=1>

²⁹⁹² Resolution 38/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/243452/20210423?busqueda=1>

²⁹⁹³ Resolution 38/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/243452/20210423?busqueda=1>

²⁹⁹⁴ Resolution 186/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/243502/20210426?busqueda=1>

²⁹⁹⁵ Resolution 186/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/243502/20210426?busqueda=1>

who are going through or have gone through situations of gender-based violence, by strengthening productive projects and economic units for social organizations.”²⁹⁹⁶

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women’s participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as implementing anti-discriminatory regulations, mandating appointment procedures to consider gender parity, allocating funds to address economic disparity between men and women in annual budget and creating groups to lead and promote women’s participation in STEM.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ethan Ullmann

Australia: 0

Australia has partially complied with its commitment to remove the barriers to women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 26 November 2020, the Australian Government launched the Women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) Cadetships and Advanced Apprenticeships Program.²⁹⁹⁷ The program aims to “promote equality of opportunity in higher education” and provide “grants to higher education providers and employers, to improve participation of women in STEM Fields of Education.”²⁹⁹⁸ This includes, “[increasing] the number of women with STEM qualifications in the labour force; [helping] women to upskill in STEM or gain job relevant skills to help build a STEM career; and [developing] a pathway to produce graduates with practical workplace skills in STEM sectors vital to Australia’s future productivity.”²⁹⁹⁹

On 8 March 2021, the Department of Education, Skills and Employment announced that it had opened applications for higher education providers to participate in the Women in STEM Cadetships and Advanced Apprenticeships Program from December 2021 to January 2021.³⁰⁰⁰ The program has approved 18 higher education providers and supported nearly 600 women across Australia.³⁰⁰¹ Higher education providers who participate in this program also help to pair students with potential employers.³⁰⁰² The program supports working women from a variety of industries, including those undertaking courses in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics or Agriculture.³⁰⁰³ On the same day, the Australian Government announced the winners for their Women in STEM Cadetships

²⁹⁹⁶ Resolution 186/2021, Official Bulletin of the Argentine Republic (Buenos Aires) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/243502/20210426?busqueda=1>

²⁹⁹⁷ Other Grants Guidelines (Education) Amendment (Women in STEM) 2020, Federal Register of Legislation (Canberra) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2020L01515/Html/Text>

²⁹⁹⁸ Other Grants Guidelines (Education) Amendment (Women in STEM) 2020, Federal Register of Legislation (Canberra) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2020L01515/Html/Text>

²⁹⁹⁹ Other Grants Guidelines (Education) Amendment (Women in STEM) 2020, Federal Register of Legislation (Canberra) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2020L01515/Html/Text>

³⁰⁰⁰ Women in STEM Cadetships and Advanced Apprenticeships Program, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.dese.gov.au/women-stem-cadetships-and-advanced-apprenticeships>

³⁰⁰¹ Women in STEM Cadetships and Advanced Apprenticeships Program, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.dese.gov.au/women-stem-cadetships-and-advanced-apprenticeships>

³⁰⁰² Women in STEM Cadetships and Advanced Apprenticeships Program, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.dese.gov.au/women-stem-cadetships-and-advanced-apprenticeships>

³⁰⁰³ Women in STEM Cadetships and Advanced Apprenticeships Program, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.dese.gov.au/women-stem-cadetships-and-advanced-apprenticeships>

and Advanced Apprenticeships Program.³⁰⁰⁴ The Australian Government has committed AUD24.8 million to the program this year.³⁰⁰⁵ The program aims to support working women to study an “industry-relevant, higher education Diploma, Associate Degree or Advanced Diploma in a STEM field.”³⁰⁰⁶ Grant funds will be allocated to both higher education providers and employers in order to implement approved STEM programs as well as cover the potential costs associated with flexible work hours.³⁰⁰⁷ Additionally, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced the launch of his AUD18 million advertisement campaign, focusing on the “issue of appropriate respect” and protecting women from violence.³⁰⁰⁸ The goal is to challenge discriminatory notions fundamental to disrespectful languages and behaviours, such as comments like “playing like a girl,” in order to change the overall attitudes towards women.³⁰⁰⁹

Australia has partially complied with its commitment by taking action to remove gender-based barriers by promoting women’s full participation in the labour market and economy through its Women in STEM Cadetships and Advanced Apprenticeships Program as well as its anti-violence advertisement campaign. However, it did not implement any measures to promote women’s engagement and success in entrepreneurial activities.

Thus, Australia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Amanda Morana

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to remove the barriers to women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 20 December 2020, the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (MMFDH) launched the Qualifica Mulher (“Qualify Women”) pilot project, which aims to create a network of partnerships among governmental authorities and private entities in order to increase the employability of women facing socially vulnerable situations.³⁰¹⁰ This project offers professional courses in person or online and facilitates financial education and entrepreneurship workshops.³⁰¹¹ The COVID-19 pandemic was a key factor in the implementation of the Qualifica Mulher project as an initiative to promote

³⁰⁰⁴ Women in STEM Cadetships and Advanced Apprenticeships Program, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.dese.gov.au/women-stem-cadetships-and-advanced-apprenticeships>

³⁰⁰⁵ Women in STEM Cadetships and Advanced Apprenticeships Program, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.dese.gov.au/women-stem-cadetships-and-advanced-apprenticeships>

³⁰⁰⁶ Women in STEM Cadetships and Advanced Apprenticeships Program, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.dese.gov.au/women-stem-cadetships-and-advanced-apprenticeships>

³⁰⁰⁷ Women in STEM Cadetships and Advanced Apprenticeships Program, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.dese.gov.au/women-stem-cadetships-and-advanced-apprenticeships>

³⁰⁰⁸ Remarks, International Women’s Day, Government of Australia (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/remarks-international-womens-day>

³⁰⁰⁹ Remarks, International Women’s Day, Government of Australia (Canberra) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/remarks-international-womens-day>

³⁰¹⁰ Ordinance No. 3175, of December 10, 2020, National Press (Brasilia) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/portaria-n-3.175-de-10-de-dezembro-de-2020-293539155>

³⁰¹¹ Ordinance No. 3175, of December 10, 2020, National Press (Brasilia) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/portaria-n-3.175-de-10-de-dezembro-de-2020-293539155>

women's economic autonomy.³⁰¹² More than 25,700 women have received training and attended entrepreneurship workshops.³⁰¹³

On 20 April 2021, Minister of Women, Family and Human Rights Damares Alves, Governor of the Federal District Ibaneis Rocha and First Lady Michelle Bolsonaro attended the opening of the first CMB in Ceilandia, the most populated region in the Federal District.³⁰¹⁴ During this event, a Technical Cooperation Agreement of the Safe and Protected Women Program was signed by figures from the federal and district governments, the Court of Justice of the Federal District and Territories, and the Public Defender's Office of the Federal District.³⁰¹⁵ This Agreement aims to expand existing public services for female victims of violence through specialized services from the public healthcare system, opportunities for justice, social assistance networks, and promotions of women's economic independence.³⁰¹⁶

On 29 April 2021, the MMFDH launched the Qualify for Entrepreneurship in Pernambuco initiative in partnership with the Federal Rural University of Pernambuco.³⁰¹⁷ This initiative is part of the MMFDH's Qualifica Mulher project, which aims to promote female economic autonomy, and is an attempt at regionalization of the Qualifica Mulher project in order to better meet economic needs of different regions of Brazil.³⁰¹⁸ This initiative covers courses in entrepreneurship, social media, waste management, hospitality in health units, hospital sanitation and hygiene, and food production, and is aimed at socially vulnerable women living in Jaboatão dos Guararapes, Paulista, São Lourenço da Mata and Recife.³⁰¹⁹

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment by implementing specific measures to promote women's engagement and success in entrepreneurship through partnerships with private entities, governmental authorities and universities, as well as actions to remove barriers by implementing projects focused on expanding employment access to women.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Nika Asgari

³⁰¹² More than 25,700 socially vulnerable women receive training and entrepreneurship courses, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/mais-de-25-7-mil-mulheres-em-vulnerabilidade-social-recebem-cursos-de-capacitacao-e-empreendedorismo>

³⁰¹³ More than 25,700 socially vulnerable women receive training and entrepreneurship courses, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/mais-de-25-7-mil-mulheres-em-vulnerabilidade-social-recebem-cursos-de-capacitacao-e-empreendedorismo>

³⁰¹⁴ Inauguration of the House of Brazilian Women in Ceilandia (DF), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/inaugurada-a-casa-da-mulher-brasileira-de-ceilandia-df>

³⁰¹⁵ Inauguration of the House of Brazilian Women in Ceilandia (DF), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/inaugurada-a-casa-da-mulher-brasileira-de-ceilandia-df>

³⁰¹⁶ Inauguration of the House of Brazilian Women in Ceilandia (DF), Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/inaugurada-a-casa-da-mulher-brasileira-de-ceilandia-df>

³⁰¹⁷ Project will qualify 1400 women in vulnerable situations in Pernambuco, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/projeto-vai-qualificar-1-4-mil-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-em-pernambuco>

³⁰¹⁸ Project will qualify 1400 women in vulnerable situations in Pernambuco, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/projeto-vai-qualificar-1-4-mil-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-em-pernambuco>

³⁰¹⁹ Project will qualify 1400 women in vulnerable situations in Pernambuco, Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (Brasilia) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/projeto-vai-qualificar-1-4-mil-mulheres-em-situacao-de-vulnerabilidade-em-pernambuco>

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to remove the barriers to women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 1 January 2021, Canada implemented the “Workplace Harassment and Violence Prevention Regulations” in order to curb workplace harassment and violence which women are often a target of.³⁰²⁰ This policy outlines regulations for violence prevention in the workplace and procedures to respond to incidences of violence or harassment in the workplace.³⁰²¹ Thus, creating a less hostile work environment for marginalized groups.³⁰²²

On 1 January 2021, Canada implemented an amendment to the “Employment Equity Regulations” which introduced a new policy which requires “federally regulated private sector employers” to report salary data.³⁰²³ The aim of this measure is to gain more data on wage gaps experienced by marginalized groups, which will be included in reports on employment equity and help inform future policies on the matter.³⁰²⁴

On 11 February 2021, Canada announced its “Feminist Response and Recovery Fund” which will direct CAD100 million in funds towards helping women “launch new projects or scale up past projects that increase women and girls’ participation in Canada’s economic, social, democratic and political life.”³⁰²⁵ The funding aimed to provide an “intersectional response to COVID-19” by providing support for marginalized and underrepresented women.³⁰²⁶

On 21 February 2021, representatives from Canada attended an online meeting alongside 56 representatives from Argentina, Belgium, Russia, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Romania, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Commission, the International

³⁰²⁰ Government of Canada publishes new regulations to prevent harassment and violence in federal workplaces, Employment and Development Canada (Quebec) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/06/government-of-canada-invites-canadian-workplaces-to-get-ready-for-new-regulations-against-harassment-and-violence.html>

³⁰²¹ Government of Canada publishes new regulations to prevent harassment and violence in federal workplaces, Employment and Development Canada (Quebec) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/06/government-of-canada-invites-canadian-workplaces-to-get-ready-for-new-regulations-against-harassment-and-violence.html>

³⁰²² Government of Canada publishes new regulations to prevent harassment and violence in federal workplaces, Employment and Development Canada (Quebec) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/06/government-of-canada-invites-canadian-workplaces-to-get-ready-for-new-regulations-against-harassment-and-violence.html>

³⁰²³ Regulations Amending the Employment Equity Regulations, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://canadagazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2020/2020-11-25/html/sor-dors236-eng.html>

³⁰²⁴ Regulations Amending the Employment Equity Regulations, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://canadagazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2020/2020-11-25/html/sor-dors236-eng.html>

³⁰²⁵ Government of Canada to invest \$100 million to support women impacted by the pandemic, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-invest-100-million-to-support-women-impacted-by-the-pandemic.html>

³⁰²⁶ Government of Canada to invest \$100 million to support Women impacted by the pandemic, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-invest-100-million-to-support-women-impacted-by-the-pandemic.html>

Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to discuss increasing the number of women in the nuclear power industry.³⁰²⁷

On 24 February 2021, Canada announced that it will invest CAD843,750 in the Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA).³⁰²⁸ FAFIA will use these funds to combat systemic barriers to women's social and economic participation.³⁰²⁹

On 8 March 2021, Canada announced that it will formulate a task force of experts that will propose policies aimed at creating equitable opportunities for economic recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁰³⁰ Recognizing that women face systemic barriers in the economy, this task force will specifically tackle economic issues facing women.³⁰³¹

On 16 March 2021, Canada announced that it would be allocating CAD3.18 million to female entrepreneurs across the Prairies as part of its Women Entrepreneurship Strategy Ecosystem.³⁰³² This funding will be used to aid women entrepreneurs through the financial hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic, while also helping their businesses grow.³⁰³³

On 19 April 2021, Canada delivered its 2021 federal budget which included several policies that help facilitate women's economic participation.³⁰³⁴ The budget included an investment of CAD30 billion over five years as part of its Early Learning and Child Care Plan which is aimed at reducing the costs of childcare so that mothers are able to return to work.³⁰³⁵ Additionally, the budget also allocated CAD146.9 million over four years to the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy which will help women entrepreneurs have "greater access to financing, mentorship and training."³⁰³⁶ Finally, the budget

³⁰²⁷ Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-velicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

³⁰²⁸ Government of Canada invests \$1.6 million to help women and girls succeed, Women and Gender Equality (Ottawa) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-invests-16-million-to-help-women-and-girls-succeed.html>

³⁰²⁹ Government of Canada invests \$1.6 million to help women and girls succeed, Women and Gender Equality (Ottawa) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-invests-16-million-to-help-women-and-girls-succeed.html>

³⁰³⁰ Government announces members of new Task Force on Women in the Economy, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/03/government-announces-members-of-new-task-force-on-women-in-the-economy.html>

³⁰³¹ Government announces members of new Task Force on Women in the Economy, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/03/government-announces-members-of-new-task-force-on-women-in-the-economy.html>

³⁰³² Government of Canada supports recovery and growth of women-led businesses across the Prairies amid COVID-19 pandemic, Western Economic Diversification Canada (Winnipeg) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/western-economic-diversification/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-supports-recovery-and-growth-of-women-led-businesses-across-the-prairies-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>

³⁰³³ Government of Canada supports recovery and growth of women-led businesses across the Prairies amid COVID-19 pandemic, Western Economic Diversification Canada (Winnipeg) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/western-economic-diversification/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-supports-recovery-and-growth-of-women-led-businesses-across-the-prairies-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>

³⁰³⁴ Budget 2021: Supporting Women, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date 30 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-supporting-women.html>

³⁰³⁵ Budget 2021: Supporting Women, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date 30 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-supporting-women.html>

³⁰³⁶ Budget 2021: Supporting Women, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date 30 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-supporting-women.html>

provides an incentive of CAD10,000 for employers that hire underrepresented Canadians (including women) in the construction and manufacturing Red Seal trades.³⁰³⁷

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women's participation in the labour market and the economy through implementing domestic policies such as anti-harassment regulations and family-friendly childcare programs. Canada has also demonstrated actions in promoting women's engagement and success in entrepreneurial activities through allocating funds to help women entrepreneurs overcome financial hardship and grow their businesses.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Loujein Metwally

China: 0

China has partially complied with its commitment to remove the barriers to women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 22 December 2020, President Xi Jinping stated that China will take the recovery from the pandemic as an opportunity to provide new opportunities for women to participate in politics and to improve women's participation in the management of national, economic, cultural and social affairs at the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly to Commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the World Conference on Women in Beijing.³⁰³⁸ President Jinping spoke about the continuation of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Action Plan through the protection of women and girls' rights and interests in an important position in public health and the resumption of work by broadening the employment channels for women and combat violations of women's rights.³⁰³⁹

On 2 February 2021, The All-China Women's Federation (ACWF) stated during its executive committee meeting that it will help women to secure more jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities in digital industries and the e-commerce sector, among other areas of the modern industrial system in 2021.³⁰⁴⁰ More specifically, the Women's Federation will step up their financial support of women entrepreneurs and launch more training sessions and entrepreneurship competitions amid efforts to empower women.³⁰⁴¹

On 23 February 2021, the General Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the General Office of the State Council issued the "Opinions on Accelerating the

³⁰³⁷ Budget 2021: Supporting Women, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date 30 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-supporting-women.html>

³⁰³⁸ Speech by Xi Jinping at the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly to Commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the World Conference on Women in Beijing, Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 22 December 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://he.mof.gov.cn/zt4/dj/xyd/202012/t20201222_3636319.htm

³⁰³⁹ Speech by Xi Jinping at the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly to Commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the World Conference on Women in Beijing, Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 22 December 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://he.mof.gov.cn/zt4/dj/xyd/202012/t20201222_3636319.htm

³⁰⁴⁰ All-China Women's Federation Vows to Help Women Secure More Professional Opportunities, All-China Women's Federation (Beijing) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

<http://www.womenofchina.cn/womenofchina/html1/news/Highlight/2102/3454-1.htm>

³⁰⁴¹ All-China Women's Federation Vows to Help Women Secure More Professional Opportunities, All-China Women's Federation (Beijing) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

<http://www.womenofchina.cn/womenofchina/html1/news/Highlight/2102/3454-1.htm>

Rejuvenation of Rural Talents.”³⁰⁴² Article 25 of the publication addressed the government’s intention to speed up the development of rural vocational education to encourage veterans, laid-off workers, migrant workers, high-quality farmers and left-behind women to apply for higher vocational colleges to decrease the gender gap in workforces.³⁰⁴³ Institutions can appropriately lower the admission scores for the above populations on the corresponding quality tests.³⁰⁴⁴

On 6 March 2020, President Jinping spoke of the protection of women’s rights and women’s development on multiple occasions at the fourth annual session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference.³⁰⁴⁵ President Jinping stated that women represent an important force, driving social development and progress.³⁰⁴⁶ He addressed the importance for party committees and governments at all levels to fully understand the significance of developing women’s undertakings.³⁰⁴⁷ These include increases in attention, support and effort to severely crack down on illegal and criminal acts that infringe on women’s rights.³⁰⁴⁸

On 15 May 2021, the All-China Women’s Federation will open a bidding for a national project aims to encourage women to actively participate in the construction of network civilization and network ecological content governance.³⁰⁴⁹ The project is a procurement project for all small and medium-sized Chinese enterprises.³⁰⁵⁰ The applicants and companies may be prison enterprises or welfare units for people with disabilities.³⁰⁵¹ By providing resources through online and offline

³⁰⁴² China Office and State Affairs Office issued opinions “Accelerate the revitalization of rural talents,” Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

http://www.moe.gov.cn/s78/A01/s4561/jgfwzx_zcwj/202103/t20210308_518402.html

³⁰⁴³ China Office and State Affairs Office issued opinions “Accelerate the revitalization of rural talents,” Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

http://www.moe.gov.cn/s78/A01/s4561/jgfwzx_zcwj/202103/t20210308_518402.html

³⁰⁴⁴ China Office and State Affairs Office issued opinions “Accelerate the revitalization of rural talents,” Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

http://www.moe.gov.cn/s78/A01/s4561/jgfwzx_zcwj/202103/t20210308_518402.html

³⁰⁴⁵ Xi Jinping on protection of women’s rights, XINHUA (Beijing) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2021/0308/c90000-9826589.html>

³⁰⁴⁶ Xi Jinping on protection of women’s rights, XINHUA (Beijing) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2021/0308/c90000-9826589.html>

³⁰⁴⁷ Xi Jinping on protection of women’s rights, XINHUA (Beijing) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2021/0308/c90000-9826589.html>

³⁰⁴⁸ When Xi Jinping visited the members of the medical and health education sector who participated in the CPPCC meeting, Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 6 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

<http://www.mca.gov.cn/article/xw/tt/202103/20210300032328.shtml>

³⁰⁴⁹ All-China Women’s Federation Family Happiness and Health Project (Family Network Social Governance) (Package 2: Focusing on Family Participation in Network Social Governance Project-Designing and Making Animation Products) Public Bidding Announcement, Ministry of Finance of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://www.mof.gov.cn/xinxi/zhongyangbiaoxun/zhaobiaogonggao/202104/t20210423_3691293.htm

³⁰⁵⁰ All-China Women’s Federation Family Happiness and Health Project (Family Network Social Governance) (Package 2: Focusing on Family Participation in Network Social Governance Project-Designing and Making Animation Products) Public Bidding Announcement, Ministry of Finance of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://www.mof.gov.cn/xinxi/zhongyangbiaoxun/zhaobiaogonggao/202104/t20210423_3691293.htm

³⁰⁵¹ All-China Women’s Federation Family Happiness and Health Project (Family Network Social Governance) (Package 2: Focusing on Family Participation in Network Social Governance Project-Designing and Making Animation Products) Public Bidding Announcement, Ministry of Finance of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://www.mof.gov.cn/xinxi/zhongyangbiaoxun/zhaobiaogonggao/202104/t20210423_3691293.htm

communication, this project aims to remove barriers for housewives and women in rural China to participate in network social governance and to improve their comprehensive network literacy.³⁰⁵²

China has partially complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women's participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as multiple verbal affirmations and national projects to increase women's participation in network social governance. However, it did not implement any measures to promote women's engagement and success in entrepreneurial activities.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Ziyi Liu

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to remove the barriers to women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 26 January 2021, the drafting of a guide for an international standard on gender equality under the high patronage of President Emmanuel Macron began.³⁰⁵³ It is announced by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery, as well as the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity, together with the French National Standards Association, that the guide for this standard will be published in June 2021.³⁰⁵⁴ This standard aims to develop a normative reference in France, which can also provide a basis for an international standard.³⁰⁵⁵ It will apply to both internal and external dimensions of activities in French organizations, including private and public sectors.³⁰⁵⁶ The guide covers the topics of education and training of specific measures, reproductive and sexual rights for women in the workforce, prevention

³⁰⁵² All-China Women's Federation Family Happiness and Health Project (Family Network Social Governance) (Package 2: Focusing on Family Participation in Network Social Governance Project-Designing and Making Animation Products) Public Bidding Announcement, Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://www.mof.gov.cn/xinxi/zhongyangbiaoxun/zhaobiaogonggao/202104/t20210423_3691293.htm

³⁰⁵³ Communiqué issued by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity – International Women's Day: toward an international standard on gender equality, The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

³⁰⁵⁴ Communiqué issued by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity – International Women's Day: toward an international standard on gender equality, The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

³⁰⁵⁵ Communiqué issued by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity – International Women's Day: toward an international standard on gender equality, The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

³⁰⁵⁶ Communiqué issued by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity – International Women's Day: toward an international standard on gender equality, The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

and elimination of violence and discrimination to girls and women and economic empowerment of women and their participation in public and economic life.³⁰⁵⁷

On 21 February 2021, representatives from France attended an online meeting alongside 56 representatives from Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Russia, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Romania, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to discuss increasing the number of women in the nuclear power industry.³⁰⁵⁸

On 25 February 2021, Minister of Solidarity and Health Olivier Véran participated in the launch of the Global Initiative on the place of women in the health and care sector, supported by the French government, the World Health Organization and the non-governmental organization Women in Global Health.³⁰⁵⁹ Minister Véran presented the objectives of this initiative, including to promote the place of women in the health and care sector in positions of responsibility on a global scale, to promote the recognition of unpaid work and reduce the pay gap between women and men, to protect women against sexual harassment and violence at work and to guarantee safe and decent working conditions.³⁰⁶⁰

On 3 March 2021, France, together with UN Women, Mexico and civil societies announced that they will hold the Generation Equality Forum virtually in Mexico City on 29-31 March 2021.³⁰⁶¹ This forum will aim to highlight the need for international economic gender equality for women and girls by providing a platform for women and Action Coalitions.³⁰⁶² The forum will also lead to an announcement at the Paris event of commitment and announce investments into gender equality.³⁰⁶³

On 8 March 2021, the French National Standards Association, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity announced the launch an initiative intended to establish

³⁰⁵⁷ Communiqué issued by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity – International Women’s Day: toward an international standard on gender equality, The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

³⁰⁵⁸ Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women’s Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-uvlicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

³⁰⁵⁹ Launch of the Initiative on the place of women in the health and care sector, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/ministere/europe-et-international/article/lancement-de-l-initiative-sur-la-place-des-femmes-dans-le-secteur-de-la-sante>

³⁰⁶⁰ Launch of the Initiative on the place of women in the health and care sector, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/ministere/europe-et-international/article/lancement-de-l-initiative-sur-la-place-des-femmes-dans-le-secteur-de-la-sante>

³⁰⁶¹ The Countdown to the 2021 Generation equality Forum begins, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-countdown-to-the-2021-generation-equality-forum-begins?idiom=en&fbclid=IwAR1eqLpqvwdKojVQX7LlSeB90vlzy1k_m7tVK-XmWchA9D30q0f_zrJO5Es

³⁰⁶² The Countdown to the 2021 Generation equality Forum begins, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-countdown-to-the-2021-generation-equality-forum-begins?idiom=en&fbclid=IwAR1eqLpqvwdKojVQX7LlSeB90vlzy1k_m7tVK-XmWchA9D30q0f_zrJO5Es

³⁰⁶³ The Countdown to the 2021 Generation equality Forum begins, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-countdown-to-the-2021-generation-equality-forum-begins?idiom=en&fbclid=IwAR1eqLpqvwdKojVQX7LlSeB90vlzy1k_m7tVK-XmWchA9D30q0f_zrJO5Es

an international standard on gender equality.³⁰⁶⁴ The initiative will cover the following topics: education, health and sexual reproductive rights, prevention and elimination of gender-based violence, the rights of women and girls and female economic empowerment.³⁰⁶⁵

On 22 March 2021, the World Health Organization announced that France co-sponsored the 65th Commission on the Status of Women Side Event, which was organized under the Gender Equal Health and Care Workforce Initiative.³⁰⁶⁶ The event aimed to discuss women's leadership in the healthcare sector and feasible policy interventions to ensure a more gender-equitable and representative leadership provided by women.³⁰⁶⁷ A high-level interactive panel discussion was planned for the event to explore opportunities to advance women's leadership in the health and care workforce.³⁰⁶⁸ This year's priority theme for the 65th Commission on the Status of Women is "Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, sexual harassment, for achieving gender equality, public safety and for empowering all women and girls working in the public sphere."³⁰⁶⁹

On 29 to 31 March 2021, the Generation Equality Forum, organized by UN Women and co-hosted by France and Mexico, was held in Mexico City and will culminate in Paris 30 June to 2 July 2021.³⁰⁷⁰ The Forum aims to enhance women's leadership as countries recover from COVID-19.³⁰⁷¹ It included 100 official side-events, which all revolve around the urgency and accountability for gender equality in the public sphere.³⁰⁷²

France has partially complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women's participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as setting anti-discriminatory standards, supporting women's leadership in workforce and hosting international

³⁰⁶⁴ Communiqué issued by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity – International Women's Day: toward an international standard on gender equality, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

³⁰⁶⁵ Communiqué issued by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and the Ministry for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunity – International Women's Day: toward an international standard on gender equality, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/communique-issued-by-the-ministry-for-europe-and-foreign-affairs-the-ministry>

³⁰⁶⁶ Gender Equal Health and Care Workforce: Enabling Women to Lead, World Health Organization (Geneva) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2021/03/23/default-calendar/gender-equal-health-and-care-workforce-enabling-women-to-lead>

³⁰⁶⁷ Gender Equal Health and Care Workforce: Enabling Women to Lead, World Health Organization (Geneva) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2021/03/23/default-calendar/gender-equal-health-and-care-workforce-enabling-women-to-lead>

³⁰⁶⁸ Gender Equal Health and Care Workforce: Enabling Women to Lead, World Health Organization (Geneva) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2021/03/23/default-calendar/gender-equal-health-and-care-workforce-enabling-women-to-lead>

³⁰⁶⁹ Media Advisory: UN's Commission on the Status of Women highlights women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

³⁰⁷⁰ Media Advisory: UN's Commission on the Status of Women highlights women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

³⁰⁷¹ Media Advisory: UN's Commission on the Status of Women highlights women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

³⁰⁷² Media Advisory: UN's Commission on the Status of Women highlights women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

forum on gender equality. However, it did not implement any measures to promote women's engagement and success in entrepreneurial activities.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Ziyi Liu

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to remove the barriers to women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 1 January 2021, UN Women released a report called *Women in Politics: 2021*, to present statistics that directly reflect the progress on women's economic participation in Germany. According to the report, Germany falls in the second-highest category of percentage of women in ministerial positions with around 40 per cent of women out of all minister positions.³⁰⁷³

On 3 January 2021, the new National Action Plan to implement the Women, Peace and Security Agenda was addressed in the Federal Cabinet with the goal of strengthening the participation of women in peace processes and strengthening the participation of women in crisis management.³⁰⁷⁴

On 6 January 2021, the federal government proposed the Second Management Positions Act – FÜPoG II. The draft law further develops and improves the Management Positions Act (FÜPoG) that came into force in 2015 by making it mandatory for certain private listed companies and public sector German businesses to include more women on their executive boards. The law was passed by the German Parliament on 11 June 2021.³⁰⁷⁵

On 21 January 2021, the Federal Labour Court of Germany ruled that, the woman executive who managed a department within a public insurer in Hanover, “had earnings of EUR1,006 less per month than the median compensation, in terms of basic salaries and bonuses, of six male colleagues in comparable positions,” which was a clear indicator of gender discrimination.³⁰⁷⁶ “The court confirmed that the burden falls on her employer to prove that the disparity is not based on gender.”³⁰⁷⁷ This ruling was considered a guiding principle of the new decision on the Remuneration Transparency Act, which passed in 2017 (pay-transparency law) requiring employers to disclose male colleagues' wages or salaries.³⁰⁷⁸

³⁰⁷³ Women in Politics 2021, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (New York) March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/03/women-in-politics-map-2021>

³⁰⁷⁴ New Action Plan for the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the Federal Cabinet, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 23 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/menschenrechte/05-frauen/women-conflict-prevention/291532>

³⁰⁷⁵ Law to supplement and amend the regulations for the equal participation of women in management positions in the private sector and in the public service (Second Management Positions Act – FÜPoG II), Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/service/gesetze/zweites-fuehrungspositionengesetz-fuepog-2-164226>

³⁰⁷⁶ Top Gender Top German Labour Court Boosts Equal Pay Procedure for Women, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/top-german-labor-court-boosts-equal-pay-procedure-for-women/a-56305574>

³⁰⁷⁷ Top Gender Top German Labour Court Boosts Equal Pay Procedure for Women, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/top-german-labor-court-boosts-equal-pay-procedure-for-women/a-56305574>

³⁰⁷⁸ Information on the Law on Promotion of Pay Transparency, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 1 July 2017. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/resource/blob/117322/cbecce81bb4ce80ad969176e3a6b8293/das-entgelttransparenzgesetz-informationen-zum-gesetz-zur-foerderung-der-entgelttransparenz-data.pdf>

On 12 February 2021, the nationwide start-up agency sponsored by Germany's Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, launched a digital series about women entrepreneurs. As a campaign to encourage and support more women in managerial positions, the series is meant to inspire and educate women entrepreneurship through career guidance and promotion of women entrepreneur role models.³⁰⁷⁹

On 6 March 2021, German Chancellor Angela Merkel spoke about the need to defend the advances made in gender equality as the global coronavirus pandemic threatens the efforts towards removing traditional gender roles.³⁰⁸⁰ In an effort to reconcile this potential setback, "the chancellor said that the federal government was working on expanding childcare facilities, especially for pre-school-aged children, in order to make it easier for women to work."³⁰⁸¹ Another cause for concern that was raised by German chancellor was the gender pay gap in Germany, explaining the need for parity in all areas including wages between women and men.³⁰⁸²

On 8 March 2021, the European Social Fund (ESF) Federal Program "Perspective Re-Entry" funded by the Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth and the European Social Fund, launched a new month-long initiative under the motto "Strong Women" on International Women's Day.³⁰⁸³ The focus of the program is to promote and set an example for more social, societal and political equality between women and men through campaigns.³⁰⁸⁴ This ESF program is being implemented in cooperation with the Federal Employment Agency within the framework of the "Perspective re-entry" program.³⁰⁸⁵

On 10 March 2021, the Federal Cabinet decided to bring forward a new law in establishing a Federal Equality Foundation intended to promote and accelerate the necessary changes toward gender equality by finding solutions to inequality, providing a support network and increasing knowledge on issues among citizens.³⁰⁸⁶ "The draft law to establish the Federal Equality Foundation will be introduced to the German Bundestag at the initiative of the government parliamentary groups. After funds for the federal foundation have already been entered in the federal budget, important steps in establishing the

³⁰⁷⁹ Women can do Everything, The National Agency for Women Start-ups Activities and Services (Stuttgart) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://www.existenzgruenderinnen.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/bga-Schwerpunkte/Pressemitteilung-Frauen-koennen-alles-10022021.pdf?__blob=publicationFile

³⁰⁸⁰ Angela Merkel calls for gender equality in face of pandemic, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 6 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/womens-day-angela-merkel-calls-for-gender-equality-in-face-of-pandemic/a-56794914>

³⁰⁸¹ Angela Merkel calls for gender equality in face of pandemic, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 6 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/womens-day-angela-merkel-calls-for-gender-equality-in-face-of-pandemic/a-56794914>

³⁰⁸² Angela Merkel calls for gender equality in face of pandemic, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 6 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/womens-day-angela-merkel-calls-for-gender-equality-in-face-of-pandemic/a-56794914>

³⁰⁸³ Perspective re-entry – unlocking potential starts the campaign Strong Women on International Women's Day, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) n.d. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://www.perspektive-wiedereinstieg.de/Inhalte/DE/Service/Nachrichtenarchiv/perspektive_wiedereinstieg_potentiale_erschlie%C3%9Fen_startet_am_weltfrauentag_die_aktion_starke_frauen.html

³⁰⁸⁴ Perspective re-entry – unlocking potential starts the campaign Strong Women on International Women's Day, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) n.d. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://www.perspektive-wiedereinstieg.de/Inhalte/DE/Service/Nachrichtenarchiv/perspektive_wiedereinstieg_potentiale_erschlie%C3%9Fen_startet_am_weltfrauentag_die_aktion_starke_frauen.html

³⁰⁸⁵ Perspective re-entry – unlocking potential starts the campaign Strong Women on International Women's Day, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) n.d. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://www.perspektive-wiedereinstieg.de/Inhalte/DE/Service/Nachrichtenarchiv/perspektive_wiedereinstieg_potentiale_erschlie%C3%9Fen_startet_am_weltfrauentag_die_aktion_starke_frauen.html

³⁰⁸⁶ Minister Giffey wants to accelerate equality, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerin-giffey-will-gleichstellung-beschleunigen-174256>

foundation, such as the appointment of a board of directors, are to be taken this year.”³⁰⁸⁷ The establishment of the “Federal Equality Foundation” is a project from the Federal Government’s first inter-departmental gender equality strategy in the history of the Federal Republic of Germany.³⁰⁸⁸

On 8 April 2021, the Global Gender Gap Index published statistics which benchmark gender gap disparities on economic, education, health and political-based criteria. Germany ranked 11 with a score of 0.8, close to Iceland’s score of 0.87, which was ranked as number one in providing the most gender equal conditions.³⁰⁸⁹ Germany is considered one of the countries where women are in the head-of-state positions more frequently.³⁰⁹⁰

On 15 April 2021, the German Bundestag approved a draft law for the establishment of the Federal Equality Foundation. The foundation will work by showing where more gender equality is needed, networking and supporting those committed to gender equality, and by discussing gender equality with citizens. The aim of the foundation is to enable women and men to lead a self-determined life so that they can develop their potential regardless of gender.³⁰⁹¹

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women’s participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as presenting statistics about domestic status quo, issuing compensations and implementing family-friendly childcare programs. Furthermore, Germany has taken action to support women’s entrepreneurship through the digital series to promote women in entrepreneurship positions.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Elizabeth Lerman

India: 0

India has partially complied with taking steps to remove the barriers to women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 3 February 2021, Commerce Secretary Dr. Anup Wadhawan announced that the budget for the 2021-2022 year will include an amount of INR10,000 million for the welfare of women Tea workers and their children, particularly in Assam and West Bengal.³⁰⁹² This will benefit approximately 623,000 women workers.³⁰⁹³

³⁰⁸⁷ Minister Giffey wants to accelerate equality, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerin-giffey-will-gleichstellung-beschleunigen-174256>

³⁰⁸⁸ Minister Giffey wants to accelerate equality, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerin-giffey-will-gleichstellung-beschleunigen-174256>

³⁰⁸⁹ The Global Gender Gap Report 2021, World Economic Forum (Geneva) March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2021.pdf

³⁰⁹⁰ The Global Gender Gap Report 2021, World Economic Forum (Geneva) March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2021.pdf

³⁰⁹¹ Bundestag resolves to establish a “Federal Equality Foundation,” Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/bundestag-beschliesst-errichtung-einer-bundesstiftung-gleichstellung--176922>

³⁰⁹² Key Highlights of Union Budget 2021-2022, Ministry of Finance (New Delhi) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1693907>

³⁰⁹³ Commerce Secretary DrAnup Wadhawan says the Budget 2021-22 will enhance India’s growth in manufacturing, trade and other sectors, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/commerce-secretary-dranup-wadhawan-says-the-budget-2021-22-will-enhance-indias-growth-in-manufacturing-trade-and-other-sectors/?hilite=%27women%27>

On 23 February 2021, Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu stated that though the current Lok Sabha had the historically highest number of women in parliament, namely 78, they account for only 14 per cent of the total number of people in parliament and in legislatures.³⁰⁹⁴ He added that creating reservations for women in parliament and legislature “needs urgent attention and consensus of all political parties.”³⁰⁹⁵

India has partially complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women’s participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as allocating funds and offering verbal affirmations. However, it did not implement any measures to promote women’s engagement and success in entrepreneurial activities.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Debasmita Bhattacharya

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied in its commitment to remove the barriers to women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 10 December, the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection in collaboration with the UN Population Fund, Indonesia and UN Women released the Guidelines for the Protection of Women’s Rights from Discrimination and Gender-Based Violence in Pandemic Situations.³⁰⁹⁶ The guidelines were shared to several “ministries/agencies, local government organizations and program and service providers related to women.”³⁰⁹⁷ The guidelines’ aims include the prevention of “stigma,” “discrimination,” and ensure that proper rights are granted against survivors of gender-based violence (which includes “economic empowerment”).³⁰⁹⁸

On 10 December 2020, Minister of Law and Human Rights Yasonna H. Laoly discussed the update for the National Plan for Human Rights in a speech for World Human Rights Day.³⁰⁹⁹ The new update serves to include concrete actions with the goal of “resolving human rights issues of vulnerable groups” including women (which is an attempt at decreasing women’s barriers to

³⁰⁹⁴ Vice President calls for ending low representation to women in Parliament and legislatures, Ministry of Finance (Hyderabad) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://vicepresidentofindia.nic.in/pressrelease/vice-president-calls-ending-low-representation-women-parliament-and-legislatures>

³⁰⁹⁵ Vice President calls for ending low representation to women in Parliament and legislatures, Ministry of Finance (Hyderabad) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://vicepresidentofindia.nic.in/pressrelease/vice-president-calls-ending-low-representation-women-parliament-and-legislatures>

³⁰⁹⁶ A Guide to Protecting Women from Gender-Based Violence During the Pandemic Launched, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 10 December 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/2992/panduan-perlindungan-perempuan-dari-kekerasan-berbasis-gender-selama-pandemi-diluncurkan>

³⁰⁹⁷ A Guide to Protecting Women from Gender-Based Violence During the Pandemic Launched, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 10 December 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/2992/panduan-perlindungan-perempuan-dari-kekerasan-berbasis-gender-selama-pandemi-diluncurkan>

³⁰⁹⁸ A Guide to Protecting Women from Gender-Based Violence During the Pandemic Launched, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 10 December 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/2992/panduan-perlindungan-perempuan-dari-kekerasan-berbasis-gender-selama-pandemi-diluncurkan>

³⁰⁹⁹ International Human Rights Day, Menkumham: Government Prepares the 5th RANHAM Focuses on Resolving Vulnerable Human Rights Issues, Ministry of Law and Human Rights (Jakarta) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkumham.go.id/publikasi/siaran-pers/hari-ham-internasional-menkumham-pemerintah-menyusun-ranham-ke-5-fokus-menyelesaikan-isu-hak-asasi-kelompok-rentan>

economic participation).³¹⁰⁰ Furthermore, President Joko Widodo in a speech for World Human Rights Day also announced that the Joint Secretariat of the National Action Plan for Human Rights has finished the draft of the action plan which he hopes will be implemented in 2021.³¹⁰¹ Director General of Human Rights Mualimin Abdi also stated that he hopes that the National Action Plan for Human Rights will be signed by the President “in the near future.”³¹⁰²

On 12 December 2020, Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani Indrawati attended a webinar entitled “Towards a Planet 50:50 Business Contribution to Achieving SDG ‘5’” hosted by Indonesia Business Coalition for Women Empowerment and the Global Reporting Initiative.³¹⁰³ In the webinar, Minister Indrawati emphasized that the Indonesian State Budget should be used to advance gender equality, which includes equality in economic participation and entrepreneurship.³¹⁰⁴ She discussed that some barriers that women face are “social norms, cultural norms and even interpretations of religious teachings.”³¹⁰⁵ She highlighted the government’s existing efforts to help women, for instance through social assistance, like the Family Hope Program which is given almost exclusively to female heads of families.³¹⁰⁶ Furthermore, she emphasizes policies that support small and medium enterprises, such as the use of ultra-micro financing and small business credits for businesses that are mainly composed of and owned by women.³¹⁰⁷ Furthermore, she highlighted the new initiative of Special Non-Physical Allocation Funds to protect women and children (which is a form of women’s economic empowerment).³¹⁰⁸

³¹⁰⁰ International Human Rights Day, Menkumham: Government Prepares the 5th RANHAM Focuses on Resolving Vulnerable Human Rights Issues, Ministry of Law and Human Rights (Jakarta) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemerkumham.go.id/publikasi/siaran-pers/hari-ham-internasional-menkumham-pemerintah-menyusun-ranham-ke-5-fokus-menylesaikan-isu-hak-asasi-kelompok-rentan>

³¹⁰¹ Government is Fully Committed to Upholding Human Rights, Ministry of Law and Human Rights (Jakarta) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemerkumham.go.id/berita/pemerintah-berkomitmen-penuh-dalam-penegakan-ham>

³¹⁰² The Fifth Generation of RANHAM, Not Just a Document, is Now the Benchmark of Commitment to Implementing Human Rights, Ministry of Law and Human Rights (Jakarta) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemerkumham.go.id/berita/ranham-generasi-kelima-tak-sekedar-dokumen-kini-jadi-tolok-ukur-komitmen-pelaksanaan-ham>

³¹⁰³ In 2021, the Government Supports Gender Equality with Non-Physical DAK for the Protection of Women and Children, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 12 December 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/publikasi/berita/tahun-2021-pemerintah-dukung-kesetaraan-gender-dengan-dak-nonfisik-pelayanan-perindungan-perempuan-dan-anak/>

³¹⁰⁴ In 2021, the Government Supports Gender Equality with Non-Physical DAK for the Protection of Women and Children, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 12 December 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/publikasi/berita/tahun-2021-pemerintah-dukung-kesetaraan-gender-dengan-dak-nonfisik-pelayanan-perindungan-perempuan-dan-anak/>

³¹⁰⁵ In 2021, the Government Supports Gender Equality with Non-Physical DAK for the Protection of Women and Children, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 12 December 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/publikasi/berita/tahun-2021-pemerintah-dukung-kesetaraan-gender-dengan-dak-nonfisik-pelayanan-perindungan-perempuan-dan-anak/>

³¹⁰⁶ In 2021, the Government Supports Gender Equality with Non-Physical DAK for the Protection of Women and Children, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 12 December 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/publikasi/berita/tahun-2021-pemerintah-dukung-kesetaraan-gender-dengan-dak-nonfisik-pelayanan-perindungan-perempuan-dan-anak/>

³¹⁰⁷ In 2021, the Government Supports Gender Equality with Non-Physical DAK for the Protection of Women and Children, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 12 December 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/publikasi/berita/tahun-2021-pemerintah-dukung-kesetaraan-gender-dengan-dak-nonfisik-pelayanan-perindungan-perempuan-dan-anak/>

³¹⁰⁸ In 2021, the Government Supports Gender Equality with Non-Physical DAK for the Protection of Women and Children, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 12 December 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/publikasi/berita/tahun-2021-pemerintah-dukung-kesetaraan-gender-dengan-dak-nonfisik-pelayanan-perindungan-perempuan-dan-anak/>

On 16 December 2020, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection implemented the the Official Development Assistance program in collaboration with the Korean Ministry of Gender Equality and Family.³¹⁰⁹ This program is meant to increase women's economic empowerment, fight child marriage, domestic violence, human trafficking, and the current COVID-19 pandemic.³¹¹⁰ The program provides vocational training such as classes in sewing, beauty care, cooking, e-commerce and information technology training.³¹¹¹

On 22 December 2020, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection hosted a virtual ceremony for Mother's Day.³¹¹² The ceremony aimed to empower Indonesian women. In the ceremony, Minister of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection I Gusti Ayu Bintang Darmawati emphasized that patriarchal perceptions of women in Indonesian society hinder women's economic participation.³¹¹³ She emphasized that "equal partnerships between women and men" are essential to advance policy agendas. She also stressed that that women's empowerment is a step toward increased economic participation by women and gender equality.³¹¹⁴

On 15 to 17 February 2021, Secretary General of the Ministry of Manpower Anwar Sanusi served as Co-Chair of the G20 Employment Working Group meeting.³¹¹⁵ In the meeting, G20 leaders discussed increasing women's economic participation and increasing "social protection for workers."³¹¹⁶ In particular, they discussed their goal of lowering women's labour force participation gap to 25 per cent by 2025.³¹¹⁷ Secretary General Sanusi stated that in Indonesia women have a labour force participation gap of 29.28 per cent, but that he is confident that Indonesia will meet the target by 2025.³¹¹⁸ He asked for assistance in the form of "easy access and easy mobility to obtain

³¹⁰⁹ Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

³¹¹⁰ Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

³¹¹¹ Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

³¹¹² The peak of the 92nd PHI, The Importance of Gender Equality in Nation Development, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 22 December 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-sosial-budaya/499444/puncak-phi-ke-92-pentingnya-kesetaraan-gender-dalam-pembangunan-bangsa>

³¹¹³ The peak of the 92nd PHI, The Importance of Gender Equality in Nation Development, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 22 December 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-sosial-budaya/499444/puncak-phi-ke-92-pentingnya-kesetaraan-gender-dalam-pembangunan-bangsa>

³¹¹⁴ The peak of the 92nd PHI, The Importance of Gender Equality in Nation Development, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 22 December 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-sosial-budaya/499444/puncak-phi-ke-92-pentingnya-kesetaraan-gender-dalam-pembangunan-bangsa>

³¹¹⁵ Indonesia Reduces Gender Gap Level of 25 Percent Until 2025, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-sosial-budaya/511530/indonesia-tekan-tingkat-kesenjangan-gender-25-persen-hingga-tahun-2025#>

³¹¹⁶ Indonesia Reduces Gender Gap Level of 25 Percent Until 2025, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-sosial-budaya/511530/indonesia-tekan-tingkat-kesenjangan-gender-25-persen-hingga-tahun-2025#>

³¹¹⁷ Indonesia Reduces Gender Gap Level of 25 Percent Until 2025, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-sosial-budaya/511530/indonesia-tekan-tingkat-kesenjangan-gender-25-persen-hingga-tahun-2025#>

³¹¹⁸ Indonesia Reduces Gender Gap Level of 25 Percent Until 2025, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-sosial-budaya/511530/indonesia-tekan-tingkat-kesenjangan-gender-25-persen-hingga-tahun-2025#>

training, capital assistance, entrepreneurship development, adequate social protection and a working environment that is conducive to the ‘non-workforce’ group, especially those who take care of the household” to help increase women’s economic participation.³¹¹⁹

On 5 March 2021, the Strategic Plan of the Deputy for Gender Equality was signed by Deputy for Gender Equality Agustina Erni.³¹²⁰ It contains “policies and strategies” to help the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection to achieve its targets as indicated in the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection’s Strategic Plan of 2020-2024, which includes women empowerment in economic participation and entrepreneurship.³¹²¹ The report also aims to “provide clarity and goals and objectives” as well as outline “outcome indicators.”³¹²²

On 8 March 2021, the Center for Strengthening Character of the Ministry of Education and Culture hosted a webinar promoting women’s leadership and gender equality.³¹²³ During the webinar, Minister of Education and Culture Nadiem Anwar Makarim identified “intolerance, sexual violence and bullying” as three barriers to women’s success.³¹²⁴ Furthermore, Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani attended the Women’s World Banking Virtual Conference entitled “Call to Action: Reaching Financial Equality for Women” in which she highlighted that a barrier that women face (in economic participation and entrepreneurship) are a lack of financial and digital literacy, as well as difficulty receiving capital from banks and other financial institutions.³¹²⁵ She emphasized Indonesia’s previous attempts in providing easier access to banks more, such as implementing interest subsidies, increased assistance to ultra-micro and small and medium enterprises and digital and financial literacy classes.³¹²⁶

On 9 March 2021, Secretary General of the Ministry of Communication and Information Mira Tayyiba attended a virtual conference for the Network of Women (NOW) in the International Telecommunication Union.³¹²⁷ NOW strives for gender equality leading up to the World

³¹¹⁹ Indonesia Reduces Gender Gap Level of 25 Percent Until 2025, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-sosial-budaya/511530/indonesia-tekan-tingkat-kesenjangan-gender-25-persen-hingga-tahun-2025#>

³¹²⁰ The Strategic Plan Deputy for Field Gender Equality, Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://kemenpppa.go.id/lib/uploads/list/1ebd0-renstra-deputi-bidang-kg-2020-2024.pdf>

³¹²¹ The Strategic Plan Deputy for Field Gender Equality, Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://kemenpppa.go.id/lib/uploads/list/1ebd0-renstra-deputi-bidang-kg-2020-2024.pdf>

³¹²² The Strategic Plan Deputy for Field Gender Equality, Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://kemenpppa.go.id/lib/uploads/list/1ebd0-renstra-deputi-bidang-kg-2020-2024.pdf>

³¹²³ Minister of Education and Culture: Education Must be Free of Intolerance, Sexual Violence and Bullying, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-sosial-budaya/516522/mendikbud-dunia-pendidikan-harus-bebas-intoleransi-kekerasan-seksual-dan-perundungan#>

³¹²⁴ Minister of Education and Culture: Education Must be Free of Intolerance, Sexual Violence and Bullying, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/nasional-sosial-budaya/516522/mendikbud-dunia-pendidikan-harus-bebas-intoleransi-kekerasan-seksual-dan-perundungan#>

³¹²⁵ Minister of Finance: Covid-19 Has Severely Affected Women, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/minister-of-finance-covid-19-has-severely-affected-women/>

³¹²⁶ Minister of Finance: Covid-19 Has Severely Affected Women, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/minister-of-finance-covid-19-has-severely-affected-women/>

³¹²⁷ Minimizing Gender Gap, Kominfo Equips Indonesian Women with Digital Capabilities, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/siaran-pers/516865/perkecil-kesenjangan-gender-kominfo-bekali-perempuan-indonesia-kemampuan-digital#>

Development Telecommunications Conference in November 2021 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.³¹²⁸ This meeting was specific to the Asia-Pacific region.³¹²⁹ In the meeting, Secretary General of Communication and Information Mira Tayyiba acknowledged a communication and technology gap of one per cent for women's cell phone usage and a five per cent gap for internet usage.³¹³⁰ Secretary General Tayyiba stated that she would like to see a decrease in the digital skills gap and increase participation for women in the information and technology sector.³¹³¹ She reaffirmed Indonesia's existing effort to reduce the gap through the "Digital Talent Scholarship Program."³¹³²

On 12 April 2021, the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection announced that Indonesia will be hosting G20 Empower in 2022. In a meeting for the Socialization and Discussion on Preparation for G20 Empower Implementation Minister of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Bintang Puspayoga pushed for the implementation of more regional policies to empower women and decrease barriers in terms of "health, education and economy."³¹³³ The District/City Office of Women Empowerment and Child Protection in Bali Province, the Indonesian Entrepreneurs Association and the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry were also in attendance to discuss policies for women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.³¹³⁴ Minister Puspayoga also called on the Indonesian Entrepreneurs Association to support female entrepreneurship.³¹³⁵

On 14 April 2021, the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection announced the Government of Indonesia has allocated IDR101,747 billion for the Special Non-Physical Allocation Fund for Women and Child Protection Services.³¹³⁶ This fund was created to reduce instances of violence against women and children, improve access to services for victims of violence, as well as provide "operational assistance" through the form of legal aid, which attempts to reduce barriers to women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.³¹³⁷

³¹²⁸ NETWORK OF WOMEN (NoW), International Telecommunication Union (Geneva). Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC21/Pages/NoW/default.aspx>

³¹²⁹ NETWORK OF WOMEN (NoW), International Telecommunication Union (Geneva). Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC21/Pages/NoW/default.aspx>

³¹³⁰ Minimizing Gender Gap, Kominfo Equips Indonesian Women with Digital Capabilities, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/siaran-pers/516865/perkecil-kesenjangan-gender-kominfo-bekali-perempuan-indonesia-kemampuan-digital#>

³¹³¹ Minimizing Gender Gap, Kominfo Equips Indonesian Women with Digital Capabilities, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/siaran-pers/516865/perkecil-kesenjangan-gender-kominfo-bekali-perempuan-indonesia-kemampuan-digital#>

³¹³² Minimizing Gender Gap, Kominfo Equips Indonesian Women with Digital Capabilities, InfoPublik (Jakarta) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/siaran-pers/516865/perkecil-kesenjangan-gender-kominfo-bekali-perempuan-indonesia-kemampuan-digital#>

³¹³³ Minister Bintang Asks Regional Heads to make more Pro-Women Policies, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection (Denpasar) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3137/menteri-bintang-minta-kepala-daerah-membuat-kebijakan-berpihak-pada-perempuan>

³¹³⁴ Minister Bintang Asks Regional Heads to make more Pro-Women Policies, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection (Denpasar) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3137/menteri-bintang-minta-kepala-daerah-membuat-kebijakan-berpihak-pada-perempuan>

³¹³⁵ Minister Bintang Asks Regional Heads to make more Pro-Women Policies, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection (Denpasar) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3137/menteri-bintang-minta-kepala-daerah-membuat-kebijakan-berpihak-pada-perempuan>

³¹³⁶ Minister Bintang Asks the Use of the DAK Budget to be Right on Target, Ministry of Empowerment of Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Denpasar) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3138/menteri-bintang-minta-penggunaan-anggaran-dak-tepat-sasaran>

³¹³⁷ Minister Bintang Asks the Use of the DAK Budget to be Right on Target, Ministry of Empowerment of Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Denpasar) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3138/menteri-bintang-minta-penggunaan-anggaran-dak-tepat-sasaran>

<https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3138/menteri-bintang-minta-penggunaan-anggaran-dak-tepat-sasaran>

On 23 April 2021, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection affirmed their commitment to the protection of women and children from violence in accordance with Presidential Regulation Number 65 of 2020.³¹³⁸ It highlighted its current efforts to reduce violence against women and children, through its distribution of the Special Non-Physical Allocation Fund for Women and Child Protection Services, which is an attempt to reduce barriers for women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.³¹³⁹ Furthermore, Minister Puspayoga attended a virtual meeting entitled "The Fruit of Raden Ajeng Kartini's Thoughts on Creating Dignified Indonesian Women Towards an Advanced Indonesia" to discuss women's economic empowerment.³¹⁴⁰ Minister Puspayoga emphasized that women should have equal opportunities for higher education and choice of career, which are essential for women's economic participation.³¹⁴¹

On 24 April 2021, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection affirmed their goal to increase women's economic participation, especially in micro, small and medium enterprises.³¹⁴² It highlighted the importance of female employment and acknowledges that increased coordination with non-governmental agencies, local governments, community organizations and private actors is needed to ensure women's economic participation.³¹⁴³ Furthermore, the Ministry mentioned previous attempts to empower women through their creation of "Women Friendly and Child Care Villages."³¹⁴⁴ Furthermore, Minister Puspayoga attended the National Webinar 05 Central Board of the Prosperous Justice Party to discuss women's empowerment and economic participation.³¹⁴⁵ She acknowledges that women's participation is needed for "national economic development" and that the COVID-19 pandemic and several natural disasters has only exacerbated struggles faced by

³¹³⁸ Improve the Scope and Quality of Services for Women and Children Victims of Violence through Special Allocation Funds, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 24 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3157/kemen-pppa-tingkatkan-cakupan-dan-kualitas-layanan-bagi-perempuan-dan-anak-korban-kekerasan-melalui-dana-alokasi-khusus-dak>

³¹³⁹ Improve the Scope and Quality of Services for Women and Children Victims of Violence through Special Allocation Funds, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection (Jakarta) 24 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3157/kemen-pppa-tingkatkan-cakupan-dan-kualitas-layanan-bagi-perempuan-dan-anak-korban-kekerasan-melalui-dana-alokasi-khusus-dak>

³¹⁴⁰ Interpreting RA Kartini's Struggle, Women Have the Right to Take an Active Role and Develop According to Their Own Choices, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 24 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. [kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3160/memaknai-perjuangan-ra-kartini-perempuan-berhak-berperan-aktif-dan-berkembang-sesuai-pilihannya-sendiri](https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3160/memaknai-perjuangan-ra-kartini-perempuan-berhak-berperan-aktif-dan-berkembang-sesuai-pilihannya-sendiri)

³¹⁴¹ Interpreting RA Kartini's Struggle, Women Have the Right to Take an Active Role and Develop According to Their Own Choices, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 24 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. [kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3160/memaknai-perjuangan-ra-kartini-perempuan-berhak-berperan-aktif-dan-berkembang-sesuai-pilihannya-sendiri](https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3160/memaknai-perjuangan-ra-kartini-perempuan-berhak-berperan-aktif-dan-berkembang-sesuai-pilihannya-sendiri)

³¹⁴² Realizing Women's Economic Empowerment in Gender-Based MSMEs, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3162/wujudkan-pemberdayaan-perkonomian-perempuan-dalam-umkm-berbasis-gender#>

³¹⁴³ Realizing Women's Economic Empowerment in Gender-Based MSMEs, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3162/wujudkan-pemberdayaan-perkonomian-perempuan-dalam-umkm-berbasis-gender#>

³¹⁴⁴ Realizing Women's Economic Empowerment in Gender-Based MSMEs, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3162/wujudkan-pemberdayaan-perkonomian-perempuan-dalam-umkm-berbasis-gender#>

³¹⁴⁵ Empowerment of Women the Key to Success of National Development, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3164/pemberdayaan-perempuan-kunci-keberhasilan-pembangunan-nasional>

women, especially female entrepreneurs.³¹⁴⁶ She affirmed Indonesia's commitment to empowering women in entrepreneurship as outlined in Indonesia's 2020-2024 National Medium-Term Development Plan.³¹⁴⁷ Minister Puspayoga suggested that women should be more included in "national economic recovery."³¹⁴⁸ The webinar affirmed Indonesia's commitment to "increasing women's empowerment in entrepreneurship" as outlined in the existing 2020-2024 National Medium-Term Development Plan.³¹⁴⁹ Furthermore, Minister Puspayoga also emphasized that increasing women's "access and skills" to information and communication technology is essential for the empowerment of female entrepreneurs.³¹⁵⁰ The webinar also discussed "data and information on the progress and challenges of Indonesian women in various fields of development," which includes economic participation.³¹⁵¹

On 28 April, Minister Puspayoga attended a virtual public meeting with the Association for the Development of Women's Resources.³¹⁵² During the meeting, Minister Puspayoga affirmed Indonesia's commitment to increasing women's economic participation and spoke to several women involved in local initiatives to improve women's engagement in "entrepreneurship, cooperatives and digital literacy."³¹⁵³ Deputy for Gender Equality Lenny N. Rosalin also discussed future collaboration with "women survivors of violence, women survivors of disasters and women heads of families" to inspire other women and encourage them to participate in the economic sector.³¹⁵⁴

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to removing barriers to the extent and quality of women's participation in the labour market and economy through virtual conferences and webinars acknowledging these gender-based barriers and affirming support. Indonesia has also promoted women's engagement and success in entrepreneurship since the particular topics were covered extensively during the aforementioned discussions.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Veronique Nuqui

³¹⁴⁶ Empowerment of Women the Key to Success of National Development, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3164/pemberdayaan-perempuan-kunci-keberhasilan-pembangunan-nasional>

³¹⁴⁷ Empowerment of Women the Key to Success of National Development, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3164/pemberdayaan-perempuan-kunci-keberhasilan-pembangunan-nasional>

³¹⁴⁸ Empowerment of Women the Key to Success of National Development, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3164/pemberdayaan-perempuan-kunci-keberhasilan-pembangunan-nasional>

³¹⁴⁹ Empowerment of Women the Key to Success of National Development, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3164/pemberdayaan-perempuan-kunci-keberhasilan-pembangunan-nasional>

³¹⁵⁰ Continue Kartini's Ideal, Women are Required to Be Technologically Skilled, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3163/lanjutkan-cita-cita-kartini-perempuan-dituntut-terampil-teknologi>

³¹⁵¹ Continue Kartini's Ideal, Women are Required to Be Technologically Skilled, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3163/lanjutkan-cita-cita-kartini-perempuan-dituntut-terampil-teknologi>

³¹⁵² Optimizing Women's Economic Participation to Improve the National Economy, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3171/optimalisasi-partisipasi-ekonomi-perempuan-tingkatkan-perekonomian-nasional>

³¹⁵³ Optimizing Women's Economic Participation to Improve the National Economy, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3171/optimalisasi-partisipasi-ekonomi-perempuan-tingkatkan-perekonomian-nasional>

³¹⁵⁴ Optimizing Women's Economic Participation to Improve the National Economy, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3171/optimalisasi-partisipasi-ekonomi-perempuan-tingkatkan-perekonomian-nasional>

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to remove the barriers to women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 29 January 2021, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies announced that it will be holding its first two-day long meeting for the Employment Working Group of 2021 on 15 February 2021.³¹⁵⁵ The meeting aims to discuss two of the three themes relating to work and social policies; female employment and the strengthening of social protection systems.³¹⁵⁶ In particular, “the promotion of quality job opportunities for women, the reduction of the pay gap and the creation of a favourable environment for female entrepreneurship.”³¹⁵⁷ This meeting is being held in order to invite members of the group to express their opinions and form proposals for the final documents that will be presented at the summit of the Ministers of Labor and Social policies on 23 June 2021, in Catania.³¹⁵⁸

On 9 February 2021, the Ministry of Finance announced the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP).³¹⁵⁹ The RRP aims to define actions and interventions through the mobilization of EUR300 billion, in order to overcome the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.³¹⁶⁰ Almost half a million jobs were lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic and of those 70 per cent were held by women.³¹⁶¹ The RRP will focus on kickstarting Italy’s economy and increasing growth and employment rates while simultaneously paying close attention to gender inequality.³¹⁶²

On 21 February 2021, representatives from Italy attended an online meeting alongside 56 representatives from Argentina, Belgium, Canada, France, Hungary, Russia, Japan, Korea, Romania, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to discuss increasing the number of women in the nuclear power industry.³¹⁶³

On 23 February 2021, INPS announced clarifications to their 2021 Budget Law.³¹⁶⁴ The law aims to provide employers with a monetary benefit of up to EUR6,000 as an incentive to hire disadvantaged workers.³¹⁶⁵ This includes “women at least 50 years of age and unemployed for over 12 months; women of any age, residing in regions eligible for funding under the structural funds of the European Union who have not been in regular paid employment for at least 6 months; women of any age who

³¹⁵⁵ Employment Working Group 2021, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/pagine/employment-working-group-2021.aspx/>

³¹⁵⁶ Employment Working Group 2021, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/pagine/employment-working-group-2021.aspx/>

³¹⁵⁷ Employment Working Group 2021, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/pagine/employment-working-group-2021.aspx/>

³¹⁵⁸ Employment Working Group 2021, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/pagine/employment-working-group-2021.aspx/>

³¹⁵⁹ The Recovery and Resilience Plan: Next Generation Italia, Ministry of Finance (Rome) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-Recovery-and-Resilience-Plan-Next-Generation-Italia/>

³¹⁶⁰ The Recovery and Resilience Plan: Next Generation Italia, Ministry of Finance (Rome) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-Recovery-and-Resilience-Plan-Next-Generation-Italia/>

³¹⁶¹ The Recovery and Resilience Plan: Next Generation Italia, Ministry of Finance (Rome) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-Recovery-and-Resilience-Plan-Next-Generation-Italia/>

³¹⁶² The Recovery and Resilience Plan: Next Generation Italia, Ministry of Finance (Rome) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-Recovery-and-Resilience-Plan-Next-Generation-Italia/>

³¹⁶³ Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women’s Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. [https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-uvlicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike-/](https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-uvlicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/)

³¹⁶⁴ Contribution waiver for hiring women, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Esonero-contributivo-per-assunzione-donne.aspx>

³¹⁶⁵ Contribution waiver for hiring women, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Esonero-contributivo-per-assunzione-donne.aspx>

carry out professions or work activities in economic sectors characterized by a marked employment disparity by gender and who have not been in regularly paid employment for at least 6 months; women of any age, resident everywhere and without regular paid employment for at least 24 months.”³¹⁶⁶ The INPS recognizes incentivized employment relationships such as “fixed term hiring; permanent hiring; and permanent transformations of a previous facilitated relationship.”³¹⁶⁷

On 8 April 2021, Minister of Labor and Social Policies Andrea Orlando met with the National Councillor for Equality, Francesca Bagni Cipriani to address the issue of female employment.³¹⁶⁸

On 23 April 2021, Minister Orlando sent a letter to the Ministry inviting them to take the appropriate action to ensure the widest participation of women in the governing bodies of institutions and representative assemblies.³¹⁶⁹

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women’s participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as allocating funds and designing policies to promote female employment. However, it did not implement any measures to promote women’s engagement and success in entrepreneurial activities.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Amanda Morana

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to remove the barriers to women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 21 February 2021, representatives from Japan attended an online meeting alongside 56 representatives from Russia, Belgium, Canada, France, Hungary, Italy, Argentina, Korea, Romania, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to discuss increasing the number of women in the nuclear power industry.³¹⁷⁰

On 19 March 2021, Minister of State for Gender Equality Marukawa Tamayo issued a statement on behalf of Japan at the 65th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women General Discussion.³¹⁷¹ She announced new targets to the plan for gender equality, which Japan formulated

³¹⁶⁶ Contribution waiver for hiring women, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Esonero-contributivo-per-assunzione-donne.aspx>

³¹⁶⁷ Contribution waiver for hiring women, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Esonero-contributivo-per-assunzione-donne.aspx>

³¹⁶⁸ Minister Orlando meets National Councillor for Equality, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Ministro-Orlando-incontra-Consigliera-Nazionale-di-Parita.aspx>

³¹⁶⁹ Orlando sends a letter to supervised bodies for gender equality in governing bodies and representative assemblies, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Orlando-invia-lettera-a-Enti-vigilati-per-parita-di-genere.aspx>

³¹⁷⁰ Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women’s Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-uelicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

³¹⁷¹ Statement by H.E. Ms. Marukawa Tamayo, Minister State for Gender Equality, Minister in charge of Women’s Empowerment, the 65th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women General Discussion, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (New York) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. https://www.un.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/murakawa031921.html

last year based on the Basic Act in light of the Beijing Declaration.³¹⁷² She stated Japan's intention to address gender-based disparities by 2030 through implementing measures to increase the proportion of women in leadership positions to 30 per cent of all.³¹⁷³ She also voiced support for victims of violence based on gender as well as intention to eliminate all kinds of violence against women.³¹⁷⁴ Additionally, she echoed the UN's emphasis on women and girls amid global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and promised ongoing international cooperation for gender equality.³¹⁷⁵

On 1 April 2021, Japan provided USD1.9 million to the United Nations Women's Safe and Prosperous District Programme. This funding focuses on protecting women's livelihoods in Papua New Guinea that have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.³¹⁷⁶ This programme aims to improve working conditions in Tari, Wewak and Alotau markets by increasing access to clean water and sanitation facilities as well as security services.³¹⁷⁷ This programme also plans to increase access to financial tools for market vendors in recognition that over 60 per cent of market vendors who are women in Papua New Guinea.³¹⁷⁸ This programme will focus on promoting digital financial tools and on training women in various different trades to access new economic opportunities during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.³¹⁷⁹

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women's participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as verbal affirmation and announcement of future policies to promote female economic empowerment. However, it did not implement any measures to promote women's engagement and success in entrepreneurial activities.

³¹⁷² Statement by H.E. Ms. Marukawa Tamayo, Minister State for Gender Equality, Minister in charge of Women's Empowerment, the 65th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women General Discussion, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (New York) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. https://www.un.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/murakawa031921.html

³¹⁷³ Statement by H.E. Ms. Marukawa Tamayo, Minister State for Gender Equality, Minister in charge of Women's Empowerment, the 65th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women General Discussion, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (New York) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. https://www.un.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/murakawa031921.html

³¹⁷⁴ Statement by H.E. Ms. Marukawa Tamayo, Minister State for Gender Equality, Minister in charge of Women's Empowerment, the 65th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women General Discussion, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (New York) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. https://www.un.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/murakawa031921.html

³¹⁷⁵ Statement by H.E. Ms. Marukawa Tamayo, Minister State for Gender Equality, Minister in charge of Women's Empowerment, the 65th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women General Discussion, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (New York) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 May 2021. https://www.un.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/murakawa031921.html

³¹⁷⁶ Japan contributes USD1.9 million to secure women's livelihoods during COVID-19 pandemic, The Information Center for COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://covid19.info.gov.pg/index.php/2021/04/08/japan-contributes-usd19-million-to-secure-womens-livelihoods-during-covid-19-pandemic>

³¹⁷⁷ Japan contributes USD1.9 million to secure women's livelihoods during COVID-19 pandemic, The Information Center for COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://covid19.info.gov.pg/index.php/2021/04/08/japan-contributes-usd19-million-to-secure-womens-livelihoods-during-covid-19-pandemic>

³¹⁷⁸ Japan contributes USD1.9 million to secure women's livelihoods during COVID-19 pandemic, The Information Center for COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://covid19.info.gov.pg/index.php/2021/04/08/japan-contributes-usd19-million-to-secure-womens-livelihoods-during-covid-19-pandemic>

³¹⁷⁹ Japan contributes USD1.9 million to secure women's livelihoods during COVID-19 pandemic, The Information Center for COVID-19 in Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. <https://covid19.info.gov.pg/index.php/2021/04/08/japan-contributes-usd19-million-to-secure-womens-livelihoods-during-covid-19-pandemic>

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Nika Asgari

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to remove the barriers to women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 16 December 2020, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (MOGEF) implemented the Official Development Assistance program in collaboration with the Indonesian Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection.³¹⁸⁰ This program is meant to increase women’s economic empowerment, fight child marriage, domestic violence, human trafficking, and the current COVID-19 pandemic.³¹⁸¹ The program provides vocational training such as classes in sewing, beauty care, cooking, e-commerce and information technology training.³¹⁸²

On 19 January 2021, MOGEF enacted the “Government support for childcare service to be expanded up to 840 hours a year/Percentage of government support to be increased 5 per cent,” which is a multi-policy program that makes childcare services more accessible and provides support to households requiring childcare services.³¹⁸³ The objective of this program is to alleviate many households’ childcare burden (whereof, given that the childcare burden tends to primarily fall onto women, this program allows for many women to put more effort into involving themselves in the economy).³¹⁸⁴

On 2 February 2021, MOGEF announced, through their 2021 Report on government business, “MOGEF’s Major business plan 2021,” which is a multi-action four section plan created to enhance women’s status in Korea overall.³¹⁸⁵ Section one of the plan, “[Equality for All!] Realizing a gender equality society,” provides three policy initiatives which all work towards improving women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.³¹⁸⁶ The first policy initiative works to promote women’s employment in stable well paying positions, especially through the payment of the “Saeil employment subsidy” (KRW800,000) to employers hiring women as regular employees (after six months).³¹⁸⁷ The second policy works to fight gender-based discrimination factors in “major policies”

³¹⁸⁰ Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women’s Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

³¹⁸¹ Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women’s Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

³¹⁸² Cooperation Between Indonesia and South Korea, Strengthening Women’s Economic Empowerment in Indonesia, Ministry Empowerment Women and Child Protection Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.kemenpppa.go.id/index.php/page/read/29/3003/kerjasama-indonesia-korea-selatan-perkuat-pemberdayaan-ekonomi-perempuan-di-indonesia>

³¹⁸³ Government support for childcare service to be expanded up to 840 hours a year/Percentage of government support to be increased 5%p, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021 http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707536

³¹⁸⁴ Government support for childcare service to be expanded up to 840 hours a year/Percentage of government support to be increased 5%p, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021 http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707536

³¹⁸⁵ 2021 Report on government business Recovery, Inclusiveness and Leap, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707549

³¹⁸⁶ 2021 Report on government business Recovery, Inclusiveness and Leap, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707549

³¹⁸⁷ 2021 Report on government business Recovery, Inclusiveness and Leap, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707549

related to education, culture, welfare and employment.³¹⁸⁸ Additionally, this policy initiative enhances the effects of gender equality systems including the launch of the Gender Awareness Budget Committee.³¹⁸⁹ The third policy establishes a “foothold-type gender equality center” in Busan which serves to promote gender equality culture to the public.³¹⁹⁰ The goals of these three policy initiatives are to promote women’s employment and create an employment culture of gender equality.³¹⁹¹

On 18 February 2021, the Gender Equality Committee of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family finalized the “National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325,” which is a six-section plan created to improve women’s well-being, economic status and economic participation in Korea.³¹⁹² Sections one to four and six are relevant to this report. Section one improves the cultural status of women, especially regarding the cultural status of women in the economy.³¹⁹³ Section two has businesses directly employ women who are either currently working as interns or are not working at all. Section three promotes women working in public government enterprises to “higher-up positions.”³¹⁹⁴ Section four expands childcare infrastructure to aid those individuals who take care of children (traditionally women), providing such individuals with more time to involve themselves in the economy.³¹⁹⁵ Section six calls for the establishment of “local gender equality centers to...foster a gender equality atmosphere,” a 2021 gender equality status survey to be taken and for the execution of all the aforementioned policy programs.³¹⁹⁶ The objective of all of these aforementioned programs is to promote women’s cultural status and employment status in the economy.³¹⁹⁷

On 21 February 2021, representatives from Korea attended an online meeting alongside 56 representatives from Russia, Belgium, Canada, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Argentina, Romania, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Commission, the International

³¹⁸⁸ 2021 Report on government business Recovery, Inclusiveness and Leap, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707549

³¹⁸⁹ 2021 Report on government business Recovery, Inclusiveness and Leap, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707549

³¹⁹⁰ 2021 Report on government business Recovery, Inclusiveness and Leap, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707549

³¹⁹¹ 2021 Report on government business Recovery, Inclusiveness and Leap, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707549

³¹⁹² Effort for a gender-equal society where everyone respects each other and lives in harmony Gender Equality Committee finalizes, National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 18 2 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707607

³¹⁹³ Effort for a gender-equal society where everyone respects each other and lives in harmony Gender Equality Committee finalizes, National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 18 2 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707607

³¹⁹⁴ Effort for a gender-equal society where everyone respects each other and lives in harmony Gender Equality Committee finalizes, National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 18 2 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707607

³¹⁹⁵ Effort for a gender-equal society where everyone respects each other and lives in harmony Gender Equality Committee finalizes, National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 18 2 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707607

³¹⁹⁶ Effort for a gender-equal society where everyone respects each other and lives in harmony Gender Equality Committee finalizes, National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 18 2 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707607

³¹⁹⁷ Effort for a gender-equal society where everyone respects each other and lives in harmony Gender Equality Committee finalizes, National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 18 2 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707607

Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to discuss increasing the number of women in the nuclear power industry.³¹⁹⁸

On 2 March 2021, the Budget Office, Budget Policy Division of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, formalized additions to Korea's 2021 Budget.³¹⁹⁹ Among these additions were KRW2.1 trillion allocated to “help create jobs for young adults, middle-aged and women” and KRW0.2 trillion allocated to “Promote demand-driven job training and provide job seeker services for young adults and women.”³²⁰⁰ The goal of such additions is to, among other goals, promote women's involvement in the economy, especially in light of the disproportionate effect of COVID-19 on women's employment.³²⁰¹

On 4 March 2021, MOGEF enacted “Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women's employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women's jobs,” which seeks to enhance the economic status of women in Korea through a five-point plan.³²⁰² Point one is expected to create 780,000 jobs for women.³²⁰³ Point two aids women who are actively seeking jobs and/or are actively trying to start up new businesses.³²⁰⁴ Point three helps those with childcare difficulties (mainly women) find or regain and secure job opportunities.³²⁰⁵ Point four reduces gender disparities in the workplace and enhances women's status in the labor force.³²⁰⁶ Point five strengthens government agencies that aid women in pursuing and securing good employment opportunities.³²⁰⁷ The goal of this program is to make the economy more equitable for women and, especially considering the disproportionately negative effect that COVID-19 has had on women's

³¹⁹⁸ Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-uvlicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

³¹⁹⁹ 2021 Supplementary Budget Proposal, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5080>

³²⁰⁰ 2021 Supplementary Budget Proposal, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5080>

³²⁰¹ 2021 Supplementary Budget Proposal, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5080>

³²⁰² Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women's employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women's jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

³²⁰³ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women's employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women's jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

³²⁰⁴ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women's employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women's jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

³²⁰⁵ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women's employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women's jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

³²⁰⁶ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women's employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women's jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

³²⁰⁷ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women's employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women's jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

economic opportunities, help those women who have faced (and continue to face) employment difficulties due to COVID-19 return to work.³²⁰⁸

On 25 March 2021, the Budget Office, Budget Policy Division of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, put into law the aforementioned additions to Korea's 2021 Budget.³²⁰⁹

On 26 April 2021, MOGEF enacted "2025 Families Shoulder To Shoulder," which is a multi-point multi-year plan to improve the well-being of families and women in Korea.³²¹⁰ This plan includes within it many initiatives which, although they are not explicitly designated as programs which improve the economic status of women in Korea, end up consequently improving the economic status of women in Korea. These initiatives include combatting discriminatory expressions in government publications (creating a more equitable socio-economic climate for women which does force them into the role of homemaker), "lowering the bar concerning the age bracket (from 24 to 34) eligible for additional childcare expense paid to single-parent families" (dominated by women, providing women with a greater amount of financial support, thus increasing women's economic opportunities), expanding childcare support services for single-parent families "with low income, disabled parents/children, etc." (dominated by women, relieving many economically marginalized women of some childcare pressures, thus increasing their overall economic opportunities) and expanding maternity leave eligibility "from wage earners to all workers" (expanding economic support for women who were previously ineligible for maternity leave).³²¹¹ The goal of this program is to relieve families, especially single-parent families (which are dominated by women), of many of the challenges they currently face, especially in relation to childcare (which are, at their core, economic issues).³²¹²

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women's participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as allocating funds in the annual budget and implementing family-friendly childcare programs. Furthermore, Korea has invested in programs that support women trying to start their own businesses.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ethan Ullmann

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to remove the barriers to women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.

³²⁰⁸ Concentration on recovery from the COVID-19 shock on women's employment; starting to improve the way things are handled for women's jobs, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707635

³²⁰⁹ 2021 Supplementary Budget Passed, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5094>

³²¹⁰ 2025 Families shoulder to shoulder We will strive to build "a society wherein all families and their members are respected," Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707760

³²¹¹ 2025 Families shoulder to shoulder We will strive to build "a society wherein all families and their members are respected," Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707760

³²¹² 2025 Families shoulder to shoulder We will strive to build "a society wherein all families and their members are respected," Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=707760

On 11 December 2020, President López Obrador signed the Presidential Declaration of the Pacific Alliance on Gender Equality at the Summit of the Pacific Alliance.³²¹³ The goal of this agreement is to eliminate barriers which prevent women from gaining access to capital and loans, provide aid to ensure gender equality in the workplace, promote women in decision making and increase the proportion of women with science, technology, engineering and mathematics degrees.³²¹⁴

On 28 January 2021, Interior Secretary Olga Sanchez Cordero highlighted in a press release highlighted her gender-focused policy goals.³²¹⁵ These goals included reducing violence against women and promoting peacebuilding panels throughout the country to determine how women can get access to resources and opportunities.³²¹⁶

On 8 February 2021, the Ministry of Economy opened applications for the Financial Support Programs for Family Micro Enterprises or “Credit to the World.”³²¹⁷ This program will grant 20,000 support grants of MXN25,000 each to female business owners.³²¹⁸ The goal of this commitment is to re-establish those micro-enterprises affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.³²¹⁹

On 18 February 2021, the Institute of Mexicans Abroad held a conversation on “Mexican Women in Latin America.”³²²⁰ During this event, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Alicia Bárcena discussed a proposal for including domestic workers as a priority group for the COVID-19 vaccinations.³²²¹ She also proposed providing emergency income for women forced out of work because of the pandemic.³²²²

³²¹³ President López Obrador participates in XV Summit of the Pacific Alliance, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/presidencia/prensa/president-lopez-obrador-participates-in-xv-summit-of-the-pacific-alliance>

³²¹⁴ President López Obrador participates in XV Summit of the Pacific Alliance, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/presidencia/prensa/president-lopez-obrador-participates-in-xv-summit-of-the-pacific-alliance>

³²¹⁵ In Mexico, there is a government of historic change and transformation: Olga Sánchez Cordero, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/in-mexico-theres-is-a-government-of-historic-change-and-transformation-olga-sanchez-cordero>

³²¹⁶ In Mexico, there is a government of historic change and transformation: Olga Sánchez Cordero, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/in-mexico-theres-is-a-government-of-historic-change-and-transformation-olga-sanchez-cordero>

³²¹⁷ Start receiving applications for the Financial Support Program for Family Microenterprises (Credit to the World) 2021, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/articulos/inicia-recepcion-de-solicitudes-para-el-programa-de-apoyo-financiero-para-microempresas-familiares-credito-a-la-palabra-2021>

³²¹⁸ Start receiving applications for the Financial Support Program for Family Microenterprises (Credit to the World) 2021, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/articulos/inicia-recepcion-de-solicitudes-para-el-programa-de-apoyo-financiero-para-microempresas-familiares-credito-a-la-palabra-2021>

³²¹⁹ Start receiving applications for the Financial Support Program for Family Microenterprises (Credit to the World) 2021, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/articulos/inicia-recepcion-de-solicitudes-para-el-programa-de-apoyo-financiero-para-microempresas-familiares-credito-a-la-palabra-2021>

³²²⁰ The Institute of Mexicans Abroad holds a conversation on "Mexican Women in Latin America," The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-institute-of-mexicans-abroad-holds-a-conversation-on-mexican-women-in-latin-america>

³²²¹ The Institute of Mexicans Abroad holds a conversation on "Mexican Women in Latin America," The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-institute-of-mexicans-abroad-holds-a-conversation-on-mexican-women-in-latin-america>

³²²² The Institute of Mexicans Abroad holds a conversation on "Mexican Women in Latin America," The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-institute-of-mexicans-abroad-holds-a-conversation-on-mexican-women-in-latin-america>

On 2 March 2021, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Carmen Moreno Toscano ran the first meeting of the Gender Links Network.³²²³ During the event, various high position government officials highlighted the need to advance gender-equality and allow women to “break the glass ceiling” and “unstuck themselves from the sticky floor.”³²²⁴ The aim of the Gender Links Network meeting is to promote international cooperation, women’s equality and empowerment.³²²⁵

On 3 March 2021, Mexico, together with UN Women, France and civil societies announced that they will hold the Generation Equality Forum virtually in Mexico City on 29-31 March 2021.³²²⁶ This forum will aim to highlight the need for international economic gender equality for women and girls by providing a platform for women and Action Coalitions.³²²⁷ The forum will also lead to an announcement at the Paris event of commitment and announce investments into gender equality.³²²⁸

On 29 to 31 March 2021, the Generation Equality Forum, organized by UN Women and co-hosted by Mexico and France, was held in Mexico City and will culminate in Paris 30 June to 2 July 2021.³²²⁹ The Forum aims to enhance women’s leadership as countries recover from COVID-19.³²³⁰ It included 100 official side-events, which all revolve around the urgency and accountability for gender equality in the public sphere.³²³¹

On 28 April 2021, Mexico and the Inter-American Development Bank held a virtual meeting of businesswomen of the Pacific Alliance.³²³² The meeting consisted of discussions about the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on business women and recognize and overcome the barrier to the

³²²³ First Meeting of the Gender Links Network 2021, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/first-meeting-of-the-gender-links-network-2021>

³²²⁴ First Meeting of the Gender Links Network 2021, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/first-meeting-of-the-gender-links-network-2021>

³²²⁵ First Meeting of the Gender Links Network 2021, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/first-meeting-of-the-gender-links-network-2021>

³²²⁶ The Countdown to the 2021 Generation equality Forum begins, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-countdown-to-the-2021-generation-equality-forum-begins>

³²²⁷ The Countdown to the 2021 Generation equality Forum begins, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-countdown-to-the-2021-generation-equality-forum-begins>

³²²⁸ The Countdown to the 2021 Generation equality Forum begins, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-countdown-to-the-2021-generation-equality-forum-begins>

³²²⁹ Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

³²³⁰ Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

³²³¹ Media Advisory: UN’s Commission on the Status of Women highlights women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, 15-26 March, UN Women (New York) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/media-advisory-csw65-commission-on-the-status-of-women-2021>

³²³² Virtual Meeting of Business Women of the Pacific Alliance, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/es/articulos/encuentro-virtual-de-mujeres-empresarias-de-la-alianza-del-pacifico-270841>

autonomy and empowerment of female businesses.³²³³ Over 200 people including businesswomen and policy makers attended the panel-based discussion.³²³⁴

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women's participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as hosting international virtual conferences and providing financial support. Furthermore, Mexico supported women's entrepreneurship through the Credit to the World program.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Samar Moghal

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to remove barriers to women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 1 January 2021, Russia implemented a policy that reduces the number of banned jobs for Russian women from 456 to 100.³²³⁵ The policy aims to increase women's economic participation by increasing the number of jobs Russian women are allowed to pursue.³²³⁶

On 21 February 2021, representatives from Russia attended an online meeting alongside 56 representatives from Argentina, Belgium, Canada, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Romania, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to discuss increasing the number of women in the nuclear power industry.³²³⁷ The project coordinator of the Council of the Eurasian Women's Forum Angelica Khaperskaya presented the "Russian experience in achieving gender balance in science and technology during the meeting."³²³⁸

On 21 April 2021, President Vladimir Putin announced new support measures to aid single-parent families and pregnant women during his annual address to the Federal Assembly in Moscow.³²³⁹ In his speech, President Putin announced that parents who are forced to leave work to care for a sick child, which is often times the mother, will now be able to continue to receive 100 per cent of their salary,

³²³³ Virtual Meeting of Business Women of the Pacific Alliance, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/es/articulos/encuentro-virtual-de-mujeres-empresarias-de-la-alianza-del-pacifico-270841>

³²³⁴ Virtual Meeting of Business Women of the Pacific Alliance, The Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/es/articulos/encuentro-virtual-de-mujeres-empresarias-de-la-alianza-del-pacifico-270841>

³²³⁵ Russian Women Are Ready to Reclaim Once- Forbidden Jobs, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/03/06/russian-women-are-ready-to-reclaim-once-forbidden-jobs-a69544>

³²³⁶ Russian Women Are Ready to Reclaim Once- Forbidden Jobs, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/03/06/russian-women-are-ready-to-reclaim-once-forbidden-jobs-a69544>

³²³⁷ Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-uvlicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike-/>

³²³⁸ Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-uvlicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike-/>

³²³⁹ Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly, President of Russia (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65418>

while caring for their child, up to seven years old.³²⁴⁰ These new announcements will work towards financially supporting pregnant women and single-parent families in order to minimize the financial burden they might face, as well as encouraging the participation of women in the labour force.³²⁴¹

On 23 April 2021, Deputy Prime Minister for Social Policy, Labour, Health and Pension Provision Tatyana Golikova hosted a meeting of the Russian Tripartite Commission on a draft governmental decree on a program for organizing vocational training and education for certain Russian citizens until 2024 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labour market.³²⁴² The eligible citizens would be those over age 50, those of pre-retirement age, and women on leave to care for young children.³²⁴³ The plan is for at least 168,800 people to undergo vocational training and education in 2021 and at least 125,000 people annually from 2022 to 2024.³²⁴⁴

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women's participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as releasing previous restrictions on women's employment. However, it did not implement any measures to promote women's engagement and success in entrepreneurial activities.

Thus, Russia has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Lougein Metwally

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to remove barriers to women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 8 March 2021, Minister of Commerce and Investment Majid bin Abdullah Al-Qasabi announced the launch of a new program to encourage Saudi women to join the accounting profession.³²⁴⁵ Organized by the Saudi Organization for Certified Public Accountants, the program includes training, qualification, entrepreneurship and employment streams in order to empower women and increase female participation in the national economy.³²⁴⁶

On 22 April 2021, the Saudi Human Resources Development Fund introduced a new initiative to boost female employment in the private sector by subsidizing transport costs in partnership with vehicle for hire company, Careem.³²⁴⁷ This initiative allows women to receive an 80 per cent discount on the cost of each journey, with the ceiling of support increased to SAR1,100 a month for those with a monthly wage of SAR6,000 or less, and SAR800 for those earning between SAR6,001 to

³²⁴⁰ Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly, President of Russia (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65418>

³²⁴¹ Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly, President of Russia (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/65418>

³²⁴² Tatyana Golikova held a meeting of the Russian Tripartite Commission for the Regulation of Social and Labour Relations, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/42048/>

³²⁴³ Tatyana Golikova held a meeting of the Russian Tripartite Commission for the Regulation of Social and Labour Relations, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/42048/>

³²⁴⁴ Tatyana Golikova held a meeting of the Russian Tripartite Commission for the Regulation of Social and Labour Relations, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/42048/>

³²⁴⁵ Saudi Arabia launches women's accountancy program, Arab News (Riyadh) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1822231/saudi-arabia>

³²⁴⁶ Saudi Arabia launches women's accountancy program, Arab News (Riyadh) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1822231/saudi-arabia>

³²⁴⁷ Saudi transport program extends support for women, Arab News (Riyadh) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1846841/saudi-arabia>

SAR8,000 per month.³²⁴⁸ This initiative aims to reduce the burden of transport costs for Saudi women working in the private sector.³²⁴⁹

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to support women's economic participation and entrepreneurship by announcing the launch of a new program and initiative to boost women's participation in the labour market. However, Saudi Arabia has not implemented concrete actions for this commitment.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Warisa Rahman

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to remove barriers to women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 19 November 2020, the Cabinet approved launching the "Women's Economic Justice towards a non-violent and non-sexist South Africa" theme for the 16 Days of Activism Campaign, which aims to promote the economic empowerment of women.³²⁵⁰

On 27 January 2021, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Blade Nzimande expressed concern for the underrepresentation of women in the construction sector and stated that the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic was an opportunity to address these shortcomings.³²⁵¹

On 4 February 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa launched the Gender Based Violence and Femicide Response Fund 1, which raised ZAR128 million from the private sector organizations and businesses.³²⁵² The fund will support the National Strategic Plan, which aims to end gender-based inequalities through six pillars: Accountability, Coordination and Leadership, Prevention and Rebuilding Social Cohesion, Justice, Safety and Protection, Response, Care, Support and Healing, Economic Power and Research and Information Management.³²⁵³

On 25 February 2021, President Ramaphosa announced the Manufacturing Scheme —a component of the Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMME) Debt Relief Scheme Fund— which aims to help SMME drive economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, stating that at least 40 per cent of funds must go to women-owned enterprises.³²⁵⁴

³²⁴⁸ Saudi transport program extends support for women, Arab News (Riyadh) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1846841/saudi-arabia>

³²⁴⁹ Saudi transport program extends support for women, Arab News (Riyadh) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1846841/saudi-arabia>

³²⁵⁰ Statement on virtual Cabinet Meeting of 18 November 2020, Government Communications (Pretoria) 19 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/statement-virtual-cabinet-meeting-18-november-2020-19-nov-2020-0000>.

³²⁵¹ Minister Blade Nzimande: Construction Sector Education and Training Authority Infrastructure Summit, Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation (Pretoria) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/remarks-minister-27-jan-2021-0000>

³²⁵² Presidency on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Response Fund, The Presidency (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/gbvf-response-5-feb-2021-0000>

³²⁵³ Presidency on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Response Fund, The Presidency (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/gbvf-response-5-feb-2021-0000>

³²⁵⁴ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Virtual engagement with SMMEs and Cooperatives, The Presidency (Cape Town) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-virtual-engagement-smmes-and-cooperatives-25-feb-2021-0000>.

On 8 March 2021, Minister Lindiwe Sisulu welcomed a Memorandum of Understanding which aims to empower women to manage and lead accredited Social Housing Institutions.³²⁵⁵ Sisulu stated that “women need to step up and make an equal contribution in industrial production as well as in the corporate workforce.”³²⁵⁶

On 17 March 2021, Deputy President David Mabuza spoke to the National Assembly on the importance of strategies which develop employment prospects for women following the COVID-19 pandemic and announced that the new Human Resource Development Strategy, which will respond particularly to the skills needs of women, is under review.³²⁵⁷

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women’s participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as the creation of funds and training programs to improve female employment. While South Africa has supported the participation of women in the labour market and economy, it has not implemented significant concrete actions.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Debasmita Bhattacharya

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to remove barriers to women’s economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 21 December 2020, the Mothers at Work Project for women’s employment launched by the Turkish Government Employment Agency began to expand its scope. The program initially focused on providing vocational training courses and programs for disadvantaged women who either cannot work as a result of having to stay home and care for their kids, those relying on social benefits or those exposed to domestic violence. However, the government hopes to raise the women’s employment rate in Turkey further with new incentives such as financial support for women’s cooperatives and interest rate free loans for female entrepreneurs.³²⁵⁸ Maternity leave for working women has also been increased along with increased financial support for child-caring women.³²⁵⁹

On 8 March 2021, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, announced at his AKP Women Branch’s General Convention that the government will be creating a new commission at the parliament to

³²⁵⁵ Minister Lindiwe Sisulu on commitment to women empowerment, Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation (Pretoria) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-lindiwe-sisulu-commitment-women-empowerment-8-mar-2021-0000>.

³²⁵⁶ Minister Lindiwe Sisulu on commitment to women empowerment, Department of Human Settlements. 8 March 2021. (Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-lindiwe-sisulu-commitment-women-empowerment-8-mar-2021-0000>

³²⁵⁷ Deputy President David Mabuza on youth empowerment post Coronavirus COVID-19 era, The Presidency (Cape Town) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-president-david-mabuza-youth-empowerment-post-coronavirus-covid-19-era-17-mar-2021>.

³²⁵⁸ Project for women’s employment in Turkey expands scope (Istanbul) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/mothers-at-work-project-for-womens-employment-in-turkey-expands-scope/news>

³²⁵⁹ Project for women’s employment in Turkey expands scope (Istanbul) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/mothers-at-work-project-for-womens-employment-in-turkey-expands-scope/news>

tackle the violence against women.³²⁶⁰ Efforts will be launched in every legal and social field to empower women, raise awareness and mitigate any widening of gender inequalities.³²⁶¹

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women's participation in the labour market and economy by effectively recognizing the gender gap in the labour market. However, it did not take implement sufficient measures to promote women's engagement and success in entrepreneurial activities.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Elizabeth Lerman

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 15 December 2020, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs published the 2020 gender pay gap report.³²⁶² These reports are published in line with the Equality Act 2010 (Gender Pay Gap Information) Regulations 2017.³²⁶³ The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy used in these reports focuses on creating an inclusive, respectful and representative workplace that reflects the society it serves, where all colleagues can thrive and where equality, diversity and difference are valued.³²⁶⁴

On 17 December 2020, in a speech titled "The New Fight for Fairness," Minister for Women and Equalities Liz Truss set out the UK's new approach to tackling inequality in the UK.³²⁶⁵ The speech marked a new approach to the UK's equality policy, with a commitment to individual dignity and opportunity at its heart.³²⁶⁶

On 17 December 2020, Minister Truss also launched the Equality Data Programme in the speech, the large-scale project will gather data in order to better understand the barriers that people from every background are facing across the UK.³²⁶⁷ The Equality Data Programme is the UK's broadest

³²⁶⁰ Turkey Marks International Women's Day (Ankara) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/president-erdogan-marks-international-womens-day-162961>

³²⁶¹ Turkey Marks International Women's Day (Ankara) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/president-erdogan-marks-international-womens-day-162961>

³²⁶² HMRC and Valuation Office Agency: gender pay gap report and data 2020, UK Government (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hmrc-and-valuation-office-agency-gender-pay-gap-report-and-data-2020/hmrc-and-valuation-office-agency-gender-pay-gap-report-and-data-2020>

³²⁶³ HMRC and Valuation Office Agency: gender pay gap report and data 2020, UK Government (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hmrc-and-valuation-office-agency-gender-pay-gap-report-and-data-2020>

³²⁶⁴ HMRC and Valuation Office Agency: gender pay gap report and data 2020, UK Government (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hmrc-and-valuation-office-agency-gender-pay-gap-report-and-data-2020/hmrc-and-valuation-office-agency-gender-pay-gap-report-and-data-2020>

³²⁶⁵ 'Fight For Fairness' speech to set out government's new approach to equality, UK Government (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fight-for-fairness-speech-to-set-out-governments-new-approach-to-equality>

³²⁶⁶ 'Fight For Fairness' speech to set out government's new approach to equality, UK Government (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fight-for-fairness-speech-to-set-out-governments-new-approach-to-equality>

³²⁶⁷ 'Fight For Fairness' speech to set out government's new approach to equality, UK Government (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fight-for-fairness-speech-to-set-out-governments-new-approach-to-equality>

and most comprehensive equality data project yet.³²⁶⁸ The program will emphasize the disparities people are facing to ensure real inequalities are addressed, using more data than ever to ensure our policies work.³²⁶⁹ This is a significant change from the previous work of the Equality Hub, which often focused on people with a single protected characteristic and compared outcomes narrowly within those groups.³²⁷⁰

On 5 January 2021, the Domestic Abuse Bill was debated in the House of Lords.³²⁷¹ It contains new measures to protect victim-survivors of domestic abuse and when the bill has progressed through Parliament, economic abuse will be recognized in law for the very first time.³²⁷² The inclusion of economic abuse in the legal definition of domestic abuse helps raise awareness of it.³²⁷³ The Bill will help hold perpetrators of economic abuse to account so that victims can access justice and services such as the police, housing and social services will also need to consider how they respond to economic abuse.³²⁷⁴ Though the Bill was introduced to Parliament in early 2020, it has faced a series of delays and is therefore expected to become law in 2021.³²⁷⁵

On 10 February 2021, the UK government released a new guidance note in a series of guidance notes on the strategic outcomes of the UK National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2018 to 2022) to support implementing policy and program interventions in each area.³²⁷⁶ This note is meant to provide guidance to government staff and partners to implement strategic outcome 3 of the plan: commitments on preventing and responding to gender-based violence in conflict.³²⁷⁷ Strategic Outcome 3 (preventing gender-based violence) the UK government commits to increasing the number and scale of interventions that integrate effective measures to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in conflict, with a focus on addressing violence against women and girls.³²⁷⁸

³²⁶⁸ New large-scale data project will get to the heart of disparities, UK Government (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-large-scale-data-project-will-get-to-the-heart-of-disparities>

³²⁶⁹ New large-scale data project will get to the heart of disparities, UK Government (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-large-scale-data-project-will-get-to-the-heart-of-disparities>

³²⁷⁰ 'Fight For Fairness' speech to set out government's new approach to equality, UK Government (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fight-for-fairness-speech-to-set-out-governments-new-approach-to-equality>

³²⁷¹ Domestic Abuse Bill, UK Parliament (London) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021.

³²⁷² Economic abuse and the Domestic Abuse Bill, Surviving Economic Abuse (London) n.d. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://survivingeconomicabuse.org/i-need-help/economic-abuse-and-the-law/domestic-abuse-bill/>

³²⁷³ Economic abuse and the Domestic Abuse Bill, Surviving Economic Abuse (London) n.d. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://survivingeconomicabuse.org/i-need-help/economic-abuse-and-the-law/domestic-abuse-bill/>

³²⁷⁴ Economic abuse and the Domestic Abuse Bill, Surviving Economic Abuse (London) n.d. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://survivingeconomicabuse.org/i-need-help/economic-abuse-and-the-law/domestic-abuse-bill/>

³²⁷⁵ Domestic Abuse Bill, UK Parliament (London) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2709>

³²⁷⁶ UK national action plan on women, peace and security 2018 to 2022 guidance note: preventing gender-based violence, UK Government (London) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-national-action-plan-on-women-peace-and-security-2018-to-2022-guidance-note-preventing-gender-based-violence>

³²⁷⁷ UK national action plan on women, peace and security 2018 to 2022 guidance note: preventing gender-based violence, UK Government (London) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-national-action-plan-on-women-peace-and-security-2018-to-2022-guidance-note-preventing-gender-based-violence>

³²⁷⁸ UK national action plan on women, peace and security 2018 to 2022 guidance note: preventing gender-based violence, UK Government (London) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-national-action-plan-on-women-peace-and-security-2018-to-2022-guidance-note-preventing-gender-based-violence>

On 21 February 2021, representatives from the UK attended an online meeting alongside 56 representatives from Russia, Belgium, Canada, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Romania, Slovenia, Argentina, the United States, the European Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to discuss increasing the number of women in the nuclear power industry.³²⁷⁹

On 23 February 2021, the Hampton-Alexander Review report revealed that more than a third (34.3 per cent) of Financial Times Stock Exchange (FTSE) 350 board positions are now held by women, with the number of women on boards increasing by 50 per cent over the last 5 years.³²⁸⁰ The data has been published in the final report from the government-backed Hampton-Alexander Review, which was launched in 2016 to encourage UK-listed companies to appoint more women to their boards and into senior leadership positions.³²⁸¹ The figures also show an increase in women in wider senior leadership roles.³²⁸² FTSE 100, 250 and 350 all reached the target of women making up 33 per cent of boards by the end of 2020, highlighting the success of the government's voluntary, business-led approach.³²⁸³

On 8 March 2021, UK announced the creation of a new advisory council to lead the UK's gender equality work at the G7.³²⁸⁴ The Gender Equality Advisory Council will produce recommendations to drive women's empowerment across the world to ensure women are at the heart of the build back better agenda as we recover from COVID-19.³²⁸⁵ Building on the foundations laid by the Canadian and French G7 presidencies, the GEAC will champion the core principles of freedom, opportunity, individual humanity and dignity for women and girls around the world.³²⁸⁶ The Council will produce an independent report and set out recommendations as to how the G7 should work together so that women across the globe drive and benefit from the pandemic recovery.³²⁸⁷ Chair of the Gender Equality Advisory Council Sarah Sands, said: "The G7 is an opportunity to tear down the hurdles that hold women back."³²⁸⁸

³²⁷⁹ Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-velicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

³²⁸⁰ The changing face of business: number of women on FTSE boards up by 50% in just 5 years, UK Government (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-changing-face-of-business-number-of-women-on-ftse-boards-up-by-50-in-just-5-years>

³²⁸¹ The changing face of business: number of women on FTSE boards up by 50% in just 5 years, UK Government (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-changing-face-of-business-number-of-women-on-ftse-boards-up-by-50-in-just-5-years>

³²⁸² The changing face of business: number of women on FTSE boards up by 50% in just 5 years, UK Government (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-changing-face-of-business-number-of-women-on-ftse-boards-up-by-50-in-just-5-years>

³²⁸³ The changing face of business: number of women on FTSE boards up by 50% in just 5 years, UK Government (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-changing-face-of-business-number-of-women-on-ftse-boards-up-by-50-in-just-5-years>

³²⁸⁴ Government launches G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council, UK Government (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-g7-gender-equality-advisory-council>

³²⁸⁵ Government launches G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council, UK Government (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-g7-gender-equality-advisory-council>

³²⁸⁶ Government launches G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council, UK Government (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-g7-gender-equality-advisory-council>

³²⁸⁷ Government launches G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council, UK Government (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-g7-gender-equality-advisory-council>

³²⁸⁸ Government launches G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council, UK Government (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-g7-gender-equality-advisory-council>

On 8 March 2021, Science Minister Amanda Solloway announced the 2021 Women in Innovation Award winners.³²⁸⁹ Women in Innovation a diversity and inclusion campaign and funding program, which aims to get more women to innovate in business.³²⁹⁰ The campaign first launched in 2016 with research to understand the challenges of being a female entrepreneur and a women-only competition with awards offering innovation grant funding and a tailored program of mentoring and business support.³²⁹¹ The support helped the award holders grow their businesses while creating new role models for the next generation.³²⁹² Three of Scotland's leading female entrepreneurs have received UK backing to drive forward their novel innovations and business ideas to help the UK build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic.³²⁹³ Each winner received GBP50,000 funding to establish and bring to market their disruptive business ideas, many of which have been born out in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.³²⁹⁴ Emily Nott, Head of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at Innovate UK said: "With 2020 proving to be an incredibly difficult year for everyone and particularly women, continuing to support female entrepreneurs in 2021 has been a real priority for Innovate UK."³²⁹⁵

On 19 April 2021, the first ever Investing in Women Code (IWC) annual progress report was published.³²⁹⁶ In 2018, Her Majesty's Treasury commissioned CEO of NatWest Group Alison Rose to lead an independent review into the female entrepreneurial journey and highlight the barriers faced by women when starting and growing their businesses, leading to the publication of the Alison Rose Review of Female Entrepreneurship in March 2019.³²⁹⁷ A key finding of the Rose Review was that access to finance is a significant barrier to female entrepreneurship.³²⁹⁸ As the first recommendation of the Rose Review, the IWC was launched in 2019 to develop a better picture of the funding of female entrepreneurs across the financial services and encourage signatories to adopt and share best practices to support female entrepreneurs.³²⁹⁹ The IWC is a commitment to support the advancement of female entrepreneurship in the United Kingdom by improving female entrepreneurs' access to tools, resources and finance.³³⁰⁰ The first annual IWC report analyzed data from signatory members of the Code.³³⁰¹ It used a set of agreed guidelines and metrics to analyze funding for female

³²⁸⁹ Scottish women entrepreneurs win national award for innovation, UK Government (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scottish-women-entrepreneurs-win-national-award-for-innovation>

³²⁹⁰ Innovate UK: diversity and inclusion, UK Government (London) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/innovate-uk-diversity-and-inclusion#women-in-innovation:-campaign>

³²⁹¹ Innovate UK: diversity and inclusion, UK Government (London) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/innovate-uk-diversity-and-inclusion#women-in-innovation:-campaign>

³²⁹² Innovate UK: diversity and inclusion, UK Government (London) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/innovate-uk-diversity-and-inclusion#women-in-innovation:-campaign>

³²⁹³ Scottish women entrepreneurs win national award for innovation, UK Government (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scottish-women-entrepreneurs-win-national-award-for-innovation>

³²⁹⁴ Scottish women entrepreneurs win national award for innovation, UK Government (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scottish-women-entrepreneurs-win-national-award-for-innovation>

³²⁹⁵ Scottish women entrepreneurs win national award for innovation, UK Government (London) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scottish-women-entrepreneurs-win-national-award-for-innovation>

³²⁹⁶ The Annual Investing in Women Code report, UK Government (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-annual-investing-in-women-code-report>

³²⁹⁷ The Annual Investing in Women Code report, UK Government (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-annual-investing-in-women-code-report>

³²⁹⁸ The Annual Investing in Women Code report, UK Government (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-annual-investing-in-women-code-report>

³²⁹⁹ The Annual Investing in Women Code report, UK Government (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-annual-investing-in-women-code-report>

³³⁰⁰ The Annual Investing in Women Code report, UK Government (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-annual-investing-in-women-code-report>

³³⁰¹ The Annual Investing in Women Code report, UK Government (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-annual-investing-in-women-code-report>

entrepreneurs and explores how all signatories can better enable female entrepreneurs to successfully access the tools, resources and investment they need to build and grow their businesses.³³⁰²

On 29 April 2021, the Domestic Abuse Bill passed both Houses of Parliament and been signed into law.³³⁰³ The Domestic Abuse Act will provide further protections to the millions of people who experience domestic abuse and strengthen measures to tackle perpetrators.³³⁰⁴ The bill introduces a wide-ranging legal definition of domestic abuse which incorporates a range of abuses beyond physical violence, including emotional, coercive or controlling behaviour and economic abuse.³³⁰⁵

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women's participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as reaffirming female representation in managerial roles. It has also promoted women's engagement and success in entrepreneurial activities with analyses about domestic status quo, which provided guidance for policymaking.

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

Analyst: Warisa Rahman

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.

On 27 December 2020, President Donald Trump signed the Fiscal Year 2021 Omnibus Appropriations Act providing USD50 million to the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-fi).³³⁰⁶ We-fi seeks to empower women-owned and led small and mid-size enterprises in 39 countries.^{3307,3308} This organization accomplishes this empowerment through increasing women's access to finance, markets, training and networks and easing the legal and regulatory biases that impede women business owners in running their businesses.³³⁰⁹

On 27 December 2020, President Donald Trump signed the Fiscal Year 2021 Omnibus Appropriations Act providing USD200 million to the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (WGDP).³³¹⁰ This initiative aims to improve women's access to education and skills training,

³³⁰² The Annual Investing in Women Code report, UK Government (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-annual-investing-in-women-code-report>

³³⁰³ Landmark Domestic Abuse Bill receives Royal Assent, UK Parliament (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-domestic-abuse-bill-receives-royalassent>

³³⁰⁴ Landmark Domestic Abuse Bill receives Royal Assent, UK Parliament (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-domestic-abuse-bill-receives-royalassent>

³³⁰⁵ Landmark Domestic Abuse Bill receives Royal Assent, UK Parliament (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-domestic-abuse-bill-receives-royalassent>

³³⁰⁶ 2020 Annual Report, We-Fi Secretariat (Washington) 31 December 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://we-fi.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/WeFi-Annual-Report-2020.pdf>

³³⁰⁷ Fy 2021 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, National Conference of State Legislatures (Washington) January 4, 2021. Access date: 15 March 2021. https://www.ncsl.org/documents/stated/NCSL_Summary_FY2021_Omnibus_Appropriations_Bill.pdf

³³⁰⁸ 2020 Annual Report, We-Fi Secretariat (Washington) 31 December 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://we-fi.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/WeFi-Annual-Report-2020.pdf>

³³⁰⁹ 2020 Annual Report, We-Fi Secretariat (Washington) 31 December 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://we-fi.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/WeFi-Annual-Report-2020.pdf>

³³¹⁰ Fy 2021 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, National Conference of State Legislatures (Washington) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://www.ncsl.org/documents/stated/NCSL_Summary_FY2021_Omnibus_Appropriations_Bill.pdf

increase women's access to market, networks and capital and to reduce the legal, cultural and regulatory barriers to women's full participation in the economy.³³¹¹

On 11 February 2021, the US Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (USAID) together with Mastercard Foundation and Schneider Electric launch a USD1.4 million partnership to create 750 energy-sector jobs for women in Cote d'Ivoire.³³¹² USAID provided USD500,000 of this initiative from their WGDP budget allocation.³³¹³ The aim of this project is to improve women's access to technical training opportunities to qualify for full-time employment as energy sales personnel.³³¹⁴ This project also seeks to help participants overcome the prejudices of integrating into a male-dominated field.³³¹⁵

On 19 February 2021, the US Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina closed applications for their Women's Empowerment Small Grants Program.³³¹⁶ This program provides USD300,000 to non-government organizations to run projects to increase the participation of women in government or business.³³¹⁷ The aims of these grants is to promote projects regarding women's empowerment in economics, government and their communities and schools as well as to prevent gender-based violence and promote awareness of women's health issues.³³¹⁸

On 21 February 2021, representatives from the US attended an online meeting alongside 56 representatives from Russia, Belgium, Canada, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Romania, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, Argentina, the European Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to discuss increasing the number of women in the nuclear power industry.³³¹⁹

On 22 February 2021, Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken spoke at the 46th Session of the Human Rights Council announcing that the US will seek election to the Human Rights Council for the 2022 to 2024 term.³³²⁰ During this session he says that the US is "committed to advancing gender equality

³³¹¹ Women's Global Development and Prosperity initiative Annual Report, Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (Washington) n.d. Access Date: March 13 2021. <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/W-GDP-Annual-Report-2020-2021.pdf>

³³¹² The United States of America Provides \$500,000 to Create Energy Sector Jobs for 750 Young Women in Cote D'Ivoire, USAID (Washington) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/cote-divoire/press-releases/united-states-america-provides-500000-create-energy>

³³¹³ The United States of America Provides \$500,000 to Create Energy Sector Jobs for 750 Young Women in Cote D'Ivoire, USAID (Washington) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/cote-divoire/press-releases/united-states-america-provides-500000-create-energy>

³³¹⁴ The United States of America Provides \$500,000 to Create Energy Sector Jobs for 750 Young Women in Cote D'Ivoire, USAID (Washington) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/cote-divoire/press-releases/united-states-america-provides-500000-create-energy>

³³¹⁵ The United States of America Provides \$500,000 to Create Energy Sector Jobs for 750 Young Women in Cote D'Ivoire, USAID (Washington) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/cote-divoire/press-releases/united-states-america-provides-500000-create-energy>

³³¹⁶ Women's Empowerment Small Grants Program, U.S. Embassy (Sarajevo) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://ba.usembassy.gov/education-culture/grant-opportunities/womens-empowerment-small-grants-program/>

³³¹⁷ Women's Empowerment Small Grants Program, U.S. Embassy (Sarajevo) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://ba.usembassy.gov/education-culture/grant-opportunities/womens-empowerment-small-grants-program/>

³³¹⁸ Women's Empowerment Small Grants Program, U.S. Embassy (Sarajevo) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://ba.usembassy.gov/education-culture/grant-opportunities/womens-empowerment-small-grants-program/>

³³¹⁹ Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-uvlicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

³³²⁰ Remarks to the 46th Session of the Human Rights Council, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.state.gov/remarks-to-the-46th-session-of-the-human-rights-council/>

and uplifting the rights of women and girls” and “will pursue policy to end violence and discrimination of all kinds.”³³²¹

On 26 February 2021, the US Embassy in Uganda released an opportunity for funding for the new Ugandan cohort of the Academy of Women Entrepreneurs.³³²² This opportunity provides USD30,000 for a training program for 100 female entrepreneurs between the ages of 25 to 40.³³²³ The aim of this project is to provide skills for funding and scaling up their businesses and developing networks of collaborators for the entrepreneurs.³³²⁴

On 6 March 2021, President Joseph Biden signed the COVID Relief Bill.³³²⁵ This bill provides an expansion of child tax credit for parents as well as USD15 billion for child-development block grants, USD1 billion for the Head Start early education program and USD24 billion stabilization fund for childcare providers.³³²⁶ This project will ease the burden on women of choosing between work and supervising their children using the COVID-19 pandemic.³³²⁷

On 8 March 2021, President Biden issued an executive order establishing The White House Gender Policy Council.³³²⁸ The aim of this council is to “increase women’s economic security and opportunity by addressing structural barriers to women’s participation” and by “decreasing wage and wealth gaps” between men and women.³³²⁹ For example, it promises to provide support for childcare, combat gender stereotypes, as well as to promote participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields and leadership positions.³³³⁰

On 8 March 2021, USAID released a technical brief which provides considerations, recommendations and resources to support a gender-based response for the COVID-19 pandemic.³³³¹ This document recommends engaging women’s leadership for COVID-19 response,

³³²¹ Remarks to the 46th Session of the Human Rights Council, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.state.gov/remarks-to-the-46th-session-of-the-human-rights-council/>

³³²² NOFO – Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, 2021, U.S. Embassy (Kampala) n.d. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://ug.usembassy.gov/nofo-academy-for-women-entrepreneurs-2021-afkam-pas-fy21-2-closing-monday-april-12-2021/>

³³²³ NOFO – Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, 2021, U.S. Embassy (Kampala) n.d. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://ug.usembassy.gov/nofo-academy-for-women-entrepreneurs-2021-afkam-pas-fy21-2-closing-monday-april-12-2021/>

³³²⁴ NOFO – Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, 2021, U.S. Embassy (Kampala) n.d. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://ug.usembassy.gov/nofo-academy-for-women-entrepreneurs-2021-afkam-pas-fy21-2-closing-monday-april-12-2021/>

³³²⁵ Biden’s newly signed rescue plan will help get parents back to work — by supporting child care, NBC Universal (New York) 11 March 2021. <https://www.nbcnews.com/business/economy/stimulus-bill-contains-billions-shore-daycare-centers-parents-child-care-n1260697>

³³²⁶ Biden’s newly signed rescue plan will help get parents back to work — by supporting child care, NBC Universal (New York) 11 March 2021. <https://www.nbcnews.com/business/economy/stimulus-bill-contains-billions-shore-daycare-centers-parents-child-care-n1260697>

³³²⁷ Biden’s newly signed rescue plan will help get parents back to work — by supporting child care, NBC Universal (New York) 11 March 2021. <https://www.nbcnews.com/business/economy/stimulus-bill-contains-billions-shore-daycare-centers-parents-child-care-n1260697>

³³²⁸ Executive Order on Establishment of the White House Gender Policy Council, The White House (Washington) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/08/executive-order-on-establishment-of-the-white-house-gender-policy-council/>

³³²⁹ Executive Order on Establishment of the White House Gender Policy Council, The White House (Washington) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/08/executive-order-on-establishment-of-the-white-house-gender-policy-council/>

³³³⁰ Executive Order on Establishment of the White House Gender Policy Council, The White House (Washington) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/03/08/executive-order-on-establishment-of-the-white-house-gender-policy-council/>

³³³¹ USAID’S Gender and COVID-19 Guidance, USAID (Washington) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/gender-and-covid-19-brief>

training and supporting men to assume family duties, decrease the gender digital divide and support women's unions and female-dominated fields to curtail the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.³³³²

On 10 April 2021, the United States Department of State along with the Providing Opportunities for Women's Economic Rise and Embassy Abu Dhabi closed its applications for the Women Tech Founders Program.³³³³ This program seeks to provide women tech entrepreneurs from the Middle East and North Africa with the skill required for them to use technology to expand their businesses. The workshops will span four days and include sections on design thinking, machine learning, product development and objective-key-results.³³³⁴

On 26 April 2021, President Biden issued an executive order establishing the Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment.³³³⁵ This task force aims to support "worker power, worker organizing and collective bargaining" including identifying policies, practices and programs which may promote hostile labour environments for marginalized workers including women.³³³⁶

On 29 April 2021, President Biden announced the American Families Plan.³³³⁷ This plan aims to lift over ten million people out of poverty in 2022.³³³⁸ To accomplish this, the plan sets the goal of creating a right to paid family and medical leave "to ensure working parents and caregivers, including workers of color and low-wage workers, can equitably access the time off they need to support their families."³³³⁹

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women's participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as creating family-friendly welfare programs and empowering female workers with training workshops. It has also promoted women's engagement and success in entrepreneurial activities via financial initiatives designed for female entrepreneurs.

Thus, United States receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Samar Moghal

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to women's economic participation and entrepreneurship.

³³³² USAID'S Gender and COVID-19 Guidance, USAID (Washington) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

<https://www.usaid.gov/gender-and-covid-19-brief>

³³³³ Women Tech founders Program, U.S. Department of State (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 24 April 2021.

<https://www.state.gov/women-tech-founders-program/>

³³³⁴ Women Tech founders Program, U.S. Department of State (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 24 April 2021.

<https://www.state.gov/women-tech-founders-program/>

³³³⁵ Executive Order on Worker Organizing and Empowerment, The White House (Washington) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/04/26/executive-order-on-worker-organizing-and-empowerment/>

³³³⁶ Executive Order on Worker Organizing and Empowerment, The White House (Washington) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/04/26/executive-order-on-worker-organizing-and-empowerment/>

³³³⁷ FACT SHEET: The American Families Plan Advances Advances Equity and Racial Justice, The White House (Washington) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/29/fact-sheet-the-american-families-plan-advances-equity-and-racial-justice/>

³³³⁸ FACT SHEET: The American Families Plan Advances Advances Equity and Racial Justice, The White House (Washington) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/29/fact-sheet-the-american-families-plan-advances-equity-and-racial-justice/>

³³³⁹ FACT SHEET: The American Families Plan Advances Advances Equity and Racial Justice, The White House (Washington) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/29/fact-sheet-the-american-families-plan-advances-equity-and-racial-justice/>

On 25 November 2020, the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy released an updated version of the European Union’s Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in External Action for 2021–2025 (GAP III).³³⁴⁰ GAP III strives to reduce barriers to women’s economic participation and promote women to leadership positions in the workplace, primarily through five pillars of action.³³⁴¹ It called on the European Union to “lead by example” and adopted new methods to measure results.³³⁴² These pillars also included introducing “stringent rules” to apply and monitor “gender mainstreaming” across all sectors, developing a shared vision and approach and facilitating close cooperation to promote gender equity and accelerating the progress in “fighting against gender-based violence and promoting the economic, social and political empowerment of women and girls.”³³⁴³

On 22 December 2020, the European Commission stated that it is committed to accomplish a “Union of equality” and made reference to President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen’s past actions of creating “a dedicated equality portfolio and the Task force on Equality.”³³⁴⁴ The Commission identified that it will take further action through its “proposal for binding pay transparency measures,” enacting GAP III and create a “legislative proposal” in 2021 concerning violence towards women.³³⁴⁵

On 21 January 2021, the European Parliament adopted the European Commission’s Gender Equality Strategy for 2020 to 2025.³³⁴⁶ The report has six main aims: to address violence against women as well as stereotypes against women, decrease women’s gaps in the labour force, in pay and at-home care, increase women’s participation in leadership positions in “executive boards and managerial positions,” consider gender in the creation of policies and programmes; increase funding for actions that aid gender equality and promote gender equality around the world.³³⁴⁷ Members of the European Parliament urge for more “binding measures to define and prohibit violence and harassment at work,” as well as more “binding measures on pay transparency.”³³⁴⁸ Members also emphasized that more

³³⁴⁰ Gender Action Plan – putting women and girls' rights at the heart of the global recovery for a gender-equal world, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2184

³³⁴¹ Gender Action Plan – putting women and girls' rights at the heart of the global recovery for a gender-equal world, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2184

³³⁴² Gender Action Plan – putting women and girls' rights at the heart of the global recovery for a gender-equal world, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2184

³³⁴³ Gender Action Plan – putting women and girls' rights at the heart of the global recovery for a gender-equal world, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2184

³³⁴⁴ Union of equality: The First Year of Actions and Achievements, European Commission (Brussels) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/dalli/announcements/union-equality-first-year-actions-and-achievements_en

³³⁴⁵ Union of equality: The First Year of Actions and Achievements, European Commission (Brussels) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/dalli/announcements/union-equality-first-year-actions-and-achievements_en

³³⁴⁶ Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025: Parliament’s Reaction and Input, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210114IPR95617/gender-equality-strategy-2020-2025-parliament-s-reaction-and-input>

³³⁴⁷ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions A Union of Gender Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210114IPR95617/gender-equality-strategy-2020-2025-parliament-s-reaction-and-input>

³³⁴⁸ Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025: Parliament’s Reaction and Input, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0152>

observance surrounding member states' compliance on women's rights is needed, especially in states that showed heightened resistance to women's rights.³³⁴⁹

On 25 January 2021, the European Parliament held a public hearing entitled "Gender aspects of precarious work."³³⁵⁰ The hearing discussed the gap between men and women with regard to "precarious work, poverty," pay and minimum wages.³³⁵¹ The hearing acknowledged that these are barriers that women face in economic participation and serves as a stepping point for the European "Commission's proposal for a Directive on adequate minimum wages in the European Union."³³⁵²

On 11 February 2021, the European Parliament adopted a resolution related "to assess the progress made in women's rights over the last 25 years."³³⁵³ The Members of Parliament called on the European Commission to take on more actions to address the barriers that women face, which includes addressing women's participation and decreasing the gender pay gap.³³⁵⁴

On 21 February 2021, representatives from the European Commission attended an online meeting alongside 56 representatives from Argentina, Russia, Belgium, Canada, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Romania, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to discuss increasing the number of women in the nuclear power industry.³³⁵⁵

On 4 March 2021, the European Commission put forward a proposal to increase pay transparency to address the gender pay gap.³³⁵⁶ This proposal includes "measures to ensure pay transparency for workers and employers" and "better access to justice for victims of pay discrimination."³³⁵⁷ The measures in the proposal include increasing transparency for jobseekers and employees. The proposal also requires employers with over 250 employees to "publish information on the pay gap between female and male workers in their organization" and conduct a "pay assessment" if their pay gap is over 5 per cent.³³⁵⁸ The proposal also seeks "better access" to "compensation for workers," increased "burden of proof on employer" to disprove pay discrimination, "sanctions to include fines" and

³³⁴⁹ Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025: Parliament's Reaction and Input, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0152>

³³⁵⁰ Public Hearing on "Gender aspects of precarious work," European Parliament (Strasbourg). Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/public-hearing-on-gender-aspects-of-prec/product-details/20210115CHE08101>

³³⁵¹ Public Hearing on "Gender aspects of precarious work," European Parliament (Strasbourg). Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/public-hearing-on-gender-aspects-of-prec/product-details/20210115CHE08101>

³³⁵² Public Hearing on "Gender aspects of precarious work," European Parliament (Strasbourg). Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/public-hearing-on-gender-aspects-of-prec/product-details/20210115CHE08101>

³³⁵³ The Parliament's Fight for Gender Equality in the EU, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/priorities/social/20190712STO56961/the-parliament-s-fight-for-gender-equality-in-the-eu>

³³⁵⁴ European Parliament Resolution of 11 February 2021 on Challenges Ahead for Women's Rights in Europe: More than 25 Years After the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, European Parliament (Brussels) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2021-0058_EN.html#def_1_2

³³⁵⁵ Online meeting on increasing the number of women in nuclear positions was held, Eurasian Women's Forum (Moscow) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/sostoyalos-onlayn-soveshchanie-po-uvlicheniyu-chisla-zhenshchin-v-yadernoy-energetike/>

³³⁵⁶ Pay Transparency: Commission Proposes Measures to Ensure Equal Pay for Equal Work, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_881

³³⁵⁷ Pay Transparency: Commission Proposes Measures to Ensure Equal Pay for Equal Work, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_881

³³⁵⁸ Pay Transparency: Commission Proposes Measures to Ensure Equal Pay for Equal Work, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_881

action by “equality bodies and workers’ representatives” in “legal or administrative proceedings on behalf of workers as well as lead on collective claims on equal pay.”³³⁵⁹

On 5 March 2021, the European Commission published the 2021 Report on Gender Equality in the EU.³³⁶⁰ This report emphasizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has “exacerbated existing inequalities between women and men in almost all areas of life.”³³⁶¹ It highlights that the major struggles to achieving gender equality during the pandemic was “a surge in domestic violence,” increased “workload, health risk and challenges to work-life balance” as frontline workers are mostly female and a disproportionate loss of jobs to women as they were “overrepresented in sectors that are worst affected by the crisis.”³³⁶² Furthermore, the report also brings to light that women have had a decrease in work-life balance due to an increase in duties such as childrearing and housework as well as face a lack of representation in “COVID-19 decision-making bodies.”³³⁶³ In response to the findings in the report, the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre and the European Institute for Gender Equality created the Gender Equality Strategy Monitoring Portal which tracks Member States’ actions to promote gender equality.³³⁶⁴

On 8 March 2021, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) hosted a virtual conference to discuss actions that leaders can take to increase women’s participation in politics.³³⁶⁵ Attendees of the conference were the “President and the Members of the CoR, Members of the European Parliament and participants in the CoR’s Young Elected Politicians Programme.”³³⁶⁶ In the conference, it was highlighted that women made up less than a third of roughly one million local and regional politicians.³³⁶⁷ Attendees of the conference emphasized the need to increase women’s participation in politics and urged members all governmental levels to take action to decrease women’s participation gap, respond to violent attacks made against women in politics and speak out against sexism against women.³³⁶⁸ Furthermore, the European Commission announced that they will be supporting women in “deep tech” as part of their “Women TechEU” initiative.³³⁶⁹ The initiative seeks to encourage female participation in “deep tech start-ups in Europe and help grow their companies” by offering

³³⁵⁹ Pay Transparency: Commission Proposes Measures to Ensure Equal Pay for Equal Work, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_881

³³⁶⁰ International Women’s Day 2021: COVID-19 Pandemic is a Major Challenge for Gender Equality, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1011

³³⁶¹ International Women’s Day 2021: COVID-19 Pandemic is a Major Challenge for Gender Equality, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1011

³³⁶² International Women’s Day 2021: COVID-19 Pandemic is a Major Challenge for Gender Equality, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1011

³³⁶³ International Women’s Day 2021: COVID-19 Pandemic is a Major Challenge for Gender Equality, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1011

³³⁶⁴ International Women’s Day 2021: COVID-19 Pandemic is a Major Challenge for Gender Equality, European Commission (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1011

³³⁶⁵ CoR Calls for Action as Pandemic Widens Gender Gap and Women Represent Only 30% of the 1 Million Local EU Politicians, European Committee of the Regions (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/CoR-international-women's-day.aspx>

³³⁶⁶ CoR Calls for Action as Pandemic Widens Gender Gap and Women Represent Only 30% of the 1 Million Local EU Politicians, European Committee of the Regions (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/CoR-international-women's-day.aspx>

³³⁶⁷ CoR Calls for Action as Pandemic Widens Gender Gap and Women Represent Only 30% of the 1 Million Local EU Politicians, European Committee of the Regions (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/CoR-international-women's-day.aspx>

³³⁶⁸ CoR Calls for Action as Pandemic Widens Gender Gap and Women Represent Only 30% of the 1 Million Local EU Politicians, European Committee of the Regions (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/CoR-international-women's-day.aspx>

³³⁶⁹ EU to Launch New Support Scheme for Women in Deep Tech and Call for Mentors, European Commission (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eu-launch-new-support-scheme-women-deep-tech-and-call-mentors-2021-mar-08_en

“coaching and mentoring to female CEOs and founders, as well as targeted funding.”³³⁷⁰ Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Mariya Gabriel called for mentors for this initiative. It will take place on 23 to 24 June 2021 and support “up to 50 deep tech start-ups from EU Member States and Associated Countries.”³³⁷¹

On 15 March 2021, the European Commission adopted Horizon Europe’s Strategic Plan.³³⁷² Horizon Europe seeks to promote research and innovation and is set to cost EUR95.5 billion.³³⁷³ It seeks to address “eight horizontal topics,” of which “gender equality and inclusiveness” is one.³³⁷⁴ This includes women empowerment in entrepreneurship, for instance through its plan to include at least 40 per cent of companies led by women to put forward their proposals.³³⁷⁵

On 13 April 2021, the Council of Europe Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention held a meeting. In this meeting, it adopted a framework to oversee the recommendations undertaken by different states.³³⁷⁶ In this meeting, Secretary General of the Council of Europe Marija Pejčinović Burić expressed regret that Turkey withdrew from the Istanbul Convention on 22 March 2021 and affirmed the European Union’s commitment to the convention.³³⁷⁷ This meeting serves as a step towards the removal of women’s barriers to economic participation an entrepreneurship as it seeks to defend women from gender-based violence and domestic violence.

On 19 April 2021, the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality held a public hearing entitled “Empowering EU supports for women entrepreneurs and investors, including through [Multiannual Financial Framework] 2021-2027.”³³⁷⁸ The hearing emphasized that encouraging women to pursue entrepreneurship is key for European economic recovery.³³⁷⁹ The hearing also

³³⁷⁰ EU to Launch New Support Scheme for Women in Deep Tech and Call for Mentors, European Commission (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eu-launch-new-support-scheme-women-deep-tech-and-call-mentors-2021-mar-08_en

³³⁷¹ EU to Launch New Support Scheme for Women in Deep Tech and Call for Mentors, European Commission (Brussels) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eu-launch-new-support-scheme-women-deep-tech-and-call-mentors-2021-mar-08_en

³³⁷² Horizon Europe’s First Strategic Plan 2021-2024: Commission Sets for Research and Innovation Priorities for a Sustainable Future, European Commission (Brussels) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1122

³³⁷³ Horizon Europe’s First Strategic Plan 2021-2024: Commission Sets for Research and Innovation Priorities for a Sustainable Future, European Commission (Brussels) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1122

³³⁷⁴ Horizon Europe the Strategic Plan 2021-2024, Publications Office of the European Union (Luxembourg) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-law-and-publications/publication-detail/-/publication/c5f77da0-8c52-11eb-b85c-01aa75ed71a1>

³³⁷⁵ Horizon Europe Gender Equality: A Strengthened Commitment in Horizon Europe, Publications Office of the European Union (Luxembourg) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-law-and-publications/publication-detail/-/publication/c0b30b4b-6ce2-11eb-aeb5-01aa75ed71a1>

³³⁷⁶ The Committee of the Parties Adopts a Framework for the Supervision of its Recommendations Addressed to States Parties, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/newsroom/-/asset_publisher/anlnZ5mw6yX/content/the-committee-of-the-parties-adopts-a-framework-for-the-supervision-of-its-recommendations-addressed-to-states-parties

³³⁷⁷ 10th Meeting of the Committee of the Parties Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/secretary-general/-/10th-meeting-of-the-committee-of-the-parties-council-of-europe-convention-on-preventing-and-combating-violence-against-women-and-domestic-violence-ist>

³³⁷⁸ 19-04-2021 14:00 Public Hearing – Empowering Women Entrepreneurs and Investors, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/public-hearing-empowering-women-entrep/20210406CHE08624>

³³⁷⁹ 19-04-2021 14:00 Public Hearing – Empowering Women Entrepreneurs and Investors, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/public-hearing-empowering-women-entrep/product-details/20210406CHE08624>

discussed about using the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027 to support woman-led companies.³³⁸⁰

On 14 to 15 April 2021, the Gender Equality Commission held a meeting to discuss the draft of the 2020 annual report for the Gender Equality Strategy.³³⁸¹ In this meeting, the Gender Equality Commission spoke about progress made under its six objectives to achieve gender equality.³³⁸² These objectives are to “Prevent and combat gender stereotypes and sexism,” “Prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence,” “Ensure the equal access of women to justice,” “Protect the rights of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls” and “Achieve gender mainstreaming in all policies and measures,” which include measures to achieve gender equality in economic participation.³³⁸³

On 22 April 2021, the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality held a meeting to vote on the draft report for “Promoting gender equality in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and careers.”³³⁸⁴ The draft discusses the lack of female participation in the STEM field and calls on the “removal of all barriers.”³³⁸⁵ The vote resulted in the adoption of the draft report, which is a step towards removing barriers for women’s economic participation in STEM.³³⁸⁶ Furthermore, the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality held a joint hearing to discuss the European Commission’s proposal for pay transparency.³³⁸⁷ The hearing is a step towards the removal of barriers to women’s economic participation, as lack of pay transparency is a main barrier that women face.³³⁸⁸ Moreover, the Gender Mainstreaming Network held a meeting to discuss gender mainstreaming practices by committees and delegations in the European Parliament, which is a form of women’s economic empowerment.³³⁸⁹

³³⁸⁰ The European Investment Bank Funding Women Entrepreneurs Through MFF 2021-2027, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/232466/S.Dustdar.%20Funding%20Women%20Entrepreneurs%20Through%20MFF%202021-2027.pdf>

³³⁸¹ Gender Equality Commission Held its 19th Meeting on 14-15 April 2021, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/-/the-gender-equality-commission-held-its-19th-meeting-on-14-15-april-2021>

³³⁸² Gender Equality Commission Held its 19th Meeting on 14-15 April 2021, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/-/the-gender-equality-commission-held-its-19th-meeting-on-14-15-april-2021>

³³⁸³ Gender Equality Commission (GEC) 19th Meeting 14-15 April 2021 Via Videoconference Abridged Report, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/-/the-gender-equality-commission-held-its-19th-meeting-on-14-15-april-2021>

³³⁸⁴ Promoting Gender Equality in STEM – Vote – 22.04.2021, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/promoting-gender-equality-in-stem-vote-2/product-details/20210415CAN60548>

³³⁸⁵ Promoting Gender Equality in STEM – Vote – 22.04.2021, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/promoting-gender-equality-in-stem-vote-2/product-details/20210415CAN60548>

³³⁸⁶ Promoting Gender Equality in STEM – Vote – 22.04.2021, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/promoting-gender-equality-in-stem-vote-2/product-details/20210415CAN60548>

³³⁸⁷ Proposal for a Directive on Pay Transparency Public Hearing – 22.04.2021, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/proposal-for-a-directive-on-pay-transpar/product-details/20210415CAN60545>

³³⁸⁸ Proposal for a Directive on Pay Transparency Public Hearing – 22.04.2021, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/proposal-for-a-directive-on-pay-transpar/product-details/20210415CAN60545>

³³⁸⁹ Gender Mainstreaming Network Meeting – Exchange of Views – 22.04.2021, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/gender-mainstreaming-network-meeting-exc/product-details/20210421CAN60625>

On 23 April 2021, the European Institute for Gender Equality signed a partnership agreement with the European University Institute.³³⁹⁰ Under this partnership, they will work together on “research initiatives, events and training activities” concerning “women’s rights, gender equality and balanced participation by women and men in society,” which includes women’s economic participation.³³⁹¹

On 26 April, the Council of Europe announced that the Gender Equality Division and the Violence against Women Division will be hosting an online public conference to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Istanbul Convention on 11 May 2021.³³⁹² The conference will “reaffirm the political will of states parties to fully implement the Convention.”³³⁹³ The Council of Europe will also present its plan to stop sexism through its campaign entitled “Sexism: See it. Name it. Stop it!”³³⁹⁴ This conference is an attempt to reduce barriers to women’s economic participation by verbally confirming the European Union’s commitment to preventing violence against women and sexism.³³⁹⁵

On 28 April 2021, the European Parliament announced that the Committee on Women’s Rights and Equality will hold a meeting on 10 May 2021.³³⁹⁶ This meeting seeks to address different views on the “draft opinion to the Proposal for a directive on adequate minimum wages in the European Union.”³³⁹⁷ The draft opinion discusses how minimum wage can be used to reduce pay gaps for women and men and hence can be used as a form of women empowerment in economic participation.³³⁹⁸

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to remove barriers to the extent and quality of women’s participation in the labour market and economy through actions such as designing policies to address gender pay gap and reaffirm political wills to sexist languages. It has also promoted women’s engagement and success in entrepreneurial activities by coaching and mentoring female entrepreneurs and providing them with financial support.

Thus, the European Union has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Veronique Nuqui

³³⁹⁰ The EUI Partners with the European Institute for Gender Equality, European University Institute (San Domenico) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.eui.eu/news-hub?id=the-eui-partners-with-the-european-institute-for-gender-equality-eige>

³³⁹¹ The EUI Partners with the European Institute for Gender Equality, European University Institute (San Domenico) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.eui.eu/news-hub?id=the-eui-partners-with-the-european-institute-for-gender-equality-eige>

³³⁹² Launch of a Website Dedicated to the 10th Anniversary of the Istanbul Convention, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/-/launch-of-a-website-dedicated-to-the-10th-anniversary-of-the-istanbul-convention>

³³⁹³ Conference “Gender Equality and the Istanbul Convention: a Decade of Action,” Council of Europe (Strasbourg). Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/conference-gender-equality-and-the-istanbul-convention-a-decade-of-action>

³³⁹⁴ Conference “Gender Equality and the Istanbul Convention: a Decade of Action,” Council of Europe (Strasbourg). Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/conference-gender-equality-and-the-istanbul-convention-a-decade-of-action>

³³⁹⁵ Conference “Gender Equality and the Istanbul Convention: a Decade of Action,” Council of Europe (Strasbourg). Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/conference-gender-equality-and-the-istanbul-convention-a-decade-of-action>

³³⁹⁶ Adequate Minimum Wages – Presentation of Draft Opinion 10.05.2021, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/adequate-minimum-wages-presentation-of-d/product-details/20210428CAN60724>

³³⁹⁷ Adequate Minimum Wages – Presentation of Draft Opinion 10.05.2021, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/adequate-minimum-wages-presentation-of-d/product-details/20210428CAN60724>

³³⁹⁸ Adequate Minimum Wages – Presentation of Draft Opinion 10.05.2021, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/adequate-minimum-wages-presentation-of-d/product-details/20210428CAN60724>

12. Development: Debt Relief

“We are committed to implementing the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia		0	
Brazil		0	
Canada			+1
China		0	
France			+1
Germany			+1
India		0	
Indonesia		0	
Italy		0	
Japan		0	
Korea		0	
Mexico		0	
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa		0	
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom		0	
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.20 (60%)	

Background

In April 2020, the G20 approved the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) to provide economic relief to low-income countries during the economic downturn associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The DSSI offers “a temporary suspension of...government-to-government debt payments to 73 countries.”³³⁹⁹ On 21 November 2020, at the Riyadh Summit, G20 leaders granted an extension to the DSSI until June 2021. Governments receiving DSSI relief are obligated to redirect funds previously allocated to debt repayment toward their response to the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴⁰⁰

Although the DSSI is a new initiative, G20 leaders have long been concerned with high debt levels. At the 2009 London Summit, G20 leaders committed to meet Millennium Development Goals related to debt relief, and “to review the flexibility of the Debt Sustainability Framework.”³⁴⁰¹ At the

³³⁹⁹ Factbox: How the G20’s Debt Service Suspension Initiative works, Reuters (London) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-imf-worldbank-emerging-debtrelief-fac-idUSKBN27021V>

³⁴⁰⁰ G20 to extend debt relief to mid-2021, pushes private sector to help, Reuters (Dubai/Washington) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-g20-saudi-debt/g20-to-extend-debt-relief-to-mid-2021-pushes-private-sector-to-help-idINKBN2820NJ>

³⁴⁰¹ Global Plan for Recovery and Reform: Statement Issued by the G20 Leaders, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 April 2009. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0402.html>

2009 Pittsburgh Summit, G20 leaders reaffirmed these commitments.³⁴⁰² G20 leaders also called for Finance Ministers to assess whether their patterns of debt are conducive to economic growth.³⁴⁰³

At the 2010 Toronto Summit, G20 leaders pledged to “halve deficits by 2013 and stabilize or reduce government debt-to-GDP [gross domestic product] ratios by 2016.”³⁴⁰⁴ G20 leaders expressed support for the cancellation of all Haitian debt following the 2010 Haiti earthquake, and concern over rising debt levels following the 2007-2008 global financial crisis. G20 leaders also committed to implement fiscal stimulus and consolidation plans in response to rising debt levels.³⁴⁰⁵ At the 2011 Cannes Summit, G20 leaders expressed support for the response of European leaders to the Greek government-debt crisis.³⁴⁰⁶

At the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, G20 leaders emphasized the need to put “debt as a share of GDP on a sustainable path.”³⁴⁰⁷ Every G20 summit from 2013 onwards has included this commitment. At the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, G20 leaders also expressed support for the review of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank’s “Guidelines for Public Debt Management” and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s (OECD) interim report on public debt management, and for the IMF-World Bank Debt Sustainability Framework for low-income countries.³⁴⁰⁸ They emphasized the need for continued consultation with low-income countries regarding debt management.³⁴⁰⁹

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, G20 leaders expressed support for progress made towards sovereign debt restructuring, including “international work on strengthened collective action and pari passu clauses.”³⁴¹⁰ At the 2015 Antalya Summit, G20 leaders expressed support for the Paris Forum Initiative to promote further cooperation between debtor and creditor governments.³⁴¹¹ At the 2016 Hangzhou summit, G20 leaders expressed support for the incorporation of “enhanced contractual clauses into sovereign bonds.”³⁴¹² At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit and 2019 Osaka Summit, G20

³⁴⁰² The Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, including the Annex: Core Values for Sustainable Economic Activity and the Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communiqued0925.html>

³⁴⁰³ The Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, including the Annex: Core Values for Sustainable Economic Activity and the Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communiqued0925.html>

³⁴⁰⁴ G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communiqued.html>

³⁴⁰⁵ G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communiqued.html>

³⁴⁰⁶ Communiqué: G20 Leaders’ Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-communiqued-111104-en.html>

³⁴⁰⁷ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

³⁴⁰⁸ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

³⁴⁰⁹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

³⁴¹⁰ G20 Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communiqued.html>

³⁴¹¹ G20 Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communiqued.html>

³⁴¹² G20 Leaders’ Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communiqued.html>

leaders called on the World Bank and IMF to increase transparency regarding debt obligations.³⁴¹³ At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 leaders also called for further “analysis of collateralized financing practices.”³⁴¹⁴

Commitment Features

In the G20 Riyadh Summit Leaders’ Declaration adopted on 21 November 2020, G20 leaders committed to “implementing the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.”³⁴¹⁵ This declaration was made to address forthcoming economic depression as a result of COVID-19, with an estimated additional 100 million people facing extreme poverty.³⁴¹⁶

This commitment features a politically binding statement as the G20 members use the word “commit.”³⁴¹⁷ This refers to a binding obligation to change “member behaviour” specifically on allowing bilateral debt suspension as outlined in the DSSI through until June 2021.³⁴¹⁸ “Implement” refers to “taking steps forward. While the commitment may be a part of a longer-term initiative and actions on it may continue into the prolonged future, steps need to be taken in the near future to be considered implementation. This should not, therefore, be interpreted to mean only prolonged or delayed action.”³⁴¹⁹

“Debt Service Suspension Initiative” refers to the G20 program pushed by the World Bank and IMF to assist developing countries on mobilizing their resources towards fighting COVID-19, safeguarding their population.³⁴²⁰ Currently, 73 countries are eligible for a debt suspension payment.³⁴²¹ Since 13 November 2020, over USD5.7 billion has been delivered to 46 eligible countries.³⁴²²

³⁴¹³ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>; G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

³⁴¹⁴ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

³⁴¹⁵ Leaders’ Declaration Riyadh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020, Access Date: 26 February 2021 <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

³⁴¹⁶ COVID 19: Debt Service Suspension Initiative, World Bank International Development Association (Washington D.C.) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/debt/brief/covid-19-debt-service-suspension-initiative>

³⁴¹⁷ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

³⁴¹⁸ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

³⁴¹⁹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

³⁴²⁰ COVID 19: Debt Service Suspension Initiative, World Bank International Development Association (Washington D.C.) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/debt/brief/covid-19-debt-service-suspension-initiative>

³⁴²¹ COVID 19: Debt Service Suspension Initiative, World Bank International Development Association (Washington D.C.) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/debt/brief/covid-19-debt-service-suspension-initiative>

³⁴²² Leaders’ Declaration Riyadh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020, Access Date: 26 February 2021 <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

“Bilateral” refers to lending by sovereign governments and public institutions in which the government holds a 50 per cent share.³⁴²³ This extends to “general government, central government; state and local government; central bank; and public enterprise.”³⁴²⁴

The G20 Leaders’ Declaration and World Bank Debtor Reporting System (DRS) and International Debt Statistics definitions and classifications emphasized several factors needed for successful DSSI policy. First, they state the need for “disclosure” and “transparency” of public sector financial commitments and in efforts made by borrowers, creditors, both official and private.³⁴²⁵ G20 leaders urged participation from private creditors to engage with eligible countries’ requests.³⁴²⁶ G20 leaders also called on multilateral development banks to continue in their collective efforts in supporting DSSI by supporting eligible countries with debt suspensions and potential extension periods.³⁴²⁷ G20 finance ministers and central bank governors pledged to revisit the debt suspension question in May 2021 to see if another six months of the program is necessary.³⁴²⁸ Beyond the Leaders’ Declaration, the World Bank emphasized the need to specifically use newfound resources to “increase social, health, and economic spending” in response to the COVID-19 crisis.³⁴²⁹ Finally, the World Bank committed that countries taking part in DSSI should take steps towards limiting non-concessional borrowing.³⁴³⁰

The two pillars of the initiative as outlined in DSSI “COVID 19: Debt Service Suspension Initiative” are: 1) “commit to disclose all public sector financial commitments” and 2) “commit to limit non-concessional borrowing to levels agreed under IMF programs and the World Bank’s non-concessional borrowing policies.”³⁴³¹

Actions counting towards compliance include actions which meet the standards for either of the two pillars. For the first pillar, this includes a disclosing of all public sector financial commitments. Hence, the G20, World Bank Group, and IMF should gain access to any actions taken by G20 members towards DSSI. Examples include publishing government reports of who, when, and what took place with any specific DSSI eligible claim. For the second pillar, this includes limiting non-concessional borrowing. As outlined by the OECD, concessional borrowing or loans refers to “loans that are

³⁴²³ World Bank Debtor Reporting System (DRS) and International Debt Statistics definitions and classifications, World Bank (Washington D.C.) October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/site-content/Debt%20Service%20Payments%20Projections-%20What%20do%20we%20measure.pdf>

³⁴²⁴ World Bank Debtor Reporting System (DRS) and International Debt Statistics definitions and classifications, World Bank (Washington D.C.) October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/site-content/Debt%20Service%20Payments%20Projections-%20What%20do%20we%20measure.pdf>

³⁴²⁵ Implementation and Extension of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative, Development Committee (Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the Bank and the Fund on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries) (Washington D.C.) 16 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.devcommittee.org/sites/dc/files/download/Documents/2020-10/Final%20DC2020-0007%20DSSI.pdf>

³⁴²⁶ Leaders’ Declaration Riyadh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020, Access Date: 26 February 2021 <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

³⁴²⁷ Leaders’ Declaration Riyadh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020, Access Date: 26 February 2021 <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

³⁴²⁸ Leaders’ Declaration Riyadh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020, Access Date: 26 February 2021 <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

³⁴²⁹ COVID 19: Debt Service Suspension Initiative, World Bank International Development Association (Washington D.C.) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/debt/brief/covid-19-debt-service-suspension-initiative>

³⁴³⁰ COVID 19: Debt Service Suspension Initiative, World Bank International Development Association (Washington D.C.) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/debt/brief/covid-19-debt-service-suspension-initiative>

³⁴³¹ COVID 19: Debt Service Suspension Initiative, World Bank International Development Association (Washington D.C.) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/debt/brief/covid-19-debt-service-suspension-initiative>

extended on terms substantially more generous than market loans. The concessionality is achieved either through interest rates below those available on the market or by grace periods, or a combination of these. Concessional loans typically have long grace periods.”³⁴³² Examples of G20 members acting within the framework of “limiting non-concessional loans” refers to pursuing loans at rates under the general market or allowing borrowers grace periods for repayment. Therefore, G20 members who actively loan out funds at a rate non discernible towards COVID-19 relief do not meet this commitment.

To achieve full compliance, the G20 member must take strong actions to implement the DSSI as outlined by the two pillars of the COVID-19 DSSI: “commit to disclose all public sector financial commitments” and “commit to limit non-concessional borrowing to levels agreed under IMF programs and the World Bank’s non-concessional borrowing policies.” Furthermore, a G20 member may only receive a score of +1 if they are committed to implementing the DSSI through June 2021. If a G20 member does not continue its commitment on implementing the DSSI past June 2021 or does not take steps to do so, for example through making statements urging World Bank members to extend past June 2021, it would be considered partial compliance. If a G20 member takes partial action on both pillars of the DSSI but takes steps to ensure its extension or implementation past June 2021, it would still be considered full compliance.

If a G20 member takes strong action on one of the two pillars they will be awarded partial compliance and score of 0. If a G20 member takes partial action on only one pillar but takes steps to ensure its extension or implementation past June 2021, it would be considered partial compliance. Non-compliance, or a score of -1, will be given to G20 members who fail to demonstrate their commitment to implement the DSSI, meeting none of the two pillars outlined in the initiative, or taking some action on only one.

Less than strong, or some actions, include verbal reaffirmation of the commitment, making statements on future actions, attending a meeting on the DSSI with no evidence of the members’ individual position. For strong action, members can disclose public sector financial commitments, such as publishing reports, and limiting non-concessional borrowing through policy changes, etc. Furthermore, the first pillar of this commitment requires the G20 member to take individual actions on their own public sector financial commitments. However, the second pillar on limiting non-concessional borrowing could be undertaken either individually or by working with other countries, private sector creditors or international organizations.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member has NOT taken any steps towards disclosing public sector financial commitments under the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) OR taken steps to limit non-concessional borrowing.
0	G20 member has either taken steps to disclosing public sector financial commitments under DSSI OR has taken steps towards limiting non-concessional borrowing through June 2021.
+1	G20 member has BOTH taken steps towards disclosing public sector financial commitments under DSSI AND has taken steps towards limiting non-concessional borrowing through June 2021.

*Compliance Director: Diego Vásquez
Lead Analyst: Quinn Teague-Colfer*

³⁴³² Glossary of Statistical Term: “Concessional Loans,” Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Paris) 27 August 2003. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=5901>

Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 7 April 2021, Argentina joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.³⁴³³ In addition, G20 officials called on the IMF to prepare for a “new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”³⁴³⁴ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴³⁵

On 7 April 2021, Argentina and Mexico issued a joint statement calling for international debt relief for middle-income countries.³⁴³⁶ Argentina and Mexico proposed the creation of an international fund to facilitate a more orderly debt restructuring process for middle-income countries.³⁴³⁷

On 7 April 2021, Minister of Economy Martín Guzmán argued for proportional “reallocation of new Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)...to all developing countries, including middle-income countries” at the 2nd Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting.³⁴³⁸ Minister Guzmán also called for a review of the IMF’s access limits and interest rate surcharge policies.³⁴³⁹

On 9 April 2021, Minister of Economy Martín Guzmán met virtually with the International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva and finance ministers from Latin America, the US and Canada, and reiterated his calls for the reallocation of SDRs to middle-income and low-income countries.³⁴⁴⁰

Argentina has taken strong action toward limiting non-concessional borrowing through its extension of debt suspension periods and calls for reform of the debt restructuring process and reallocation of SDRs to middle-income and low-income countries. However, Argentina has not taken action to disclose public sector financial commitments under DSSI.

³⁴³³ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁴³⁴ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁴³⁵ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁴³⁶ Mexico and Argentina urge debt relief for middle-income nations, Buenos Aires Times (Buenos Aires) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.batimes.com.ar/news/economy/mexico-argentina-urge-debt-relief-for-middle-income-nations.phtml>

³⁴³⁷ Mexico and Argentina urge debt relief for middle-income nations, Buenos Aires Times (Buenos Aires) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.batimes.com.ar/news/economy/mexico-argentina-urge-debt-relief-for-middle-income-nations.phtml>

³⁴³⁸ Martín Guzmán asked the G20 for mechanisms to reallocate the new SDRs to developing and low- and middle-income countries, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/martin-guzman-solicito-ante-el-g20-mecanismos-para-reasignar-los-nuevos-deg-los-paises-en>

³⁴³⁹ Martín Guzmán asked the G20 for mechanisms to reallocate the new SDRs to developing and low- and middle-income countries, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/martin-guzman-solicito-ante-el-g20-mecanismos-para-reasignar-los-nuevos-deg-los-paises-en>

³⁴⁴⁰ Martín Guzmán once again asked the IMF for mechanisms to reallocate the new SDRs and the review of surcharges, Ministry of Economy (Buenos Aires) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/martin-guzman-volvio-solicitar-ante-el-fmi-mecanismos-para-reasignar-los-nuevos-deg-y-la>

Thus, Argentina has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Santiago Ardisson

Australia: 0

Australia has partially complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 22 November 2020, Australia granted Papua New Guinea a 15-year, AUD140 million loan. In addition, the agreement included refinancing an existing USD300 million loan associated with deferred interest repayments of USD5.29 million.³⁴⁴¹

On 7 December 2020, the Paris Club signed memorandums of understanding with 36 of 38 DSSI-eligible countries committing to implementing the DSSI by Paris Club creditors.³⁴⁴² As a permanent creditor of the Paris Club, Australia is involved in ensuring implementation of DSSI. Under the DSSI, the Paris Club agreed to defer USD2.5 billion in loans.³⁴⁴³

On 7 April 2021, Australia joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.³⁴⁴⁴ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a “new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”³⁴⁴⁵ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴⁴⁶

On 13 April 2021, Australia, along with other members of the Paris Club, endorsed the final DSSI extension by six months to the end of December 2021 to support beneficiary countries in the mobilization of resources against the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴⁴⁷

³⁴⁴¹ National Interest Statement: Loan Agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, Australian Government Department of Treasury (Canberra) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://treasury.gov.au/publication/p2020-136751>

³⁴⁴² The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

³⁴⁴³ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

³⁴⁴⁴ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁴⁴⁵ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁴⁴⁶ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁴⁴⁷ Final extension of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/final-extension-of-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-13-04>

Australia has taken strong action toward limiting non-concessional borrowing through extension of debt suspension periods and bilateral refinancing of loans. However, Australia has not taken action to disclose public sector financial commitments under DSSI.

Thus, Australia has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Yuchen Bai

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through December 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 7 December 2020, the Paris Club signed memorandums of understanding with 36 of 38 DSSI-eligible countries committing to implementing the DSSI by Paris Club creditors.³⁴⁴⁸ As a permanent creditor of the Paris Club, Brazil is involved in ensuring implementation of DSSI. Under the DSSI, the Paris Club agreed to defer USD2.5 billion in loans.³⁴⁴⁹

On 1 April 2021, Brazil, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Senegal is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.³⁴⁵⁰ Brazil, Belgium, France, Japan, Korea and Spain are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Senegal's debt.³⁴⁵¹ This initiative aims to improve Senegal's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 7 April 2021, Brazil joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.³⁴⁵² In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a "new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to

³⁴⁴⁸ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

³⁴⁴⁹ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

³⁴⁵⁰ The Republic of Senegal benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-senegal-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-01-04>

³⁴⁵¹ The Republic of Senegal benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-senegal-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-01-04>

³⁴⁵² Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

supplement reserve assets.”³⁴⁵³ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴⁵⁴

Brazil has reaffirmed its commitment to the DSSI by extending debt suspension periods. However, Brazil has not followed through on concrete actions to disclose public sector financial commitments.

Thus, Brazil has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Tony Zhao

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 7 December 2020, the Paris Club signed memorandums of understanding with 36 of 38 DSSI-eligible countries committing to implementing the DSSI by Paris Club creditors.³⁴⁵⁵ As a permanent creditor of the Paris Club, Canada is involved in ensuring implementation of DSSI. Under the DSSI, the Paris Club agreed to defer USD2.5 billion in loans.³⁴⁵⁶

On 22 December 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau affirmed Canada’s commitment to implementing the DSSI, allowing eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.³⁴⁵⁷ As part of this commitment, Canada offered Pakistan USD23 million worth of temporary relief with a 5+1-year grace period for repayment.³⁴⁵⁸

On 11 January 2021, Canada, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Kenya is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.³⁴⁵⁹ Canada, Belgium, France, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain and the United States are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Kenya’s debt.³⁴⁶⁰ This initiative aims to help Kenya improve debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

³⁴⁵³ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁴⁵⁴ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁴⁵⁵ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

³⁴⁵⁶ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

³⁴⁵⁷ Pakistan secures \$1.7 billion debt relief deal, Business Recorder (Pakistan) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.brecorder.com/news/40043521>

³⁴⁵⁸ Pakistan secures \$1.7 billion debt relief deal, Business Recorder (Pakistan) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.brecorder.com/news/40043521>

³⁴⁵⁹ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

³⁴⁶⁰ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

On 7 April 2021, Canada joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.³⁴⁶¹ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a “new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”³⁴⁶² Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴⁶³

On 13 April 2021, Canada, along with other members of the Paris Club, endorsed the final DSSI extension by 6 months to the end of December 2021 to support beneficiary countries in the mobilization of resources against the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴⁶⁴

On 19 April 2021, Canada released its federal budget, which committed to increasing international humanitarian assistance.³⁴⁶⁵ Specifically, Canada pledged to allocate an additional CAD165 million from 2021 to 2022 to Global Affairs Canada to provide international humanitarian assistance to developing countries.³⁴⁶⁶ The budget highlights Canada’s provision of more than CAD70 million to the DSSI and ability to provide up to an additional CAD33 million in relief.³⁴⁶⁷

Canada has reaffirmed its commitment to the DSSI by extending debt suspension periods and disclosing public sector financial commitments under DSSI.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Azana Hyder

China: 0

China has partially complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 20 January 2021, China agreed a debt moratorium with DSSI-eligible Kenya saving a repayment of USD245 million by June 2021.³⁴⁶⁸

³⁴⁶¹ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁴⁶² Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁴⁶³ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁴⁶⁴ Final extension of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access date: 30 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/final-extension-of-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-13-04>

³⁴⁶⁵ The Government of Canada Federal Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/report-rapport/toc-tdm-en.html>

³⁴⁶⁶ The Government of Canada Federal Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/report-rapport/toc-tdm-en.html>

³⁴⁶⁷ The Government of Canada Federal Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Department of Finance (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/report-rapport/toc-tdm-en.html>

³⁴⁶⁸ Kenya to save 27 billion shilling from China debt service suspension deal, Reuters (London) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-kenya-debt-china-idUSKBN29P1A3>

On 22 February 2021, China forgave USD6 million in Rwandan debt and provided grants of USD60 million to Rwanda, intending to aid Rwanda in its fight against COVID-19.³⁴⁶⁹

On 7 April 2021, China joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.³⁴⁷⁰ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a “new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”³⁴⁷¹ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴⁷²

On 19 April 2021, Vice Minister of Commerce Qian Keming reaffirmed China’s commitment to “push forward debt sustainability in developing countries” through its Belt and Road Initiative.³⁴⁷³

On 15 April 2021, China met with France, India, and Saudi Arabia to discuss a coordinated response to Chad’s request to its G20 and Paris Club creditors for a debt treatment under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI.³⁴⁷⁴

China has taken strong action toward limiting non-concessional borrowing through extension of debt suspension periods and bilateral refinancing of loans. However, China has not taken action to disclose public sector financial commitments under DSSI.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Jad El Ghali

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 7 December 2020, the Paris Club signed memorandums of understanding with 36 of 38 DSSI-eligible countries committing to implementing the DSSI by Paris Club creditors.³⁴⁷⁵ As a permanent

³⁴⁶⁹ China Provides Modest Debt Relief and New Grant to Rwanda, The China Africa Project (Beijing) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://chinaafricaproject.com/2021/02/22/china-provides-modest-debt-relief-and-new-grant-to-rwanda/>

³⁴⁷⁰ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁴⁷¹ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁴⁷² Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁴⁷³ China to promote debt sustainability in developing nations – vice commerce minister, Reuters (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-promote-debt-sustainability-developing-nations-vice-commerce-minister-2021-04-19/>

³⁴⁷⁴ 1st meeting for a debt treatment for Chad under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/1st-meeting-for-a-debt-treatment-for-chad-15-04-2021>

creditor of the Paris Club, France is involved in ensuring implementation of DSSI. Under the DSSI, the Paris Club agreed to defer USD2.5 billion in loans.³⁴⁷⁶

On 9 December 2020, France announced that Agence France Trésor (AFT) will adjust its debt issuance program to meet demand and guarantee a liquid market for its securities.³⁴⁷⁷ The program stipulates bonds linked to French and European inflation indices will account for approximately 10 per cent of net medium- and long-term debt issuance.³⁴⁷⁸ The press release also noted that AFT may buy back debt in 2021 depending on market conditions.³⁴⁷⁹

On 31 December 2020, Ambassador of France to Sri Lanka and the Maldives Eric Lavertu signed the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative with the Maldives. France's contribution will support the implementation of domestic recovery and resilience policies in the Maldives.³⁴⁸⁰ It aims to improve debt transparency and debt management amidst the present economic challenges.³⁴⁸¹

On 4 January 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Côte d'Ivoire is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.³⁴⁸² France, Germany, Japan and the United States are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Côte d'Ivoire's debt.³⁴⁸³ This initiative aims to improve Côte d'Ivoire's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 11 January 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Kenya is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.³⁴⁸⁴ France, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain and the United States are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Kenya's debt.³⁴⁸⁵ This initiative aims to improve Kenya's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

³⁴⁷⁵ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

³⁴⁷⁶ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

³⁴⁷⁷ Indicative State Financing Programme for 2021, Agence France Trésor (Paris) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.aft.gouv.fr/en/publications/communiqués-presse/20201209-State-financing-programme-2021>

³⁴⁷⁸ Indicative State Financing Programme for 2021, Agence France Trésor (Paris) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.aft.gouv.fr/en/publications/communiqués-presse/20201209-State-financing-programme-2021>

³⁴⁷⁹ Indicative State Financing Programme for 2021, Agence France Trésor (Paris) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.aft.gouv.fr/en/publications/communiqués-presse/20201209-State-financing-programme-2021>

³⁴⁸⁰ France and Maldives sign G-20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative agreement, French Embassy in Colombo (Colombo) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://lk.ambafrance.org/France-and-Maldives-sign-G-20-Debt-Service-Suspension-Initiative-agreement>

³⁴⁸¹ Maldives and France signs agreement on the G-20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Colombo) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.mv/en/news-and-communications/maldives-and-france-signs-agreement-on-the-g-20-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi>

³⁴⁸² Ivory Coast benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/ivory-coast-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01-2021>

³⁴⁸³ Ivory Coast benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/ivory-coast-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01-2021>

³⁴⁸⁴ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

³⁴⁸⁵ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

On 18 March 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Cameroon is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.³⁴⁸⁶ France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Spain and Switzerland are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Cameroon's debt.³⁴⁸⁷ This initiative aims to improve Cameroon's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴⁸⁸

On 1 April 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Senegal is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.³⁴⁸⁹ France, Belgium, Brazil, Japan, Korea and Spain are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Senegal's debt.³⁴⁹⁰ This initiative aims to improve Senegal's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 7 April 2021, France joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.³⁴⁹¹ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to prepare for a "new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets."³⁴⁹² Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴⁹³

On 9 April 2021, Minister of State for Tourism, French Nationals Abroad and Francophonie Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne highlighted France's satisfaction following the World Bank and the IMF's decision to extend the debt service suspension until the end of the year.³⁴⁹⁴ Minister Lemoyne then called on

³⁴⁸⁶ The Republic of Cameroon benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cameroon-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-18-03>

³⁴⁸⁷ The Republic of Cameroon benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cameroon-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-18-03>

³⁴⁸⁸ The Republic of Cameroon benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cameroon-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-18-03>

³⁴⁸⁹ The Republic of Senegal benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-senegal-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-01-04>

³⁴⁹⁰ The Republic of Senegal benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-senegal-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-01-04>

³⁴⁹¹ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁴⁹² Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁴⁹³ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁴⁹⁴ World Bank/ IMF – Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne's participation in the Development Committee meeting, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2021/article/world-bank-imf-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-s-participation-in-the-development>

all creditors to implement the same commitments made by the G20 and the Paris Club in November 2020, in order to respond in a more structural manner to the debt vulnerability of poor countries.³⁴⁹⁵

On 13 April 2021, France, along with other members of the Paris Club, endorsed the final DSSI extension by 6 months through the end of 2021 to support beneficiary countries in the mobilization of resources against the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴⁹⁶

On 13 April 2021, the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development published preliminary data on global official development assistance for 2020.³⁴⁹⁷ In 2020, France allocated EUR1.9 billion to fight the COVID-19 pandemic in developing countries.³⁴⁹⁸ The Agence Française de Développement also established a Health in Common Initiative worth EUR1.2 billion.³⁴⁹⁹ The Health in Common Initiative which improved care for patients and strengthened the capabilities of the Pasteur Institute's reference laboratories in several sub-Saharan African countries.³⁵⁰⁰

On 13 April 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Guinea is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.³⁵⁰¹ France and Russia are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Guinea's debt.³⁵⁰² This initiative aims to improve Guinea's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 14 April 2021, France, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Djibouti is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.³⁵⁰³ France,

³⁴⁹⁵ World Bank/ IMF – Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne's participation in the Development Committee meeting, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2021/article/world-bank-imf-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-s-participation-in-the-development>

³⁴⁹⁶ Final extension of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access date: 30 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/final-extension-of-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-13-04>

³⁴⁹⁷ Publication of 2020 official development assistance figures by the OECD Development Assistance Committee, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2021/article/publication-of-2020-official-development-assistance-figures-by-the-oecd>

³⁴⁹⁸ Publication of 2020 official development assistance figures by the OECD Development Assistance Committee, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2021/article/publication-of-2020-official-development-assistance-figures-by-the-oecd>

³⁴⁹⁹ Publication of 2020 official development assistance figures by the OECD Development Assistance Committee, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2021/article/publication-of-2020-official-development-assistance-figures-by-the-oecd>

³⁵⁰⁰ Publication of 2020 official development assistance figures by the OECD Development Assistance Committee, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2021/article/publication-of-2020-official-development-assistance-figures-by-the-oecd>

³⁵⁰¹ The Republic of Guinea benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-guinea-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-13-04>

³⁵⁰² The Republic of Guinea benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-guinea-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-13-04>

³⁵⁰³ The Republic of Djibouti benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-djibouti-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-14-04>

Belgium, Spain, and Italy are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Djibouti's debt.³⁵⁰⁴ This initiative aims to improve Djibouti's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 15 April 2021, France met with China, India, and Saudi Arabia to discuss a coordinated response to Chad's request to its G20 and Paris Club creditors for a debt treatment under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI.³⁵⁰⁵

France took strong actions to support DSSI eligible countries by working collaboratively to establish debt management initiatives and by extending service payments. France also worked to support domestic measures to ease financial stress of the COVID-19 pandemic and to disclose the financial commitments of the public sector.

Thus, France has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Olivia Klasios

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 1 December 2020, Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development Gerd Müller and Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs Nasser Bourita concluded negotiations in which Germany committed EUR1.39 billion in aid to Morocco.³⁵⁰⁶ These funds are earmarked for bank loans to local entrepreneurs, financial reforms, investment in renewable energies, and a COVID-19 relief fund.³⁵⁰⁷

On 7 December 2020, the Paris Club signed memorandums of understanding with 36 of 38 DSSI-eligible countries committing to implementing the DSSI by Paris Club creditors.³⁵⁰⁸ As a permanent creditor of the Paris Club, Germany is involved in ensuring implementation of DSSI. Under the DSSI, the Paris Club agreed to defer USD2.5 billion in loans.³⁵⁰⁹

On 22 December 2020, the Federal Foreign Office announced an allocation of EUR3.49 billion to safeguard peace and stability (including support provided to the United Nations).³⁵¹⁰ The largest item in this part of the budget is humanitarian aid at EUR2.11 billion; crisis prevention and stabilization at

³⁵⁰⁴ The Republic of Djibouti benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-djibouti-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-14-04>

³⁵⁰⁵ 1st meeting for a debt treatment for Chad under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/1st-meeting-for-a-debt-treatment-for-chad-15-04-2021>

³⁵⁰⁶ Morocco and Germany consolidate their cooperation, Kingdom of Morocco Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rabat) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.ma/fr/entretien-t%C3%A9l%C3%A9phonique-entre-m-bourita-et-son-homologue-allemand>

³⁵⁰⁷ Behind Moroccan-German diplomatic crisis, a list of grudges, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/behind-moroccan-german-diplomatic-crisis-a-list-of-grudges/a-56750013>

³⁵⁰⁸ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

³⁵⁰⁹ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

³⁵¹⁰ Germany's foreign policy budget, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aamt/haushalt/229742>

EUR434 million; and the Stability Pact for Afghanistan at EUR170 million.³⁵¹¹ Humanitarian assistance now accounts for a third of the Federal Foreign Office's budget as part of Germany's response to various regional crises abroad and the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵¹²

On 4 January 2021, Germany, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Côte d'Ivoire is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.³⁵¹³ Germany, France, Japan and the United States are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Côte d'Ivoire's debt.³⁵¹⁴ This initiative aims to improve Côte d'Ivoire's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 11 January 2021, Germany, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Kenya is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.³⁵¹⁵ Germany, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain and the United States are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Kenya's debt.³⁵¹⁶ This initiative aims to improve Kenya's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 21 January 2021, the European Commission approved Germany's umbrella scheme to support the economy throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵¹⁷ The EUR12 billion scheme enables Germany to compensate businesses of all sectors for the damages suffered because of restrictive measures taken to contain the coronavirus outbreak. It complements the already approved schemes, enabling support of up to EUR4 million per company as part of the Novemberhilfe package.³⁵¹⁸

On 19 February 2021, the Federal Ministry of Finance announced that the federal budget recorded a deficit of EUR37.1 billion in January 2021.³⁵¹⁹ It also published borrowing trends for Germany in the

³⁵¹¹ Germany's foreign policy budget, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aamt/haushalt/229742>

³⁵¹² Germany's foreign policy budget, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aamt/haushalt/229742>

³⁵¹³ Ivory Coast benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/ivory-coast-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01-2021>

³⁵¹⁴ Ivory Coast benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/ivory-coast-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01-2021>

³⁵¹⁵ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

³⁵¹⁶ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

³⁵¹⁷ State aid: Commission approves €12 billion German umbrella scheme to compensate companies for damages suffered due to coronavirus outbreak, European Commission (Brussels) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_185

³⁵¹⁸ State aid: Commission approves €12 billion German umbrella scheme to compensate companies for damages suffered due to coronavirus outbreak, European Commission (Brussels) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_185

³⁵¹⁹ Overview of federal budgetary and financial data up to and including January 2021, Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Press_Room/Publications/Monthly_Report/Key_Figures/2021-02-federal-budget.html

same month and committed to a monthly publication schedule, in accordance with the International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standard Plus.³⁵²⁰

On 18 March 2021, Germany, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Cameroon is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.³⁵²¹ Germany, France, Japan, Korea, Spain and Switzerland are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Cameroon's debt.³⁵²² This initiative aims to improve Cameroon's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵²³

On 7 April 2021, Germany joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.³⁵²⁴ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a "new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets."³⁵²⁵ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵²⁶

On 13 April 2021, Germany, along with other members of the Paris Club, endorsed the final DSSI extension by 6 months through the end of 2021 to support beneficiary countries in the mobilization of resources against the COVID-19 crisis.³⁵²⁷

Germany took strong actions to support DSSI eligible countries by working collaboratively to establish debt management initiatives, extending service payments, and providing financial support to eligible countries and international organizations. Germany also worked to support domestic measures to alleviate financial stress of the COVID-19 pandemic and to disclose the financial commitments of the public sector.

³⁵²⁰ Overview of federal budgetary and financial data up to and including January 2021, Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Press_Room/Publications/Monthly_Report/Key_Figures/2021-02-federal-budget.html

³⁵²¹ The Republic of Cameroon benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cameroon-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-18-03>

³⁵²² The Republic of Cameroon benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cameroon-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-18-03>

³⁵²³ The Republic of Cameroon benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cameroon-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-18-03>

³⁵²⁴ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁵²⁵ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁵²⁶ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁵²⁷ Final extension of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/final-extension-of-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-13-04>

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Olivia Klasios

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 7 December 2020, the Paris Club signed memorandums of understanding with 36 of 38 DSSI-eligible countries committing to implementing the DSSI by Paris Club creditors.³⁵²⁸ As a permanent creditor of the Paris Club, India is involved in ensuring implementation of DSSI. Under the DSSI, the Paris Club agreed to defer USD2.5 billion in loans.³⁵²⁹

On 7 April 2021, India joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.³⁵³⁰ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a “new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”³⁵³¹ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵³²

On 7 April 2021, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman voiced support for the extension of DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021, supporting vulnerable economies impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵³³

On 15 April 2021, India met with China, France, and Saudi Arabia to discuss a coordinated response to Chad’s request to its G20 and Paris Club creditors for a debt treatment under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI.³⁵³⁴

³⁵²⁸ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

³⁵²⁹ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

³⁵³⁰ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁵³¹ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁵³² Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁵³³ Nirmala Sitharaman backs 6-month extension for Debt Service Suspension initiative, The Hindu Business Line (New Delhi) 7 April 2021. Access Date 28 April 2021. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/nirmala-sitharaman-backs-6-month-extension-for-debt-service-suspension-initiative/article34266076.ece>

³⁵³⁴ 1st meeting for a debt treatment for Chad under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/1st-meeting-for-a-debt-treatment-for-chad-15-04-2021>

India has taken strong action toward limiting non-concessional borrowing through its extension of debt suspension periods. However, India has not taken action to disclose public sector financial commitments under DSSI.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Yasmeeen Atassi

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 7 April 2021, Indonesia joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.³⁵³⁵ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a “new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”³⁵³⁶ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵³⁷

Indonesia has taken steps to limit non-concessional borrowing but has not taken any steps towards disclosing public sector financial commitments under DSSI.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Abigail Potter

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 17 November 2020, Governor of the Bank of Italy Ignazio Visco at The Global Foundation Rome Roundtable stated Italy’s commitment to the G20 and debt relief.³⁵³⁸ Moreover, Visco signalled Italy’s desire to suspend debt-service to 46 countries by October 2021, further to the endorsement of a Common Framework on debt treatment of DSSI-eligible nation states.³⁵³⁹ Governor Visco indicated “[t]hese initiatives will remain under the lens of the Italian Presidency, as

³⁵³⁵ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁵³⁶ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁵³⁷ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁵³⁸ Ignazio Visco: The G20 under Italy’s leadership in 2021, Bank of Italy (Rome) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.bis.org/review/r201119a.pdf>

³⁵³⁹ Ignazio Visco: The G20 under Italy’s leadership in 2021, Bank of Italy (Rome) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.bis.org/review/r201119a.pdf>

part of a broader effort to deal with debt-related issues, enhance global financial safety nets, and improve mechanisms for financing development.”³⁵⁴⁰

On 21 November 2020, Italy’s Treasury Director General for International Financial Relations Gelsomina Vigliotti reaffirmed Italy’s commitment to debt relief at the Virtual G20 meeting hosted by Saudi Arabia.⁴ Director General Vigliotti indicating “[d]ebt will certainly be a very important theme of the Italian presidency.”³⁵⁴¹ In addition, Vigliotti stated that Italy will urge the G20 to back the issuance of USD500 billion of Special Drawing Rights to “grant fiscal space to low income countries in greatest difficulty.”³⁵⁴²

On 7 December 2020, the Paris Club signed memorandums of understanding with 36 of 38 DSSI-eligible countries committing to implementing the DSSI by Paris Club creditors.³⁵⁴³ As a permanent creditor of the Paris Club, Italy is involved in ensuring implementation of DSSI. Under the DSSI, the Paris Club agreed to defer USD2.5 billion in loans.³⁵⁴⁴

On 11 January 2021, Italy, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Kenya is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.³⁵⁴⁵ Italy, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Spain and the United States are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Kenya’s debt.³⁵⁴⁶ This initiative aims to improve Kenya’s debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 7 April 2021, at the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a “new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD 650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”³⁵⁴⁷ To this end, Italy supported extending the DSSI and the freezing of bilateral debt-service payments until the end of December 2021 for 46 countries, which has deferred USD12.5 billion in repayments,³⁵⁴⁸ alongside new SDR issuance,³⁵⁴⁹ due to hardships related to COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵⁵⁰

³⁵⁴⁰ Ignazio Visco: The G20 under Italy’s leadership in 2021, Bank of Italy (Rome) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.bis.org/review/r201119a.pdf>

³⁵⁴¹ Exclusive: Italy G20 presidency to push for debt relief, new IMF drawing rights, Reuters (Rome) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-g20-italy-exclusive-dUSKBN29Y1UN>

³⁵⁴² Exclusive: Italy G20 presidency to push for debt relief, new IMF drawing rights, Reuters (Rome) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-g20-italy-exclusive-dUSKBN29Y1UN>

³⁵⁴³ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

³⁵⁴⁴ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

³⁵⁴⁵ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

³⁵⁴⁶ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

³⁵⁴⁷ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁵⁴⁸ G20 extends debt relief for low-income countries until end of this year, The Financial Times (London) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.ft.com/content/4d85a08a-2bcc-4cea-9cbd-55faa87efa3f>

³⁵⁴⁹ IIF Weekly Insight Beyond the DSSI, Institute of International Finance (Washington) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. https://www.iif.com/Portals/0/Files/content/2_210304Weekly%20Insight_v2.pdf

On 14 April 2021, Italy, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Djibouti is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.³⁵⁵¹ Italy, Belgium, France, and Spain are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Djibouti's debt.³⁵⁵² This initiative aims to improve Djibouti's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵⁵³

On 16 April 2021, under Italy's G20 Presidency, a key milestone was reached towards implementing the Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond the DSSI with the first meeting held for a debt treatment for Chad.³⁵⁵⁴ Italian officials of the Italian G20 Presidency indicated: "As Presidency of the G20, Italy welcomes this important development, which offers concrete evidence of the G20's commitment to implement the Common Framework as part of its support towards the most vulnerable countries."³⁵⁵⁵

Holding the Presidency of the G20, Italy has continuously affirmed its commitment to the DSSI and debt relief. Moreover, Italy emphasized the possibility of extending the initiative to middle-income countries, alongside stronger collaboration between public institutions and private creditors.³⁵⁵⁶ In its Presidency, Italy seeks to instil new approaches to access sustainable international financing,³⁵⁵⁷ having sighted the reduction of costs of sending remittances as a critical tool alongside debt relief and SDRs.³⁵⁵⁸ However, without public sector financial commitments self-disclosure, it remains partially compliant.

Thus, Italy has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Signe Kossmann

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

³⁵⁵⁰ IIF Weekly Insight Beyond the DSSI, Institute of International Finance (Washington) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. https://www.iif.com/Portals/0/Files/content/2_210304Weekly%20Insight_v2.pdf

³⁵⁵¹ The Republic of Djibouti benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-djibouti-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-14-04>

³⁵⁵² The Republic of Djibouti benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-djibouti-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-14-04>

³⁵⁵³ The Republic of Djibouti benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-djibouti-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-14-04>

³⁵⁵⁴ The Italian G20 Presidency welcomes 1st meeting for a debt treatment for Chad, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/the-italian-g20-presidency-welcomes-1st-meeting-for-a-debt-treatment-for-chad.html>

³⁵⁵⁵ The Italian G20 Presidency welcomes 1st meeting for a debt treatment for Chad, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/the-italian-g20-presidency-welcomes-1st-meeting-for-a-debt-treatment-for-chad.html>

³⁵⁵⁶ A Partnership with Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy (Rome) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/resource/doc/2021/01/a_partnership_with_africa_en.pdf

³⁵⁵⁷ A Partnership with Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy (Rome) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/resource/doc/2021/01/a_partnership_with_africa_en.pdf

³⁵⁵⁸ Italy at the helm of the G20: Steps for a global and inclusive economic response, ONE (Washington) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.one.org/international/blog/italy-g20-global-economic-response/>

On 7 December 2020, the Paris Club signed memorandums of understanding with 36 of 38 DSSI-eligible countries committing to implementing the DSSI by Paris Club creditors.³⁵⁵⁹ As a permanent creditor of the Paris Club, Japan is involved in ensuring implementation of DSSI. Under the DSSI, the Paris Club agreed to defer USD2.5 billion in loans.³⁵⁶⁰

On 28 December 2020, Japan signed the Exchange of Notes with Maldives on the G20 DSSI, offering the Maldives fiscal space to aid its economic recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵⁶¹

On 4 January 2021, Japan, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Côte d'Ivoire is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.³⁵⁶² Japan, France, Germany and the US are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Côte d'Ivoire's debt.³⁵⁶³ This initiative aims to improve Côte d'Ivoire's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵⁶⁴

On 11 January 2021, Japan, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Kenya is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.³⁵⁶⁵ Japan, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Korea, Spain and the United States are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Kenya's debt.³⁵⁶⁶ This initiative aims to improve Kenya's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵⁶⁷

On 26 February 2021, Japan signed the exchange of notes with DSSI-eligible Nepal.³⁵⁶⁸ Japan granted debt relief of approximately JPY689 million, offering Nepal fiscal space to aid its economic recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵⁶⁹

³⁵⁵⁹ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

³⁵⁶⁰ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

³⁵⁶¹ Maldives and Japan Signs Exchange of Notes on the G-20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Malé) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2021. <https://www.gov.mv/en/news-and-communications/maldives-and-japan-signs-exchange-of-notes-on-the-g-20-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi>

³⁵⁶² Ivory Coast benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/ivory-coast-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01-2021>

³⁵⁶³ Ivory Coast benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/ivory-coast-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01-2021>

³⁵⁶⁴ Ivory Coast benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/ivory-coast-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01-2021>

³⁵⁶⁵ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

³⁵⁶⁶ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

³⁵⁶⁷ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

³⁵⁶⁸ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2020 Loan Aid by Date, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page23_001255.html

³⁵⁶⁹ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2020 Loan Aid by Date, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page23_001255.html

On 2 March 2021, Japan signed the exchange of notes with Papua New Guinea, a DSSI-eligible country under high risk of debt distress.³⁵⁷⁰ Japan granted debt relief of approximately JPY714 million, offering Papua New Guinea fiscal space to aid its economic recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵⁷¹

On 3 March 2021, Japan signed the exchange of notes with DSSI-eligible Samoa.³⁵⁷² Japan granted debt relief of approximately JPY174 million, offering Samoa fiscal space to aid its economic recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵⁷³

On 3 March 2021, Japan signed the exchange of notes with DSSI-eligible Cameroon.³⁵⁷⁴ Japan granted debt relief of approximately JPY91 million, offering Cameroon fiscal space to aid its economic recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵⁷⁵

On 11 March 2021, Japan signed the exchange of notes with DSSI-eligible Cabo Verde.³⁵⁷⁶ Japan granted debt relief of approximately JPY78 million, offering Cabo Verde fiscal space to aid its economic recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵⁷⁷

On 18 March 2021, Japan, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Cameroon is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.³⁵⁷⁸ Japan, France, Germany, Korea, Spain and Switzerland are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Cameroon's debt.³⁵⁷⁹ This initiative aims to improve Cameroon's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵⁸⁰

On 5 April 2021, Japan signed the exchange of notes with Mozambique, a DSSI-eligible country.³⁵⁸¹ Japan granted debt relief of approximately JPY150 million, offering Mozambique fiscal space to aid its economic recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵⁸²

³⁵⁷⁰ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2020 Loan Aid by Date, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page23_001255.html

³⁵⁷¹ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2020 Loan Aid by Date, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page23_001255.html

³⁵⁷² Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2020 Loan Aid by Date, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page23_001255.html

³⁵⁷³ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2020 Loan Aid by Date, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page23_001255.html

³⁵⁷⁴ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2020 Loan Aid by Date, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page23_001255.html

³⁵⁷⁵ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2020 Loan Aid by Date, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page23_001255.html

³⁵⁷⁶ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2020 Loan Aid by Date, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page23_001255.html

³⁵⁷⁷ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2020 Loan Aid by Date, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page23_001255.html

³⁵⁷⁸ The Republic of Cameroon benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cameroon-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-18-03>

³⁵⁷⁹ The Republic of Cameroon benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cameroon-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-18-03>

³⁵⁸⁰ The Republic of Cameroon benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cameroon-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-18-03>

³⁵⁸¹ Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2020 Loan Aid by Date, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page23_001255.html

On 7 April 2021, Japan joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.³⁵⁸³ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a “new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”³⁵⁸⁴ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵⁸⁵

On 8 April 2021, Japan participated in the 43rd Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee.³⁵⁸⁶ Deputy Prime Minister Aso Taro verbally affirmed Japan’s commitment to the final extension of the DSSI.³⁵⁸⁷ Deputy Prime Minister Taro emphasized the final extension’s significance in developing countries’ search for structural solutions to their debt issues. Japan urged DSSI-creditors to participate in debt treatment in a full and transparent manner and called for the IMF and the World Bank to improve debt transparency through debt data reconciliation to resolve debt issues effectively and sustainably.³⁹

Japan has partially complied with its commitment by offering concrete debt relief to the DSSI-eligible developing countries since the last summit and actively encouraging other countries’ commitment to DSSI and transparency.³⁵⁸⁸ However, Japan has not disclosed public sector financial commitments.

Thus, Japan has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Tony Zhao

Korea: 0

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 7 December 2020, the Paris Club signed memorandums of understanding with 36 of 38 DSSI-eligible countries committing to implementing the DSSI by Paris Club creditors.³⁵⁸⁹ As a permanent

³⁵⁸² Exchange of Notes in Fiscal Year 2020 Loan Aid by Date, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/oda/page23_001255.html

³⁵⁸³ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁵⁸⁴ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁵⁸⁵ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁵⁸⁶ Statement by the Honorable ASO Taro Deputy Prime Minister of Japan and Governor of the IMF for Japan at the Forty-third Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/imf/imfc/imfc_210408st.pdf

³⁵⁸⁷ Statement by the Honorable ASO Taro Deputy Prime Minister of Japan and Governor of the IMF for Japan at the Forty-third Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/imf/imfc/imfc_210408st.pdf

³⁵⁸⁸ Statement by the Honorable ASO Taro Deputy Prime Minister of Japan and Governor of the IMF for Japan at the Forty-third Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/imf/imfc/imfc_210408st.pdf

creditor of the Paris Club, Korea is involved in ensuring implementation of DSSI. Under the DSSI, the Paris Club agreed to defer USD2.5 billion in loans.³⁵⁹⁰

On 8 December 2020, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and Planning of Tanzania Doto James signed an agreement of US\$300 million with Korean Ambassador to Tanzania Cho Tae-Ick.³⁵⁹¹ Korean Economic Development Cooperation Fund will handle this concessional loan for development projects.³⁵⁹²

On 11 January 2021, Korea, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Kenya is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.³⁵⁹³ Korea, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, France, Spain and the United States are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Kenya's debt.³⁵⁹⁴ This initiative aims to improve Kenya's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 26 February 2021, at the 1st G20 Financial Minister Meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Hong Nam-ki suggested G20 members should work on extending the implementation of Debt Service Suspension Initiative for 6 months through the end of 2021.³⁵⁹⁵ Deputy Prime Minister Hong suggested creditors should prepare for implementing debt restructuring procedures.³⁵⁹⁶

On 15 March 2021, Korea extended US\$700 million in concessional loans to Bangladesh under the Economic Development Cooperation Fund.³⁵⁹⁷ The loan will provide funding for infrastructure projects in Bangladesh and will cover the period of 2021-2025.³⁵⁹⁸

On 18 March 2021, Korea, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Cameroon is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June

³⁵⁸⁹ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

³⁵⁹⁰ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

³⁵⁹¹ Tanzania secures \$300m South Korean support for development projects, Ecofin Agency (Geneva) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.ecofinagency.com/public-management/0912-42150-tanzania-secures-300m-south-korean-support-for-development-projects>

³⁵⁹² Tanzania secures \$300m South Korean support for development projects, Ecofin Agency (Geneva) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.ecofinagency.com/public-management/0912-42150-tanzania-secures-300m-south-korean-support-for-development-projects>

³⁵⁹³ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

³⁵⁹⁴ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

³⁵⁹⁵ DPM HONG attends G20 Finance Ministers Meeting to discuss ways to improve financial stability, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 27 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5082>

³⁵⁹⁶ DPM HONG attends G20 Finance Ministers Meeting to discuss ways to improve financial stability, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul) 27 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5082>

³⁵⁹⁷ South Korea offers \$700m credit to Bangladesh, The Financial Express (Dhaka) 14 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/south-korea-offers-700m-credit-to-bangladesh-1615693874>

³⁵⁹⁸ South Korea offers \$700m credit to Bangladesh, The Financial Express (Dhaka) 14 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/south-korea-offers-700m-credit-to-bangladesh-1615693874>

2021.³⁵⁹⁹ Korea, France, Germany, Japan, Spain and Switzerland are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Cameroon's debt.³⁶⁰⁰ This initiative aims to improve Cameroon's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶⁰¹

On 1 April 2021, Korea, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Senegal is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.³⁶⁰² Korea, Belgium, Brazil, France, Japan and Spain are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Senegal's debt.³⁶⁰³ This initiative aims to improve Senegal's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶⁰⁴

On 7 April 2021, Korea joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.³⁶⁰⁵ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a "new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets."³⁶⁰⁶ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶⁰⁷

Korea has taken steps towards limiting non-concessional borrowing and made public declarations to reaffirm their commitment but has failed to disclose public sector financial commitments under DSSI.

Thus, Korea received a score of 0.

Analyst: Santiago Ardisson

³⁵⁹⁹ The Republic of Cameroon benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cameroon-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-18-03>

³⁶⁰⁰ The Republic of Cameroon benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cameroon-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-18-03>

³⁶⁰¹ The Republic of Cameroon benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-cameroon-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-18-03>

³⁶⁰² The Republic of Senegal benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-senegal-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-01-04>

³⁶⁰³ The Republic of Senegal benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-senegal-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-01-04>

³⁶⁰⁴ The Republic of Senegal benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-senegal-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-01-04>

³⁶⁰⁵ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁶⁰⁶ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁶⁰⁷ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 7 April 2021, Mexico and Argentina issued a joint statement calling for international debt relief for middle-income countries.³⁶⁰⁸ Mexico and Argentina proposed the creation of an international fund to facilitate a more orderly debt restructuring process for middle-income countries.³⁶⁰⁹

On 7 April 2021, Mexico joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.³⁶¹⁰ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a “new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”³⁶¹¹ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶¹²

Mexico has taken steps towards limiting non-concessional borrowing and made public declarations to reaffirm their commitment but has failed to disclose public sector financial commitments under DSSI.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Jad El Ghali

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 7 December 2020, the Paris Club signed memorandums of understanding with 36 of 38 DSSI-eligible countries committing to implementing the DSSI by Paris Club creditors.³⁶¹³ As a permanent

³⁶⁰⁸ Mexico and Argentina urge debt relief for middle-income nations, Buenos Aires Times (Buenos Aires) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.batimes.com.ar/news/economy/mexico-argentina-urge-debt-relief-for-middle-income-nations.phtml>

³⁶⁰⁹ Mexico and Argentina urge debt relief for middle-income nations, Buenos Aires Times (Buenos Aires) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.batimes.com.ar/news/economy/mexico-argentina-urge-debt-relief-for-middle-income-nations.phtml>

³⁶¹⁰ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁶¹¹ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁶¹² Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁶¹³ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

creditor of the Paris Club, Russia is involved in ensuring implementation of DSSI. Under the DSSI, the Paris Club agreed to defer USD2.5 billion in loans.³⁶¹⁴

On 7 April 2021, Russia joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.³⁶¹⁵ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a “new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”³⁶¹⁶ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶¹⁷

On 13 April 2021, Russia, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Guinea is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.³⁶¹⁸ Russia and France are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Guinea’s debt.³⁶¹⁹ This initiative aims to improve Guinea’s debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶²⁰

On 26 April 2021, Russia participated in the extension time bound suspension of the Central African Republic and Guinea-Bissau’s debt service from 1 January to 30 June 2021, under the condition that both countries reorganise their debt and use the created fiscal space to increase social, health or economic spending in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶²¹

Although Russia has supported implementation of DSSI through debt suspension at the Paris Club, it has taken no actions to limit non-concessional borrowing.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Ishita Nagar

³⁶¹⁴ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

³⁶¹⁵ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁶¹⁶ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁶¹⁷ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁶¹⁸ The Republic of Guinea benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-guinea-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-13-04>

³⁶¹⁹ The Republic of Guinea benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-guinea-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-13-04>

³⁶²⁰ The Republic of Guinea benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-republic-of-guinea-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-13-04>

³⁶²¹ Guinea-Bissau Debt treatment, Paris Club (Paris) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/traitements/guinea-bissau-26-04-2021/en>

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 7 April 2021, Saudi Arabia joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.³⁶²² In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a “new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”³⁶²³ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶²⁴

On 15 April 2021, Saudi Arabia met with China, France, and India to discuss a coordinated response to Chad’s request to its G20 and Paris Club creditors for a debt treatment under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI.³⁶²⁵

Saudi Arabia has taken steps towards limiting non-concessional borrowing but has failed to disclose public sector financial commitments under DSSI.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Abigail Potter

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 23 November 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa lobbied G20 member states to suspend debt repayments to support developing countries recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶²⁶ President Ramaphosa advocated for further debt relief, calling for greater financial support “to both stave off a deep humanitarian crisis and stimulate economic rebirth.”³⁶²⁷

³⁶²² Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁶²³ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁶²⁴ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁶²⁵ 1st meeting for a debt treatment for Chad under the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/1st-meeting-for-a-debt-treatment-for-chad-15-04-2021>

³⁶²⁶ Ramaphosa lobbies for debt repayment suspension, Independent Online (Johannesburg) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.iol.co.za/business-report/economy/ramaphosa-lobbies-for-debt-repayment-suspension-fb87c794-dfbf-41cc-9152-5997d933b7f7>

³⁶²⁷ Ramaphosa lobbies for debt repayment suspension, Independent Online (Johannesburg) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.iol.co.za/business-report/economy/ramaphosa-lobbies-for-debt-repayment-suspension-fb87c794-dfbf-41cc-9152-5997d933b7f7>

On 7 April 2021, South Africa joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.³⁶²⁸ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a “new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”³⁶²⁹ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶³⁰

South Africa has reaffirmed its commitment to the DSSI by extending debt suspension periods. However, it is unclear whether South Africa has followed through on concrete actions to disclose public sector financial commitments.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Azana Hyder

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through December 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments and restructure their debts.

On 7 April 2021, Turkey joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.³⁶³¹ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a “new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”³⁶³² Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶³³

On 13 April 2021, Turkey, through cooperation with the Paris Club, recognized that the Republic of the Congo is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1

³⁶²⁸ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁶²⁹ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁶³⁰ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁶³¹ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁶³² Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁶³³ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

January to 30 June 2021.³⁶³⁴ This initiative aims to improve the Republic of the Congo's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶³⁵

Turkey has taken steps towards limiting non-concessional borrowing through cooperation with the Paris Club on the DSSI extension and participation in the Republic of the Congo's debt restructuring. However, Turkey has failed to disclose public sector financial commitments under DSSI.

Thus, Turkey has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Yuchen Bai

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 7 December 2020, the Paris Club signed memorandums of understanding with 36 of 38 DSSI-eligible countries committing to implementing the DSSI by Paris Club creditors.³⁶³⁶ As a permanent creditor of the Paris Club, the UK is involved in ensuring implementation of DSSI. Under the DSSI, the Paris Club agreed to defer USD2.5 billion in loans.³⁶³⁷

On 1 December 2020, the UK announced GBP7 million to provide essential services and food assistance to almost 750,000 people, who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic across Southern Africa.³⁶³⁸ The UK has committed GBP548 million to COVAX to ensure global access to vaccines to date.³⁶³⁹

On 7 April 2021, the UK joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.³⁶⁴⁰ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a "new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to

³⁶³⁴ Final extension of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access date: 30 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/final-extension-of-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-13-04>

³⁶³⁵ Final extension of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 13 April 2021. Access date: 30 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/final-extension-of-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-13-04>

³⁶³⁶ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

³⁶³⁷ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

³⁶³⁸ UK provides COVID-19 humanitarian and remittance relief fund to Africa, British Embassy Antananarivo (Antananarivo) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-provides-covid-19-humanitarian-and-remittance-relief-fund-to-africa>

³⁶³⁹ With UK aid support, people in Côte d'Ivoire to be first vaccinated through COVAX: Foreign Secretary's statement, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-statement-with-uk-aid-support-people-in-ivory-coast-to-be-first-vaccinated-through-covax>

³⁶⁴⁰ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

supplement reserve assets.”³⁶⁴¹ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶⁴²

The UK has taken steps towards limiting non-concessional borrowing but has failed to disclose public sector financial commitments under DSSI.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Ishita Nagar

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) including its extension through June 2021, allowing DSSI-eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments.

On 7 December 2020, the Paris Club signed memorandums of understanding with 36 of 38 DSSI-eligible countries committing to implementing the DSSI by Paris Club creditors.³⁶⁴³ As a permanent creditor of the Paris Club, the US is involved in ensuring implementation of DSSI. Under the DSSI, the Paris Club agreed to defer USD2.5 billion in loans.³⁶⁴⁴

On 30 December 2020, the US signed an agreement with the Maldives to temporarily suspend debt-relief payments, to help the Maldives in their economic recovery efforts amid COVID-19.³⁶⁴⁵

On 4 January 2021, the US, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Côte d'Ivoire is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June 2021.³⁶⁴⁶ The US, France, Germany and Japan are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Côte d'Ivoire's debt.³⁶⁴⁷ This initiative aims to improve Côte d'Ivoire's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶⁴⁸

On 11 January 2021, the US, as a member of the Paris Club, recognized that Kenya is eligible to receive the extension of time-bound suspension of debt service due from 1 January to 30 June

³⁶⁴¹ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁶⁴² Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁶⁴³ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

³⁶⁴⁴ The Paris Club Is Close to Fully Achieve the Implementation of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/the-paris-club-is-close-to-fully-achieve-the-implementation-of-the-dssi>

³⁶⁴⁵ Maldives and the United States of America signs agreement on the G-20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Malé) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.gov.mv/en/news-and-communications/maldives-and-the-united-states-of-america-signs-agreement-on-the-g-20-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi>

³⁶⁴⁶ Ivory Coast benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/ivory-coast-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01-2021>

³⁶⁴⁷ Ivory Coast benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/ivory-coast-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01-2021>

³⁶⁴⁸ Ivory Coast benefits from the extension of the DSSI, Paris Club (Paris) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/ivory-coast-benefits-from-the-extension-of-the-dssi-04-01-2021>

2021.³⁶⁴⁹ The US, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea and Spain are the Paris Club creditors participating in the reorganization of Kenya's debt.³⁶⁵⁰ This initiative aiming to improve Kenya's debt transparency and debt management while also mitigating the health, economic and social impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

On 7 April 2021, the US joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.³⁶⁵¹ In addition, G20 officials called on the International Monetary Fund to prepare for a "new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets."³⁶⁵² Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶⁵³

The United States has taken steps towards limiting non-concessional borrowing but has failed to disclose public sector financial commitments under DSSI.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Yasmeeen Atassi

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to maintain a quota-based and adequately resourced International Monetary Fund (IMF) in line with the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), public sector financial commitments self-disclosure and the limiting of non-concessional borrowing.

As of 23 November 2020, the European Union has committed to contributing EUR183 million to the IMF's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT) for debt relief in 29 lower-income countries.³⁶⁵⁴ European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen reaffirmed the European Union's commitment in the proposal of a Global Recovery Initiative, which President von der Leyen

³⁶⁴⁹ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

³⁶⁵⁰ Kenya benefits from the debt service suspension initiative (DSSI), Paris Club (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/kenya-benefits-from-the-debt-service-suspension-initiative-dssi-11-01>

³⁶⁵¹ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁶⁵² Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁶⁵³ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁶⁵⁴ EU contributes €183 million to debt relief for 29 of the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries, European Commission (Brussels) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2183

pledged will “link investments and debt relief to the Sustainable Development Goals” in further endorsement of a Common Framework on Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI.³⁶⁵⁵

On 5 April 2021, the European Union contributed EUR170 million to the International Monetary Fund’s (IMF’s) CCRT as the first instalment of its EUR183 initial commitment,³⁶⁵⁶ which was approved by the IMF’s Executive Board.³⁶⁵⁷ European Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen indicated: “Through this contribution to the CCRT, Team Europe continues to stand in solidarity with its most vulnerable partners. In this difficult period, the resources freed up can provide social services for the most vulnerable people, such as access to essential healthcare and education for young people, including girls.”³⁶⁵⁸ European Commissioner for Economy Paolo Gentiloni affirmed the EU’s support for the DSSI and new Common Framework on Debt Treatment.³⁶⁵⁹

On 7 April 2021, the European Union joined the Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting, where attendees agreed to extend the DSSI by six months to the end of December 2021.³⁶⁶⁰ In addition, G20 officials called on the IMF to prepare for a “new Special Drawing Rights general allocation of USD650 billion to meet the long term global need to supplement reserve assets.”³⁶⁶¹ Attendees aimed to offer maximal fiscal space and liquidity for the most economically vulnerable countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶⁶²

Through its active championing of the DSSI with public sector financial commitments self-disclosure and the limiting of non-concessional borrowing, the European Union remains committed to the DSSI.

Thus, the European Union has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Signe Kossmann

³⁶⁵⁵ Speech by President von der Leyen at the High-level meeting on the international debt architecture and liquidity, European Commission (Brussels) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_21_1505

³⁶⁵⁶ Global Recovery: The EU disburses SDR 141 Million to the IMF’s Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, European Commission (Brussels) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1555

³⁶⁵⁷ Global Recovery: The EU disburses SDR 141 Million to the IMF’s Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, European Commission (Brussels) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1555

³⁶⁵⁸ Global Recovery: The EU disburses SDR 141 Million to the IMF’s Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, European Commission (Brussels) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1555

³⁶⁵⁹ Global Recovery: The EU disburses SDR 141 Million to the IMF’s Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, European Commission (Brussels) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1555

³⁶⁶⁰ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁶⁶¹ Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

³⁶⁶² Italian G20 Presidency Second G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting Communiqué, G20 Italia 2021 (Rome) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.g20.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/Communique-Second-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-Meeting-7-April-2021.pdf>

13. Development: COVID-19

“We remain determined to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil		0	
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India		0	
Indonesia	-1		
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico		0	
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa	-1		
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.65 (83%)	

Background

Health crises in developing and least developed countries and their social and economic effects became a concern for the G20 leaders in 2014 because of the Ebola outbreak. In Brisbane they issued a statement on Ebola.³⁶⁶³ G20 members committed to do what is necessary to ensure the international effort can extinguish the outbreak and address its medium-term economic and humanitarian costs. They promised to work through bilateral, regional and multilateral channels, and in partnership with non-governmental stakeholders and share experiences of successfully fighting Ebola with partners, including to promote safe conditions and training for health care and relief workers. G20 leaders committed to work to expedite the effective and targeted disbursement of funds and other assistance, balancing between emergency and longer-term needs. They also committed to support others to implement the World Health Organization’s (WHO) International Health Regulations and to build capacity to prevent, detect, report early and rapidly respond to infectious diseases such as Ebola. We also commit to fight anti-microbial resistance.

In 2017 the first meeting of G20 health ministers took place. In the Berlin Declaration ministers acknowledged the need to strengthen health systems worldwide, and the role of the public and

³⁶⁶³ G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 15 November 2014. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

private sectors and civil society, recognized the importance of sustainable financing for health systems and the need to build effective and efficient health financing models. The declaration emphasized that “enhanced support to developing countries in strengthening their own health systems would increase their capacity to provide health care, including vaccination, to all and without discrimination, to cope with public health crises and to reduce health inequities.”³⁶⁶⁴ In 2017 in Hamburg G20 leaders paid special attention to health issues and especially safeguarding against health crises and strengthening health systems. Leaders underlined that the G20 has a crucial role in advancing preparedness and responsiveness against global health challenges. G20 leaders acknowledged that mass movement of people can pose significant health challenges and encourage countries and International Organisations to strengthen cooperation on the topic. They also advocated for “sufficient and sustainable funding to strengthen global health capacities, including for rapid financing mechanisms and the WHO’s Health Emergencies Programme” and emphasized the need to foster research and development preparedness through globally coordinated models.³⁶⁶⁵

In 2019 the Japanese presidency paid special attention to health issues. At their meeting in June 2019 G20 health ministers issued the “G20 Shared Understanding on the Importance of UHC [Universal Health Coverage] Financing in Developing Countries: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Growth.”³⁶⁶⁶ It presents a G20 shared understanding on the critical importance of strengthening health financing for moving towards UHC in developing countries. The health ministers’ Okayama declaration underlined the need for “more strategic use of external funding, aligned with countries’ priorities, which could support domestic resource mobilization in developing countries.”³⁶⁶⁷

In 2020 the finance and health ministers met and committed to the G20 Shared Understanding on the Importance of UHC Financing in Developing Countries to improve the resilience, prevention, detection, preparedness and response of health systems through protecting and investing in public health. They recalled their commitment to move towards achieving UHC and stressed the important role of countries’ following their own paths in line with national contexts and priorities to UHC.³⁶⁶⁸ In Riyadh, G20 leaders committed to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.³⁶⁶⁹

Commitment Features

At Riyadh G20 leaders made a commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states. This commitment requires assisting developing and least developed states in two spheres: health and socio-economic.

³⁶⁶⁴ Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers, RANEPa (Berlin) 20 May 2017. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

(Moscow). https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/G20_Health_Ministers_Declaration_engl.pdf

³⁶⁶⁵ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, Hamburg 7-8 July 2017, RANEPa (Moscow) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/G20percent20Hamburgpercent20leaders_percent20communiqupercentC3percentA9.pdf

³⁶⁶⁶ G20 Shared Understanding on the Importance of UHC Financing in Developing Countries: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Growth, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 6 June 2019. Access date: 11 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-health-finance.html>

³⁶⁶⁷ Okayama Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers, RANEPa (Moscow) 20 October 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-health.html>

³⁶⁶⁸ G20 Joint Finance & Health Ministers Meeting, RANEPa (Moscow) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-health-0917.html>

³⁶⁶⁹ Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 21 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

Health

All countries continue to fight the pandemic and take actions to save lives, provide vaccines to the population and improve health systems. Providing health-related assistance to developing countries is one of the key actions G20 members can do to help them during the pandemic. This assistance can be delivered in the form of direct supply of medical goods, equipment and medicines, personnel training or sending medical professionals to the country, vaccine support (either direct supply or joint research) and other actions.

Another important aspect is supporting UHC financing in developing countries. The 2019 G20 health ministers' G20 Shared Understanding on the Importance of UHC Financing in Developing Countries outlines several major challenges for developing states' health systems: rising cost pressures due to noncommunicable diseases, aging population, and technological progress; slow movement of workers from the informal to the formal economy; and health emergencies such as pandemics and Antimicrobial resistance.³⁶⁷⁰ Helping developing countries to address these issues will be counted as compliance with this aspect of the commitment.

Socio-economic

The pandemic has brought economic recession which hit developing countries hard. These states will face severe economic crisis and will need economic support to restore their economies. Providing official development assistance, conducting joint projects, investment in local projects, debt relief, cooperation in the field of energy and other actions can be counted and compliance.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member did not provide any assistance to developing and least developed countries
0	G20 member provided only assistance only in socio-economic sphere OR provided only health-related support
+1	G20 member provided assistance in socio-economic sphere AND provided specific health-related support

*Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov
Lead Analyst: Irina Popova*

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with a commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 27 December 2020, Argentina pledged to help Uruguay and Bolivia get contacts to acquire vaccines against the coronavirus, two days after Argentina began its own campaign against COVID-19.³⁶⁷¹

On 30 November 2020, the Embassy of Argentina in Panama, represented by Charge d'Affaires Vanesa Romani, delivered humanitarian aid to the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) as part of the bilateral relations with Paraguay. The aid that was received by the Minister of MIDES María

³⁶⁷⁰ G20 Shared Understanding on the Importance of UHC Financing in Developing Countries: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Growth, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 June 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-health-finance.html>

³⁶⁷¹ Argentina offers Uruguay and Bolivia neighbors help to get vaccines against COVID-19, SwissInfo (Buenos Aires) 27 December 2020. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.swissinfo.ch/spa/argentina-ofrece-a-vecinos-uruguay-y-bolivia-ayuda-para-conseguir-vacunas-contra-covid-19/46248404>

Inés Castillo de Sanmartín consisted of 180 kitchen kits and 500 thermal blankets, to be distributed nationally, for the benefit of the most vulnerable populations.³⁶⁷²

On 6 February 2021, Argentina donated oxygen to Bolivia which faced shortage and was struggling to support COVID-19 patients. A cistern with 8,000 cubic meters of medicinal oxygen from Argentina arrived in the capital of the department of Tarija, in southern Bolivia.³⁶⁷³

On 20 April 2021, Argentine Ambassador to Paraguay Domingo Peppo delivered an important batch of medicines, as donations, for the Encarnación Municipal Pediatric Hospital. The donation contained drugs, including antibiotics, anti-inflammatories and antiseptics.³⁶⁷⁴

Argentina has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 12 March 2021, it was announced that Australia has contributed USD80 million to the COVAX Facility that has started rolling out the first round of doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Australia's Pacific and Southeast Asian neighbors.³⁶⁷⁵

On 17 March 2021, Australia announced that it has agreed to partner with Papua New Guinea on a support package which will include the supply of 8,000 AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines. The Australian Government will also make a formal request to AstraZeneca and the European Authorities for one million doses of Australia's contracted supplies to gift to Papua New Guinea. Australia will also provide new targeted support.³⁶⁷⁶

On 10 April 2021, Australia announced that it will supply at least 10,000 AstraZeneca COVID-19 doses per week to the neighbouring countries. Australia will also continue to support the

³⁶⁷² Embassy of Argentina delivers humanitarian aid to MIDES, Ministry of Social Development of Paraguay (Asuncion) 30 November 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.mides.gob.pa/2020/11/30/embajada-de-argentina-entrega-ayuda-humanitaria-al-mides/>

³⁶⁷³ Argentina donates oxygen to Bolivia to attend Covid-19 cases, Telesur TV (Caracas) 6 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.telesurtv.net/news/bolivia-argentina-tanques-oxigeno-tarija-20210206-0012.html>

³⁶⁷⁴ Argentina donates medicines to Encarnacion, La Nacion (Buenos Aires) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.lanacion.com.py/politica/2021/04/20/argentina-dona-medicamentos-a-encarnacion/>

³⁶⁷⁵ Australia's partnership with COVAX delivers vaccines to our neighbours, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Marise Payne (Canberra) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australias-partnership-covax-delivers-vaccines-our-neighbours>

³⁶⁷⁶ Supporting Papua New Guinea's COVID-19 response, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Marise Payne (Canberra) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/supporting-papua-new-guineas-covid-19-response>

Government of Papua New Guinea in its immediate response to its outbreak, helping to vaccinate frontline healthcare and other essential workers.³⁶⁷⁷

On 14 April 2021, it was announced that an Australian Medical Assistance Team, comprising a senior epidemiologist and health support officer arrived in Timor-Leste. The team will assist public health needs assessments and provide technical advice to the Government of Timor-Leste.³⁶⁷⁸

Australia has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 18 December 2020, Brazil made a donation, in the form of humanitarian assistance, to São Tomé and Príncipe for the purchase of medical and hospital supplies to reinforce the national contingency plan to fight against COVID-19.³⁶⁷⁹

On 4 February 2021, Brazil made a donation to the Republic of Congo for the purchase of medical and hospital supplies and materials that assisted country's efforts to confront COVID-19.³⁶⁸⁰

On 15-20 March 2021, a mission from Brazil made up of representatives of the Ministry of Health and the Embassy of Brazil in Port-au-Prince visited Haiti, to evaluate the actions carried out within the scope of the technical cooperation project "Strengthening Service Management and the Health System in Haiti," in particular the works of the administrative blocks of the hospitals Dr. Zilda Arns and Dr. Raul Pierre. The team also learned about other measures being implemented in the health sector in that country, through international cooperation coordinated by the Brazilian Cooperation Agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.³⁶⁸¹

On 18 March 2021, Brazil donated reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction test kits and oxygen concentrators to Lebanon to assist country's efforts to confront COVID-19.³⁶⁸²

On 22 March 2021, Brazil donated personal protective equipment (protective masks, gloves, aprons and visors) that will assist to Haiti's efforts to confront COVID-19.³⁶⁸³

³⁶⁷⁷ Sharing COVID-19 vaccines with our neighbors, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Marise Payne (Canberra) 10 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021.

<https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/sharing-covid-19-vaccines-our-neighbours>

³⁶⁷⁸ Emergency relief dispatched to Timor-Leste, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Marise Payne (Canberra) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021.

<https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/emergency-relief-dispatched-timor-leste>

³⁶⁷⁹ Brazil makes donation to São Tomé and Príncipe to fight COVID-19, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (Brasilia) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://www.abc.gov.br/imprensa/mostrarConteudo/1655>

³⁶⁸⁰ Brazil makes donation to the Republic of Congo, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (Brasilia) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://www.abc.gov.br/imprensa/mostrarConteudo/1651>

³⁶⁸¹ Ministry of Health representatives visit hospital works in Haiti, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (Brasilia) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://www.abc.gov.br/imprensa/mostrarConteudo/1671>

³⁶⁸² Brazil donates medical equipment and supplies to Lebanon, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (Brasilia) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://www.abc.gov.br/imprensa/mostrarConteudo/1657>

On 25 March 2021, Brazil donated food and nutritional products to the Government of Equatorial Guinea.³⁶⁸⁴

On 25 March 2021, Brazil donated 60,000 latex gloves, 20,000 N95 masks, 900 individual protective clothing for health professionals, thermometers, goggles, among other items, to Mozambique in response to that country's demand from Brazil in the fight against COVID-19.³⁶⁸⁵

On 3 May 2021, in response to a request from the Paraguayan Government processed by the Brazilian Cooperation Agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and after consultation with the Ministry of Health, Anvisa's Collegiate Directorate unanimously decided to authorize the export of 320,000 m³ of medicinal liquid oxygen for use by the Paraguayan Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare.³⁶⁸⁶

On 7 May 2021, the Ministry of Health donated vaccines to the Ecuadorian Ministry of Public Health to support the country's immunization program: 82,000 doses of the Pentavalente vaccine, administered, in three doses, at two, four and six months of age, against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, Haemophilus influenzae B and hepatitis B; 56,000 doses of the Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, as reinforcement, at 15 months and four years of age, against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough; and 95,000 doses of the bivalent oral polio vaccine, administered, at 15 months and at four years of age, as protection against poliovirus type 1 and 3 of polio.³⁶⁸⁷

Brazil has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states in health issues. However, no actions in socio-economic sphere have been registered yet.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 24 March 2021, Global Affairs Canada launched the multisectoral support for recovery after COVID-19 project in Senegal. The CAD19.982 million initiative is aimed at: 1) building staff capacity and strengthening health, education and child protection structures and facilities through training, the supply of equipment, and the procurement and distribution of essential nutritional inputs; 2) implementing special measures to respond to the specific challenges caused by the pandemic, such as financial support to address the risk of children dropping out of school, supporting children to return to school, and the civil registration of undeclared children; 3) strengthening the skills and resilience of women and girls to participate in and lead initiatives that

³⁶⁸³ COVID-19: Brazil donates to Haiti, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (Brasilia) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://www.abc.gov.br/imprensa/mostrarLayoutConteudo/1682>

³⁶⁸⁴ Brazil makes humanitarian donation to Equatorial Guinea, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (Brasilia) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://www.abc.gov.br/imprensa/mostrarLayoutConteudo/1678>

³⁶⁸⁵ COVID-19: Brazil donates to Mozambique, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (Brasilia) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://www.abc.gov.br/imprensa/mostrarLayoutConteudo/1668>

³⁶⁸⁶ COVID-19: Brazil makes a donation to Paraguay, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (Brasilia) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://www.abc.gov.br/imprensa/mostrarLayoutConteudo/1683>

³⁶⁸⁷ Brazil donates vaccines to Ecuador, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (Brasilia) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <http://www.abc.gov.br/imprensa/mostrarLayoutConteudo/1688>

focus on civic engagement, advocating for their rights, entrepreneurship and decision making within their communities; and 4) strengthening the intra- and inter-sectoral structures and mechanisms for evidence-based decision making at the central and decentralized levels, taking into account gender dimensions in order to better respond to the challenges that have been exacerbated by the health crisis.³⁶⁸⁸

On 29 March 2021, Global Affairs Canada launched the Empowerment through Skills Development project in Tanzania. The CAD25 million project is aimed at: 1) building the capacity of folk development colleges and community-based organizations to develop and deliver gender-responsive programs; 2) providing gender training to partner staff and volunteers and establishing a gender champions network; 3) revising program content and teaching methods to better integrate gender considerations and ensure appropriate support services and facilities for women and adolescent girl students, especially young mothers; and 4) engaging local communities in awareness-raising activities on the benefits of women's education and economic empowerment to encourage enrollment and create an enabling environment for women graduates.³⁶⁸⁹

On 31 March 2021, Global Affairs Canada launched a project on Strengthening Sexual and Reproductive Health in Benin, Burkina Faso and Mali. The CAD42.3 million project is scheduled to continue through 2027 and aims to: 1) support the financial autonomy of vulnerable and marginalized women and adolescent girls in order to reduce the economic and gender barriers to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services; 2) provide training to health care providers and administrators of health-care facilities on the provision of gender-responsive and adolescent-friendly SRH services; 3) provide technical and material assistance to women's and adolescent girls' rights organizations and defenders; and 4) provide equipment (including water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure) to health-care facilities.³⁶⁹⁰

On 16 April 2021, Global Affairs Canada in cooperation with the Alliance for International Medical Action launched the Emergency Assistance to the Democratic Republic of Congo. Global Affairs Canada provides CAD2.6 million in financing over 2021-2023. The project's goals include: 1) providing at least 29,354 children with malnutrition consultations; 2) providing training to 130 community volunteers in severe acute malnutrition screening and referrals; 3) providing water, sanitation and hygiene kits to 2,393 households; 4) providing at least 62,978 beneficiaries with water, sanitation and hygiene awareness-raising sessions; and 5) providing 8,697 prenatal and postnatal consultations.³⁶⁹¹

On 21 April 2021, Global Affairs Canada launched the Integrated Humanitarian Response in Lac Province in Chad. The CAD1.3 million project aims to: 1) build 4 sources of water and 100 family latrines, which will benefit 36,000 people; 2) build 4 additional care rooms, including 2 that are geared toward consultations for women; 3) distributing 800 sanitary and female dignity kits; 4) distributing 1,000 child care and hygiene kits to malnourished mother and child pairs; 5) implementing a referral system that will reach 65 percent of male and female survivors of gender-based violence in order to

³⁶⁸⁸ Project profile — Multisectoral support for recovery after COVID-19 in Senegal, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P009464001>.

³⁶⁸⁹ Project profile — Empowerment through Skills Development, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P006840001>.

³⁶⁹⁰ Project profile — Strengthening Sexual and Reproductive Health in Benin, Burkina Faso and Mali (PLURIELLES), Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P008380001>.

³⁶⁹¹ Project profile — DRC – Emergency Assistance – The Alliance for International Medical Action 2021-2022, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P010283001>.

guide them to appropriate services; and 6) organizing 10 education sessions on health rights, particularly relating to sexual and reproductive health.³⁶⁹²

On 22 April 2021, Global Affairs Canada launched the Multisectoral Humanitarian Assistance project in Cameroon. The CAD1.2 million project is aimed at: 1) building 15 sources of water benefitting 16,605 people; 2) providing free quality health services targeting 10,000 people; 3) treating severe acute malnutrition in 5,000 children under five; 4) delivering a cycle of cash-for-work activities during the annual lean season; 5) training 100 women leaders on the topic of women's rights, who will share this knowledge with 10,000 vulnerable women and girls with the support of local leaders and the project team; and 6) facilitating community workshops on identifying protection risks and implementing community strategies to protect vulnerable people.³⁶⁹³

Canada has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 23 December 2020, China proclaimed that in 2021 it will continue to implement preferential tax rates for the 43 least developed countries that have established diplomatic relations with China. The scope of the preferential tax rates and the tax rates will remain unchanged.³⁶⁹⁴

On 2 March 2021, the Chinese government assisted the Iraqi government with the delivery of the new COVID-19 vaccine to Baghdad. China has provided 50,000 doses of vaccine to Iraq. That was the first batch of the new COVID-19 vaccines received in Iraq after the outbreak.³⁶⁹⁵

On 11 April 2021, the Chinese government delivered the second batch of the COVID-19 vaccines to Iraq. Iraq noted that it is willing to keep deepening the cooperation between the two countries in the field of national defense and health and work together with China to win the battle against the epidemic as soon as possible.³⁶⁹⁶

³⁶⁹² Project profile — Chad – Integrated Humanitarian Response in Lac Province – Oxfam-Québec 2021, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P010278001>.

³⁶⁹³ Project profile — Cameroon – Multisectoral Humanitarian Assistance – L'Œuvre-Léger 2021, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P010276001>.

³⁶⁹⁴ In order to support the establishment of a new development paradigm, China will adjust import tariffs on some commodities from January 1, 2021, Ministry of Finance (Beijing) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 31 January 2021. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2020-12/23/content_5572513.htm

³⁶⁹⁵ Ambassador Zhang Tao attended the handover ceremony of the new COVID-19 vaccine to Iraq, Embassy of People's Republic of China in the Republic of Iraq (Baghdad) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 3 March 2021. <http://iq.chineseembassy.org/chn/sghd/t1857880.htm>

³⁶⁹⁶ Ambassador Zhang Tao attends the handover ceremony of the second batch of COVID-19 vaccines supplied by the Chinese government, Embassy of People's Republic of China in the Republic of Iraq (Baghdad) 11 April 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <http://iq.chineseembassy.org/chn/sghd/t1868175.htm>

China has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states only in socio-economic sphere.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

France: +1

France has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 3 December 2020, it was reported Agence Française de Développement (AFD) would mobilize additional EUR1 billion under the French President's Choose Africa initiative, with the objective to help African micro, small, and medium enterprises, which have been weakened by the huge fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic; this decision added on to the initial emergency measures (such as deferred repayments and technical assistance), while the amount of money allocated for Choose Africa totaled EUR3.5 billion instead of EUR2.5 billion initially planned for 2018-2022.³⁶⁹⁷

On 15 December 2020, it was reported AFD provided additional financing (EUR2 million) for Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network to help 12 Pacific island countries and territories monitor and respond to the Covid-19 pandemic; the project will involve setting up robust public health surveillance mechanisms and a coherent range of services, accessible to all, to monitor emerging diseases.³⁶⁹⁸

On 19 December 2020, AFD announced call for innovative proposals by researchers specializing in data analysis to address the challenges associated with COVID-19 in Africa; the objective is to develop innovative projects to facilitate the production of data that can be used collaboratively, with the objective to better understand and respond to the vast range of issues resulting from the Covid crisis in Africa.³⁶⁹⁹

On 28 December 2020, it was reported that France committed to increase the share of its gross domestic product devoted to overseas aid from 0.44 percent to 0.55 percent starting in 2022, and to consolidate a fund dedicated to project innovation; the aid will be focused on the most vulnerable countries and on priority sectors: health, environment and climate, gender equality, education, food security, water management, addressing crises and improving respect for human rights.³⁷⁰⁰

On 5 March 2021, it was reported that Niger's authorities with support from international partners including AFD had launched a plan to support and restore the education system hit by the COVID-19 pandemic; the short-term goal of the plan worth more than USD140 million is minimize

³⁶⁹⁷ Covid-19: EUR1 billion more for small African businesses, AFD (Paris) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/covid-19-eu1-billion-more-small-african-businesses>

³⁶⁹⁸ Emergency support to Pacific island countries to contain COVID-19 and emerging diseases, AFD (Paris) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/emergency-support-pacific-island-countries-contain-covid-19-and-emerging-diseases>

³⁶⁹⁹ #DATA4COVID19: The Challenge for Africa, AFD (Paris) 19 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/data4covid19-challenge-africa>

³⁷⁰⁰ France commits to a major boost in overseas aid, AFD (Paris) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/france-commits-major-boost-overseas-aid?origin=/en/actualites>

permanent school dropouts of vulnerable students, while the ultimate goal is to ensure education continuity.³⁷⁰¹

On 1 April 2021, it was reported France intended to donate approximately EUR6 million to finance World Trade Organization technical assistance programs for developing countries and least-developed countries from 2021 to 2023 aimed at improving participants' understanding of global trade rules and standards, as part of efforts to support a post-COVID-19 economic recovery.³⁷⁰²

France has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 10 December 2020, the EU and Germany announced their plans to provide a EUR113 million joint grant to safeguard the livelihoods of vulnerable workers in the garment and leather export-oriented industries of Bangladesh. Due to the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, these workers are at heightened risk of being pushed into poverty.³⁷⁰³

As of 10 May 2021, the Corporation for International Cooperation GmbH (GIZ) implemented 37 regional projects in the areas of general health, basic health and non-communicable diseases, worth more than EUR386 million, including projects in Africa and small island developing states (SIDS).³⁷⁰⁴

As of 10 May 2021, GIZ implemented 49 projects in the area of social infrastructure and services, worth about EUR647 million, including projects in Africa and SIDS.³⁷⁰⁵

Germany has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

³⁷⁰¹ Niger: restoring an education system hit hard by COVID, AFD (Paris) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/niger-restoring-education-system-hit-hard-covid>

³⁷⁰² France contributes approximately EUR6 million to help developing countries deepen trade expertise, WTO (Washington, DC) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres21_e/pr877_e.htm

³⁷⁰³ Team Europe: EU and Germany join forces with the Government of Bangladesh to safeguard the livelihoods of workers in export-oriented industries, European Commission (Brussels) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/team-europe-eu-and-germany-join-forces-government-bangladesh-safeguard-livelihoods-workers_en

³⁷⁰⁴ Project data, GIZ (Berlin) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. https://www.giz.de/projektseiten/index.action?request_locale=en_GB

³⁷⁰⁵ Project data, GIZ (Berlin) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. https://www.giz.de/projektseiten/index.action?request_locale=en_GB

India: 0

India has partially complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 21 January 2021, India sent 1.5 million doses of free COVISHIELD vaccines to Myanmar. The gift was made in line with the Indian “Neighbourhood First” policy. To India, Myanmar is considered to be one of the closest and most important neighbours.³⁷⁰⁶

On 7 February 2021, India gifted 500,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to Afghanistan. The goodwill gesture described by Afghanistan as “a strong sign of generosity and sincere cooperation.”³⁷⁰⁷

On 19 February 2021, India gifted 100,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to Maldives. The gift was made during Indian External Affairs Minister’s two-day tour of Maldives.³⁷⁰⁸

On 21 February 2021, India granted 150,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to Mongolia. India was the first country to provide the vaccine to its “spiritual neighbour” and partner Mongolia.³⁷⁰⁹

On 26 February 2021, India gifted 200,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to Guatemala. India was called “the pharmacy of the world” by Guatemala.³⁷¹⁰

On 27 March 2021, India gifted Bangladesh 1.2 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccine. The offering was made by the Prime Minister Modi to celebrate its 50th independence anniversary.³⁷¹¹

On 29 March 2021, it was announced that India gifted 100,000 doses of the vaccine to the Nepal Army. The offering was made as a mark of friendship and strong ties between the two countries.³⁷¹²

On 30 March 2021, India gifted Fiji 100,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine. The gift was made by the Indian government under its Vaccine Friendship initiative.³⁷¹³

India has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and

³⁷⁰⁶ India's gift of 1.5 million vaccine doses to reach Myanmar on Friday, The Economic Times (Delhi) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/indias-gift-of-1-5-million-vaccine-doses-to-reach-myanmar-on-friday/articleshow/80390609.cms>

³⁷⁰⁷ First batch of Covid-19 vaccine from India arrives in Afghanistan, Livemint (New Delhi) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/first-batch-of-covid-19-vaccine-from-india-arrives-in-afghanistan-11612755483065.html>

³⁷⁰⁸ India gifts 1 lakh doses of Covid-19 vaccine to Maldives, The Daily Star (Dhaka) 20 February 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.thedailystar.net/coronavirus-deadly-new-threat/news/india-gifts-1-lakh-doses-covid-19-vaccine-maldives-2048221>

³⁷⁰⁹ Mongolia receives first COVID vaccine from India, Montsam (Ulaanbaatar) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.montsame.mn/en/read/254452>

³⁷¹⁰ Pharmacy of the World! India gifts to a Central American Nation Guatemala, Canada receives vaccines too, Financial Express (Uttar Pradesh) 27 February 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/health/pharmacy-of-the-world-india-gifts-to-a-central-american-nation-guatemala-canada-receives-vaccines-too/2203257/>

³⁷¹¹ India's Modi gifts Bangladesh 1.2 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccine, Reuters (Bangladesh) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 14.05.2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-india-bangladesh-idUSKBN2BJ0KC>

³⁷¹² India gifts Nepal Army one lakh doses of Covid-19 vaccine, Livemint (New Delhi) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-gifts-nepal-army-one-lakh-doses-of-covid-19-vaccine-11616982078572.html>

³⁷¹³ India gifts Fiji 100,000 COVID-19 vaccines, ABC (New York) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.abc.net.au/radio-australia/programs/pacificbeat/india-gifts-fiji-covid-19-vaccines/13281612>

small island developing states only in health sphere. However, no actions in socio-economic sphere have been recorded yet.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

Indonesia: -1

Indonesia has not complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

Within the monitoring period, no actions taken by Indonesia to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19 have been detected.

This might be explained through the fact Indonesia itself became one of the major COVID-19 related international recipient of aid to cover the needs of its big population.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of -1.³⁷¹⁴

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 21 January 2021, Italy announced its intention to provide Ethiopia with EUR500 thousand to increase food security, health care and protection with a focus on the Tigray region suffering from a humanitarian crisis.³⁷¹⁵

On 21 May 2021, on the margins of the Global Health Summit Italy has pledged EUR300 million to provide equitable access to vaccines in developing countries via COVAX AMC initiative.³⁷¹⁶

Italy has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

³⁷¹⁴ This score of non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: Portal Informasi Indonesia, <https://indonesia.go.id/>; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en>; Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, <https://www.kemkes.go.id/index.php?lg=LN02>; Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia, <https://www.kemendag.go.id/en>.

³⁷¹⁵ Etiopia. Contributo della Cooperazione italiana in risposta alla crisi umanitaria nel paese, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 22 January 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 July 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/01/etiopia-contributo-della-cooperazione-italiana-in-risposta-alla-crisi-umanitaria-nel-paese.html

³⁷¹⁶ L'intervento di apertura del Presidente Draghi al Global Health Summit, Governo Italiano Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri (Rome) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 15 July 2021. <https://www.governo.it/node/16920>

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 2 December 2020, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a loan agreement with the Government of Morocco to provide a Japanese official development assistance loan of up to USD200 million for the COVID-19 response plan, including to promote strengthening of the health care system, expansion of the social security system, and financial support for micro, small, and medium sized enterprises.³⁷¹⁷

On 8 January 2021, JICA signed a loan agreement with the Government of India to provide a Japanese official development assistance loan of up to JPY30 billion for the COVID-19 response plan to extend budget support for the poor and vulnerable communities and development of policy reforms for social protection.³⁷¹⁸

On 16 February 2021, JICA signed a loan agreement with the African Development Fund to provide a Japanese official development assistance loan of up to JPY73,601 billion for the purposes of Fund replenishment to support growth and contribute to poverty alleviation.³⁷¹⁹

On 24 February 2021, JICA signed a loan agreement with the Government of Mauritius to provide a Japanese official development assistance loan of up to JPY30 billion for the COVID-19 response plan to strengthen the health care system and social security, and provide financial support for economic activities in Mauritius, in order to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁷²⁰

On 2 March 2021, JICA signed a loan agreement with the Government of Fiji to provide a Japanese official development assistance loan of up to JPY10 billion for the COVID-19 response plan to contribute to social and economic stability in Fiji that COVID-19 has negatively affected, by providing financial support to implement economic and fiscal countermeasures.³⁷²¹

On 3 March 2021, JICA signed a loan agreement with the Government of Solomon Islands to provide a Japanese official development assistance loan of up to JPY2.5 billion for the COVID-19 response plan to help carry out infection control, protection and relief of vulnerable groups, and economic stimulus measures, through concessional financing to the government of the Solomon Islands by co-financing with the Asian Development Bank.³⁷²²

³⁷¹⁷ Signing of Dollar-Denominated Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Morocco: Contributing to COVID-19 crisis response in Morocco through providing budget support, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 03 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20201204_41_en.html.

³⁷¹⁸ Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with India: Budgetary support to contribute to COVID-19 Crisis Response in India by supporting the livelihood of poor and vulnerable communities, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20210112_30.html

³⁷¹⁹ Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreements with the African Development Fund: Contributing to economic growth and poverty alleviation in the least developed countries in Africa, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20210218_42_en.html

³⁷²⁰ Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Mauritius: Supporting COVID-19 crisis response through budget support, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20210225_41_en.html

³⁷²¹ Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Fiji: Contributing to the COVID-19 crisis response in Fiji through provision of budget support, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20210303_11_en.html

³⁷²² Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Solomon Islands: Contributing to the COVID-19 crisis response in Solomon Islands through provision of budget support, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20210303_10_en.html

On 4 March 2021, JICA signed a loan agreement with the Government of Papua New Guinea to provide a Japanese official development assistance loan of up to JPY30 billion for the COVID-19 response plan to enhance public financial management, improve subnational health system management, and support the government's COVID-19 emergency response.³⁷²³

On 22 February 2021, it was reported by the World Trade Organization that Japan contributed USD81,000 to the Enhanced Integrated Framework in 2021 to help least-developed countries use trade to combat the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic through taking advantage of the digitalization of the economy, further integrating into global value chains and developing strategies for economic diversification.³⁷²⁴

On 10 March 2021, it was reported that Japan would provide USD41 million worth aid to 25 Asian and Pacific Islands nations to help them build a cold-chain distributions network for COVID-19 vaccines.³⁷²⁵ Further, on 13 March 2021, it was reported that Japan (along with the United States, Australia and India) pledged to provide up to 1 billion vaccine doses to developing countries by the end of 2022 through financing vehicles that allow a substantial increase in production capacity in India.³⁷²⁶

During the compliance monitoring period, there have been numerous indications of Japan's taking active role in supporting developing countries (including least developed countries, African and small island developing states) in overcoming intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 30 November 2020, Korea made a decision to provide USD700,000 in humanitarian assistance to Latin American countries affected by Hurricane Iota. Humanitarian assistance is said to be delivered to Colombia, Honduras and Nicaragua.³⁷²⁷

On 18 December 2020, Korea announced its intention to contribute extra funding to the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund to help promote human security of residents in the Aral Sea region, Uzbekistan. Korea would contribute USD1 million to protect residents from negative

³⁷²³ Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Papua New Guinea: Contributing to the COVID-19 crisis response in Papua New Guinea through provision of budget support, JICA (Tokyo) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20210304_10_en.html

³⁷²⁴ Japan supports EIF to help poorest countries recover from COVID 19, expand trade capacity, WTO (Washington, DC) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres21_e/pr872_e.htm

³⁷²⁵ Japan to give \$41 million aid to Asian nations over vaccine supply, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/03/09/japan-to-give-41-million-aid-to-asian-nations-over-vaccine-supply.html>

³⁷²⁶ Leaders of "Quad" agree to aid vaccine delivery to developing nations, Kyodo (Tokyo) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/03/01a7efa9f9ac-1st-quad-summit-to-focus-on-covid-19-vaccines-with-eye-on-china.html>

³⁷²⁷ ROK Government to Extend US\$700,000 in Humanitarian Assistance to Three Latin American Countries Affected by Highest-Category Hurricane Iota, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321399

environmental consequences such as desertification and shortage of drinking water caused by climate change.³⁷²⁸

On 20 January 2021, Korea presented its new official development assistance (ODA) strategy. The strategy was presented on the margins of the 36th International Development Cooperation Committee meeting. The country pledged to double the size of ODA by 2030. Next, Korea would more actively utilize its competitive advantages such as ICTs and best practices in public administration and share them with recipient countries. Also, the strategy implies facilitation of public trust by revitalizing participation of private companies in development financing and supporting participation of young people in development programs.³⁷²⁹

On 25 January 2021, Korea and Uzbekistan held an official meeting to discuss measures to strengthen bilateral ties. The parties highlighted need to further deepen investment and export cooperation, including modernization of Bukhara Oil Refinery and Mubarek Power Plant. Also, the parties discussed expansion of cooperation in healthcare and health infrastructure.³⁷³⁰

On 25 January 2021, Korea's and Afghanistan's Foreign Ministers held a telephone conversation on key issues of bilateral affairs. The parties agreed that the two countries should work closely together in all areas, including political affairs, economy, development and culture. Korea's representative also expressed hope that the intra-Afghan peace negotiations would result in establishment of permanent peace in the country.³⁷³¹

On 15 March 2021, Korea's International Cooperation Agency and the United Nations Development Programme signed a grant cost-sharing agreement in mine-action field. Korea committed USD10 million to Cambodia's Mine Action sector in 2021 – 2025. Funds would be used to reduce dangers associated with remaining explosives in Cambodia that affects people's lives and health.³⁷³²

On 4 February 2021, Korea and Georgia signed a cooperation agreement. The two parties agreed on deepening cooperation in air services. The agreement is said to lay institutional foundation for operating flights between the two countries³⁷³³.

On 30 March 2021, Korea took part on the Fifth Brussels Conference on humanitarian crisis in Syria. The participating countries noted negative impact of COVID-19 pandemic and highlighted the need for the international community's assistance in all spheres. Korea announced its intention to offer USD18 million in humanitarian assistance to Syria.³⁷³⁴

³⁷²⁸ Korea to Contribute 1 Million U.S. Dollars to UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea for 2 years, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021.

https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321460

³⁷²⁹ 36th Meeting of the International Development Cooperation Committee, Office for Government Policy Coordination (Seoul). Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.opm.go.kr/opm/news/press-release.do?mode=view&articleNo=132653>

³⁷³⁰ Korea and Uzbekistan Discusses Ways to Strengthen Sustainable Economic cooperation, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Seoul). Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=5057>

³⁷³¹ Outcome of Telephone Conversation between Korean and Afghan Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul), 27 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021.

https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320554

³⁷³² Korea Commits \$10M to Increase Cambodia's Mine Clearance and Victim Assistance Efforts in 2021 and Beyond. UNDP (Phnom Penh) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.kh.undp.org/content/cambodia/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2021/korea-commit--10m-to-increase-cambodias-mine-clearance-and-victi.html>

³⁷³³ Korea and Georgia Sign Air Services Agreement, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320576

³⁷³⁴ ROK Government Announces Plan to Contribute US\$18 Million in Support of Syrian Refugees, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321614

On 13 April 2021, Korea announced its intention to allocate extra funds to support Timor-Leste. The country was affected by severe floods; Korea would provide USD100,000 to help the recipient in overcoming the disaster's immediate outcomes.³⁷³⁵

On 14 April 2021, Korea pledged to provide humanitarian assistance to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The country announced its intention to allocate USD100,000 to assist the recipient party in overcoming the outcomes of La Soufriere Volcano eruption.³⁷³⁶

Korea has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 12 December 2020, Mexican Army and Air Force transfer more than 15 tons of humanitarian aid to Honduras.³⁷³⁷

On 22 December 2020, at the request of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Government of Mexico delivered humanitarian aid to Chiapas, Tabasco, Guatemala and Honduras. Humanitarian aid was divided as follows: 150 tons for Chiapas and Tabasco; 21 tons for Guatemala; and 26.5 tons for Honduras.³⁷³⁸

On 11 January 2021, the governments of Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras presented a Joint Declaration on the integral management of migratory processes in the region. Declaration reaffirms the commitment of the four countries to jointly address the migratory phenomenon in all its dimensions, especially the challenges related to irregular and massive migration, security, the comprehensive fight against the smuggling of migrants and human trafficking, guaranteeing unrestricted respect for the human rights of migrants in all phases of the migration cycle. Likewise, it expresses the concern of governments about the exposure of irregular migrants to situations of high risk to their health and life, particularly during the health crisis derived from the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁷³⁹

³⁷³⁵ Korea to Provide US\$100,000 in Humanitarian Assistance to Timor-Leste Affected by Record Floods, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321627

³⁷³⁶ Korea to Provide US\$100,000 in Humanitarian Assistance to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Affected by Eruption of La Soufriere Volcano, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321632

³⁷³⁷ El Ejército y Fuerza Aérea Mexicanos trasladan más de 15 toneladas de ayuda humanitaria a la República de Honduras, Mexican Government 20 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/el-ejercito-y-fuerza-aerea-mexicanos-trasladan-mas-de-15-toneladas-de-ayuda-humanitaria-a-la-republica-de-honduras>

³⁷³⁸ Por llamado de la Celac, el Gobierno de México gestiona ayuda humanitaria a Chiapas, Tabasco, Guatemala y Honduras, Mexican Government 22 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/por-llamado-de-la-celac-el-gobierno-de-mexico-gestiona-ayuda-humanitaria-a-chiapas-tabasco-guatemala-y-honduras>

³⁷³⁹ México, El Salvador, Guatemala Y Honduras presentan declaración conjunta sobre la gestión integral de los procesos migratorios en la región, Mexican Government 11 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-el-salvador-guatemala-y-honduras-presentan-declaracion-conjunta-sobre-la-gestion-integral-de-los-procesos-migratorios-en-la-region?state=published>

On 4 May 2021, the President of the Republic of Guatemala, Alejandro Giammattei Falla, made an official visit to Mexico. The heads of State and their delegates held a meeting in which they addressed the main topics of interest on the agenda and confirmed the solid level of understanding and fraternity between both countries. They agreed to promote greater commercial exchange, through the modernization of the customs infrastructure and the reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers, as well as promoting the attraction of investment and the promotion of tourism between both countries.³⁷⁴⁰

Mexico has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states only in socio-economic sphere. However, no actions in health sphere have been registered yet.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

From 14 to 25 December 2020, Rosatom, a state-owned energy corporation, conducted an intensive workshop for specialists in nuclear energy from Egypt. The course was dedicated to nuances of practical exploitation of water-waer energetic reactor-type nuclear reactors that are Russia's know-how. Egypt remains the only country in the region that possess at least one Generation III reactor. Egypt's El Dabaa Nuclear Power Plant is said to be completed by 2026 with Russia's Rosatom as the reactor supplier.³⁷⁴¹

On 15 December 2020, Russia's Bank for Development and Foreign Economic Affairs, joint-stock company "Gazprombank" and JSC "Uzbekneftegaz" concluded several cooperation agreements. Trilateral agreements cover development of oil and gas industry in Uzbekistan.³⁷⁴²

On 17 December 2020, the Government of Russia approved the decision to allow a credit of USD1 billion to Belarus. The debtor would receive the sum divided into two tranches – USD500 million in 2020 and USD500 million in 2021. The purpose of the credit is said to pay off previously granted loans of Belarus to Russia and the Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development.³⁷⁴³

On 22 January 2021, Gazprom, a state-owned mining company, established a sub-company in Mongolia. "Gazoprovod Soyuz Vostok" will conduct front end engineering design works and

³⁷⁴⁰ Comunicado conjunto México-Guatemala, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/presidencia/prensa/comunicado-conjunto-mexico-guatemala-271457>

³⁷⁴¹ Rosatom to Organize a Workshop on VVER-type Technologies for Egyptian Counterparts, Rosatom (Moscow) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://rosatom.ru/journalist/news/rosatom-provel-obuchenie-po-tehnologii-vver-dlya-predstaviteley-obrazovatelnykh-organizatsiy-i-regu/>

³⁷⁴² VEB to support Russian export to facilitate development of oil and gas industry in Uzbekistan, AK&M Information Agency (Moscow) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. https://www.akm.ru/press/gruppa_veb_rf_podderzhit_eksport_rossiyskikh_kompaniy_dlya_proektov_neftegazovogo_sektora_respubliki/

³⁷⁴³ Government Executive Order №3379-p 17 December 2020 'Agreement between the Government of Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Belarus on allowing the state financial loan, Official Web-Portal of Laws of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021.

<http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/Document/View/0001202012210072>

feasibility study for “Soyuz Vostok” natural gas pipeline project that would connect Russia’s natural gas deposits with end consumers in China.³⁷⁴⁴

On 28 April 2021, Russia has announced its intention to send a large shipment of medical aid to India to support the local authorities amid growing number of COVID-19 – infected patients. The shipment includes oxygen concentrators and anti-COVID medicines. The shipment was said to be delivered with a charter flight under the EMERCOM supervision.³⁷⁴⁵

Russia has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 4 December 2020, it was reported that King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations, according to which some of the winners of the Gamers Without Borders tournament, organized by the Saudi Arabian Federation for Electronic and Intellectual Sports (SAFEIS), will donate a sum amounting to USD1,339,500 to help children worldwide face the coronavirus pandemic through preventive and awareness-raising programs; it was further reported that KSrelief had already signed an agreement with SAFEIS to allocate the donation funds resulting from the organization of the Gamers Without Borders tournament, which amounted to USD10 million, to international organizations and bodies concerned with combating COVID-19 worldwide.³⁷⁴⁶

On 7 February 2021, it was reported that KSrelief jointly with the WHO had launched a joint aid program for Yemen worth USD20.5 million, which would support the delivery of essential health service, as well as projects on COVID-19 preparedness and response, nutrition, water and environmental sanitation services in addition to operational budgets and training of personnel to provide medical services.³⁷⁴⁷

On 16 February 2021, it was reported that KSrelief had delivered a sixth batch of medical aid to the Palestinian health ministry, which included medicines, equipment and other medical supplies to help limit the spread of COVID-19.³⁷⁴⁸

On 20 February 2021, it was reported that KSrelief had begun distributing food aid to families badly hit by the coronavirus pandemic in South Africa.³⁷⁴⁹

³⁷⁴⁴ “Gazoprovod Soyuz Vostok” Company was established in Mongolia, Gazprom (Russia) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gazprom.ru/press/news/2021/january/article522596/>

³⁷⁴⁵ Concerning Emergency Medical Aid Shipment for the Republic of India, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. https://www.mid.ru/ru/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4715108

³⁷⁴⁶ Saudi Arabia's KSrelief, GAVI to raise COVID-19 awareness among children, Arab News (Riyadh) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1772216/saudi-arabia>

³⁷⁴⁷ Saudi aid agency, WHO join hands to improve Yemen’s public health system, Arab News (Riyadh) 7 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1805056/saudi-arabia>

³⁷⁴⁸ KSrelief sends 6th batch of Saudi medical aid to help Palestinians battle COVID pandemic, Arab News (Riyadh) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1810016/saudi-arabia>

On 29 March 2021, it was reported that Saudi Arabia's King Salman had directed KSrelief to aid Jordan with liquid oxygen supplies, oxygen cylinders and regulators, as well as digital intravenous pumps and other related devices and supplies to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁷⁵⁰

On 6 April 2021, it was reported that KSrelief had organized a training course for health practitioners at COVID-19 isolation units in Aden, Yemen, in cooperation with the Yemeni Ministry of Public Health and Population and the WHO, to highlight the skills and knowledge in dealing with the COVID-19 cases.³⁷⁵¹

On 20 April 2021, it was reported that Yemen started the first round of its COVID-19 inoculation campaign with support from KSrelief, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund.³⁷⁵²

On 21 April 2021, it was reported that KSrelief had delivered a special medical aid package worth USD1,5 million to help combat the COVID-19 in Pakistan.³⁷⁵³

During the compliance monitoring period, there have been numerous indications of Saudi Arabia's taking active role in supporting developing countries in overcoming intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

South Africa: -1

South Africa has not complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

From 25 to 26 November 2020, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition hosted a virtual meeting with counterparts from Ethiopia. The objective of the meeting was to bolster bilateral economic cooperation including trade and investments.³⁷⁵⁴

On 25 November 2020, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition held a meeting with Chile's Chamber of Industry, Commerce and Tourism on trade opportunities. The meeting was said to set a basis for potential partnerships between the two countries' businesses.³⁷⁵⁵

³⁷⁴⁹ Saudi aid agency helps affected families in South Africa, Arab News (Riyadh) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1812361/saudi-arabia>

³⁷⁵⁰ Saudi Arabia's King Salman directs KSrelief to aid Jordan with oxygen supplies, Arab News (Riyadh) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1833946/saudi-arabia>

³⁷⁵¹ KSrelief holds training course for health practitioners in COVID-19 in Aden, Saudi Gazette (Riyadh) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/605249/SAUDI-ARABIA/KSrelief-holds-training-course-for-health-practitioners-in-COVID-19-in-Aden>

³⁷⁵² Yemen launches first round of COVID-19 vaccination campaign, Arab News (Riyadh) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1846141/middle-east>

³⁷⁵³ Saudi aid agency delivers \$1.5 million medical aid package to Pakistan, Arab News (Riyadh) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1846726/saudi-arabia>

³⁷⁵⁴ South Africa and Ethiopia to Host Virtual Trade Investment Seminar, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021.

<http://www.thedtic.gov.za/south-africa-and-ethiopia-to-host-virtual-trade-investment-seminar/>

³⁷⁵⁵ South Africa and Chile to Host Trade Opportunities Webinar, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <http://www.thedtic.gov.za/south-africa-and-chile-to-host-trade-opportunities-webinar/>

On 4 December 2020, South Africa donated electoral material to the Central African Republic (CAR). The donation is aimed at assisting the National Elections Authority of the CAR with the Presidential and Legislative elections later in December 2020.³⁷⁵⁶

On 5 December 2020, the leaders of African Union countries held the 13th Extraordinary session on trade matters. The meeting was chaired by President Cyril Ramaphosa. The session was dedicated to the kickstart of the African Continental Free Trade Area signed in 2018. The agreement was agreed to come into force on 1 January 2021. The summit itself concentrated on the legal instruments that would facilitate the area's operation.³⁷⁵⁷

On 12 January 2021, South Africa and Algeria held a bilateral ministerial working meeting. The parties discussed issues of international cooperation including fostering enabling environment for the private sector to do business and economic ties in general.³⁷⁵⁸

South Africa has demonstrated its willingness to deepen cooperation with developing and least developed countries, but no actions besides demonstration of intention were found within the monitoring period.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 13 January 2021, the Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) delivered medical devices to support the Muslim Free Hospital in Myanmar's capital Naypyidaw.³⁷⁵⁹

On 19 January 2021, it was reported that TIKA delivered medical devices to support the University Hospital in Tunisia's city of Medenine.³⁷⁶⁰

On 22 March 2021, it was reported that TIKA had implemented several projects in order to combat COVID-19 in the region of Northern Syria; the projects included setting up four cleaning supplies production workshop and a mask production workshop in order to contribute to the fight against the pandemic.³⁷⁶¹

³⁷⁵⁶ South Africa donates electoral material to the Central African Republic, Department of International Relations and Cooperation Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021.

<http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2020/car1204.htm>

³⁷⁵⁷ Thirteen Extra Ordinary Session on the AfCFTA: The Assembly of the Union Adopts Decision on the Start of Trading, African Union (Addis Ababa) 5 December 2020. Access Date: 12 May 2021.

https://au.int/sites/default/files/pressreleases/39731-pr-pr_156_-_13th_extraordinary_session_on_afcfta.pdf

³⁷⁵⁸ Joint Communique of the Occasion of the Working Visit by H.E. Mr Sabri Boukadoum, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Algeria, 12 January 2021, Department of International Relations and Cooperation Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/alge0112.pdf>

³⁷⁵⁹ TIKA Supports a Hospital in Myanmar, TIKa (Ankara) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

http://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/tika_supports_a_hospital_in_myanmar-60758

³⁷⁶⁰ TIKA Supports the University Hospital in Tunisia, TIKa (Ankara) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

http://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/tika_supports_the_university_hospital_in_tunisia-60898

³⁷⁶¹ TIKA Supports the Fight against COVID19 Pandemic in Northern Syria, TIKa (Ankara) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. http://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/tika_supports_the_fight_against_covid19_pandemic_in_northern_syria-61441

On 19 April 2021, it was reported that TIKA donated a drug delivery vehicle to a First Aid Center in Libya's town of Ghadames as part of the scheme to support healthcare development in the country.³⁷⁶²

Turkey has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

United Kingdom: +1

The UK has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 30 November 2020, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office launched the project called Supporting COVID Response in the Greater Mekong Sub-region through Health Systems Strengthening. The project worth GBP4.8 million will provide support on strengthening health systems in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam to prevent, detect and control the threat of COVID-19, and will also involve Thailand in regional initiatives.³⁷⁶³

On 1 February 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office launched a one-year programme funding the World Bank to analyze, document and disseminate Brazil's successful experience with the emergency benefit to protect vulnerable populations from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Brazil's emergency cash transfer programme had been one of the largest and most rapidly deployed social protection programs in the world, helping 67 million informal workers. Sharing these learnings through this project meets a demand from poorer countries seeking advice on how to improve their social protection policies at speed and during a crisis.³⁷⁶⁴

On 8 March 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office launched the project on New technologies for global health delivered by Product Development Partnerships. The project budget is GBP51 million. It is focused on neglected tropical diseases, diseases of emerging resistance and diseases of epidemic potential, and will support the development of new products such as drugs, diagnostics and insecticides for targeted diseases.³⁷⁶⁵

On 19 March 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office launched its Core Funding to the World Health Organization (WHO) 2020-2024 project. The UK will provide GBP340 million of core funding to the WHO for its 13th General Programme of Work which aims

³⁷⁶² Turkey Provides Healthcare Support for Libya, TIKA (Ankara) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. http://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/turkey_provides_healthcare_support_for_libya-61868

³⁷⁶³ Supporting COVID Response in the Greater Mekong Sub-region through Health Systems Strengthening, UK Development Tracker (London) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/projects/GB-GOV-1-301205>

³⁷⁶⁴ Sharing lessons learned from Brazil's Social Protection response to COVID-19, UK Development Tracker 16 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/projects/GB-GOV-1-301301>

³⁷⁶⁵ New technologies for global health delivered by Product Development Partnerships, UK Development Tracker (London) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/projects/GB-GOV-1-301067>

to provide Universal Health Coverage to 1 billion more people, protect them from health emergencies and enable to live healthier lives.³⁷⁶⁶

The United Kingdom has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

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

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 19 March 2021, the USAID announced the award of USD9.2 million to the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). The CDRI, launched by India in 2019 is a global climate initiative involving the private sector, governments, and multilateral agencies aimed at fostering disaster and climate resilient infrastructure.³⁷⁶⁷

On 12 April 2021, the USAID launched the Transformational Strategies for Farm Output Risk Mitigation (TRANSFORM) project. This five-year, USD33 million project, is aiming to mobilize private sector innovation to address emerging infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance in animal production value chains in Asia and Africa. TRANSFORM is designed to engage global market actors “to develop, test, and scale innovative solutions that sustainably improve animal health, strengthen production systems in animal agriculture value chains, and enhance global health security.”³⁷⁶⁸

On 26 April 2021, the USAID launched two new projects aimed at assisting Vietnam in tackling the climate crisis. The USD36 million Sustainable Forest Management project is to focus on forest conservation, while the USD38 million Biodiversity Conservation project is aims to “protect critical ecosystems to build resilience against the impacts of climate change, maintain and increase forest quality, and protect and stabilize wildlife populations.”³⁷⁶⁹

On 27 April 2021, Vice President Kamala Harris announced the distribution of USD310 million including USD255 million in assistance to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, including the refugees and vulnerable migrants in the region. The assistance includes approximately USD104 million from the Department of State, USD125 million from the USAID, and USD26 million from

³⁷⁶⁶ Core Funding to the World Health Organisation WHO 2020-2024, UK Development Tracker (London) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/projects/GB-GOV-1-300935>

³⁷⁶⁷ United States Promotes Climate Resilient Infrastructure with \$9.2 Million Commitment, USAID (Washington DC) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/mar-19-2021-united-states-promotes-climate-resilient-infrastructure-92-million>

³⁷⁶⁸ USAID Engages Private Sector in Global Health Security Efforts, USAID (Washington DC) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/apr-1-2021-usaid-engages-private-sector-global-health-security-efforts>

³⁷⁶⁹ USAID Launches Two Projects Worth \$74 Million to Help Vietnam Address the Climate Crisis, USAID (Washington DC) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/apr-26-2021-usaid-launches-two-projects-worth-74-million-help-vietnam-address-climate-crisis>

the Department of Defense. The aid is targeting food security, healthcare, childcare, sanitation, and economic recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the region.³⁷⁷⁰

On 28 April 2021, the US deployed emergency COVID-19 relief shipments to India. The shipment, delivered by air, included 440 oxygen cylinders and regulators, 960,000 Rapid Diagnostic Tests, and 100,000 masks to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.³⁷⁷¹

On 5 May 2021, the USAID Administrator Samantha Power announced the transfer of USD300 million to UNICEF aimed at improving the quality of life of women and children across such areas as healthcare, education, water and sanitation, hygiene, youth engagement, as well as child protection. This grant supplements the United States USD134 million annual contribution to UNICEF, as well as USAID's USD61 million investment in 2020 in urgent work to prevent, respond to, and mitigate the secondary impacts of COVID-19.³⁷⁷²

The United States has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

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

Analyst: Andrei Sakebarov

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to support all developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

On 1 December 2020, the EU announced a new EUR20 million program to support health preparedness and response capacities in Association of Southeast Asian Nations countries.³⁷⁷³

On 7 December 2020, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) launched a new partnership initiative to strengthen the capacity of Africa CDC to prepare for and respond to public health threats in Africa. The four-year project "EU for health security in Africa: ECDC for Africa CDC," funded by the EU is aimed at facilitating harmonized surveillance and disease intelligence and supporting the implementation of the public health workforce strategy of Africa CDC.³⁷⁷⁴

On 10 December 2020, the EU and Germany announced their plans to provide a EUR113 million joint grant to safeguard the livelihoods of vulnerable workers in the garment and leather export-

³⁷⁷⁰ United States Announces Increased Assistance for the People of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, USAID (Washington DC) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/apr-27-2021-united-states-announces-increased-assistance-people-of-el-salvador-guatemala-honduras>

³⁷⁷¹ United States Airlifts Emergency Supplies to help India Address Deadly Second Wave of COVID-19 Pandemic, USAID (Washington DC) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/apr-28-2021-united-states-airlifts-emergency-supplies-to-help-india-address-deadly-second-wave-of-covid-19-pandemic>

³⁷⁷² USAID Awards up to \$300 Million to UNICEF to Improve the Lives of Mothers and Children Globally, USAID (Washington DC) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/may-5-2021-usaid-awards-300-million-unicef-improve-lives-mothers-and-children>

³⁷⁷³ Team Europe COVID-19 response: EU announces €20 million to support health systems in ASEAN, European Commission (Brussels) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/team-europe-covid-19-response-eu-announces-eu20-million-support-health-systems-asean_en

³⁷⁷⁴ European Union and African Union sign partnership to scale up preparedness for health emergencies, European Commission (Brussels) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/european-union-and-african-union-sign-partnership-scale-preparedness-health-emergencies_en

oriented industries of Bangladesh. Due to the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, these workers are at heightened risk of being pushed into poverty.³⁷⁷⁵

On 15 December 2020, the European Investment Bank agreed EUR400 million of financing to support the participation of low- and middle-income economies in COVID-19 Global Vaccines Alliance (COVAX) Advance Market Commitment.³⁷⁷⁶

On 18 December 2020, the European Commission announced the mobilization of EUR84.26 million in support of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Benin, Central African Republic, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.³⁷⁷⁷

On 23 December 2020, the EU's Caribbean Investment Facility and the Inter-American Development Bank signed two agreements for a total EU contribution of EUR23 million to support investments in primary health care services in Jamaica and in sustainable energy in Barbados.³⁷⁷⁸

On 26 January 2021, the EU announced its decision to contribute EUR25 million to enhance the economic, social and environmental sustainability of cocoa production in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Cameroon who are, respectively, the first, second and fifth biggest cocoa producers, generating almost 70 per cent of the world production.³⁷⁷⁹

On 19 February 2021, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen announced EUR100 million in humanitarian assistance to support the rollout of vaccination campaigns in Africa, which are spearheaded by the Africa CDC. The funding will, among others, contribute to ensuring the cold chains, roll-out registration programs, training of medical and support staff as well as logistics.³⁷⁸⁰

On 19 February 2021, the EU announced an additional EUR500 million for the COVAX Facility, thus doubling its contribution to this global initiative.³⁷⁸¹

On 3 March 2021, the EU and the European Investment Bank announced EUR120 million of new support for Equity Bank to enhance financing to Kenyan companies most impacted by the COVID-

³⁷⁷⁵ Team Europe: EU and Germany join forces with the Government of Bangladesh to safeguard the livelihoods of workers in export-oriented industries, European Commission (Brussels) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/team-europe-eu-and-germany-join-forces-government-bangladesh-safeguard-livelihoods-workers_en

³⁷⁷⁶ Team Europe contributes €500 million to COVAX initiative to provide one billion COVID-19 vaccine doses for low and middle income countries, European Commission (Brussels) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/team-europe-contributes-eu500-million-covax-initiative-provide-one-billion-covid-19-vaccine_en

³⁷⁷⁷ Coronavirus Global Response: EU mobilises €84 million for four African countries, European Commission (Brussels) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/coronavirus-global-response-eu-mobilises-eu84-million-four-african-countries_en

³⁷⁷⁸ The European Union and the Inter-American Development Bank sign two contracts to support Caribbean partner countries, European Commission (Brussels) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/european-union-and-inter-american-development-bank-sign-two-contracts-support-caribbean-partner_en

³⁷⁷⁹ EU boosts sustainable cocoa production in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Cameroon, European Commission (Brussels) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/eu-boosts-sustainable-cocoa-production-cote-divoire-ghana-and-cameroon_en

³⁷⁸⁰ G7: EU to support COVID-19 vaccination strategies and capacity in Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/g7-eu-support-covid-19-vaccination-strategies-and-capacity-africa_en

³⁷⁸¹ EU doubles contribution to COVAX to €1 billion to ensure safe and effective vaccines for low and middle-income countries, European Commission (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/eu-doubles-contribution-covax-eu1-billion-ensure-safe-and-effective-vaccines-low-and-middle_en

19 crisis. The package will support access to finance at appropriate conditions for Kenyan small and medium sized enterprises, including in the agriculture sector, through EUR100 million loans from the European Investment Bank and EUR20 million of EU grant support.³⁷⁸²

On 5 April 2021, the International Monetary Fund received the EU's contribution of SDR141 million to the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, which provides grants for debt service relief to countries hit by catastrophic events, including public health disasters such as COVID-19.³⁷⁸³

On 12 April 2021, the EU announced an additional EUR6.5 million for Education Cannot Wait (ECW), a global fund for the education of children in emergencies and protracted crises launched in 2016. The total EU contribution to the ECW thus reached EUR27.5 million.³⁷⁸⁴

The European Union has provided support to developing and least developed countries as they face the intertwined health, economic, and social effects of COVID-19, recognizing the specific challenges in Africa and small island developing states.

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

Analyst: Andrey Shelepon

³⁷⁸² Team Europe partners with Equity Bank to support Kenyan business and agriculture amid COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/team-europe-partners-equity-bank-support-kenyan-business-and-agriculture-amid-covid-19_en

³⁷⁸³ Global Recovery: The EU disburses SDR 141 Million to the IMF's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, European Commission (Brussels) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/global-recovery-eu-disburses-sdr-141-million-imfs-catastrophe-containment-and-relief-trust_en

³⁷⁸⁴ Education Cannot Wait: EU contributes additional €6.5 million, European Commission (Brussels) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/education-cannot-wait-eu-contributes-additional-eu65-million_en

14. Health Preparedness and Response

“2020-18: We commit to advancing global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India		0	
Indonesia			+1
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa			+1
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.80 (90%)	

Background

Advancing global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response is fundamental to a comprehensive response to the spread of infectious diseases. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that the global community must take consistent action in all stages of pandemics in order to provide a comprehensive response to global health emergencies and minimize their social and economic repercussions. The World Health Organization (WHO), in particular, emphasized the need to execute preparedness in order to “strengthen the capacity of governments, institutions, and communities to withstand public health emergencies.

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, G20 members stated its support in implementing International Health Regulations (IHR) to “prevent, detect, report early and rapidly respond to infectious diseases,” as well as “do[ing] what is necessary to ensure the international effort can extinguish the outbreak.”³⁷⁸⁵ The G20 leaders’ emphasis and priority on health this year was in the context of the Ebola virus outbreak in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.³⁷⁸⁶ The G20 members also reaffirmed their commitment to follow applicable WHO recommended measures. Lastly, the G20 members agreed to

³⁷⁸⁵ G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

³⁷⁸⁶ G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

address longer-term systemic issues and gaps in capability, preparedness and response capacity that expose the global economy to the impacts of infectious disease.”³⁷⁸⁷

In 2017, the G20 health ministers met for the first time and published the Berlin Declaration. The G20 health ministers acknowledged the global interconnectedness of societies, governments, and economies and that an infectious disease can have repercussions socially, economically, and politically.³⁷⁸⁸ The Berlin Declaration also recognized the G20’s “unique position to lead by example and foster global preparedness for and responsiveness to health crises.”³⁷⁸⁹ The G20 leaders therefore committed to foster global preparedness to health crises by supporting initiatives that strengthen countries’ health systems, “particularly where they are weak and conditions for access to treatment and healthcare are poor.”³⁷⁹⁰

In 2018, G20 leaders proclaimed that they would “continue to strengthen core capacities required by International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005) for prevention, detection and response to public health emergencies, while recognizing the critical role played by WHO in this regard.”³⁷⁹¹ However, this remained a fairly broad statement that failed to consider and attempt to foresee how pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response to public health emergencies might be hindered by institutional design problems inherent in international organizations, such as the WHO.

In 2019, the leaders stated that they would “strengthen health systems with a focus on quality, including through enhancing health workforce and human resources for policy development,” and that they would “promote healthy and active ageing through policy measures to address...prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases.”³⁷⁹² The G20 health members also published the Okayama Declaration that reiterated the importance of global health emergency preparedness, prevention, detection, and response and to, therefore, comply with the IHR and to continue to support the WHO’s role in overseeing IHR implementation.³⁷⁹³

Any policy measures that were introduced have proven to be only partially effective in successfully preparing for and responding to the health impacts of pandemics like COVID-19 on the human population. Furthermore, the phrase “promote healthy and active ageing” was unclear in that it failed to acknowledge the unique health needs of each population group and the appropriate level of preparedness and response required to address them. In 2020, the leaders vowed to “take all necessary health measures and seek to ensure adequate financing to contain the pandemic and protect people, especially the most vulnerable.”³⁷⁹⁴ While much progress has been made by G20

³⁷⁸⁷ G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

³⁷⁸⁸ Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers: Together Today for a Healthy Tomorrow, G20 Information Centre (Berlin) 20 May 2017. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/170520-health-en.html>

³⁷⁸⁹ Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers: Together Today for a Healthy Tomorrow, G20 Information Centre (Berlin) 20 May 2017. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/170520-health-en.html>

³⁷⁹⁰ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

³⁷⁹¹ G20 Leaders’ Health Commitments, 2008-2019, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 July 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-health.html>

³⁷⁹² G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2019-06-29-g20_leaders-dirigeants_g20.aspx

³⁷⁹³ Okayama Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers, G20 Information Centre (Okayama) 20 October 2019. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-health.html>

³⁷⁹⁴ Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit: Statement on COVID-19, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 March 2020. Access Date 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-statement-0326.html>

members to combat and respond to COVID-19, seniors and vulnerable people remain linked to the largest number of infections, hospitalizations and deaths.³⁷⁹⁵

World leaders recognize that health and the spread of infectious diseases is affected by a variety of economic, environmental and social determinants. In order to appropriately prepare and respond to these factors, “increasing attention should go to ensuring that health policies benefit the least well-off.”³⁷⁹⁶ The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has stated that the international community has a responsibility to prepare for potential health crises, through strengthening “the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction, and management of national and global health risks.”³⁷⁹⁷ Indeed, a recent McKinsey report found that government policy which effectively contains the health impacts of COVID-19 might lead to faster economic growth, rebound and recovery.³⁷⁹⁸ Consequently, at the 2020 Summit in Riyadh, G20 leaders agreed that they would continue to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response, while taking into account the unique situation of each member country.

Commitment Features

In this commitment, there are four targets. These are advancing global pandemic: preparedness, prevention detection and response.

“Commit” is understood to mean to do or perform, to pledge or bind (a person or an organization) to a certain course or policy³⁷⁹⁹ “Advanc[ing]” is understood to mean move or push forward, make progress, give active support to, promote, cause an event to occur at an earlier date.³⁸⁰⁰ “Global” is understood to mean relating to the whole world, world-wide³⁸⁰¹ “Pandemic” refers to an outbreak of a disease prevalent globally or in the whole world.³⁸⁰² In the context of this commitment, it is mainly referring to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Preparedness” refers to a state of readiness.³⁸⁰³ Preparedness, in the context of global health emergencies, refers to planning processes prior to the emergence of global health emergencies that attempt to minimize its human mortality, social disruption and economic consequences. Examples of “preparedness,” as recommended by the WHO, include but are not limited to funding to anticipated preparedness planning, establishing organizations responsible for producing pandemic preparedness plans, establishing a core national pandemic planning committee, identifying individuals and

³⁷⁹⁵ Risk for COVID-19 Infection, Hospitalization, and Death by Age Group, Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Washington, DC) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/investigations-discovery/hospitalization-death-by-age.html>

³⁷⁹⁶ Health for Everyone? Social Inequalities in Health and Health Systems, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Paris) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/3c8385d0-en.pdf>

³⁷⁹⁷ Strengthening health systems during a pandemic: The role of development finance, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Paris) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/view/?ref=134_134620-xueji119ph

³⁷⁹⁸ Nine scenarios for the COVID-19 economy, McKinsey & Company (Toronto) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/strategy-and-corporate-finance/our-insights/nine-scenarios-for-the-covid-19-economy#>

³⁷⁹⁹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

³⁸⁰⁰ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

³⁸⁰¹ Global, Oxford Languages (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/global>

³⁸⁰² Pandemic, Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/pandemic_1

³⁸⁰³ Preparedness, Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/preparedness>

organizations that will contribute to planning such as national, regional public health authorities, national virologists, and nongovernmental organizations.³⁸⁰⁴ Preparedness, in this commitment, is not limited to the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Actions for preparedness may be intended for future possible global health emergencies beyond this compliance cycle.

“Prevention” the action of stopping something from happening or arising.³⁸⁰⁵ “Prevention, in the context of this commitment, refers to actions G20 members take in preventing their citizens from being infected with infectious diseases such as COVID-19. Examples of “prevention include but are not limited to administering regular sanitization in public settings, implementing COVID-19 information campaigns that prevent the spread of COVID-19, enforcing social distancing rules, and imposing travel restrictions and stay-at-home orders.

“Detection” refers to the action or process of identifying the presence of something concealed.³⁸⁰⁶ Examples of “detection” include but are not limited to detecting and investigating the first evidence of sustained human-human transmission of a virus with pandemic potential, investigating and assessing the earliest cases of a disease, establishing organisations that specialize in reporting and surveillance, characterizing the features of the new disease and establishing more accessible testing centers.

“Response” refers to a reaction to something.³⁸⁰⁷ Response, in the context of this commitment, refers to actions a G20 member takes in reaction to global health emergencies, especially the COVID-19 pandemic, and its relevant repercussions to society, economy, and people’s health. Examples of “response” include but are not limited to distributing personal protective equipment to hospitals, providing targeted health service accessibility to vulnerable segments of society, vaccinating health-care workers, and supporting the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator initiative (through financing, collaboration, personnel development, exchange of best practices).

The commitment has a current component, “We commit to,” and also a near-future-oriented component “advancing global pandemic...³⁸⁰⁸” The structure of the commitment therefore provides member states with urgency and necessity. The clause, “we commit to” is substantially politically binding. Member states have already come to terms with the fact that they have already and continue to make significant commitment “to advancing global pandemic detection, preparedness, prevention and response.” In the immediate future, i.e. in the compliance period, and they will continue to advance efforts in the four aforementioned areas.

The commitment discretely refers to the member states with “we,” thereby referring to the fact that all member states are included and that they will aid each other in combatting the pandemic.³⁸⁰⁹

As well, this commitment has a depth component of how strong the action taken by the G20 member is. A G20 member must take significant action on either the domestic or international level for full compliance. If a G20 member only takes partial action on one or both levels, it would only be

³⁸⁰⁴ WHO checklist for influenza pandemic preparedness planning, World Health Organisation (Geneva) 2005. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/influenza/resources/documents/FluCheck6web.pdf>

³⁸⁰⁵ Prevention, Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/prevention?q=prevention>

³⁸⁰⁶ Detection, Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/detection?q=detection>

³⁸⁰⁷ Response, Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/response?q=response>

³⁸⁰⁸ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

³⁸⁰⁹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

considered partial compliance. Partial actions could include verbal reaffirmation of the commitment or attending meetings that discuss global pandemic detection, preparedness, prevention and response. For strong actions, a G20 would have to initiate a program or new law, contribute financial or technical assistance or implement policy changes to implementing specific measures to promote a country or partnership's capacity to advance global pandemic detection, preparedness, prevention and response.

Full compliance, therefore, requires the G20 member to take strong action in all four areas or strong action in three areas and some action in the other. Partial compliance requires the G20 member to take strong action in one or two areas and some action in the other, or some combination of this to demonstrate compliance with at least half or 50% of this commitment. Anything less than this is a -1 for non-compliance.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G20 member taken insufficient action to advance global pandemic detection, preparedness, prevention and response.
0	The G20 member has taken some action to advance global pandemic detection, preparedness, prevention and response.
+1	The G20 member has taken strong action to advance global pandemic detection, preparedness, prevention and response.

*Compliance Director: Natasha Pirzada
Lead Analyst: Miranda Bocci*

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 30 November 2020, Argentina published decree 956/2020 in the Boletín Oficial that stipulated conditions for the extension of lockdown status for the Buenos Aires metropolitan region until 20 December 2020.³⁸¹⁰ The measures issued in the decree restrict peoples movement, preventing big gatherings and encouraging a strict social distancing of at least 1.5 meters between individuals.³⁸¹¹ Travel restrictions, such as forbidding entry to non-resident individuals and demanding a negative COVID-19 test also continued to be put in place to reduce the chances of spreading the virus.³⁸¹²

On 4 December 2020, Argentinian senators passed a “millionaires tax” that would target those with assets worth more than ARS200 million, which adds up to about 12,000 people.³⁸¹³ Those impacted by the taxes would have to pay up to a 3.5 per cent tax on assets in Argentina and up to 5.25 per cent on assets outside the country.³⁸¹⁴ The money raised from these taxes would be allocated between medical supplies, relief for small and medium-sized businesses, social developments, scholarships for students, and natural gas projects.³⁸¹⁵

³⁸¹⁰ Argentina-Buenos Aires Lockdown Status Extended, KPMG (Buenos Aires) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/12/flash-alert-2020-477.html>

³⁸¹¹ Argentina-Buenos Aires Lockdown Status Extended, KPMG (Buenos Aires) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/12/flash-alert-2020-477.html>

³⁸¹² Argentina-Buenos Aires Lockdown Status Extended, KPMG (Buenos Aires) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/12/flash-alert-2020-477.html>

³⁸¹³ COVID: Argentina Passes Tax on Wealthy to Pay for Virus Measures, BBC (Buenos Aires) 5 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-55199058>

³⁸¹⁴ COVID: Argentina Passes Tax on Wealthy to Pay for Virus Measures, BBC (Buenos Aires) 5 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-55199058>

³⁸¹⁵ COVID: Argentina Passes Tax on Wealthy to Pay for Virus Measures, BBC (Buenos Aires) 5 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-55199058>

On 10 December 2020, President Alberto Fernandez disclosed a national vaccination plan in partnership with Russia's Sputnik COVID-19 vaccine.³⁸¹⁶ The plan included the goal of administering 60 million doses across Argentina in the first six months of 2021 to the elderly, health care workers, and military officials.³⁸¹⁷

On 20 December 2020, Argentina published decree 1033/2020 that established social, preventive and distancing measures.³⁸¹⁸ The measures addressed social distancing, economic activities, sports activities, quarantining procedures and prohibited social gatherings.³⁸¹⁹ Social gatherings of more than 20 people in closed places and more than 100 people in outdoor spaces were prohibited.³⁸²⁰ The decree also mandated that employers guarantee safety and hygiene conditions to maintain the health of their employees.³⁸²¹

On 24 December 2020, Argentina published decree 2252/2020 in the Boletín Oficial that announced the closure of the Argentinian border.³⁸²² The measures issued in the decree suspended flights from and to the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, Denmark, Italy and Holland. Following the issuance of this decree, only Argentinian citizens and residents would be permitted to cross the land borders.³⁸²³ All ports of entry would be suspended to foreign nationals, but international cargo and medical and humanitarian aid would be exempt from these measures.³⁸²⁴

On 29 December 2020, Minister of Health of the Nation Ginés González García and the Federal Health Council began the vaccination campaign, by administering the vaccines to health care workers.³⁸²⁵ It was the last meeting of the year, a holiday for Argentines and also the start of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign.³⁸²⁶ The Minister's counterpart from the province of Santa Fe, Sonia Martorano, was reported to have said that "we lived with great emotion, it is a historic day and

³⁸¹⁶ Coronavirus: how is the mega vaccination plan designed by the Government (Olivos) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.ambito.com/politica/vacunacion/coronavirus-como-es-el-megaplan-que-disena-el-gobierno-n5150581>

³⁸¹⁷ Coronavirus: how is the mega vaccination plan designed by the Government (Olivos) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.ambito.com/politica/vacunacion/coronavirus-como-es-el-megaplan-que-disena-el-gobierno-n5150581>

³⁸¹⁸ Social, Preventive and Compulsory Distancing and Social, Preventive and Compulsory Isolation, Argentina Presidency of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 20 December 2021. Access Date: April 25, 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/238890/20201221>

³⁸¹⁹ Social, Preventive and Compulsory Distancing and Social, Preventive and Compulsory Isolation, Argentina Presidency of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 20 December 2021. Access Date: April 25, 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/238890/20201221>

³⁸²⁰ Social, Preventive and Compulsory Distancing and Social, Preventive and Compulsory Isolation, Argentina Presidency of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 20 December 2021. Access Date: April 25, 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/238890/20201221>

³⁸²¹ Social, Preventive and Compulsory Distancing and Social, Preventive and Compulsory Isolation, Argentina Presidency of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 20 December 2021. Access Date: April 25, 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/238890/20201221>

³⁸²² Administrative Decision 2252/2020 Border Closure, Argentina Presidency of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239143/20201224>

³⁸²³ Administrative Decision 2252/2020 Border Closure, Argentina Presidency of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 24 December 2020. Access Date: April 20, 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239143/20201224>

³⁸²⁴ Administrative Decision 2252/2020 Border Closure, Argentina Presidency of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 24 December 2020. Access Date: April 20, 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/239143/20201224>

³⁸²⁵ The Country's Health Ministers Celebrate the Start of Vaccination Against COVID-19, Argentina Unida 29 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministros-de-salud-del-pais-celebran-el-inicio-de-la-vacunacion-contra-la-covid-19>

³⁸²⁶ The Country's Health Ministers Celebrate the Start of Vaccination Against COVID-19, Argentina Unida 29 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministros-de-salud-del-pais-celebran-el-inicio-de-la-vacunacion-contra-la-covid-19>

we had a lot of support from health personnel.” It was noted that 700 people had already been vaccinated in public and private institutions.³⁸²⁷

On 30 December 2020, Argentina authorized the Astra-Zeneca Oxford vaccine, after approving the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine earlier.³⁸²⁸ The government released its plan of purchasing 22 million doses of the Astra-Zeneca Oxford vaccine in the first few months of 2021 and an additional 750,000 Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines in December 2020.³⁸²⁹ It is the first Latin American country to authorize the British vaccine and according to the resolution of the National Administration of Medicines, Food and Medical Technology, “the mentioned product presents an acceptable benefit-risk balance, allowing to support the granting of the registration and conditional authorization of the product for the requested indication.”³⁸³⁰

On 16 January 2021, Science, Technology & Innovation Minister Roberto Salvarezza reported that the SARS-CoV-2 variant had been detected in a traveller from the United Kingdom.³⁸³¹ The British variant was first reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) in December 2020 and after being found in dozens of other countries is believed to be more easily transmitted because of a mutation of a spike protein that latches on to humans.³⁸³²

On 30 January 2021, President Fernández issued his 18th official quarantine announcement.³⁸³³ He officially announced the renewal social distancing measures for the month of February and also reaffirmed the return of school children to their classes.³⁸³⁴

On 1 February 2021, Argentina extended the shutdown of the air, land, and sea borders to foreigners to prevent travelers from spreading the virus in the country.³⁸³⁵

On 9 February 2021, Argentina’s drug regulator authorized the emergency use of the Chinese-made COVID-19 vaccine Sinopharm.³⁸³⁶ Argentina expected 1 million doses to arrive in the following days.³⁸³⁷

³⁸²⁷ The Country’s Health Ministers Celebrate the Start of Vaccination Against COVID-19, Argentina Unida 29 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministros-de-salud-del-pais-celebran-el-inicio-de-la-vacunacion-contra-la-covid-19>

³⁸²⁸ Argentina authorizes use of British AstraZeneca vaccine (Buenos Aires) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/noticias-65af4c7b83246f579dc3319424482c02>

³⁸²⁹ Argentina authorizes use of British AstraZeneca vaccine (Buenos Aires) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/noticias-65af4c7b83246f579dc3319424482c02>

³⁸³⁰ Argentina authorizes use of British AstraZeneca vaccine (Buenos Aires) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/noticias-65af4c7b83246f579dc3319424482c02>

³⁸³¹ Argentina detects first case of British coronavirus variant (Buenos Aires) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.batimes.com.ar/news/argentina/argentina-detects-first-case-of-british-coronavirus-variant.phtml>

³⁸³² Argentina detects first case of British coronavirus variant (Buenos Aires) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.batimes.com.ar/news/argentina/argentina-detects-first-case-of-british-coronavirus-variant.phtml>

³⁸³³ No change except classes: Social distancing to be extended until March 1 (Buenos Aires) 30 January 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.batimes.com.ar/news/argentina/no-change-except-classes-social-distancing-to-be-extended-until-march-1.phtml>

³⁸³⁴ No change except classes: Social distancing to be extended until March 1 (Buenos Aires) 30 January 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.batimes.com.ar/news/argentina/no-change-except-classes-social-distancing-to-be-extended-until-march-1.phtml>

³⁸³⁵ Legislation and Official Notices: National Direction of Migration, Argentina Presidency of the Nation (Buenos Aires) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/240290/20210201>

³⁸³⁶ Argentina Approves Sinopharm COVID-19 Vaccine for Emergency Use, Reuters (Buenos Aires) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-argentina-vaccine-idUSKBN2AL0P9>

³⁸³⁷ Argentina Approves Sinopharm COVID-19 Vaccine for Emergency Use, Reuters (Buenos Aires) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-argentina-vaccine-idUSKBN2AL0P9>

On 17 March 2021, Argentina launched a new digital services to manage the pandemic: the Cuidar Escuelas platform.³⁸³⁸ This platform would allow for the registration of COVID-19 cases in educational institutions, would provide the digital vaccination card and would allow those who worked in educational institutions to register for vaccines.³⁸³⁹ The platform was developed with the goal of early detection of COVID-19 cases and to control and monitor the cases in educational institutions.³⁸⁴⁰

On 25 March 2021, an International Monetary Fund (IMF) team held a meeting with Argentina's Economy Minister, Martin Guzman and his team to discuss a new economic plan.³⁸⁴¹ Argentina and the IMF team agreed that there was a need for macroeconomic sustainability and planning for post-COVID recovery.³⁸⁴² The discussions allowed the officials and the IMF team to recognize the significance of policies to boost exports and productivity, which would stabilize the Argentinian economy.³⁸⁴³

On 25 March 2021, Argentina announced its decision to suspend flights from Brazil, Chile, and Mexico to prevent different COVID-19 strains from entering Argentina.³⁸⁴⁴ Argentinians who return from other countries would continue to be required to complete testing and mandatory isolation.³⁸⁴⁵

On 28 March 2021, Argentina received the first shipment of vaccines acquired through the COVAX Mechanism, which is a global fund that works towards the equitable distribution of vaccines around the globe.³⁸⁴⁶ Argentina received 218,000 doses of the Astra Zeneca/Oxford vaccine which would be added to the ongoing vaccination campaign.³⁸⁴⁷

On 8 April 2021, Minister of Health Carla Vizotti and the Minister of Defense Augustin Rossi thanked the United States Southern Command Admiral, Craig S. Faller, for the donation of three mobile hospitals for USD3.5 million to Argentina.³⁸⁴⁸ The admiral has been reported to have said that “since the COVID-19 crisis began, Southern Command has worked closely with its Argentine partners. Together, we have made 15 humanitarian assistance donations related to COVID-19 to

³⁸³⁸ The National Government Launched New Digital Services for the Management of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Health. 17 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-lanzo-nuevos-servicios-digitales-para-la-gestion-de-la-pandemia-de>

³⁸³⁹ The National Government Launched New Digital Services for the Management of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Health. 17 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-lanzo-nuevos-servicios-digitales-para-la-gestion-de-la-pandemia-de>

³⁸⁴⁰ The National Government Launched New Digital Services for the Management of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Health. 17 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-lanzo-nuevos-servicios-digitales-para-la-gestion-de-la-pandemia-de>

³⁸⁴¹ IMF Mission Team Statement on Argentina, IMF (Washington D.C.) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/03/25/pr2186-argentina-imf-mission-team-statement-on-argentina>

³⁸⁴² IMF Mission Team Statement on Argentina, IMF (Washington D.C.) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/03/25/pr2186-argentina-imf-mission-team-statement-on-argentina>

³⁸⁴³ IMF Mission Team Statement on Argentina, IMF (Washington D.C.) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/03/25/pr2186-argentina-imf-mission-team-statement-on-argentina>

³⁸⁴⁴ Argentina Suspends Flights From Brazil, Chile, and Mexico Due to Worsening Pandemic, Reuters (Buenos Aires) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/salud-coronavirus-argentina-vuelos-idLTAKBN2BI02H>

³⁸⁴⁵ Argentina Suspends Flights From Brazil, Chile, and Mexico Due to Worsening Pandemic, Reuters (Buenos Aires) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/salud-coronavirus-argentina-vuelos-idLTAKBN2BI02H>

³⁸⁴⁶ Argentina Receives First of COVID-19 Vaccines Through COVAX Mechanism, UNICEF (Buenos Aires) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/lac/en/press-releases/argentina-receives-first-covid-19-vaccines-through-covax-mechanism>

³⁸⁴⁷ Argentina Receives First of COVID-19 Vaccines Through COVAX Mechanism, UNICEF (Buenos Aires) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/lac/en/press-releases/argentina-receives-first-covid-19-vaccines-through-covax-mechanism>

³⁸⁴⁸ US Southern Command Chief Craig Faller donated \$ 3.5 million mobile hospitals to fight COVID-19 (Buenos Aires) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.infobae.com/politica/2021/04/08/el-jefe-del-comando-sur-de-los-estados-unidos-craig-faller-dono-hospitales-moviles-por-usd-35-millones-para-la-lucha-contra-el-covid-19/>

support Argentina's response to the pandemic, providing protective equipment, medical supplies, and monitoring and detection tools."³⁸⁴⁹

On 8 April 2021, Minister Vizzotti held a meeting to analyze the progress and the implementation of the vaccination strategy against COVID-19 in older adults.³⁸⁵⁰ They agreed to increase the speed of the vaccination rollout and promised to hold four different vaccination posts throughout the city, with more to follow.³⁸⁵¹ The Ministry of Health also agreed to work towards strengthening testing procedures and to work towards early detection.³⁸⁵²

On 27 April 2021, Minister Vizzotti and Minister of Productive Development Matías Kulfas, held a meeting to work towards of the goal of guaranteeing medicinal oxygen during the second wave of COVID-19.³⁸⁵³ The officials recognized that the current use of oxygen was between two to three times higher than last year.³⁸⁵⁴ Some strategies discussed to optimize oxygen use included training medical staff in the rational use of oxygen, carrying out infrastructure improvements in hospitals and prioritizing the use of oxygen in the health care sector.³⁸⁵⁵

Argentina has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response. This was demonstrated by actions such as enacting a tax that will help fight COVID-19, administering a vaccination campaign and extended a shutdown to travelers.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ujala Iqbal

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic, preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 16 December 2020, Australia announced an AUD57.8 million investment for aged care as part of its National Partnership on COVID-19 Response Initiative. This will include funding for training and support in infection prevention and control.³⁸⁵⁶ Another plan, the AUD11.1 million, Serious Incident Response Scheme to protect senior Australians from abuse and neglect will improve quality and

³⁸⁴⁹ US Southern Command Chief Craig Faller donated \$ 3.5 million mobile hospitals to fight COVID-19 (Buenos Aires) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.infobae.com/politica/2021/04/08/el-jefe-del-comando-sur-de-los-estados-unidos-craig-faller-dono-hospitales-moviles-por-usd-35-millones-para-la-lucha-contra-el-covid-19/>

³⁸⁵⁰ Vizzotti an Volnovich Analyzed the Implementation of Vaccination Strategies Against SARS-CoV-2 and Infuenza in Older Adults, Ministry of Health, 8 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-volnovich-analizaron-la-implementacion-de-las-estrategias-de-vacunacion-contra>

³⁸⁵¹ Vizzotti an Volnovich Analyzed the Implementation of Vaccination Strategies Against SARS-CoV-2 and Infuenza in Older Adults, Ministry of Health, 8 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-volnovich-analizaron-la-implementacion-de-las-estrategias-de-vacunacion-contra>

³⁸⁵² Vizzotti an Volnovich Analyzed the Implementation of Vaccination Strategies Against SARS-CoV-2 and Infuenza in Older Adults, Ministry of Health, 8 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-volnovich-analizaron-la-implementacion-de-las-estrategias-de-vacunacion-contra>

³⁸⁵³ Cafiero, Vizzotti, and Kulfas Met With Oxygen Supplier Businessmen to Guarantee Supply, Argentina Unida 27 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cafiero-vizzotti-y-kulfas-se-reunieron-con-empresarios-proveedores-de-oxigeno-para>

³⁸⁵⁴ Cafiero, Vizzotti, and Kulfas Met With Oxygen Supplier Businessmen to Guarantee Supply, Argentina Unida 27 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cafiero-vizzotti-y-kulfas-se-reunieron-con-empresarios-proveedores-de-oxigeno-para>

³⁸⁵⁵ Cafiero, Vizzotti, and Kulfas Met With Oxygen Supplier Businessmen to Guarantee Supply, Argentina Unida 27 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cafiero-vizzotti-y-kulfas-se-reunieron-con-empresarios-proveedores-de-oxigeno-para>

³⁸⁵⁶ Record Investment in Home Care Packages Continues, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/record-investment-home-care-packages-continues>

safety at the individual service and broader system level.³⁸⁵⁷ By reducing preventable incidents from recurring this scheme requires residential aged care providers to manage all incidents with a focus on the safety and wellbeing of citizens.³⁸⁵⁸ Additionally, investment of AUD15.7 million was announced for allied health services for facilities affected by COVID-19 outbreaks.³⁸⁵⁹

On 8 January 2021, the National Cabinet of Australia met to discuss Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, topics included the Vaccination Policy and also new domestic and international aviation measures to control the spread of COVID-19 and its emerging variants.³⁸⁶⁰ The Vaccination Policy will include a nationally consistent roll out policy, helping especially aged workers. The travel protocols domestically require that all travelers and air crew wear masks. Internationally, the protocols require that incoming international travelers present negative COVID-19 tests prior to departure and that air crew take a COVID-19 test every seven days and continue to quarantine between international flights.³⁸⁶¹

On 25 January 2021, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) of Australia provisionally approved the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for national use.³⁸⁶² Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the TGA approval was an important step in the fight against COVID-19 and was reported to have said, "Our priority has always been to keep Australians safe and protect lives and livelihoods. Today's approval is another big step forward for our community, particularly in the protection of our most vulnerable people."³⁸⁶³

On 29 January 2021, Minister of Health Greg Hunt responded to help the Australians in the UK who had flights booked with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) flag carrier Emirates.³⁸⁶⁴ The UK had banned flights to the UAE, to the anguish of Australians who were waiting for months to get home from Britain via the UAE. The Australian government announced it would charter an extra 20 dedicated repatriation flights for Australians after Emirates temporarily suspended them.³⁸⁶⁵ Minister Hunt also added that medical officials would re-examine the next week whether to lift the suspension on quarantine-free travel from New Zealand after the South African virus strain emerged in Auckland.³⁸⁶⁶

On 3 February 2021, Minister Hunt, announced that the Australian government is working with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, General Practices, state and territory governments, Primary Health Networks, General Practitioner-led Respiratory Clinics and community

³⁸⁵⁷ Record Investment in Home Care Packages Continues, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/record-investment-home-care-packages-continues>

³⁸⁵⁸ Record Investment in Home Care Packages Continues, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/record-investment-home-care-packages-continues>

³⁸⁵⁹ Record Investment in Home Care Packages Continues, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/record-investment-home-care-packages-continues>

³⁸⁶⁰ Statement – National Cabinet, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/statement-national-cabinet>

³⁸⁶¹ Statement – National Cabinet, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/statement-national-cabinet>

³⁸⁶² Pfizer Vaccine Approved, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/pfizer-vaccine-approved>

³⁸⁶³ Pfizer Vaccine Approved, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/pfizer-vaccine-approved>

³⁸⁶⁴ Stranded Aussies face more chaos after Britain bans UAE flights (Sydney) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/stranded-aussies-face-more-chaos-after-britain-bans-uae-flights-20210129-p56xru>

³⁸⁶⁵ Stranded Aussies face more chaos after Britain bans UAE flights (Sydney) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/stranded-aussies-face-more-chaos-after-britain-bans-uae-flights-20210129-p56xru>

³⁸⁶⁶ Stranded Aussies face more chaos after Britain bans UAE flights (Sydney) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/stranded-aussies-face-more-chaos-after-britain-bans-uae-flights-20210129-p56xru>

pharmacies to ensure that citizens living in regional, rural and remote locations have access to COVID-19 vaccination.³⁸⁶⁷ This joint national effort will integrate over 2,000 vaccine sites across Australia. “We are working hard to ensure site readiness including specific handling requirements and sufficient cold chain capacity in locations that will be handling frozen vaccines,” Minister Hunt was reported to have said.³⁸⁶⁸

On 4 February 2021, the Department of Health announced the rollout of a COVID-19 vaccination public information campaign to deliver key information about the COVID-19 vaccination program to people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The AUD31 million campaign includes communication activities, such as media advertising in 32 different languages, as well as community engagement initiatives.³⁸⁶⁹ Messages will target specific multicultural groups to ensure everyone in Australia has a full understanding of the vaccination program. Many people from CALD backgrounds, especially the aged within these communities will be the first groups to be vaccinated. It is critical that these communities receive translated information that is culturally appropriate.³⁸⁷⁰

On 8 February 2021, the Australian Government partnered with the Australian College of Nursing to develop and deliver the free and accredited training modules for all COVID-19 vaccination providers. They introduced the COVID-19 – Pfizer – Training Program, which provides free training modules for the COVID-19 vaccination workforce. It covers topics such as multi-dose handling, handling the storage of vaccines, safety, surveillance monitoring, and reporting for adverse events after immunization. The goal of the program is to build a workforce competent in delivering the vaccine.³⁸⁷¹

On 16 February 2021, the TGA of Australia provisionally approved the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for national use.³⁸⁷² Although, initially the AstraZeneca vaccine will be initially imported from overseas, it will be manufactured locally in due time. Australia is one of the few countries where the vaccine will be manufactured. “The TGA has found the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine to be safe and effective and I welcome their thorough assessment process,” Prime Minister Morrison said.³⁸⁷³

On 21 February 2021, Prime Minister Morrison and Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly received their first does of the Pfizer vaccine, marking the beginning of Australia’s vaccination program.³⁸⁷⁴ Prime Minister Morrison remarked that, “This is a historic day for Australia. From tomorrow, tens of thousands of Australians over the course of the next week can confidently come forward from those

³⁸⁶⁷ COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout for Regional, Rural and Remote Australians, Department of Health (Canberra) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/covid-19-vaccine-rollout-for-regional-rural-and-remote-australians>

³⁸⁶⁸ COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout for Regional, Rural and Remote Australians, Department of Health (Canberra) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/covid-19-vaccine-rollout-for-regional-rural-and-remote-australians>

³⁸⁶⁹ COVID-19 Vaccine Campaign to Support Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Audiences, Department of Health (Canberra) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/covid-19-vaccine-campaign-to-support-culturally-and-linguistically-diverse-audiences>

³⁸⁷⁰ COVID-19 Vaccine Campaign to Support Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Audiences, Department of Health (Canberra) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/covid-19-vaccine-campaign-to-support-culturally-and-linguistically-diverse-audiences>

³⁸⁷¹ First COVID-19 Vaccine – Pfizer – Training Program, Department of Health (Canberra) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 6 March 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/first-covid-19-vaccine-pfizer-training-program>

³⁸⁷² TGA Approves AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine, Department of Health (Canberra) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 6 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/tga-approves-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine>

³⁸⁷³ TGA Approves AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine, Department of Health (Canberra) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 6 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/tga-approves-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine>

³⁸⁷⁴ COVID-19 vaccines begin as Prime Minister receives Pfizer immunisation (Sydney) 21 February 2021, Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/covid-19-vaccines-begin-as-prime-minister-receives-pfizer-immunisation-20210221-p574cw.html>

key priority groups that have been defined, to ensure that we move into this next phase of how we've been preparing and dealing with COVID-19."³⁸⁷⁵

On 14 March 2021, Australia announced an investment of AUD1.1 billion to extend the country's COVID-19 health response and suppression strategy until 31 December 2021. Australia's suppression strategy has been the most successful among OECD countries, having one of the lowest mortality rates. The investment will be used to fund COVID-19 testing and treatment, telehealth services, electronic prescription services, mental health services and aged care facilities.³⁸⁷⁶

On 14 March 2021, Australia announced the addition of a new webpage on its Department of Health website aimed at addressing misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccine and vaccine hesitancy, as part of its AUD31 million education campaign.³⁸⁷⁷

On 17 March 2021, Australia announced it would be supporting Papua New Guinea in addressing a COVID-19 spike in the country. Australia agreed to partner with Papua New Guinea on a comprehensive support package to respond to the crises, including the delivery of 8,000 AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines from Australia's supply.³⁸⁷⁸ Early vaccine assistance will be coordinated with Papua New Guinea's response, which has included their COVID-19 National Pandemic Response taskforce.³⁸⁷⁹

On 22 March 2021, Australia announced new restrictions on social gatherings, in order to limit the spread of COVID-19.³⁸⁸⁰ Beginning on 23 March 2021, gathering places such as pubs, gyms, cinemas, nightclubs, restaurants and cafes, and places of worship were closed.³⁸⁸¹ In addition, the government restricted non-essential gatherings to 500 people in outdoor spaces and 100 people in indoor spaces.³⁸⁸² Restrictions on entering aged home care facilities were also implemented.³⁸⁸³ The restrictions are expected to be in effect for six months, with reviews of the regulations taking place on a monthly basis.³⁸⁸⁴

³⁸⁷⁵ COVID-19 vaccines begin as Prime Minister receives Pfizer immunisation (Sydney) 21 February 2021, Access Date: 4 May 2021. <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/covid-19-vaccines-begin-as-prime-minister-receives-pfizer-immunisation-20210221-p574cw.html>

³⁸⁷⁶ Over \$1.1 billion to extend Australia's COVID-19 health response, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 14 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/over-11-billion-extend-australias-covid-19-health-response>

³⁸⁷⁷ Is it true? Countering the misinformation on COVID-19 Vaccines, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 14 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/it-true-countering-misinformation-covid-19-vaccines>

³⁸⁷⁸ Australia supporting Papua New Guinea's COVID-19 Response, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/australia-supporting-papua-new-guineas-covid-19-response>

³⁸⁷⁹ Australia supporting Papua New Guinea's COVID-19 Response, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/australia-supporting-papua-new-guineas-covid-19-response>

³⁸⁸⁰ Update on Coronavirus Measures, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 6 April 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-220320>

³⁸⁸¹ Update on Coronavirus Measures, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 6 April 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-220320>

³⁸⁸² Update on Coronavirus Measures, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 6 April 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-220320>

³⁸⁸³ Update on Coronavirus Measures, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 6 April 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-220320>

³⁸⁸⁴ Update on Coronavirus Measures, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 6 April 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-220320>

On 22 March 2021, the Department of Health announced the rollout of Phase 1B of the Australian government's vaccination plan.³⁸⁸⁵ Priority groups in this phase include elderly adults over the age of 70, health care workers not vaccinated in Phase 1A, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults over the age of 55, adults with a specified medical condition, adults with a severe disability who have a specified underlying medical condition, and critical and high risk workers including defence, police, fire, emergency services and meat processing.³⁸⁸⁶

On 3 May 2021, Australian citizens and residents may face large fines and jail time if they choose to fly home from COVID-19 hit India.³⁸⁸⁷ Although Minister Hunt said that the government would reconsider the temporary "emergency determination" in two weeks' time many citizens felt that this policy was overly punitive and racist because other countries had similar waves which no serious action was taken against.³⁸⁸⁸

Australia has taken strong action to advance global pandemic prevention, detection, and response. It has created a National Partnership on COVID-19 Response Initiative, an intensive and robust Vaccination Policy and also helped support partner countries such as Papua New Guinea. Australia has also taken action to prepare vaccination clinics and ensure cold storage capacities.

Thus, Australia has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Amandeep Saini

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 8 December 2020, President Jair Bolsonaro and Minister of Health Eduardo Pazuello announced that the Federal Government is investing more than BRL280 million to train around 380,000 Community Health Agents and Agents to Combat Endemics.³⁸⁸⁹ Minister Pazuello was reported to have said, "The Health with Agent program really aims to be early in discovering diseases that can be treated quickly, and to prevent them from getting worse. This is the great logic of this program. Investments in basic care for the Brazilian population is one of the priorities of this management. This initiative will greatly improve the qualification of our service."³⁸⁹⁰ This initiative revamps the health care system to respond to the current pandemic and to future ones that may arise.³⁸⁹¹

On 18 December 2020, the Chamber of Foreign Trade (Camex) extended the validity of Resolution No. 17/2020, which reduced the Import Tax rate to zero for products considered essential to face

³⁸⁸⁵ Phase 1B COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout Begins, Department of Health (Canberra) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 6 April 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/phase-1b-covid-19-vaccination-rollout-begins>

³⁸⁸⁶ Phase 1B COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout Begins, Department of Health (Canberra) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 6 April 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/phase-1b-covid-19-vaccination-rollout-begins>

³⁸⁸⁷ Australia bans, criminalises arrivals from COVID-hit India (Dubai) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/1/australia-bans-criminalises-arrivals-from-covid-hit-india>

³⁸⁸⁸ Australia bans, criminalises arrivals from COVID-hit India (Dubai) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/1/australia-bans-criminalises-arrivals-from-covid-hit-india>

³⁸⁸⁹ Brazil invests R \$ 280 million for the qualification of Community Health Agents and Agents to Combat Endemics, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 8 December 2020. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-investe-r-280-milhoes-para-qualificacao-de-agentes-comunitarios-de-saude-e-agentes-de-combates-as-endemias>

³⁸⁹⁰ Brazil invests R \$ 280 million for the qualification of Community Health Agents and Agents to Combat Endemics, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 8 December 2020. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-investe-r-280-milhoes-para-qualificacao-de-agentes-comunitarios-de-saude-e-agentes-de-combates-as-endemias>

³⁸⁹¹ Brazil invests R \$ 280 million for the qualification of Community Health Agents and Agents to Combat Endemics, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 8 December 2020. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-investe-r-280-milhoes-para-qualificacao-de-agentes-comunitarios-de-saude-e-agentes-de-combates-as-endemias>

the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁸⁹² The objective of the measure, by maintaining the reduction of tariffs to zero, is to increase the supply of medicines, as well as supplies for the national production of goods intended to fight the pandemic, reducing the costs for the manufacture of these goods in the country and increasing availability for the Brazilian health system.³⁸⁹³ This tax reduction makes importing essential goods easier and faster to respond to urgent needs.³⁸⁹⁴

On 6 January 2021, the Executive Management Committee of the Chamber of Foreign Trade (Gecex) decided to reduce the Import Tax to 0 per cent for five more products, including syringes and needles.³⁸⁹⁵ The products become part of the list of temporary tariff reductions with the aim of facilitating the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁸⁹⁶ Building upon other products deemed essential during the pandemic and their import tax being dropped, the addition of five more products is an important step to speeding up access to necessary goods.³⁸⁹⁷

On 15 January 2021, Gecex approved the temporary reduction of the Import Tax to zero for 258 products.³⁸⁹⁸ Among other products, the measure includes vital sign monitors, oxygen sensors, tanks for storing medical gases, as well as various medical supplies that allow intensifying the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁸⁹⁹

On 16 January 2021, Gecex temporarily eliminated the import tax of more than 250 medical, hospital and personal protective equipment, necessary to fight the pandemic caused by COVID-19, such as gloves, aprons and masks.³⁹⁰⁰ Building upon previous import tax reductions, the list has been expanded to continue ensuring that Brazilians have access to necessary products and equipment.³⁹⁰¹

On 21 January 2021, Brazil, in a meeting of the Executive Council of the World Health Organization (WHO), adopted a resolution that aims to reinforce the attention to the mental health of people

³⁸⁹² Camex extends zero tariff for importing medicines and supplies against COVID-19, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 29 December 2020. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020/dezembro-1/camex-prorroga-tarifa-zero-para-importacao-de-remedios-e-insumos-contra-covid-19>

³⁸⁹³ Camex extends zero tariff for importing medicines and supplies against COVID-19, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 29 December 2020. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020/dezembro-1/camex-prorroga-tarifa-zero-para-importacao-de-remedios-e-insumos-contra-covid-19>

³⁸⁹⁴ Camex extends zero tariff for importing medicines and supplies against COVID-19, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 29 December 2020. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020/dezembro-1/camex-prorroga-tarifa-zero-para-importacao-de-remedios-e-insumos-contra-covid-19>

³⁸⁹⁵ Camex reduces the Import Tax and suspends anti-dumping to aid efforts to combat COVID-19, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 6 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/janeiro/camex-reduz-o-imposto-de-importacao-e-suspende-antidumping-para-auxiliar-nos-esforcos-de-combate-a-covid-19>

³⁸⁹⁶ Camex reduces the Import Tax and suspends anti-dumping to aid efforts to combat COVID-19, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 6 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/janeiro/camex-reduz-o-imposto-de-importacao-e-suspende-antidumping-para-auxiliar-nos-esforcos-de-combate-a-covid-19>

³⁸⁹⁷ Camex reduces the Import Tax and suspends anti-dumping to aid efforts to combat COVID-19, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 6 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/janeiro/camex-reduz-o-imposto-de-importacao-e-suspende-antidumping-para-auxiliar-nos-esforcos-de-combate-a-covid-19>

³⁸⁹⁸ Camex expands tariff reductions and suspends anti-dumping to intensify the fight against COVID, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 15 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/janeiro/camex-amplia-reducoes-tarifarias-e-suspende-antidumping-para-intensificar-combate-a-covid>

³⁸⁹⁹ Camex expands tariff reductions and suspends anti-dumping to intensify the fight against COVID, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 15 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/janeiro/camex-amplia-reducoes-tarifarias-e-suspende-antidumping-para-intensificar-combate-a-covid>

³⁹⁰⁰ Government zeroes import tax on more than 250 items to help fight COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 16 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-zera-imposto-de-importacao-de-mais-de-250-itens-para-auxiliar-combate-a-covid-19>

³⁹⁰¹ Government zeroes import tax on more than 250 items to help fight COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 16 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-zera-imposto-de-importacao-de-mais-de-250-itens-para-auxiliar-combate-a-covid-19>

during the pandemic, entitled “Preparation and response in mental health in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.”³⁹⁰² The document, entitled “Mental health preparedness and response in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic,” had Brazil’s active participation in the negotiations.³⁹⁰³ The country acted as co-sponsor of the project, proposed by Thailand, in a commitment to promote the debate on mental health within the scope of multilateral discussions.³⁹⁰⁴

On 22 January 2021, President Bolsonaro asked Minister Pazuello to create an Epidemiological Fund to reinforce immunization against COVID-19 and halt the advance of the pandemic in the state of Amazonas.³⁹⁰⁵ The Epidemiological Fund was developed in partnership with the National Council of Health Secretaries and the National Council of Municipal Health Secretariats and allocates a quota of new doses of vaccines to the region.³⁹⁰⁶

On 12 February 2021, the Ministry of Health implemented, at the Central Public Health Laboratories of the States, the National Network for Genetic Sequencing to investigate mutations and different strains of SARS-CoV-2 in circulation in Brazil.³⁹⁰⁷ According to Secretary Arnaldo, the initiative will accelerate the investigation of COVID-19 virus mutations.³⁹⁰⁸ He also stated that “The surveillance and monitoring of these mutations will help us in the response of SUS to control the pandemic in the country and to understand more and more the behavior of the virus.”³⁹⁰⁹

On 2 March 2021, the Ministry of Health announced it should receive another shipment of vaccines from the pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca/Oxford through the COVAX Facility

³⁹⁰² At WHO, Brazil reinforces the importance of mental health care in the pandemic, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 21 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/na-oms-brasil-reforca-importancia-da-atencao-a-saude-mental-na-pandemia>

³⁹⁰³ At WHO, Brazil reinforces the importance of mental health care in the pandemic, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 21 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/na-oms-brasil-reforca-importancia-da-atencao-a-saude-mental-na-pandemia>

³⁹⁰⁴ At WHO, Brazil reinforces the importance of mental health care in the pandemic, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 21 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/na-oms-brasil-reforca-importancia-da-atencao-a-saude-mental-na-pandemia>

³⁹⁰⁵ Epidemiological Fund is a strategy to curb deaths and contain the advance of the pandemic in Amazonas and other states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 22 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/fundo-epidemiologico-e-estrategia-para-frear-mortes-e-conter-o-avanco-da-pandemia-no-amazonas-e-outros-estados>

³⁹⁰⁶ Epidemiological Fund is a strategy to curb deaths and contain the advance of the pandemic in Amazonas and other states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 22 January 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/fundo-epidemiologico-e-estrategia-para-frear-mortes-e-conter-o-avanco-da-pandemia-no-amazonas-e-outros-estados>

³⁹⁰⁷ Ministry of Health strengthens genomic surveillance to combat mutations in the virus that causes COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 12 February 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-fortalece-vigilancia-genomica-para-combater-mutacoes-do-virus-causador-da-covid-19>

³⁹⁰⁸ Ministry of Health strengthens genomic surveillance to combat mutations in the virus that causes COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 12 February 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-fortalece-vigilancia-genomica-para-combater-mutacoes-do-virus-causador-da-covid-19>

³⁹⁰⁹ Ministry of Health strengthens genomic surveillance to combat mutations in the virus that causes COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 12 February 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministerio-da-saude-fortalece-vigilancia-genomica-para-combater-mutacoes-do-virus-causador-da-covid-19>

consortium.³⁹¹⁰ The global alliance has allocated 10,672,800 doses to Brazil that will be distributed between February and June to further expand vaccine access to Brazilians.³⁹¹¹

On 9 March 2021, Minister Pazuella, met with the president of the board of directors of the global vaccine alliance Gavi, José Manuel Barroso, to discuss the allocation of vaccines acquired by COVAX Facility.³⁹¹² The first shipment by COVAX is expected to arrive in Brazil through the Rotating Fund of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and corresponds to the AstraZeneca/Oxford immunizer, manufactured in Korea.³⁹¹³ The initial schedule, subject to changes, foresees 2.9 million doses in March and another 6.1 million by May.³⁹¹⁴

On 29 March 2021, Gecex temporarily zeroed the Import Tax on 65 more products used to fight the new coronavirus pandemic.³⁹¹⁵ This builds upon previous import tax reductions on goods and materials needed in response to the ongoing pandemic.³⁹¹⁶

On 14 April 2021, 1,301 adult intensive care unit (ICU) beds and 35 pediatric ICU beds were authorized by the Ministry of Health for the care of critically ill patients with COVID-19.³⁹¹⁷ Several municipalities in the states of Alagoas, Amazonas, Amapá, Bahia, Ceará, Maranhão, Minas Gerais, Pará, Pernambuco, Paraná, Rio Grande do Norte, Rondônia, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Sergipe and São Paulo are part of the allocations.³⁹¹⁸

On 16 April 2021, over 2.3 million orotracheal intubation drugs will be distributed by the Ministry of Health beginning on April 16.³⁹¹⁹ The inputs were acquired in China and donated to the Federal Government by a group of companies formed by Petrobras, Vale, Engie, Itaú Unibanco, Klabin and Raízen.³⁹²⁰ Minister of Health Marcelo Queiroga in a press conference mentioned that the action will

³⁹¹⁰ Brazil guarantees over 10.6 million doses of vaccines against COVID-19 through the global consortium Covax Facility, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 2 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-garante-mais-10-6-milhoes-de-doses-de-vacinas-contr-a-covid-19-por-meio-do-consorcio-global-covax-facility>

³⁹¹¹ Brazil guarantees over 10.6 million doses of vaccines against COVID-19 through the global consortium Covax Facility, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 2 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-garante-mais-10-6-milhoes-de-doses-de-vacinas-contr-a-covid-19-por-meio-do-consorcio-global-covax-facility>

³⁹¹² Minister Pazuella asks Gavi alliance for Brazil to receive vaccines by Covax Facility, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 9 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-pazuella-pede-a-alianca-gavi-atencao-ao-brasil-para-recebimento-de-vacinas-pela-covax-facility>

³⁹¹³ Minister Pazuella asks Gavi alliance for Brazil to receive vaccines by Covax Facility, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 9 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-pazuella-pede-a-alianca-gavi-atencao-ao-brasil-para-recebimento-de-vacinas-pela-covax-facility>

³⁹¹⁴ Minister Pazuella asks Gavi alliance for Brazil to receive vaccines by Covax Facility, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 9 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-pazuella-pede-a-alianca-gavi-atencao-ao-brasil-para-recebimento-de-vacinas-pela-covax-facility>

³⁹¹⁵ Camex zeroes Import Tax on 65 more products to combat COVID-19, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 29 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/camex-zera-imposto-de-importacao-de-mais-65-produtos-para-combate-a-covid-19>

³⁹¹⁶ Camex zeroes Import Tax on 65 more products to combat COVID-19, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 29 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/marco/camex-zera-imposto-de-importacao-de-mais-65-produtos-para-combate-a-covid-19>

³⁹¹⁷ Health authorizes 1,300 more ICU beds COVID-19 for 16 states, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 30 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-1-3-mil-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-16-estados>

³⁹¹⁸ Health authorizes 1,300 more ICU beds COVID-19 for 16 states, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 30 March 2021. Access date: 4 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-1-3-mil-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-16-estados>

³⁹¹⁹ Health will distribute 2.3 million intubation drugs, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 15 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-ira-distribuir-2-3-milhoes-de-medicamentos-de-intubacao>

³⁹²⁰ Health will distribute 2.3 million intubation drugs, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 15 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-ira-distribuir-2-3-milhoes-de-medicamentos-de-intubacao>

reinforce assistance to the Unified Health System and patient care throughout the country.³⁹²¹ “The obligation to purchase these drugs is from states and municipalities. However, we are in an international public emergency and we have to take the necessary steps to ensure supply throughout the country, especially in smaller municipalities that are unable to purchase,” said Minister Queiroga.³⁹²²

On 17 April 2021, Brazil released another BRL2.6 billion for the Ministry of Health to expand the actions carried out in the fight against the pandemic.³⁹²³ The resource will be used to purchase medicines that make up the intubation kit and also for new beds in the ICU.³⁹²⁴ Of the amount released, BRL1.2 billion will be for the opening of new ICU beds – requested by the state and municipal health departments, in order to serve critically ill patients infected with the new coronavirus.³⁹²⁵ The financial contribution will also be used to buy intubation drugs.³⁹²⁶ BRL1.4 billion will be allocated so that the Ministry of Health can maintain the stock of inputs for a period of 90 days.³⁹²⁷ The other 100 million include expenses with vaccine distribution logistics, for example, and transporting patients who need care in other states and municipalities.³⁹²⁸

On 20 April 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 411 adult ICU beds for the care of critically ill patients with covid-19.³⁹²⁹ Several municipalities in the states of Amazonas, Bahia, Ceará, Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso do Sul, Pernambuco, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Norte, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina and São Paulo are part of the allocations.³⁹³⁰

On 20 April 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 526 beds of Pulmonary Ventilatory Support for exclusive care to confirmed or suspected COVID-19 patients.³⁹³¹ The authorizations, on an exceptional and temporary basis, are destined for the Federal District and the states of Bahia, Goiás,

³⁹²¹ Health will distribute 2.3 million intubation drugs, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 15 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-ira-distribuir-2-3-milhoes-de-medicamentos-de-intubacao>

³⁹²² Health will distribute 2.3 million intubation drugs, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 15 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-ira-distribuir-2-3-milhoes-de-medicamentos-de-intubacao>

³⁹²³ Federal Government releases another R \$ 2.6 billion to face the covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 17 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-libera-mais-r-2-6-bilhoes-para-o-enfrentamento-da-covid-19>

³⁹²⁴ Federal Government releases another R \$ 2.6 billion to face the covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 17 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-libera-mais-r-2-6-bilhoes-para-o-enfrentamento-da-covid-19>

³⁹²⁵ Federal Government releases another R \$ 2.6 billion to face the covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 17 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-libera-mais-r-2-6-bilhoes-para-o-enfrentamento-da-covid-19>

³⁹²⁶ Federal Government releases another R \$ 2.6 billion to face the covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 17 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-libera-mais-r-2-6-bilhoes-para-o-enfrentamento-da-covid-19>

³⁹²⁷ Federal Government releases another R \$ 2.6 billion to face the covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 17 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-libera-mais-r-2-6-bilhoes-para-o-enfrentamento-da-covid-19>

³⁹²⁸ Federal Government releases another R \$ 2.6 billion to face the covid-19, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 17 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-federal-libera-mais-r-2-6-bilhoes-para-o-enfrentamento-da-covid-19>

³⁹²⁹ Health authorizes 411 more ICU COVID-19 beds for 13 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-411-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-13-estados>

³⁹³⁰ Health authorizes 411 more ICU COVID-19 beds for 13 states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-411-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-13-estados>

³⁹³¹ Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 526 more beds are authorized for ten states and DF, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-526-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-dez-estados-e-df>

Minas Gerais, Paraná, São Paulo, Espírito Santo, Rio de Janeiro, Sergipe, Amazonas and Rio Grande do Sul.³⁹³²

On 20 April 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 666 more COVID-19 ICU beds for seven states: Alagoas, Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso do Sul, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Norte, Santa Catarina and São Paulo.³⁹³³

On 22 April 2021, the Ministry of Health is allocating BRL8.3 million for the purchase of hospital medical supplies, equipment and materials for the Special Indigenous Sanitary District Yanomami.³⁹³⁴ The inputs will be destined to expand the health care of more than 28,000 indigenous people located between the states of Amazonas and Roraima, in the middle of the Amazon rainforest and in areas of difficult access.³⁹³⁵

On 23 April 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized another 45 adult and five pediatric ICU beds for the care of critically ill patients with covid-19.³⁹³⁶ In total, four states are being benefited: Minas Gerais, Pernambuco, Santa Catarina and São Paulo.³⁹³⁷

On 28 April 2021, Minister Queiroga, reinforced that the union between the managers of the Unified Health System (SUS) is the key to fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, which involves the Federal, State and Municipal governments.³⁹³⁸ The statement was given during the inauguration of the board of directors of the National Council of Health Secretaries, in Brasília.³⁹³⁹ “It cannot be just a promise, tripartite has to be a reality. We need to come together to face our only enemy, which is the virus. And the weapon we have for this is SUS,” said Queiroga.³⁹⁴⁰

³⁹³² Pulmonary Ventilatory Support: 526 more beds are authorized for ten states and DF, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/suporte-ventilatorio-pulmonar-mais-526-leitos-sao-autorizados-para-dez-estados-e-df>

³⁹³³ 666 more COVID-19 ICU beds are authorized for seven states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/mais-666-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-sao-autorizados-para-sete-estados>

³⁹³⁴ DSEI Yanomami: Health allocates R \$ 8.3 million to purchase medicines, equipment and supplies, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 22 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/dsei-yanomami-saude-destina-r-8-3-milhoes-para-compra-de-medicamentos-equipamentos-e-insumos>

³⁹³⁵ DSEI Yanomami: Health allocates R \$ 8.3 million to purchase medicines, equipment and supplies, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 22 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/dsei-yanomami-saude-destina-r-8-3-milhoes-para-compra-de-medicamentos-equipamentos-e-insumos>

³⁹³⁶ Over 50 COVID-19 ICU beds are authorized for four states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 23 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/mais-50-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-sao-autorizados-para-quatro-estados>

³⁹³⁷ Over 50 COVID-19 ICU beds are authorized for four states, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 23 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/mais-50-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-sao-autorizados-para-quatro-estados>

³⁹³⁸ Minister Queiroga participates in possession of the board of Conass and reinforces that the union will fight the pandemic, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 28 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-queiroga-participa-de-posse-da-diretoria-do-conass-e-reforca-que-a-uniao-ira-combater-a-pandemia>

³⁹³⁹ Minister Queiroga participates in possession of the board of Conass and reinforces that the union will fight the pandemic, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 28 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-queiroga-participa-de-posse-da-diretoria-do-conass-e-reforca-que-a-uniao-ira-combater-a-pandemia>

³⁹⁴⁰ Minister Queiroga participates in possession of the board of Conass and reinforces that the union will fight the pandemic, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 28 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/ministro-queiroga-participa-de-posse-da-diretoria-do-conass-e-reforca-que-a-uniao-ira-combater-a-pandemia>

On 29 April 2021, the Ministry of Health will distribute an additional 864,000 units of orotracheal intubation drugs.³⁹⁴¹ The inputs were acquired through auctions carried out by the portfolio and also acquired through PAHO.³⁹⁴² These materials were acquired to better equip medical establishments fight the pandemic and treat patients coming in and is a strong step in improving the country's response and handling.³⁹⁴³

On 29 April 2021, the Ministry of Health authorized 867 adult ICU beds and five pediatric ICU beds for the care of critically ill patients with COVID-19.³⁹⁴⁴ Several municipalities in the states of Alagoas, Bahia, Ceará, Espírito Santo, Goiás, Minas Gerais, Pará, Pernambuco, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, São Paulo and the Federal District are benefiting from allocations.³⁹⁴⁵

Brazil has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by instituting the Community Health Agents and Agents to Combat Endemics program, imposing zero tax on products to fight COVID-19, by partnering with PAHO to disburse orotracheal intubation drugs and by participating in COVAX to immunize its citizens.

Thus, Brazil has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Sydney Grad

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 22 November 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau pledged to aid developing nations access to the vaccine.³⁹⁴⁶ Leaders gathered at the G20 summit to agree on a coordinated response to the pandemic; in response to the discussions, Canada has pledged to ensure access to the vaccine, and a rejection of protectionism is the foundation to international cooperation moving forward.³⁹⁴⁷

On 27 November 2020, Health Canada implemented an interim order “respecting drug shortages” as a measure to help Canadian drug suppliers in response to the bulk importation of certain drugs by

³⁹⁴¹ Health distributes over 864 thousand units of intubation drugs, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 29 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-distribui-mais-864-mil-unidades-de-medicamentos-de-intubacao>

³⁹⁴² Health distributes over 864 thousand units of intubation drugs, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 29 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-distribui-mais-864-mil-unidades-de-medicamentos-de-intubacao>

³⁹⁴³ Health distributes over 864 thousand units of intubation drugs, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 29 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-distribui-mais-864-mil-unidades-de-medicamentos-de-intubacao>

³⁹⁴⁴ Health authorizes more 872 ICU beds COVID-19 for 13 states and the DF, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 29 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-872-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-13-estados-e-o-df>

³⁹⁴⁵ Health authorizes more 872 ICU beds COVID-19 for 13 states and the DF, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 29 April 2021. Access date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/saude-autoriza-mais-872-leitos-de-uti-covid-19-para-13-estados-e-o-df>

³⁹⁴⁶ Trudeau joins G20 in promising COVID-19 aid to poor nations, rejecting protectionism, CTV News (Ottawa) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2020. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/trudeau-joins-g20-in-promising-covid-19-aid-to-poor-nations-rejecting-protectionism-1.5199907>

³⁹⁴⁷ Trudeau joins G20 in promising COVID-19 aid to poor nations, rejecting protectionism, CTV News (Ottawa) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2020. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/trudeau-joins-g20-in-promising-covid-19-aid-to-poor-nations-rejecting-protectionism-1.5199907>

the United States and other countries.³⁹⁴⁸ The measure allows Health Canada to assess and help alleviate any potential drug shortages due to bulk buying as a response to COVID-19 worldwide.³⁹⁴⁹

On 30 November 2020, Transport Canada implemented new ministerial orders under section 32.01 of the railway safety act due to COVID-19 requiring intercity passengers on rail carriers to implement health checks for COVID-19 and refuse to board symptomatic passengers.³⁹⁵⁰ This new measure also influenced the role out of similar measures for pilots of private aircraft that has since been repealed.³⁹⁵¹

On 14 December 2020, Canada announced additional support for equitable Access to COVID-19 tests treatments and vaccines.³⁹⁵² Minister of International Development Karina Gould announced a CAD485 million contribution to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator. Amongst other initiatives, this will help the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund procure up to three million antibody therapeutics.³⁹⁵³ Minister Gould added that Canada will also invest CAD255 million in additional support for medical solutions against COVID-19 in developing and vulnerable countries. This will be achieved through focused investments with the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, for the development, delivery and distribution of vaccines and therapeutics in Latin America and the Caribbean.³⁹⁵⁴

On 2 February 2021, the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Industry announced the investment of CAD1 billion into COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and biomanufacturing capacity.³⁹⁵⁵ This announcement relies on the already established Vaccine and Therapeutics task forces and biomanufacturing subcommittee in parliament.³⁹⁵⁶ The investment includes CAD5.1 million to Precision NanoSystems Incorporated, to expand the production of ribonucleic acid vaccines and

³⁹⁴⁸ Interim Order Respecting Drug Shortages (Safeguarding the Drug Supply), Health Canada (Ottawa) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/compliance-enforcement/importation-exportation/interim-order-drug-shortages-protecting-supply.html>

³⁹⁴⁹ Interim Order Respecting Drug Shortages (Safeguarding the Drug Supply), Health Canada (Ottawa) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/compliance-enforcement/importation-exportation/interim-order-drug-shortages-protecting-supply.html>

³⁹⁵⁰ Order under Section 32.01 of the Railway Safety Act due to COVID-19, No. 9, Transport Canada (Ottawa) 20 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2020. <https://tc.canada.ca/en/rail-transportation/enforcement-action-measures-mitigate-threats-rail-safety/ministerial-orders-emergency-directives/order-under-section-3201-railway-safety-act-due-covid-19-no-9>

³⁹⁵¹ Order under Section 32.01 of the Railway Safety Act due to COVID-19, No. 9, Transport Canada (Ottawa) 20 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2020. <https://tc.canada.ca/en/rail-transportation/enforcement-action-measures-mitigate-threats-rail-safety/ministerial-orders-emergency-directives/order-under-section-3201-railway-safety-act-due-covid-19-no-9>

³⁹⁵² Canada announces additional support for equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-additional-support-for-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>

³⁹⁵³ Canada announces additional support for equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-additional-support-for-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>

³⁹⁵⁴ Canada announces additional support for equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-additional-support-for-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>

³⁹⁵⁵ New support to produce COVID-19 vaccines and treatments in Canada, The Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 2 February 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/02/02/new-support-produce-covid-19-vaccines-and-treatments-canada>

³⁹⁵⁶ New support to produce COVID-19 vaccines and treatments in Canada, The Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 2 February 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/02/02/new-support-produce-covid-19-vaccines-and-treatments-canada>

future genetic medicines in Canada.³⁹⁵⁷ Another CAD14 million will be allocated for Edesa Biotech Inc. to advance work on a monoclonal antibody therapy for acute respiratory distress syndrome, which is the leading cause of COVID-19 deaths.³⁹⁵⁸

On 11 February 2021, Canada launched a new initiative called the “Feminist Response and Recovery Fund” that will provide CAD100 million for projects helping women in need.³⁹⁵⁹ The fund will allow organizations to pursue projects and scale up operations that help women and girls participate in Canada’s economy and society throughout and post COVID-19.³⁹⁶⁰ The Recovery Fund is designed to help women at the local, regional and national levels who are the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Women continue to work on the front lines and the government is investing in organizations promoting equity.³⁹⁶¹

On 14 February 2021, the Department of Justice amended regulations to pursue additional efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 across Canada by including more persuasive fines to improve compliance with the Quarantine Act and the emergency orders made under that act.³⁹⁶²

On 3 March 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau announced an investment of CAD518 million to support more than 100 projects and 1000 researchers across the country.³⁹⁶³ The new funding will ensure that researchers have the tools necessary to address the pandemic’s changing needs and speed up vaccine production.³⁹⁶⁴ Prime Minister Trudeau said that, “Canada’s researchers and scientists are some of the brightest and most skilled in the world. Today’s investments will ensure that they have what they need to help us build a Canada that is healthier, cleaner, and more competitive.”³⁹⁶⁵ This

³⁹⁵⁷ New support to produce COVID-19 vaccines and treatments in Canada, The Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 2 February 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/02/02/new-support-produce-covid-19-vaccines-and-treatments-canada>

³⁹⁵⁸ New support to produce COVID-19 vaccines and treatments in Canada, The Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 2 February 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/02/02/new-support-produce-covid-19-vaccines-and-treatments-canada>

³⁹⁵⁹ Government of Canada to Invest \$100 Million to Support Women Impacted by the Pandemic, Office of the Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development (Ottawa) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-invest-100-million-to-support-women-impacted-by-the-pandemic.html>

³⁹⁶⁰ Government of Canada to Invest \$100 Million to Support Women Impacted by the Pandemic, Office of the Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development (Ottawa) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-invest-100-million-to-support-women-impacted-by-the-pandemic.html>

³⁹⁶¹ d Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development (Ottawa) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-invest-100-million-to-support-women-impacted-by-the-pandemic.html>

³⁹⁶² Regulations Amending the Contraventions Regulations, The Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2021/2021-02-15-x3/html/extra3-eng.html>

³⁹⁶³ New investments to support research and science across Canada, The Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/03/03/new-investments-support-research-and-science-across-canada>

³⁹⁶⁴ New investments to support research and science across Canada, The Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/03/03/new-investments-support-research-and-science-across-canada>

³⁹⁶⁵ New investments to support research and science across Canada, The Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/03/03/new-investments-support-research-and-science-across-canada>

demonstrates Canada’s advanced preparedness to combat the pandemic and future ones that may occur.³⁹⁶⁶

On 1 April 2021, Health Canada announced a CAD6.5 million investment to expand virtual health services in the province of Saskatchewan.³⁹⁶⁷ Canada aims to help the region respond better to the challenges of delivering healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁹⁶⁸

On 6 April 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau announced the final installment of the over CAD19 billion Safe Restart Agreement aimed at helping provinces and territories safely restart the economy.³⁹⁶⁹ The agreement helps expand the capacity of healthcare systems, secure personal protective equipment, and helps protect the most vulnerable communities across Canada.³⁹⁷⁰

On 14 April 2021, Infrastructure Canada announced a CAD150 million investment in better ventilation in public buildings to help reduce possible aerosol transmission of COVID-19.³⁹⁷¹ The project aims to “monitor, and improve indoor air quality and ventilation, including upgrades or conversions of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, as well as community-based solutions in Indigenous communities.”³⁹⁷²

On 14 April 2021, Health Canada announced a CAD16 million investment to expand virtual health services in the province of Alberta.³⁹⁷³ Canada invested in the creation of an eHealth strategy that includes virtual care, expanded access to health records, and developed a privacy and security framework needed to deliver health care during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁹⁷⁴

³⁹⁶⁶ New investments to support research and science across Canada, The Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/03/03/new-investments-support-research-and-science-across-canada>

³⁹⁶⁷ Government of Canada Invests Close to \$6.5 Million to Expand Virtual Health Care Services in Saskatchewan (Ottawa) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-close-to-65-million-to-expand-virtual-health-care-services-in-saskatchewan.html>

³⁹⁶⁸ Government of Canada Invests Close to \$6.5 Million to Expand Virtual Health Care Services in Saskatchewan (Ottawa) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-close-to-65-million-to-expand-virtual-health-care-services-in-saskatchewan.html>

³⁹⁶⁹ Support for testing and contact tracing through the Safe Restart Agreement (Ottawa) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/04/06/support-testing-and-contact-tracing-through-safe-restart-agreement>

³⁹⁷⁰ Support for testing and contact tracing through the Safe Restart Agreement (Ottawa) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/04/06/support-testing-and-contact-tracing-through-safe-restart-agreement>

³⁹⁷¹ Government of Canada investing an additional \$150 million in better ventilation for schools, hospitals, and other public buildings (Ottawa) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-investing-an-additional-150-million-in-better-ventilation-for-schools-hospitals-and-other-public-buildings.html>

³⁹⁷² Government of Canada investing an additional \$150 million in better ventilation for schools, hospitals, and other public buildings (Ottawa) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-investing-an-additional-150-million-in-better-ventilation-for-schools-hospitals-and-other-public-buildings.html>

³⁹⁷³ Government of Canada Invests nearly \$16 Million to Expand Virtual Health Care Services in Alberta (Ottawa) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-nearly-16-million-to-expand-virtual-health-care-services-in-alberta.html>

³⁹⁷⁴ Government of Canada Invests nearly \$16 Million to Expand Virtual Health Care Services in Alberta (Ottawa) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-nearly-16-million-to-expand-virtual-health-care-services-in-alberta.html>

On 16 April 2021, Health Canada announced a CAD46 million investment to expand virtual health services in the province of Ontario.³⁹⁷⁵ Canada aims to use this investment to help the region respond better to the challenges of delivering healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁹⁷⁶

On 23 April 2021, the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Industry announced a CAD59.2 million investment in the University of Saskatchewan's Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization's for further development and manufacture of bio-solutions such as vaccines and therapeutics.³⁹⁷⁷ The proposed investment would allow researchers to handle all the disease-causing pathogens in the world.³⁹⁷⁸

On 23 April 2021, Public Services and Procurement Canada announced that Canada has secured COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer for 2022 and 2023 with the possibility to extend current contracts into 2024.³⁹⁷⁹ Canada has now secured 65 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine with access to up to 120 million doses.³⁹⁸⁰ This new procurement is in addition to the current 48 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine Canada secured in late 2020.³⁹⁸¹

On 26 April 2021, Public Safety Canada announced the deployment of federal health human resources, Canadian Armed forces, and the Canadian Red Cross as well as transport medical staff from across Canada to support the hardest hit Ontario medical facilities.³⁹⁸²

On 27 April 2021, Global Affairs Canada announced CAD10 million in funding for humanitarian assistance to the Canadian Red Cross to support the Indian Red Cross Society's response to the rising cases in India.³⁹⁸³ The investment will allow for the purchase of medical supplies, as well as supporting blood and ambulance services.³⁹⁸⁴

³⁹⁷⁵ Government of Canada Invests \$46 Million to Expand Virtual Health Care Services in Ontario (Ottawa) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-46-million-to-expand-virtual-health-care-services-in-ontario.html>

³⁹⁷⁶ Government of Canada Invests \$46 Million to Expand Virtual Health Care Services in Ontario (Ottawa) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-46-million-to-expand-virtual-health-care-services-in-ontario.html>

³⁹⁷⁷ Ministers Champagne, Joly and Carr highlight Budget 2021 biomanufacturing investments (Ottawa) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/04/ministers-champagne-joly-and-carr-highlight-budget-2021-biomanufacturing-investments.html>

³⁹⁷⁸ Ministers Champagne, Joly and Carr highlight Budget 2021 biomanufacturing investments (Ottawa) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/04/ministers-champagne-joly-and-carr-highlight-budget-2021-biomanufacturing-investments.html>

³⁹⁷⁹ Government of Canada secures vaccine supply beyond 2021 (Ottawa) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-secures-vaccine-supply-beyond-2021.html>

³⁹⁸⁰ Government of Canada secures vaccine supply beyond 2021 (Ottawa) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-secures-vaccine-supply-beyond-2021.html>

³⁹⁸¹ Government of Canada secures vaccine supply beyond 2021 (Ottawa) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-secures-vaccine-supply-beyond-2021.html>

³⁹⁸² Government of Canada assists Ontario with COVID-19 response (Ottawa) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-assists-ontario-with-covid-19-response.html>

³⁹⁸³ Canada announces funding support in response to COVID-19 in India (Ottawa) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/04/canada-announces-funding-support-in-response-to-covid-19-in-india.html>

³⁹⁸⁴ Canada announces funding support in response to COVID-19 in India (Ottawa) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/04/canada-announces-funding-support-in-response-to-covid-19-in-india.html>

On 29 April 2021, the Public Health Agency of Canada announced an investment of CAD 64 million to launch the Immunization Partnership Fund.³⁹⁸⁵ The project aims to build the capacity of healthcare providers as vaccinator providers.³⁹⁸⁶ CAD32.25 million is allocated for community-led projects, while additional funding is earmarked to support electronic vaccination registries to help monitor vaccine uptake.³⁹⁸⁷

On 29 April 2021, the Public Health Agency of Canada announced an investment of CAD2.25 million through the Immunization Partnership Fund for two projects that are designed to support vaccination efforts.³⁹⁸⁸ The first project, run through the University of Alberta, will address misinformation about the vaccine, while the second project, run through the University of Toronto, will address fears of needles and vaccines.³⁹⁸⁹ Both projects will aim to support Canada's research into barriers that Canadians face in getting vaccinated.³⁹⁹⁰

On 5 May 2021, on the fringes of the G7 summit in London, Canada and India met virtually and discussed the elevated situation of the COVID-19 pandemic in India.³⁹⁹¹ It was finalized that a Canadian Armed Forces aircraft will depart on Wednesday carrying critical medication and ventilators to help support India's battle against the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. This consignment will include 25,000 vials of the anti-viral remdesivir as well as 50 ventilators.³⁹⁹²

Canada has taken strong action to fully advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention and response. This has been demonstrated when Canada enacted the Quarantine Act, contributed to the COVID-19 Tools Accelerator and invested in science and technology to speed up vaccine development. Furthermore, Canada made it vital for passengers to undergo COVID-19 tests for detection.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Rahul Pallan

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to combat COVID-19 by advancing pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

³⁹⁸⁵ New Projects Funded Under the Immunization Partnership Fund (Ottawa) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/04/backgrounder-new-projects-funded-under-the-immunization-partnership-fund.html>

³⁹⁸⁶ New Projects Funded Under the Immunization Partnership Fund (Ottawa) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/04/backgrounder-new-projects-funded-under-the-immunization-partnership-fund.html>

³⁹⁸⁷ New Projects Funded Under the Immunization Partnership Fund (Ottawa) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/04/backgrounder-new-projects-funded-under-the-immunization-partnership-fund.html>

³⁹⁸⁸ The Government of Canada funds two new projects to encourage vaccine uptake in Canada (Ottawa) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-funds-two-new-projects-to-encourage-vaccine-uptake-in-canada.html>

³⁹⁸⁹ The Government of Canada funds two new projects to encourage vaccine uptake in Canada (Ottawa) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-funds-two-new-projects-to-encourage-vaccine-uptake-in-canada.html>

³⁹⁹⁰ The Government of Canada funds two new projects to encourage vaccine uptake in Canada (Ottawa) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-funds-two-new-projects-to-encourage-vaccine-uptake-in-canada.html>

³⁹⁹¹ Canada sending COVID-19 relief supplies to India (New Delhi) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/canada-sending-covid-19-relief-supplies-to-india-101620235238135.html>

³⁹⁹² Canada sending COVID-19 relief supplies to India (New Delhi) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/canada-sending-covid-19-relief-supplies-to-india-101620235238135.html>

On 22 November 2020, the National Health Commission released guidelines on the COVID-19 prevention and control work at blood donation stations.³⁹⁹³ The guideline aims to ensure the safety of health workers and donors and to secure blood supplies for the fall and winter of 2021.³⁹⁹⁴

On 23 November 2020, the Ministry of Civil Affairs announced their plans to ensure the livelihood of the most impoverished population under the pandemic.³⁹⁹⁵ The plans include conducting a census of people in need of social relief, expanding the relief's coverage and increasing financial support.³⁹⁹⁶ China provided temporary subsidies for 7.46 million people in 2020, 56 per cent more than the same period in 2019.³⁹⁹⁷

On 24 November 2020, the National Health Commission, the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, and the regional government of Guangxi held the third China-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Health Cooperation Forum in Nanning, China.³⁹⁹⁸ The forum offered the support of the World Health Organization (WHO) to play a leading role in global health governance and aimed to improve the cooperation between China and ASEAN in disease prevention, control and responding to public health emergencies such as the COVID-19 epidemic.³⁹⁹⁹

On 26 November 2020, Head of the Elderly Health Department of the National Health Commission Wang Haidong announced that the commission now requires hospitals to accommodate nonusers of smartphones, especially senior citizens, while implementing high-tech epidemic prevention and control measures.⁴⁰⁰⁰ Hospitals should continue to offer elderly patients traditional face-to-face services including registration, payment and inquiries concerning test results.⁴⁰⁰¹

³⁹⁹³ China tightens COVID-19 prevention in blood donation, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202011/22/content_WS5fba2924c6d0f7257694055c.html

³⁹⁹⁴ China tightens COVID-19 prevention in blood donation, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202011/22/content_WS5fba2924c6d0f7257694055c.html

³⁹⁹⁵ China ensures basic needs of vulnerable group amid COVID-19 fallout, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202011/23/content_WS5fbb7949c6d0f72576940695.html

³⁹⁹⁶ China ensures basic needs of vulnerable group amid COVID-19 fallout, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202011/23/content_WS5fbb7949c6d0f72576940695.html

³⁹⁹⁷ Measures to aid those affected by COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202011/24/content_WS5fbc6aaac6d0f72576940742.html

³⁹⁹⁸ China-ASEAN health cooperation forum opens in South China, People's Republic of China Government (Nanning) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202011/25/content_WS5fbd9373c6d0f72576940872.html

³⁹⁹⁹ China-ASEAN health cooperation forum opens in South China, People's Republic of China Government (Nanning) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202011/25/content_WS5fbd9373c6d0f72576940872.html

⁴⁰⁰⁰ Hospitals required to issue elderly-friendly epidemic policies, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 November 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-11/27/c_82286.htm

⁴⁰⁰¹ Hospitals required to issue elderly-friendly epidemic policies, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 November 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-11/27/c_82286.htm

On 27 November 2020, the Ministry of Transport released guidelines on preventing the transmission of COVID-19 through imported cold-chain foods during transportation.⁴⁰⁰² The guidelines include instructions on giving personnel training and protection and disinfection of vehicles.⁴⁰⁰³

On 1 December 2020, the National Medical Products Administration (NMPA) provided China's private enterprises guidance and assistance on reinforcing the enterprises' commitment to the research and development of COVID-19 test kits.⁴⁰⁰⁴ The chairman of Liferiver, a Chinese diagnostics solution provider, Shao Junbin said that officials from the NMPA were available for consultations on the phone and online chat groups, which helped the company develop one of the first novel coronavirus detection reagent certified by the country as well as the WHO.⁴⁰⁰⁵

On 2 December 2020, State Council Vice-Premier Sun Chunlan announced that China has achieved major progress in the research and development of COVID-19 vaccines.⁴⁰⁰⁶ 14 vaccines have entered clinical trials, 5 of which entered phase-III clinical trials.⁴⁰⁰⁷

On 7 December 2020, the National Health Commission released a notice that instructed all medical institutions at the grassroots level to test patients who have shown symptoms of fever for the novel coronavirus.⁴⁰⁰⁸ The notice is aimed at improving the ability of medical institutions to detect the virus early.⁴⁰⁰⁹

On 8 December 2020, the National Health Commission and the UK Department of Health and Social Care held the fifth China-UK health dialogue online.⁴⁰¹⁰ Representatives from both sides shared information on COVID-19 prevention and control, diagnosis and treatment, and global health cooperation.⁴⁰¹¹

⁴⁰⁰² China vows to stem COVID-19 spread through imported foods, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202011/27/content_WS5fc100a3c6d0f72576940cdb.html

⁴⁰⁰³ China vows to stem COVID-19 spread through imported foods, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202011/27/content_WS5fc100a3c6d0f72576940cdb.html

⁴⁰⁰⁴ Regulator's support energizes test kit makers to fight COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202012/01/content_WS5fc59b0dc6d0f72576940f8c.html

⁴⁰⁰⁵ Regulator's support energizes test kit makers to fight COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202012/01/content_WS5fc59b0dc6d0f72576940f8c.html

⁴⁰⁰⁶ Vice-premier underlines progress in COVID-19 vaccine development, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/sunchunlan/202012/03/content_WS5fc81dc1c6d0f725769412a2.html

⁴⁰⁰⁷ Vice-premier underlines progress in COVID-19 vaccine development, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/sunchunlan/202012/03/content_WS5fc81dc1c6d0f725769412a2.html

⁴⁰⁰⁸ Grassroots health centers told to conduct virus tests, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/09/content_WS5fd00c5fc6d0f7257694192a.html

⁴⁰⁰⁹ Grassroots health centers told to conduct virus tests, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/09/content_WS5fd00c5fc6d0f7257694192a.html

⁴⁰¹⁰ China, UK seek closer health cooperation, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 11 December 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-12/11/c_82422.htm

⁴⁰¹¹ China, UK seek closer health cooperation, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 11 December 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-12/11/c_82422.htm

On 8 December 2020, China delivered the second batch of anti-coronavirus medical aid, including 130,000 N95 masks, to the Arab League based in Cairo, Egypt.⁴⁰¹² China has sent the Arab countries more than 1 million testing kits and over 18 million masks, and dispatched medical teams to eight Arab countries.⁴⁰¹³

On 9 December 2020, the State Council outlined a number of measures to support the growth of the personal insurance sector to address the growing demand for healthcare, senior care and social security.⁴⁰¹⁴ Measures included offering insurers incentives to develop products that suit seniors' demands and financial resources, incorporating treatment costs that lie outside the basic medical insurance in the government's coverage.⁴⁰¹⁵

On 11 December 2020, China donated medical supplies worth RMB2 million to Myanmar to fight against COVID-19.⁴⁰¹⁶ The supplies included 30,000 personal protective equipment, 30,000 isolation gowns, 42,000 N95 masks and 150,000 surgical masks.⁴⁰¹⁷

On 15 December 2020, China held a ceremony for the China-aided future headquarters of Africa CDC project in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.⁴⁰¹⁸ The ceremony gathered senior officials from the AU Commission and the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, representatives of various African countries, diplomats from the Chinese mission to the AU, and high-level dignitaries. Head of the Chinese Mission to the African Union Liu Yuxi affirmed that China "will continue to support the African Union's Africa Joint Continental Strategy for COVID-19 Outbreak and Africa's efforts to build stronger public health prevention and control systems."⁴⁰¹⁹ He also stressed that China will try to make COVID-19 vaccines a global public good, and accessible and affordable for African countries.⁴⁰²⁰

On 15 December 2020, the National Health Commission donated medical equipment to Zimbabwe's largest referral hospital, the Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals.⁴⁰²¹ The donated materials included

⁴⁰¹² China delivers 2nd batch of anti-coronavirus medical aid to Arab League, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Cairo) 9 December 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-12/09/c_82395.htm

⁴⁰¹³ China delivers 2nd batch of anti-coronavirus medical aid to Arab League, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Cairo) 9 December 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-12/09/c_82395.htm

⁴⁰¹⁴ State Council urges more personal health insurance, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202012/15/content_WS5fd80804c6d0f72576941e1a.html

⁴⁰¹⁵ State Council urges more personal health insurance, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202012/15/content_WS5fd80804c6d0f72576941e1a.html

⁴⁰¹⁶ China donates more medical supplies for Myanmar's fight against COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Yangon) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202012/11/content_WS5fd368e2c6d0f72576941bea.html

⁴⁰¹⁷ China donates more medical supplies for Myanmar's fight against COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Yangon) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202012/11/content_WS5fd368e2c6d0f72576941bea.html

⁴⁰¹⁸ China, Africa fighting COVID-19 pandemic shoulder to shoulder, People's Republic of China Government (Addis Ababa) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202012/15/content_WS5fd8068ac6d0f72576941e19.html

⁴⁰¹⁹ China, Africa fighting COVID-19 pandemic shoulder to shoulder, People's Republic of China Government (Addis Ababa) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202012/15/content_WS5fd8068ac6d0f72576941e19.html

⁴⁰²⁰ China, Africa fighting COVID-19 pandemic shoulder to shoulder, People's Republic of China Government (Addis Ababa) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202012/15/content_WS5fd8068ac6d0f72576941e19.html

⁴⁰²¹ China donates medical equipment to Zimbabwe's largest hospital, People's Republic of China Government (Harare) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202012/16/content_WS5fd958f1c6d0f72576941f88.html

ventilators, blood oxygen saturation monitors, electrocardiographs, oxygen machines, among other equipment.⁴⁰²²

On 15 December 2020, the National Health Commission and the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine issued a set of standards and specifications for promoting the application of information technology in the public health sector.⁴⁰²³ The standards aimed to improve the country's emergency response mechanism for major epidemics.⁴⁰²⁴

On 15 December 2020, Ambassador to South Sudan Hua Ning lauded the eighth batch of the medical team from China to help poor communities in South Sudan.⁴⁰²⁵ Chinese medical doctors have offered free treatment to more than 2,000 people residing along the 392 km Juba-Terekeka-Yirol-Rumbek road in South Sudan.⁴⁰²⁶

On 16 December 2020, the Civil Aviation Administration of China announced new COVID-19 control policies for inbound flights.⁴⁰²⁷ Flights will be suspended for two weeks instead of one week if the number of passengers who test positive for COVID-19 reaches five.⁴⁰²⁸

On 21 December 2020, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention implemented strict measures to prevent COVID-19 infections via cold-chain and frozen foods.⁴⁰²⁹ The measures include strict testing and disinfection at customs, protection and regular nucleic acid testing for the workers, and the inoculation of high-risk groups.⁴⁰³⁰

On 21 December 2020, China started the construction of a plant for manufacturing an mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine.⁴⁰³¹ China expected the facility to produce 120 million doses per year in its first phase.⁴⁰³²

⁴⁰²² China donates medical equipment to Zimbabwe's largest hospital, People's Republic of China Government (Harare) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202012/16/content_WS5fd958f1c6d0f72576941f88.html

⁴⁰²³ China to promote IT application in public health, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/15/content_WS5fd8b522c6d0f72576941f16.html

⁴⁰²⁴ China to promote IT application in public health, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/15/content_WS5fd8b522c6d0f72576941f16.html

⁴⁰²⁵ Chinese doctors treat over 2,000 people in South Sudan, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Juba) 16 December 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-12/16/c_82460.htm

⁴⁰²⁶ Chinese doctors treat over 2,000 people in South Sudan, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Juba) 16 December 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-12/16/c_82460.htm

⁴⁰²⁷ China tightens COVID-19 control policies for inbound flights, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/16/content_WS5fd9f2f5c6d0f72576942004.html

⁴⁰²⁸ China tightens COVID-19 control policies for inbound flights, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/16/content_WS5fd9f2f5c6d0f72576942004.html

⁴⁰²⁹ China steps up prevention of COVID-19 via cold chain, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202012/21/content_WS5fe0880dc6d0f725769423ec.html

⁴⁰³⁰ China steps up prevention of COVID-19 via cold chain, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202012/21/content_WS5fe0880dc6d0f725769423ec.html

⁴⁰³¹ China starts building COVID-19 vaccine production facility, People's Republic of China Government (Kunming) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202012/21/content_WS5fe0a036c6d0f7257694241c.html

On 30 December 2020, Premier Li Keqiang announced that China will step up its epidemic prevention and control during the Spring Festival travel rush and strengthen emergency response in the State Council executive meeting.⁴⁰³³

On 31 December 2020, the National Health Commission announced that China will provide COVID-19 vaccines free of charge to all its citizens.⁴⁰³⁴ It will vaccinate senior citizens, people with underlying conditions, and the general public in an orderly manner. China also promised to provide the vaccines to the world at a fair and reasonable price.⁴⁰³⁵

On 31 December 2020, China and Egypt signed a letter of intent for cooperation on anti-coronavirus vaccines in Cairo, Egypt.⁴⁰³⁶ The countries signed this letter after Egypt received a batch of COVID-19 vaccine developed by Chinese drugmaker Sinopharm from China in December 2020.⁴⁰³⁷

On 5 January 2021, the State Council joint prevention and control mechanism against COVID-19 ordered the strict inspection of vaccine quality, safety and smooth cold-chain transportation, and timely and accurate delivery of vaccines.⁴⁰³⁸ The Chinese National Medical Products Administration also established a traceability information system for the management of approved vaccines.⁴⁰³⁹

On 7 January 2021, China donated medical equipment to Zambia to tackle the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁰⁴⁰ The donated equipment includes ventilators, oxygen ventilators and other medical equipment.⁴⁰⁴¹ China also organized a medical team to help in hospitals in Zambia for a period of one year.⁴⁰⁴²

⁴⁰³² China starts building COVID-19 vaccine production facility, People's Republic of China Government (Kunming) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202012/21/content_WS5fe0a036c6d0f7257694241c.html

⁴⁰³³ China strengthens epidemic preparedness and response for Spring Festival to ensure safe travels, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202012/30/content_WS5fec7b86c6d0f72576942be2.html

⁴⁰³⁴ Chinese COVID-19 vaccines free to all its citizens: official, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/31/content_WS5fed9059c6d0f72576942e9e.html

⁴⁰³⁵ Chinese COVID-19 vaccines free to all its citizens: official, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202012/31/content_WS5fed9059c6d0f72576942e9e.html

⁴⁰³⁶ 2020 witnesses growing cooperation between Egypt, China in fighting COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Cairo) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/01/content_WS5fef1853c6d0f72576943134.html

⁴⁰³⁷ 2020 witnesses growing cooperation between Egypt, China in fighting COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Cairo) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/01/content_WS5fef1853c6d0f72576943134.html

⁴⁰³⁸ China pledges safety, effectiveness as vaccination to be carried out nationwide, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-01/05/c_82654.htm

⁴⁰³⁹ China pledges safety, effectiveness as vaccination to be carried out nationwide, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-01/05/c_82654.htm

⁴⁰⁴⁰ China provides more medical equipment to help Zambia fight COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/08/content_WS5ff7b167c6d0f72576943718.html

⁴⁰⁴¹ China provides more medical equipment to help Zambia fight COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/08/content_WS5ff7b167c6d0f72576943718.html

⁴⁰⁴² China provides more medical equipment to help Zambia fight COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/08/content_WS5ff7b167c6d0f72576943718.html

On 9 January 2021, deputy head of China's National Health Commission Zeng Yixin announced that China and WHO have reached a consensus on specific arrangements of the investigation of the origin of COVID-19.⁴⁰⁴³ Chinese experts will go to Wuhan to conduct the investigation once the WHO experts completed their procedures and finalized the schedule.⁴⁰⁴⁴

On 9 January 2021, Deputy Head Yixin announced that China has inoculated a total of over 9 million doses since 15 December 2020.⁴⁰⁴⁵ A total of 25,392 vaccination sites were available in the country.⁴⁰⁴⁶

On 20 January 2021, China's National Health Commission announced that China has administered more than 15 million doses since December 2020.⁴⁰⁴⁷

On 3 March 2021, the Spokesperson for the Fourth Session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Guo Weimin updated that more than 52 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines had been administered across China as of the end of February.⁴⁰⁴⁸

On 12 January 2021, the Regional Health Commission announced that it will send a medical team from South China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region to Niger and Comoros.⁴⁰⁴⁹ The team will provide medical services for local residents and assist with anti-epidemic measures during their 18-month stay.⁴⁰⁵⁰

On 12 January 2021, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that China will stand firm with Myanmar to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic during a meeting with Myanmar President U Win Myint in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.⁴⁰⁵¹ He also said that China had decided to provide an emergency aid of COVID-19 vaccines and carry out further vaccine cooperation with Myanmar.⁴⁰⁵²

⁴⁰⁴³ China ready to work with WHO investigation team on COVID-19: official, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 9 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/09/content_WS5ff944a1c6d0f72576943851.html

⁴⁰⁴⁴ China ready to work with WHO investigation team on COVID-19: official, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 9 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/09/content_WS5ff944a1c6d0f72576943851.html

⁴⁰⁴⁵ Over 9m doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered in China, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 9 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/09/content_WS5ff946a8c6d0f72576943860.html

⁴⁰⁴⁶ Over 9m doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered in China, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 9 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/09/content_WS5ff946a8c6d0f72576943860.html

⁴⁰⁴⁷ Over 15m doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered in China, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/20/content_WS60082c8cc6d0f7257694435e.html

⁴⁰⁴⁸ Output of Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines to top 1 bln doses in 2021, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/04/c_83130.htm

⁴⁰⁴⁹ Chinese medical team to help fight COVID-19 in Niger, Comoros, People's Republic of China Government (Nanning) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202101/12/content_WS5ffcf819c6d0f72576943a7d.html

⁴⁰⁵⁰ Chinese medical team to help fight COVID-19 in Niger, Comoros, People's Republic of China Government (Nanning) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202101/12/content_WS5ffcf819c6d0f72576943a7d.html

⁴⁰⁵¹ Wang Yi: China to work with Myanmar to battle COVID-19, promote economic recovery, People's Republic of China Government (Nay Pyi Taw) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202101/12/content_WS5ffd3fa9c6d0f72576943aa2.html

⁴⁰⁵² Wang Yi: China to work with Myanmar to battle COVID-19, promote economic recovery, People's Republic of China Government (Nay Pyi Taw) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202101/12/content_WS5ffd3fa9c6d0f72576943aa2.html

China also supported the Myanmar government's efforts in pursuing national reconciliation and will continue to provide assistance within its capacity.⁴⁰⁵³

On 13 January 2021, a spokesperson of the Commission's Disease Prevention and Control Bureau Wang Bin stated that China was fine-tuning its regular COVID-19 control policies to stem the coronavirus's faster spread in winter.⁴⁰⁵⁴ The new policies will required overseas travelers to present certificates of both negative nucleic acid test results and negative IgM antibody test results before boarding.⁴⁰⁵⁵

On 13 January 2021, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stated that a WHO team in China is working with producers of the Chinese Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccines for potential emergency use listings.⁴⁰⁵⁶

On 20 January 2021, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention deposited a new COVID-19 variant detected in South Africa.⁴⁰⁵⁷ It shared the information with research institutes and sci-tech resource sharing platforms in the country which would support the launch of scientific research, assessment of existing diagnostic reagents, vaccine research and development, and adjustment to epidemic prevention and control measures.⁴⁰⁵⁸

On 21 January 2021, the Chinese Embassy in Iraq delivered a donation to Baghdad, Iraq.⁴⁰⁵⁹ The donation includes 56 ambulances with their spare parts, 266 generators, and motorcycles, computers, laptops, printers, etc.⁴⁰⁶⁰

On 22 January 2021, Chinese Ambassador to Brazil Yang Wanming announced that China will offer aid to the Brazilian state of Amazonas to help overcome the health crisis of treating patients with COVID-19 in a video conference with the governor of Amazonas Wilson Lima.⁴⁰⁶¹ The Chinese government and some Chinese enterprises will donate 4,300 kilograms of oxygen, 25 oxygen generators, 360,000 masks and other supplies to Amazonas.⁴⁰⁶²

⁴⁰⁵³ Wang Yi: China to work with Myanmar to battle COVID-19, promote economic recovery, People's Republic of China Government (Nay Pyi Taw) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202101/12/content_WS5ffd3fa9c6d0f72576943aa2.html

⁴⁰⁵⁴ China making adjustments to control COVID-19 in winter, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-01/14/c_82753.htm

⁴⁰⁵⁵ China making adjustments to control COVID-19 in winter, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-01/14/c_82753.htm

⁴⁰⁵⁶ WHO team working with Chinese vaccine producers ahead of potential emergency use: WHO director-general, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Geneva) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-01/13/c_82739.htm

⁴⁰⁵⁷ China CDC deposits, shares COVID-19 variant, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-01/20/c_82800.htm

⁴⁰⁵⁸ China CDC deposits, shares COVID-19 variant, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-01/20/c_82800.htm

⁴⁰⁵⁹ China provides donation to Iraq to combat COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Baghdad) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/22/content_WS600a3721c6d0f725769444fa.html

⁴⁰⁶⁰ China provides donation to Iraq to combat COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Baghdad) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/22/content_WS600a3721c6d0f725769444fa.html

⁴⁰⁶¹ China offers aid to Brazilian state Amazonas to overcome health crisis, People's Republic of China Government (Rio De Janeiro) 24 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/24/content_WS600d2003c6d0f725769446b9.html

⁴⁰⁶² China offers aid to Brazilian state Amazonas to overcome health crisis, People's Republic of China Government (Rio De Janeiro) 24 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/24/content_WS600d2003c6d0f725769446b9.html

On 25 January 2021, China sent a China-Europe freight train to Poland carrying COVID-19 prevention supplies and other products including over 40,000 protective suits.⁴⁰⁶³ The train also contained production and living supplies that will be transferred to Hamburg, Germany.⁴⁰⁶⁴

On 28 January 2021, the Ministry of Education issued a notice that prohibited all offline training outside the campus in areas with medium and high COVID-19 infection risk.⁴⁰⁶⁵

On 29 January 2021, Minister of the National Health Commission Ma Xiaowei and the Health Minister of Indonesia Budi Gunadi Sadikin exchanged views regarding COVID-19 prevention and control and bilateral health collaboration during a video conference.⁴⁰⁶⁶ Minister Xiaowei proposed that the two countries strengthen health cooperation in all areas including prevention and control of infectious diseases.⁴⁰⁶⁷ Experts from both countries also discussed mobilization and deployment of medical resources, strategies of epidemic prevention and control as well as COVID-19 vaccination.⁴⁰⁶⁸

On 1 February 2021, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin announced that China donated COVID-19 vaccines to Pakistan.⁴⁰⁶⁹ China was also providing vaccine aid to 13 developing countries, including Brunei, Nepal, the Philippines, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Palestine, Belarus, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, and Equatorial Guinea, with 38 more developing countries in need.⁴⁰⁷⁰ The spokesman added that China has supported its companies in conducting joint research and production of vaccines with foreign partners and already exported Sinopharm and Sinovac vaccines to countries including the UAE, Morocco, Indonesia, Turkey, Brazil, and Chile.⁴⁰⁷¹

On 4 February 2021, the Chinese Embassy announced that the Chinese government donated 50,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Iraq.⁴⁰⁷²

On 5 February 2021, China provided the first batch of vaccine aid for Nepal.⁴⁰⁷³ Minister Yi made the remarks during a phone conversation with Nepali Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali.⁴⁰⁷⁴

⁴⁰⁶³ China-Europe freight train transports anti-COVID-19 supplies to Poland, People's Republic of China Government (Hangzhou) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/26/content_WS600f7c58c6d0f7257694485f.html

⁴⁰⁶⁴ China-Europe freight train transports anti-COVID-19 supplies to Poland, People's Republic of China Government (Hangzhou) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202101/26/content_WS600f7c58c6d0f7257694485f.html

⁴⁰⁶⁵ China bans all offline after-school training in COVID-19 risk areas, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/28/content_WS6012bcb9c6d0f72576944b51.html

⁴⁰⁶⁶ China, Indonesia to further health collaboration, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 7 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-02/07/c_82961.htm

⁴⁰⁶⁷ China, Indonesia to further health collaboration, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 7 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-02/07/c_82961.htm

⁴⁰⁶⁸ China, Indonesia to further health collaboration, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 7 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-02/07/c_82961.htm

⁴⁰⁶⁹ China vows more COVID-19 vaccines to developing countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/01/content_WS6017fc21c6d0f72576944ebf.html

⁴⁰⁷⁰ China vows more COVID-19 vaccines to developing countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/01/content_WS6017fc21c6d0f72576944ebf.html

⁴⁰⁷¹ China vows more COVID-19 vaccines to developing countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/01/content_WS6017fc21c6d0f72576944ebf.html

⁴⁰⁷² China donates 50,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Iraq, People's Republic of China Government (Baghdad) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/05/content_WS601c9d5ec6d0f72576945267.html

On 8 February 2021, Chinese Ambassador to Egypt Liao Liqiang announced that China will provide a batch of COVID-19 vaccines to Egypt and the Arab League.⁴⁰⁷⁵ China will also facilitate Egypt's procurement of COVID-19 vaccines produced by Chinese companies.⁴⁰⁷⁶

On 10 February 2021, China provided a batch of emergency vaccine aid and facilitated the purchase of vaccines for Algeria to meet its urgent needs. Minister Yi made the remarks during a phone conversation with Algerian Foreign Minister Sabri Boukadoum.⁴⁰⁷⁷

On February 10 2021, China provided a batch of COVID-19 vaccines and financial assistance to Ethiopia.⁴⁰⁷⁸ Minister Yi made the remarks during a phone conversation with Demeke Mekonnen, Ethiopia's deputy prime minister and foreign minister.⁴⁰⁷⁹

On 17 February 2021, Minister Yi made four proposals for fighting the COVID-19 pandemic at a virtual open briefing of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) related to the COVID-19 vaccine distribution. Delegates of the UNSC members and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres attended the virtual meeting.⁴⁰⁸⁰ The four proposals aim to achieve the following: adhering to putting people first and enhancing global cooperation in the fight against COVID-19; fully implementing the UNSC resolutions and creating a favorable environment for fighting the pandemic; solving the vaccine deficit and increasing assistance to developing countries; and strengthening coordination and giving full play to the role of the United Nations system.⁴⁰⁸¹

On 17 February 2021, Minister Yi announced China's decision to donate vaccines to UN peacekeepers at a Security Council meeting on COVID-19 vaccines.⁴⁰⁸² On 15 March 2021, China's permanent representative to the United Nations Zhang Jun notified UN Secretary-General Antonio

⁴⁰⁷³ China to provide 1st batch of COVID-19 vaccine aid for Nepal, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 6 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202102/06/content_WS601e0a62c6d0f7257694536d.html

⁴⁰⁷⁴ China to provide 1st batch of COVID-19 vaccine aid for Nepal, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 6 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202102/06/content_WS601e0a62c6d0f7257694536d.html

⁴⁰⁷⁵ China to provide COVID-19 vaccines to Egypt, Arab League, People's Republic of China Government (Cairo) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/08/content_WS6020a631c6d0f7257694554b.html

⁴⁰⁷⁶ China to provide COVID-19 vaccines to Egypt, Arab League, People's Republic of China Government (Cairo) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/08/content_WS6020a631c6d0f7257694554b.html

⁴⁰⁷⁷ China to provide COVID-19 vaccine aid for Algeria, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202102/12/content_WS60264404c6d0719374af8c6c.html

⁴⁰⁷⁸ China to provide COVID-19 vaccine aid for Ethiopia, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202102/12/content_WS6026452cc6d0719374af8c70.html

⁴⁰⁷⁹ China to provide COVID-19 vaccines to Egypt, Arab League, People's Republic of China Government (Cairo) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/08/content_WS6020a631c6d0f7257694554b.html

⁴⁰⁸⁰ State councilor makes four proposals for combating pandemic, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202102/18/content_WS602db810c6d0719374af8f71.html

⁴⁰⁸¹ State councilor makes four proposals for combating pandemic, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202102/18/content_WS602db810c6d0719374af8f71.html

⁴⁰⁸² China to donate 300,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to UN peacekeepers, People's Republic of China Government (United Nations) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202103/16/content_WS604fe56cc6d0719374afae04.html

Guterres of China's intention to donate 300,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to UN peacekeepers.⁴⁰⁸³

On 18 February 2021, Ambassador to Namibia Zhang Yiming announced that the Chinese government decided to donate 100,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines at Namibia's request.⁴⁰⁸⁴ Namibia was also listed among the priority countries for purchasing Chinese vaccines.⁴⁰⁸⁵

On 19 February 2021, China provided COVID-19 vaccine aid to Belarus.⁴⁰⁸⁶ China has provided the vaccines in support of the important consensus reached during a recent telephone conversation between the two countries.⁴⁰⁸⁷

On 22 February 2021, Spokesperson Wenbin announced that China will provide COVID-19 vaccine aid to 19 more African countries.⁴⁰⁸⁸

On 23 February 2021, Spokesperson Wenbin announced that China is exporting COVID-19 vaccines to 27 countries and providing free vaccine aid to 53 countries in need.⁴⁰⁸⁹ Vaccine aid from China has arrived in Pakistan, Cambodia, Laos, Equatorial Guinea, Zimbabwe, Mongolia and Belarus, and that vaccine exports from China have arrived in Serbia, Hungary, Peru, Chile, Mexico, Colombia, Morocco, Senegal, United Arab Emirates, and Turkey.⁴⁰⁹⁰

On 24 February 2021, Ambassador to Zimbabwe Guo Shaochun announced that China will donate another batch of 200,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Zimbabwe.⁴⁰⁹¹

On 24 February 2021, Minister Yi announced in a phone conversation with Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena that China is ready to enhance anti-epidemic cooperation with Sri Lanka by continuing to provide vaccine assistance to the country.⁴⁰⁹²

⁴⁰⁸³ China to donate 300,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to UN peacekeepers, People's Republic of China Government (United Nations) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202103/16/content_WS604fe56cc6d0719374afae04.html

⁴⁰⁸⁴ China to donate 100,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Namibia, People's Republic of China Government (Windhoek) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/19/content_WS602f11adc6d0719374af90cf.html

⁴⁰⁸⁵ China to donate 100,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Namibia, People's Republic of China Government (Windhoek) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/19/content_WS602f11adc6d0719374af90cf.html

⁴⁰⁸⁶ China delivers COVID-19 vaccine aid to Belarus, People's Republic of China Government (Minsk) 20 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/20/content_WS60311275c6d0719374af9265.html

⁴⁰⁸⁷ China delivers COVID-19 vaccine aid to Belarus, People's Republic of China Government (Minsk) 20 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/20/content_WS60311275c6d0719374af9265.html

⁴⁰⁸⁸ China to provide COVID-19 vaccines to 19 more African countries: FM spokesperson, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/22/content_WS60339952c6d0719374af9462.html

⁴⁰⁸⁹ China is exporting COVID-19 vaccines to 27 countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/23/content_WS6034f491c6d0719374af9552.html

⁴⁰⁹⁰ China is exporting COVID-19 vaccines to 27 countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/23/content_WS6034f491c6d0719374af9552.html

⁴⁰⁹¹ China to donate second batch of COVID-19 vaccines to Zimbabwe, People's Republic of China Government (Harare) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202102/25/content_WS6036db13c6d0719374af9879.html

On 25 February 2021, China donated 200,000 doses of China's Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine to Sierra Leone.⁴⁰⁹³ It supported the Sierra Leone government's plan to vaccinate about 1.6 million people.⁴⁰⁹⁴

On February 28 2021, China donated a batch of COVID-19 vaccine to the Philippines.⁴⁰⁹⁵ It was the first COVID-19 vaccine to reach the Philippines.⁴⁰⁹⁶

On 5 March 2021, Minister Xiaowei met with Cuban Ambassador to China Carlos Miguel Pereira in Beijing, China and renewed a memorandum of understanding on health cooperation between the two countries' health authorities.⁴⁰⁹⁷ In the meeting, Ambassador Ma expressed China's willingness to deepen bilateral cooperation and exchanges in both the COVID-19 fight and other health-related areas to contribute to building a global health community.⁴⁰⁹⁸

On 7 March 2021, Minister Yi revealed that China plans to set up vaccination stations in countries where conditions are allowed.⁴⁰⁹⁹ The country hoped to administer Chinese vaccines for compatriots in need from surrounding countries.⁴¹⁰⁰

On 7 March 2021, China announced that it will launch a digital health certificate for eligible international travelers to facilitate the safe and smooth flow of people.⁴¹⁰¹

On 15 March 2021, Vice-Minister of the National Health Commission Li Bin said China was actively devising new policies concerning international travel.⁴¹⁰²

On 8 March 2021, Minister of Science and Technology Wang Zhigang announced that China will continue its rigorous research on COVID-19 and other major infectious diseases to better protect the long-term health and safety of the people in a meeting of the 13th National People's Congress in

⁴⁰⁹² China ready to help Sri Lanka defeat pandemic, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202102/25/content_WS6036ded7c6d0719374af987d.html

⁴⁰⁹³ China donates 200,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Sierra Leone, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Freetown) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-02/26/c_83062.htm

⁴⁰⁹⁴ China donates 200,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Sierra Leone, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Freetown) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-02/26/c_83062.htm

⁴⁰⁹⁵ China-donated COVID-19 vaccines arrive in Philippines, People's Republic of China Government (Manila) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202103/01/content_WS603c3f73c6d0719374af9ba5.html

⁴⁰⁹⁶ China-donated COVID-19 vaccines arrive in Philippines, People's Republic of China Government (Manila) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202103/01/content_WS603c3f73c6d0719374af9ba5.html

⁴⁰⁹⁷ China, Cuba to boost health exchanges, cooperation, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/12/c_83212.htm

⁴⁰⁹⁸ China, Cuba to boost health exchanges, cooperation, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/12/c_83212.htm

⁴⁰⁹⁹ China to set up overseas vaccination stations, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/08/c_83164.htm

⁴¹⁰⁰ China to set up overseas vaccination stations, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/08/c_83164.htm

⁴¹⁰¹ New international travel policies being formulated, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/16/c_83240.htm

⁴¹⁰² New international travel policies being formulated, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/16/c_83240.htm

Beijing, China.⁴¹⁰³ The ministry will spearhead reforms that can alleviate scientists from heavy paperwork, as well as create an academic environment conducive for basic research.⁴¹⁰⁴

On 9 March 2021, Minister Yi said that China and Poland had reached an important consensus on strengthening cooperation between China and Central and Eastern European countries and fighting the pandemic after a telephone conversation with Polish Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau.⁴¹⁰⁵ He said that China will continue supporting the Polish government and people in their efforts to effectively keep the epidemic under control and ensure the normal operation of its economy and society.⁴¹⁰⁶

On 9 March 2021, the 11th Chinese medical aid team headed towards Papua New Guinea to provide medical aid at Port Moresby General Hospital in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea for one year.⁴¹⁰⁷ The team will bring advanced domestic clinical diagnosis and treatment technology to the country, help fight COVID-19 and provide medical services for overseas Chinese residents.⁴¹⁰⁸

On 11 March 2021, Premier Keqiang said that China is open and cooperative about COVID-19 origin tracing, and will continue to work with the WHO in a press conference in Beijing, China.⁴¹⁰⁹ China had maintained communication with the WHO and provided the WHO mission support during their work in China concerning the origins of the virus.⁴¹¹⁰

On 15 March 2021, Chief Engineer at the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology Tian Yulong announced that China will continue to export COVID-19 vaccines while ensuring domestic needs are met.⁴¹¹¹ According to the Foreign Ministry, China has provided vaccine aid to more than 50 countries at the end of February 2021.⁴¹¹²

On 12 March 2021, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian announced that China was willing to cooperate with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to provide vaccines to athletes preparing

⁴¹⁰³ Mechanism to be put in place supporting long-term infectious disease research, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/09/c_83183.htm

⁴¹⁰⁴ Mechanism to be put in place supporting long-term infectious disease research, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/09/c_83183.htm

⁴¹⁰⁵ FM calls for expanding cooperation with Poland in post-pandemic era, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202103/10/content_WS60480753c6d0719374afa7ae.html

⁴¹⁰⁶ FM calls for expanding cooperation with Poland in post-pandemic era, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202103/10/content_WS60480753c6d0719374afa7ae.html

⁴¹⁰⁷ Fresh medical team heads for Papua New Guinea, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Chongqing) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/11/c_83199.htm

⁴¹⁰⁸ Fresh medical team heads for Papua New Guinea, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Chongqing) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/11/c_83199.htm

⁴¹⁰⁹ Premier Li: China open and cooperative on COVID-19 origin tracing, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/video/202103/11/content_WS6049f54cc6d0719374afaa2e.html

⁴¹¹⁰ Premier Li: China to continue working with WHO on virus source tracing, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202103/11/content_WS6049e041c6d0719374afa9aa.html

⁴¹¹¹ China to continue COVID-19 vaccine aid, export, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/15/content_WS604f2042c6d0719374afadd3.html

⁴¹¹² China to continue COVID-19 vaccine aid, export, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/15/content_WS604f2042c6d0719374afadd3.html

to participate in the Olympic Games.⁴¹¹³ IOC president Thomas Bach said that the IOC has received an offer from the Chinese Olympic Committee to make vaccine doses available for participants in the 2021 Tokyo Olympics and Beijing Winter Games in 2022.⁴¹¹⁴

On 17 March 2021, a Chinese medical aid team set off to the Union of Comoros for a three-month anti-epidemic assistance mission.⁴¹¹⁵ The team consists of 12 medical workers in critical care medicine, respiration, public health, laboratory testing, traditional Chinese medicine and other fields.⁴¹¹⁶ China also donated a batch of anti-epidemic materials worth RMB2 million to Comoros, including masks, protective suits and testing kits.⁴¹¹⁷

On 23 March 2021, China announced an extension of the tax-relief policies launched in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴¹¹⁸ The Ministry of Finance and the State Taxation Administration stated that the extension aims to further support the prevention and control of the epidemic, and to help companies tide over difficulties and pursue growth.⁴¹¹⁹

On 29 March 2021, a senior official with the social development department of the National Development and Reform Commission Sun Zhicheng announced that China planned to build a major center at the national level focusing on the use of traditional Chinese medicine in epidemic prevention and treatment.⁴¹²⁰ The centre will be building a talent pool, formulating technical protocols for epidemic prevention and treatment, and conducting traditional Chinese medicine therapy research and stockpiling relevant medical supplies.⁴¹²¹ The center will help improve the country's capacity of rapid response, prevention, control and treatment in the face of new or emerging infectious diseases and other major public health events by using traditional Chinese medicine.⁴¹²²

On 1 April 2021, China provided the fourth batch of humanitarian aid to fight COVID-19 to Kyrgyzstan.⁴¹²³ The aid included artificial lung ventilation devices, masks, and medical protective

⁴¹¹³ China to provide vaccines to Olympic Games athletes, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Nanning) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/15/c_83222.htm

⁴¹¹⁴ China to provide vaccines to Olympic Games athletes, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Nanning) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/15/c_83222.htm

⁴¹¹⁵ Chinese medical aid team sets out for Comoros, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Nanning) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/18/c_83260.htm

⁴¹¹⁶ Chinese medical aid team sets out for Comoros, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Nanning) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/18/c_83260.htm

⁴¹¹⁷ Chinese medical aid team sets out for Comoros, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Nanning) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-03/18/c_83260.htm

⁴¹¹⁸ China extends COVID-19 tax-relief policies, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/23/content_WS6059e4c7c6d0719374afb417.html

⁴¹¹⁹ China extends COVID-19 tax-relief policies, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/23/content_WS6059e4c7c6d0719374afb417.html

⁴¹²⁰ China to build major TCM center for epidemic prevention, treatment, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/29/content_WS6061c364c6d0719374afb5e5.html

⁴¹²¹ China to build major TCM center for epidemic prevention, treatment, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/29/content_WS6061c364c6d0719374afb5e5.html

⁴¹²² China to build major TCM center for epidemic prevention, treatment, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202103/29/content_WS6061c364c6d0719374afb5e5.html

⁴¹²³ China donates another batch of humanitarian aid to Kyrgyzstan to fight COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Bishkek) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202104/02/content_WS60671a60c6d0719374afc020.html

suits.⁴¹²⁴ The Chinese government has also provided Kyrgyzstan with COVID-19 vaccines and helped Kyrgyzstan carry out work on vaccination.⁴¹²⁵

On 11 April 2021, China delivered a batch of Sinopharm vaccine to Cameroon as a gift of the two countries' friendly relationship.⁴¹²⁶ It is the first batch of COVID-19 vaccines arriving from outside the central African country since the outbreak in 2020.⁴¹²⁷

On 11 April 2021, an official with the National Health Commission Wu Liangyou said that China encouraged voluntary COVID-19 vaccinations, and had been working on ensuring all people eligible for vaccination have access to it.⁴¹²⁸ Another spokesperson Mi Feng also announced that China has accelerated COVID-19 vaccine rollouts among priority populations, as well as in key regions and cities.⁴¹²⁹ Chief epidemiologist with the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention Wu Zunyou urged people to strictly follow prevention measures, including wearing masks in public, handwashing, social distancing, and avoiding mass gatherings.⁴¹³⁰

On 13 April 2021, China donated a batch of vaccines to Mauritius to help boost the country's vaccination campaign against COVID-19.⁴¹³¹ Minister of Health and Wellness Kailesh Jagutpal and Charge d'Affaires and interim of the Chinese Embassy in Mauritius Gong Yufeng said that China has sent medical supplies and equipment to Mauritius through various channels and tried its best to assist amid the pandemic.⁴¹³²

On 16 April 2021, Deputy Director of the Civil Aviation Administration's transport department Shang Kejia, directed the public's attention to travel safety guidelines regarding the upcoming Labor Day holiday rush.⁴¹³³ She advised travelers to pay attention to epidemic control measures at their

⁴¹²⁴ China donates another batch of humanitarian aid to Kyrgyzstan to fight COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Bishkek) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202104/02/content_WS60671a60c6d0719374afc020.html

⁴¹²⁵ China donates another batch of humanitarian aid to Kyrgyzstan to fight COVID-19, People's Republic of China Government (Bishkek) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 11 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202104/02/content_WS60671a60c6d0719374afc020.html

⁴¹²⁶ Cameroon receives first batch of COVID-19 vaccines from China, People's Republic of China Government (Yaounde) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202104/12/content_WS6073b0bac6d0719374afc6e8.html

⁴¹²⁷ Cameroon receives first batch of COVID-19 vaccines from China, People's Republic of China Government (Yaounde) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202104/12/content_WS6073b0bac6d0719374afc6e8.html

⁴¹²⁸ China encourages voluntary COVID-19 vaccination: officials, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/12/c_83446.htm

⁴¹²⁹ China encourages voluntary COVID-19 vaccination: officials, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/12/c_83446.htm

⁴¹³⁰ China encourages voluntary COVID-19 vaccination: officials, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/12/c_83446.htm

⁴¹³¹ Mauritius receives first batch of COVID-19 vaccines from China, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202104/14/content_WS60765858c6d0df57f98d7d4a.html

⁴¹³² Mauritius receives first batch of COVID-19 vaccines from China, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202104/14/content_WS60765858c6d0df57f98d7d4a.html

⁴¹³³ Civil aviation prepares for holiday rush, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 17 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202104/17/content_WS607a3f19c6d0df57f98d8054.html

destinations and avoid going to areas with medium and high risks.⁴¹³⁴ She also suggested passengers use contact-free services to check-in and board planes.⁴¹³⁵

On 22 April 2021, the National Health Commission and Germany's Federal Ministry of Health held the China-Germany health dialogue.⁴¹³⁶ National Health Commission Minister Ma Xiaowei announced that China is willing to strengthen all-round and multi-field health cooperation with Germany, promote communication and collaboration with the European Union and other regional platforms, maintain global health security and build a global health community for all.⁴¹³⁷

On 22 April 2021, the General Office of the State Council announced that China will establish a general support mechanism for covering outpatient medical bills under the employee basic medical insurance to ease people's medical burdens.⁴¹³⁸ The mechanism will cover the general outpatient medical expenses of some chronic and special diseases, as well as frequently occurring diseases and common illnesses, incurring severe health damage and heavy costs.⁴¹³⁹

On 27 April 2021, Minister Yi hosted a video conference with foreign ministers of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to discuss further cooperation as South Asian countries face a new wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴¹⁴⁰ They discussed efforts to consolidate anti-coronavirus cooperation including vaccine supply, to boost post-epidemic economic recovery, and to maintain a sound international environment for the development of all countries.⁴¹⁴¹ Minister Yi said that China is willing to promote vaccine cooperation through methods such as free aid, commercial procurement, and filling and production of vaccines.⁴¹⁴² He also stated that China is also willing to establish a China-South Asia emergency supplies reserve following friendly consultations with all parties.⁴¹⁴³

On 28 April 2021, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism stressed the stringent implementation of epidemic control measures at tourist sites nationwide ahead of the Labor Day holiday starting on

⁴¹³⁴ Civil aviation prepares for holiday rush, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 17 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202104/17/content_WS607a3f19c6d0df57f98d8054.html

⁴¹³⁵ Civil aviation prepares for holiday rush, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 17 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202104/17/content_WS607a3f19c6d0df57f98d8054.html

⁴¹³⁶ China, Germany ready to further health cooperation, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/26/c_83576.htm

⁴¹³⁷ China, Germany ready to further health cooperation, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/26/c_83576.htm

⁴¹³⁸ China to improve employee basic medical insurance, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/23/c_83532.htm

⁴¹³⁹ China to improve employee basic medical insurance, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/23/c_83532.htm

⁴¹⁴⁰ China pledges to deepen anti-pandemic cooperation with South Asian countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202104/28/content_WS60889da5c6d0df57f98d8b37.html

⁴¹⁴¹ China pledges to deepen anti-pandemic cooperation with South Asian countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202104/28/content_WS60889da5c6d0df57f98d8b37.html

⁴¹⁴² China pledges to deepen anti-pandemic cooperation with South Asian countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202104/28/content_WS60889da5c6d0df57f98d8b37.html

⁴¹⁴³ China pledges to deepen anti-pandemic cooperation with South Asian countries, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202104/28/content_WS60889da5c6d0df57f98d8b37.html

May 1.⁴¹⁴⁴ It reminded tourist sites to limit the number of visitors in key areas such as core attractions and dining spaces, to optimize tour routes to prevent overcrowding, and to ensure tourists' compliance with COVID-19 containment measures covering transportation, accommodation, catering, shopping and other sectors.⁴¹⁴⁵

On 28 April 2021, the Ministry of Education issued a notice requiring schools to keep anti-epidemic measures in place during the holiday.⁴¹⁴⁶ Schools need to strengthen health guidance for outgoing students and staff and keep track of their health conditions.⁴¹⁴⁷

On 28 April 2021, China announced the establishment of a new central-level disease prevention and control agency, and appointed the vice-minister of the National Health Commission Wang Hesheng as the head of the agency.⁴¹⁴⁸ The agency is called the National Administration of Disease Prevention and Control.⁴¹⁴⁹ It will focus on strengthening disease surveillance and early warning capabilities, reforming the country's disease control system, help devise and implement virus-control measures against the disease, and improving treatment networks.⁴¹⁵⁰

On 29 April 2021, China donated traditional medicine to Cambodia to help treat COVID-19 patients.⁴¹⁵¹ China donated 88,000 boxes of Lianhua Qingwen Capsules, which is a patented traditional Chinese medicine widely used in China to treat symptoms of COVID-19 patients.⁴¹⁵² The medicine was donated by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia through the Chinese embassy.⁴¹⁵³

On 29 April 2021, senior official at the National Health Commission Wang Bin announced that China will continue to take strict measures to prevent imported COVID-19 infections via people or goods.⁴¹⁵⁴ The health commission requires all inbound travelers to take nucleic acid tests during and

⁴¹⁴⁴ Chinese authorities call for strict anti-virus measures ahead of holiday, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202104/28/content_WS60895f6ec6d0df57f98d8c52.html

⁴¹⁴⁵ Chinese authorities call for strict anti-virus measures ahead of holiday, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202104/28/content_WS60895f6ec6d0df57f98d8c52.html

⁴¹⁴⁶ Chinese authorities call for strict anti-virus measures ahead of holiday, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202104/28/content_WS60895f6ec6d0df57f98d8c52.html

⁴¹⁴⁷ Chinese authorities call for strict anti-virus measures ahead of holiday, People's Republic of China Government (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202104/28/content_WS60895f6ec6d0df57f98d8c52.html

⁴¹⁴⁸ New agency to promote public health, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/29/c_83582.htm

⁴¹⁴⁹ New agency to promote public health, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/29/c_83582.htm

⁴¹⁵⁰ New agency to promote public health, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/29/c_83582.htm

⁴¹⁵¹ China donates traditional medicine to Cambodia for treating COVID-19 patients, People's Republic of China Government (Phnom Penh) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/01/content_WS608c8d6ac6d0df57f98d8e82.html

⁴¹⁵² China donates traditional medicine to Cambodia for treating COVID-19 patients, People's Republic of China Government (Phnom Penh) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/01/content_WS608c8d6ac6d0df57f98d8e82.html

⁴¹⁵³ China donates traditional medicine to Cambodia for treating COVID-19 patients, People's Republic of China Government (Phnom Penh) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202105/01/content_WS608c8d6ac6d0df57f98d8e82.html

⁴¹⁵⁴ China continues measures to control imported COVID cases, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/30/c_83590.htm

after the 14-day quarantine.⁴¹⁵⁵ After the quarantine, travelers would have to do a seven-day home health monitoring, take necessary epidemic containment measures when going out and avoid large gatherings, and take nucleic acid tests at the end of their home health monitoring period and one week after.⁴¹⁵⁶

On 30 April 2021, Minister Yi announced that China is ready to provide support and assistance to help India fight the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴¹⁵⁷ China will aim to continue encourage and support Chinese enterprises to speed up production and provide India with medical supplies, to facilitate customs clearance and transportation of anti-virus materials purchased by India, and to organize health and infectious disease experts of the two countries to share experience and effective measures in overcoming the epidemic via video link.⁴¹⁵⁸

China has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by carrying out measures that control the spread of the virus within the country, supporting other countries in fighting the pandemic through “vaccine cooperation,” issuing a digital health certificate for Chinese travellers and also inventing the first COVID-19 detecting agent.

Thus, China has received a score of +1.

Analyst: YanYui Mork

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 25 November 2020, Eurasia Group reported that France contributed EUR123.5 million to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (Act-A) initiative.⁴¹⁵⁹ The goal of this contribution is to ensure that all countries, namely developing nations, will be included in the global response against COVID-19.⁴¹⁶⁰ The purpose of the funding is to help developing countries in producing and advancing vaccines while guaranteeing equity in vaccine distribution.⁴¹⁶¹ In addition, the contribution

⁴¹⁵⁵ China continues measures to control imported COVID cases, National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/30/c_83590.htm

⁴¹⁵⁶ China continues measures to control imported COVID cases, National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2021-04/30/c_83590.htm

⁴¹⁵⁷ China ready to offer support, assistance to help India fight COVID-19, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202105/01/content_WS608cc9d3c6d0df57f98d8ed2.html

⁴¹⁵⁸ China ready to offer support, assistance to help India fight COVID-19, People’s Republic of China Government (Beijing) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/wangyi/202105/01/content_WS608cc9d3c6d0df57f98d8ed2.html

⁴¹⁵⁹ France’s Contribution to the Act-A Program: The Need for Strong and Multilateral Leadership, Eurasia Group (New York) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/act-accelerator/2020-french-participation-in-the-act-a-program-11_26_2020.pdf

⁴¹⁶⁰ France’s Contribution to the Act-A Program: The Need for Strong and Multilateral Leadership, Eurasia Group (New York) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/act-accelerator/2020-french-participation-in-the-act-a-program-11_26_2020.pdf

⁴¹⁶¹ France’s Contribution to the Act-A Program: The Need for Strong and Multilateral Leadership, Eurasia Group (New York) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/act-accelerator/2020-french-participation-in-the-act-a-program-11_26_2020.pdf

to Act-A is expected to reap economic benefits for France with an estimated gain of EUR8.3 billion in 2020-25.⁴¹⁶²

On 30 November 2020, the High Authority of Health announced a five-step plan vaccination campaign, beginning with vaccinating the elderly in care homes.⁴¹⁶³ The reasoning behind vaccinating the elderly first is to protect the most vulnerable and high-risk members in society against the virus.⁴¹⁶⁴

On 18 January 2021, Minister of Health Olivier Véran announced that 45 million free Category 1 masks would be sent to seven million French nationals.⁴¹⁶⁵ The aim is to ensure that the French public avoids using ineffective homemade masks or Category 2 masks in order to protect the public against the highly infectious COVID-19 variants.⁴¹⁶⁶

On 31 January 2021, France imposed travel restrictions for non-essential travel from outside of the European Union.⁴¹⁶⁷ The goal was to prevent the new COVID-19 variants, including the English and South African COVID-19 mutations, from entering France.⁴¹⁶⁸ Other measures and restrictions that were put in place were; the closure of all non-food shopping centres with a surface area greater than 20,000 square metres, increased police presence to check non-compliance with the overnight curfews as well as clampdowns on illegal restaurant openings and clandestine parties. Moreover, working-from-home rules were reinforced so that they were encouraged wherever possible.⁴¹⁶⁹

On 8 February 2021, France began its vaccination strategy for healthcare workers after 270,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine arrived in France.⁴¹⁷⁰ This was done as the AstraZeneca vaccine is not proven to be efficient on those over the age of 65 and it was decided to be used on healthcare

⁴¹⁶² France's Contribution to the Act-A Program: The Need for Strong and Multilateral Leadership, Eurasia Group (New York) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/act-accelerator/2020-french-participation-in-the-act-a-program-11_26_2020.pdf

⁴¹⁶³ France unveils five-step COVID-19 vaccination plan, starting with those most at risk, France 24 (Paris) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20201130-french-health-authority-outlines-country-s-covid-19-vaccination-plan>

⁴¹⁶⁴ France unveils five-step COVID-19 vaccination plan, starting with those most at risk, France 24 (Paris) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20201130-french-health-authority-outlines-country-s-covid-19-vaccination-plan>

⁴¹⁶⁵ COVID-19: Olivier Véran asks the French "to stop using artisanal masks", France Info (Paris) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.francetvinfo.fr/sante/maladie/coronavirus/masques-sanitaires/covid-19-olivier-veran-demande-aux-francais-de-ne-plus-utiliser-de-masque-artisanal_4267073.html

⁴¹⁶⁶ COVID-19: Olivier Véran asks the French "to stop using artisanal masks", France Info (Paris) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.francetvinfo.fr/sante/maladie/coronavirus/masques-sanitaires/covid-19-olivier-veran-demande-aux-francais-de-ne-plus-utiliser-de-masque-artisanal_4267073.html

⁴¹⁶⁷ Covid-19: France closes borders to most non-EU travel, British Broadcasting Corporation (London) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55863069>

⁴¹⁶⁸ Covid-19: France closes borders to most non-EU travel, British Broadcasting Corporation (London) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55863069>

⁴¹⁶⁹ Covid-19: France closes borders to most non-EU travel, British Broadcasting Corporation (London) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55863069>

⁴¹⁷⁰ France begins mass vaccination of healthcare workers as AstraZeneca doses arrive, The Local France (Stockholm) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.thelocal.fr/20210208/france-begins-mass-vaccination-of-healthcare-workers-as-astrazeneca-doses-arrive/>

workers to protect them against the virus as a vulnerable group.⁴¹⁷¹ Minister Véran confirmed that the AstraZeneca vaccine should be administered.⁴¹⁷²

On 11 February 2021, the High Authority for Health permitted saliva tests to be conducted by asymptomatic people, as opposed to only allowing symptomatic people to access saliva tests.⁴¹⁷³ Saliva tests are seen as an easier, less invasive method of screening compared to the widespread Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test.⁴¹⁷⁴ The goal of this initiative is to vastly increase the number of COVID-19 screening tests to a minimum of 200,000 weekly tests to identify hidden positive cases that would not have been identified otherwise, as well as to conduct mass screenings in schools, universities and nursing homes.⁴¹⁷⁵ In addition, this method of testing is proven to be more accessible as it may be done in the laboratory or at home through a collection tube.⁴¹⁷⁶

On 25 February 2021, France announced a nighttime curfew between 6PM and 6AM in Metropolitan France, with limited exceptions.⁴¹⁷⁷ Those who fail to comply with the curfew may be subjected to a EUR135 fine.⁴¹⁷⁸ The initiative's goal is to contain the spread of the coronavirus without the need of entering a nationwide lockdown again.⁴¹⁷⁹

On 15 March 2021, the Health Ministry announced that investigations will be carried out in response to eight cases of a new coronavirus variant detected in Brittany, characterized as being more spreadable and undetectable with the PCR test.⁴¹⁸⁰ The goal of the experiments is to characterize the features of the new variant, including how it works with vaccines and antibodies from previous coronavirus infection.⁴¹⁸¹

⁴¹⁷¹ France begins mass vaccination of healthcare workers as AstraZeneca doses arrive, The Local France (Stockholm) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.thelocal.fr/20210208/france-begins-mass-vaccination-of-healthcare-workers-as-astrazeneca-doses-arrive/>

⁴¹⁷² France begins mass vaccination of healthcare workers as AstraZeneca doses arrive, The Local France (Stockholm) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.thelocal.fr/20210208/france-begins-mass-vaccination-of-healthcare-workers-as-astrazeneca-doses-arrive/>

⁴¹⁷³ Covid-19: the High Authority for Health "paves the way for massive screening" in France, France 24 (Paris) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210212-covid-19-la-haute-autorit%C3%A9-de-sant%C3%A9-ouvre-la-voie-au-d%C3%A9pistage-massif-en-france>

⁴¹⁷⁴ Covid-19: the High Authority for Health "paves the way for massive screening" in France, France 24 (Paris) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210212-covid-19-la-haute-autorit%C3%A9-de-sant%C3%A9-ouvre-la-voie-au-d%C3%A9pistage-massif-en-france>

⁴¹⁷⁵ Covid-19: the High Authority for Health "paves the way for massive screening" in France, France 24 (Paris) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210212-covid-19-la-haute-autorit%C3%A9-de-sant%C3%A9-ouvre-la-voie-au-d%C3%A9pistage-massif-en-france>

⁴¹⁷⁶ Covid-19: the High Authority for Health "paves the way for massive screening" in France, France 24 (Paris) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/fr/france/20210212-covid-19-la-haute-autorit%C3%A9-de-sant%C3%A9-ouvre-la-voie-au-d%C3%A9pistage-massif-en-france>

⁴¹⁷⁷ Restrictions and Requirements in Metropolitan France, Government of France (Paris) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/coronavirus-covid-19>

⁴¹⁷⁸ Restrictions and Requirements in Metropolitan France, Government of France (Paris) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/coronavirus-covid-19>

⁴¹⁷⁹ Restrictions and Requirements in Metropolitan France, Government of France (Paris) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/coronavirus-covid-19>

⁴¹⁸⁰ France investigating new coronavirus variant detected in Brittany, France 24 (Paris) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210316-france-investigating-new-coronavirus-variant-detected-in-brittany>

⁴¹⁸¹ France investigating new coronavirus variant detected in Brittany, France 24 (Paris) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210316-france-investigating-new-coronavirus-variant-detected-in-brittany>

On 18 March 2021, Prime Minister Jean Castex announced that 16 regions in France, including Paris Île-de-France, will go into a four-week lockdown starting on 19 March 2021.⁴¹⁸² The lockdown entails that people may only leave within 10 kilometres from their homes, they may not leave their region, they must work from home for the majority of the week, and only essential businesses may remain open.⁴¹⁸³ The purpose of the lockdown is to restrain the accelerating third wave of the coronavirus as cases are increasing throughout Europe.⁴¹⁸⁴

On 30 March 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) and 23 countries, including France, announced their support for the creation of an international treaty that would support the world in future health crises.⁴¹⁸⁵ The aim of this preparedness plan is to better prepare countries to be more robust in the face of global health emergencies “through better alert systems, data sharing, research and the production and distribution of vaccines, medicines, diagnostics and personal protective equipment.”⁴¹⁸⁶

On 31 March 2021, France announced that the semi-confinement rules originally applied to 19 regions in France will now apply to all regions for a four-week period, starting 3 April 2021.⁴¹⁸⁷ Schools will be closed for 3 weeks, non-essential shops will be shut, those who travel more than 10 kilometres from their homes require a form, curfew starting at 7pm will continue, and work from home is highly encouraged.⁴¹⁸⁸ The purpose of the semi-confinement expansion is to curb the spread of the new variants which have started targeting those below the age of 60, as 44 per cent of those admitted to the intensive care units (ICU) are below the age of 60.⁴¹⁸⁹ Additionally, France stated its desire to avoid a situation where ICUs become full because adequate measures were not undergone earlier.⁴¹⁹⁰

⁴¹⁸² Paris Heads Into Third Lockdown As Rates Rise And New French Covid-19 Variant Discovered, Forbes (Jersey City) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/alexledsom/2021/03/18/paris-back-in-third-lockdown-as-rates-rise-and-new-french-covid-19-variant-discovered/?sh=7cbd3648c4cf>

⁴¹⁸³ Paris Heads Into Third Lockdown As Rates Rise And New French Covid-19 Variant Discovered, Forbes (Jersey City) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/alexledsom/2021/03/18/paris-back-in-third-lockdown-as-rates-rise-and-new-french-covid-19-variant-discovered/?sh=7cbd3648c4cf>

⁴¹⁸⁴ Paris Heads Into Third Lockdown As Rates Rise And New French Covid-19 Variant Discovered, Forbes (Jersey City) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/alexledsom/2021/03/18/paris-back-in-third-lockdown-as-rates-rise-and-new-french-covid-19-variant-discovered/?sh=7cbd3648c4cf>

⁴¹⁸⁵ Leaders of 23 countries, WHO call for international treaty to face future pandemics, France 24 (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210330-leaders-of-23-countries-call-for-treaty-for-future-pandemics>

⁴¹⁸⁶ Leaders of 23 countries, WHO call for international treaty to face future pandemics, France 24 (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210330-leaders-of-23-countries-call-for-treaty-for-future-pandemics>

⁴¹⁸⁷ Macron: Semi-confinement to extend to all France, schools to close, The Connexion (Monaco) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/President-Macron-announces-lockdown-light-to-extend-to-all-France-schools-to-close-for-three-weeks>

⁴¹⁸⁸ Macron: Semi-confinement to extend to all France, schools to close, The Connexion (Monaco) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/President-Macron-announces-lockdown-light-to-extend-to-all-France-schools-to-close-for-three-weeks>

⁴¹⁸⁹ Macron: Semi-confinement to extend to all France, schools to close, The Connexion (Monaco) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/President-Macron-announces-lockdown-light-to-extend-to-all-France-schools-to-close-for-three-weeks>

⁴¹⁹⁰ Macron: Semi-confinement to extend to all France, schools to close, The Connexion (Monaco) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/President-Macron-announces-lockdown-light-to-extend-to-all-France-schools-to-close-for-three-weeks>

On 3 April 2021, France announced that seven of their eight military hospitals in mainland France will be turned into permanent vaccination centres.⁴¹⁹¹ It is expected that the seven hospitals will be able to administer up to 50,000 doses every week.⁴¹⁹² The goal is to fast track vaccinations and assist the other large vaccination centres set up by the government by taking strain off them.⁴¹⁹³

On 4 April 2021, France enforced that if anyone violates the travel restrictions, set in place on 3 April 2021, they risk a EUR135 fine.⁴¹⁹⁴ If it is a repeat offense, the fine might increase to EUR200.⁴¹⁹⁵ If you commit three offenses within a month, you might be sentenced to 6 months of jail time, EUR3,750 fine, and community service.⁴¹⁹⁶ These penalties are in place to ensure that domestic travel restrictions are being followed in order to decrease the risk of variants spreading.⁴¹⁹⁷

On 13 April 2021, France introduced the first drive-in vaccination centre in Saint-Jean-de-Védas.⁴¹⁹⁸ The goal of this initiative is to increase vaccinations to the country's upcoming goal of 20 million doses in hopes of opening up the country by mid-May after seeing the successful vaccination scheme in the United States.⁴¹⁹⁹ Since the drive-in will be located outside of the existing centre, they expect it to double the doses conducted and apply drive-ins to the rest of the country.⁴²⁰⁰ The goal of this initiative is to provide another accessible means of vaccinating that anyone with a vehicle can take advantage of, as well as help accelerate national vaccination figures.⁴²⁰¹

On 23 April 2021, France was the first country to donate COVID-19 vaccinations to COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access, which is ACT-A's vaccination pillar with the goal of providing 30 per cent

⁴¹⁹¹ COVID-19: the armies will open seven large permanent vaccination centers, Le Figaro (Paris) 3 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.lefigaro.fr/actualite-france/covid-19-les-armees-vont-ouvrir-sept-centres-de-vaccination-permanents-20210403>

⁴¹⁹² COVID-19: the armies will open seven large permanent vaccination centers, Le Figaro (Paris) 3 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.lefigaro.fr/actualite-france/covid-19-les-armees-vont-ouvrir-sept-centres-de-vaccination-permanents-20210403>

⁴¹⁹³ COVID-19: the armies will open seven large permanent vaccination centers, Le Figaro (Paris) 3 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.lefigaro.fr/actualite-france/covid-19-les-armees-vont-ouvrir-sept-centres-de-vaccination-permanents-20210403>

⁴¹⁹⁴ COVID-19. In France, fines for non-compliance with measures lower than elsewhere in Europe, Ouest-France (Rennes) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/sante/virus/coronavirus/covid-19-en-france-les-amendes-en-cas-de-non-respect-des-mesures-moins-elevees-qu-ailleurs-en-europe-7213307>.

⁴¹⁹⁵ COVID-19. In France, fines for non-compliance with measures lower than elsewhere in Europe, Ouest-France (Rennes) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/sante/virus/coronavirus/covid-19-en-france-les-amendes-en-cas-de-non-respect-des-mesures-moins-elevees-qu-ailleurs-en-europe-7213307>.

⁴¹⁹⁶ COVID-19. In France, fines for non-compliance with measures lower than elsewhere in Europe, Ouest-France (Rennes) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/sante/virus/coronavirus/covid-19-en-france-les-amendes-en-cas-de-non-respect-des-mesures-moins-elevees-qu-ailleurs-en-europe-7213307>.

⁴¹⁹⁷ COVID-19. In France, fines for non-compliance with measures lower than elsewhere in Europe, Ouest-France (Rennes) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/sante/virus/coronavirus/covid-19-en-france-les-amendes-en-cas-de-non-respect-des-mesures-moins-elevees-qu-ailleurs-en-europe-7213307>.

⁴¹⁹⁸ 'Vaccidrive' – France opens first drive-in vaccination centre to boost COVID jabs, The Local France (Stockholm) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.thelocal.com/20210413/vaccidrive-france-opens-first-drive-in-vaccination-centre-to-boost-covid-jabs/>

⁴¹⁹⁹ 'Vaccidrive' – France opens first drive-in vaccination centre to boost COVID jabs, The Local France (Stockholm) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.thelocal.com/20210413/vaccidrive-france-opens-first-drive-in-vaccination-centre-to-boost-covid-jabs/>

⁴²⁰⁰ 'Vaccidrive' – France opens first drive-in vaccination centre to boost COVID jabs, The Local France (Stockholm) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.thelocal.com/20210413/vaccidrive-france-opens-first-drive-in-vaccination-centre-to-boost-covid-jabs/>

⁴²⁰¹ 'Vaccidrive' – France opens first drive-in vaccination centre to boost COVID jabs, The Local France (Stockholm) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.thelocal.com/20210413/vaccidrive-france-opens-first-drive-in-vaccination-centre-to-boost-covid-jabs/>

of the world's population with vaccines by the start of 2022.⁴²⁰² France donated 500,000 doses from its own domestic vaccine supply.⁴²⁰³ The purpose of this contribution is to take the first step to ensure everyone will eventually be able to vaccinate globally and encourage other developed countries to contribute to ACT-A.⁴²⁰⁴

On 26 April 2021, the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs announced updated travel restrictions for any travelers from five countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, India and South Africa.⁴²⁰⁵ The restrictions entail that travelers from these countries must present urgent reasons to travel, conduct a PCR test and sworn declaration, and complete a mandatory 10-day quarantine upon arrival with occasional police checks.⁴²⁰⁶ The purpose for these strict restrictions is to prevent the spread of the new contagious variant discovered in India and other variants.⁴²⁰⁷

On 30 April 2021, France announced that it found the first three cases of the Indian variant in France, and that the variant carriers are isolated in hotels and have been contact traced.⁴²⁰⁸ The purpose of this is to ensure that the dangerous variant does not spread further throughout the country as other variants have, such as the UK variant which is estimated to account for 75 per cent of all cases in France.⁴²⁰⁹ Additionally, it is to alert the country to not underestimate the Indian strain as many aspects remain unknown, such as the vaccine's efficiency with this variant.⁴²¹⁰

On 2 May 2021, France delivered to India 28 tonnes of ready-to-use medical supplies including eight large oxygen plants as part of the first phase of its solidarity mission.⁴²¹¹ The French Embassy said that the supplies were worth more than INR170 million and are proof that the two nations are standing with each other in the fight against COVID-19.⁴²¹² Moreover, in Spring 2020, when French hospitals were facing acute shortages, India provided life-saving help through the export of critical medical drugs.⁴²¹³

⁴²⁰² France makes important vaccine dose donation to COVAX, Gavi (Geneva) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/france-makes-important-vaccine-dose-donation-covax>.

⁴²⁰³ France makes important vaccine dose donation to COVAX, Gavi (Geneva) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/france-makes-important-vaccine-dose-donation-covax>.

⁴²⁰⁴ France makes important vaccine dose donation to COVAX, Gavi (Geneva) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/france-makes-important-vaccine-dose-donation-covax>.

⁴²⁰⁵ Coronavirus – Advice for Foreign Nationals in France, France Diplomacy (Paris) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/>

⁴²⁰⁶ Coronavirus – Advice for Foreign Nationals in France, France Diplomacy (Paris) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/>

⁴²⁰⁷ Coronavirus – Advice for Foreign Nationals in France, France Diplomacy (Paris) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/>

⁴²⁰⁸ France detects three cases of 'Indian' variant of COVID-19, France 24 (Paris) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210430-france-detects-three-cases-of-indian-variant-of-covid-19>

⁴²⁰⁹ France detects three cases of 'Indian' variant of COVID-19, France 24 (Paris) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210430-france-detects-three-cases-of-indian-variant-of-covid-19>

⁴²¹⁰ France detects three cases of 'Indian' variant of COVID-19, France 24 (Paris) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 01 May 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210430-france-detects-three-cases-of-indian-variant-of-covid-19>

⁴²¹¹ COVID-19: France delivers 28 tonnes of medical supplies to India (New Delhi) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/covid19-france-delivers-28-tonnes-of-medical-supplies-to-india-11619951044017.html>

⁴²¹² COVID-19: France delivers 28 tonnes of medical supplies to India (New Delhi) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/covid19-france-delivers-28-tonnes-of-medical-supplies-to-india-11619951044017.html>

⁴²¹³ COVID-19: France delivers 28 tonnes of medical supplies to India (New Delhi) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/covid19-france-delivers-28-tonnes-of-medical-supplies-to-india-11619951044017.html>

France has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by administering a robust vaccination policy, conducting saliva tests and enacting curfews and social distancing policies.

Thus, France has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Rawan Barakat

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 26 November 2020, Germany adopted the Health Care and Long-Term Care Improvement Act.⁴²¹⁴ It comprises a number of measures to provide supplementary funding for statutory health insurance.⁴²¹⁵ Federal Minister of Health Jens Spahn reportedly said that “The pandemic is also a burden on the statutory health insurance companies, due to lower income and higher expenditure. This burden should not be balanced by the contributors alone.”⁴²¹⁶ The Act also funds 20,000 additional nursing assistant and geriatric care jobs, as well as extends the Care Support Allowance, which is a wage replacement benefit for individuals who have taken over home care due to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴²¹⁷

On 7 December 2020, Minister Spahn announced changes to the Medical Devices Dispensing Ordinance which began allowing teachers to obtain and use rapid COVID-19 tests at day-care centres and schools.⁴²¹⁸ Rapid tests would allow students to stay in school once receiving a negative test, rather than staying home for the compulsory five-day quarantine following a COVID exposure.⁴²¹⁹

On 15 December 2020, the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union reached a preliminary agreement with the European Parliament on the EU4Health program for 2021-2027.⁴²²⁰ This program has a budget of EUR5.1 billion and provides a solid basis for EU action in the health sector based on the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴²²¹ It promotes measures to

⁴²¹⁴ Bundestag passes law to improve health care and nursing care, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/gpvg-beschluss-bt.html>

⁴²¹⁵ Bundestag passes law to improve health care and nursing care, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/gpvg-beschluss-bt.html>

⁴²¹⁶ Bundestag passes law to improve health care and nursing care, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/gpvg-beschluss-bt.html>

⁴²¹⁷ Bundestag passes law to improve health care and nursing care, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/gpvg-beschluss-bt.html>

⁴²¹⁸ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 15 March 2021.

Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²¹⁹ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 15 March 2021.

Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²²⁰ Protect people's health, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/ministerium/meldungen/2020/eu4health-gesundheitsprogramm.html>

⁴²²¹ Protect people's health, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/ministerium/meldungen/2020/eu4health-gesundheitsprogramm.html>

supplement national stocks of essential products in times of crisis at the EU level, as well as supports measures that enable the mobilization of healthcare workers to crisis areas.⁴²²²

On 16 December 2020, the Federal Office of Economics and Export Control published a new guideline on federal funding of production facilities for point-of-care antigen testing.⁴²²³ The funding is intended to support companies building antigen-testing production capabilities in Germany.⁴²²⁴ Up to EUR200 million is available for investment in new production facilities or expansion of existing facilities, with the goal of allowing Germany to rely on the domestic market for COVID-19 testing.⁴²²⁵

On 21 December 2020, Minister Spahn presented the Coronavirus Vaccination Ordinance.⁴²²⁶ The ordinance specifies the order of priority for vaccinations.⁴²²⁷ The three priority groups outlined in the ordinance include people over the age of 80 and healthcare workers, people over the age of 70 and those with chronic health conditions, and people over the age of 60 and essential employees, including public servants and teachers.⁴²²⁸

On 31 January 2020, the Federal Cabinet adopted a new Coronavirus entry regulation.⁴²²⁹ The regulation requires that anyone entering Germany from a risk area be able to prove within 48 hours of entry that they are not infected with the coronavirus.⁴²³⁰ Minister Spahn emphasized the need to protect Germany from emerging coronavirus variants.⁴²³¹ Additionally, all travelers entering Germany will receive an SMS on their mobile device informing them of current COVID-19 regulations in place.⁴²³²

On 19 January 2021, the Federal Ministry of Health issued the Coronavirus Surveillance Ordinance.⁴²³³ The ordinance obliges laboratories and facilities carrying out sequencing of SARS-

⁴²²² Protect people's health, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/ministerium/meldungen/2020/eu4health-gesundheitsprogramm.html>

⁴²²³ Federal government starts promoting the production of antigen tests, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/antigentest.html>

⁴²²⁴ Federal government starts promoting the production of antigen tests, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/antigentest.html>

⁴²²⁵ Federal government starts promoting the production of antigen tests, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/antigentest.html>

⁴²²⁶ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²²⁷ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²²⁸ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²²⁹ Cabinet adopts new coronavirus entry regulation, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 13 January 2020.

Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/1-quartal/einreise-vo.html>

⁴²³⁰ Cabinet adopts new coronavirus entry regulation, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/1-quartal/einreise-vo.html>

⁴²³¹ Cabinet adopts new coronavirus entry regulation, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/1-quartal/einreise-vo.html>

⁴²³² Cabinet adopts new coronavirus entry regulation, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/1-quartal/einreise-vo.html>

⁴²³³ New Coronavirus Surveillance Ordinance of the Federal Ministry of Health, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/1-quartal/coronavirus-surveillanceverordnung.html>

CoV-2 to transmit the genome sequence data to the Robert Koch Institute.⁴²³⁴ The goal of this ordinance is to ensure that data pertaining to the evolution of viruses and new variants is collected and evaluated at a central point.⁴²³⁵ This demonstrates Germany's efforts for early detection of COVID-19 variants.

On 19 February 2021, Germany committed EUR1.5 billion to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT) and the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX), which Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged at the Virtual G7 leaders meeting.⁴²³⁶ The ACT Accelerator aims to develop, produce and ensure the fair distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, tests and treatments.⁴²³⁷ COVAX is the vaccine pillar of the ACT Accelerator and is led by the WHO, GAVI The Vaccine Alliance and Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations.⁴²³⁸ These three entities are working to ensure that vaccines are accessible and affordable for all countries, especially developing ones.⁴²³⁹

On 11 March 2021, the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs extended the Corona Occupational Health and Safety Ordinance until April 30, 2021.⁴²⁴⁰ The ordinance is in place to ensure the protection of employees' health as well as prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace.⁴²⁴¹ It mandates at least 1.5-meter distance from others when possible, as well as the use of medical face masks when indoors.⁴²⁴² Regular ventilation must be guaranteed and in companies with more than ten employees, these must be divided into small working groups when possible.⁴²⁴³

On 25 March 2021, Chancellor Merkel offered a statement before the beginning of the European Council.⁴²⁴⁴ She emphasized her support for the joint procurement and licensing of vaccines within the European Union, as well as the importance of the independent production of vaccines in

⁴²³⁴ New Coronavirus Surveillance Ordinance of the Federal Ministry of Health, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/1-quartal/coronavirus-surveillanceverordnung.html>

⁴²³⁵ New Coronavirus Surveillance Ordinance of the Federal Ministry of Health, German Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/1-quartal/coronavirus-surveillanceverordnung.html>

⁴²³⁶ Ready for a "new chapter in the transatlantic partnership," German Federal Government (Berlin) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/munich-security-conference-1860244>

⁴²³⁷ Ready for a "new chapter in the transatlantic partnership," German Federal Government (Berlin) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/munich-security-conference-1860244>

⁴²³⁸ Ready for a "new chapter in the transatlantic partnership," German Federal Government (Berlin) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/munich-security-conference-1860244>

⁴²³⁹ Ready for a "new chapter in the transatlantic partnership," German Federal Government (Berlin) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/munich-security-conference-1860244>

⁴²⁴⁰ Corona occupational health and safety ordinance, German Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (Berlin) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Corona/Fragen-und-Antworten/Fragen-und-Antworten-ASVO/faq-corona-asvo.html>

⁴²⁴¹ Corona occupational health and safety ordinance, German Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (Berlin) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Corona/Fragen-und-Antworten/Fragen-und-Antworten-ASVO/faq-corona-asvo.html>

⁴²⁴² Corona occupational health and safety ordinance, German Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (Berlin) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Corona/Fragen-und-Antworten/Fragen-und-Antworten-ASVO/faq-corona-asvo.html>

⁴²⁴³ Corona occupational health and safety ordinance, German Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (Berlin) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Corona/Fragen-und-Antworten/Fragen-und-Antworten-ASVO/faq-corona-asvo.html>

⁴²⁴⁴ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

Europe.⁴²⁴⁵ Chancellor Merkel advocated for a regionalized approach to opening, allowing municipalities to determine the severity of COVID-19 precautions.⁴²⁴⁶

On 26 March 2021, the Federal Cabinet amended the Coronavirus Entry Ordinance.⁴²⁴⁷ A general testing obligation for all air travelers was introduced, requiring a negative test result not older than 48 hours for travelers before departure.⁴²⁴⁸

On 27 March 2021, Germany passed a law on “The continued validity of regulations concerning the epidemic situation of national scope,” which determined that the epidemic situation in Germany remained of national importance.⁴²⁴⁹ This extended the public health regulations such as the Coronavirus Testing Regulation, the Coronavirus Vaccination Regulation and the Coronavirus Entry Regulation beyond their initial end date of 31 March.⁴²⁵⁰ The law also strengthened the legal framework for vaccination priorities by including health conditions for priority vaccinations.⁴²⁵¹

On 31 March 2021, the Standing Commission on Vaccination (STIKO) presented a revised draft of its COVID-19 vaccination recommendation.⁴²⁵² In it, the STIKO recommends the use of the vaccine from AstraZeneca for people over 60 years of age.⁴²⁵³ The STIKO’s recommendations are based on findings showing very rare but very serious cases of blood clotting in people vaccinated with AstraZeneca.⁴²⁵⁴

On 8 April 2021, Development Minister Gerd Muller emphasized the need for nature conservation on the occasion of World Health Day.⁴²⁵⁵ He noted that 75 per cent of newly emerging infectious diseases arise from animals.⁴²⁵⁶ “Where rainforests burn and wild animals are wiped out, viruses lose their original host and jump more easily to humans,” Minister Muller wrote in an article for the Rheinische Post.⁴²⁵⁷ Minister Muller also called on the international community to support coronavirus vaccinations in developing countries.⁴²⁵⁸

⁴²⁴⁵ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²⁴⁶ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²⁴⁷ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²⁴⁸ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²⁴⁹ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²⁵⁰ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²⁵¹ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²⁵² The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²⁵³ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²⁵⁴ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²⁵⁵ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²⁵⁶ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²⁵⁷ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²⁵⁸ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

On 13 April 2021, the Federal Cabinet extended the Coronavirus Protection Ordinance until 28 April 2021.⁴²⁵⁹ The Ordinance requires that persons entering the country take a coronavirus test no more than 48 hours before entry.⁴²⁶⁰ In virus variants areas, the test must be taken no more than 12 hours before departure.⁴²⁶¹

On 13 April 2021, the Federal Cabinet adopted an amendment to the Infection Protection Act, which requires that if the number of new infections with the coronavirus per 100,000 inhabitants exceeds 100 in a set district or city on three consecutive days, additional measures will come into place the following day.⁴²⁶² These measures are in place to reduce contacts and include closing leisure and sports facilities.⁴²⁶³

On 21 April 2021, the Federal Cabinet approved an amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Ordinance.⁴²⁶⁴ As of 20 April, employers are obligated to offer their employees that cannot work at home coronavirus tests at least once a week.⁴²⁶⁵ Risk groups are offered tests twice a week.⁴²⁶⁶ “In this way we can prevent chains of infection, protect health and ultimately avoid company closures. This new obligation has become necessary so that really all workers in the company receive an offer of testing,” explained Federal Labour Minister Hubertus Heil.⁴²⁶⁷ The cost of tests must be borne by employers, however employees are not obliged to accept the offer of the test.⁴²⁶⁸ The amendment extends Occupational Health and Safety Ordinance until 30 June 2021.⁴²⁶⁹

On 10 May 2021, Minister Spahn said that the Johnson and Johnson and AstraZeneca vaccines will be made available to all adults after the advice of their doctor.⁴²⁷⁰ Even though, cases of a rare blood clotting appeared in US adults who received the dose, Europe’s drug regulator backed the two vaccines. The decisions reflect Germany’s progress in vaccinating its people and Minister Spahn added that any senior who wanted to get vaccinated could do so by late May or early June.⁴²⁷¹

⁴²⁵⁹ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²⁶⁰ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²⁶¹ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²⁶² The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²⁶³ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²⁶⁴ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²⁶⁵ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²⁶⁶ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²⁶⁷ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²⁶⁸ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²⁶⁹ The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, deutschland.de (Frankfurt am Main) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>

⁴²⁷⁰ Germany to make J&J's COVID-19 vaccine available to all (Berlin) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/europe/germany-to-make-jjs-covid-19-vaccine-available-to-all-adults/articleshow/82518880.cms>

⁴²⁷¹ Germany to make J&J's COVID-19 vaccine available to all (Berlin) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/europe/germany-to-make-jjs-covid-19-vaccine-available-to-all-adults/articleshow/82518880.cms>

Germany has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by contributing to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, by issuing the Coronavirus Surveillance Ordinance and the Corona Occupational Health and Safety Ordinance. Germany has also supported German research for companies engaging in antigen production testing capabilities.

Thus, Germany has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Liva Zemitis

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic, preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 22 November 2020, India sent teams to the states of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh to support states in their COVID-19 response and management.⁴²⁷² These teams supported national efforts towards prevention, control measures, testing, surveillance, and clinical management of positive cases.⁴²⁷³

On 30 November 2020, Minister for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan and the Indian Red Cross Society distributed masks and soaps at Old Delhi Railway Station, in an effort to prevent further COVID-19 outbreaks.⁴²⁷⁴ He reportedly said, “We will soon be completing eleven months in our fight against COVID-19, since then, our biggest weapon is mask and sanitizer.”⁴²⁷⁵

On 2 December 2020, the Ministry for Health and Family Welfare issued a standard operating procedure (SOP) on preventive and precautionary measures to help contain the spread of COVID-19.⁴²⁷⁶ The SOP sought to protect vulnerable populations, promote COVID-19 appropriate behaviours, and maintain a healthy environment at marketplaces.⁴²⁷⁷

On 2 December 2020, Minister Vardhan chaired the inaugural session for the India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre.⁴²⁷⁸ This centre seeks to increase collaboration and innovation among

⁴²⁷² Centre rushes high level teams to Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh to support the States in COVID response and management, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1674849>

⁴²⁷³ Centre rushes high level teams to Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh to support the States in COVID response and management, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1674849>

⁴²⁷⁴ Dr. Harsh Vardhan distributes masks and soaps with Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) at Old Delhi Railway Station, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1677121>

⁴²⁷⁵ Dr. Harsh Vardhan distributes masks and soaps with Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) at Old Delhi Railway Station, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1677121>

⁴²⁷⁶ Health Ministry releases SOP on Preventive Measures in Markets to contain spread of COVID-19, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1677644>

⁴²⁷⁷ Health Ministry releases SOP on Preventive Measures in Markets to contain spread of COVID-19, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1677644>

⁴²⁷⁸ Dr Harsh Vardhan chairs inaugural session of the India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre – Annual Conference, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1677716>

the states, in an effort to respond to health crises, including COVID-19.⁴²⁷⁹ Strategic plans emerged from the Joint Working Group to set-up a memorandum of understanding to further increase health cooperation between the two countries.⁴²⁸⁰

On 10 December 2020, at the World Bank Inter Ministerial Meet on Vaccinating South Asia, Minister Vardhan announced India is building a digital platform for vaccine registration.⁴²⁸¹ He also detailed the leveraging of existing digital interventions of India's "Mission Indradhanush," immunization programs.⁴²⁸² India is noted to have been building the advanced Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network digital platform.⁴²⁸³ This will allow citizens to self-register for vaccination, monitor their status and be provided with a QR code based electronic vaccination certificate upon completion of the process.⁴²⁸⁴

On 25 December 2020, India began preparation for COVID vaccine rollout.⁴²⁸⁵ 2,360 participants were trained in vaccine administration across various states, with more than 7,000 to be trained in the upcoming week.⁴²⁸⁶ As a preparations step for administration of COVID-19 vaccine a dry run was planned in four states, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Punjab. Each state will plan it in two districts and preferably in five different session type settings.⁴²⁸⁷

On 26 December 2020, the National Task Force convened to discuss testing, treatment, and surveillance strategies to combat the UK strain of COVID-19.⁴²⁸⁸ This included testing at all points of entry, community surveillance, and prospective surveillance.⁴²⁸⁹ Moreover, the National Centre for

⁴²⁷⁹ Dr Harsh Vardhan chairs inaugural session of the India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre – Annual Conference, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1677716>

⁴²⁸⁰ Dr Harsh Vardhan chairs inaugural session of the India Sweden Healthcare Innovation Centre – Annual Conference, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1677716>

⁴²⁸¹ Dr. Harsh Vardhan addresses World Bank Inter Ministerial Meet on Vaccinating South Asia, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1679742>

⁴²⁸² Dr. Harsh Vardhan addresses World Bank Inter Ministerial Meet on Vaccinating South Asia, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1679742>

⁴²⁸³ Dr. Harsh Vardhan addresses World Bank Inter Ministerial Meet on Vaccinating South Asia, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1679742>

⁴²⁸⁴ Dr. Harsh Vardhan addresses World Bank Inter Ministerial Meet on Vaccinating South Asia, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1679742>

⁴²⁸⁵ Central Government gears up for roll out of COVID19 Vaccine – 2,360 Training of Trainers sessions held; more than 7,000 district trainees trained – Dry Run for vaccine administration in 4 States next week, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1683529>

⁴²⁸⁶ Central Government gears up for roll out of COVID19 Vaccine – 2,360 Training of Trainers sessions held; more than 7,000 district trainees trained – Dry Run for vaccine administration in 4 States next week, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1683529>

⁴²⁸⁷ Central Government gears up for roll out of COVID19 Vaccine – 2,360 Training of Trainers sessions held; more than 7,000 district trainees trained – Dry Run for vaccine administration in 4 States next week, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1683529>

⁴²⁸⁸ National Task Force Discusses testing, treatment and surveillance strategies for COVID-19 in view of the new virus strain from UK, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 26 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1683835>

⁴²⁸⁹ National Task Force Discusses testing, treatment and surveillance strategies for COVID-19 in view of the new virus strain from UK, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 26 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1683835>

Disease Control informed India to take note of the reports of mutant variant of SARS-CoV-2 from the UK and the response of other affected countries.⁴²⁹⁰

On 16 January 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the national COVID-19 vaccine drive.⁴²⁹¹ Over 190,000 individuals were vaccinated on the first day of the program.⁴²⁹² The two types of COVID-19 vaccines that were supplied were Covishield vaccine, made by Serum Institute of India Ltd and Covaxin vaccine, made by Bharat Biotech International Ltd.⁴²⁹³ The vaccines were initially supplied to 12 States. Adequate quantities of vaccines and logistics were ensured at all COVID-19 vaccination session sites.⁴²⁹⁴

On 21 January 2021, Minister Vardhan unveiled a poster campaign to address vaccine hesitancy and misinformation prevalent throughout certain regions of the State.⁴²⁹⁵ Containing factual information from credible government sources such as the Health ministry and Press Information Bureau, the posters aimed to explain the role of vaccines in eliminating disease using historical examples such as Smallpox and Polio.⁴²⁹⁶

On 5 April 2021, Minister Vardhan launched the Integrated Health Information Platform, the revision to the Integrated Disease Surveillance Program.⁴²⁹⁷ The digital platform will provide real time data and analytics on 33 infectious diseases, including COVID-19.⁴²⁹⁸ Through this program the government looks to locate and prevent disease spread within the nation, in hopes of preventing any potential outbreaks.⁴²⁹⁹

On 17 April 2021, Prime Minister Modi tweeted that he had spoken to Swami Avdheshanand Giri of Juna Akhada and advised that the Haridwar Mahakumbh Mela (a religious pilgrimage) be curtailed and be “symbolic.”⁴³⁰⁰ Swami Avdheshanand replied by saying, “We support honorable Prime Minister’s appeal and now the Kumbh is symbolic only. No one is saying that Mahakumbh should

⁴²⁹⁰ National Task Force Discusses testing, treatment and surveillance strategies for COVID-19 in view of the new virus strain from UK, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 26 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1683835>

⁴²⁹¹ Update on COVID-19 Vaccination, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1689167>

⁴²⁹² Update on COVID-19 Vaccination, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1689167>

⁴²⁹³ Update on COVID-19 Vaccination, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1689167>

⁴²⁹⁴ Update on COVID-19 Vaccination, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1689167>

⁴²⁹⁵ Dr Harsh Vardhan unveils IEC Campaign to address Vaccine Hesitancy and Misinformation, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1690821>

⁴²⁹⁶ Dr Harsh Vardhan unveils IEC Campaign to address Vaccine Hesitancy and Misinformation, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1690821>

⁴²⁹⁷ Dr Harsh Vardhan launches Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP), the revised next generation Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) digital platform, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1709676>

⁴²⁹⁸ Dr Harsh Vardhan launches Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP), the revised next generation Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) digital platform, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1709676>

⁴²⁹⁹ Dr Harsh Vardhan launches Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP), the revised next generation Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) digital platform, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1709676>

⁴³⁰⁰ Mahakumbh 2021: After PM Modi's appeal to keep Kumbh 'Symbolic', seers come out in support (Dehradun) 17 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/apr/17/mahakumbh-2021-after-pm-modis-appeal-to-keep-kumbh-symbolic-seers-come-out-in-support-2291170.html>

end. We appeal our emotional devotees to try and not travel to Haridwar in big numbers.”⁴³⁰¹ The Akhada confirmed that COVID-19 precautionary measures must be followed fully, and the number of daily COVID-19 cases reached 2000-2500 per day after the commencement of the Mahakumbh in Haridwar on April 1 compared to the 30-60 cases every day in February in the state of Uttarakhand.”⁴³⁰²

On 19 April 2021, India announced the Phase 3 strategy for its vaccination program.⁴³⁰³ Beginning 1 May 2021, anyone over the age of 18 is eligible for vaccination.⁴³⁰⁴ The government looks to liberalize vaccine pricing and increase coverage by opening the program to the open market.⁴³⁰⁵ Under this new program, vaccine manufacturers are required to allocate 50 percent of vaccines to state governments, while the remaining 50 percent will be in the open market.⁴³⁰⁶ Thus, allowing citizens to purchase privately.⁴³⁰⁷

On 21 April 2021, Prime Minister Modi addressed the nation amid the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic that had started in mid-March.⁴³⁰⁸ He reported a peak of 295,000 new COVID-19 cases, the highest daily figure since the pandemic began.⁴³⁰⁹ Delhi’s Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal reported that the country was left with only a “few hours of oxygen” and that, “our healthcare system has reached its limit. It is now in a state of distress. It has not collapsed yet, but it is in distress.”⁴³¹⁰

On 23 April 2021, the Chief Ministers of many states had made the demand to the Central Government that they were in dire need of food rations.⁴³¹¹ The Modi Government responded by announcing to promise to give free rations to poor families, under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana.⁴³¹² Ration card holders will now be able to take 5 kilograms more rice and wheat per

⁴³⁰¹ Mahakumbh 2021: After PM Modi's appeal to keep Kumbh 'Symbolic', seers come out in support (Dehradun) 17 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/apr/17/mahakumbh-2021-after-pm-modis-appeal-to-keep-kumbh-symbolic-seers-come-out-in-support-2291170.html>

⁴³⁰² Mahakumbh 2021: After PM Modi's appeal to keep Kumbh 'Symbolic', seers come out in support (Dehradun) 17 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/apr/17/mahakumbh-2021-after-pm-modis-appeal-to-keep-kumbh-symbolic-seers-come-out-in-support-2291170.html>

⁴³⁰³ Government of India announces a Liberalised and Accelerated Phase 3 Strategy of COVID-19 Vaccination from 1st May, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1712710>

⁴³⁰⁴ Government of India announces a Liberalised and Accelerated Phase 3 Strategy of COVID-19 Vaccination from 1st May, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1712710>

⁴³⁰⁵ Government of India announces a Liberalised and Accelerated Phase 3 Strategy of COVID-19 Vaccination from 1st May, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1712710>

⁴³⁰⁶ Government of India announces a Liberalised and Accelerated Phase 3 Strategy of COVID-19 Vaccination from 1st May, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1712710>

⁴³⁰⁷ Government of India announces a Liberalised and Accelerated Phase 3 Strategy of COVID-19 Vaccination from 1st May, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1712710>

⁴³⁰⁸ India's second COVID wave hits like a 'tsunami' as hospitals buckle under weight (New Delhi) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/21/india/india-covid-hospital-shortage-intl-hnk/index.html>

⁴³⁰⁹ India's second COVID wave hits like a 'tsunami' as hospitals buckle under weight (New Delhi) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/21/india/india-covid-hospital-shortage-intl-hnk/index.html>

⁴³¹⁰ India's second COVID wave hits like a 'tsunami' as hospitals buckle under weight (New Delhi) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/21/india/india-covid-hospital-shortage-intl-hnk/index.html>

⁴³¹¹ Modi govt announces free ration to poor families for two months (New Delhi) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-modi-govt-announces-free-ration-to-poor-families-for-two-months-2887609>

⁴³¹² Modi govt announces free ration to poor families for two months (New Delhi) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-modi-govt-announces-free-ration-to-poor-families-for-two-months-2887609>

person in the month of May and June. Union Home Minister, Amit Shah added that this will benefit 8 million people of the country.⁴³¹³

On 26 April 2021, Prime Minister Modi ordered setting up of 551 oxygen plants in hospitals. These plants will be set up with financial assistance from the Prime Minister Cares fund.⁴³¹⁴ The Prime Minister's Office said, "these plants will be established in identified government hospitals in district headquarters in various States and Union Territories. They are to be operational as soon as possible."⁴³¹⁵

On 27 April 2021, India imported 20 cryogenic tankers to address the shortage of medical oxygen in the country.⁴³¹⁶ The tankers will assist in the transportation of medical oxygen to the eastern portion of India.⁴³¹⁷

On 29 April 2021, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare announced that over 150 million COVID vaccination doses have been administered since the start of the vaccination drive.⁴³¹⁸ Over 24 million individuals have received their second vaccination dose.⁴³¹⁹

India has taken some action to advance global pandemic prevention, detection, and response by implementing initiatives such as executing the national vaccination roll out by a digital platform and the disbursement of masks and sanitizer to citizens. However, it has not demonstrated strong action in the area of pandemic preparedness.

Thus, India has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Shafna Kallil

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic, preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 24 November 2020, Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health Abdul Kadir issued a circular regarding the Readiness of Health Service Facilities in the Implementation of COVID-19 Vaccination.⁴³²⁰ The target recipients of vaccination are Indonesians aged 18-59.⁴³²¹ Indonesia also announced that it has requested provincial and district officials to begin preparing health facilities to

⁴³¹³ Modi govt announces free ration to poor families for two months (New Delhi) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-modi-govt-announces-free-ration-to-poor-families-for-two-months-2887609>

⁴³¹⁴ Prime Minister Narendra Modi orders setting up of 551 oxygen plants in hospitals from PM Cares fund (New Delhi) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=415067>

⁴³¹⁵ Prime Minister Narendra Modi orders setting up of 551 oxygen plants in hospitals from PM Cares fund (New Delhi) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=415067>

⁴³¹⁶ To address shortage of oxygen tankers in the country, the Union Government imports 20 cryogenic tankers of 10 MT and 20 MT capacity and allocates them to States, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1714280>

⁴³¹⁷ To address shortage of oxygen tankers in the country, the Union Government imports 20 cryogenic tankers of 10 MT and 20 MT capacity and allocates them to States, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1714280>

⁴³¹⁸ India's crosses a major landmark with more than 15 Crore Cumulative Vaccination Coverage, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1714778>

⁴³¹⁹ India's crosses a major landmark with more than 15 Crore Cumulative Vaccination Coverage, Press Information Bureau (Delhi) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1714778>

⁴³²⁰ Vaccination for COVID-19 is taken in stages, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/20112400002/vaksinasi-covid-19-dilakukan-bertahap.html>

⁴³²¹ Vaccination for COVID-19 is taken in stages, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/20112400002/vaksinasi-covid-19-dilakukan-bertahap.html>

deliver the COVID-19 vaccination program when vaccines become available.⁴³²² Provincial and district health offices were instructed to designate a coordinator in charge of the COVID-19 vaccination program, optimize COVID-19 surveillance activities and develop plans to ensure that the implementation of COVID-19 vaccination does not interfere with other essential health services.⁴³²³

On 24 November 2020, the Ministry of Health in partnership with the Health Human Resources Development Agency, held a COVID-19 Vaccination Preparation Workshop aimed at improving health workers understanding and knowledge of the COVID-19 vaccine.⁴³²⁴ The workshop included instruction on how to address misinformation about the vaccine among the public.⁴³²⁵ Special Staff to the Minister of Health for Human Resources Dr. Mariya Mubarika encouraged medical and health workers to be the spokesperson for the government in conveying and inviting people to vaccinate in due time, and thereby ward off any hesitancy in taking the vaccine.⁴³²⁶

On 13 January 2021, Chairman of the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency Penny Lukito officially issued an Emergency Use Authorization for the Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine.⁴³²⁷ From the results of the third clinical trial of the vaccine in Indonesia, Turkey and Brazil the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency said that Sinovac had greater than 50 per cent efficacy in the three countries and had met all the standards set by the World Health Organization (WHO).⁴³²⁸ Indonesia, therefore launched its public vaccination program, with President Joko Widodo being the first citizen to be vaccinated along with several other high-ranking government officials to set examples for others and remove any vaccine hesitancy.⁴³²⁹

On 8 March 2021, the National COVID-19 Task Force announced the extension of micro-scale restrictions on community activities from 9 March to 22 March to help control the spread of COVID-19.⁴³³⁰ The restrictions have also been extended to include three new provinces (in addition

⁴³²² Vaccination for COVID-19 is taken in stages, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/20112400002/vaksinasi-covid-19-dilakukan-bertahap.html>

⁴³²³ Vaccination for COVID-19 is taken in stages, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/20112400002/vaksinasi-covid-19-dilakukan-bertahap.html>

⁴³²⁴ To Increase the competence of Medical and Health Workers, the Ministry of Health Holds a Vaccination Preparation Workshop, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/20112500002/tingkatkan-kompetensi-tenaga-medis-dan-tenaga-kesehatan-kemenkes-gelar-workshop-persiapan-vaksinasi.html>

⁴³²⁵ To Increase the competence of Medical and Health Workers, the Ministry of Health Holds a Vaccination Preparation Workshop, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/20112500002/tingkatkan-kompetensi-tenaga-medis-dan-tenaga-kesehatan-kemenkes-gelar-workshop-persiapan-vaksinasi.html>

⁴³²⁶ To Increase the competence of Medical and Health Workers, the Ministry of Health Holds a Vaccination Preparation Workshop, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/20112500002/tingkatkan-kompetensi-tenaga-medis-dan-tenaga-kesehatan-kemenkes-gelar-workshop-persiapan-vaksinasi.html>

⁴³²⁷ Safe, Ready to Implement Vaccinations! Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/indonesia-dalam-angka/2301/aman-siap-laksanakan-vaksinasi>

⁴³²⁸ Safe, Ready to Implement Vaccinations! Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/indonesia-dalam-angka/2301/aman-siap-laksanakan-vaksinasi>

⁴³²⁹ A New Chapter of COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery Begins, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/indonesia-dalam-angka/2304/babak-baru-pemulihan-pandemi-covid-19-dimulai>

⁴³³⁰ Micro-scale restrictions expected to curb COVID spread: task force, AntaraNews 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/169423/micro-scale-restrictions-expected-to-curb-covid-spread-task-force>

to the provinces of Java and Bali) East Kalimantan, North Sumatra, and South Sulawesi.⁴³³¹ The restriction is included in the Instruction of the Minister of State (Number 5 of 2021).⁴³³²

On 11 March 2021, Indonesia began the third stage of its national vaccination program, which covers 63.9 million citizens from vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities.⁴³³³ The vaccination program was in line with President Widodo's International Disability Day celebrations when the Indonesian government is planning to issue seven governmental regulations and two presidential regulations for people with disabilities.⁴³³⁴

On 12 March 2021, the Ministry of Health signed an agreement with the Ministry of Research and Technology to improve detection of new COVID-19 variants through whole genome sequencing (WGS).⁴³³⁵ It was stated that 17 laboratories across the country have the capacity to conduct WGS to improve detection.⁴³³⁶ Moreover, the government had regulated access restrictions at the entrance to Indonesia in accordance with the Task Force Circular Letter Number 8 of 2021.⁴³³⁷ This circular stipulated the suppression of the transmission of the mutant COVID-19 variant throughout Indonesia.⁴³³⁸

On 12 March 2021, Indonesia entered a partnership with the WHO and the EU to strengthen the health system in Indonesia in order to prepare for pandemics and health emergencies.⁴³³⁹ This is part of the South East Asia Health Pandemic Response and Preparedness program.⁴³⁴⁰ The EU plans to provide support of over EUR200 million to finance new COVID-19 response and public health programs in Indonesia, and to support the Ministry of Health's efforts to suppress community transmission.⁴³⁴¹ Minister Sadikin welcomed the WHO-EU Partnership and expressed appreciation in

⁴³³¹ Micro-scale restrictions expected to curb COVID spread: task force, AntaraNews 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/169423/micro-scale-restrictions-expected-to-curb-covid-spread-task-force>

⁴³³² Micro-scale restrictions expected to curb COVID spread: task force, AntaraNews 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/169423/micro-scale-restrictions-expected-to-curb-covid-spread-task-force>

⁴³³³ Persons with Disabilities with a Jakarta ID Card Receive COVID-19 Vaccination Today, Kompas Daily 11 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://nasional.kompas.com/read/2021/03/11/13233201/penyandang-disabilitas-ber-ktp-dki-jalani-vaksinasi-covid-19-hari-ini>

⁴³³⁴ Persons with Disabilities with a Jakarta ID Card Receive COVID-19 Vaccination Today, Kompas Daily 11 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://nasional.kompas.com/read/2021/03/11/13233201/penyandang-disabilitas-ber-ktp-dki-jalani-vaksinasi-covid-19-hari-ini>

⁴³³⁵ The Government Focuses on Tracking 3 Types of Corona Mutations, CNN (Atlanta) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.cnnindonesia.com/nasional/20210312225257-20-616933/pemerintah-fokus-telusuri-3-jenis-mutasi-corona>

⁴³³⁶ The Government Focuses on Tracking 3 Types of Corona Mutations, CNN (Atlanta) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.cnnindonesia.com/nasional/20210312225257-20-616933/pemerintah-fokus-telusuri-3-jenis-mutasi-corona>

⁴³³⁷ The Government Focuses on Tracking 3 Types of Corona Mutations, CNN (Atlanta) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.cnnindonesia.com/nasional/20210312225257-20-616933/pemerintah-fokus-telusuri-3-jenis-mutasi-corona>

⁴³³⁸ The Government Focuses on Tracking 3 Types of Corona Mutations, CNN (Atlanta) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.cnnindonesia.com/nasional/20210312225257-20-616933/pemerintah-fokus-telusuri-3-jenis-mutasi-corona>

⁴³³⁹ WHO and EU announce a new partnership to support the COVID-19 response and strengthen the health system in Indonesia, World Health Organization (Geneva) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March, 2021. <https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/13-03-2021-who-and-eu-announce-a-new-partnership-to-support-covid-19-response-and-strengthen-the-health-system-in-indonesia>

⁴³⁴⁰ WHO and EU announce a new partnership to support the COVID-19 response and strengthen the health system in Indonesia, World Health Organization (Geneva) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March, 2021. <https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/13-03-2021-who-and-eu-announce-a-new-partnership-to-support-covid-19-response-and-strengthen-the-health-system-in-indonesia>

⁴³⁴¹ WHO and EU announce a new partnership to support the COVID-19 response and strengthen the health system in Indonesia, World Health Organization (Geneva) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March, 2021. <https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/13-03-2021-who-and-eu-announce-a-new-partnership-to-support-covid-19-response-and-strengthen-the-health-system-in-indonesia>

the implantation of the COVID-19 control approach in Indonesia, including the strengthening of Indonesia's health system ecosystem to be more resilient.⁴³⁴²

On 13 March 2021, the Ministry of Health received over 1 million antigen-detecting rapid diagnosis tests from the WHO to support improvements to COVID-19 testing capacity.⁴³⁴³ The estimated cost of the tests is approximately USD4.9 million.⁴³⁴⁴ The use of antigen-detecting rapid diagnosis tests is expected to support improvements in COVID-19 testing capacity, especially in areas with limited access to polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing and high turnaround time for test results.⁴³⁴⁵

On 7 April 2021, Minister Sadikin, met with UK Foreign Minister Dominic Raab to discuss bilateral cooperation between Indonesia and the UK in controlling the pandemic.⁴³⁴⁶ Both countries agreed to collaborate in sharing vaccine and drug production technology, and capacity-building for research and public health surveillance.⁴³⁴⁷ The UK also committed to supporting Indonesia's genome sequencing capabilities through training and information technology.⁴³⁴⁸

On 18 April 2021, the Ministry of Health launched an online COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard to provide data to the public about the progress of vaccinations in the country and promote transparency.⁴³⁴⁹ The site also contains information about vaccine facilities and vaccination centers.⁴³⁵⁰ The data provided on the website is obtained from Indonesia's COVID-19 Handling Committee.⁴³⁵¹

⁴³⁴² WHO and EU announce a new partnership to support the COVID-19 response and strengthen the health system in Indonesia, World Health Organization (Geneva) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March, 2021.

<https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/13-03-2021-who-and-eu-announce-a-new-partnership-to-support-covid-19-response-and-strengthen-the-health-system-in-indonesia>

⁴³⁴³ Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 47 Indonesia, World Health Organization (Geneva) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/searo/indonesia/covid19/external-situation-report-47_17-march-2021.pdf?sfvrsn=9bfe3e14_5

⁴³⁴⁴ Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 47 Indonesia, World Health Organization (Geneva) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/searo/indonesia/covid19/external-situation-report-47_17-march-2021.pdf?sfvrsn=9bfe3e14_5

⁴³⁴⁵ Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 47 Indonesia, World Health Organization (Geneva) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/searo/indonesia/covid19/external-situation-report-47_17-march-2021.pdf?sfvrsn=9bfe3e14_5

⁴³⁴⁶ Minister of Health Meets British Foreign Minister to Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation to Face the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21040900001/menkes-bertemu-menlu-inggris-perkuat-kerja-sama-bilateral-hadapi-pandemi-covid-19.html>

⁴³⁴⁷ Minister of Health Meets British Foreign Minister to Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation to Face the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21040900001/menkes-bertemu-menlu-inggris-perkuat-kerja-sama-bilateral-hadapi-pandemi-covid-19.html>

⁴³⁴⁸ Minister of Health Meets British Foreign Minister to Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation to Face the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21040900001/menkes-bertemu-menlu-inggris-perkuat-kerja-sama-bilateral-hadapi-pandemi-covid-19.html>

⁴³⁴⁹ Transparency of Vaccination Data, Ministry of Health Launches COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21041900003/transparasikan-data-vaksinasi-kemenkes-luncurkan-dashboard-vaksinasi-covid-19.html>

⁴³⁵⁰ Transparency of Vaccination Data, Ministry of Health Launches COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21041900003/transparasikan-data-vaksinasi-kemenkes-luncurkan-dashboard-vaksinasi-covid-19.html>

⁴³⁵¹ Transparency of Vaccination Data, Ministry of Health Launches COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21041900003/transparasikan-data-vaksinasi-kemenkes-luncurkan-dashboard-vaksinasi-covid-19.html>

On 21 April 2021, the Ministry of Health launched the Home Care and Home Delivery Vaccination Program, which aims to promote vaccine uptake among the elderly, aged 60 and above.⁴³⁵² It provides transportation to and from COVID-19 vaccination centers and implements vaccination delivery in nursing homes.⁴³⁵³ The program is currently available in Jakarta.⁴³⁵⁴

On 23 April 2021, Indonesia announced plans to impose travel restrictions from 6-17 May ahead of Eid al-Fitr, a holiday which results in millions of citizens travelling to their hometowns each year.⁴³⁵⁵ During this time, those travelling by air, sea, and rail will need to present a negative PCR/antigen or GeNose breathalyzer COVID-19 test 24 hours prior to departure.⁴³⁵⁶ Those travelling by road will also need to carry proof of a negative test, as police will be stationed at road blocks along major toll routes to conduct random checks.⁴³⁵⁷ The governments hopes to reduce community transmission of COVID-19 with these travel regulations.⁴³⁵⁸

Indonesia has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention and response by administering a Sinovac vaccination campaign, entering a partnership with the WHO and the EU and also passing governmental restrictions to suppress the transmission of COVID-19 variants. Furthermore, Indonesia has administered over 1 million rapid diagnosis COVID-19 tests to detect the virus.

Thus, Indonesia has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Amandeep Saini

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 3 December 2020, Italy approved a new decree which required all travelers from the European Union and United Kingdom to either present a test completed in the last 48 hours or be tested upon arrival.⁴³⁵⁹ All travelers will also be subject to quarantining for two weeks.⁴³⁶⁰ Those exempt from the

⁴³⁵² Ball Pickup System Starts Encouraged To Accelerate Vaccination Of The Elderly, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21042200001/sistem-jemput-bola-mulai-digalakkan-untuk-percepat-vaksinasi-lansia.html>

⁴³⁵³ Ball Pickup System Starts Encouraged To Accelerate Vaccination Of The Elderly, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21042200001/sistem-jemput-bola-mulai-digalakkan-untuk-percepat-vaksinasi-lansia.html>

⁴³⁵⁴ Ball Pickup System Starts Encouraged To Accelerate Vaccination Of The Elderly, Ministry of Health (Jakarta) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21042200001/sistem-jemput-bola-mulai-digalakkan-untuk-percepat-vaksinasi-lansia.html>

⁴³⁵⁵ Strict and Measured, People's Mobility During Eid are Tightened, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/editorial/2721/strict-and-measured-people-s-mobility-during-eid-are-tightened>

⁴³⁵⁶ Strict and Measured, People's Mobility During Eid are Tightened, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/editorial/2721/strict-and-measured-people-s-mobility-during-eid-are-tightened>

⁴³⁵⁷ Strict and Measured, People's Mobility During Eid are Tightened, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/editorial/2721/strict-and-measured-people-s-mobility-during-eid-are-tightened>

⁴³⁵⁸ Strict and Measured, People's Mobility During Eid are Tightened, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/editorial/2721/strict-and-measured-people-s-mobility-during-eid-are-tightened>

⁴³⁵⁹ Italy Obliges All Travellers From EU, Schengen, and UK to Test for COVID-19 Upon Arrival, Schengen Visa Info, 7 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.schengenvisa.info/news/italy-obliges-all-travellers-from-eu-schengen-uk-to-test-for-covid-19-upon-arrival/>

quarantine requirement include, flight crew, cross-border workers, healthcare staff, people transiting through Italy for 36 hours or less, those travelling for urgent reasons and people travelling from the United States on special “COVID-tested flights.”⁴³⁶¹

On 27 December 2020, Italy administered the first doses of the vaccine to health personnel on “vaccine day.”⁴³⁶² During phase one of the vaccination program, the vaccine will be given to health care officials and seniors residing in long term care facilities.⁴³⁶³ Since 20 September, 470,000 doses of the Pfizer-Biontech vaccine were distributed every week, throughout Italy in order to ease administration.⁴³⁶⁴

On 14 January 2021, Italy signed a new decree-law to contain the spread of COVID-19.⁴³⁶⁵ The decree law extended the state of emergency until 30 April 2021. The decree also reaffirmed the ban on regional movement, introduced a new regulation which allowed a maximum of two people to visit another private home, and banned travelers from non-European countries.⁴³⁶⁶ It also included provisions for restaurants and workplaces.⁴³⁶⁷

On 26 January 2021, as president of the G20, Italy established a High-Level Independent Panel on financing global commons for pandemic preparedness and response. This “intends to integrate the lessons learned from the current pandemic in the design of future national and international policies, as part of the update of the G20 Action Plan in 2021. In this context, the Italian Presidency decided to propose this Panel to assess the current financing systems and propose viable solutions for the longer term. In particular, the G20 High Level Independent Panel is tasked with: Identifying the gaps in the financing system for the global commons for pandemic prevention, surveillance, preparedness and response; And proposing actionable solutions to meet these gaps on a systematic and sustainable basis, and to optimally leverage resources from the public, private and philanthropic sectors and the International Financial Institutions.”⁴³⁶⁸

⁴³⁶⁰ Italy Obliges All Travellers From EU, Schengen, and UK to Test for COVID-19 Upon Arrival, Schengen Visa Info, 7 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.schengenvisa.info/news/italy-obliges-all-travellers-from-eu-schengen-uk-to-test-for-covid-19-upon-arrival/>

⁴³⁶¹ Italy Obliges All Travellers From EU, Schengen, and UK to Test for COVID-19 Upon Arrival, Schengen Visa Info, 7 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.schengenvisa.info/news/italy-obliges-all-travellers-from-eu-schengen-uk-to-test-for-covid-19-upon-arrival/>

⁴³⁶² Vaccine day, Speranza: 'Today is the day we all have been waiting for. There is still a long way to go, but we finally have a vaccine', Ministry of Health. 30 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁴³⁶³ Vaccine day, Speranza: 'Today is the day we all have been waiting for. There is still a long way to go, but we finally have a vaccine', Ministry of Health. 30 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁴³⁶⁴ Vaccine day, Speranza: 'Today is the day we all have been waiting for. There is still a long way to go, but we finally have a vaccine', Ministry of Health. 30 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁴³⁶⁵ COVID-19, Government Passes Decree-Law with New Measures, State of Emergency Extended until April 30, Ministry of Health. 14 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁴³⁶⁶ COVID-19, Government Passes Decree-Law with New Measures, State of Emergency Extended until April 30, Ministry of Health. 14 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁴³⁶⁷ COVID-19, Government Passes Decree-Law with New Measures, State of Emergency Extended until April 30, Ministry of Health. 14 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁴³⁶⁸ The G20 establishes a High Level Independent Panel on financing the Global Pandemic Preparedness and Response, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/The-G20-establishes-a-High-Level-Independent-Panel-on-financing-the-Global-Pandemic-Preparedness-and-Response-00001/>

On 1 February 2021, Italy secured medical supplies from the US.⁴³⁶⁹ Soldiers from US Army Garrison Italy helped deliver roughly USD500,000 worth of medical supplies to Italian hospitals in Vicenza, Pisa and Livorno. This delivery was just one small part of the larger USD10 million financial aid package of US Department of Defense-funded supplies. The partnership with US European Command and the US Embassy in Rome helped facilitate the delivery of surgical gowns and face masks.⁴³⁷⁰

On 1 March 2021, Italy unveiled its new vaccine acceleration program to speed up the rollout of vaccines.⁴³⁷¹ Italy aims to administer 56 million doses by June 2021, which would cover just under half of Italy's population.⁴³⁷² Italy plans to increase the number of vaccination sites across Italy, which are expected to be functional by April 2021.⁴³⁷³

On 2 March 2021, Italy signed a new decree to combat and control the spread of COVID-19.⁴³⁷⁴ The decree reinforced the division of Italy into coloured zones based upon the number of COVID-19 cases in each region.⁴³⁷⁵ The decree also confirmed a ban on travel between regions and confirmed a curfew from 10pm to 5am.⁴³⁷⁶ The decree also introduced measures outlining the health guidelines for cinemas, schools, businesses, private homes and museums.⁴³⁷⁷ According to this decree, gyms, swimming pools, spas, and ski resorts remain closed.⁴³⁷⁸

On 12 March 2021, Italy introduced a lockdown in half of Italy's 20 regions to curb the spread of COVID-19.⁴³⁷⁹ The lockdown will be in effect from 15 March to 6 April 2021, with the entire country being in a lockdown over the Easter weekend.⁴³⁸⁰ In red zoned regions people will only be allowed to leave home for work or health related reasons and in orange zoned regions, restaurants will be allowed to carry out delivery functions.⁴³⁸¹

⁴³⁶⁹ US Army Delivers COVID-19 Medical Supplies to Italian Hospitals, US Army Garrison Italy (Vicenza) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021 https://www.army.mil/article/242916/u_s_army_delivers_covid_19_medical_supplies_to_italian_hospitals

⁴³⁷⁰ US Army Delivers COVID-19 Medical Supplies to Italian Hospitals, US Army Garrison Italy (Vicenza) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021 https://www.army.mil/article/242916/u_s_army_delivers_covid_19_medical_supplies_to_italian_hospitals

⁴³⁷¹ '56 Million By June': Italy Unveils New Plan to Accelerate COVID Vaccines, The Local (Stockholm) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.thelocal.it/20210302/56-million-by-june-italys-plan-to-accelerate-vaccines-under-new-pandemic-commissioner/>

⁴³⁷² '56 Million By June': Italy Unveils New Plan to Accelerate COVID Vaccines, The Local (Stockholm) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.thelocal.it/20210302/56-million-by-june-italys-plan-to-accelerate-vaccines-under-new-pandemic-commissioner/>

⁴³⁷³ '56 Million By June': Italy Unveils New Plan to Accelerate COVID Vaccines, The Local (Stockholm) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.thelocal.it/20210302/56-million-by-june-italys-plan-to-accelerate-vaccines-under-new-pandemic-commissioner/>

⁴³⁷⁴ COVID-19, the New Government Dpcm, Ministry of Health (Stockholm) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁴³⁷⁵ COVID-19, the New Government Dpcm, Ministry of Health (Stockholm) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5354>

⁴³⁷⁶ COVID-19, the New Government Dpcm, Ministry of Health (Stockholm) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁴³⁷⁷ COVID-19, the New Government Dpcm, Ministry of Health (Stockholm) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁴³⁷⁸ COVID-19, the New Government Dpcm, Ministry of Health (Stockholm) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁴³⁷⁹ Italy Prepares for an Easter Lockdown as COVID-19 Cases Grow Exponentially, CNN (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/13/europe/italy-coronavirus-national-lockdown-intl/index.html>

⁴³⁸⁰ Italy Prepares for an Easter Lockdown as COVID-19 Cases Grow Exponentially, CNN (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/13/europe/italy-coronavirus-national-lockdown-intl/index.html>

⁴³⁸¹ Italy Prepares for an Easter Lockdown as COVID-19 Cases Grow Exponentially, CNN (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/13/europe/italy-coronavirus-national-lockdown-intl/index.html>

On 12 March 2021, the Italian Medicines Agency approved the use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines.⁴³⁸² The vaccines would be used for people over 18 and would be available at the expense of the National Health Emergency.⁴³⁸³

On 17 March 2021, Minister of Health Roberto Speranza provided an update before the Social Affairs Committees of the Chamber and Health of the Senate.⁴³⁸⁴ Minister Speranza provided an update on the vaccination campaign, explaining that it was divided into quarters.⁴³⁸⁵ He also discussed the plan for the future of the Italian healthcare which is presented in five different axes.⁴³⁸⁶ The first axis concerns the integrated approach to reduce inequalities, the second axis concerns the connection between animals and the environment, the third looks at hospitals, the fourth concerns the widespread use of technologies in the health sector, and the last axis aims toward innovation in the health care sector.⁴³⁸⁷

On 26 April 2021, Italy banned entry to those who had travelled to India in the last fourteen days.⁴³⁸⁸ Those who are returning to Italy as residents or citizens must undergo testing and strict isolation and must be referred to a trustee for a period of ten days.⁴³⁸⁹

On 28 April 2021, Minister Speranza signed an ordinance banning entry to travelers from Bangladesh and India in the last fourteen days.⁴³⁹⁰ The ordinance also strengthened the quarantine measures for Italians authorized to return.⁴³⁹¹

On 29 April 2021, Italy issued an ordinance that would prohibit entry to those who had visited Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in the last fourteen days with the exception of Italian citizens.⁴³⁹² Italians who had visited these countries in the last 14 days are required to undergo mandatory testing upon arrival at the airport, isolate in a hotel and must complete another test after the isolation period is completed.⁴³⁹³

On 3 May 2021, Italy sent to India a team of experts, from the Maxiemergenza group of the Piedmont Region, a doctor from the Lombardy region, a representative of the Ministry of Health and

⁴³⁸² AIFA Approves the Janssen Vaccine, Italian Medicines Agency. 12 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.aifa.gov.it/web/guest/-/aifa-approva-il-vaccino-janssen>

⁴³⁸³ AIFA Approves the Janssen Vaccine, Italian Medicines Agency. 12 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.aifa.gov.it/web/guest/-/aifa-approva-il-vaccino-janssen>

⁴³⁸⁴ Minister Speranza in Hearing with the Chamber and Senate Committees, Minister of Health. 17 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp

⁴³⁸⁵ Minister Speranza in Hearing with the Chamber and Senate Committees, Minister of Health. 17 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp

⁴³⁸⁶ Minister Speranza in Hearing with the Chamber and Senate Committees, Minister of Health. 17 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp

⁴³⁸⁷ Minister Speranza in Hearing with the Chamber and Senate Committees, Minister of Health. 17 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp

⁴³⁸⁸ Ministerial Order of April 25, 2020, Ministry of Health. 25 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=80073>

⁴³⁸⁹ Ministerial Order of April 25, 2020, Ministry of Health. 25 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=80073>

⁴³⁹⁰ COVID-19: Hope Signs New Ordinance for Bangladesh and India, Ministry of Health. 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioComunicatiNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁴³⁹¹ COVID-19: Hope Signs New Ordinance for Bangladesh and India, Ministry of Health. 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioComunicatiNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁴³⁹² Further Urgent Measures Regarding the Containment and Management of the Epidemiological Emergency from COVID-19, Ministry of Health. 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=80154&>

⁴³⁹³ Further Urgent Measures Regarding the Containment and Management of the Epidemiological Emergency from COVID-19, Ministry of Health. 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=80154&>

an oxygen generation plant and 20 ventilators to assist the country in its fight against a devastating second wave of the coronavirus pandemic.⁴³⁹⁴

On 21 May 2021, Italy hosted the Global Health Summit alongside the European Union. At this summit, the participants adopted the Rome Declaration. The Rome Declaration is a set of 16 principles and guiding commitments that “serve as voluntary orientation for current and future action for global health to support the financing, building, and sustaining of effective health system capabilities and capacities and Universal Health Coverage to improve preparedness, early warning of, prevention, detection, coordinated response, and resilience to, and recovery from, the current pandemic and future potential public health emergencies.”⁴³⁹⁵

Italy has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention and response by participation in a vaccination campaign, partnering with the US Department of Defense to distribute medical supplies and enacting various decrees to protect its citizens. However, it has not demonstrated strong action in the area of detection.

Thus, Italy has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Ujala Iqbal

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 4 December 2020, Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide delivered a video speech at the General Debate of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴³⁹⁶ He was reported to have said that “Japan has been promptly taking multi-layered efforts; first, to overcome the current crisis of the pandemic; second, to strengthen health and medical systems for future crises; and, third, to generate an environment that is resilient to infectious diseases.” To support developing countries, Japan implemented the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan of up to USD4.5 billion. Japan affirmed its commitment to provide contributions and supplies for vaccine development and manufacturing under the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) program.⁴³⁹⁷ The COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX), aims to provide universally safe and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccinations.⁴³⁹⁸

On 7 January 2021, according to Article 32, Paragraph 1 of the Act on Special Measures for Pandemic Influenza and New Infectious Diseases Preparedness and Response (Act No. 31 of 2012), Japan declared a state of emergency in the prefectures of Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, and Kanagawa to

⁴³⁹⁴ COVID-19: Italy sends team of experts; oxygen generation plant (New Delhi) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/covid19-italy-sends-team-of-experts-oxygen-generation-plant-11620052142087.html>

⁴³⁹⁵ Rome Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2021/210521-rome-declaration.html>

⁴³⁹⁶ Address by Prime Minister Suga at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e_000292.html

⁴³⁹⁷ Address by Prime Minister Suga at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e_000292.html

⁴³⁹⁸ Address by Prime Minister Suga at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e_000292.html

contain outbreaks of the COVID-19 virus.⁴³⁹⁹ Emergency measures for infection control were set to expire after one month.⁴⁴⁰⁰

On 18 January 2021, Japan announced preparations for administering COVID-19 vaccines to citizens were underway and said that the vaccination campaign will be launched by late February.⁴⁴⁰¹ Minister for Administrative Reform and Regulatory Reform Taro Kono was appointed to oversee vaccine distribution and administration.⁴⁴⁰²

On 26 January 2021, the House of Representatives approved a supplementary budget of USD185 billion for national COVID-19 response.⁴⁴⁰³ An additional USD763 million was allocated towards international pandemic response initiatives, including COVAX, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, and Unitaid.⁴⁴⁰⁴

On 16 February 2021, Japan commenced its mass COVID-19 inoculation program.⁴⁴⁰⁵ The first stage of the program targeted highly vulnerable populations, including healthcare workers and elderly citizens.⁴⁴⁰⁶

On 19 February 2021, Japan contributed an additional USD79 million to the ACT-A partnership, directed towards COVAX vaccine development and manufacturing.⁴⁴⁰⁷ Funding also went towards Unitaid, an international initiative aimed towards tackling current and future health threats in low- and middle-income countries.⁴⁴⁰⁸

On 5 March 2021, Prime Minister Yoshihide announced at a press conference at the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters the reinforcement of routine inspections to ensure individuals and businesses are complying with public health restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁴⁰⁹ Domestic surveillance measures include contact tracing via mobile phones, nationwide testing for COVID-19 variants, and monitoring of asymptomatic individuals.⁴⁴¹⁰

⁴³⁹⁹ Declaration of a State of Emergency in Response to the Novel Coronavirus Disease (January 7), Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/_00038.html

⁴⁴⁰⁰ Declaration of a State of Emergency in Response to the Novel Coronavirus Disease (January 7), Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/_00038.html

⁴⁴⁰¹ Press Conference by the Prime Minister on Novel Coronavirus Vaccines, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202101/_00010.html

⁴⁴⁰² Press Conference by the Prime Minister on Novel Coronavirus Vaccines, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202101/_00010.html

⁴⁴⁰³ Japan's 3rd Extra Budget for FY 2020 Clears Parliament, Jiji Press (Tokyo) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yjj2021012801113/>

⁴⁴⁰⁴ Japan's 3rd Extra Budget for FY 2020 Clears Parliament, Jiji Press (Tokyo) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yjj2021012801113/>

⁴⁴⁰⁵ Past Ministerial Conference (COVID-19), Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000121431_00096.html

⁴⁴⁰⁶ Past Ministerial Conference (COVID-19), Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000121431_00096.html

⁴⁴⁰⁷ G7 leaders commit US\$ 4.3 billion to finance global equitable access to tests, treatments and vaccines in 2021, World Health Organization (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-02-2021-g7-leaders-commit-us-4.3-billion-to-finance-global-equitable-access-to-tests-treatments-and-vaccines-in-2021>

⁴⁴⁰⁸ G7 leaders commit US\$ 4.3 billion to finance global equitable access to tests, treatments and vaccines in 2021, World Health Organization (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-02-2021-g7-leaders-commit-us-4.3-billion-to-finance-global-equitable-access-to-tests-treatments-and-vaccines-in-2021>

⁴⁴⁰⁹ Press Conference by Prime Minister Regarding the Novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202103/_00005.html

⁴⁴¹⁰ Press Conference by Prime Minister Regarding the Novel Coronavirus, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202103/_00005.html

On 9 March 2021, Japan implemented new travel restrictions and quarantine guidelines.⁴⁴¹¹ Foreign nationals from 152 countries specified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are denied entry to Japan, while those from approved countries must present negative COVID-19 test results prior to departure.⁴⁴¹² Upon entering Japan, travellers must complete a 14-day quarantine period in a designated facility.⁴⁴¹³

On 12 March 2021, Japan joined the Quad Vaccine Partnership with the United States, India, and Australia.⁴⁴¹⁴ The partnership is aimed towards strengthening vaccination efforts in the Indo-Pacific region, expanding global COVID-19 vaccine development and distribution, coordinating with international pandemic response initiatives, and assisting in health workforce preparedness and training.⁴⁴¹⁵

On 1 April 2021, Japan implemented priority measures to combat the spread of COVID-19 infections in Miyagi, Osaka, and Hyogo prefectures.⁴⁴¹⁶ Drinking and dining establishments within these regions were required to shorten operating hours.⁴⁴¹⁷ Ongoing inspections are carried out by designated authorities to enforce preventative measures and penalize non-compliance.⁴⁴¹⁸

On 16 April 2021, Japan attended the virtual Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment One World Protected Event concerning international cooperation to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.⁴⁴¹⁹ Japan reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the supply and distribution of effective vaccines and medical resources in low and middle-income countries.⁴⁴²⁰

On 23 April 2021, Japan held a Strategic Dialogue with the World Health Organization to discuss strengthening cooperation in COVID-19 prevention and response efforts.⁴⁴²¹ Japan reaffirmed its

⁴⁴¹¹ Border Enforcement Measures to Prevent the Spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html

⁴⁴¹² Border Enforcement Measures to Prevent the Spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html

⁴⁴¹³ Border Enforcement Measures to Prevent the Spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html

⁴⁴¹⁴ Leaders of US, Japan, India, and Australia to meet in first-ever 'Quad' summit, CNN (Tokyo) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/03/09/asia/first-ever-quad-leaders-summit-intl-hnk/index.html>

⁴⁴¹⁵ Leaders of US, Japan, India, and Australia to meet in first-ever 'Quad' summit, CNN (Tokyo) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/03/09/asia/first-ever-quad-leaders-summit-intl-hnk/index.html>

⁴⁴¹⁶ Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the Decision to Implement Priority Measures to Prevent the Spread of Disease in Miyagi, Osaka, and Hyogo Prefectures, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202104/_00001.html

⁴⁴¹⁷ Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the Decision to Implement Priority Measures to Prevent the Spread of Disease in Miyagi, Osaka, and Hyogo Prefectures, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202104/_00001.html

⁴⁴¹⁸ Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the Decision to Implement Priority Measures to Prevent the Spread of Disease in Miyagi, Osaka, and Hyogo Prefectures, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202104/_00001.html

⁴⁴¹⁹ Video Message by Minister for Foreign Affairs MOTEGI at the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC) One World Protected Event, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000281.html

⁴⁴²⁰ Video Message by Minister for Foreign Affairs MOTEGI at the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC) One World Protected Event, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000281.html

⁴⁴²¹ Minister Tamura/Deputy Minister Yamamoto and WHO Secretary-General Tedros hold a meeting – Japan and WHO agree to strengthen cooperation, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_18230.html

ongoing commitment to global pandemic prevention and response via its cooperation with the COVAX vaccine procurement facility.⁴⁴²²

On 25 April 2021, Japan declared a state of emergency in Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, and Hyogo prefectures in response to surges in COVID-19 infections.⁴⁴²³ Japan further announced the enactment of priority preventative measures in Ehime prefecture, and the extension of priority preventative measures in Miyagi, Okinawa, Saitama, Chiba, Kanagawa, and Aichi prefectures.⁴⁴²⁴ Emergency and priority measures are set to expire on 11 May 2021.⁴⁴²⁵

On 30 April 2021, Japan updated border enforcement measures for the prevention of COVID-19 transmission and spread. Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs identified 152 countries and regions as sites of community transmission of COVID-19 variants of concern.⁴⁴²⁶ Foreign nationals who have entered these designated regions within a 14-day period prior to travel are subject to denial of entry upon landing in Japan.⁴⁴²⁷

On 30 April 2021, Japan provided emergency medical supplies to India in response to a recent surge in COVID-19 infections.⁴⁴²⁸ Supplies included 300 oxygen concentrators and 300 ventilators.⁴⁴²⁹

On 12 May 2021, the Health Ministry confirmed that 200 oxygen concentrators will be sent to India as a part of the emergency assistance from Japan in response to the current surge of COVID-19 infections in India.⁴⁴³⁰ During the previous week External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had a virtual meeting with his Japanese counterpart Toshimitsu Motegi and the later conveyed that Japan is ready to provide grant assistance of up to USD50 million to India, based on its needs.⁴⁴³¹

Japan has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by enacting quarantine guidelines, entering a Quad Vaccine Partnership and administering a robust vaccination strategy.

Thus, Japan has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Tamara Saadi

⁴⁴²² Minister Tamura/Deputy Minister Yamamoto and WHO Secretary-General Tedros hold a meeting – Japan and WHO agree to strengthen cooperation, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_18230.html

⁴⁴²³ COVID-19 Declaration of State of Emergency, Office for Novel Coronavirus Disease Control (Tokyo) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://corona.go.jp/en/>

⁴⁴²⁴ COVID-19 Declaration of State of Emergency, Office for Novel Coronavirus Disease Control (Tokyo) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://corona.go.jp/en/>

⁴⁴²⁵ COVID-19 Declaration of State of Emergency, Office for Novel Coronavirus Disease Control (Tokyo) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://corona.go.jp/en/>

⁴⁴²⁶ Border Enforcement Measures to Prevent the Spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html

⁴⁴²⁷ Border Enforcement Measures to Prevent the Spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html

⁴⁴²⁸ Emergency Assistance to India in Response to the Current Surge of COVID-19 Infections, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000288.html

⁴⁴²⁹ Emergency Assistance to India in Response to the Current Surge of COVID-19 Infections, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000288.html

⁴⁴³⁰ COVID-19: Japan to send 200 oxygen concentrators to India (New Delhi) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/covid19-japan-to-send-200-oxygen-concentrators-to-india-101620739674942.html>

⁴⁴³¹ COVID-19: Japan to send 200 oxygen concentrators to India (New Delhi) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/covid19-japan-to-send-200-oxygen-concentrators-to-india-101620739674942.html>

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with the commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 23 November 2020, President Moon Jae-in has pledged to the G20 economies that Korea will cooperate with the international community to guarantee fair access to vaccines against COVID-19.⁴⁴³² “He said Korea actively supports the roles of international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Vaccine Institute, adding that the country will help supply vaccines to developing countries.”⁴⁴³³

On 23 November 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health and Welfare co-hosted the “2020 Korea-Latin America and the Caribbean Future Cooperation Forum.”⁴⁴³⁴ Minister of Health and Welfare Park Neunghoo proposed that the participants reinforce solidarity to end COVID-19, including sharing experiences in “3T (Test, Trace, and Treat),” Korea’s key strategy for COVID-19 response, and stressed the importance of joint efforts in fostering medical personnel, promoting cooperation in information communications and technology, and digital health and medical care, and ensuring a fair distribution of vaccines and treatments.⁴⁴³⁵

On 25 November 2020, Korea announced it would contribute USD3 million in 2020 to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), which leads global efforts for the development of vaccines for infectious diseases, including COVID-19.⁴⁴³⁶ CEPI is a global health partnership launched in 2017 with the aim to develop vaccines to stop future epidemics.⁴⁴³⁷ With regard to COVID-19, it is aiming to support the development of a total of nine vaccine candidates, including those under development by Moderna and AstraZeneca.⁴⁴³⁸

On 26 November 2020, the five member states of MIKTA (Korea, Mexico, Indonesia, Turkey and Australia) held the 1st MIKTA Foreign Affairs and Health 2+2 Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM).⁴⁴³⁹ The MIKTA Foreign Affairs and Health SOM leaders stressed that it is an urgent matter to improve and reinforce the current global health system, which is led by the WHO and the International Health Regulations, in order to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and to prepare for similar health

⁴⁴³² President Moon urges fair distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and Korean Culture and Information Service (Seoul) 23 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021.

<https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=192059&pageIndex=6>

⁴⁴³³ President Moon urges fair distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and Korean Culture and Information Service (Seoul) 23 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021.

<https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=192059&pageIndex=6>

⁴⁴³⁴ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Health and Welfare Co-host 2020 Korea-LAC Future Cooperation Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 24 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021.

https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321380

⁴⁴³⁵ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Health and Welfare Co-host 2020 Korea-LAC Future Cooperation Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 24 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021.

https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321380

⁴⁴³⁶ ROK Government Joins Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 25 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321385

⁴⁴³⁷ ROK Government Joins Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 25 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321385

⁴⁴³⁸ ROK Government Joins Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 25 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321385

⁴⁴³⁹ MIKTA Holds 1st Foreign Affairs and Health 2+2 Senior Officials’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321395

crises, and agreed to step up cooperation in relevant discussions of the international community as well as in the overall areas of infectious diseases and health and medical care.⁴⁴⁴⁰

On 2 December 2020, Director-General for Development Cooperation Cho Yeongmoo and Unitaids Executive Director Philippe Duneton held a virtual signing ceremony during which they signed the memorandum of understanding outlining Korea's support.⁴⁴⁴¹ Korea will contribute USD1 million to support the Diagnostic Partnership of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator. This is on top of the contribution of USD5 million made through the Global Disease Eradication Fund.⁴⁴⁴²

On 15 December 2020, the member states of the "Group of Friends of Solidarity for Global Health Security" led by Korea, together with co-chairs of the "Global Preparedness Monitoring Board" made up of prominent figures in infectious disease response, held a high-level meeting assessing the COVID-19 response so far in terms of health security and discussed the way forward.⁴⁴⁴³ The participants agreed on the necessity of continued investment in domestic and global health response systems; decisive and responsible leadership and civic engagement; strengthening social security system including universal access to medical care; and response based on multilateralism including partnerships with international financial institutions in order to respond to and prepare for COVID-19 and health security threats in the future.⁴⁴⁴⁴

On 30 March 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the second virtual meeting on "Northeast Asia Cooperation for Health Security (NEACHS)."⁴⁴⁴⁵ Deputy Minister for Political Affairs Kim Gunn underscored the need to continue strengthening the momentum for implementing the initiative of NEACHS amid the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic and presented ways forward, including seeking out and implementing substantive cooperation projects, cooperating with non-participating countries in a flexible and open manner when needed, and establishing a sustainable institutional framework.⁴⁴⁴⁶

On 28 April 2021, Korea announced it will provide India with oxygen concentrators, COVID-19 diagnostic kits and other aid items.⁴⁴⁴⁷

On 29 April 2021, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi Jong-moon attended the 77th Session of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which took place from 26 to 29 April.⁴⁴⁴⁸ In his statement, Vice Minister Jong-moon proposed the way forward for regional

⁴⁴⁴⁰ MIKTA Holds 1st Foreign Affairs and Health 2+2 Senior Officials' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 November 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321395

⁴⁴⁴¹ Korean Government Contributes US\$1 Million to Unitaids to Increase Access to COVID-19 Diagnostics, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 4 December 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321412

⁴⁴⁴² Korean Government Contributes US\$1 Million to Unitaids to Increase Access to COVID-19 Diagnostics, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 4 December 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321412

⁴⁴⁴³ Korea-led "Group of Friends of Solidarity for Global Health Security" Holds High-level Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321458

⁴⁴⁴⁴ Korea-led "Group of Friends of Solidarity for Global Health Security" Holds High-level Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321458

⁴⁴⁴⁵ 2nd Virtual Meeting on "Northeast Asia Cooperation for Health Security" Held on Mar. 30, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 31 March 2021. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321611

⁴⁴⁴⁶ 2nd Virtual Meeting on "Northeast Asia Cooperation for Health Security" Held on Mar. 30, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 31 March 2021. Access date: 5 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321611

⁴⁴⁴⁷ The Korean Government to provide support to India in its fight against COVID-19, Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the Republic of India (New Delhi) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://overseas.mofa.go.kr/in-en/brd/m_22090/view.do?seq=761427

⁴⁴⁴⁸ Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi Jongmoon Attends 77th Session of UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 29 April 2021. Access date: 1 May 2021.

https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320612

cooperation in the post-COVID-19 era and expressed Korea's commitment to make contributions and that Korea will continuously contribute to recovering from COVID-19 crisis and shaping an inclusive Asia-Pacific region in the post-COVID-19 era.⁴⁴⁴⁹

On 12 May 2021, a consignment of medical equipment including 200 oxygen concentrators from Korea reached India as it battles against the second wave of the COVID-19 crisis.⁴⁴⁵⁰ In addition to this it has already sent another consignment of 230 oxygen concentrators and 100 negative pressure isolation stretchers. India has received outpouring of support from several countries including the US, UK and Russia.⁴⁴⁵¹

Korea has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by participating in the 3T (Test, Trace, Treat) program with Latin America, contributing USD6 million to Unitaaid and to fund vaccine equity and providing support to CEPI and demonstrating other public health initiatives.

Thus, Korea has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Sydney Grad

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 21 December 2020, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador announced the expansion of hospital capacity in Mexico City to care for COVID-19 patients.⁴⁴⁵² He mentioned the creation of a newly built and fully equipped 120 bed hospital in Mexico City.⁴⁴⁵³ He added that the Secretary of the Navy and Secretary of Defense are managing the expansion of spaces, the acquisition of equipment, and the hiring of doctors to tend to COVID-19 patients.⁴⁴⁵⁴

On 22 December 2020, President López Obrador announced the arrival of the first shipment of the Pfizer vaccine.⁴⁴⁵⁵ He stated that vaccines will be universally available and free for the population.⁴⁴⁵⁶

⁴⁴⁴⁹ Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi Jongmoon Attends 77th Session of UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 29 April 2021. Access date: 1 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320612

⁴⁴⁵⁰ COVID-19: Consignment of medical equipment from South Korea (New Delhi) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/covid-19-consignment-of-medical-equipment-from-south-korea-reaches-india/articleshow/82565590.cms>

⁴⁴⁵¹ COVID-19: Consignment of medical equipment from South Korea (New Delhi) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/covid-19-consignment-of-medical-equipment-from-south-korea-reaches-india/articleshow/82565590.cms>

⁴⁴⁵² Hospital Capacity Is Expanded in CDMX To Attend COVID-19: President; Summons Citizens to Stay at Home, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/se-amplia-capacidad-hospitalaria-en-cdmx-para-atender-covid-19-presidente-convoca-a-ciudadania-a-quedarse-en-casa/>

⁴⁴⁵³ Hospital Capacity Is Expanded in CDMX To Attend COVID-19: President; Summons Citizens to Stay at Home, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/se-amplia-capacidad-hospitalaria-en-cdmx-para-atender-covid-19-presidente-convoca-a-ciudadania-a-quedarse-en-casa/>

⁴⁴⁵⁴ Hospital Capacity Is Expanded in CDMX To Attend COVID-19: President; Summons Citizens to Stay at Home, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/se-amplia-capacidad-hospitalaria-en-cdmx-para-atender-covid-19-presidente-convoca-a-ciudadania-a-quedarse-en-casa/>

⁴⁴⁵⁵ Vaccine application will be universal and free: president; Tomorrow the first shipment of Pfizer will arrive in Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/aplicacion-de-vacuna-sera-universal-y-gratuita-presidente-manana-arribara-primer-embarque-de-pfizer-a-mexico/>

⁴⁴⁵⁶ Vaccine application will be universal and free: president; Tomorrow the first shipment of Pfizer will arrive in Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/aplicacion-de-vacuna-sera-universal-y-gratuita-presidente-manana-arribara-primer-embarque-de-pfizer-a-mexico/>

Vaccines will be distributed through a priority system, where health personnel and elderly/vulnerable populations are prioritized.⁴⁴⁵⁷

On 19 January 2021, Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard announced Mexico reached agreements with several pharmaceutical companies such as Pfizer, Astrazeneca, and CanSino for vaccination doses.⁴⁴⁵⁸ Mexico is to receive over 21 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine during the first quarter of 2021.⁴⁴⁵⁹ This will aim to vaccinate approximately 14 million people.⁴⁴⁶⁰

On 3 March 2021, the Foreign Ministry and the National Autonomous University of Mexico announced a partnership that would administer a centralized laboratory to measure immunity against COVID-19.⁴⁴⁶¹ The capacities of this lab will be essential in developing vaccines for COVID-19 and any future pandemics. The partnership is also a part of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), which is a member of the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access group, a facility that seeks equitable vaccine distribution.⁴⁴⁶²

On 9 March 2021, President López Obrador and Foreign Secretary Ebrard announced that Mexico will be receiving an additional 22 million doses of China's Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccines against COVID-19.⁴⁴⁶³ Foreign Secretary Ebrard also added that, with the input of local authorities, Mexico's consulates in Atlanta, Denver, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Sacramento and Saint Paul are vaccinating the Mexican community in the US against COVID-19.⁴⁴⁶⁴

On 13 April 2021, President López Obrador announced the development of the Mexican COVID Vaccine Patria.⁴⁴⁶⁵ The National Council of Science and Technology, the Mexican Agency of International Development and the Ministry of Exterior Relations invested a total of MXN150

⁴⁴⁵⁷ Vaccine application will be universal and free: president; Tomorrow the first shipment of Pfizer will arrive in Mexico, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/aplicacion-de-vacuna-sera-universal-y-gratuita-presidente-manana-arribara-primer-embarque-de-pfizer-a-mexico/>

⁴⁴⁵⁸ Over 14 million Mexicans will receive COVID-19 vaccinations in the first quarter of 2021, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/over-14-million-mexicans-will-receive-covid-19-vaccinations-in-the-first-quarter-of-2021>

⁴⁴⁵⁹ Over 14 million Mexicans will receive COVID-19 vaccinations in the first quarter of 2021, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/over-14-million-mexicans-will-receive-covid-19-vaccinations-in-the-first-quarter-of-2021>

⁴⁴⁶⁰ Over 14 million Mexicans will receive COVID-19 vaccinations in the first quarter of 2021, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/over-14-million-mexicans-will-receive-covid-19-vaccinations-in-the-first-quarter-of-2021>

⁴⁴⁶¹ Mexico to play a leading role in developing vaccines, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-to-enhance-its-capabilities-and-play-a-leading-role-in-developing-vaccines>

⁴⁴⁶² Mexico to play a leading role in developing vaccines, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-to-enhance-its-capabilities-and-play-a-leading-role-in-developing-vaccines>

⁴⁴⁶³ Mexico accelerates National Vaccination Plan; will receive 22 million additional doses of Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccines, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/en/articulos/mexico-accelerates-national-vaccination-plan-will-receive-22-million-additional-doses-of-sinovac-and-sinopharm-vaccines-266424>

⁴⁴⁶⁴ Mexico accelerates National Vaccination Plan; will receive 22 million additional doses of Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccines, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/en/articulos/mexico-accelerates-national-vaccination-plan-will-receive-22-million-additional-doses-of-sinovac-and-sinopharm-vaccines-266424>

⁴⁴⁶⁵ Development of The Mexican Vaccine 'Patria' Against COVID-19 Advances, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/avanza-desarrollo-de-la-vacuna-mexicana-patria-contra-covid-19/>

million for vaccine development.⁴⁴⁶⁶ The Patria vaccine would assist in ensuring the welfare of the population and reduce national cost of vaccine imports.⁴⁴⁶⁷

On 10 May 2021, the Monitoring Committee of Mexico City downgraded the traffic light status from orange to yellow.⁴⁴⁶⁸ This allowed for face-to-face interaction to resume in the office space as long as capacity was at 20 per cent. In addition to this companies that bring employees back on site must strictly adhere to sanitizing procedures and must conduct at their own expense a COVID-19 test on 20 per cent of their staff.⁴⁴⁶⁹ It was also announced to the public that employees must be aware of the Administrative Verification Institute which along with Mexico City will carry out supervision and surveillance activities ensuing that protocols are being abided by. In absence of these measures' fines and partial or total suspension may be ordered for a period of 15 days.⁴⁴⁷⁰

Mexico has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by administering the vaccination campaign, becoming a member of the COVAX group and demonstrating other public health initiatives.

Thus, Mexico has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Shafna Kallil

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 28 November 2020, the Ministry of Internal Affairs announced that 1.1 million people have been fined for violating coronavirus rules, including not wearing a mask and gloves, bringing in at least RUB1.7 billion.⁴⁴⁷¹ The aim of these fines is to enforce the rules that prevent the spread of the virus and prosecute those who put public health at risk.⁴⁴⁷²

On 22 December 2020, Russia temporarily suspended air travel from the United Kingdom.⁴⁴⁷³ The aim of the flight restrictions is to avoid the new strain of the novel coronavirus from entering the country.⁴⁴⁷⁴

On 12 February 2021, Russia allocated RUB25.4 billion to fund hospitals.⁴⁴⁷⁵ The goal of this funding is to alleviate the high financial burden hospitals have faced due to the coronavirus and to allow the healthcare system to fulfil their responsibilities to their patients.⁴⁴⁷⁶

⁴⁴⁶⁶ Development of The Mexican Vaccine 'Patria' Against COVID-19 Advances, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/avanza-desarrollo-de-la-vacuna-mexicana-patria-contra-covid-19/>

⁴⁴⁶⁷ Development of The Mexican Vaccine 'Patria' Against COVID-19 Advances, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://presidente.gob.mx/avanza-desarrollo-de-la-vacuna-mexicana-patria-contra-covid-19/>

⁴⁴⁶⁸ Mexico's COVID-19 Traffic Light Monitoring System: News for May 10–23, 2021 (Mexico City) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/mexico-s-covid-19-traffic-light-monitoring-system-news-may-10-23-2021>

⁴⁴⁶⁹ Mexico's COVID-19 Traffic Light Monitoring System: News for May 10–23, 2021 (Mexico City) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/mexico-s-covid-19-traffic-light-monitoring-system-news-may-10-23-2021>

⁴⁴⁷⁰ Mexico's COVID-19 Traffic Light Monitoring System: News for May 10–23, 2021 (Mexico City) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/mexico-s-covid-19-traffic-light-monitoring-system-news-may-10-23-2021>

⁴⁴⁷¹ Over 1.1 million Russians fined for violating coronavirus restrictions, TASS (Moscow) 28 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/10119985>

⁴⁴⁷² Over 1.1 million Russians fined for violating coronavirus restrictions, TASS (Moscow) 28 November 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/10119985>

⁴⁴⁷³ Russia temporarily suspends UK flights, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41178/>

⁴⁴⁷⁴ Russia temporarily suspends UK flights, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41178/>

On 18 February 2021, the National International Health Regulations Focal Point for the Russian Federation alerted the World Health Organization (WHO) of the first reported cases of avian influenza A(H5N8) in seven humans working in a poultry farm.⁴⁴⁷⁷ There are no reported cases of transmission and chances “of human-to-human transmission remains low.”⁴⁴⁷⁸ The reason for Russia notifying the WHO is to ensure that proper protocols are taken to prevent the spread of a potential virus, and to research and assess the influenza.⁴⁴⁷⁹ The WHO is assisting health officials in Russia to ensure that proper measures are taken to protect public health, and is also assessing virus samples.⁴⁴⁸⁰

On 16 March 2021, Russia announced that it had detected two cases of the South African COVID-19 variant and 28 cases of the UK COVID-19 variant within Russia’s border.⁴⁴⁸¹ The announcement aimed to alert Russians that the foreign strains have made their way into the country and stay alert of them.⁴⁴⁸²

On 25 March 2021, President Vladimir Putin declared the coming week to be a non-working week from 28 March to 5 April 2021, encouraging people to stay home.⁴⁴⁸³ The aim of this order is to prevent the accelerating spread of COVID-19.⁴⁴⁸⁴

On 13 April 2021, Russia announced that most flights from and to Turkey and Tanzania would be suspended due to the accelerating COVID-19 cases from 15 April to 1 June 2021.⁴⁴⁸⁵ Many Russian tourists from these two destinations have contracted COVID-19, with a 80 per cent of COVID-19 cases that came from abroad were from Turkey.⁴⁴⁸⁶

⁴⁴⁷⁵ Mikhail Mishustin signed an order on the allocation of more than 25.4 billion rubles for additional financing of hospitals and clinics, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41557/>

⁴⁴⁷⁶ Mikhail Mishustin signed an order on the allocation of more than 25.4 billion rubles for additional financing of hospitals and clinics, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41557/>

⁴⁴⁷⁷ Human infection with avian influenza A (H5N8) – the Russian Federation, World Health Organization (Geneva) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/csr/don/26-feb-2021-influenza-a-russian-federation/en/>

⁴⁴⁷⁸ Human infection with avian influenza A (H5N8) – the Russian Federation, World Health Organization (Geneva) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/csr/don/26-feb-2021-influenza-a-russian-federation/en/>

⁴⁴⁷⁹ Human infection with avian influenza A (H5N8) – the Russian Federation, World Health Organization (Geneva) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/csr/don/26-feb-2021-influenza-a-russian-federation/en/>

⁴⁴⁸⁰ Human infection with avian influenza A (H5N8) – the Russian Federation, World Health Organization (Geneva) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/csr/don/26-feb-2021-influenza-a-russian-federation/en/>

⁴⁴⁸¹ Russia detects 78 cases of British coronavirus strain, TASS (Moscow) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://tass.com/society/1273029>

⁴⁴⁸² Russia detects 78 cases of British coronavirus strain, TASS (Moscow) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://tass.com/society/1273029>

⁴⁴⁸³ Putin declared the next week non-working, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/25/03/2020/5e7b5c939a7947f15a9150f0>

⁴⁴⁸⁴ Putin declared the next week non-working, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/25/03/2020/5e7b5c939a7947f15a9150f0>

⁴⁴⁸⁵ Half a Million Russians Shut Out of Turkey After Virus Restricts Travel Again, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2021/04/13/half-a-million-russians-shut-out-of-turkey-after-virus-restricts-travel-again-a73571>

⁴⁴⁸⁶ Russia Suspends Most Air Travel With Turkey Over COVID Outbreak, BloombergQuint (Mumbai) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.bloombergquint.com/politics/russia-suspends-most-air-travel-with-turkey-until-june-1>

On 13 April 2021, the Ministry of Health announced that they will make the COVID-19 vaccine mandatory for specific professions, such as doctors and teachers.⁴⁴⁸⁷ This measure will ensure all frontline and vulnerable workers are eventually vaccinated to protect themselves.⁴⁴⁸⁸

On 20 April 2021, Russia announced that starting 1 May 2021, all Russians arriving from abroad must complete two coronavirus tests within 5 days after their arrival, both tests at least one day apart.⁴⁴⁸⁹ Those arriving from Turkey and Tanzania will have to fulfil this requirement starting 21 April 2021.⁴⁴⁹⁰ Rospotrebnadzor employees can conduct selective testing for foreign travelers into Russia.⁴⁴⁹¹ This measure is intended to ensure most incoming travelers do not carry the virus and carry the risk of spreading it.⁴⁴⁹²

On 26 April 2021, President Vladimir Putin announced that the dates 4 May 2021 until 7 May 2021 would be non-working days.⁴⁴⁹³ Considering 1 May 2021 to 3 May 2021 and 8 May 2021 to 10 May 2021 are national holidays, Russians will have a total of 10 days off work.⁴⁴⁹⁴ This measure is a part of the Ministry of Health's efforts to ensure that coronavirus cases do not spike due to the May holidays.⁴⁴⁹⁵

On 13 May 2021, Russia announced its detection its first case of the Indian variant of COVID-19.⁴⁴⁹⁶

Russia has taken strong action to advance global pandemic prevention, detection and response. Through social distancing and quarantine, it has prevented the spread of infectious diseases, detected COVID-19 variants and concealed viruses, and responded to the health emergency by administering a robust vaccination strategy. However, it has not demonstrated strong action in the preparedness area.

Thus, Russia has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Rawan Barakat

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

⁴⁴⁸⁷ The Ministry of Health will change the rules of vaccination against coronavirus for doctors and teachers, Association of Lawyers of Russia (Moscow) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://alrf.ru/news/minzdrav-izmenit-pravila-vaktsinatsii-ot-koronavirusa-dlya-medikov-i-uchiteley/>

⁴⁴⁸⁸ The Ministry of Health will change the rules of vaccination against coronavirus for doctors and teachers, Association of Lawyers of Russia (Moscow) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://alrf.ru/news/minzdrav-izmenit-pravila-vaktsinatsii-ot-koronavirusa-dlya-medikov-i-uchiteley/>

⁴⁴⁸⁹ Russians arriving from abroad will be obliged to take a test for COVID-19 twice, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/20/04/2021/607ef8459a794748b206f674>

⁴⁴⁹⁰ Russians arriving from abroad will be obliged to take a test for COVID-19 twice, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/20/04/2021/607ef8459a794748b206f674>

⁴⁴⁹¹ Russians arriving from abroad will be obliged to take a test for COVID-19 twice, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/20/04/2021/607ef8459a794748b206f674>

⁴⁴⁹² Russians arriving from abroad will be obliged to take a test for COVID-19 twice, RosBiznesConsulting (Moscow) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.rbc.ru/society/20/04/2021/607ef8459a794748b206f674>

⁴⁴⁹³ The Ministry of Health takes measures to prevent the growth of cases of COVID-19 during the May holidays, TASS (Moscow) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/11243647>

⁴⁴⁹⁴ The Ministry of Health takes measures to prevent the growth of cases of COVID-19 during the May holidays, TASS (Moscow) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/11243647>

⁴⁴⁹⁵ The Ministry of Health takes measures to prevent the growth of cases of COVID-19 during the May holidays, TASS (Moscow) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/11243647>

⁴⁴⁹⁶ Russia records first cases of COVID variant found in India (New Delhi) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/russia-records-first-cases-of-covid-variant-found-in-india/articleshow/82598450.cms>

On 10 December 2020, Saudi Food and Drug Authority approved the registration of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, initiating preparations for mass immunization against the novel coronavirus pandemic.⁴⁴⁹⁷ The Authority will conduct routine checks and analyze samples from each incoming vaccine shipment before using it for quality assurance and adherence to standards. The Ministry of Health also announced the date of the vaccine's arrival and the start of administration after completing import requirements and other checks.⁴⁴⁹⁸

On 2 January 2021, Saudi Arabia implemented new travel guidelines to prevent the spread of the B.1.1.7 novel coronavirus variant.⁴⁴⁹⁹ All non-citizens entering from the United Kingdom, South Africa, and other countries specified at the discretion of the Ministry of Health, are required to produce a negative COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test prior to traveling.⁴⁵⁰⁰ Upon entering the country, they are required to complete a seven day home quarantine period, along with a second PCR test on the sixth day of quarantine.⁴⁵⁰¹ Travelers entering from non-specified countries are required to undertake one PCR test and to complete a minimum of three days under home quarantine.⁴⁵⁰²

On 25 January 2021, Saudi Arabia launched the Remote Clinics Service to provide non-emergency patients with the option of attending virtual medical appointments.⁴⁵⁰³ The service aims to minimize non-essential hospital visits and to reduce the rate of coronavirus transmission.⁴⁵⁰⁴ The Anat and Sehaty digital platforms made especially for COVID-19 ease patients anxiety and connects them remotely with doctors.

On 16 February 2021, the Official Spokesman of the Ministry of Health Dr. Mohammed Al-Abdulaali advised elderly, chronically ill, obese, and immunocompromised individuals to register for obtaining the COVID-19 vaccine.⁴⁵⁰⁵ The aforementioned vulnerable populations were given priority for the first stage of inoculations.⁴⁵⁰⁶ In addition to vulnerable populations, 27 million medical and health-wise consultations via 937 centers were conducted and the total of accurately administered lab tests reached approximately 13 million. Dr. Abdulaali removed any hesitancy in using the vaccine by saying that many of the deaths were misinformation and the vaccines are proving to be very effective.⁴⁵⁰⁷

⁴⁴⁹⁷ SFDA Approves Registration of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2166947>

⁴⁴⁹⁸ SFDA Approves Registration of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2166947>

⁴⁴⁹⁹ Saudi Arabia Lifts Precautionary Measures Regarding Suspension of All International Flights, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 2 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2174495>

⁴⁵⁰⁰ Saudi Arabia Lifts Precautionary Measures Regarding Suspension of All International Flights, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 2 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2174495>

⁴⁵⁰¹ Saudi Arabia Lifts Precautionary Measures Regarding Suspension of All International Flights, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 2 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2174495>

⁴⁵⁰² Saudi Arabia Lifts Precautionary Measures Regarding Suspension of All International Flights, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 2 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2174495>

⁴⁵⁰³ Ministry of Health Launches Remote Clinics Service, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2183487>

⁴⁵⁰⁴ Ministry of Health Launches Remote Clinics Service, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2183487>

⁴⁵⁰⁵ Elders, Sick with Chronic Diseases, Over-Obese Recommended to Register to Obtain Coronavirus Vaccine, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2192082>

⁴⁵⁰⁶ Elders, Sick with Chronic Diseases, Over-Obese Recommended to Register to Obtain Coronavirus Vaccine, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2192082>

⁴⁵⁰⁷ Elders, Sick with Chronic Diseases, Over-Obese Recommended to Register to Obtain Coronavirus Vaccine, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2192082>

On 1 March 2021, Minister of Health Dr. Tawfig Al-Rabiah reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's commitment to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A), the global coalition for the development and equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations, tests, and treatments.⁴⁵⁰⁸ This was in acknowledgement of the first COVID-19 inoculation campaigns in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, which utilized vaccinations produced by COVAX, the ACT-A's vaccine manufacturing facility.⁴⁵⁰⁹

On 2 March 2021, Saudi Arabia committed USD430 million in funding towards United Nations humanitarian relief efforts in Yemen, including programs for COVID-19 pandemic response and containment.⁴⁵¹⁰ This was part of the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2021 and will be administered through United Nations agencies, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations.⁴⁵¹¹

On 4 March 2021, Saudi Ministry of Health announced the expansion of its COVID-19 inoculation program to provide free vaccinations to all Saudi Arabian citizens.⁴⁵¹² Pharmacies across the country were authorized to administer vaccines approved by the Ministry of Health for free.⁴⁵¹³ Saudi Arabia started its inoculation program on 17 December 2020 and 100 vaccination facilities have opened up throughout the country.⁴⁵¹⁴

On 5 March 2021, Saudi Arabia announced new restrictions to control and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.⁴⁵¹⁵ Under new guidelines, events and parties held in public venues are suspended until further notice, while private social gatherings are limited to 20 people.⁴⁵¹⁶ Health authorities will increase inspection campaigns to ensure individuals and businesses are in full compliance with emergency regulations.⁴⁵¹⁷

On 16 March 2021, health authorities in the Eastern region of Saudi Arabia conducted over 724 inspections of private health facilities, hospitals, and pharmacies to ensure full adherence to COVID-19 preventative measures.⁴⁵¹⁸ The Ministry of Health reaffirmed that inspection campaigns will continue to oversee the implementation of pandemic-related regulations.⁴⁵¹⁹

⁴⁵⁰⁸ First COVID-19 COVAX Vaccine Doses Administered in Africa, UNICEF (Geneva/New York/Oslo) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/first-covid-19-covax-vaccine-doses-administered-africa>

⁴⁵⁰⁹ First COVID-19 COVAX Vaccine Doses Administered in Africa, UNICEF (Geneva/New York/Oslo) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/first-covid-19-covax-vaccine-doses-administered-africa>

⁴⁵¹⁰ Saudi Arabia Pledges \$430M to UN's Yemen Response, Arab News (New York) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1817931/saudi-arabia>

⁴⁵¹¹ Saudi Arabia Pledges \$430M to UN's Yemen Response, Arab News (New York) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1817931/saudi-arabia>

⁴⁵¹² Saudi Health Minister: COVID-19 Vaccines Will Be Available at Pharmacies For Free, Arab News (Dubai) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1819076/saudi-arabia>

⁴⁵¹³ Saudi Health Minister: COVID-19 Vaccines Will Be Available at Pharmacies For Free, Arab News (Dubai) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1819076/saudi-arabia>

⁴⁵¹⁴ Saudi Health Minister: COVID-19 Vaccines Will Be Available at Pharmacies For Free, Arab News (Dubai) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1819076/saudi-arabia>

⁴⁵¹⁵ Saudi Arabia to Lift Ban on Coronavirus-Related Precautionary Measures from Sunday With Exceptions, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2197404>

⁴⁵¹⁶ Saudi Arabia to Lift Ban on Coronavirus-Related Precautionary Measures from Sunday With Exceptions, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2197404>

⁴⁵¹⁷ Saudi Arabia to Lift Ban on Coronavirus-Related Precautionary Measures from Sunday With Exceptions, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2197404>

⁴⁵¹⁸ The Eastern Region: 720+ Inspections Conducted to Ensure Precautions Last Week, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-03-16-005.aspx>

⁴⁵¹⁹ The Eastern Region: 720+ Inspections Conducted to Ensure Precautions Last Week, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-03-16-005.aspx>

On 6 April 2021, Saudi Arabia provided a training course for medical practitioners attending to COVID-19 isolation units in Aden, Yemen.⁴⁵²⁰ The course focused on aiding healthcare workers in strengthening necessary skills for treating and containing COVID-19 infections.⁴⁵²¹

On 12 April 2021, the Ministry of Health launched an online service to provide residents and citizens aged 75 years and above with priority access to COVID-19 vaccinations.⁴⁵²² Through the service, designated individuals are able to receive the vaccine at any vaccination site in the country without prior registration or appointment.⁴⁵²³

On 16 April 2021, Saudi Arabia attended the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) virtual summit.⁴⁵²⁴ Saudi Arabia reaffirmed its ongoing commitment to the GAVI COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access initiative to provide equitable global access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines.⁴⁵²⁵ Saudi Arabia also confirmed that it has contributed over USD713 million towards global pandemic relief efforts.⁴⁵²⁶

On 20 April 2021, Saudi Arabia established the General Authority of Civil Aviation to advance safety and health measures for air travel to prevent the spread of future virus outbreaks and pandemics.⁴⁵²⁷ The department will operate in cooperation with international bodies such as the International Air Transport Association and the World Health Organization.⁴⁵²⁸

On 12 May 2021, Foreign Minister Prince Faisal Bin Farhan made a phone call to his Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar confirming Saudi Arabia's support to India.⁴⁵²⁹ They also

⁴⁵²⁰ KSrelief Organizes Training Course to Health Practitioners in COVID-19 Isolation Units in Aden, Saudi Press Agency (Aden) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2211877#2211877>

⁴⁵²¹ KSrelief Organizes Training Course to Health Practitioners in COVID-19 Isolation Units in Aden, Saudi Press Agency (Aden) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2211877#2211877>

⁴⁵²² MOH Launches 'Awlawia' Service for Vaccinating the Elderly without Prior Appointment, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-04-12-007.aspx>

⁴⁵²³ MOH Launches 'Awlawia' Service for Vaccinating the Elderly without Prior Appointment, Ministry of Health (Riyadh) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2021-04-12-007.aspx>

⁴⁵²⁴ Dr. Al Rabeeah: Saudi Arabia has provided more than \$713 million to contribute in addressing COVID-19 pandemic globally, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2216510#2216510>

⁴⁵²⁵ Dr. Al Rabeeah: Saudi Arabia has provided more than \$713 million to contribute in addressing COVID-19 pandemic globally, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2216510#2216510>

⁴⁵²⁶ Dr. Al Rabeeah: Saudi Arabia has provided more than \$713 million to contribute in addressing COVID-19 pandemic globally, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2216510#2216510>

⁴⁵²⁷ GACA: Aviation Medicine Contributes to Achieving Highest Levels of Safety during Flight, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2219895#2219895>

⁴⁵²⁸ GACA: Aviation Medicine Contributes to Achieving Highest Levels of Safety during Flight, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2219895#2219895>

⁴⁵²⁹ Prince Faisal: Saudi Arabia stands in solidarity with India in facing COVID-19 challenges (Jeddah) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/606587/SAUDI-ARABIA/Prince-Faisal-Saudi-Arabia-stands-in-solidarity-with-India-in-facing-COVID-19-challenges>

discussed bilateral relations, aspects of joint cooperation between the two countries, and regional and international developments.⁴⁵³⁰

Saudi Arabia has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by expanding its vaccination campaign, administering social distancing rules and contributing to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator.

Thus, Saudi Arabia has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Tamara Saadi

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to combat COVID-19 by advancing pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 3 December 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that the government was putting into motion to fight the possible virus resurgence with the World Health Organization's surge team.⁴⁵³¹ South Africa would be making more capacity available at hospitals and clinics in the Eastern Cape and Western Cape to ensure that a similar rise of infection does not develop in other parts of the country.⁴⁵³² South Africa would also be expanding public health interventions such as testing, contact tracing, isolation and quarantine, and creating awareness campaigns around public health regulations.⁴⁵³³

On 10 December 2020, the Department of Health announced that it would be launching the COVID South Africa travel system, a digital screening platform that allows travellers to complete the required travel health questionnaire on their personal devices ahead of their arrival at ports of entry.⁴⁵³⁴ The system went live on 15 December 2020.⁴⁵³⁵

On 14 December 2020, President Ramaphosa announced that the Cabinet would be imposing further restrictions on the country starting from 14 December.⁴⁵³⁶ It included stricter enforcement of existing alert level 1 restrictions, measures to reduce the risk of super-spreading events and reduce the burden on health care services.⁴⁵³⁷

⁴⁵³⁰ Prince Faisal: Saudi Arabia stands in solidarity with India in facing COVID-19 challenges (Jeddah) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/606587/SAUDI-ARABIA/Prince-Faisal-Saudi-Arabia-stands-in-solidarity-with-India-in-facing-COVID-19-challenges>

⁴⁵³¹ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Developments in Coronavirus COVID-19 response, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-developments-coronavirus-covid-19-response-3-dec-2020-0000>

⁴⁵³² President Cyril Ramaphosa: Developments in Coronavirus COVID-19 response, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-developments-coronavirus-covid-19-response-3-dec-2020-0000>

⁴⁵³³ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Developments in Coronavirus COVID-19 response, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-developments-coronavirus-covid-19-response-3-dec-2020-0000>

⁴⁵³⁴ Health digitises COVID-19 screening at ports, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/health-digitises-covid-19-screening-ports>

⁴⁵³⁵ Health digitises COVID-19 screening at ports, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/health-digitises-covid-19-screening-ports>

⁴⁵³⁶ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-0>

⁴⁵³⁷ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-0>

On 15 December 2020, the Department of Health announced that the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority was prepared for the vaccine registration process.⁴⁵³⁸ The readiness programme included the establishment of a specialised COVID-19 Vaccine Registration Working Group comprising both external and internal experts specialising in areas of vaccinology, manufacturing, clinical trials, epidemiology, vigilance and other specialisations informing quality, safety and efficacy of the products and this case vaccines.⁴⁵³⁹

On 17 December 2020, the Department of Health announced that it launched a festive season campaign to remind the public that COVID-19 was still an everyday reality.⁴⁵⁴⁰ It collaborated with animator Jonas Lekganyane and developed COVID-19 messaging with a more realistic and humorous tone.

On 18 December 2020, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Blade Nzimand, announced that the Department of Science and Innovation will fund the KwaZulu-Natal Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform with ZAR25 million over the next 12 months to complete the sequencing of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 10,000 genomes in South Africa and Africa.⁴⁵⁴¹ The funding will be used to understand the spread of COVID-19 and other virus lineages in the continent and to support the clinical and laboratory investigations of the genomic variation in the country.⁴⁵⁴²

On 28 December 2020, President Ramaphosa announced that several of the level 3 regulations are being strengthened to further limit the potential for transmission.⁴⁵⁴³ The adjusted restrictions stated that all indoor and outdoor gatherings will be prohibited, the nationwide curfew will be extended from 9pm to 6am and the non-essential establishments will close at 8pm.⁴⁵⁴⁴

On 29 December 2020, Health Minister Zweli Mkhize announced that the Department of Health would receive more assistance in fighting COVID-19 with the employment of new health

⁴⁵³⁸ Health on SAHPRA commencing review of vaccine application for registration for Coronavirus COVID-19, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/health-sahpra-commencing-review-vaccine-application-registration-coronavirus-covid-19-15>

⁴⁵³⁹ Health on SAHPRA commencing review of vaccine application for registration for Coronavirus COVID-19, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/health-sahpra-commencing-review-vaccine-application-registration-coronavirus-covid-19-15>

⁴⁵⁴⁰ Health launches COVID-19 festive season campaign, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/health-launches-covid-19-festive-season-campaign>

⁴⁵⁴¹ Minister Blade Nzimande on the funding of the KwaZulu-Natal Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform and the Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa to complete the sequencing of Coronavirus COVID-19 genomes, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-funding-kwazulu-natal-research-innovation-and-sequencing-platform>

⁴⁵⁴² Minister Blade Nzimande on the funding of the KwaZulu-Natal Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform and the Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa to complete the sequencing of Coronavirus COVID-19 genomes, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-funding-kwazulu-natal-research-innovation-and-sequencing-platform>

⁴⁵⁴³ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-response-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-28-dec-2020>

⁴⁵⁴⁴ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-response-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-28-dec-2020>

workers.⁴⁵⁴⁵ It included 2367 medical interns and 1693 medical community service practitioners who will participate in the community service workforce from all categories.⁴⁵⁴⁶

On 1 January 2021, Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga issued a new set of directions and protocols on the marking of the 2020 matric examinations scripts.⁴⁵⁴⁷ The guidelines served to ensure the safety of everyone involved in the marking process without being anxious about their health.⁴⁵⁴⁸

On 3 January 2021, Minister Mkhize announced that he had signed amendments of regulations to allow for COVID-19 vaccines and other therapeutics to be part of the prescribed minimum benefits.⁴⁵⁴⁹ He also said that the government was negotiating with manufacturers to make vaccines available sooner.⁴⁵⁵⁰

On 7 January 2021, Minister Mkhize announced that the government would reach out to medical firms to make a contribution.⁴⁵⁵¹ The government would ask firms to co-subsidise some members of the public as the government made a push to raise funds to procure vaccine doses as early as February.⁴⁵⁵²

On 11 January 2021, President Ramaphosa announced measures to tackle the COVID-19 variant found in November 2020.⁴⁵⁵³ The plan included slowing the rate of transmission and undertaking a massive program of vaccination to achieve population immunity.⁴⁵⁵⁴

On 18 January 2021, the National School of Government announced that South Africa and the People's Republic of China teamed up to improve the capacity of public servants on governance as well as the management of disasters and emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁵⁵⁵ South

⁴⁵⁴⁵ Newly employed health workers to aid fight against COVID-19, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/newly-employed-health-workers-aid-fight-against-covid-19>

⁴⁵⁴⁶ Newly employed health workers to aid fight against COVID-19, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/newly-employed-health-workers-aid-fight-against-covid-19>

⁴⁵⁴⁷ Minister Angie Motshekga issues new directions and protocols as marking of matric scripts during Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021.

⁴⁵⁴⁸ Minister Angie Motshekga issues new directions and protocols as marking of matric scripts during Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021.

⁴⁵⁴⁹ Minister Zweli Mkhize: Public briefing statement on South Africa's Coronavirus COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 3 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-zweli-mkhize-public-briefing-statement-south-africa-s-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine>

⁴⁵⁵⁰ Minister Zweli Mkhize: Public briefing statement on South Africa's Coronavirus COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 3 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-zweli-mkhize-public-briefing-statement-south-africa-s-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine>

⁴⁵⁵¹ Govt turns to medical schemes to co-subsidise vaccine, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/govt-turns-medical-schemes-co-subsidise-vaccine>

⁴⁵⁵² Govt turns to medical schemes to co-subsidise vaccine, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/govt-turns-medical-schemes-co-subsidise-vaccine>

⁴⁵⁵³ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-covid>

⁴⁵⁵⁴ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021.

⁴⁵⁵⁵ School of Government on training public servants on governance and management of emergencies such as COVID-19, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021.

Africa's National School of Government and the China National Academy of Governance will offer courses for senior and middle managers in the public service starting from March 2021.⁴⁵⁵⁶

On 21 January 2021, the Department of Home Affairs temporarily suspended certain activities and services to prevent further spread of the COVID-19 virus.⁴⁵⁵⁷ It suspended services like applications of smart ID cards and passports.⁴⁵⁵⁸

On 26 January 2021, the Department of Health issued health directions on the management of human remains that died of COVID-19 that prescribed measures to be implemented.⁴⁵⁵⁹ The human remains should only be conveyed to the deceased's home on the day of the burial and viewing is only allowed under a controlled environment.⁴⁵⁶⁰

On 27 January 2021, Minister Nzimande announced that he instructed Higher Health, the agency of the Department of Higher Education and Training, to create a post-school education and training strategy that is aligned with and supports the Department of Health's phased national strategy and coordinate its subsequent roll out.⁴⁵⁶¹ The strategy will help ensure access to vaccination for the country's students and staff.⁴⁵⁶²

On 28 January 2021, Department of Health's Acting Chief Operating Officer Milani Wolmarans announced that the government would use an electronic system to keep track of everyone who gets the COVID-19 vaccine.⁴⁵⁶³ The Electronic Vaccine Data System would allow the department to capture all relevant data associated with the administration of the vaccine.⁴⁵⁶⁴

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/school-government-training-public-servants-governance-and-management-emergencies-such-covid>

⁴⁵⁵⁶ School of Government on training public servants on governance and management of emergencies such as COVID-19, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/school-government-training-public-servants-governance-and-management-emergencies-such-covid>

⁴⁵⁵⁷ Minister Aaron Motsoaledi on Home Affairs priority services to be offered during Coronavirus COVID-19 adjusted alert level 3 of lockdown, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-aaron-motsoaledi-home-affairs-priority-services-be-offered-during-coronavirus>

⁴⁵⁵⁸ Minister Aaron Motsoaledi on Home Affairs priority services to be offered during Coronavirus COVID-19 adjusted alert level 3 of lockdown, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-aaron-motsoaledi-home-affairs-priority-services-be-offered-during-coronavirus>

⁴⁵⁵⁹ Health issues directions on management of Coronavirus COVID-19 human remains, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/wrapping-coffins-plastic-27-jan-2021-0000>

⁴⁵⁶⁰ Health issues directions on management of Coronavirus COVID-19 human remains, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/wrapping-coffins-plastic-27-jan-2021-0000>

⁴⁵⁶¹ Minister Blade Nzimande addresses Higher Health webinar on managing second wave on Coronavirus COVID-19 within PSET, 27 Jan, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-addresses-higher-health-webinar-managing-second-wave-coronavirus>

⁴⁵⁶² Minister Blade Nzimande: Higher Health COVID-19 webinar, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-higher-education-science-and-innovation-dr-blade-nzimande-address-occasion-higher>

⁴⁵⁶³ Government to use online platform for COVID-19 vaccination, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-use-online-platform-covid-19-vaccination>

⁴⁵⁶⁴ Government to use online platform for COVID-19 vaccination, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-use-online-platform-covid-19-vaccination>

On 1 February 2021, President Ramaphosa announced that the Department of Health developed an Electronic Vaccine Data System to streamline the vaccine registration and rollout process.⁴⁵⁶⁵ The system allowed the government to capture all relevant data associated with the administration of the vaccine.⁴⁵⁶⁶

On 5 February 2021, the Department of Social Development launched the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Employment Stimulus Relief Grant.⁴⁵⁶⁷ The grant was part of the Department's intervention to assist ECD services by cushioning them against the impact of the pandemic. The Social Development will use ZAR496 million to assist the sector.⁴⁵⁶⁸

On 7 February 2021, Minister Mkhize assured that there is an Inter-Ministerial Committee in place to oversee the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccines rollout strategy.⁴⁵⁶⁹ Minister Mkhize also said the health department will meet with the provinces to assess and discuss their state of readiness of implementing vaccines rollout strategies.⁴⁵⁷⁰

On 12 February 2021, President Ramaphosa announced that the Unemployment Insurance Fund will be extending the COVID-19 temporary employee/employer relief scheme benefits from 16 October 2020 to 15 March 2021 at the State of the Nation Address.⁴⁵⁷¹ This social assistance from the Department of Employment and Labour forms was part of the overall government response to fighting the worst effects of COVID19 pandemic.⁴⁵⁷²

On 23 February 2021, President Ramaphosa announced the country's support for the launch of the "Recover Better Together" post COVID-19 Campaign.⁴⁵⁷³ Global Citizen, the European Commission and the World Health Organisation organized the initiative, which sought to create

⁴⁵⁶⁵ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Developments in response to Coronavirus COVID-19, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-developments-response-coronavirus-covid-19-1-feb-2021-0000>

⁴⁵⁶⁶ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Developments in response to Coronavirus COVID-19, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-developments-response-coronavirus-covid-19-1-feb-2021-0000>

⁴⁵⁶⁷ Minister Lindiwe Zulu: Update on Social Development interventions during COVID-19, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-lindiwe-zulu-update-social-development-interventions-during-covid-19-26-feb-2021>

⁴⁵⁶⁸ Over R400m to assist struggling ECD, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/over-r400m-assist-struggling-ecds>

⁴⁵⁶⁹ Minister Zweli Mkhize briefs Parliament on readiness to implement Coronavirus COVID-19 Vaccines Strategy, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 7 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/media-statement-7-feb-2021-0000>

⁴⁵⁷⁰ Minister Zweli Mkhize briefs Parliament on readiness to implement Coronavirus COVID-19 Vaccines Strategy, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 7 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/media-statement-7-feb-2021-0000>

⁴⁵⁷¹ Employment and Labour on Coronavirus COVID-19 TERS extension, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/unemployment-insurance-fund-work-out-details-extension-covid19-TERS-announced-sona-12-feb>

⁴⁵⁷² Employment and Labour on Coronavirus COVID-19 TERS extension, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/unemployment-insurance-fund-work-out-details-extension-covid19-TERS-announced-sona-12-feb>

⁴⁵⁷³ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Global Citizen launch of 'Recover Better Together' post COVID-19 Campaign, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-launch-recover-better-together-post-covid-19-campaign-23-feb>

momentum for global COVID-19 pandemic recovery and a return to the implementation of global goals.⁴⁵⁷⁴

On 24 February 2021, Minister of Finance Tito Mboweni announced that the government will allocate ZAR10.3 billion for the purchase and delivery of vaccines to fight the spread of COVID-19 in the next two years in his 2021 budget speech.⁴⁵⁷⁵ According to the National Treasury, the government already allocated ZAR1.3 billion in 2021 for vaccine purchases.⁴⁵⁷⁶ Minister Mboweni also announced that the government would avail an additional ZAR8 billion to the health system for the country's COVID-19 pandemic response. It would allocate the fund to provincial health departments for sustaining activities and respond to possible future waves of COVID-19 infection.⁴⁵⁷⁷

On 26 February 2021, acting Minister in the Presidency Khumbudzo Ntshavheni stated the country's scientists, researchers and medical experts had led the genomic surveillance of COVID-19 virus which resulted in the discovery of the 501Y.V2 variant in a Post Cabinet media briefing.⁴⁵⁷⁸ The scientists and researchers managed to recreate the virus for purposes of enhancing research on the treatment of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁵⁷⁹

On 27 February 2021, the Department of Health announced that South Africa was rapidly rolling out delivery of the early access vaccine to healthcare workers through the Sisonke Program.⁴⁵⁸⁰ The country vaccinated 63,648 patient-facing healthcare workers in the public and private sector against COVID19 within just over one week's time.⁴⁵⁸¹ The Sisonke Programme also set up 18 vaccination sites from scratch, developed and implemented logistics, trained additional vaccinators, set up an online electronic registration system and ensured the safe and timely vaccination of tens of thousands of healthcare workers.⁴⁵⁸²

On 28 February 2021, President Ramaphosa announced that the number of sites available for vaccination will be expanded from 17 sites to 49 sites.⁴⁵⁸³ After the vaccination of healthcare workers

⁴⁵⁷⁴ President Cyril Ramaphosa virtually addresses launch of 'Recover Better Together' post COVID-19 Campaign, 23 Feb, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-virtually-addresses-launch-recover-better-together'-post-covid-19>

⁴⁵⁷⁵ Parliament welcomes 2021 fiscal spending plans to fight Coronavirus COVID-19, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/covid-19-25-feb-2021-0000>

⁴⁵⁷⁶ R9 billion allocated to COVID-19 vaccine roll-out, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 24 February 2021.

Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/r9-billion-allocated-covid-19-vaccine-roll-out>

⁴⁵⁷⁷ Health system boosted to respond to COVID-19, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/health-system-boosted-respond-covid-19>

⁴⁵⁷⁸ Cabinet welcomes progress made by scientists, researchers, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/cabinet-welcomes-progress-made-scientists-researchers>

⁴⁵⁷⁹ Cabinet welcomes progress made by scientists, researchers, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/cabinet-welcomes-progress-made-scientists-researchers>

⁴⁵⁸⁰ Health on reaching first Coronavirus COVID-19 vaccination milestone, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/health-reaching-first-coronavirus-covid1-19-vaccination-milestone-27-feb-2021-0000>

⁴⁵⁸¹ Health on reaching first Coronavirus COVID-19 vaccination milestone, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/health-reaching-first-coronavirus-covid1-19-vaccination-milestone-27-feb-2021-0000>

⁴⁵⁸² Health on reaching first Coronavirus COVID-19 vaccination milestone, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/health-reaching-first-coronavirus-covid1-19-vaccination-milestone-27-feb-2021-0000>

⁴⁵⁸³ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 28 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-0>

has been completed, the government will begin with phase two of the vaccine roll-out in late April or early May for elderly, essential workers, persons living or working in institutional settings and those with co-morbidities.⁴⁵⁸⁴ The government will be activating many more sites for vaccination in the public and private healthcare sector so that we can reach as many people in the shortest possible time.⁴⁵⁸⁵

On 3 March 2021, Minister of Tourism Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane announced plans for economic recovery after COVID-19 at the online Africa webinar.⁴⁵⁸⁶ The department will carry out strategic interventions like implementing standards for safe operations to enable safe travel and rebuild traveller confidence.⁴⁵⁸⁷

On 17 March 2021, Deputy President David Mabuza said that the government had developed an awareness campaign aimed at educating members of the public on the dangers of unregistered COVID-19 vaccine centres.⁴⁵⁸⁸ There would be webinars and radio programmes to engage various stakeholders on vaccine corruption risks. All registered vaccine centres would also be published on various platforms accessible to all citizens.⁴⁵⁸⁹

On 9 April 2021, Department of Science and Innovation Director-General Phil Mjwara announced that the government will make a further ZAR25 million to the Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa to continue with health threats research.⁴⁵⁹⁰ The government has also coordinated a package of responses across the National System of Innovation to address South Africa's readiness for the impact of COVID-19.⁴⁵⁹¹

On 9 April 2021, Minister Nzimande announced that all students, teachers, and school staff should adhere to the COVID-19 regulations and Higher Health protocols and guidelines.⁴⁵⁹² He said that Higher Health has formulated Cluster Outbreak investigation teams, developed screening stations around the affected residences, and stationed Higher Health mobile unit, institutional campus clinic,

⁴⁵⁸⁴ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 28 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-0>

⁴⁵⁸⁵ President Cyril Ramaphosa: South Africa's progress in national effort to contain COVID-19 pandemic, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 28 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africas-progress-national-effort-contain-coronavirus-0>

⁴⁵⁸⁶ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane: Africa webinar on COVID-19 Coronavirus, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/western-cape-government-planning-third-wave-coronavirus-covid-19-3-mar-2021-0000>

⁴⁵⁸⁷ Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane: Africa webinar on COVID-19 Coronavirus, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/western-cape-government-planning-third-wave-coronavirus-covid-19-3-mar-2021-0000>

⁴⁵⁸⁸ Campaign to educate citizens against unregistered vaccine centres, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-afarica/campaign-educate-citizens-against-unregistered-vaccine-centres>

⁴⁵⁸⁹ Campaign to educate citizens against unregistered vaccine centres, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-afarica/campaign-educate-citizens-against-unregistered-vaccine-centres>

⁴⁵⁹⁰ Government allocates more for research on health threats, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 12 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-allocates-more-research-health-threats>

⁴⁵⁹¹ Government allocates more for research on health threats, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 12 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-allocates-more-research-health-threats>

⁴⁵⁹² Minister Blade Nzimande on post school education and training COVID-19 cluster outbreaks, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister%2%A0blade-nzimande-post-school-education-and-training-covid-19-cluster-outbreaks%2%A0-9>

occupational health, employee wellness teams to offer psychosocial and other health and wellness assistance.⁴⁵⁹³

On 12 April 2021, the National Treasury, the South African Reserve Bank and the Banking Association South Africa agreed to extend the deadline of the Loan Guarantee Scheme (LGS) by three months.⁴⁵⁹⁴ The LGS was launched on 12 May 2020 as part of the Economic Stimulus Package to support small businesses that were experiencing financial distress as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁵⁹⁵ In addition, the Financial Sector Conduct Authority has also provided further support to businesses and individuals by adjusting regulations to support insurance premium relief for policyholders, allowing them to claim while minimising disruptions to the expected income of intermediaries.⁴⁵⁹⁶

On 16 April 2021, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma invited the public to comment on the draft regulations of the COVID-19 Vaccine Injury No-Fault Compensation Scheme.⁴⁵⁹⁷ The purpose of the scheme is to provide expeditious and easy access to compensation for persons who suffer vaccine injury as a consequence of a COVID-19 vaccine being administered.⁴⁵⁹⁸ The draft regulations also call for the appointment of a Governance and Oversight Committee, which will be responsible for overseeing policies and advising the Health Minister.⁴⁵⁹⁹

On 16 April 2021, the Department of Health launched the Official South African COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Registration Portal.⁴⁶⁰⁰ It is an electronic vaccination data system that allows all citizens aged 60 years and above to register for vaccination.⁴⁶⁰¹ It is the first major public health campaign that will be supported by one digital system for all South Africans.⁴⁶⁰² The government will also be using the

⁴⁵⁹³ Minister Blade Nzimande on post school education and training COVID-19 cluster outbreaks, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister%2%A0blade-nzimande-post-school-education-and-training-covid-19-cluster-outbreaks%2%A0-9>

⁴⁵⁹⁴ Treasury on three month extension of COVID-19 Coronavirus Loan Guarantee Scheme, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/treasury-three-month-extension-covid-19-coronavirus-loan-guarantee-scheme-12-apr-2021-0000>

⁴⁵⁹⁵ Treasury on three month extension of COVID-19 Coronavirus Loan Guarantee Scheme, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/treasury-three-month-extension-covid-19-coronavirus-loan-guarantee-scheme-12-apr-2021-0000>

⁴⁵⁹⁶ Treasury on three month extension of COVID-19 Coronavirus Loan Guarantee Scheme, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/treasury-three-month-extension-covid-19-coronavirus-loan-guarantee-scheme-12-apr-2021-0000>

⁴⁵⁹⁷ COVID-19 No-Fault Compensation Scheme draft regulations gazetted, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/covid-19-no-fault-compensation-scheme-draft-regulations-gazetted>

⁴⁵⁹⁸ COVID-19 No-Fault Compensation Scheme draft regulations gazetted, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/covid-19-no-fault-compensation-scheme-draft-regulations-gazetted>

⁴⁵⁹⁹ COVID-19 No-Fault Compensation Scheme draft regulations gazetted, South Africa Government News Agency (Pretoria) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/covid-19-no-fault-compensation-scheme-draft-regulations-gazetted>

⁴⁶⁰⁰ Minister Zweli Mkhize: Launch of EVDS Registration for COVID-19 Vaccination: Citizens Aged 60 and Above, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-zweli-mkhize-launch-evds-registration-covid-19-vaccination-citizens-aged-60-and>

⁴⁶⁰¹ Minister Zweli Mkhize: Launch of EVDS Registration for COVID-19 Vaccination: Citizens Aged 60 and Above, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-zweli-mkhize-launch-evds-registration-covid-19-vaccination-citizens-aged-60-and>

⁴⁶⁰² Minister Zweli Mkhize: Launch of EVDS Registration for COVID-19 Vaccination: Citizens Aged 60 and Above, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-zweli-mkhize-launch-evds-registration-covid-19-vaccination-citizens-aged-60-and>

smartphones and petrol that has been donated by various companies and philanthropic organizations to send out teams to help our vulnerable citizens who do not have access to digital technology.⁴⁶⁰³

On 5 May 2021, South Africa's Transnet Port Authority said that 14 crew members of a cargo ship that sailed from Durban to India have tested positive for COVID-19.⁴⁶⁰⁴ News of this cargo ship caused widespread concern that the new B.1.617 variant that was causing thousands of deaths in India had reached South African shores.⁴⁶⁰⁵ Minister Mkhize assured the public that plans are in place to test all arrivals into the country, reminding them that there were all direct flights from India had been cancelled.⁴⁶⁰⁶

South Africa has taken strong action to advance global pandemic prevention, detection, and response by administering and expanding COVID-19 vaccination sites, participating in the "Recover Better Together" campaign and creating genomic surveillance technologies of the COVID-19 virus.

Thus, South Africa has received a score of +1.

Analyst: YanYui Mork

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 26 November 2020, at the Coronavirus Scientific Committee meeting, the Minister of Health Dr. Fahrettin Koca discussed prevention and control measures that Turkey has undertaken to combat COVID-19.⁴⁶⁰⁷ The government began contact tracing, isolating positive cases, increased testing and imposed lockdown measures throughout the state.⁴⁶⁰⁸

On 13 January 2021, Turkey launched its mass COVID-19 vaccination program.⁴⁶⁰⁹ Minister Koca announced the vaccination program will be delivered in four stages.⁴⁶¹⁰ The first two stages focusing on vaccinating healthcare workers, government officials, and the elderly.⁴⁶¹¹ The last two stages will vaccinate the rest of the population. Turkey has 3 million doses of China's Sinovac vaccine to administer and is waiting on a shipment of an extra 50 million doses.⁴⁶¹²

⁴⁶⁰³ Minister Zweli Mkhize: Launch of EVDS Registration for COVID-19 Vaccination: Citizens Aged 60 and Above, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-zweli-mkhize-launch-evds-registration-covid-19-vaccination-citizens-aged-60-and>

⁴⁶⁰⁴ 14 On Cargo Ship From India Test Positive For COVID In South Africa (Johannesburg) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/14-on-cargo-ship-from-india-test-positive-for-covid-in-south-africa-2428111>

⁴⁶⁰⁵ 14 On Cargo Ship From India Test Positive For COVID In South Africa (Johannesburg) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/14-on-cargo-ship-from-india-test-positive-for-covid-in-south-africa-2428111>

⁴⁶⁰⁶ 14 On Cargo Ship From India Test Positive For COVID In South Africa (Johannesburg) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/14-on-cargo-ship-from-india-test-positive-for-covid-in-south-africa-2428111>

⁴⁶⁰⁷ "We Have Difficult Days Ahead", Ministry of Health (Ankara) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,77198/quotwe-have-difficult-days-aheadquot.html>

⁴⁶⁰⁸ "We Have Difficult Days Ahead", Ministry of Health (Ankara) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,77198/quotwe-have-difficult-days-aheadquot.html>

⁴⁶⁰⁹ "Minister Koca reviewed Turkey's progress on its one-year fight against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,80696/minister-koca-reviewed-turkeys-progress-on-its-one-year-fight-against-covid-19.html>

⁴⁶¹⁰ Turkey launches mass coronavirus vaccination, Arab News (Riyadh) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1793031/middle-east>

⁴⁶¹¹ Turkey launches mass coronavirus vaccination, Arab News (Riyadh) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1793031/middle-east>

⁴⁶¹² Turkey launches mass coronavirus vaccination, Arab News (Riyadh) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1793031/middle-east>

On 31 January 2021, the Ministry of Industry and Technology had the first meeting of the COVID-19 Turkey Platform.⁴⁶¹³ Under this platform, 17 projects were established to further study vaccines and immunization.⁴⁶¹⁴ The COVID-19 Turkey Web portal was created in order to share evidence-based information and cultivate social awareness.⁴⁶¹⁵ The portal provides open access to articles, datasets, and scientific literature on COVID-19.⁴⁶¹⁶

On 12 March 2021, Minister Koca announced human vaccine trials of 5 vaccine candidates would begin in Turkey promptly.⁴⁶¹⁷ This is to support efforts in increasing vaccine quantity and providing safe and effective vaccines to Turkish citizens.⁴⁶¹⁸ They have provided 130 million doses.⁴⁶¹⁹ After consultation with three more manufacturers a quota of 10 million more doses will be made available to Turkish citizens.⁴⁶²⁰

On 22 March 2021, the Ministry of Interior announced a nightly curfew in order to curb the spread of COVID-19.⁴⁶²¹ The curfew would occur on weekdays from 9pm to 5am throughout the state.⁴⁶²² On weekends, in low and medium risk areas the curfew would remain the same, while high risk and very high-risk areas have longer curfew hours.⁴⁶²³ Those who did not comply were subjected to judicial and administrative action.⁴⁶²⁴

On 26 April 2021, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, announced that Turkey will be under lockdown from April 29 until May 17.⁴⁶²⁵ The lockdown will consist of a stay-at-home order, the closure of

⁴⁶¹³ Steps taken to Combat COVID-19, Ministry of Industry and Technology (Ankara) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.sanayi.gov.tr/covid-19/asi-ilac-ve-tani-calismalari#kovid-19-turkiye-platformu>

⁴⁶¹⁴ Steps taken to Combat COVID-19, Ministry of Industry and Technology (Ankara) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.sanayi.gov.tr/covid-19/asi-ilac-ve-tani-calismalari#kovid-19-turkiye-platformu>

⁴⁶¹⁵ Steps taken to Combat COVID-19, Ministry of Industry and Technology (Ankara) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.sanayi.gov.tr/covid-19/asi-ilac-ve-tani-calismalari#kovid-19-turkiye-platformu>

⁴⁶¹⁶ Steps taken to Combat COVID-19, Ministry of Industry and Technology (Ankara) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.sanayi.gov.tr/covid-19/asi-ilac-ve-tani-calismalari#kovid-19-turkiye-platformu>

⁴⁶¹⁷ "Minister Koca reviewed Turkey's progress on its one-year fight against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,80696/minister-koca-reviewed-turkeys-progress-on-its-one-year-fight-against-covid-19.html>

⁴⁶¹⁸ "Minister Koca reviewed Turkey's progress on its one-year fight against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,80696/minister-koca-reviewed-turkeys-progress-on-its-one-year-fight-against-covid-19.html>

⁴⁶¹⁹ Minister Koca reviewed Turkey's progress on its one-year fight against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,80696/minister-koca-reviewed-turkeys-progress-on-its-one-year-fight-against-covid-19.html>

⁴⁶²⁰ Minister Koca reviewed Turkey's progress on its one-year fight against COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,80696/minister-koca-reviewed-turkeys-progress-on-its-one-year-fight-against-covid-19.html>

⁴⁶²¹ Curfew Restriction, Ministry of Interior (Ankara) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.icisleri.gov.tr/sokaga-cikma-kisitlamasi>

⁴⁶²² "Curfew Restriction, Ministry of Interior (Ankara) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.icisleri.gov.tr/sokaga-cikma-kisitlamasi>

⁴⁶²³ "Curfew Restriction, Ministry of Interior (Ankara) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.icisleri.gov.tr/sokaga-cikma-kisitlamasi>

⁴⁶²⁴ "Curfew Restriction, Ministry of Interior (Ankara) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.icisleri.gov.tr/sokaga-cikma-kisitlamasi>

⁴⁶²⁵ "We will enforce a full lockdown from April 29 until May 17," Presidency of the Republic of Turkey (Ankara) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.tccb.gov.tr/en/news/542/127727/-we-will-enforce-a-full-lockdown-from-april-29-until-may-17->

schools, and official approval for domestic travel.⁴⁶²⁶ These measures were invoked in order to curb the spread of COVID-19 and prevent potential deaths.⁴⁶²⁷

On 14 May 2021, President Erdogan announced that Turkey will continue to remain cautious with its COVID-19 measures and adhere to protocols until the end of May.⁴⁶²⁸ Turkey will then start easing restrictions from June onwards in a controlled manner. A lockdown began on 29 April and will last until 17 May when the new guidelines will be released.⁴⁶²⁹ Turkey's restrictions over the last three weeks have led to significant decreases in COVID-19 cases in 80 provinces between 1-7 May, according to the latest Health Ministry statistics.⁴⁶³⁰

Turkey has taken strong action in advancing global pandemic, prevention, detection, and response by following the strict protocols of the Coronavirus Scientific Committee and launching its mass COVID-19 vaccination campaign. However, Turkey has not demonstrated significant pandemic preparedness.

Thus, Turkey has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Shafna Kallil

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 3 December 2020, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government announced a GBP68 million investment supporting people living independently with disabilities.⁴⁶³¹ The grant covers over 280,000 households and aims to assist individuals and local councils in making changes and adaptations necessary for households to allow people to live independently in their own homes throughout the pandemic.⁴⁶³²

On 14 December 2020, the British Embassy in Cairo announced GBP1 million in funding to support Egypt against COVID-19 in partnership with the World Health Organization.⁴⁶³³ The funds aim to provide “e-training to staff in the rapid response teams at governorate and district levels.”⁴⁶³⁴ This

⁴⁶²⁶ COVID: Turkey enters first full lockdown, BBC Turkish (Istanbul) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-56912668>

⁴⁶²⁷ “We will enforce a full lockdown from April 29 until May 17,” Presidency of the Republic of Turkey (Ankara) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.tccb.gov.tr/en/news/542/127727/-we-will-enforce-a-full-lockdown-from-april-29-until-may-17->

⁴⁶²⁸ Turkey to gradually relax COVID-19 measures, normalcy in June: Erdoğan (Istanbul) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/turkey-to-gradually-relax-covid-19-measures-normalcy-in-june-erdogan/news>

⁴⁶²⁹ Turkey to gradually relax COVID-19 measures, normalcy in June: Erdoğan (Istanbul) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/turkey-to-gradually-relax-covid-19-measures-normalcy-in-june-erdogan/news>

⁴⁶³⁰ Turkey to gradually relax COVID-19 measures, normalcy in June: Erdoğan (Istanbul) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/turkey-to-gradually-relax-covid-19-measures-normalcy-in-june-erdogan/news>

⁴⁶³¹ More funding to support people with disabilities live independently, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-funding-to-support-people-with-disabilities-live-independently>

⁴⁶³² More funding to support people with disabilities live independently, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-funding-to-support-people-with-disabilities-live-independently>

⁴⁶³³ WHO and UK commit £1m to support Egypt in against COVID-19, British Embassy Cairo (Cairo) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/who-and-uk-commit-1m-to-support-egypt-in-against-covid-19>

⁴⁶³⁴ WHO and UK commit £1m to support Egypt in against COVID-19, British Embassy Cairo (Cairo) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/who-and-uk-commit-1m-to-support-egypt-in-against-covid-19>

agreement helps maintain essential trade and procurement of personal protective equipment from the UK.⁴⁶³⁵

On 11 January 2021, the Ministry for COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment shared the national delivery plan with the UK parliament.⁴⁶³⁶ The plan rests on four major categories: supply, prioritization, places and people. The initiative and overall plan aim to ensure the protection of the greatest number of at-risk people in the shortest possible time.⁴⁶³⁷

On 27 January 2021, the UK announced greater restrictions at the borders to protect public health.⁴⁶³⁸ The new initiatives at the border will impose more significant restrictions on travelers, increase police enforcement, and centralize travelers' isolation at hotels.⁴⁶³⁹ With the new rules in place, the government aims to stem the flow of travelers on a daily basis.⁴⁶⁴⁰

On 18 February 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced a GBP18.5 million investment in the research of longer-term effects of COVID-19.⁴⁶⁴¹ This new initiative establishes a new working relationship between the government and the National Institute for Health Research and UK Research and Innovation.⁴⁶⁴²

On 22 February 2021, the Cabinet Office released the “COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021” setting out the government's plans to end the lockdowns affecting large portions of the UK.⁴⁶⁴³ The report outlines the rollout of vaccines, prioritizes children's educations and getting young people back to school, outlines how businesses are meant to get back to work, and reviews all social distancing measures.⁴⁶⁴⁴

On 26 February 2021, the Government Equalities Office (Race Disparity Unit) released an update on plans to address identifying and tackling COVID-19 disparities. The report emphasized the importance of vaccines and that people of all communities take them. To create and update this

⁴⁶³⁵ WHO and UK commit £1m to support Egypt in against COVID-19, British Embassy Cairo (Cairo) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/who-and-uk-commit-1m-to-support-egypt-in-against-covid-19>

⁴⁶³⁶ Oral statement to Parliament A vaccine delivery plan for everyone, Minister of COVID Vaccine Deployment (London) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/a-vaccine-delivery-plan-for-everyone>

⁴⁶³⁷ Oral statement to Parliament A vaccine delivery plan for everyone, Minister of COVID Vaccine Deployment (London) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/a-vaccine-delivery-plan-for-everyone>

⁴⁶³⁸ Tougher border controls to protect public health, Home Office (London) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tougher-border-controls-to-protect-public-health>

⁴⁶³⁹ Tougher border controls to protect public health, Home Office (London) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tougher-border-controls-to-protect-public-health>

⁴⁶⁴⁰ Tougher border controls to protect public health, Home Office (London) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tougher-border-controls-to-protect-public-health>

⁴⁶⁴¹ £18.5 million to tackle long COVID through research, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/185-million-to-tackle-long-covid-through-research>

⁴⁶⁴² £18.5 million to tackle long COVID through research, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/185-million-to-tackle-long-covid-through-research>

⁴⁶⁴³ Government updates on identifying and tackling COVID-19 disparities, United Kingdom Government Equalities Office (London) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-updates-on-identifying-and-tackling-covid-19-disparities>

⁴⁶⁴⁴ COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021, the United Kingdom Cabinet Office (London) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 5 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021>

report, the government is working across ethnic communities and languages to ensure the adoption of the vaccine across the UK.⁴⁶⁴⁵

On 28 February 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that all households with children currently attending school will receive two rapid COVID-19 tests per person per week.⁴⁶⁴⁶ Recognizing that testing will be a vital component of the “COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021” plan, households will be able to test themselves twice a week ahead of and during the school reopening period.⁴⁶⁴⁷

On 1 March 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office announced that Côte d’Ivoire would receive the first COVID-19 vaccines with the UK’s aid through the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) initiative.⁴⁶⁴⁸ To date, the UK is the largest contributor to COVAX, and Côte d’Ivoire is one of several countries set to receive shipments of the vaccine through this program.⁴⁶⁴⁹

On 5 March 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced a GBP79 million investment to boost mental health for children and young people in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.⁴⁶⁵⁰ This investment will allow the number of mental health support teams in schools to grow from 59 to 400 by April of 2023.⁴⁶⁵¹ The initiative also aims to provide over 22,500 children and young people enhanced access to support by the end of 2021, including therapies and directed supports.⁴⁶⁵²

On 15 March 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care secured two new contracts with domestic manufacturers to ensure a continual supply of COVID-19 lateral flow tests.⁴⁶⁵³ The new

⁴⁶⁴⁵ Government updates on identifying and tackling COVID-19 disparities, United Kingdom Government Equalities Office (London) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-updates-on-identifying-and-tackling-covid-19-disparities>

⁴⁶⁴⁶ All households with children of school age to get 2 rapid COVID-19 tests per person per week, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 28 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-households-with-children-of-school-aged-to-get-rapid-covid-19-tests-per-person-per-week>

⁴⁶⁴⁷ All households with children of school age to get 2 rapid COVID-19 tests per person per week, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 28 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-households-with-children-of-school-aged-to-get-rapid-covid-19-tests-per-person-per-week>

⁴⁶⁴⁸ With UK aid support, people in Côte d’Ivoire to be first vaccinated through COVAX: Foreign Secretary’s statement, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-statement-with-uk-aid-support-people-in-ivory-coast-to-be-first-vaccinated-through-covax>

⁴⁶⁴⁹ With UK aid support, people in Côte d’Ivoire to be first vaccinated through COVAX: Foreign Secretary’s statement, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-statement-with-uk-aid-support-people-in-ivory-coast-to-be-first-vaccinated-through-covax>

⁴⁶⁵⁰ £79 million to boost mental health support for children and young people, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/79-million-to-boost-mental-health-support-for-children-and-young-people>

⁴⁶⁵¹ £79 million to boost mental health support for children and young people, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/79-million-to-boost-mental-health-support-for-children-and-young-people>

⁴⁶⁵² £79 million to boost mental health support for children and young people, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/79-million-to-boost-mental-health-support-for-children-and-young-people>

⁴⁶⁵³ UK government announces partnership with British rapid test manufacturers, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-announces-partnership-with-british-rapid-test-manufacturers>

supply of tests will aid in the government's plans to re-open the UK and provide capacity for creating an additional 200 million test packages.⁴⁶⁵⁴

On 20 March 2021, the UK announced GBP46 million for a new vaccine innovation and manufacturing center.⁴⁶⁵⁵ The funding aims to support work that is already underway and help the United Kingdom respond to pandemics by producing larger amounts of the vaccine faster.⁴⁶⁵⁶ The initiative is projected to “expand the capacity twenty-fold” allowing the facility to make up to 70 million doses in 6 months.⁴⁶⁵⁷

On 20 March 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care launched trials to find preventative COVID-19 treatments for the most vulnerable segments of the populations across the United Kingdom.⁴⁶⁵⁸ The initiative targets individuals in “care homes and health settings” to stop the spread of COVID-19.⁴⁶⁵⁹ The Government has pledged GBP3.2 million in funding, helping launch two new clinical trials.⁴⁶⁶⁰

On 22 March 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced new technology developed to detect the “known variants of concern” around the world.⁴⁶⁶¹ The new technology will help detect mutations and is being trialed by the National Health Service and National Laboratories.⁴⁶⁶² Implementing this new technology aims to help notify the public more quickly and potentially break chains of transmission faster.⁴⁶⁶³

On 1 April 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced the launch of the UK Health Security Agency.⁴⁶⁶⁴ The new agency was created to protect the UK from future health threats and

⁴⁶⁵⁴ UK government announces partnership with British rapid test manufacturers, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-announces-partnership-with-british-rapid-test-manufacturers>

⁴⁶⁵⁵ Extra £47.6 million for Vaccines Manufacturing and Innovation Centre, The Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-476-million-for-vaccines-manufacturing-and-innovation-centre>

⁴⁶⁵⁶ Extra £47.6 million for Vaccines Manufacturing and Innovation Centre, The Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-476-million-for-vaccines-manufacturing-and-innovation-centre>

⁴⁶⁵⁷ Extra £47.6 million for Vaccines Manufacturing and Innovation Centre, The Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-476-million-for-vaccines-manufacturing-and-innovation-centre>

⁴⁶⁵⁸ Trials to find preventative COVID-19 treatments for most vulnerable to launch in UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 21 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/trials-to-find-preventative-covid-19-treatments-for-most-vulnerable-to-launch-in-uk>

⁴⁶⁵⁹ Trials to find preventative COVID-19 treatments for most vulnerable to launch in UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 21 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/trials-to-find-preventative-covid-19-treatments-for-most-vulnerable-to-launch-in-uk>

⁴⁶⁶⁰ Trials to find preventative COVID-19 treatments for most vulnerable to launch in UK, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 21 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/trials-to-find-preventative-covid-19-treatments-for-most-vulnerable-to-launch-in-uk>

⁴⁶⁶¹ Groundbreaking new technology to detect known variants of concern, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/groundbreaking-new-technology-to-detect-known-variants-of-concern>

⁴⁶⁶² Groundbreaking new technology to detect known variants of concern, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/groundbreaking-new-technology-to-detect-known-variants-of-concern>

⁴⁶⁶³ Groundbreaking new technology to detect known variants of concern, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/groundbreaking-new-technology-to-detect-known-variants-of-concern>

⁴⁶⁶⁴ Work begins for UK Health Security Agency to protect the nation (London) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/work-begins-for-uk-health-security-agency-to-protect-the-nation>

ensure the appropriate government agencies can respond to future pandemics quickly and at greater scale.⁴⁶⁶⁵ The agency will also work with international partners to create a “more robust international health architecture that will protect future generations.”⁴⁶⁶⁶

On 20 April 2021, the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office announced the creation of a new global partnership to fight future pandemics.⁴⁶⁶⁷ The new Pandemic Preparedness Partnership aims to slash the time to develop vaccines for new diseases to 100 days.⁴⁶⁶⁸ The partnership also includes GBP16 million to fund the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).⁴⁶⁶⁹

On 20 April 2021, the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office announced that the United Kingdom will host a global summit with the CEPI to speed up new vaccine development.⁴⁶⁷⁰ The 2022 summit will support the goal of cutting vaccine development and raise funds for global vaccine research.⁴⁶⁷¹

On 2 May 2021, Public Health England launched a 40,000-person daily contact testing study.⁴⁶⁷² The study aims to understand how effective daily contact testing could keep society open, reduce quarantine times, and catch positive cases quicker.⁴⁶⁷³

On 14 May 2021, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that the COVID-19 Indian variant could pose “significant disruption” to the planned relaxation of lockdown on 21 June. Due to the surge in the COVID-19 variant, the government’s aim with the fourth and final step of the reopening roadmap will be stalled.⁴⁶⁷⁴

United Kingdom has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by administering a national vaccine delivery plan, collaborating internationally through vaccine distribution with Egypt and creating a mental health initiative.

Thus, the United Kingdom has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Rahul Pallan

⁴⁶⁶⁵ Work begins for UK Health Security Agency to protect the nation (London) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/work-begins-for-uk-health-security-agency-to-protect-the-nation>

⁴⁶⁶⁶ Work begins for UK Health Security Agency to protect the nation (London) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 5 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/work-begins-for-uk-health-security-agency-to-protect-the-nation>

⁴⁶⁶⁷ New global partnership launched to fight future pandemics (London) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-global-partnership-launched-to-fight-future-pandemics>

⁴⁶⁶⁸ New global partnership launched to fight future pandemics (London) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-global-partnership-launched-to-fight-future-pandemics>

⁴⁶⁶⁹ New global partnership launched to fight future pandemics (London) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-global-partnership-launched-to-fight-future-pandemics>

⁴⁶⁷⁰ UK to host global summit with CEPI to speed up new vaccine development (London) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-host-global-summit-with-cepi-to-speed-up-new-vaccine-development>

⁴⁶⁷¹ UK to host global summit with CEPI to speed up new vaccine development (London) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-host-global-summit-with-cepi-to-speed-up-new-vaccine-development>

⁴⁶⁷² Government to launch 40,000 person daily contact testing study (London) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-launch-40000-person-daily-contact-testing-study>

⁴⁶⁷³ Government to launch 40,000 person daily contact testing study (London) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-launch-40000-person-daily-contact-testing-study>

⁴⁶⁷⁴ COVID: Indian variant could disrupt 21 June easing, PM says (London) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-57122817>

United States: +1

United States has fully complied with its commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response.

On 7 January 2021, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) extended the Community Based Testing Site program, which aimed to establish COVID-19 testing locations across the country, with particular focus on vulnerable and underserved communities.⁴⁶⁷⁵ The HHS allocated an additional USD550 million to continue program operations until April 2021.⁴⁶⁷⁶

On 12 January 2021, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention implemented new travel restrictions that would require all air passengers entering the United States to produce a negative COVID-19 test prior to departure.⁴⁶⁷⁷

On 21 January 2021, President Joseph Biden enacted two Executive Orders aimed towards advancing pandemic detection and response. Executive Order 13994, “On Ensuring a Data-Driven Response to COVID-19 and Future High-Consequence Public Health Threats,” called upon relevant executive departments and agencies to gather and publish all COVID-19 data under the oversight of a federally appointed COVID-19 Response Coordinator.⁴⁶⁷⁸ Executive Order 13996, “On Establishing the COVID-19 Pandemic Testing Board and Ensuring a Sustainable Public Health Workforce for COVID-19 and Other Biological Threats,” called for the formation of a national COVID-19 testing board and public health workforce strategy.⁴⁶⁷⁹

On 25 January 2021, the Federal Emergency Management Agency established the Interagency Vaccination Task Force to deploy staff to vaccination sites, where they were required to develop data dashboards to track personnel movement and vaccine distribution.⁴⁶⁸⁰

On 26 January 2021, President Biden enacted the Defence Production Act to expedite COVID-19 vaccine production and to address supply shortages of medical equipment.⁴⁶⁸¹

⁴⁶⁷⁵ HHS Continues Community Based Testing Sites for COVID-19, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/01/07/hhs-continues-community-based-testing-sites-covid-19.html>

⁴⁶⁷⁶ HHS Continues Community Based Testing Sites for COVID-19, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/01/07/hhs-continues-community-based-testing-sites-covid-19.html>

⁴⁶⁷⁷ CDC Expands Negative COVID-19 Test Requirement to All Passengers Entering the United States, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/01/07/hhs-continues-community-based-testing-sites-covid-19.html>

⁴⁶⁷⁸ Executive Order on Ensuring Data-Driven Response to COVID-19, The White House (Washington D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/21/executive-order-ensuring-a-data-driven-response-to-covid-19-and-future-high-consequence-public-health-threats/>

⁴⁶⁷⁹ Executive Order on Establishing the COVID-19 Pandemic Testing Board and Ensuring a Sustainable Public Health Workforce for COVID-19 and Other Biological Threats, The White House (Washington D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/21/executive-order-establishing-the-covid-19-pandemic-testing-board-and-ensuring-a-sustainable-public-health-workforce-for-covid-19-and-other-biological-threats/>

⁴⁶⁸⁰ FEMA Supports Vaccine Distribution: COVID-19 Response Update, Federal Emergency Management Agency (Washington D.C.) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20210125/fema-supports-vaccine-distribution-covid-19-response-update>

⁴⁶⁸¹ Remarks by President Biden on the Fight to Contain the COVID-19 Pandemic, The White House (Washington D.C.) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/01/26/remarks-by-president-biden-on-the-fight-to-contain-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

On 9 February 2021, President Biden launched the Federally Qualified Health Centre program to increase vaccine availability and accessibility in underserved and vulnerable communities within the United States.⁴⁶⁸²

On 18 February 2021, the US pledged USD2 billion in funding to GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance which aims to secure equitable access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines for low- and middle-income countries.⁴⁶⁸³

On 11 March 2021, the US enacted the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which provides USD1.9 trillion in funding towards COVID-19 relief efforts.⁴⁶⁸⁴ International funding commitments include: USD245 million to COVID-19 relief efforts conducted by the US Department of State and the US Agency for International Development; USD905 million to US AID for global health programs and vaccine procurement; and USD580 million to UN Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19.⁴⁶⁸⁵

On 12 March 2021, the US entered the Quad Vaccine Partnership with Japan, India, and Australia.⁴⁶⁸⁶ The partnership is aimed towards strengthening vaccination efforts in the Indo-Pacific region, expanding global COVID-19 vaccine development and distribution, coordinating with international pandemic response initiatives, and assisting in health workforce preparedness and training.⁴⁶⁸⁷

On 25 March 2021, the US announced an investment of USD10 billion into the expansion of the national COVID-19 vaccination program.⁴⁶⁸⁸ Funding was allocated towards expanding equitable access to vaccines and medical services in underserved and high-risk communities, strengthening vaccine confidence and uptake, targeting vulnerable populations, and aiding community healthcare workers.⁴⁶⁸⁹

⁴⁶⁸² President Biden Announces Community Health Centers Vaccination Program, The White House (Washington D.C.) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/09/fact-sheet-president-biden-announces-community-health-centers-vaccination-program-to-launch-next-week-and-another-increase-in-states-tribes-territories-vaccine-supply/>

⁴⁶⁸³ President Biden to Take Action on Global Health through Support of COVAX and Calling for Health Security Financing, The White House (Washington D.C.) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/18/fact-sheet-president-biden-to-take-action-on-global-health-through-support-of-covax-and-calling-for-health-security-financing/>

⁴⁶⁸⁴ American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, United States Congress (Washington D.C.) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319/text>

⁴⁶⁸⁵ American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, United States Congress (Washington D.C.) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319/text>

⁴⁶⁸⁶ Fact Sheet: Quad Summit, The White House (Washington D.C.) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/12/fact-sheet-quad-summit/>

⁴⁶⁸⁷ Fact Sheet: Quad Summit, The White House (Washington D.C.) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/12/fact-sheet-quad-summit/>

⁴⁶⁸⁸ Fact Sheet: Biden Administration Announces Historic \$10 Billion Investment to Expand Access to COVID-19 Vaccines and Build Vaccine Confidence in Hardest-Hit and Highest-Risk Communities, The White House (Washington D.C.) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/25/fact-sheet-biden-administration-announces-historic-10-billion-investment-to-expand-access-to-covid-19-vaccines-and-build-vaccine-confidence-in-hardest-hit-and-highest-risk-communities/>

⁴⁶⁸⁹ Fact Sheet: Biden Administration Announces Historic \$10 Billion Investment to Expand Access to COVID-19 Vaccines and Build Vaccine Confidence in Hardest-Hit and Highest-Risk Communities, The White House (Washington D.C.) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/25/fact-sheet-biden-administration-announces-historic-10-billion-investment-to-expand-access-to-covid-19-vaccines-and-build-vaccine-confidence-in-hardest-hit-and-highest-risk-communities/>

On 15 April 2021, the US cooperated with GAVI to launch a campaign dedicated towards raising USD2 billion in international funding for the fight against COVID-19.⁴⁶⁹⁰ Funding was dedicated towards support the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) mechanism in accruing and distributing 1.8 billion vaccine doses to low and middle-income countries.⁴⁶⁹¹ The United States also committed USD2 billion in funding for GAVI and COVAX.⁴⁶⁹²

On 16 April 2021, the US announced an investment of USD1.7 billion towards researching, detecting, and preventing the spread of COVID-19 variants.⁴⁶⁹³ Funding was allocated to support increased genomic sequencing and epidemiology research, increased variant detection and tracing, and the development of a national bioinformatics infrastructure for the prevention of future outbreaks and pandemics.⁴⁶⁹⁴

On 28 April 2021, the US delivered emergency COVID-19 assistance to India in response to a recent surge in infections and critical cases.⁴⁶⁹⁵ Medical support and equipment worth over USD100 million were provided, including: oxygen generation units, personal protective equipment, rapid diagnostic test kits, and therapeutics.⁴⁶⁹⁶

On 30 April 2021, the US issued travel restrictions preventing the entry of non-citizens who stayed in India within a 14-day period prior to departure to the US.⁴⁶⁹⁷ Such individuals are not permitted to board an aircraft traveling to the US or are subject to refusal upon landing.⁴⁶⁹⁸ The US issued these

⁴⁶⁹⁰ Global leaders rally to accelerate access to COVID-19 vaccines for lower-income countries, GAVI The Vaccine Alliance (Washington D.C./Geneva) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/global-leaders-rally-accelerate-access-covid-19-vaccines-lower-income-countries>

⁴⁶⁹¹ Global leaders rally to accelerate access to COVID-19 vaccines for lower-income countries, GAVI The Vaccine Alliance (Washington D.C./Geneva) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/global-leaders-rally-accelerate-access-covid-19-vaccines-lower-income-countries>

⁴⁶⁹² Global leaders rally to accelerate access to COVID-19 vaccines for lower-income countries, GAVI The Vaccine Alliance (Washington D.C./Geneva) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/global-leaders-rally-accelerate-access-covid-19-vaccines-lower-income-countries>

⁴⁶⁹³ Fact Sheet: Biden Administration Announces \$1.7 Billion Investment to Fight COVID-19 Variants, The White House (Washington D.C.) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/16/fact-sheet-biden-administration-announces-1-7-billion-investment-to-fight-covid-19-variants/>

⁴⁶⁹⁴ Fact Sheet: Biden Administration Announces \$1.7 Billion Investment to Fight COVID-19 Variants, The White House (Washington D.C.) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/16/fact-sheet-biden-administration-announces-1-7-billion-investment-to-fight-covid-19-variants/>

⁴⁶⁹⁵ Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Delivers Emergency COVID-19 Assistance for India, The White House (Washington D.C.) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/28/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-delivers-emergency-covid-19-assistance-for-india/>

⁴⁶⁹⁶ Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Delivers Emergency COVID-19 Assistance for India, The White House (Washington D.C.) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/28/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-delivers-emergency-covid-19-assistance-for-india/>

⁴⁶⁹⁷ A Proclamation on the Suspension of Entry as Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting Coronavirus Disease 2019, The White House (Washington D.C.) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/04/30/a-proclamation-on-the-suspension-of-entry-as-nonimmigrants-of-certain-additional-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of-transmitting-coronavirus-disease-2019/>

⁴⁶⁹⁸ A Proclamation on the Suspension of Entry as Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting Coronavirus Disease 2019, The White House (Washington D.C.) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/04/30/a-proclamation-on-the-suspension-of-entry-as-nonimmigrants-of-certain-additional-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of-transmitting-coronavirus-disease-2019/>

restrictions in response to the detection of community transmission of the COVID-19 variant strain B.1.617 in India.⁴⁶⁹⁹

On 14 May 2021, the Centre for Disease Control announced that fully vaccinated people are no longer required to wear masks.⁴⁷⁰⁰ In his address in the Rose Garden, without wearing a mask President Biden said that 250 million vaccine shots have been given in 114 days and the US is said to return to normalcy when the virus raging other countries. Moreover, those travelling within the United States need not get tested before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel.⁴⁷⁰¹

The US has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by implementing initiatives such as the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and actions such as summoning the Inter Agency Vaccination Task Force and administering public health regulations.

Thus, the United States has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Tamara Saadi

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.

On 3 December 2020, President of the European Council Charles Michel proposed an international Treaty on Pandemics within the framework of the World Health Organization.⁴⁷⁰² An international treaty would enable the international community to better prepare for and respond to pandemics.⁴⁷⁰³ The treaty would address risk monitoring, financing and coordination of research, a system of alerts and information sharing, access to healthcare and strengthening and securing healthcare systems and supply chains.⁴⁷⁰⁴

On 10 December 2020, the European Parliament and the European Council reached a political agreement on Horizon Europe, a transnational programme supporting research and innovation.⁴⁷⁰⁵ The programme will have a budget of EUR95.5 billion for 2021-2027.⁴⁷⁰⁶ The health cluster of the

⁴⁶⁹⁹ A Proclamation on the Suspension of Entry as Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting Coronavirus Disease 2019, The White House (Washington D.C.) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/04/30/a-proclamation-on-the-suspension-of-entry-as-nonimmigrants-of-certain-additional-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of-transmitting-coronavirus-disease-2019/>

⁴⁷⁰⁰ COVID-19: U.S. allows fully vaccinated people to forgo masks indoors (Washington DC) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/covid-19-us-allows-fully-vaccinated-people-to-forgo-masks-indoors/article34553190.ece>

⁴⁷⁰¹ COVID-19: U.S. allows fully vaccinated people to forgo masks indoors (Washington DC) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/covid-19-us-allows-fully-vaccinated-people-to-forgo-masks-indoors/article34553190.ece>

⁴⁷⁰² Press release by President Charles Michel on an international Treaty on Pandemics, European Council (Brussels) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/03/press-release-by-president-charles-michel-on-an-international-treaty-on-pandemics/>

⁴⁷⁰³ Press release by President Charles Michel on an international Treaty on Pandemics, European Council (Brussels) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/03/press-release-by-president-charles-michel-on-an-international-treaty-on-pandemics/>

⁴⁷⁰⁴ Press release by President Charles Michel on an international Treaty on Pandemics, European Council (Brussels) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/03/press-release-by-president-charles-michel-on-an-international-treaty-on-pandemics/>

⁴⁷⁰⁵ Commission welcomes political agreement on Horizon Europe, the next EU research and innovation programme, European Commission (Brussels) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

⁴⁷⁰⁶ Commission welcomes political agreement on Horizon Europe, the next EU research and innovation programme, European Commission (Brussels) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

programme will fund the extension of clinical trials, innovative protective measures, virology, vaccines, treatments and diagnostics and the translation of research into public policy measures.⁴⁷⁰⁷

On 15 December 2020, the European Parliament and Council reached an agreement on the EU4Health programme.⁴⁷⁰⁸ The programme will receive EUR5.1 billion in funding and aims to strengthen crisis preparedness in EU health systems, as well as make health systems more resilient to cross-border health threats such as COVID-19.⁴⁷⁰⁹ The programme will specifically emphasize pandemic preparedness and response.⁴⁷¹⁰

On 21 December 2020, the European Commission granted a conditional marketing authorisation for the COVID-19 vaccine developed by BioNTech and Pfizer.⁴⁷¹¹ The vaccine was authorized following an assessment by the European Medicines Agency. This was the first vaccine approved for use in the EU.⁴⁷¹²

On 11 January 2021, the European Commission announced that the rescEU medical reserve (part of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism) was expanded to include new host countries for rescEU medical supplies.⁴⁷¹³ There are nine countries hosting the common European stockpiles of medical equipment such as medical masks, gloves, gowns, aprons, oxygen concentrators and ventilators.⁴⁷¹⁴

On 19 January 2021, the European Commission published a Communication addressing the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council of Europe.⁴⁷¹⁵ The Communication details the decisions and coordinated approach needed to deliver on four priorities: speeding up vaccination and vaccine supplies, ramping up testing and sequencing to control infections and new variants, ensuring the functioning of the Single Market and showing international leadership and solidarity with partners.⁴⁷¹⁶ The Commission set the goal of vaccinating 80 per cent of healthcare workers and people over 80 years by March 2021, and 70 per cent of the adult population by summer 2021.⁴⁷¹⁷

On 17 February 2021, the European Commission proposed the launch of “the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) Incubator,” a European bio-defence preparedness programme funded by EUR30 million from the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme

⁴⁷⁰⁷ Commission welcomes political agreement on Horizon Europe, the next EU research and innovation programme, European Commission (Brussels) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

⁴⁷⁰⁸ Commission welcomes political agreement on EU4Health, European Commission (Brussels) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2420

⁴⁷⁰⁹ Commission welcomes political agreement on EU4Health, European Commission (Brussels) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2420

⁴⁷¹⁰ Commission welcomes political agreement on EU4Health, European Commission (Brussels) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2420

⁴⁷¹¹ European Commission authorises first safe and effective vaccine against COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2466

⁴⁷¹² European Commission authorises first safe and effective vaccine against COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2466

⁴⁷¹³ Coronavirus: rescEU medical stockpile expands in four Member States, European Commission (Brussels) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_45

⁴⁷¹⁴ Coronavirus: rescEU medical stockpile expands in four Member States, European Commission (Brussels) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_45

⁴⁷¹⁵ A united front to beat COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-united-front-beat-covid-19_en.pdf

⁴⁷¹⁶ A united front to beat COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-united-front-beat-covid-19_en.pdf

⁴⁷¹⁷ A united front to beat COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-united-front-beat-covid-19_en.pdf

and EUR120 million from the Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Framework.⁴⁷¹⁸ The HERA Incubator will address the emerging threat of COVID-19 variants through rapid detection and swift adaptation of vaccines, as well as by setting up a European Clinical Trials Network.⁴⁷¹⁹ The HERA Incubator will also fund the VACCELERATE vaccine research network, comprised of 26 partner institutions from 21 countries.⁴⁷²⁰

On 19 February 2021, the European Commission committed an additional EUR500 million for the COVAX Facility, bringing its total contribution to EUR1 billion.⁴⁷²¹ President of the Commission Ursula von der Leyen announced the commitment at the G7 virtual leaders' meeting and emphasized the need for effective COVID-19 vaccine deliveries to low-income countries.⁴⁷²²

On 10 March 2021, the European Commission published a Communication detailing plans for a new European Humanitarian Response Capacity.⁴⁷²³ The capacity would intervene directly in humanitarian crises when traditional approaches were insufficient.⁴⁷²⁴ It would offer logistical assessments, support for initial deployment and procurement, stockpiling and transporting of relief items such as COVID-19 vaccines.⁴⁷²⁵

On 23 March 2021, the European Commission announced it would allocate EUR11 million to Nepal, the Philippines and South East Asia for disaster preparedness and humanitarian aid.⁴⁷²⁶ EUR2 million of this funding will support the fight against the coronavirus pandemic and EUR9 million will target disaster preparedness actions.⁴⁷²⁷ Nepal, the Philippines and South East Asia are in some of the most disaster-prone regions in the world due to their location and climatic conditions, further compounding the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.⁴⁷²⁸

⁴⁷¹⁸ EU to invest €150 million for research to counter coronavirus variants, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eu-invest-eu150-million-research-counter-coronavirus-variants-2021-feb-17_en

⁴⁷¹⁹ EU to invest €150 million for research to counter coronavirus variants, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eu-invest-eu150-million-research-counter-coronavirus-variants-2021-feb-17_en

⁴⁷²⁰ EU to invest €150 million for research to counter coronavirus variants, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eu-invest-eu150-million-research-counter-coronavirus-variants-2021-feb-17_en

⁴⁷²¹ EU doubles contribution to COVAX to €1 billion to ensure safe and effective vaccines for low and middle-income countries, European Commission (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_690

⁴⁷²² EU doubles contribution to COVAX to €1 billion to ensure safe and effective vaccines for low and middle-income countries, European Commission (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_690

⁴⁷²³ Humanitarian action: New outlook for EU's global aid delivery challenged by COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1067

⁴⁷²⁴ Humanitarian action: New outlook for EU's global aid delivery challenged by COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1067

⁴⁷²⁵ Humanitarian action: New outlook for EU's global aid delivery challenged by COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1067

⁴⁷²⁶ Nepal, Philippines and South East Asia: EU allocates €11 million for disaster preparedness and humanitarian aid, European Commission (Brussels) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1282

⁴⁷²⁷ Nepal, Philippines and South East Asia: EU allocates €11 million for disaster preparedness and humanitarian aid, European Commission (Brussels) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1282

⁴⁷²⁸ Nepal, Philippines and South East Asia: EU allocates €11 million for disaster preparedness and humanitarian aid, European Commission (Brussels) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1282

On 24 March 2021, the European Commission launched Open Research Europe, an open access publishing platform for scientific papers.⁴⁷²⁹ The platform will publish results funded by Horizon Europe, the EU research and innovation programme.⁴⁷³⁰ It will offer researchers the opportunity to share their results and insights rapidly and in a public venue to facilitate open, constructive research debates.⁴⁷³¹ The EU's response to the coronavirus has highlighted the value of open science and increased collaboration to find new treatments, diagnostics and vaccines.⁴⁷³²

On 24 March 2021, the European Commission introduced a new regulation impacting COVID-19 vaccine exports.⁴⁷³³ The principles of reciprocity and proportionality are new criteria to be considered for authorizing COVID-19 vaccine exports, with the objective of ensuring timely access to COVID-19 vaccines for all EU citizens.⁴⁷³⁴ Reciprocity considers if the destination country of vaccines is restricting its own export of vaccines or their raw materials, and proportionality considers if conditions prevailing in the destination country are better or worse than the EU's.⁴⁷³⁵ The new regulation is temporary and excludes vaccines destined to the 92 low and middle income countries under the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access scheme.⁴⁷³⁶

On 24 March 2021, the European Commission amended the Variation Regulation to enable the HERA Incubator to fast-track regulatory approval of updated vaccines to tackle new variants.⁴⁷³⁷ A smaller set of additional data would need to be submitted to the European Medicines Agency for the authorization of adapted COVID-19 vaccines.⁴⁷³⁸ Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Stella Kyriakides said: "We need to be prepared to adapt vaccines as quickly as possible to respond to new

⁴⁷²⁹ Commission launches open access publishing platform for scientific papers, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1262

⁴⁷³⁰ Commission launches open access publishing platform for scientific papers, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1262

⁴⁷³¹ Commission launches open access publishing platform for scientific papers, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1262

⁴⁷³² Commission launches open access publishing platform for scientific papers, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1262

⁴⁷³³ Commission strengthens transparency and authorisation mechanism for exports of COVID-19 vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1352

⁴⁷³⁴ Commission strengthens transparency and authorisation mechanism for exports of COVID-19 vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1352

⁴⁷³⁵ Commission strengthens transparency and authorisation mechanism for exports of COVID-19 vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1352

⁴⁷³⁶ Commission strengthens transparency and authorisation mechanism for exports of COVID-19 vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1352

⁴⁷³⁷ Coronavirus: new procedure to facilitate and speed up approval of adapted vaccines against COVID-19 variants, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1088

⁴⁷³⁸ Coronavirus: new procedure to facilitate and speed up approval of adapted vaccines against COVID-19 variants, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1088

and potentially vaccine-resistant variants.⁴⁷³⁹ The measure is awaiting approval from the European Parliament and Council before entering into force.⁴⁷⁴⁰

On 26 March 2021, the European Commission launched the EU4Health programme.⁴⁷⁴¹ The programme makes EUR5.1 billion available to strengthen the resilience of health systems and promote innovation in the health sector.⁴⁷⁴² The purpose of EU4Health is to support the fight against cross-border health threats and improve the EU's preparedness and capability to respond to future health crises.⁴⁷⁴³ Commissioner Kyriakides said: "This unprecedented budget of EUR5.1 billion will enable us to make targeted investments to enhance our crisis preparedness and build stronger, more resilient and more accessible health systems."⁴⁷⁴⁴

On 31 March 2021, the European Commission launched a six week online public consultation to collect stakeholders' input on HERA.⁴⁷⁴⁵ HERA was announced in September 2020 in order to support the development, manufacturing and deployment of medical countermeasures during a health crisis.⁴⁷⁴⁶ Following the public consultation, the scope of HERA will be outlined in a legislative proposal later this year.⁴⁷⁴⁷ Commissioner Kyriakides said "The Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority, EU's HERA, is a fundamental part of the solution that we need for the next health crisis to prepare better and respond more swiftly, together. HERA will strengthen our foresight, preparation, anticipation and response."⁴⁷⁴⁸

On 5 April 2021, the European Union contributed EUR170 million to the International Monetary Fund's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT).⁴⁷⁴⁹ The CCRT provides debt relief to countries hit by catastrophic events, including public health disasters such as COVID-19.⁴⁷⁵⁰

⁴⁷³⁹ Coronavirus: new procedure to facilitate and speed up approval of adapted vaccines against COVID-19 variants, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1088

⁴⁷⁴⁰ Coronavirus: new procedure to facilitate and speed up approval of adapted vaccines against COVID-19 variants, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1088

⁴⁷⁴¹ Commission welcomes entry into force of EU4Health programme, European Commission (Brussels) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1344

⁴⁷⁴² Commission welcomes entry into force of EU4Health programme, European Commission (Brussels) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1344

⁴⁷⁴³ Commission welcomes entry into force of EU4Health programme, European Commission (Brussels) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1344

⁴⁷⁴⁴ Commission welcomes entry into force of EU4Health programme, European Commission (Brussels) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1344

⁴⁷⁴⁵ Health emergency preparedness and response authority (HERA): European Commission launches public consultation, European Commission (Brussels) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1522

⁴⁷⁴⁶ Health emergency preparedness and response authority (HERA): European Commission launches public consultation, European Commission (Brussels) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1522

⁴⁷⁴⁷ Health emergency preparedness and response authority (HERA): European Commission launches public consultation, European Commission (Brussels) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1522

⁴⁷⁴⁸ Health emergency preparedness and response authority (HERA): European Commission launches public consultation, European Commission (Brussels) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1522

⁴⁷⁴⁹ Global Recovery: The EU disburses SDR 141 Million to the IMF's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, European Commission (Brussels) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1555

⁴⁷⁵⁰ Global Recovery: The EU disburses SDR 141 Million to the IMF's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, European Commission (Brussels) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1555

European Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen said “Through this contribution to the CCRT, Team Europe continues to stand in solidarity with its most vulnerable partners. In this difficult period, the resources freed up can provide social services for the most vulnerable people, such as access to essential healthcare and education for young people, including girls.”⁴⁷⁵¹

On 7 April 2021, the European Commission mobilized EUR123 million from Horizon Europe for the purpose of combating the threat of coronavirus variants.⁴⁷⁵² Horizon Europe, the new EU research and innovation programme, funds a range of research and innovation actions to fight against the coronavirus.⁴⁷⁵³ Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Mariya Gabriel said: “We continue to mobilize all means at our disposal to fight this pandemic and the challenges presented by coronavirus variants.”⁴⁷⁵⁴ The EUR123 million will fund projects to establish new or build on existing multinational cohorts to advance the knowledge on SARS-CoV-2 and its emerging variants, develop further treatment and vaccine candidates, and support research infrastructure to improve data sharing with the goal of confronting the virus variants and preparing for future epidemics.⁴⁷⁵⁵

On 12 April 2021, the European Commission proposed exempting goods and services distributed by the EU from the Value Added Tax (VAT) during times of crisis.⁴⁷⁵⁶ The proposal is in response to the experience gained throughout the Coronavirus pandemic, with the purpose of maximizing the efficiency of use of EU funds used in response to crises such as natural disasters and public health emergencies.⁴⁷⁵⁷ Waiving the VAT will strengthen disaster crisis management bodies such as the EU’s Health Union and the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.⁴⁷⁵⁸ Goods and services covered by the exemption include diagnostic tests and testing materials, personal protective equipment, antimicrobials and antibiotics and blood products or antibodies.⁴⁷⁵⁹

⁴⁷⁵¹ Global Recovery: The EU disburses SDR 141 Million to the IMF’s Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, European Commission (Brussels) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1555

⁴⁷⁵² Coronavirus: Commission mobilises €123 million for research and innovation to combat the threat of variants, European Commission (Brussels) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1548

⁴⁷⁵³ Coronavirus: Commission mobilises €123 million for research and innovation to combat the threat of variants, European Commission (Brussels) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1548

⁴⁷⁵⁴ Coronavirus: Commission mobilises €123 million for research and innovation to combat the threat of variants, European Commission (Brussels) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1548

⁴⁷⁵⁵ Coronavirus: Commission mobilises €123 million for research and innovation to combat the threat of variants, European Commission (Brussels) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1548

⁴⁷⁵⁶ Coronavirus Response: Commission proposes to exempt vital goods and services distributed by the EU from VAT in times of crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1642

⁴⁷⁵⁷ Coronavirus Response: Commission proposes to exempt vital goods and services distributed by the EU from VAT in times of crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1642

⁴⁷⁵⁸ Coronavirus Response: Commission proposes to exempt vital goods and services distributed by the EU from VAT in times of crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1642

⁴⁷⁵⁹ Coronavirus Response: Commission proposes to exempt vital goods and services distributed by the EU from VAT in times of crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1642

On 14 April 2021, President von der Leyen announced that the EU reached an agreement with BioNTech-Pfizer to deliver 50 million additional vaccine doses in quarter 2 of 2021.⁴⁷⁶⁰ The doses were originally due to only arrive in the fourth quarter of 2021.⁴⁷⁶¹ Additionally, the EU is entering a third contract negotiation with BioNTech-Pfizer for the delivery of 1.8 billion doses of vaccine from 2021 to 2023.⁴⁷⁶² The contract will also entail that the production of the vaccines and all essential components will be based in the EU.⁴⁷⁶³ President von der Leyen said: “The negotiations we are launching today – and hope to conclude very rapidly – are a further important step in Europe’s response to the pandemic.”⁴⁷⁶⁴

On 20 April 2021, the EU launched a EUR100 million humanitarian initiative to support COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in Africa.⁴⁷⁶⁵ The initiative is part of the European Commission’s efforts to provide safe and effective vaccines for all and support a fast and safe vaccine rollout in Africa.⁴⁷⁶⁶ EUR25 million of the funding will support the rollout of vaccinations in all African countries, while EUR65 million is dedicated to support vaccinations in conflict and hard-to reach areas.⁴⁷⁶⁷ The remaining EUR10 million is in reserve and will be allocated to either of the two tracks as needed.⁴⁷⁶⁸ Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarčič emphasized: “This additional EU funding in support of the rollout of vaccination campaigns against the coronavirus pandemic in Africa will help to ensure that no one is left behind, including people in hard-to-access humanitarian crisis settings.”⁴⁷⁶⁹

On 11 May 2021, the EU met to discuss progress on a COVID-19 certificate. This is proposed to help citizens travel more freely across the 27-nation bloc and open up summer tourism.⁴⁷⁷⁰ It was announced that no one is obliged to use an EU certificate, but it will be handed out for free by health authorities. It will be given to EU citizens who have received a vaccine, had a negative test or are immune, having recovered from COVID-19.⁴⁷⁷¹

On 21 May 2021, the EU hosted the Global Health Summit alongside Italy. At this summit, the participants adopted the Rome Declaration. The Rome Declaration is a set of 16 principles and

⁴⁷⁶⁰ Statement by President von der Leyen on developments in the Vaccines Strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_1741

⁴⁷⁶¹ Statement by President von der Leyen on developments in the Vaccines Strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_1741

⁴⁷⁶² Statement by President von der Leyen on developments in the Vaccines Strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_1741

⁴⁷⁶³ Statement by President von der Leyen on developments in the Vaccines Strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_1741

⁴⁷⁶⁴ Statement by President von der Leyen on developments in the Vaccines Strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_1741

⁴⁷⁶⁵ EU launches €100 million humanitarian initiative to support COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1816

⁴⁷⁶⁶ EU launches €100 million humanitarian initiative to support COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1816

⁴⁷⁶⁷ EU launches €100 million humanitarian initiative to support COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1816

⁴⁷⁶⁸ EU launches €100 million humanitarian initiative to support COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1816

⁴⁷⁶⁹ EU launches €100 million humanitarian initiative to support COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1816

⁴⁷⁷⁰ Factbox: The EU’s proposed COVID-19 travel certificate (Brussels) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/eus-proposed-covid-19-travel-certificate-2021-05-11/>

⁴⁷⁷¹ Factbox: The EU’s proposed COVID-19 travel certificate (Brussels) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/eus-proposed-covid-19-travel-certificate-2021-05-11/>

guiding commitments that “serve as voluntary orientation for current and future action for global health to support the financing, building, and sustaining of effective health system capabilities and capacities and Universal Health Coverage to improve preparedness, early warning of, prevention, detection, coordinated response, and resilience to, and recovery from, the current pandemic and future potential public health emergencies.”⁴⁷⁷²

The European Union has taken strong action to advance global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response by implementing initiatives such as using the rescEU medical reserve, agreeing on Horizon Europe, launching HERA incubator, authorizing the production of vaccines BioNTech and Pfizer, and pledging humanitarian aid to support vaccination campaigns in crisis settings.

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

Analyst: Liva Zemitis

⁴⁷⁷² Rome Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 12 July 2021.
<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2021/210521-rome-declaration.html>

15. Health: Information Sharing

“We reaffirm our commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information [IHR].”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia		0	
Brazil		0	
Canada		0	
China	-1		
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia		0	
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa			+1
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.50 (75%)	

Background

The G20 members have remained committed to maintaining and improving citizens’ health, however, the focus of health commitments has been centred around general improvement of health systems, universal health care and crisis response (such as antimicrobial resistance). Information sharing is a critical aspect of cooperation in ameliorating global health systems and tackling advancement of overall health and response to global health issues such as antimicrobial resistance and COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, World Health Organization’s (WHO) International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005 require countries to detect and assess acute public health events, report such events to WHO and respond to any risks and emergencies.⁴⁷⁷³

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, G20 members committed to support others in implementing International Health Regulations to “prevent, detect, report early and rapidly respond to infectious diseases,” implying commitment to sharing of data and information pertaining to such infectious diseases.⁴⁷⁷⁴ Health information sharing was first explicitly mentioned at the 2017 Berlin Summit as a critical component of Global Health Crises Management. Commitment to enhancing the transparency of sharing key information was made to facilitate timely communication and elicit faster

⁴⁷⁷³ International Health Regulations, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2005. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/health-topics/international-health-regulations>

⁴⁷⁷⁴ G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

responses from the international community. G20 members recognized that information sharing efforts, especially information pertaining to Public Health Emergencies of International Concern (PHEIC), may be thwarted if members would face consequences such as trade/travel bans. Thus, G20 members reaffirmed their commitment to the reporting obligations outlined in the IHR pertaining to PHEIC and following applicable WHO recommended measures.

From 19-20 May 2017, G20 health ministers met for the first time in Berlin, Germany under the theme of “Together Today for a Healthy Tomorrow.” In their Berlin Declaration, the health ministers stated that “enhancing transparency facilitates the sharing of key information that can prompt faster responses by the international community. Early communication of disease outbreaks, including those which may constitute a PHEIC, may be discouraged if countries are led to believe they will face negative consequences due to unjustified travel and trade restrictions by other countries. To limit the negative impact on economies and societies and to foster early communication, we reiterate our commitment to adhering to reporting obligations under the IHR concerning a potential or declared Public Health Emergency of International Concern and underline the importance of following relevant WHO recommendations, including those on travel and trade.”⁴⁷⁷⁵ At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 members recognized that implementing and complying with IHR is crucial in preventing and responding to the polio crisis.⁴⁷⁷⁶ Furthermore, G20 members also committed to remaining prepared for research and development (R&D) through globally coordinated models directed by WHO R&D blueprint.⁴⁷⁷⁷

On 4 March 2018, G20 health ministers met in Mar del Plata, Argentina where they stated that “the G20 ministers would like to highlight the work done by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Bank and WHO on this subject regarding data collection and recommendations for best practices and encourage sharing of this information” in reference to people-centered care and increasing the quality of health care delivery systems.⁴⁷⁷⁸ At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, G20 leaders committed to “continue to strengthen core capacities required by International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005) for prevention, detection and response to public health emergencies, while recognizing the critical role played by WHO in this regard.”⁴⁷⁷⁹

Prior to the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 health ministers met to discuss universal health coverage, which “builds an essential basis for sustainable and inclusive growth.”⁴⁷⁸⁰ At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 members reaffirmed their commitment to enhanced information sharing pertaining to plant and animal health issues to facilitate response to emerging and existing issues. G20 members also committed to supporting countries experiencing the Ebola epidemic through financial and technical assistance.⁴⁷⁸¹

⁴⁷⁷⁵ Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers: Together Today for a Healthy Tomorrow, G20 Information Centre (Berlin) 20 May 2017. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/170520-health-en.html>

⁴⁷⁷⁶ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>.

⁴⁷⁷⁷ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>.

⁴⁷⁷⁸ Declaration: G20 Meeting of Health Ministers, G20 Information Centre (Mar del Plata) 4 October 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-10-04-health.html>

⁴⁷⁷⁹ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

⁴⁷⁸⁰ G20 Shared Understanding on the Importance of UHC Financing in Developing Countries: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Growth, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 June 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-health-finance.html>

⁴⁷⁸¹ G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

Prior to the 2020 Riyadh Summit, G20 finance and health ministers held a joint meeting. They committed to “full compliance with the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), to improve their implementation and to the continued sharing of timely, transparent and standardized data and information including on health measures and the effectiveness of non-pharmaceutical interventions.”⁴⁷⁸² At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, G20 members took note of gaps in preparedness for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and reaffirmed their commitment to continue sharing of information to advance “global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.”⁴⁷⁸³ G20 members specifically commended the proposal towards establishing access to various pandemic tools, including data.⁴⁷⁸⁴

The IHR “were adopted by the Health Assembly in 1969, having been preceded by the International Sanitary Regulations adopted by the Fourth World Health Assembly in 1951. The 1969 Regulations, which initially covered six “quarantinable diseases” were amended in 1973 and 1981, primarily to reduce the number of covered diseases from six to three (yellow fever, plague and cholera) and to mark the global eradication of smallpox.” The IHR summarise the purpose and scope as: “to prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade.” It contains “a range of innovations, including: (a) a scope not limited to any specific disease or manner of transmission, but covering “illness or medical condition, irrespective of origin or source, that presents or could present significant harm to humans”; (b) State Party obligations to develop certain minimum core public health capacities; (c) obligations on States Parties to notify WHO of events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern according to defined criteria; (d) provisions authorizing WHO to take into consideration unofficial reports of public health events and to obtain verification from States Parties concerning such events; (e) procedures for the determination by the Director-General of a “public health emergency of international concern” and issuance of corresponding temporary recommendations, after taking into account the views of an Emergency Committee; (f) protection of the human rights of persons and travellers; and (g) the establishment of National IHR Focal Points and WHO IHR Contact Points for urgent communications between States Parties and WHO.”⁴⁷⁸⁵

Commitment Features

The G20 commitment is “reaffirm(ing) our commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information [IHR].” In this commitment, there are two targets: 1) the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and 2) the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized information.

To “reaffirm” is understood as “affirm again” whereby affirm is to assert strongly, state as fact, confirm or ratify a judgment.⁴⁷⁸⁶ “Continued” is understood as “lasting or enduring without interruption.”⁴⁷⁸⁷ “Continued sharing” will be understood as disseminating all relevant data and information. Thus, a single act of sharing data or information will not count as compliance.

⁴⁷⁸² Joint Statement: G20 Joint Finance and Health Ministers Meeting, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-finance-health-0917.html>

⁴⁷⁸³ Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁴⁷⁸⁴ Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁴⁷⁸⁵ International Health Regulations (2005) Third Edition, World Health Organization (Riyadh) 1 January 2016. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241580496>

⁴⁷⁸⁶ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments (Toronto) 6 August 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2019.pdf

⁴⁷⁸⁷ Continued, dictionary.com (Detroit) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2020.

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/continued?s=t>

Furthermore, a G20 member can share data or information with another country or with an international organization, such as the WHO.

“Timely” is understood as “coming early or at the right time.”⁴⁷⁸⁸ Data that is “timely” should be “recorded as quickly as possible and used within a reasonable time period.”⁴⁷⁸⁹ The WHO recognizes that the “rapid data sharing is critical during an unfolding health emergency. The ethically appropriate and rapid sharing of data can help identify etiological factors, predict disease spread, evaluate existing and novel treatments, symptomatic care and preventive measures, and guide the deployment of limited resources.”⁴⁷⁹⁰

“Transparency” is understood as “governments making information publicly available so that their actions and decisions are visible and understandable to the public and so they can, therefore, be held to account.”⁴⁷⁹¹ Examples of compliance include sharing data pertaining to COVID-19 infections and mortality rates through an open access government website.

To achieve compliance, the standardized data and information shared must be relevant to “advancing global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection and response.”⁴⁷⁹² This is generally understood as standardized data and information relevant to COVID-19 pandemic, however, compliance can be achieved if the standardized data and information shared is pertaining to any global pandemic.

Part One: the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data

“Standardized data” is understood as data that is in “a common format that allows for collaborative research, large scale analytics, and sharing of sophisticated tools and methodologies,” according to Observational Health Data Sciences and Informatics (OHDSI).⁴⁷⁹³ Healthcare data can be found in various formats and the same term may be represented in different contexts. To comply, members should share data that is consistent longitudinally and comparable with other datasets and variables should be precisely defined.⁴⁷⁹⁴ Examples of standardized data in the context of COVID-19 pandemic could include variables such as per cent 7-day average positivity and infection fatality ratio.

Part Two: the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized information

“Information” is understood as “knowledge gained through study, communication, research, instruction, etc.”⁴⁷⁹⁵ This includes any knowledge that can have a material impact on a members’ understanding, preparedness, prevention, detection and response to public health issues. Furthermore, “information” will also include analysis generated from standardized data or any other non-standardized data. Examples of information can include understanding of adverse side-effects, effective policy approaches, and best practices. These examples are not meant to be exhaustive.

⁴⁷⁸⁸ Timely, Merriam Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/timely>

⁴⁷⁸⁹ Quality Health Data, Unite for Sight (New Haven) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.uniteforsight.org/global-health-university/quality-data>

⁴⁷⁹⁰ Guidance for Managing Ethical Issues in Infectious Disease Outbreaks, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2016. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/250580/9789241549837-eng.pdf>

⁴⁷⁹¹ Increasing Transparency and Accountability in National Pharmaceutical Systems, World Health Organization (Geneva) 30 August 2018. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/96/11/17-206516/en/>

⁴⁷⁹² G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Riyadh Summit, G20 (Riyadh) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁴⁷⁹³ Data Standardization, Observational Health Data Sciences and Informatics (New York) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.ohdsi.org/data-standardization/>

⁴⁷⁹⁴ Data Standardization, Observational Health Data Sciences and Informatics (New York) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.ohdsi.org/data-standardization/>

⁴⁷⁹⁵ Information, dictionary.com (Detroit) n.d. Access Date: 28 February 2021.

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/information>

To achieve full compliance (+1), a G20 member must share standardized data and information in a timely and transparent manner, that is numerous times over the course of the compliance period and without delay from the time the information is received by the G20 member. If a G20 member does share data and/or information but it is not timely, transparent or standardized, it would only be considered partial compliance. If a G20 member only shares data and/or information once or twice over the compliance period, it would still be considered partial compliance. Furthermore, if a G20 member only takes action to share either timely, transparent and standardized data or information, it would only be considered partial compliance. Non-compliance (-1) will be considered if a G20 member does not continually share timely, transparent and standardized data or information, including if members have shared data/information on a single occasion. This commitment requires concrete actions for compliance. If a G20 member reaffirms the commitment or makes verbal statements on sharing data and/or information, it would not count towards compliance.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member does NOT continually share timely, transparent and standardized data or information.
0	G20 member continually shares timely, transparent and standardized data in a timely and transparent manner OR continually shares timely, transparent and standardized information.
+1	G20 member continually shares timely, transparent and standardized data in a timely and transparent manner AND continually shares timely, transparent and standardized information.

*Compliance Director: Sonja Dobson
Lead Analyst: Ingrid Wong*

Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 30 November 2020, President Alberto Fernandez and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro exchanged experience in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and challenges it posed to their respective countries.⁴⁷⁹⁶

On 14 December 2020, the Ministry of Health in partnership with the UK organized a virtual seminar discussing vaccine distribution strategy and combating misinformation regarding COVID-19.⁴⁷⁹⁷ It was the third in a series of joint events between Argentina and the UK within the Latin American and Caribbean region. The CEO of GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, spoke at the seminar to share information on the progress of COVAX, the global initiative to ensure fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.⁴⁷⁹⁸

On 7 January 2021, health officials from Mexico visited Argentina to discuss Argentina’s experience with the Russian vaccine, Sputnik V, as to help Mexico in its consideration of acquiring the

⁴⁷⁹⁶ Videoconference between presidents Jair Bolsonaro and Alberto Fernández (Brasilia) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/videoconference-between-presidents-jair-bolsonaro-and-alberto-fernandez>

⁴⁷⁹⁷ Argentina and the United Kingdom organized virtual seminar on vaccines against COVID-19, Ministry of Health of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-y-reino-unido-organizaron-seminario-virtual-sobre-vacunas-contra-covid-19>

⁴⁷⁹⁸ Argentina and the United Kingdom organized virtual seminar on vaccines against COVID-19, Ministry of Health of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-y-reino-unido-organizaron-seminario-virtual-sobre-vacunas-contra-covid-19>

vaccine.⁴⁷⁹⁹ Argentina and Mexico exchanged information about “distinct vaccine initiatives” and “the strategic agreement signed between both countries to produce and distribute the (vaccine) developed by the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca, which is produced in Argentina.”⁴⁸⁰⁰

On 5 February 2021, President Fernandez and French President Emmanuel Macron met virtually where they discussed the epidemiological situations in both of their countries at length.⁴⁸⁰¹ The discussion included the vaccination process, the need to increase production of vaccines and how to ensure a more equitable production and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.⁴⁸⁰²

On 15 March 2021, Foreign Minister Felipe Sola held a videoconference with Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad Othman Jerandi. They discussed opportunities to increase exchanges and shared experiences with combating the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁸⁰³

On 16 March 2021, Minister of Health Carla Vizotti met with the United Kingdom’s Minister for the Deployment of Vaccines against COVID-19 Nadhim Zahawi to discuss developing and distributing the COVID-19 vaccine.⁴⁸⁰⁴ The ministers discussed postponing second doses to ensure as many people as possible are vaccinated and prioritizing by age, risk and activity.⁴⁸⁰⁵

On 31 March 2021, Foreign Minister Guillermo Justo Chaves met with the EU Ambassador to Argentina Audo Maio-Coliche. They discussed enhancing cooperation and multilateralism in the view of a more equitable supply of vaccines among countries, “as well as for the sharing of experiences and knowledge regarding COVID-19.” They also agreed that the vaccine should be a universal public good for all the access, manufacture and distribute at will.⁴⁸⁰⁶

⁴⁷⁹⁹ Top Mexico health official in Argentina to discuss Russia's Sputnik vaccine, Reuters (New York City) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-mexico-argentina/top-mexico-health-official-in-argentina-to-discuss-russias-sputnik-vaccine idUKKBN29C2X9>

⁴⁸⁰⁰ Top Mexico health official in Argentina to discuss Russia's Sputnik vaccine, Reuters (New York City) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-mexico-argentina/top-mexico-health-official-in-argentina-to-discuss-russias-sputnik-vaccine idUKKBN29C2X9>

⁴⁸⁰¹ The president spoke with French counterpart Emmanuel Macron and agreed on declaring covid-19 vaccine universal good, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/president-spoke-french-counterpart-emmanuel-macron-and-agreed-declaring-covid-19>

⁴⁸⁰² The president spoke with French counterpart Emmanuel Macron and agreed on declaring covid-19 vaccine universal good, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/president-spoke-french-counterpart-emmanuel-macron-and-agreed-declaring-covid-19>

⁴⁸⁰³ Videoconference between foreign minister Felipe Solá and his Tunisian counterpart, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/videoconference-between-foreign-minister-felipe-sola-and-his-tunisian-counterpart>

⁴⁸⁰⁴ Ministries of Health of Argentina and the United Kingdom exchanged experiences on vaccination strategies against Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministerios-de-salud-de-argentina-y-reino-unido-intercambiaron-experiencias-sobre>
⁴⁸⁰⁵ Ministries of Health of Argentina and the United Kingdom exchanged experiences on vaccination strategies against Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministerios-de-salud-de-argentina-y-reino-unido-intercambiaron-experiencias-sobre>
⁴⁸⁰⁶ Argentina and EU agree on need for fairer and more equitable global distribution of vaccines, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-and-eu-agree-need-fairer-and-more-equitable-global-distribution>

On 19 April 2021, Mexico announced that cooperation with Argentina has led to the two countries to coproduce AstraZeneca vaccinations as well as create a network of vaccine projects throughout Central and South America.⁴⁸⁰⁷

On 29 April 2021, Minister Vizotti and Presidential Advisor Cecilia Nicolini met with the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States Embassy MaryKay Carlsson to discuss joint cooperation on scientific and technological development to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁸⁰⁸ They reviewed actions already taken by the Argentine government to respond to the pandemic.⁴⁸⁰⁹

In meeting with representatives of the governments of other G20 members to discuss health strategies and outcomes and to cooperate on formulating new ones, Argentina has complied with its commitment to share timely, transparent, and standardized public health information, although it has not complied with its commitment to share timely, transparent, and standardized public health data.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Dre Daley

Australia: 0

Australia has partially complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 26 November 2020, foreign affairs and health officials from Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia (MIKTA) met to discuss ways to strengthen the global health system and co-operation and collaboration, among the five MIKTA countries, specifically regarding how to overcome the current pandemic and preventing others.⁴⁸¹⁰

On 4 December 2020, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Women of Australia Marise Payne co-chaired the third Malaysia-Australia Annual Foreign Ministers' Meeting. The ministers discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and agreed to further cooperation to combat the pandemic. Furthermore, they “underlined the importance of sharing the benefits of scientific and medical research and development on mutually agreed terms, strengthening public healthcare systems, and improving readiness for future global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, and recognised the importance of the World Health Assembly’s independent evaluation into the COVID-19 response in this regard.”⁴⁸¹¹

On 15 December 2020, Australia met with Indonesia and Timor-Leste to discuss strengthening their trilateral cooperation. The first item on the agenda was to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the respective countries and region, as well as the challenges faced due to the pandemic. “Ministers discussed the importance of working together in support of the health security, economic

⁴⁸⁰⁷Mexico calls on the UN Security Council to guarantee access to vaccines against COVID-19, Secretary of Foreign Relations (Mexico City) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-llama-al-consejo-de-seguridad-de-la-onu-a-garantizar-el-acceso-a-vacunas-contra-covid-19>

⁴⁸⁰⁸ Vizotti and Nicolini met with the Charge d'Affaires of the United States Embassy, Ministry of Health of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-nicolini-se-reunieron-con-la-encargada-de-negocios-de-la-embajada-de-estados>

⁴⁸⁰⁹ Vizotti and Nicolini met with the Charge d'Affaires of the United States Embassy, Ministry of Health of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/vizzotti-y-nicolini-se-reunieron-con-la-encargada-de-negocios-de-la-embajada-de-estados>

⁴⁸¹⁰ MIKTA Holds 1st Foreign Affairs and Health 2+2 Senior Officials' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 November 2020. Access Date: March 18, 2021. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321395

⁴⁸¹¹ 3rd Australia-Malaysia Annual Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/3rd-australia-malaysia-annual-foreign-ministers-meeting>

recovery and stability of the region, including to ensure fair and equitable distribution of safe and affordable vaccines, and supporting vulnerable communities. Ministers also discussed ways to combat the rise of threats in cyber space including disinformation and misinformation in the context of the pandemic.”⁴⁸¹²

On 18 December 2020, Australia participated in the 14th regular multilateral teleconference with the US, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and Vietnam. The participants “exchanged views on facilitating regional cooperation on COVID-19 response, developing and distributing vaccines, resuming economic activities, and facilitating international travel.”⁴⁸¹³

On 19 February 2021, Australia attended the third Quadrilateral Foreign Ministers’ Meeting with Japan, India and the US. The participants pledged to deepen cooperation on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as cyber and critical technologies to countering disinformation.⁴⁸¹⁴

On 30 March 2021, Australia issued a joint statement alongside the UK, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Korea, Slovenia, and the US on the World Health Organization’s (WHO) study on COVID-19 origins. The statement underlined the commitment of the governments to working with the WHO on data and information sharing regarding the start and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, they stated that “With all data in hand, the international community may independently assess COVID-19 origins, learn valuable lessons from this pandemic, and prevent future devastating consequences from outbreaks of disease...We will work collaboratively and with the WHO to strengthen capacity, improve global health security, and inspire public confidence and trust in the world’s ability to detect, prepare for, and respond to future outbreaks.”⁴⁸¹⁵

Australia has partially complied with its commitment by exchanging experiences and information with other countries, but has failed to taken significant action to share timely, transparent and standardized data with the rest of the world.

Thus, Australia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Arun Eswaran

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 24 November 2020, Brazil attended the 2020 Korea-Latin America and the Caribbean Future Cooperation Forum through pre-recorded videos. Topics of the forum included how Korea and

⁴⁸¹² Australia-Indonesia-Timor-Leste Trilateral Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Minister for Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australia-indonesia-timor-lest-trilateral-foreign-ministers-meeting>

⁴⁸¹³ Outcome of 14th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 9 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321466

⁴⁸¹⁴ Quad Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/quad-foreign-ministers-meeting>

⁴⁸¹⁵ WHO-convened COVID-19 origins study: joint statement, Government of the UK (London) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-who-convened-covid-19-origins-study>

Latin America would officialise their cooperation in health, medical, and disease control and prevention, and how they would ensure the fair distribution of treatments and vaccines.⁴⁸¹⁶

On 30 November 2020, President Jair Bolsonaro and Argentinian President Alberto Fernandez exchanged experience in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and challenges it posed to their respective countries.⁴⁸¹⁷

On 25 February 2021, Brazil met with Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay and Peru for the 5th Extraordinary Meeting of Presidents of the Forum for the Progress and Development of South America. The participants discussed the importance of using the IHR to strengthen health response and collaborate with other multilateral organizations to ensure universal, equitable, and timely access to COVID-19 vaccines, demonstrating the sharing of best practices. They declared to “Exchange best practices in communication and access to information that is timely, correct and easy to understand on public health issues and health emergencies and combat misinformation and misinformation, especially about vaccination against COVID-19.” And “To request the countries of South America to resort to the application of the International Health Regulations, when the management of such an event deserves, through timely communication and exchange of information, and with the support of the Pan American Health Organization.”⁴⁸¹⁸

On 7 March 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs Ernesto Araujo and Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs Gabi Ashkenazi held a dialogue to discuss pressing issues, including potential recovery paths from the COVID-19 pandemic through a public health perspective. They agreed to “support engagements and foster partnerships between research institutes in Israel and Brazil, in the public and private sectors, for the development of vaccines, treatments and medicines for COVID-19.”⁴⁸¹⁹

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to regularly and continually share timely, transparent and standardized data and information. While Brazil has shared experiences in recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic with other countries bilaterally and multilaterally, Brazil has not shared data.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Mehr Mukhtar

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 29 March 2021, Canada and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) donated computer equipment to Belize. The equipment will support Belize’s ability “the implement health measures such as planning, and surveillance and risk monitoring, the ability to efficiently prevent, detect, and

⁴⁸¹⁶ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Health and Welfare Co-host 2020 Korea-LAC Future Cooperation Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321380

⁴⁸¹⁷ Videoconference between presidents Jair Bolsonaro and Alberto Fernández (Brasilia) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/videoconference-between-presidents-jair-bolsonaro-and-alberto-fernandez>

⁴⁸¹⁸ Declaration of the 5th Extraordinary Meeting of Presidents of PROSUR [Portuguese and Spanish] (Brasilia) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/declaration-of-the-5-extraordinary-meeting-of-presidents-of-prosur-portuguese-and-spanish>

⁴⁸¹⁹ Joint Brazil-Israel Declaration – Jerusalem, March 7, 2021 (Brasilia) 7 March 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/joint-brazil-israel-declaration-2013-jerusalem-march-7-2021>

respond to health risks and emergencies.” The data and information gathered with this equipment will then be able to be shared with the rest of the world.⁴⁸²⁰

On 30 March 2021, Canada issued a joint statement alongside the UK, Australia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Korea, Slovenia, and the US on the World Health Organization’s study on the source of COVID-19 origins. The statement underlined the commitment of the governments to working with the WHO on data and information sharing regarding the start and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, they stated that “With all data in hand, the international community may independently assess COVID-19 origins, learn valuable lessons from this pandemic, and prevent future devastating consequences from outbreaks of disease...We will work collaboratively and with the WHO to strengthen capacity, improve global health security, and inspire public confidence and trust in the world’s ability to detect, prepare for, and respond to future outbreaks.”⁴⁸²¹

On 7 May 2021, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng released a statement on intellectual property waiver for COVID-19 vaccines. Minister Ng stated “The Government of Canada remains committed to working with all international partners to reach a rapid and just end to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our government firmly believes in the importance of protecting [intellectual property], and recognizes the integral role that industry has played in innovating to develop and deliver life-saving COVID-19 vaccines. Canada is ready to discuss proposals on a waiver for intellectual property protection, in particular for COVID-19 vaccines, under the WTO Agreement on [Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights].”⁴⁸²²

On 11 May 2021, Canada’s COVID-19 Immunity Task Force (CITF) and the Vaccine Surveillance Reference Group (VSRG) announced ongoing and new studies on the effectiveness and safety of the vaccines authorized in Canada. The Public Health Agency of Canada, the Canadian Research Immunization Network, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization and the CITF are working together through the VSRG to find and support the necessary studies to contribute to the data and information on vaccine efficacy.⁴⁸²³

Canada has partially complied with its commitment by supporting the sharing of timely, transparent and standardized data and information, and investing in the gathering of data and information to be shared. However, Canada has not taken concrete actions to share data and information.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Shereen Marouf Mourad

China: –1

China has failed to comply with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

⁴⁸²⁰ PAHO/WHO Belize and the Government of Canada donate computer equipment to strengthen public health surveillance at Belize’s land borders, Pan American Health Organization (Belize City) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/29-3-2021-pahowho-belize-and-government-canada-donate-computer-equipment-strengthen-public>

⁴⁸²¹ WHO-convened COVID-19 origins study: joint statement, Government of the UK (London) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-who-convened-covid-19-origins-study>

⁴⁸²² Statement by Minister Ng on intellectual property waiver for COVID-19 vaccines, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/05/statement-by-minister-ng-on-intellectual-property-waiver-for-covid-19-vaccines.html>

⁴⁸²³ Studies being launched to support vaccine effectiveness and safety monitoring across Canada, COVID-19 Immunity Task Force (Ottawa) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.covid19immunitytaskforce.ca/studies-being-launched-to-support-vaccine-effectiveness-and-safety-monitoring-across-canada/>

On 2 January 2021, State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi discussed China's efforts in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. Minister Yi underlined how China "organized over 100 video meetings with experts from other countries, opened an online knowledge center to share China's experiences with all countries, and published eight updated versions of diagnosis and therapeutic solutions and seven updated versions of prevention and control protocols."⁴⁸²⁴

On 14 February 2021, one of the members of the World Health Organization (WHO) team investigating the source of SARS-CoV-1-19 stated that China refused to hand over key data on early cases and only provided a summary. Specifically, the WHO requested the raw data on the 174 identified cases of the virus from Wuhan in December 2019.⁴⁸²⁵

As of March 2021, mass vaccinations are being administered to the population in China. However, due to the withheld trial data, none of the vaccines developed in China have received full regulatory approval from the WHO and only one out of more than a dozen Chinese vaccines has received an emergency approval from the WHO.⁴⁸²⁶

On 30 March 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine co-hosted the Forum on Traditional Chinese Medicine and International Cooperation to Fight Against COVID-19 Pandemic, under the theme of Deepen Traditional Chinese Medicine Exchanges and Cooperation, Build a Global Community of Health for All. Officials and leaders from 28 countries and regions, as well as the WHO, attended the forum to exchange views and share information on tackling the pandemic, including through traditional Chinese medicine.⁴⁸²⁷

On 31 March 2021, WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that "Data was withheld from World Health Organization investigators who travelled to China to research the origins of the coronavirus epidemic."⁴⁸²⁸

On 27 April 2021, China hosted a meeting with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka to discuss and exchange information on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. "The Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction the concerted and productive efforts made by their countries since the start of COVID-19 to combat the virus and promote economic recovery in the spirit of overcoming challenges through cooperation and mutual assistance."⁴⁸²⁹

China has not complied with its commitment by withholding key information and data on the origin of the COVID-19 pandemic within its borders.

⁴⁸²⁴ Chinese FM pledges continuous efforts in global COVID-19 response, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 2 January 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1844082.shtml

⁴⁸²⁵ Covid-19 pandemic: China 'refused to give data' to WHO team, BBC News (London) 14 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-56054468>

⁴⁸²⁶ China's Dangerous Game Around Covid-19 Vaccines, Human Rights Watch (New York) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/03/04/chinas-dangerous-game-around-covid-19-vaccines>

⁴⁸²⁷ Forum on Traditional Chinese Medicine and International Cooperation to Fight Against COVID-19 Pandemic Wraps up, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1866235.shtml

⁴⁸²⁸ Data withheld from WHO team probing COVID-19 origins in China – Tedros, Reuters (Geneva) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/who-says-covid-19-origins-study-not-extensive-enough-cites-data-access-2021-03-30/>

⁴⁸²⁹ Joint Statement of the Foreign Ministers of the People's Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Nepal, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on Joint Response to COVID-19, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1872149.shtml

Thus, China receives a score of -1 .

Analyst: Arina Mnatsakanyan

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 7 December 2020, representatives of the French government virtually convened with World Health Organization officials to further develop their existing partnership and cooperation. The meeting largely focused on France's continued contribution to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator's progress, which the government of France helped fund earlier in 2020.⁴⁸³⁰ Other topics discussed were the One Health approach, a concerted effort to inform and prepare countries on a global scale about addressing zoonotic diseases.⁴⁸³¹

On 15 December 2020, health ministers from France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland met to share and coordinate vaccination strategies in the effort to curb the spread of COVID-19.⁴⁸³² The countries pledged to share information regarding their respective vaccination campaigns to promote transparency and implement any successful measures.⁴⁸³³ The government officials led this initiative in an effort to facilitate cross-border travel for workers and do combat disinformation concerning COVID-19.⁴⁸³⁴

On 1 January 2021, the French government created a new autonomous research agency, National Aids Research Agency (ANRS), merging two previously existing research institutions: the ANRS and REACTing.⁴⁸³⁵ This research agency studies infectious and emerging diseases in an effort to better inform the global response to such health-related challenges. France's Minister of Solidarity and Health, Olivier Véran, stated that the ANRS initiative would allow for a link with "the countries of the South" and therefore enable information sharing between nations.⁴⁸³⁶

⁴⁸³⁰ Strengthening vital partnership between WHO and France, World Health Organization (Geneva) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/13-01-2021-strengthening-vital-partnership-between-who-and-france>

⁴⁸³¹ FAO, OIE, and WHO launch a guide for countries on taking a One Health approach to addressing zoonotic diseases, World Health Organization (Geneva) 11 March 2019. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/11-03-2019-fao-oie-and-who-launch-a-guide-for-countries-on-taking-a-one-health-approach-to-addressing-zoonotic-diseases>

⁴⁸³² Major EU countries to coordinate COVID-19 vaccine release, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/major-eu-countries-to-coordinate-covid-19-vaccine-release/a-55951608>

⁴⁸³³ Large EU states commit to coordinated launch of COVID vaccinations, Reuters (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-europe-vaccination/large-eu-states-commit-to-coordinated-launch-of-covid-vaccinations-idINKBN28P29W>

⁴⁸³⁴ La France et ses voisins frontaliers coordonnent leur stratégie vaccinale dans l'intérêt de leurs citoyens, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/la-france-et-ses-voisins-frontaliers-coordonnent-leur-strategie-vaccinale>

⁴⁸³⁵ L'ANRS | Maladies infectieuses émergentes : Sous titre la nouvelle agence de recherche héritière de l'expérience de l'ANRS et de REACTing, Maladies infectieuses émergentes (Paris) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.anrs.fr/fr/presse/communiqués-de-presse/775/la-nouvelle-agence-anrs-maladies-infectieuses-emergentes>

⁴⁸³⁶ Création d'une nouvelle agence de recherche sur les maladies infectieuses et émergentes, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/creation-nouvelle-agence-de-recherche-maladies-infectieuses-et-emergentes>

On 5 February 2021, French President Emmanuel Macron and Argentinean President Alberto Fernandez met virtually to discuss the epidemiological situations in both their countries at length.⁴⁸³⁷ The discussion included the vaccination process, the need to increase production of vaccines and how to ensure a more equitable production and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.⁴⁸³⁸

On 30 March 2021, President Macron joined other global leaders calling for an international pandemic treaty.⁴⁸³⁹ Such a treaty would improve both national and global health systems in order to facilitate cooperation between nations, in the event of another global health crisis. The main goal is to foster pandemic preparedness and response.⁴⁸⁴⁰ France formally backed the idea of a treaty to ensure universal and equitable access to health-related information and data for future pandemics.⁴⁸⁴¹

On 6 April 2021, the French Development Agency in collaboration with Expertise France, another public agency, and the Governance Lab at the NYU Tandon School of Engineering announced the seven projects selected to receive the #Data4COVID19 Africa Challenge.⁴⁸⁴² This project, in large part funded and driven by French public agencies, sought to promote “new collaborations around non-traditional, non-statistical datasets,”⁴⁸⁴³ informed by the experiences of African nations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 6 May 2021, France announced its support for the India and South Africa proposal to temporarily eliminate intellectual property rights on vaccines. The argument for the temporary elimination of intellectual property rights on vaccines is that “rules requiring countries to protect patents and other forms of intellectual property are an obstacle to increasing the production of vaccines and other products needed to tackle the pandemic.”⁴⁸⁴⁴

France has taken steps to promote the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized information and data by continuing their cooperative efforts with global organizations such as the WHO and with other European countries, as well as by creating a new research institute to complete the gaps in infectious disease research globally.

⁴⁸³⁷ The president spoke with French counterpart Emmanuel Macron and agreed on declaring covid-19 vaccine universal good, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/president-spoke-french-counterpart-emmanuel-macron-and-agreed-declaring-covid-19>

⁴⁸³⁸ The president spoke with French counterpart Emmanuel Macron and agreed on declaring covid-19 vaccine universal good, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/president-spoke-french-counterpart-emmanuel-macron-and-agreed-declaring-covid-19>

⁴⁸³⁹ Global leaders unite in urgent call for international pandemic treaty, World Health Organization (Geneva) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/30-03-2021-global-leaders-unite-in-urgent-call-for-international-pandemic-treaty>

⁴⁸⁴⁰ Global leaders unite in urgent call for international pandemic treaty, World Health Organization (Geneva) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/30-03-2021-global-leaders-unite-in-urgent-call-for-international-pandemic-treaty>

⁴⁸⁴¹ Leaders of 23 countries, WHO call for international treaty to face future pandemics, France24 (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210330-leaders-of-23-countries-call-for-treaty-for-future-pandemics>

⁴⁸⁴² The GovLab, AFD, and Expertise France fund COVID-19 data projects in Africa, American Association for the Advancement of Science (Washington, D.C.) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2021-04/ntso-tga040621.php

⁴⁸⁴³ The GovLab, AFD, and Expertise France fund COVID-19 data projects in Africa, American Association for the Advancement of Science (Washington, D.C.) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2021-04/ntso-tga040621.php

⁴⁸⁴⁴ Covid: Germany rejects US-backed proposal to waive vaccine patents, BBC (London) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-57013096>

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ana Djordjijevic

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 15 December 2020, health ministers from Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland met to share and coordinate vaccination strategies in the effort to curb the spread of COVID-19.⁴⁸⁴⁵ The countries pledged to share information regarding their respective vaccination campaigns to promote transparency and implement any successful measures.⁴⁸⁴⁶ The government officials led this initiative in an effort to facilitate cross-border travel for workers and do combat disinformation concerning COVID-19.⁴⁸⁴⁷

On 19 February 2021, the Federal Institute for Vaccines and Biomedicines, the Paul Ehrlich Institute, published a report on the AstraZeneca vaccine. The report stated that the AstraZeneca vaccine is high effective and safe, providing 70 per cent efficacy against the COVID-19 virus.⁴⁸⁴⁸

On 28 April 2021, Chancellor Angela Merkel and China's Prime Minister Li Keqiang met for the 6th Sino-German government consultations. They discussed several topics, including the respective experiences with the COVID-19 crisis. Chancellor Merkel stated, "We can only contain this pandemic if we work together – China and Germany can play an important part" and "advocated an open and transparent discussion about vaccine production and called for reciprocal recognition of vaccines – at least at the World Health Organization – to help us win the battle against the virus."⁴⁸⁴⁹

On 30 April 2021, Germany and the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) donated computer equipment to Belize to support its ability to conduct data entry where internet may not be available, to improve Belize's capacity for monitoring and evaluation. This will allow Belize "to gather and record individual data for reporting and documenting any adverse events following immunizations and respond timely," which then can be shared with other countries and the PAHO/WHO.⁴⁸⁵⁰

On 5 May 2021, Germany announced that in partnership with the WHO, it would "establish a new global hub for pandemic and epidemic intelligence, data, surveillance and analytics innovation" based

⁴⁸⁴⁵ Major EU countries to coordinate COVID-19 vaccine release, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/major-eu-countries-to-coordinate-covid-19-vaccine-release/a-55951608>

⁴⁸⁴⁶ Large EU states commit to coordinated launch of COVID vaccinations, Reuters (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-europe-vaccination/large-eu-states-commit-to-coordinated-launch-of-covid-vaccinations-idINKBN28P29W>

⁴⁸⁴⁷ La France et ses voisins frontaliers coordonnent leur stratégie vaccinale dans l'intérêt de leurs citoyens, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/la-france-et-ses-voisins-frontaliers-coordonnent-leur-strategie-vaccinale>

⁴⁸⁴⁸ AstraZeneca vaccine – highly effective and safe, The Federal Government (Berlin) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/efficacy-astrazeneca-1860430>

⁴⁸⁴⁹ Continuing dialogue and expanding cooperation, The Federal Government (Berlin) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/germany-china-1898824>

⁴⁸⁵⁰ PAHO/WHO and the Federal Republic of Germany donate laptops, MiFi devices, and vaccination cards to support Belize's Ministry of Health and Wellness' COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment, Pan American Health Organization (Belize City) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/30-4-2021-pahowho-and-federal-republic-germany-donate-laptops-mifi-devices-and-vaccination>

in Berlin. The WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence “will also promote greater access to data and information.”⁴⁸⁵¹

On 6 May 2021, Germany announced it opposed the India and South Africa proposal to temporarily eliminate intellectual property protections on vaccines. The argument for the temporary elimination of intellectual property rights on vaccines is that “rules requiring countries to protect patents and other forms of intellectual property are an obstacle to increasing the production of vaccines and other products needed to tackle the pandemic.” However, Germany, which hosts BioNTech, and other countries that oppose the notion state that the removal of intellectual property rights will not solve the problem of inequitable access to vaccines.⁴⁸⁵²

Germany has fully complied with its commitment by taking steps to share timely, transparent and standardized data and information with other European countries and China, as well as publishing a report on the AstraZeneca vaccine. Furthermore, Germany has taken actions to support the sharing of data and information for Belize and in the future through its partnership with the WHO to build the Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ghazaleh Darini

India: +1

India has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 18 February 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented at a workshop hosted by India on COVID-19 Management: Experience, Good Practices and Way Forward with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal, Pakistan, Seychelles and Sri Lanka. Prime Minister Modi discussed the “creation of COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to meet the immediate costs of fighting the pandemic and sharing of resources – medicines, personal protective equipment, and testing equipment”; “noted sharing of experiences and learning from each other’s best practices in testing, infection control and medical waste management”; “suggested that we can create a regional platform for collating, compiling and studying data about the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines among our populations”; and asked “can we similarly create a regional network for promoting technology-assisted epidemiology, for preventing future pandemics?”⁴⁸⁵³

On 19 February 2021, India attended the third Quadrilateral Foreign Ministers’ Meeting with Japan, Australia and the US. The participants pledged to deepen cooperation on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as cyber and critical technologies to countering disinformation.⁴⁸⁵⁴

On 22 March 2021, India supplied over 60.4 million vaccine doses to 76 countries through World Health Organization-GAVI’s COVAX alliance. The goal is to share information about vaccine production in India and global distribution of these vaccines.⁴⁸⁵⁵

⁴⁸⁵¹ WHO, Germany launch new global hub for pandemic and epidemic intelligence, World Health Organization (Geneva) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/05-05-2021-who-germany-launch-new-global-hub-for-pandemic-and-epidemic-intelligence>

⁴⁸⁵² Covid: Germany rejects US-backed proposal to waive vaccine patents, BBC (London) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-57013096>

⁴⁸⁵³ Prime Minister addresses a workshop on "Covid-19 Management: Experience, Good Practices and Way Forward" with 10 Neighbouring Countries, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33542/Prime_Minister_addresses_a_workshop_on_Covid19_Management_Experience_Good_Practices_and_Way_Forward_with_10_Neighbouring_Countries

⁴⁸⁵⁴ Quad Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/quad-foreign-ministers-meeting>

On 6 April 2021, Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched the Integrated Health Information Platform. This new digital platform will enhance the current disease surveillance programme to allow for real-time tracking and track an additional 15 diseases. This initiative will improve disease surveillance and the distribution of disease data.⁴⁸⁵⁶

On 7 May 2021, India met with Colombia for the 9th Foreign Office Consultations. The “two sides also discussed respective national strategies to counter and mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and possible areas of cooperation in exchange of best practices, management strategies and medical research.”⁴⁸⁵⁷

On 8 May 2021, India attended the India-EU Leaders’ Meeting. India and the 27 member states discussed “forging closer cooperation on combating the COVID-19 pandemic and economic recovery,” among other topics.⁴⁸⁵⁸

India has fully complied with its commitment by sharing data and information at a workshop with regional countries, the Quadrilateral, Colombia and the EU. Furthermore, India shared information and data on vaccine production and distribution, as well as launching an Integrated Health Information Platform that will allow for better data and information exchange in the future.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Arun Eswaran

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 26 November 2020, foreign affairs and health officials from Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia (MIKTA) met to discuss ways to strengthen the global health system and co-operation and collaboration, among the five MIKTA countries, specifically regarding how to overcome the current pandemic and preventing others.⁴⁸⁵⁹

On 15 December 2020, Indonesia met with Australia and Timor-Leste to discuss strengthening their trilateral cooperation. The first item on the agenda was to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the respective countries and region, as well as the challenges faced due to the pandemic. “Ministers discussed the importance of working together in support of the health security, economic recovery and stability of the region, including to ensure fair and equitable distribution of safe and affordable vaccines, and supporting vulnerable communities. Ministers also discussed ways to

⁴⁸⁵⁵ India’s vaccine diplomacy: made in India, shared with the world, Development Policy Centre (Canberra) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 29 March 2021. <https://devpolicy.org/indias-vaccine-diplomacy-made-in-india-shared-with-the-world-20210329/>

⁴⁸⁵⁶ Union Health Ministry launches Integrated Health Information Platform to track 33 diseases, The New Indian Express (Chennai) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/apr/06/union-health-minister-harsh-varadhan-launches-integrated-health-information-platform-2286270.html>

⁴⁸⁵⁷ 9th India-Colombia Foreign Office Consultations, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33852/9th_IndiaColombia_Foreign_Office_Consultations

⁴⁸⁵⁸ India-EU Leader’s Meeting, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 8 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33856/IndiaEU_Leaders_Meeting

⁴⁸⁵⁹ MIKTA Holds 1st Foreign Affairs and Health 2+2 Senior Officials’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 November 2020. Access Date: March 18, 2021. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321395

combat the rise of threats in cyber space including disinformation and misinformation in the context of the pandemic.”⁴⁸⁶⁰

On 19 January 2021, Minister of Health Budi Gunadi Sadikin attended a virtual roundtable to discuss the development of value-based healthcare. The discussion, hosted by the Ministry of Health in Saudi Arabia and the World Economic Forum, focused on the construction and transformation of sustainable health development after the COVID-19 pandemic through value-based healthcare. Value-based healthcare focuses on patient’s health outcome along with the digitalization of health services. The minister emphasized the needed development in information technology.⁴⁸⁶¹

On 17 March 2021, Director for Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Dr. Siti Nadia Tarmizi addressed the concerns regarding the COVID-19 AstraZeneca and Sinovac vaccines. Dr. Tarmizi also clarified the worries regarding the connection of blood clots and the AstraZeneca vaccine where she states that on 11 March 2021, the World Health Organization along with the European Medicine Association clarifying that there is no link to blood clots and the AstraZeneca vaccine.⁴⁸⁶²

Indonesia has shared timely, transparent, and standardized information in accordance with international health regulations but has not shared timely, transparent, and standardized data. They have discussed information regarding the safety and collection of the vaccines as well as participated in roundtables to further technological innovations in health but have not provided detailed data. Indonesia has taken actions to promote health information and sharing to address one of two key areas.

Thus, it receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Shereen Marouf Mourad

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 1 December 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Luigi Di Maio participated in the 23rd European Union-Association of Southeast Asian Nations Ministerial Meeting, where he shared that Italy’s response to the pandemic was based on the concepts of people, planet, and prosperity. The Minister emphasized that these concepts would bring prosperity through a better distribution of opportunities.⁴⁸⁶³

On 7 December 2020, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Emanuela Del Re attended the 12th call for the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, where she shared how Italy was confronting the second wave of the coronavirus by prioritizing citizens’ health while maintaining the national economy, and also by taking precautions. The Vice Minister also

⁴⁸⁶⁰ Australia-Indonesia-Timor-Leste Trilateral Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Minister for Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australia-indonesia-timor-leste-trilateral-foreign-ministers-meeting>

⁴⁸⁶¹ Indonesia Supports Value-Based Healthcare in Health Development, Ministry of Health Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.kemkes.go.id/article/view/21012100001/indonesia-dukung-konsep-value-based-healthcare-untuk-atasi-masalah-kesehatan-di-tanah-air.html>

⁴⁸⁶² Govt Clarifies Issues Regarding COVID-19 Vaccines, Government of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.indonesia.go.id/kategori/feature/2609/govt-clarifies-issues-regarding-covid-19-vaccines>

⁴⁸⁶³ Minister Di Maio participates in the 23rd EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in virtual format, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/il-ministro-di-maio-partecipa-alla-23-riunione-ministeriale-ue-asean-in-formato-virtuale.html

emphasized the importance of a coordinated multilateral, global response to mitigate pandemic impacts.⁴⁸⁶⁴

On 15 December 2020, health ministers from Italy, Germany, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland met to share and coordinate vaccination strategies in the effort to curb the spread of COVID-19.⁴⁸⁶⁵ They pledged to share information regarding their respective vaccination campaigns to promote transparency and implement any successful measures.⁴⁸⁶⁶ The government officials led this initiative in an effort to facilitate cross-border travel for workers and do combat disinformation concerning COVID-19.⁴⁸⁶⁷

On 16 December 2020, Minister Di Maio attended the European Union-Latin American and Caribbean Countries dialogue and shared that a commitment to a multilateral response and promotion of health as a public asset, like Italy has been advocating for, will be key to overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁸⁶⁸

On 8 February 2021, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Marina Sereni announced at the T20 Inception Conference that action towards COVID-19 response should be based on the three pillars of: people, planet, and prosperity. This affirmed Italy's practices towards their response to the pandemic on a national and international level, recognizing the need for equity and sustainability.⁴⁸⁶⁹

On 25 and 26 March 2021, Italy hosted a two-day group health meeting among G20 members. This meeting was to affirm coordination among G20 members and to share data and ideas. A professor at the Sapienza University of Rome, Moreno Di Marco, noted correlation between the pandemic and environmental health. Additionally, there were presentations held regarding preparedness and antimicrobial resistance.⁴⁸⁷⁰ The meeting detailed using technology to gauge risk and spread of zoonotic diseases, and potentially applying a vaccination campaign on animals to prevent zoonosis.⁴⁸⁷¹

On 13 April 2021, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Chief Executive Officer of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness discussed COVID-19 vaccine development. Both officials

⁴⁸⁶⁴ Del Re at the ministerial meeting on emergency response to COVID-19, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/del-re-a-riunione-ministeriale-su-risposta-a-emergenza-covid-19.html

⁴⁸⁶⁵ Major EU countries to coordinate COVID-19 vaccine release, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/major-eu-countries-to-coordinate-covid-19-vaccine-release/a-55951608>

⁴⁸⁶⁶ Large EU states commit to coordinated launch of COVID vaccinations, Reuters (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-europe-vaccination/large-eu-states-commit-to-coordinated-launch-of-covid-vaccinations-idINKBN28P29W>

⁴⁸⁶⁷ La France et ses voisins frontaliers coordonnent leur stratégie vaccinale dans l'intérêt de leurs citoyens, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/la-france-et-ses-voisins-frontaliers-coordonnent-leur-strategie-vaccinale>

⁴⁸⁶⁸ Minister Di Maio at the Informal EU – Latin American and Caribbean Countries Ministers Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/il-ministro-di-maio-alla-ministeriale-informale-ue-paesi-dell-america-latina-e-caraibi.html

⁴⁸⁶⁹ G20; Vice Minister Sereni, build a future focussing on people, the planet, and prosperity, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/02/g20-sereni-costruire-un-futuro-con-al-centro-persone-pianeta-e-prosperita.html

⁴⁸⁷⁰ Italian Presidency of the G20, second meeting of the Health Working Group, Ministry of Health (Rome) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_2_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=nas&id=2196

⁴⁸⁷¹ Second Health Working Group Meeting, March 25-26, 2021, CONCEPT NOTE, Group of Twenty Italy (Rome), 25 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. http://www.salute.gov.it/imgs/C_17_pagineAree_5459_2_file.pdf

discussed establishing a database for all information relating to COVID-19 in order to develop a vaccine that could potentially combat all coronaviruses. This idea was brought up given the rise of new COVID-19 variants.⁴⁸⁷²

On 20 April 2021, the Italian Medicines Agency, in joint with the ruling of the European Medicines Agency, reported that the Johnson & Johnson vaccination was best used for peoples 60 years and older. Additionally, both agencies reported low risk of contracting thrombosis from the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.⁴⁸⁷³

On 6 May 2021, Italy announced its support for the India and South Africa proposal to temporary eliminate intellectual property rights on vaccines. The argument for the temporary elimination of intellectual property rights on vaccines is that “rules requiring countries to protect patents and other forms of intellectual property are an obstacle to increasing the production of vaccines and other products needed to tackle the pandemic.”⁴⁸⁷⁴

Italy has fully complied with its commitment by hosting and actively attending international conferences discussing resolutions for problems exacerbated by the pandemic. Italy has also shared timely, transparent and standardized data by coordinating in conjunction with the European Medicines Agency, over the safety of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and by sharing laboratories for vaccine analysis, displaying Italy’s participation in coordinating with other countries.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Phoebe Han

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 26 November 2020, Minister for Foreign Affairs Toshimitsu Motegi shared Japan’s response to developing and ensuring fair access to COVID-19 vaccines with Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ine Marie Eriksen Søreide.⁴⁸⁷⁵

On 27 November 2020, Minister Motegi and Swiss Head for Foreign Affairs Ignazio Cassis discussed the importance of fair access to COVID-19 vaccines and medications, as well as reforms for the WHO due to the coronavirus.⁴⁸⁷⁶

On 17 December 2020, Minister Motegi and United States State Secretary Mike Pompeo shared their respective countries’ response to the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating an exchange of information through communication.⁴⁸⁷⁷

⁴⁸⁷² COVID-19; Sereni meets Richard Hatchett, CEO of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/04/covid-19-sereni-incontra-richard-hatchett-ceo-della-coalizione-per-le-innovazioni-nella-preparazione-alle-epidemie.html

⁴⁸⁷³ Covid-19, safe Janssen vaccine; recommended preferential use to over 60, Ministry of Health (Rome) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021 <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp>

⁴⁸⁷⁴ Covid: Germany rejects US-backed proposal to waive vaccine patents, BBC (London) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-57013096>

⁴⁸⁷⁵ Japan-Norway Foreign Ministers’ Telephone Talk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 3 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000161.html

⁴⁸⁷⁶ Japan-Switzerland Foreign Ministers’ Telephone Talk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 3 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000251.html

On 18 December 2020, Japan participated in the 14th regular multilateral teleconference with the US, Australia, Korea, New Zealand and Vietnam. The participants “exchanged views on facilitating regional cooperation on COVID-19 response, developing and distributing vaccines, resuming economic activities, and facilitating international travel.”⁴⁸⁷⁸

On 19 February 2021, Japan attended the third Quadrilateral Foreign Ministers’ Meeting with Australia, India and the US. The participants pledged to deepen cooperation on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as cyber and critical technologies to countering disinformation.⁴⁸⁷⁹

On 18 March 2021, the Health Sciences Council expert committee meeting announced their plan to include people with severe mental illnesses or disabilities in the COVID-19 vaccination priority list. The council stressed to the public that this decision comes from research showing that people with mental illnesses or disabilities carry a higher risk of death from COVID-19.⁴⁸⁸⁰

On 29 March 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs received the final report of a research project on preventing and responding to outbreaks and spread of infectious diseases on cruise ships, sharing best practices and framework for the international community. The Ministry commissioned the reports after the outbreak and spread of COVID-19 on cruise ships in 2020.⁴⁸⁸¹

On 30 March 2021, Japan issued a joint statement alongside the UK, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Korea, Slovenia, and the US on the World Health Organization’s (WHO) study on COVID-19 origins. The statement underlined the commitment of the governments to working with the WHO on data and information sharing regarding the start and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, they stated that “With all data in hand, the international community may independently assess COVID-19 origins, learn valuable lessons from this pandemic, and prevent future devastating consequences from outbreaks of disease... We will work collaboratively and with the WHO to strengthen capacity, improve global health security, and inspire public confidence and trust in the world’s ability to detect, prepare for, and respond to future outbreaks.”⁴⁸⁸²

On 1 April 2021, Minister Motegi shared Japan’s best practices in creating countermeasures against the pandemic at the Japan-Arab Political Dialogue. Minister Motegi “explained Japan’s support for the Arab countries on achieving the Universal Health Coverage, including addressing COVID-19 based on the principle of human security, explaining successful examples of Japan’s existing assistance that has contributed to countermeasures against the pandemic.”⁴⁸⁸³

⁴⁸⁷⁷ Japan-U.S. Foreign Ministers’ Telephone Talk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000164.html

⁴⁸⁷⁸ Outcome of 14th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 9 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321466

⁴⁸⁷⁹ Quad Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/quad-foreign-ministers-meeting>

⁴⁸⁸⁰ Japan COVID-19 vaccine priority list to include people with mental disabilities, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 2 April 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/03/18/national/science-health/covid-19-japan-vaccinations-medicine>

⁴⁸⁸¹ Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs NAKANISHI Satoshi received the final report of the research project on preventing and responding to the outbreak and the spread of infectious diseases on cruise ships, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002988.html

⁴⁸⁸² WHO-convened COVID-19 origins study: joint statement, Government of the UK (London) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-who-convened-covid-19-origins-study>

⁴⁸⁸³ The Second Japan-Arab Political Dialogue, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002991.html

Japan fully complied with their commitment to share timely, transparent and standardized data and information through sharing data on COVID-19 outbreaks on cruise ships and also collaborating with other countries in sharing experiences and best practices in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Shanice Burton

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 24 November 2020, Korea hosted the 2020 Korea-Latin America and the Caribbean Future Cooperation Forum. Members from the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Korea Drug Development Fund, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency, the International Vaccine Institute, the Korea International Cooperation Agency, and officials of four Latin American countries were in attendance. Topics of the forum included how Korea and Latin America would officialise their cooperation in health, medical, and disease control and prevention, and how they would ensure the fair distribution of treatments and vaccines.⁴⁸⁸⁴

On 26 November 2020, foreign affairs and health officials from Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia (MIKTA) met to discuss ways to strengthen the global health system and co-operation and collaboration, among the five MIKTA countries, specifically regarding how to overcome the current pandemic and preventing others.⁴⁸⁸⁵

On 30 November 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held the second Korea-Middle East (United Arab Emirates [UAE]) Public Health Cooperation Conference. The importance of collaboration among the countries was stressed, as well as the opportunity for Korea's health industry to share its advanced technology, quarantine capabilities and public health regulations with the UAE.⁴⁸⁸⁶

On 3 December 2020, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy and the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety announced that the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) adopted the Korean method of COVID-19 screening. Korea discussed the method with ISO members and a special Korean committee developed a plan for the standardization of their screening method to submit to the ISO.⁴⁸⁸⁷

On 5 December 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs Kyung-wha Kang attended the 16th Manama Dialogue's First Plenary Session on "Global Governance in the wake of the Covid-19 Pandemic," where she shared that advanced technology, trust, and cooperation where the most important

⁴⁸⁸⁴ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Health and Welfare Co-host 2020 Korea-LAC Future Cooperation Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021.

http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321380

⁴⁸⁸⁵ MIKTA Holds 1st Foreign Affairs and Health 2+2 Senior Officials' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 November 2020. Access Date: March 18, 2021. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321395

⁴⁸⁸⁶ 2nd Korea-Middle East (UAE) Public Health Cooperation Conference Takes Place, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321404

⁴⁸⁸⁷ Korea's COVID-19 Screening Methodology Adopted as International Standard, Korea.net (Sejong) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=192507>

factures to overcome the pandemic and in sharing accurate information, demonstrating best practices.⁴⁸⁸⁸

On 9 December 2020, a convention in Seoul was opened to share the results of Korea's international cooperation. The convention gathered representatives from 150 organizations, including government ministries, publicly funded think tanks, and distinguished figures from around the world. The topics covered included explanations of Korea's quarantine system, medical treatment, and health care.⁴⁸⁸⁹

On 18 December 2020, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Jong-kun Choi participated in the 14th regular multilateral teleconference with the US, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Vietnam. Korea explained that although Korea's COVID-19 cases were rising, the country was able to respond to the pandemic effectively through the "3T (Testing, Tracing, and Treatment) strategy," alongside social distancing reinforcement and conducting more diagnostic tests.⁴⁸⁹⁰ Furthermore, the participants "exchanged views on facilitating regional cooperation on COVID-19 response, developing and distributing vaccines, resuming economic activities, and facilitating international travel."⁴⁸⁹¹

On 29 December 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a virtual meeting among countries in the region with the goal to establish the "Northeast Asia Cooperation Initiative for Infectious Disease Control and Public Health." This collaborative initiative was held to strengthen the capacity for joint response among regional countries and implement material and technology exchanges, to assist with the response to regional and transboundary health security crises.⁴⁸⁹²

On 15 February 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) approved the Korean version of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine produced by the pharmaceutical company SK Bioscience. Due to this approval and collaboration, Korea was able to utilize the data and information it had consolidated surrounding COVID-19 to contribute to the distribution of more AstraZeneca vaccines soon.⁴⁸⁹³

On 17 March 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Science and Information and Communications Technology opened the 2021 Korea- Latin America and the Caribbean Digital Cooperation Forum, with high profile officials from all participating countries in attendance. A goal of the Digital Cooperation Forum was for all the countries to collaborate on the sharing of data and information in the categories of medicine, technology, health and medical services. This was in an effort to strengthen cooperation between Korea and Latin America.⁴⁸⁹⁴

On 18 March 2021, Korea Health Industry Development Institution and the Ministry of Health and Welfare held the 11th Global Healthcare and Medical Tourism Conference. The event consisted of

⁴⁸⁸⁸ Minister of Foreign Affairs Delivers Speech at 16th Manama Dialogue's First Plenary Session on "Global Governance in the wake of the Covid-19 Pandemic," Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 10 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321421

⁴⁸⁸⁹ Convention in Seoul Shares Korea's Global Cooperation Experience, Korea.net (Sejong) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=192640>

⁴⁸⁹⁰ Outcome of 14th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 9 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321466

⁴⁸⁹¹ Outcome of 14th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 9 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321466

⁴⁸⁹² Track 1.5 Virtual Meeting to Launch "Northeast Asia Cooperation Initiative for Infectious Disease Control and Public Health" Take Place on Dec. 29, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321475

⁴⁸⁹³ WHO Oks AstraZeneca Vaccine Made in Korea for Emergency Use, Korea.net (Sejong) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Society/view?articleId=194956>

⁴⁸⁹⁴ Forum Proposes Korea-Latin America Digital Cooperation to Overcome COVID-19, Korea.net (Sejong) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Sci-Tech/view?articleId=196013>

briefing sessions, academic conferences, seminars, business conferences, and public relations events. This conference was a way for the Korean government to analyze global healthcare trends and demonstrate Korean healthcare research, data, policies, and technology.⁴⁸⁹⁵

On 23 March 2021, Korea announced it was boosting cooperation with Costa Rica to improve the strength of Korea's ties with Latin America. Korea and Costa Rica plan to work together on projects to establish access to vaccines and medical supplies for both countries. This will be done by Korea and Costa Rica collaborating in sharing data and research that will help further the development of health care and pharmaceuticals.⁴⁸⁹⁶

On 30 March 2021, Korea issued a joint statement alongside the UK, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Japan, Slovenia, and the US on the WHO's COVID-19 origins study. The statement underlined the commitment of the governments to working with the WHO on data and information sharing regarding the start and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, they stated that "With all data in hand, the international community may independently assess COVID-19 origins, learn valuable lessons from this pandemic, and prevent future devastating consequences from outbreaks of disease...We will work collaboratively and with the WHO to strengthen capacity, improve global health security, and inspire public confidence and trust in the world's ability to detect, prepare for, and respond to future outbreaks."⁴⁸⁹⁷

On 31 March 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the "High-level symposium on Korea's leadership on global health in the COVID-19 era and beyond" with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. At the symposium, Korea shared best practices in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, which included effective pandemic response policy, public participation, and innovative technologies.⁴⁸⁹⁸

On 4 and 5 May 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs Eui-yong Chung attended the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' meeting and shared Korea's experience in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Chung urged the necessity of international cooperation to ensure equity in vaccine distribution.⁴⁸⁹⁹

Korea has taken steps to fully achieve compliance of the continued sharing of timely, transparent and standardized data and information as outlined by the International Health Regulations. Korea has demonstrated significant leadership in the organization of multilateral conferences where data and research regarding health has been shared, sharing its successful pandemic response, and collaborating globally to share data and research to develop health technology. Through the transparent and timely sharing and collaboration of health data and research, Korea has fully complied with its commitment, while being a leading actor in combating the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Hannah Story-Korman

⁴⁸⁹⁵ Medical Korea 2021 Kicks off to Demonstrate K-Healthcare, Korea Biomedical Review (Seoul) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.koreabiomed.com/news/articleView.html?idxno=10719>

⁴⁸⁹⁶ Cooperation with Costa Rica to Boost Korea's Ties with Latin America, Korea.net (Sejong) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=196195>

⁴⁸⁹⁷ WHO-convened COVID-19 origins study: joint statement, Government of the UK (London) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-who-convened-covid-19-origins-study>

⁴⁸⁹⁸ Ministry of Foreign Affairs Holds "High-level symposium on Korea's leadership on global health in the COVID-19 era and beyond," Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321617

⁴⁸⁹⁹ Minister of Foreign Affairs Attends G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321665

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 26 November 2020, health and foreign affairs officials from Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia (MIKTA) met to discuss ways to strengthen the global health system and co-operation and collaboration, among the five MIKTA countries, specifically regarding how to overcome the current pandemic and preventing others.⁴⁹⁰⁰

On 7 January 2021, Deputy Health Minister Hugo Lopez-Gatell and Foreign Ministry official Efrain Guadarrama discussed COVID-19 vaccine experiences with Argentine President Alberto Fernandez. Mexico and Argentina signed an agreement to produce and distribute the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, which is currently produced in Argentina.⁴⁹⁰¹

On 15 April 2021, Mexico hosted a virtual meeting on Technological Development of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States vaccines against COVID-19, bringing together the eight research centers in the region that develop the most advanced vaccines. The participants discussed “strengthening capacities for the production and distribution of vaccines and medicines in the region” and the importance of investing in research and development to stay ahead of the virus.⁴⁹⁰²

On 19 April 2021, Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard promoted the economic and health integration between members of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States as well as the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to further promote health in the region. Moreover, Minister Ebrard announced that cooperation has led to Mexico and Argentina to coproduce AstraZeneca vaccinations as well as create a network of vaccine projects throughout Central and South America.⁴⁹⁰³

On 28 April 2021, Minister Ebrard met with the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergei Lavrov. Minister Ebrard reported to Lavrov on the success of the Sputnik V vaccine on the Mexican population, which was developed in Russia. Moreover, both officials plan to register an updated version of the Sputnik V – Sputnik Light – for the Mexican population.⁴⁹⁰⁴

On 30 April 2021, Minister Ebrard met with the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs to review and compare both countries’ COVID-19 measures and progress. Minister Ebrard thanked Spain for their assistance in distributing vaccinations and reaffirmed the importance of coordination and communication between Mexico and Spain.⁴⁹⁰⁵

Mexico has taken the steps and the initiative to share timely, transparent, and standardized information. Mexico’s participation in the integration of COVID-19 research within the Community

⁴⁹⁰⁰ MIKTA Holds 1st Foreign Affairs and Health 2+2 Senior Officials’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 November 2020. Access Date: March 18, 2021. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321395

⁴⁹⁰¹ Top Mexico health official in Argentina to discuss Russia’s Sputnik vaccine, Reuters (Mexico City) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-mexico-argentina/top-mexico-health-official-in-argentina-to-discuss-russias-sputnik-vaccine-idUKKBN29C2X9>

⁴⁹⁰² Mexico and CELAC promote vaccine self-sufficiency in Latin America and the Caribbean, Secretary of Foreign Relations (Mexico City) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-y-celac-impulsan-la-autosuficiencia-de-vacunas-en-america-latina-y-el-caribe>

⁴⁹⁰³ Mexico calls on the UN Security Council to guarantee access to vaccines against COVID-19, Secretary of Foreign Relations (Mexico City) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-llama-al-consejo-de-seguridad-de-la-onu-a-garantizar-el-acceso-a-vacunas-contra-covid-19>

⁴⁹⁰⁴ Mexico-Russia collaboration is strengthened, Secretary of Foreign Relations (Mexico City) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/se-fortalece-colaboracion-mexico-rusia>

⁴⁹⁰⁵ Mexico and Spain promote dialogue and cooperation, Secretary of Foreign Relations (Mexico City) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021 <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-y-espana-impulsan-dialogo-y-cooperacion>

of Latin American and Caribbean States show Mexico's commitment to share data for the pursuance of global health. Additionally, frequent diplomatic talks with other countries concerning vaccine distribution shows Mexico's commitment to exchanging timely, standardized, and transparent information.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Phoebe Han

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 24 November 2020, the Russian Direct Investment Fund, which is the national sovereign wealth fund, published standardized data and information on the efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccine with a reported a 95 per cent efficacy of the Sputnik V vaccine on the 42nd day following first injection.⁴⁹⁰⁶

On 12 December 2020, Russia's Federal State Statistic Service reported that the official total death toll from the virus is 57,000. However, on 28 December 2020, Russia's Federal State Statistic Service reported that the number of deaths from all causes recorded between January 2020 and November 2020 was 229,700 higher than in 2019. At a press conference on the same day of 28 December, Russia's deputy prime minister admitted that "more that 81 per cent of increase in mortality over this period is due to COVID-19" which would put the number of deaths at 186,000 – almost triple of what was originally reported.⁴⁹⁰⁷

On 5 February 2021, Russia attended the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council Meeting with Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Cuba, Moldova and Uzbekistan. Russia promoted the use of the Travelling Without COVID-19 pilot project, encouraging the expansion beyond Armenia, Belarus and Russia.⁴⁹⁰⁸

On 8 February 2021, there was a discrepancy recorded between statistics of COVID-19 related deaths stated by the Russia's Ministry of Health and Russia's Federal State Statistic Service (Rosstat). Specifically, the health ministry has been reporting a much lower death toll than Rosstat. While the Ministry of Health reported a total death toll of 78,687 from the beginning of the pandemic up to February 2021, Rosstat reported a total of 162,429 COVID-19 related deaths for 2020 alone.⁴⁹⁰⁹

On 9 February 2021, Russia met with Tajikistan for its 17th Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation. Russia promoted the Travelling Without COVID-19 application and offered Tajikistan the opportunity to take part. Furthermore, Russia agreed to visit Tajikistan to assess the situation and "prepare a report for the emergency response centre on preventing the import and spread of the coronavirus infection in Russia."⁴⁹¹⁰ The Travelling Without COVID-19 mobile app :allows users to store the results of their tests and QR codes and "is designed for those with a

⁴⁹⁰⁶ Briefing by Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russian Federation (Moscow) 3 December 2021. Access Date: 18 April 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/ckNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4465803

⁴⁹⁰⁷ COVID-19: Russia admits to understating deaths by more than two-thirds, The BMJ (London) 31 December 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bmj.com/content/371/bmj.m4975>

⁴⁹⁰⁸ Meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council, The Russian Government (Almaty) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41468/>

⁴⁹⁰⁹ Natural population change among subjects of the Russian Federation for January to December 2020, Federal State Statistic Service (Moscow) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://rosstat.gov.ru/storage/mediabank/TwbjciZH/edn12-2020.html>

⁴⁹¹⁰ The Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation between Russia and Tajikistan holds its 17th session, The Russian Government (Moscow) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41503/>

negative result in a coronavirus test while crossing the Russian state border at a number of checkpoint” to help Eurasian Economic Union “citizens move between countries while ensuring compliance with the current requirements.”⁴⁹¹¹

On 28 April 2021, Russia met with Kazakhstan to discuss the bilateral relationship. Among other topics, they discussed the joint COVID-19 response efforts, as well as the joint production of the Sputnik V vaccine at the Karaganda Pharmaceutical Factory in Kazakhstan.⁴⁹¹²

On 30 April 2021, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin spoke at the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council. Prime Minister Mishustin stated that “We need joint systemic measures that will make it possible to contain the infection. As we have repeatedly noted, the user-friendly and reliable mobile app called Travelling without COVID-19 has already been launched. Negative COVID-19 test results are uploaded from certified laboratories. Our citizens can therefore show these test results when entering any specific country. So far, Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Russia are actively involved in the project. We hope that Kazakhstan will join us soon. It is important to expand the app by including vaccination data. I believe that its wide-scale use will make it possible to more quickly resume the safe passenger traffic that our citizens need.”⁴⁹¹³

On 12 May 2021, Russia met with Turkey to discuss strengthening their cooperation on all fronts. Russia invited Turkey to use the Russian supported, Eurasian Economic Union created Travelling without COVID-19 digital platform pilot program. The program will allow citizens of participating states to enter Russia in a simplified and streamlined way, ensuring safety of public travel.⁴⁹¹⁴

Russia has partially complied with its commitment through sharing timely and transparent data and information with its regional counterparts.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Arina Mnatsakanyan

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 14 December 2020, Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud and South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor engaged in bilateral discussions, including their respective countries’ response to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁹¹⁵

⁴⁹¹¹ Government extends the term for entering Russia on the ‘Travel without COVID-19’ application, The Russian Government (Moscow) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/docs/41636/>

⁴⁹¹² Mikhail Mishustin’s conversation with Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin, The Russian Government (Kazan) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42079/>

⁴⁹¹³ Extended meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council, The Russian Government (Kazan) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42102/>

⁴⁹¹⁴ Tatyana Golikova meets with Chief Foreign Policy Adviser to the President of Turkey Ibrahim Kalin and Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey Mehmet Ersoy, The Russian Government (Moscow) 17 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42220/>

⁴⁹¹⁵ Minister Pandor to host the Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister on working visit to Pretoria – Tomorrow, Monday, 14 December 2020, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 13 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2020/saud1213.htm>; Opening Remarks by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, on the occasion of the Working Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Highness Prince Faisal Bin Farhan Al Saud, to South Africa on Monday, 14 December 2020, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/speeches/2020/pand1214a.htm>

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment through its communications with South Africa to share experiences in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, but has not taken substantial action to share timely, transparent and standardized data and information.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Dre Daley

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 3 December 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa shared effective policy approaches at the United Nations General Assembly that have helped South Africa delay transmission of COVID-19 and prepared health facilities, including emergency relief measures for individuals, households, and companies. President Ramaphosa also reaffirmed the importance of UN member states in working with the World Health Organization to ensure equity in vaccine access.⁴⁹¹⁶

On 14 December 2020, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor and Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud engaged in bilateral discussions, including their respective countries' response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with South Africa specifically sharing a response from health and economic perspectives.^{4917,4918}

On 12 January 2021, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor and Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sabri Boukadoum exchanged experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa and efforts to ensure an effective and efficient response in the continent and also at the national level.⁴⁹¹⁹

On 27 January 2021, President Ramaphosa shared that South Africa was able to ensure social distancing by promoting public health measures based on individual behaviour and regulatory strategies, such as lockdowns, at the African Coronavirus COVID-19 Vaccine Financing and Deployment Strategy Webinar.⁴⁹²⁰

On 24 February 2021, the Department of Health announced that the South African government has been working with local scientists from the KwaZulu-Natal Research Informatics and Sequencing Programme (KRISP). KRISP discovered that the 501Y.V2 variant of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus

⁴⁹¹⁶ Statement by President Cyril Ramaphosa on the occasion of the General Debate of the 31st UN General Assembly Special Session on COVID-19, UN Headquarters, New York, 3 December 2020, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/speeches/2020/cram1203.htm>

⁴⁹¹⁷ Minister Pandor to host the Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister on working visit to Pretoria – Tomorrow, Monday, 14 December 2020, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 13 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2020/saud1213.htm>

⁴⁹¹⁸ Opening Remarks by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, on the occasion of the Working Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Highness Prince Faisal Bin Farhan Al Saud, to South Africa on Monday, 14 December 2020, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/speeches/2020/pand1214a.htm>

⁴⁹¹⁹ Joint Communiqué on the Occasion of the Working Visit by H.E. Mr Sabri Boukadoum, Minister of Foreign Affairs of The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, 12 January 2021, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Pretoria) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/alge0112.pdf>

⁴⁹²⁰ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Opening remarks at the African Coronavirus COVID-19 Vaccine Financing and Deployment Strategy Webinar, The Presidency, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-opening-remarks-african-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine-financing>

has higher efficacy to infect humans, which affects the vaccination process as the variant continues to spread.⁴⁹²¹

South Africa has taken steps to continually share timely, transparent, and standardized data and information through sharing COVID-19 experiences in bilateral discussions with other countries and debunking false facts with evidence.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Shanice Burton

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 26 November 2020, foreign affairs and health ministers of Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia (MIKTA) met to discuss ways to strengthen the global health system and co-operation and collaboration, among the five MIKTA countries, specifically regarding how to overcome the current pandemic and preventing others.⁴⁹²²

On 23 March 2021, Head of Health Institutes of Turkey Erhan Akdogan, stated that Turkey currently assists six coronavirus vaccine development research programs. The vaccine studies being implemented in Turkey are published and shared in scientific research studies about the vaccine programs.⁴⁹²³

On 6 May 2021, Turkey announced the second inactive vaccine developed by Turkey had been added to the World Health Organization's (WHO's) list of vaccines in development. The director of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey underlined that being added to the WHO's list demonstrates the transparency of the data produced by the project. Furthermore, the director stated that Turkey's COVID-19 Turkey Platform is currently working on seven vaccines.⁴⁹²⁴

Turkey has taken steps to achieve compliance to the continued sharing of timely, transparent and standardized information by creating vaccine agreements with other countries and has shared data with the WHO with regards to its inactive vaccine development.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Mebr Mukhtar

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 14 December 2020, the Ministry of Health in partnership with the UK organized a virtual seminar discussing vaccine distribution strategy and combating misinformation regarding

⁴⁹²¹ Ministers Blade Nzimande and Zweli Mkhize brief media on latest scientific results on Coronavirus COVID-19 variant, 3 Mar, National Department of Health (Cape Town) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 2 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/joint-media-briefing-24-feb-2021-0000>

⁴⁹²² MIKTA Holds 1st Foreign Affairs and Health 2+2 Senior Officials' Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 November 2020. Access Date: March 18, 2021. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321395

⁴⁹²³ Turkey works on 6 coronavirus vaccine candidates, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 23 March 2021. Access date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/latest-on-coronavirus-outbreak/turkey-works-on-6-coronavirus-vaccine-candidates/2185493>

⁴⁹²⁴ Turkey's inactive COVID-19 vaccine makes it to WHO list, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/turkeys-inactive-covid-19-vaccine-makes-it-to-who-list/news>

COVID-19.⁴⁹²⁵ It was the third in a series of joint events between Argentina and the UK within the Latin American and Caribbean region. Seth Berkley, CEO of GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, spoke at the seminar to share information on the progress of COVAX, the global initiative to ensure fair and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.⁴⁹²⁶

On 20 December 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) revealed that the United Kingdom has been sharing information about the new variant of the COVID-19 virus. The UK has conducted ongoing research about the new mutation and has been sharing the results of its studies. Prime Minister Boris Johnson revealed to the WHO that the mutated virus is 70 per cent more transmissible.⁴⁹²⁷

On 23 December 2020, Public Health England (PHE) confirmed that lateral flow devices used in mass testing are able to detect the new COVID-19 variant. A rapid evaluation with five lateral flow devices was undertaken to test whether the lateral flow devices currently in use in the UK are able to detect the new VUI 202012/01 variant. The experiment found each lateral flow device successfully detected the samples of the new variant.⁴⁹²⁸

On 26 January 2021, the UK announced it would “offer its world-leading genomics expertise to identify new variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 to countries who do not have the resources to do so.” “Countries will be offered UK capacity to analyse new strains of the virus through the launch of the New Variant Assessment Platform which will be led by [PHE] working with [National Health Service] Test and Trace and academic partners as well as the World Health Organization’s SARS-CoV-2 Global Laboratory Working Group.”⁴⁹²⁹

On 5 February 2021, the UK published data from the UK’s independent medicine regulator on the routine safety monitoring and analysis of the approved COVID-19 vaccines. The report found that the vaccines meet strict regulatory standards and are very safe. The data demonstrated that there was “an overall reporting rate of 3 in 1,000 doses of vaccine administered from 9 December 2020 to 24 January 2021.”⁴⁹³⁰

On 22 February 2021, UK officials published an executive summary report sharing their response to COVID-19. The report outlines how the UK will continue to respond to the pandemic, the roadmap for lifting lockdown measures, the vaccine strategy, the success of the vaccination rollout, and more.⁴⁹³¹

⁴⁹²⁵ Argentina and the United Kingdom organized virtual seminar on vaccines against COVID-19, Ministry of Health of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gov.ar/noticias/argentina-y-reino-unido-organizaron-seminario-virtual-sobre-vacunas-contracovid-19>

⁴⁹²⁶ Argentina and the United Kingdom organized virtual seminar on vaccines against COVID-19, Ministry of Health of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gov.ar/noticias/argentina-y-reino-unido-organizaron-seminario-virtual-sobre-vacunas-contracovid-19>

⁴⁹²⁷ Covid: WHO in 'close contact' with UK Over New Virus Variant, BBC News (London) 20 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-55382212>

⁴⁹²⁸ Rapid evaluation confirms lateral flow devices effective in detecting new COVID-19 variant, Government of the UK (London) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/rapid-evaluation-confirms-lateral-flow-devices-effective-in-detecting-new-covid-19-variant>

⁴⁹²⁹ UK to support rest of the world to find COVID-19 virus variants, Government of the UK (London) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-support-rest-of-the-world-to-find-covid-19-virus-variants>

⁴⁹³⁰ Latest monitoring data confirms safety of COVID-19 vaccines, Government of the UK (London) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/latest-monitoring-data-confirms-safety-of-covid-19-vaccines>

⁴⁹³¹ COVID-19 Response Spring 2021, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021>

On 22 February 2021, PHE published the first independent analysis in the UK on the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine efficacy. The report found that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine provides a 70 per cent reduction in risk of catching COVID-19 after one dose, rising to 85 per cent after a second dose. The Head of Immunisation at PHE stated “This is strong evidence that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is stopping people from getting infected, while also protecting cases against hospitalisation and death. We will see much more data over the coming weeks and months but we should be very encouraged by these initial findings.”⁴⁹³² Furthermore, the PHE is monitoring the AstraZeneca and announced a report will be published in good time.⁴⁹³³

On 16 March 2021, the Minister for the Deployment of Vaccines against COVID-19 met with the Minister of Health for Argentina to discuss experiences developing and distributing the COVID-19 vaccine.⁴⁹³⁴ The ministers exchanged experiences regarding postponing second doses to ensure as many people as possible are vaccinated and prioritizing by age, risk and activity.⁴⁹³⁵ Furthermore, the UK Minister “announced that they will share more information about vaccines and the results of their strategy with Argentina in April, when they obtain more data on efficacy and safety, since they will begin to vaccinate people over 50 years of age.”⁴⁹³⁶

On 25 March 2021, PHE published an analysis on the impact of the COVID-19 vaccination program on preventing death and infection from SARS-CoV-2. The report found that from 8 December 2020 to end of January 2021, 4 million vaccine doses were administered to adults aged 70 and over which has prevented 6,100 deaths. PHE Head of Immunisation said “We have shown previously that the COVID-19 vaccinations are hugely effective at stopping people from getting the infection. This new analysis calculates how many lives they have saved in the first few months of the vaccine programme, and with every additional day more lives have and will be saved. The vaccines have an excellent safety record and I would encourage anyone who is offered a vaccine to take it as soon as possible. While the vaccines have a striking impact on mortality, we don’t yet know how much these vaccines will reduce the risk of you passing COVID-19 onto others. Even if you have been vaccinated, it is really important that you continue to act like you have the virus, practise good hand hygiene and stay at home.”⁴⁹³⁷

On 30 March 2021, the UK issued a joint statement alongside Australia, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Korea, Slovenia, and the US on the WHO COVID-19 origins study. The statement underlined the commitment of the governments to working

⁴⁹³² First real-world UK data shows Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine provides high levels of protection from the first dose, Government of the UK (London) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-real-world-uk-data-shows-pfizer-biontech-vaccine-provides-high-levels-of-protection-from-the-first-dose>

⁴⁹³³ First real-world UK data shows Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine provides high levels of protection from the first dose, Government of the UK (London) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-real-world-uk-data-shows-pfizer-biontech-vaccine-provides-high-levels-of-protection-from-the-first-dose>

⁴⁹³⁴ Ministries of Health of Argentina and the United Kingdom exchanged experiences on vaccination strategies against Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministerios-de-salud-de-argentina-y-reino-unido-intercambiaron-experiencias-sobre>

⁴⁹³⁵ Ministries of Health of Argentina and the United Kingdom exchanged experiences on vaccination strategies against Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministerios-de-salud-de-argentina-y-reino-unido-intercambiaron-experiencias-sobre>

⁴⁹³⁶ Ministries of Health of Argentina and the United Kingdom exchanged experiences on vaccination strategies against Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ministerios-de-salud-de-argentina-y-reino-unido-intercambiaron-experiencias-sobre>

⁴⁹³⁷ COVID-19 vaccines have prevented thousands of deaths in older adults, new data shows, Government of the UK (London) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-vaccines-have-prevented-thousands-of-deaths-in-older-adults-new-data-shows>

with the WHO on data and information sharing regarding the start and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, they stated that “With all data in hand, the international community may independently assess COVID-19 origins, learn valuable lessons from this pandemic, and prevent future devastating consequences from outbreaks of disease...We will work collaboratively and with the WHO to strengthen capacity, improve global health security, and inspire public confidence and trust in the world’s ability to detect, prepare for, and respond to future outbreaks.”⁴⁹³⁸

On 18 April 2021, the UK announced that a joint hygiene campaign between UK Aid and Unilever has reached 1 billion people. One aspect of the campaign is to “run information campaigns across TV, radio and social media in 37 countries to increase understanding of the benefits of handwashing with soap regularly and disinfecting surfaces to prevent the spread of COVID-19.”⁴⁹³⁹

On 28 April 2021, PHE published a study on household transmission of COVID-19. The study found that one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine reduced household transmission by up to half.⁴⁹⁴⁰

On 4 May 2021, the UK published its fourth round of the Schools Infection Survey to study the infections of COVID-19 in schools. The latest report found that there was a significant reduction in those testing positive for COVID-19 in schools, indicating “the importance of public health measures in schools for reducing transmission” and showing that “risk of transmission in schools is low.”⁴⁹⁴¹

On 10 May 2021, the UK published an analysis on the impacts of the COVID-19 in protecting against death and hospitalization from COVID-19. The analysis found that those who get a single dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine have 80 per cent lower risk of death from COVID-19 than those who do not get vaccinated. The report also found that protection against death from the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was 97 per cent after two doses, up from 8- per cent after one dose.⁴⁹⁴²

On 11 May 2021, UK Ambassador to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Simon Manley spoke at the WTO General Council. Ambassador Manley stated “A balanced and effective intellectual property regime has proved invaluable in this crisis, as in others, in supporting innovation and supporting collaboration, as well as ensuring the results of that innovation, including safe and effective diagnostics, vaccines and therapeutics can reach those who need them. The UK stands ready to engage in further evidence-based discussions and is committed to finding solutions to these issues. Meanwhile, we are delighted to see the WTO bringing together key stakeholders to look carefully at all the relevant trade, health and intellectual property elements so that we can support the development, production, and equitable access to these vaccines. We salute the role played by the Director General in this regard.”⁴⁹⁴³

On 14 May 2021, the PHE published its analysis on the impact of the COVID-19 vaccination program on deaths and hospitalizations. The analysis indicated that in England up to the end of April

⁴⁹³⁸ WHO-convened COVID-19 origins study: joint statement, Government of the UK (London) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-who-convened-covid-19-origins-study>

⁴⁹³⁹ UK aid and Unilever reach 1 billion people with global hygiene campaign to tackle COVID-19, Government of the UK (London) 18 April 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-and-unilever-reach-one-billion-people-with-global-hygiene-campaign-to-tackle-covid-19>

⁴⁹⁴⁰ One dose of COVID-19 vaccine can cut household transmission by up to half, Government of the UK (London) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/one-dose-of-covid-19-vaccine-can-cut-household-transmission-by-up-to-half>

⁴⁹⁴¹ COVID-19 in schools: study shows drop in infections, Government of the UK (London) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-in-schools-study-shows-drop-in-infections-1>

⁴⁹⁴² COVID-19 vaccines: further evidence of success, Government of the UK (London) 10 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-vaccines-further-evidence-of-success>

⁴⁹⁴³ World Trade Organization General Council, May 2021: UK statements, Government of the UK (London) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/wto-general-council-uk-statements--2>

the vaccine program prevented 11,700 deaths in those 60 and older and at least 33,000 hospitalizations in those 65 and older. The PHE stated that “There is now clear and increasing evidence that vaccines help to reduce transmission, therefore it is likely that an even higher number of deaths and hospitalisations have been prevented by the vaccination programme.”⁴⁹⁴⁴

On 15 May 2021, the UK announced it would host the world’s first Global Vaccine Confidence Summit on 2 June 2021. The purpose of the summit will be to “look at innovative solutions to tackle misinformation and support confidence in life-saving COVID-19 vaccines around the world.”⁴⁹⁴⁵

The United Kingdom has taken significant steps for the continued sharing of timely, transparent and standardized data and information by constantly publishing reports on the efficacy and impacts of the Pfizer-BioNTech and AstraZeneca vaccines. Furthermore, the United Kingdom has worked with other countries to share data and information, as well as exchange experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Analyst: Ghazaleh Darini

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 18 December 2020, the US participated in the 14th regular multilateral teleconference with Australia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and Vietnam. The participants “exchanged views on facilitating regional cooperation on COVID-19 response, developing and distributing vaccines, resuming economic activities, and facilitating international travel.”⁴⁹⁴⁶

On 15 January 2021, the US announced it would be “sharing new information concerning the activities inside China’s government laboratories in 2019” with the World Health Organization (WHO), in light of WHO investigative team’s arrival in China.⁴⁹⁴⁷

On 20 January 2021, the Integrated Health Services Agency, led by Management Sciences for Health, with support from the United States Agency for International Development through the United States Government’s Malaria Initiative, provided financial and technical support to Benin’s health zones when COVID-19 began to hit Benin. The goal of this initiative was to ensure that Benin had continued access to malaria interventions and essential health services throughout the pandemic.⁴⁹⁴⁸

On 20 January 2021, the United States sent a letter to the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to inform of the President’s decision to reverse the withdrawal of the country from the

⁴⁹⁴⁴ COVID-19 vaccines: 11,700 deaths prevented, Government of the UK (London) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-vaccines-11-700-deaths-prevented>

⁴⁹⁴⁵ Summit to build global confidence in vaccines to be convened by the UK Government, Government of the UK (London) 15 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/summit-to-build-global-confidence-in-vaccines-to-be-convened-by-the-uk-government>

⁴⁹⁴⁶ Outcome of 14th Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 9 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321466

⁴⁹⁴⁷ Ensuring a Transparent, Thorough Investigation of COVID-19’s Origin, Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/ensuring-a-transparent-thorough-investigation-of-covid-19s-origin/index.html>

⁴⁹⁴⁸ Strengthening Malaria Interventions in Benin During the COVID-19 Pandemic, USAID (Washington, D.C.) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/benin/news/strengthening-malaria-interventions-benin-during-covid-19-pandemic>

WHO. This decision ensures that the United States will be able to continue to support global vaccination, research, and development for tests, treatments and vaccines.⁴⁹⁴⁹

On 21 January 2021, the United States Congress enacted the Global Health Security Act of 2021. This bill directed the president to form a Global Health Security Agenda Interagency Review Council to implement the Global Health Security Agenda. This review council will implement the Global Health Security Agenda, an international initiative to address global infectious disease threats.⁴⁹⁵⁰

On 11 February 2021, the United States Congress passed the Robust International Response to Pandemic Act. This act outlined how the United States would aid in the international response to a pandemic. This document is aimed at outlining how wealthier countries will provide aid to developing countries through implementing protocols and transparency mechanisms to ensure allocations are used for public good.⁴⁹⁵¹

On 19 February 2021, the US participated in the 3rd Quadrilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting with Japan, India and Australia. The participants pledged to deepen cooperation on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as cyber and critical technologies to countering disinformation.⁴⁹⁵²

On 30 March 2021, the US issued a joint statement alongside Australia, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Korea, Slovenia, and the US on the WHO COVID-19 origins study. The statement underlined the commitment of the governments to working with the WHO on data and information sharing regarding the start and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, they stated that “With all data in hand, the international community may independently assess COVID-19 origins, learn valuable lessons from this pandemic, and prevent future devastating consequences from outbreaks of disease...We will work collaboratively and with the WHO to strengthen capacity, improve global health security, and inspire public confidence and trust in the world’s ability to detect, prepare for, and respond to future outbreaks.”⁴⁹⁵³

On 2 April 2021, the planning of the President’s Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR) Country/Regional Operation Plan 2021 resumed. PEPFAR is committed to supporting every PEPFAR country and region by ensuring transparent, data-driven and collaborative plans. By collaborating with partners and communities around the globe, PEPFAR will ensure there is no disruption in HIV services to PEPFAR-supported countries.⁴⁹⁵⁴

⁴⁹⁴⁹ National Security Memorandum on United States Global Leadership to Strengthen the International COVID-19 Response and to Advance Global Health Security and Biological Preparedness, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/01/21/national-security-directive-united-states-global-leadership-to-strengthen-the-international-covid-19-response-and-to-advance-global-health-security-and-biological-preparedness/>

⁴⁹⁵⁰ Global Health Security Act of 2021, United States Congress (Washington, D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/391>

⁴⁹⁵¹ Robust International Response to Pandemic Act, United States Congress (Washington, D.C.) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/986/text>

⁴⁹⁵² Quad Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/quad-foreign-ministers-meeting>

⁴⁹⁵³ WHO-convened COVID-19 origins study: joint statement, Government of the UK (London) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-who-convened-covid-19-origins-study>

⁴⁹⁵⁴ PEPFAR COP/ROP 2021 Planning Process, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.state.gov/pepfar-cop-rop-2021-planning/>

On 5 May 2021, the US announced it would “support the temporary waiver of intellectual property on COVID-19 vaccines...and work with the private sector and other partners to expand vaccine manufacturing and distribution.”⁴⁹⁵⁵

The United States has taken some steps to achieve compliance of the continued sharing of timely, transparent and standardized data and information as outlined by the International Health Regulations. The United States has done this by helping implement the Global Health Security Agenda, reversing withdrawal from the WHO, and providing health care aid to foreign countries. However, the United States has not made a significant effort to share its health data and research, globally, and has not participated in any significant collaborations with other countries in this respect.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Hannah Story-Korman

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information.

On 7 December 2020, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) partnered with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), which marked the beginning of the EU’s four-year project: “EU for health and security in Africa: ECDC for Africa CDC.”⁴⁹⁵⁶ The project came into effect on 1 January 2021. Cooperation between the EU and the Africa CDC serves to bolster both Europe and Africa’s respective global health responses in the event of future crises. Through the sharing of health information and data, both the ECDC and Africa CDC are working to bolster their “surveillance of infectious diseases, data sharing, and early detection of threats” in order to build up their preparedness for other global health emergencies.⁴⁹⁵⁷ The project is funded through the European Development Fund, with the ECDC contributing EUR9 million, as well as a EUR1 million grant to the Africa CDC.⁴⁹⁵⁸

On 14 December 2020, the European Commission launched the Re-open EU app, which provides regular, comprehensive and continual updates on COVID-19 related issues and other health and safety measures in EU member countries.⁴⁹⁵⁹ The free app offers information in all 24 official EU languages and shares data collected by the ECDC.⁴⁹⁶⁰

⁴⁹⁵⁵ WHO Director-General commends United States decision to support temporary waiver on intellectual property rights for COVID-19 vaccines, World Health Organization (Geneva) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021.

<https://www.who.int/news/item/05-05-2021-who-director-general-commends-united-states-decision-to-support-temporary-waiver-on-intellectual-property-rights-for-covid-19-vaccines>

⁴⁹⁵⁶ European Union and African Union sign partnership to scale up preparedness for health emergencies, ReliefWeb (New York City) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/european-union-and-african-union-sign-partnership-scale-preparedness-health-emergencies>

⁴⁹⁵⁷ European Union and African Union sign partnership to scale up preparedness for health emergencies, ReliefWeb (New York City) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/european-union-and-african-union-sign-partnership-scale-preparedness-health-emergencies>

⁴⁹⁵⁸ European Union and African Union sign partnership to scale up preparedness for health emergencies, ReliefWeb (New York City) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/european-union-and-african-union-sign-partnership-scale-preparedness-health-emergencies>

⁴⁹⁵⁹ Commission launches Re-open EU mobile app with regular updates on coronavirus health, safety and travel measures across Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 14 December 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

⁴⁹⁶⁰ Commission launches Re-open EU mobile app with regular updates on coronavirus health, safety and travel measures across Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 14 December 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/highlights/september-december-2020_en

On 23 December 2020, the European Commission released an impact assessment concerning the establishment of a European Health Data Space. It is part of a broader EU “Data Strategy” initiative, allowing governments, public authorities and other sectors to access centralized data and facilitate data sharing across the EU. This initiative focuses on the accessibility and sharing of health data in order to improve national healthcare efforts.⁴⁹⁶¹

On 1 January 2021, the EU and UK’s Trade and Cooperation Agreement went into effect, following the UK’s formal exit from the EU. This agreement included several provisions pertaining to information sharing, particularly during times of serious cross-border health risks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. In such an event, the UK and EU are able to exchange health information and data as well as coordinate public health responses. The agreement also allows for collaboration between the UK and the ECDC to share relevant scientific information.⁴⁹⁶²

On 20 January 2021, the EU and the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) donated computer and electronic equipment to Belize. The equipment will be used for better data and information collection, which then can be shared with other countries and the PAHO/WHO.⁴⁹⁶³

On 19 March 2021, the ECDC and WHO/Europe launched the first joint COVID-19 weekly bulletin, compiling COVID-19 surveillance and vaccination data. This cooperative effort between ECDC and WHO/Europe publicizes case, death, vaccination and hospitalization data from individual countries in a centralized manner.⁴⁹⁶⁴

On 26 March 2021, the EU4Health program came into force, in an effort to support the EU’s COVID-19 recovery and pandemic preparedness plans.⁴⁹⁶⁵ EU4Health provides unprecedented funding to EU member governments, health organizations as well as non-governmental organizations for the 2021-2027 period.⁴⁹⁶⁶ The program seeks to promote collaboration between member states concerning both prevention and response to healthcare crises. EU4Health allows the EU to monitor health threats and share information gathered through this surveillance with member states.⁴⁹⁶⁷ It also seeks to stimulate the digital transformation of health systems in order to facilitate cross-border flows of information and data.⁴⁹⁶⁸ In total, the program aims to invest EUR5.1 billion to

⁴⁹⁶¹ European Commission Conducts Open Consultation on the European Health Data Space Initiative, Covinton and Burling LLP (Washington, D.C.) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.covingtondigitalhealth.com/2021/01/european-commission-conducts-open-consultation-on-the-european-health-data-space-initiative/>

⁴⁹⁶² UK and EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement and the government’s preparation for end of the transition period on 31 December 2020, UK Government (London) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-to-the-health-and-care-sector-about-the-uk-eu-trade-and-cooperation-agreement/uk-and-eu-trade-and-cooperation-agreement-and-the-governments-preparation-for-end-of-the-transition-period-on-31-december-2020>

⁴⁹⁶³ The European Union (EU) and the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) donate consumables and reagents to enhance lab capacity for COVID-19 testing in Belize, Pan American Health Organization (Belize City) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 18 May 2021. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/20-1-2021-european-union-eu-and-pan-american-health-organizationworld-health-organization>

⁴⁹⁶⁴ WHO/Europe and ECDC launch the first joint COVID-19 Surveillance Bulletin, WHO Europe (Copenhagen) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-emergencies/coronavirus-covid-19/news/news/2021/3/whoeurope-and-ecdc-launch-the-first-joint-covid-19-surveillance-bulletin>

⁴⁹⁶⁵ €5.1 billion EU4Health enters into force, European Commission (Brussels) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/highlights/latest-highlights-2021_en

⁴⁹⁶⁶ €5.1 billion EU4Health enters into force, European Commission (Brussels) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/highlights/latest-highlights-2021_en

⁴⁹⁶⁷ EU4Health 2021-2027 – a vision for a healthier European Union, European Commission (Brussels) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/health/funding/eu4health_en

⁴⁹⁶⁸ EU4Health 2021-2027 – a vision for a healthier European Union, European Commission (Brussels) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/health/funding/eu4health_en

promote secure data access and sharing and prevent another global crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁹⁶⁹

On 30 March 2021, President of the European Council Charles Michel joined other global leaders in calling for an international treaty on pandemic prevention and preparedness. Such a treaty would allow for equitable and universal access to healthcare related solutions, information and data by enhancing global cooperation.⁴⁹⁷⁰

On 6 May 2021, the EU announced its support for the India and South Africa proposal to temporary eliminate intellectual property rights on vaccines. The argument for the temporary elimination of intellectual property rights on vaccines is that “rules requiring countries to protect patents and other forms of intellectual property are an obstacle to increasing the production of vaccines and other products needed to tackle the pandemic.”⁴⁹⁷¹

The European Union has taken steps to promote the continued sharing of timely, transparent, and standardized data and information by implementing new initiatives to better prepare countries’ global health responses.

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

Analyst: Ana Djordjijevic

⁴⁹⁶⁹ New EU health programme comes into force, The Lancet (Amsterdam) 3 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(21\)00772-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)00772-8/fulltext)

⁴⁹⁷⁰ An international treaty on pandemic prevention and preparedness, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/coronavirus/pandemic-treaty/>

⁴⁹⁷¹ Covid: Germany rejects US-backed proposal to waive vaccine patents, BBC (London) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 19 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-57013096>

16. Health: Vaccine Distribution

“We will spare no effort to ensure their [vaccines] affordable and equitable access for all people, consistent with members’ commitments to incentivize innovation. In this regard, we fully support all collaborative efforts, especially the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) initiative and its COVAX facility, and the voluntary licensing of intellectual property.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia			+1
Brazil		0	
Canada			+1
China		0	
France			+1
Germany			+1
India		0	
Indonesia		0	
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico		0	
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa		0	
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.60 (80%)	

Background

G20 leaders made their first commitments on health in Brisbane in 2014 in response to the outbreak of Ebola virus in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. They approved a joint statement on Ebola threat and pledged to “do what is necessary to ensure the international effort can extinguish the outbreak” and urged the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund to “continue their strong support for the affected countries.”^{4972,4973} The G20 members pledged to fully implement the World Health Organization’s (WHO) International Health Regulations (IHR) addressing “longer-term systemic issues and gaps in capability, preparedness and response capacity that expose the global economy to the impacts of infectious disease.”⁴⁹⁷⁴

Under Germany’s G20 presidency in 2017, G20 health ministers met for the first time. They acknowledged the role of the IHR and agreed to act “accordingly with our obligations under the IHR

⁴⁹⁷² G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date:29 May 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

⁴⁹⁷³ G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date:29 May 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

⁴⁹⁷⁴ G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date:29 May 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

and support the leadership and coordination of WHO in the event of health crises of international concern.”⁴⁹⁷⁵ G20 members agreed to “strengthen the national and, where applicable, regional monitoring and surveillance of both antimicrobial resistance and the consumption of antibiotics”⁴⁹⁷⁶ within their own jurisdictions. At the Hamburg Summit the G20 leaders discussed antimicrobial resistance (AMR), acknowledged its “growing threat to public health and economic growth”⁴⁹⁷⁷ and pledged to “strengthen public awareness, infection prevention and control and improve the understanding of the issue of antimicrobials in the environment.”⁴⁹⁷⁸

In 2018 at Buenos Aires the G20 leaders once again acknowledged “the need for further multi-sectoral action to reduce the spread of AMR”⁴⁹⁷⁹ and extended the health-related agenda of the G20 by pledging to “tackle malnutrition, with a special focus on childhood overweight and obesity, through national, community-based and collaborative multi-stakeholder approaches.”⁴⁹⁸⁰ In addition, the G20 leaders draw attention to provision of “better health care” and agreed to “improve [health care] quality and affordability to move towards Universal Health Coverage.”⁴⁹⁸¹

In 2019 at Osaka G20 leaders reaffirmed the need for stronger health systems providing cost-effective and evidence-based intervention to achieve better access to health care and to improve its quality and affordability to move towards universal health coverage (UHC), in line with their national contexts and priorities.⁴⁹⁸² They also promised to continue to strengthen core capacities required by IHR for preventing, detecting and responding to public health emergencies, recognized the WHO’s critical role, and committed to ending HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.⁴⁹⁸³

In 2020 COVID-19 outbreak became the most important issue for G20 cooperation. In their statement made at Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit on 26 March 2020, members pledged to “take all necessary health measures and seek to ensure adequate financing to contain the pandemic and protect people, especially the most vulnerable.”⁴⁹⁸⁴ They promised to “share timely and transparent information; exchange epidemiological and clinical data; share materials necessary for research and development; and strengthen health systems globally, including through supporting the

⁴⁹⁷⁵ Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/G20_Health_Ministers_Declaration_engl.pdf

⁴⁹⁷⁶ Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/G20_Health_Ministers_Declaration_engl.pdf

⁴⁹⁷⁷ G20 Leaders’ Declaration Hamburg 7-8 July 2017, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/G20percent20Hamburgpercent20leaders_percent20communiqupercentC3percentA9.pdf

⁴⁹⁷⁸ G20 Leaders’ Declaration Hamburg 7-8 July 2017, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/G20percent20Hamburgpercent20leaders_percent20communiqupercentC3percentA9.pdf

⁴⁹⁷⁹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration Buenos-Aires 30 November – 01 December 2018, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2018buenosaires/buenos_aires_leaders_declaration.pdf

⁴⁹⁸⁰ G20 Leaders’ Declaration Buenos-Aires 30 November – 01 December 2018, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2018buenosaires/buenos_aires_leaders_declaration.pdf

⁴⁹⁸¹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration Buenos-Aires 30 November – 01 December 2018, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2018buenosaires/buenos_aires_leaders_declaration.pdf

⁴⁹⁸² G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration 28 – 29 June 2019, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadsati/yaonskoe-predsdatelstvo-2019/>

⁴⁹⁸³ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration 28 – 29 June 2019, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadsati/yaonskoe-predsdatelstvo-2019/>

⁴⁹⁸⁴ Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit Statement on COVID-19 26 March 2020, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadsati/saoudskoe-predsdatelstvo-2020/G20_Extraordinarypercent20G20percent20LeaderspercentE2percent80percent99percent20Summit_Statement_ENpercent20\(1\).pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadsati/saoudskoe-predsdatelstvo-2020/G20_Extraordinarypercent20G20percent20LeaderspercentE2percent80percent99percent20Summit_Statement_ENpercent20(1).pdf)

full implementation of the WHO International Health Regulations (IHR 2005).”⁴⁹⁸⁵ Leaders committed to further strengthen the WHO’s mandate in coordinating the international fight against the pandemic and work together and with stakeholders to close the financing gap in the WHO Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan. They also promised “to strengthen national, regional, and global capacities to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks by substantially increasing our epidemic preparedness spending.”⁴⁹⁸⁶ G20 leaders pledged to work together to increase research and development funding for vaccines and medicines, leverage digital technologies, and strengthen scientific international cooperation.⁴⁹⁸⁷

In November 2020 G20 leaders adopted Riyadh Summit Declaration. In it they committed to advancing global pandemic preparedness, prevention, detection, and response and reaffirmed commitment to full compliance with the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005).⁴⁹⁸⁸ They also promised to spare no effort to ensure affordable and equitable access to vaccines for all people, consistent with members’ commitments to incentivize innovation and supported all collaborative efforts, especially the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) initiative and its COVAX facility, and the voluntary licensing of intellectual property.⁴⁹⁸⁹

Commitment Features

G20 leaders made a commitment to ensure vaccines affordable and equitable access for all people, consistent with members’ commitments to incentivize innovation and supported all collaborative efforts, especially the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) initiative and its COVAX facility, and the voluntary licensing of intellectual property.

The commitment has two part: ensure equitable and affordable access for all people inside the country and taking actions at international level to support others.

Domestic Actions

G20 members should ensure universal access to vaccines for its population. For this country-wide vaccination programs should be launched, the supply of vaccines ensured either by developing, producing and distributing own vaccines or purchasing existing ones.

International Actions

G20 should take actions to support global efforts to ensure access to vaccines. This can be done by supporting Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) initiative (through financing, collaboration, personnel development, exchange of best practices) and specifically COVAX facility.

⁴⁹⁸⁵ Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit Statement on COVID-19 26 March 2020, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadtsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadtsati/saudoyskoe-predsdatelstvo-2020/G20_Extraordinarypercent 20G20percent 20Leaderspercent E2percent 80percent 99percent 20Summit_Statement_ENpercent 20\(1\).pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadtsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadtsati/saudoyskoe-predsdatelstvo-2020/G20_Extraordinarypercent 20G20percent 20Leaderspercent E2percent 80percent 99percent 20Summit_Statement_ENpercent 20(1).pdf)

⁴⁹⁸⁶ Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit Statement on COVID-19 26 March 2020, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadtsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadtsati/saudoyskoe-predsdatelstvo-2020/G20_Extraordinarypercent 20G20percent 20Leaderspercent E2percent 80percent 99percent 20Summit_Statement_ENpercent 20\(1\).pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadtsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadtsati/saudoyskoe-predsdatelstvo-2020/G20_Extraordinarypercent 20G20percent 20Leaderspercent E2percent 80percent 99percent 20Summit_Statement_ENpercent 20(1).pdf)

⁴⁹⁸⁷ Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit Statement on COVID-19 26 March 2020, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadtsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadtsati/saudoyskoe-predsdatelstvo-2020/G20_Extraordinarypercent 20G20percent 20Leaderspercent E2percent 80percent 99percent 20Summit_Statement_ENpercent 20\(1\).pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadtsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadtsati/saudoyskoe-predsdatelstvo-2020/G20_Extraordinarypercent 20G20percent 20Leaderspercent E2percent 80percent 99percent 20Summit_Statement_ENpercent 20(1).pdf)

⁴⁹⁸⁸ G20 Leaders’ Riyadh Summit Declaration 21 – 22 November 2020, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadtsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadtsati/saudoyskoe-predsdatelstvo-2020/G20percent 20Riyadhpercent 20Summitpercent 20Leaderspercent 20Declaration_EN.pdf

⁴⁹⁸⁹ G20 Leaders’ Riyadh Summit Declaration 21 – 22 November 2020, RANEPА (Moscow) n.d. Access Date: 11 March 2021. https://www.ranepa.ru/ciir/sfery-issledovaniy/gruppa-dvadtsati/dokumenty-gruppy-dvadtsati/saudoyskoe-predsdatelstvo-2020/G20percent 20Riyadhpercent 20Summitpercent 20Leaderspercent 20Declaration_EN.pdf

Its goal is to help end the acute phase of the global pandemic by the end of 2021 by providing access to at least 2 billion doses of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines to the most vulnerable in all participating economies.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member did not take any actions to ensure affordable and equitable access to vaccines
0	G20 member took measures to ensure access to vaccines on domestic level but no actions on international level were taken
+1	G20 member took measures to ensure access to vaccines both on national level and through international actions and partnerships

*Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov
Lead Analyst: Irina Popova*

Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to vaccines.

On 28 March 2021, Argentina received its first 218,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX Facility. The shipment of AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccines, made by SK Bioscience of Korea, arrived at Ministro Pistarini International Airport in Ezeiza, Buenos Aires.⁴⁹⁹⁰

On 31 March 2021, Chief of the Private Office of the Foreign Ministry Guillermo Justo Chaves met with European Union ambassador to Argentina Aude Maio-Coliche. They agreed on enhancing cooperation and multilateralism to encourage a more equitable supply of vaccine doses among countries, as well as sharing of experiences and knowledge regarding COVID-19. They also agreed that, in a context of the global vaccine shortage and the demand to speed up the vaccination process, the vaccine must be a universal public good. Thus, greater cooperation between countries and decisive action to enhance multilateralism are key. They also discussed the possibility of laboratories granting countries licenses for vaccine manufacturing and the idea proposed by President Alberto Fernández and French President Emmanuel Macron that patents be waived in that regard.⁴⁹⁹¹

On 21 April 2021, at the 27th Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government Andorra 2020, held under the motto “Innovation for Sustainable Development – 2030 Goals: Ibero-America Faces Coronavirus Challenge,” President Fernández called on the region’s countries to act “jointly in solidarity” in order to “guarantee equitable production and distribution of vaccines,” and to find innovative mechanisms to facilitate access to external financing for middle-income countries.⁴⁹⁹²

On 6 May 2021, at the General Council of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Argentina ratified its view that COVID-19 vaccines must be universal public goods so that all countries have equitable access to them and to medical innovations developed to fight the pandemic. Argentina endorsed the proposal by South Africa and India at the WTO Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual

⁴⁹⁹⁰ Argentina receives its first COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX Facility, Pan American Health Organization (Washington, DC) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/28-3-2021-argentina-receives-its-first-covid-19-vaccines-through-covax-facility>

⁴⁹⁹¹ Argentina and EU agree on need for fairer and more equitable global distribution of vaccines, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-and-eu-agree-need-fairer-and-more-equitable-global-distribution>

⁴⁹⁹² Alberto Fernández urges equitable production and distribution of Covid-19 vaccines, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/alberto-fernandez-urges-equitable-production-and-distribution-covid-19-vaccines>

Property Rights to suspend intellectual property rights for medical products, including vaccines, that are necessary for the prevention and treatment of COVID-19.⁴⁹⁹³

During the compliance period Argentina took actions to provide access to vaccines domestically and expressed readiness and support for international action, but no concrete actions to promote access to vaccines internationally were registered yet.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to vaccines.

On 30 November 2020, the Australian government provided more than USD4 million for research into COVID-19 and the country's response to the pandemic. The funding will support the development of rapid response digital health infrastructure and strategies to improve community engagement and responsiveness to pandemic information.⁴⁹⁹⁴

On 22 December 2020, the Australian government provided USD172.5 million for the Medical Research Future Fund. The funding focuses on areas of unmet need or potential for transforming health care and its outcomes.⁴⁹⁹⁵

On 4 January 2021, the Australian government provided USD10.1 million for clinical trials related to COVID-19. The funding will support six promising Australian innovations, including two "next generation" vaccines and customised 3D-printed face guards.⁴⁹⁹⁶

On 25 January 2021, the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine was provisionally approved by the Australian government for use in Australia. This means that Pfizer's vaccine will be provided for free to all Australian residents.⁴⁹⁹⁷

On 29 January 2021, the campaign to encourage Australians to get their free COVID-19 vaccines started. The campaign will run across a variety of mediums, including television, radio, press, digital, social, mobile, search and out of home.⁴⁹⁹⁸

On 2 February 2021, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced USD1.9 billion to go towards the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. The funding will help hospitals, general practitioners and pharmacies on the frontline deliver vaccinations to everyone in Australia.⁴⁹⁹⁹

⁴⁹⁹³ Argentina reiterates that vaccine patents must be waived, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-reiterates-vaccine-patents-must-be-waived>.

⁴⁹⁹⁴ More than \$4 million for new COVID-19 research, Department of Health (Canberra) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 29 January 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/more-than-4-million-for-new-covid-19-research>

⁴⁹⁹⁵ Additional \$172.5 million for Australian medical research, Department of Health (Canberra) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 29 January 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/additional-1725-million-for-australian-medical-research>

⁴⁹⁹⁶ \$10 million to support COVID-19 related clinical trials, Department of Health (Canberra) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/10-million-to-support-covid-19-related-clinical-trials>

⁴⁹⁹⁷ TGA provisionally approves Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for use in Australia, Department of Health (Canberra) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/tga-provisionally-approves-pfizerbiontech-covid-19-vaccine-for-use-in-australia>

⁴⁹⁹⁸ New information campaign to encourage Australians to get a COVID-19 vaccine, Department of Health (Canberra) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/new-information-campaign-to-encourage-australians-to-get-a-covid-19-vaccine>

On 22 February 2021, COVID-19 vaccinations began in Australia. The first people to receive the vaccines will be priority groups who are at a higher risk of COVID-19. The government also launched the COVID-19 vaccine eligibility checker to help people find more information about during which phase they would be able to receive the vaccine.⁵⁰⁰⁰

On 26 February 2021, the Australian Government announced it would invest USD100 million into the development of new technologies to improve the diagnosis and treatment of stroke, epilepsy and lung disease, including COVID-19.⁵⁰⁰¹

On 12 March 2021, Australia announced it has contributed USD80 million to the COVAX Facility that has started rolling out the first round of doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Australia's Pacific and Southeast Asian neighbours (Fiji, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, etc.).⁵⁰⁰²

On 13 March 2021, Australia, along with the United States, Japan and India, pledged to provide up to one billion vaccine doses to developing countries by the end of 2022 through financing vehicles that allow a substantial increase in production capacity in India.⁵⁰⁰³

On 17 March 2021, Australia announced that it has agreed to partner with Papua New Guinea on a support package which will include the supply of 8,000 AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines, the Australian Government will also make a formal request to AstraZeneca and the European Authorities for one million doses of Australia's contracted supplies to gift to Papua New Guinea. Australia will also provide new targeted support.⁵⁰⁰⁴

On 10 April 2021, Australia announced that it will supply at least 10,000 AstraZeneca COVID-19 (manufactured in Australia) doses per week to the neighbouring countries. Australia will also continue to support the Government of Papua New Guinea in its immediate response to its outbreak, helping to vaccinate frontline healthcare and other essential workers.⁵⁰⁰⁵

On 14 April 2021, it was announced that an Australian Medical Assistance Team (AUSMAT), comprising a senior epidemiologist and health support officer arrived in Timor-Leste. The team will assist public health needs assessments.⁵⁰⁰⁶

Australia has taken actions to ensure access to vaccines on domestic level and on international level.

⁴⁹⁹⁹ \$1.9 billion to go towards COVID-19 vaccine rollout, Department of Health (Canberra) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/19-billion-to-go-towards-covid-19-vaccine-rollout>

⁵⁰⁰⁰ First COVID-19 vaccinations in Australia, Department of Health (Canberra) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/first-covid-19-vaccinations-in-australia>

⁵⁰⁰¹ \$100 million for medical research technology, Department of Health (Canberra) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/100-million-for-medical-research-technology>

⁵⁰⁰² Australia's partnership with COVAX delivers vaccines to our neighbours, Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australias-partnership-covax-delivers-vaccines-our-neighbours>

⁵⁰⁰³ Leaders of "Quad" agree to aid vaccine delivery to developing nations, Kyodo (Tokyo) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/03/01a7efa9f9ac-1st-quad-summit-to-focus-on-covid-19-vaccines-with-eye-on-china.html>

⁵⁰⁰⁴ Supporting Papua New Guinea's COVID-19 response, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ministry for Women (Canberra) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/supporting-papua-new-guineas-covid-19-response>

⁵⁰⁰⁵ Sharing COVID-19 vaccines with our neighbors, Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 10 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/sharing-covid-19-vaccines-our-neighbours>

⁵⁰⁰⁶ Emergency relief dispatched to Timor-Leste, Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Canberra) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 14 April 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/emergency-relief-dispatched-timor-leste>

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to vaccines.

On 6 February 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health announced the arrival of the first batch of active pharmaceutical ingredients for the AstraZeneca vaccine against COVID-19 in Brazil. Originating in China, the batch with about 90 liters of the ingredients will allow the production of 2.8 million doses of vaccine in the national territory. The vaccines to be produced in Bio-Manguinhos/Fiocruz will be distributed under the National Immunization Program.⁵⁰⁰⁷

On 9 February 2021, the National Health Surveillance Agency decided that vaccines purchased by the Ministry of Health through COVAX are exempted from the requirement for registration and temporary authorization for emergency use.⁵⁰⁰⁸

On 21 March 2021, Brazil received 1,022,400 doses of COVID-19 vaccine through COVAX, a global effort by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The PAHO Revolving Fund, responsible for the procurement of vaccines against COVID-19 for the countries in the Americas, via the COVAX Mechanism, sent to Brazil the 1,022,400 doses of the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine – manufactured by SK Bioscience in Korea. The vaccines will be distributed according to the Brazilian Vaccination Plan.⁵⁰⁰⁹

On 30 April 2021, the National Health Surveillance Agency approved the production of the active pharmaceutical ingredient of the COVID-19 vaccine within the scope of technology transfer from AstraZeneca to the Instituto de Tecnologia em Immunobiologicos Bio-Manguinhos, from the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation.⁵⁰¹⁰

On 7 May 2021, Brazilian government welcomed the willingness of the United States to negotiate, within the scope of the World Trade Organization (WTO), a multilateral solution that contributes to the fight against COVID-19, as well as to intensify its efforts – together with the private sector and other interested parties – to increase the production and distribution of inputs and vaccines globally. Brazil stated that it shares the objective to provide safe and efficient vaccines to as many people as possible in the shortest possible time. The Brazilian government promised deepen, with flexibility, pragmatism and responsibility, consultations with all its international partners, as well as with the private sector, to develop the multilateral understandings necessary for the rapid and safe production

⁵⁰⁰⁷ Arrival of the IFA from China for the production, by the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), of vaccines against COVID-19 – Joint note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 6 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/chegada-do-ifa-da-china-para-a-producao-pela-fundacao-oswaldo-cruz-fiocruz-de-vacinas-contra-a-covid-19-nota-conjunta-do-ministerio-das-relacoes-exteriores-e-do-ministerio-da-saude

⁵⁰⁰⁸ Anvisa board dispenses emergency registration and authorization for vaccine from Covax Facility, Globo (Rio de Janeiro) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://g1.globo.com/bemestar/vacina/noticia/2021/02/09/diretoria-da-anvisa-dispensa-registro-e-autorizacao-emergencial-para-vacinas-do-covax-facility.ghtml>

⁵⁰⁰⁹ Brazil will receive the first vaccines against COVID-19 through the COVAX Mechanism, Pan American Health Organization (Washington, DC) 21 March 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/21-3-2021-brazil-will-receive-first-vaccines-against-covid-19-through-covax-mechanism>

⁵⁰¹⁰ Fiocruz is authorized to produce the AstraZeneca vaccine input, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/saude-e-vigilancia-sanitaria/2021/05/fiocruz-e-autorizada-a-produzir-o-insumo-da-vacina-astrazeneca>

and distribution of vaccines. In particular, Brazil will discuss, in greater depth, with the United States, its new position and its practical implications for facilitating ample and urgent access to vaccines and medicines in the fight against COVID-19. At the WTO, Brazil promised to continue to work with Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and with all the members to build a consensual and cooperative solution that will make it possible to accelerate the production and dissemination of vaccines against COVID-19 in the smallest possible term.⁵⁰¹¹

During the compliance period Brazil took actions to provide access to vaccines domestically and expressed readiness and support for international action, but no concrete actions to promote access to vaccines internationally were registered yet.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 14 December 2020, Minister of International Development Karina Gould announced the country's contribution of CAD230 million to procure COVID-19 treatments through the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A), and CAD255 million as additional support for the ACT-A for the effective deployment of medical solutions against COVID-19 in developing and vulnerable countries. The latter contribution included an investment in the development of a mechanism to equitably reallocate vaccine doses through COVAX.⁵⁰¹²

On 19 April 2020, the Government of Canada presented the Budget 2021.⁵⁰¹³ The budget provides for a CAD59.2 million investment into the University of Saskatchewan's Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) to help it develop and manufacture bio-solutions such as vaccines and therapeutics. This builds on previous investments in VIDO, totaling CAD46 million, to accelerate the development of its COVID-19 vaccine candidate, support research and enhance its vaccine manufacturing facilities.⁵⁰¹⁴

On 23 April 2021, Minister of Public Services and Procurement Anita Anand announced that Canada has secured COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer for 2022 and 2023, with options to extend into 2024.

⁵⁰¹¹ Vaccines and patents – Joint Note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/vacinas-e-patentes-2013-nota-conjunta-do-ministerio-das-relacoes-exteriores-do-ministerio-da-economia-do-ministerio-da-saude-e-do-ministerio-da-ciencia-tecnologia-e-inovacoes

⁵⁰¹² Canada announces additional support for equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-additional-support-for-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>

⁵⁰¹³ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>

⁵⁰¹⁴ Ministers Champagne, Joly and Carr highlight Budget 2021 biomanufacturing investments, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/04/ministers-champagne-joly-and-carr-highlight-budget-2021-biomanufacturing-investments.html>

The agreement guarantees access to 65 million doses of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine, with access to up to 120 million more if all options are exercised.⁵⁰¹⁵

On 29 April 2021, Minister of Health Patty Hajdu announced an investment of CAD2.25 million through the Immunization Partnership Fund for two projects to support national vaccination efforts. The projects include the University of Alberta's "ScienceUpFirst" and the University of Toronto's CARD (C-Comfort, A-Ask, R-Relax, D-Distract) System. These projects aim to ensure access to information on vaccination, as well as equip healthcare providers and Canadians with strategies to manage pain and fear during vaccination.⁵⁰¹⁶

Canada has taken measures to ensure access to vaccines both on national level and through international actions and partnerships.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

China: 0

China has partially complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 21 December 2020, China started the construction of a COVID-19 vaccine production facility which is expected to produce 120 million doses per year in its first phase. The production operation is due to begin in eight months.⁵⁰¹⁷

On 31 December 2020, it was announced that China had granted conditional marketing authorization for its first self-developed COVID-19 vaccine. It was also announced that the vaccines would be provided completely free of charge to all people of China.⁵⁰¹⁸

On 2 March 2021, the Chinese government assisted the Iraqi government with the delivery of the new COVID-19 vaccine to Baghdad. That was the first batch of the new COVID-19 vaccines received in Iraq after the outbreak.⁵⁰¹⁹

On 12 March 2021, Premier of the State Council Li Keqiang announced that the main goals for China in 2021 is to prevent COVID-19 cases and to work on speeding up vaccination.⁵⁰²⁰

On 6 April 2021, China began offering free COVID-19 vaccines to residents of Hong Kong and Macao who are Chinese nationals and are living on the Chinese mainland. It was also mentioned that

⁵⁰¹⁵ Government of Canada secures vaccine supply beyond 2021, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-secures-vaccine-supply-beyond-2021.html>.

⁵⁰¹⁶ Government of Canada funds two new projects to encourage vaccine uptake in Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada (Ottawa) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-funds-two-new-projects-to-encourage-vaccine-uptake-in-canada.html>.

⁵⁰¹⁷ China starts building COVID-19 vaccine production facility, Xinhua (Kunming), 21 December 2020. Access Date: 28 January 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202012/21/content_WS5fe0a036c6d0f7257694241c.html

⁵⁰¹⁸ Free for all! China's first COVID-19 vaccine was approved for marketing authorization. Injecting confidence during the global fight against the pandemic, Xinhua (Beijing), 31 December 2020. Access Date: 28 January 2021. http://www.xinhuanet.com/politics/2020-12/31/c_1126932380.htm

⁵⁰¹⁹ Ambassador Zhang Tao attended the handover ceremony of the new COVID-19 vaccine to Iraq, Embassy of People's Republic of China in the Republic of Iraq (Baghdad) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 3 March 2021. <http://iq.chineseembassy.org/chn/sghd/t1857880.htm>

⁵⁰²⁰ Government working report, Xinhua (Beijing) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/premier/2021-03/12/content_5592671.htm

they will also be entitled to the same treatment and reimbursement policies as mainland residents if they have adverse reactions after inoculation.⁵⁰²¹

On 11 April 2021, the Chinese government delivered the second batch of the COVID-19 vaccines to Iraq.⁵⁰²²

On 14 April 2021, it was announced that at the end of March the Chinese government has contributed RMB24 billion (approximately USD3.67 billion) to ensure the smooth rollout of COVID-19 vaccines. The funds were provided to vaccine buyers who then paid vaccine manufacturers in advance to help guarantee their operations.⁵⁰²³

China has taken action to ensure access to vaccines on domestic level but no actions on international level have been founded.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

France: +1

France has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 18 February 2021, it was reported that France pledged to donate 5 per cent of its secured Covid-19 vaccine supplies to poorer countries through COVAX, and called other developed countries to follow suit, and donate from 3-5 percent of their stocks to developing countries.⁵⁰²⁴

On 15 April 2021, France welcomed the finalization of a new agreement between COVAX and Team Europe on the provision of doses, which will ensure the first French and European donations via COVAX can materialize shortly.⁵⁰²⁵

On 19 February 2021, it was announced that the EU pledged to double its contribution to COVAX to EUR1 billion to ensure safe and effective vaccines for low- and middle-income countries.⁵⁰²⁶ On the same date, the G7 leaders issued a joint statement after a virtual summit pledged to intensify co-operation on COVID-19 and increase their contribution to the COVAX vaccine-sharing initiative to total USD7.5 billion.

⁵⁰²¹ Vaccines offered to Macao, HK people, China Daily (Beijing) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202104/08/content_WS606e3eb1c6d0719374afc2d3.html

⁵⁰²² Ambassador Zhang Tao attends the handover ceremony of the second batch of COVID-19 vaccines supplied by the Chinese government, Embassy of People's Republic of China in the Republic of Iraq (Baghdad) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <http://iq.chineseembassy.org/chn/sghd/t1868175.htm>

⁵⁰²³ Fund injection smooths out vaccine drive, China Daily (Beijing) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202104/15/content_WS60778e02c6d0df57f98d7d8d.html

⁵⁰²⁴ France to Donate 5% of Its Vaccine Doses to Poorer Countries, Bloomberg (New York City) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-18/france-to-donate-5-of-its-vaccine-doses-to-poorer-countries>

⁵⁰²⁵ Global leaders rally to accelerate access to COVID-19 vaccines for lower-income countries, ReliefWeb (New York City) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-leaders-rally-accelerate-access-covid-19-vaccines-lower-income-countries>

⁵⁰²⁶ EU doubles contribution to COVAX to €1 billion to ensure safe and effective vaccines for low and middle-income countries, European Commission (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_690

On 4 January 2021, France announced the government's pledge to accelerate vaccination campaigns starting with elderly people and health professionals, while recognizing criticism of delays due to logistical reasons.⁵⁰²⁷

By 23 March 2021, France had rolled out around 8.8 million doses. President Emmanuel Macron pledged to increase vaccination pace, offer vaccines to all people over 70 years old and open 35 mass vaccination centers across the country.⁵⁰²⁸ That pledge had taken form already in April 2021, when France reached its 10 million inoculations target a week earlier than expected, while daily vaccination after opening first mass vaccination centers exceeded 510,000 doses on 9 April 2021.⁵⁰²⁹

France has taken numerous important steps to contribute to affordable and equitable vaccine distribution both domestically and internationally.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 8 February 2021, the Federal Ministry of Health, in consultation with the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, issued the ordinance on the entitlement to vaccination against the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. It provides for the entitlement to vaccinations, vaccine surveillance procedures, partial financing of costs of vaccination centers, relevant evaluation measures and other aspects regulating access to COVID-19 vaccines within Germany.⁵⁰³⁰

On 19 February 2021, Chancellor Angela Merkel announced an additional EUR1.5 billion for measures to fight COVID-19. Of that, EUR1 billion is for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and its Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator. The rest of the funds is intended to strengthen the World Health Organization and research on vaccines, in particular with regard to mutations.⁵⁰³¹

Germany has taken measures to ensure access to vaccines both at national level and through international actions and partnerships. Thus, it receives a score of +1

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

⁵⁰²⁷ Coronavirus: French government vows to speed up vaccinations, BBC News (London) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55529240>

⁵⁰²⁸ Covid-19: Macron vows to accelerate vaccine rollout as cases 'explode', France24 (Paris) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210323-vaccinations-will-be-open-to-those-over-70-starting-saturday-macron-says>

⁵⁰²⁹ France and Germany's Covid vaccination programmes pick up speed, The Guardian (London) 10 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/apr/10/france-and-germanys-covid-vaccination-programmes-pick-up-speed>

⁵⁰³⁰ Ordinance on the entitlement to vaccination against the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus (Coronavirus-Impfverordnung – CoronalmpfV), Ministry of Health (Berlin) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/3_Downloads/C/Coronavirus/Verordnungen/CoronalmpfV_EN_080221.pdf

⁵⁰³¹ Germany makes available 1.5 billion euros to help fight COVID-19 in developing countries, Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/minister-mueller-zum-tag-gegen-kindersoldaten-59360>

India: 0

India has partially complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 29 November 2020, India provided another grant to the Department of Biotechnology for Research & Development of Indian COVID-19 vaccines. The important objectives of the fund will be accelerating pre-clinical & clinical development; licensure of COVID-19 vaccine candidates that are currently in clinical stages or ready to enter clinical stage of development, establishing clinical trial sites, and strengthening the existing immunoassay laboratories, central laboratories and suitable facilities for animal studies, production facilities and other testing facilities to support COVID-19 vaccine development.⁵⁰³²

On 16 January 2021, India launched the pan-India rollout of COVID-19 vaccination drive, the world's largest vaccination program covering the entire length and breadth of the country. A total of 3,006 session sites participated in the launch. During this phase, priority groups and health care workers were to be vaccinated.⁵⁰³³ Moreover, a 24/7 call center has been established for addressing the queries related to COVID-19 pandemic and the vaccine rollout.⁵⁰³⁴

On 13 March 2021, India, along with the United States, Australia and Japan, pledged to provide up to one billion vaccine doses to developing countries by the end of 2022 through financing vehicles that allow a substantial increase in production capacity in India.⁵⁰³⁵

On 1 April 2021, the Government of India decided to operationalize both public and private sector COVID-19 Vaccination Centers on all days of April. It has also decided that from 1 April the COVID-19 vaccination of people above the age of 45 will start.⁵⁰³⁶

India has taken actions to ensure access to vaccines on domestic level but no actions on international level were taken.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 21 December 2020, it was reported that Indonesia received the first shipment of China's Sinovac vaccine, which was under consideration by authorities for emergency use.⁵⁰³⁷ It was further reported,

⁵⁰³² Government Launches Mission COVID Suraksha to accelerate Indian COVID-19 Vaccine Development, Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 29 November 2020. Access Date: 1 February 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1676998>

⁵⁰³³ PM Launches pan India rollout of COVID-19 vaccination drive, Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 1 February 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1689021>

⁵⁰³⁴ PM Modi to launch Pan India Rollout of COVID-19 Vaccination drive, DD News, 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <http://ddnews.gov.in/national/pm-modi-launch-pan-india-rollout-covid-19-vaccination-drive>

⁵⁰³⁵ Leaders of "Quad" agree to aid vaccine delivery to developing nations, Kyodo (Tokyo) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/03/01a7efa9f9ac-1st-quad-summit-to-focus-on-covid-19-vaccines-with-eye-on-china.html>

⁵⁰³⁶ Update on COVID-19 Vaccination, Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 2021. Access Date: 7 April 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1708915>

⁵⁰³⁷ COVID-19 vaccine rollout in Indonesia faces multiple challenges, Marketplace (Jakarta) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.marketplace.org/2020/12/21/covid-19-vaccine-rollout-in-indonesia-faces-multiple-challenges/>

that Indonesia's vaccination strategy differed from most of the countries with prioritized front-line health workers, police and military and then – working age population (18-59 years old) so that the problem of asymptomatic transmission among the working-age population was solved. The ultimate goal of the government is to inoculate 181.5 million Indonesians by the end of 2020.⁵⁰³⁸

On 8 April 2021, it was reported that Indonesia had already received by that moment 56 million doses of Sinovac vaccine and was in talks with China to secure additional 90-100 million doses to substitute lagging deliveries of the AstraZeneca vaccine.⁵⁰³⁹ It was further reported that Indonesia would receive additional vaccine doses both from China (10 to 15 million doses in April and May 2021), and via COVAX (two shipments of 3.8 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccines).⁵⁰⁴⁰

Indonesia has taken action to ensure domestic vaccination rollout is executed smoothly and efficiently. However, it has not taken sufficient action internationally.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 2 December 2020, the Ministry of Health issued the document Elements of Preparation for the Vaccination Strategy, one of the two constituent parts of the National Strategic Vaccination Plan for the Prevention of the SARS-CoV-2 Infection. The document identified the values, principles, priorities, as well as logistical and organizational features of the national vaccination campaign.⁵⁰⁴¹

On 27 December 2020, after the approval by the European Medicines Agency, the anti-COVID-19 vaccination campaign started in Italy.⁵⁰⁴² Since 31 December 2020, the real-time data on the vaccination is available on-line. As of mid-May 2021, more than 8.5 million people were fully vaccinated in Italy.⁵⁰⁴³

On 2 January 2021, the National Strategic Vaccination Plan for the Prevention of the SARS-CoV-2 Infection was approved by the Ministry of Health of Italy.⁵⁰⁴⁴

⁵⁰³⁸ Indonesia receives second batch of Covid-19 vaccines from COVAX Facility, The Star (Jakarta) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.thestar.com.my/aseanplus/aseanplus-news/2021/04/27/indonesia-receives-second-batch-of-covid-19-vaccines-from-covax-facility>

⁵⁰³⁹ Indonesia turns to China for more vaccines after AstraZeneca delays, Reuters (Jakarta) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-indonesia-vaccine/indonesia-turns-to-china-for-more-vaccines-after-astrazeneca-delays-idUSKBN2BV0C3>

⁵⁰⁴⁰ Indonesia to get more COVID-19 vaccine doses from China, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/indonesia-to-get-more-covid-19-vaccine-doses-from-china/2221267>

⁵⁰⁴¹ Elements of preparation of the vaccination strategy, Italian Government (Rome) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/renderPdf.spring?seriegu=SG&datagu=24/03/2021&redaz=21A01802&artp=1&art=1&subart=1&subart1=10&vers=1&prog=002>

⁵⁰⁴² Anti Covid-10 vaccination campaign, Italian Government (Rome) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.governo.it/it/approfondimento/campagna-vaccinazione-anti-covid-19/16000>

⁵⁰⁴³ COVID-19 Vaccine Report, Italian Government (Rome) 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.governo.it/it/cscovid19/report-vaccini/>

⁵⁰⁴⁴ Presidency of the Council of Ministers – the Extraordinary Commissioner for the Implementation and Coordination of Measures to Contain and Fight the COVID-19 Epidemiology Emergency, Official Gazette (Rome) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2021/01/05/21A00042/sg>

On 10 March 2021, the Interim Recommendations on SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 Vaccination Target Groups were issued, updating the population categories to be vaccinated and the priorities of the National Strategic Vaccination Plan.⁵⁰⁴⁵

On 13 March 2021, the Vaccination Plan of the Extraordinary Commissioner for the Execution of the National Vaccination Campaign was released. Developed in accordance with the National Strategic Vaccination Plan, it sets the objective of achieving 500 thousand vaccinations a day and vaccinate at least 80 percent of the population by September 2021.⁵⁰⁴⁶

On 21 May 2021, on the margins of the Global Health Summit Italy has pledged EUR300 million to provide equitable access to vaccines in developing countries via COVAX AMC initiative.⁵⁰⁴⁷

Italy took steps to ensure access to vaccines on both national and international levels.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 4 December 2020, speaking at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga noted that Japan had responded rapidly to the call for contributions to the COVAX facility and would promote the supply of therapeutics through voluntary licensing of patents.⁵⁰⁴⁸

On 8 October 2020, Japan pledged USD130 million in funding to the Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance COVAX Advance Market Commitment to help accelerate and reserve COVID-19 vaccines for low- and middle-income countries, enabling lower income countries to reinforce equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.⁵⁰⁴⁹ Further, on 26 November 2020, it was reported that to that date Japan had pledged USD229 million to the vaccination pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) through the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment (out of initially planned USD2 billion fundraising goal for 2020).⁵⁰⁵⁰

On 27 February 2021, Japan reached agreement with Pfizer on shipments of sufficient amounts of both vaccine doses to inoculate 36 million elderly people by the end of June (with the biggest part of

⁵⁰⁴⁵ Interim Recommendations on SARS-CoV-2 / COVID-19 Vaccination Target Groups, Italian Government (Rome) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/renderPdf.spring?seriegu=SG&datagu=24/03/2021&redaz=21A01802&artp=1&art=1&subart=1&subart1=10&vers=1&prog=002>

⁵⁰⁴⁶ Vaccination Plan of the Extraordinary Commissioner, Italian Government (Rome) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. https://www.governo.it/sites/governo.it/files/210313_Piano_Vaccinale_marzo_2021_1.pdf

⁵⁰⁴⁷ L'intervento di apertura del Presidente Draghi al Global Health Summit, Governo Italiano Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri (Rome) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 15 July 2021. <https://www.governo.it/node/16920>

⁵⁰⁴⁸ Address by Prime Minister SUGA at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e_000292.html

⁵⁰⁴⁹ Japan pledges US\$ 130 million to support global access to COVID-19 vaccines, Gavi (Geneva) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/japan-pledges-us-130-million-support-global-access-covid-19-vaccines>

⁵⁰⁵⁰ Japan's Contribution to the Act-A Program: Reaffirming Japan's Global Leadership, Eurasia Group (New York City) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/act-accelerator/2020-japan-participation-in-the-act-a-program-11_26_2020.pdf

vaccines starting to arrive in May 2021), and another 36 million people by the end of 2021 (144 million doses in total).⁵⁰⁵¹

On 10 March 2021, it was reported that Japan would provide USD41 million worth aid to 25 Asian and Pacific Islands nations to help them build a cold-chain distributions network for COVID-19 vaccines.⁵⁰⁵²

On 13 March 2021, Japan, along with the United States, Australia and India, pledged to provide up to one billion vaccine doses to developing countries by the end of 2022 through financing vehicles that allow a substantial increase in production capacity in India.⁵⁰⁵³

Japan has taken numerous important steps to contribute to affordable and equitable vaccine distribution both domestically and internationally.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 25 February 2021, Korea has initiated a nation-wide vaccination campaign. The campaign is based on vaccine batches produced by AstraZeneca. The government plans to immunize at least 10 million high-risk people by July 2021.⁵⁰⁵⁴

On 11 March 2021, the Disease Control and Prevention Agency approved usage of AstraZeneca vaccine for elderly population that had been prohibited due to lack of clinical data.⁵⁰⁵⁵

On 27 April 2021, Korea announced its intention to provide India with medical equipment. South Korea would send oxygen concentrators, COVID-19 diagnostic kits and other supplies to help the South Asian country in its fight against the coronavirus infection.⁵⁰⁵⁶

On 12 May 2021, the Government of Korea amended the national vaccination plan for the Q2 2021. According to the amended plan, vaccination would cover the 60-64 age group; people under 30 would receive the Pfizer-made vaccine.⁵⁰⁵⁷

⁵⁰⁵¹ Japan says it will have enough vaccine for 36m seniors by June, Nikkei Asia (Tokyo) 27 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Coronavirus/Japan-says-it-will-have-enough-vaccine-for-36m-seniors-by-June>

⁵⁰⁵² Japan to give \$41 million aid to Asian nations over vaccine supply, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/03/09/japan-to-give-41-million-aid-to-asian-nations-over-vaccine-supply.html>

⁵⁰⁵³ Leaders of "Quad" agree to aid vaccine delivery to developing nations, Kyodo (Tokyo) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/03/01a7efa9f9ac-1st-quad-summit-to-focus-on-covid-19-vaccines-with-eye-on-china.html>

⁵⁰⁵⁴ South Korea kicks off COVID-19 vaccination campaign, Reuters (Seoul) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-southkorea-idUSKBN2AQ02L>

⁵⁰⁵⁵ S. Korea approves AstraZeneca vaccine for over-65s, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210310009100320>

⁵⁰⁵⁶ The Latest: S Korea to send medical items to help India, Associated Press (Seoul) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/technology-pandemics-europe-india-coronavirus-pandemic-adb43be663e6db0ec638f1acf376735>

⁵⁰⁵⁷ The 60-64 Age Group Is Included in the Q2 Vaccination Plan, with People under 30 to Receive Pfizer Shots, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Seoul) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=100701&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=365646

On 12 May 2021, Korea and New Zealand held an intra-ministerial videocall. The parties discussed issues related to bilateral cooperation including coordination to ensure equitable access to vaccines under the COVAX Facility.⁵⁰⁵⁸

Korea takes actions to ensure affordable and equitable access to vaccines both domestically and internationally.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 3 January 2021, it was announced that Mexico plans to import about 870,000 doses of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine from India in February, as well as producing it locally.⁵⁰⁵⁹

On 4 February 2021, as President pro tempore of the Community Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Government of Mexico took part in a ministerial meeting on "Promoting equitable access to COVID-19 tools in Latin America and the Caribbean through the ACT-Accelerator (ACT-A)." The World Health Organization (WHO) participated in and supported the meeting. The goal of the meeting was to strengthen the region's communication with the WHO, and to learn first-hand the achievements of the ACT-A, a partnership launched by WHO in April 2020. The participants also discussed current challenges and how to advance regional cooperation to meet the goals of the ACT-A, without leaving anyone behind. The ACT-A has driven global cooperation to develop effective vaccines, identify treatments and other tools to fight COVID-19 effectively, including the COVID-19 Global Vaccine Alliance (COVAX) facility.⁵⁰⁶⁰

On 24 February 2021, the Government of Mexico received a first shipment of 200,000 doses of the Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine produced in Russia by the Gamaleya National Research Center of Epidemiology and Microbiology. These are the first doses of a total of 24 million that Mexico has contracted to purchase through the Russian Direct Investment Fund. They will enable 12 million people to be vaccinated.⁵⁰⁶¹

On 24 February 2021, Social Security Institute for the Mexican Armed Forces explained the procedure for the vaccination for the people older than 60 years. It provides the information on registration process and explains the benefits of getting the vaccine.⁵⁰⁶²

During the compliance period Mexico took actions to provide access to vaccines domestically and expressed readiness and support for international action, but no concrete actions to promote access to vaccines internationally were registered yet.

⁵⁰⁵⁸ S. Korea, New Zealand discuss cooperation in vaccines, hydrogen technologies, Yonhap News (Seoul) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210512009000325>

⁵⁰⁵⁹ Mexico to import AstraZeneca vaccine from India, president says, Reuters (Mexico City) 3 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-healthcare-coronavirus-mexico-vaccine-idUSKBN29Z067>

⁵⁰⁶⁰ CELAC promotes solidarity and equitable access to vaccines and supplies to combat Covid-19, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/celac-promotes-solidarity-and-equitable-access-to-vaccines-and-supplies-to-combat-covid-19?idiom=en>

⁵⁰⁶¹ The Government of Mexico receives first 200,000 doses of Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine from Russia, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/the-government-of-mexico-receives-first-200-000-doses-of-sputnik-v-covid-19-vaccine-from-russia>

⁵⁰⁶² Como registrarse para ser vacunado contra el COVID-19, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 24 February 2021.

Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/issfam/articulos/como-registrarse-para-ser-vacuna-contra-el-covid-19>

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 26 December 2020, the Ministry of Health approved the Sputnik V vaccine for treatment of patients older than 60. The vaccine proved its safety and more than 90 per cent efficiency and thus might be used to protect vulnerable population amid pandemic.⁵⁰⁶³

On 29 December 2020, Russia has delivered the first batch of Sputnik V vaccine to Belarus. Russian vaccine is said to be the primary component of Belarus-wide vaccination campaign.⁵⁰⁶⁴

On 10 February 2021, Russia and Iran discussed issues of bilateral cooperation in health sphere. The meeting's agenda included treatment of COVID-19 infection along with plans to start production of Sputnik V vaccine in Iran.⁵⁰⁶⁵

On 20 February 2021, the Ministry of Health approved the third Russian-made vaccine against COVID-19. KoviVak vaccine has proved its efficiency during the pre-launch testing; however, further testing would be conducted after the formal approval.⁵⁰⁶⁶

On 15 April 2021, the Direct Investment Fund reached an agreement with Korean GL Rapha and ISU ABXIS on production of Sputnik V vaccine for export. On Korea's side, six other companies besides GL Rapha and ISU ABXIS would join the agreement.⁵⁰⁶⁷

On 23 April 2021, Russia delivered the first batch of Sputnik V vaccine to Uzbekistan. The shipment was affected by the Russian Direct Investment Fund. Uzbekistan started the nation-wide vaccination company on the 1 April 2021; on 17 April 2021, Uzbekistan control authorities approved Sputnik V for local use.⁵⁰⁶⁸

⁵⁰⁶³ Ministry of Health Approved 'Sputnik V' for Vaccination of Elderly Population, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow). Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2020/12/26/15765-minzdrav-rf-odobril-primeneniye-vaktsiny-sputnik-v-dlya-lyudey-starshe-60-let>

⁵⁰⁶⁴ M. Murashko Comments on 'Sputnik V' Vaccine Supplies to Belarus, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2020/12/29/15778-mihail-murashko-prokommentiroval-nachalo-postavok-vaktsiny-sputnik-v-v-belorussiyu>

⁵⁰⁶⁵ Ministry of Health Discussed Cooperation with Iran in healthcare and 'Sputnik V' Production, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow) Access Date: <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2021/02/10/16064-v-minzdrave-obsudili-voprosy-sotrudnichestva-s-iranom-v-sfere-zdravoohraneniya-i-organizatsii-proizvodstva-vaktsiny-sputnik-v>

⁵⁰⁶⁶ Ministry of Health Approved the Third COVID-19 Vaccine, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow). Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2021/02/20/16138-minzdrav-rossii-zaregistroval-tretyu-rossiyskuyu-vaktsinu-ot-covid-19>

⁵⁰⁶⁷ RDIF, GL Rapha and ISU ABXIS Agreed on Production of 'Sputnik V' Vaccine in Korea, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. https://minpromtorg.gov.ru/press-centre/news/#!rfpi_gl_rapha_i_isu_abxis_obyavlyayut_o_sotrudnichestve_dlya_proizvodstva_vakciny_sputnik_v_v_koree

⁵⁰⁶⁸ Russia Delivered the First Batch of Vaccines to Uzbekistan, Gazeta.ru (Moscow) Access Date: 7 May 2021.

https://www.gazeta.ru/tags/organization/rossiiskii_fond_pryamyh_investitsii.shtml

On 6 May 2021, the Ministry of Health approved the fourth Russian-made vaccine against COVID-19. Sputnik Lite is a one-component vaccine that demonstrated 100 per cent efficiency in forming cell-immunity against COVID-19.⁵⁰⁶⁹

Russia takes actions to ensure affordable and equitable access to vaccines both domestically and internationally.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 11 April 2021, second dose appointments for COVID-19 vaccination were postponed broadening the coverage of the population who can get their first vaccine dose.⁵⁰⁷⁰

On 22 April 2021, more appointments for vaccination were made available in the cities of Riyadh and Jeddah per request from the citizens.⁵⁰⁷¹

Saudi Arabia has taken steps to ensure affordable and equitable access to vaccines both domestically. However, it has taken insufficient actions internationally.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives the score of 0.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 16 February 2021, South Africa received the first delivery of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Shortly before that the Health Product Authority approved the vaccine for local usage.⁵⁰⁷²

On 17 February 2021, South Africa started a nationwide vaccination program using the Oxford-AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson vaccines.⁵⁰⁷³ The government plans to immunize 67 per cent of the population by the end 2021.⁵⁰⁷⁴

⁵⁰⁶⁹ Ministry of Health Approved the Fourth COVID-19 Vaccine Made in Russia, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow) Access Date: 7 May 2021. <https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2021/05/06/16566-minzdrav-zaregistroval-chetvertuyu-rossiyskuyu-vaktsinu-ot-covid-19>

⁵⁰⁷⁰ Saudi Arabia postpones second COVID-19 dose reservations, Arab News (Riyadh) 11 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1840891/saudi-arabia>

⁵⁰⁷¹ Saudi Arabia increases Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines to cater for demand, The National (Riyadh) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/gulf/saudi-arabia/saudi-arabia-increases-pfizer-biontech-vaccines-to-cater-for-demand-1.1208479>

⁵⁰⁷² Government receives Johnson & Johnson Coronavirus COVID-19 vaccine, 16 Feb, South African Government (Pretoria) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-receives-johnson-johnson-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine-16-feb-16-feb-2021-0000>

⁵⁰⁷³ Coronavirus: South Africa rolls out vaccination programme, BBC News (London) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-55675806>.

⁵⁰⁷⁴ COVID-19 Coronavirus vaccine strategy, South African Government (Pretoria) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/covid-19/vaccine/strategy>

On 6 April 2021, South Africa signed a deal for 20 million Pfizer vaccine doses to be delivered later in April. With Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccine deliveries combined, South Africa has secured enough doses to reach the goals of national vaccination campaign.⁵⁰⁷⁵

On 9 April 2021, the Department of Science and Innovation announced that the government would allocate ZAR25 million (approximately USD1.7 million) to the Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa to continue with health threats researches.⁵⁰⁷⁶

South Africa has taken actions to ensure affordable and equitable access to vaccines domestically, but no action aimed at better distribution vaccines internationally has been found within the monitoring period.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 11 January 2021, the start of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Turkey was announced following the agreement to purchase 50 million doses of Sinovac's CoronaVac vaccine and delivery of initial 3 million doses, as well as agreement to procure 4.5 million doses of the vaccine developed by Pfizer and BioNTech, with an option to procure 30 million more doses later.⁵⁰⁷⁷

On 17 March 2021, Turkey pledged to donate 30,000 coronavirus vaccines to Bosnia and Herzegovina as an outcome of the two countries' summit;⁵⁰⁷⁸ further, on 17 April 2021, Ankara had already sent two shipments of 10,000 vaccines to Bosnia in line with the above agreement.⁵⁰⁷⁹

On 4 April 2021, Turkey ranked sixth globally in terms of administered COVID-19 vaccines (16.6 million doses, 9.5 million people to that date had received their first doses, while second doses had been given to over 7.13 million) following the U.S., China, India, the U.K. and Brazil.⁵⁰⁸⁰ Having concluded the first stage of vaccination rollout (critical front-line health care staff, people over the age of 65, elderly and disabled adults living in crowded places and those living at nursing homes), on 19 April 2021 Turkey started the second stage with turning to vaccinate the population aged 55 and older.⁵⁰⁸¹

⁵⁰⁷⁵ South Africa signs deal for 20 million Pfizer vaccine doses, Reuters (Johannesburg) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-safrica-pfizer-idUSKBN2BT13M>

⁵⁰⁷⁶ Government allocates more for research on health threats, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-allocates-more-research-health-threats>

⁵⁰⁷⁷ Turkey to start Covid-19 vaccination this week – latest updates, TRT Online (Istanbul) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.trtworld.com/life/turkey-to-start-covid-19-vaccination-this-week-latest-updates-43137>

⁵⁰⁷⁸ Turkey to donate 30,000 Doses of Vaccines to Bosnia, Sarajevo Times (Sarajevo) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <http://www.sarajevotimes.com/turkey-to-donate-30000-doses-of-vaccines-to-bosnia/>

⁵⁰⁷⁹ Turkey donates 10,000 more vaccine doses to Bosnia, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 17 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/health/turkey-donates-10-000-more-vaccine-doses-to-bosnia/2212159>

⁵⁰⁸⁰ Turkey ranks 6th globally in COVID-19 vaccination numbers, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 4 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/turkey-ranks-6th-globally-in-covid-19-vaccination-numbers/news>

⁵⁰⁸¹ Turkey enters new phase of COVID-19 vaccination, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/latest-on-coronavirus-outbreak/turkey-enters-new-phase-of-covid-19-vaccination/2213781>

On 9 April 2021, it was reported that the studies for Turkey's seven vaccine candidates had progressed, with three of them in the human trial stage.⁵⁰⁸²

On 14 April 2021, it was reported that Turkey had delivered its donation of 150,000 Covid-19 vaccine doses to Libya.⁵⁰⁸³

On 21 April 2021, it was reported that the first batch of vaccines allocated through COVAX facility (53,800 AstraZeneca doses) had been delivered to Syria's Idlib region with Turkey's assistance.⁵⁰⁸⁴

On 26 April 2021, it was reported that Turkey's pharmaceutical firm Viscoran İlaç would mass-produce Russia's Sputnik V vaccine at its plants, with manufacturing to be launched within months; in addition to production agreements, licensing processes, as well as storage and distribution matters, the execution of some clinical studies on the product would also be part of cooperation between Russia and Turkey.⁵⁰⁸⁵

Turkey has taken a number of important steps to contribute to affordable and equitable access to vaccines both domestically and internationally.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 15 December 2020, the UK government published the Spending Review 2020. The document made available GBP6 billion in total to research and procure COVID-19 vaccines.⁵⁰⁸⁶

On 3 March 2021, the details of the new UK budget were published. An extra GBP1.65 billion will be spent on the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out in England. GBP28 million were allocated to increase the UK's capacity for vaccine testing, support for clinical trials and improve the UK's ability to rapidly acquire samples of new variants of COVID-19. GBP22 million will be spent on a study to test the effectiveness of combinations of different COVID-19 vaccines. This will also fund the world's first study assessing the effectiveness of a third dose of vaccine to improve the response against current and future variants of COVID-19. A further GBP5 million on top of a previous GBP9 million will be invested to create a 'library' of vaccines that will work against Covid-19 variants for possible rapid response deployment.⁵⁰⁸⁷

⁵⁰⁸² Turkey says 3 Covid-19 vaccines in human trial stage – latest updates, TRT Online (Istanbul) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.trtworld.com/life/turkey-says-3-covid-19-vaccines-in-human-trial-stage-latest-updates-45736>

⁵⁰⁸³ Turkey sends COVID-19 vaccine donation to Libya, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkey-sends-covid-19-vaccine-donation-to-libya/2208746>

⁵⁰⁸⁴ 1st batch of COVID-19 vaccines arrive in Syria's Idlib through Turkey, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/world/syrian-crisis/1st-batch-of-covid-19-vaccines-arrive-in-syrias-idlib-through-turkey>

⁵⁰⁸⁵ Turkish firm to produce Russia's Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/turkish-firm-to-produce-russias-sputnik-v-covid-19-vaccine/news>

⁵⁰⁸⁶ Spending Review 2020, Her Majesty's Treasury (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spending-review-2020-documents/spending-review-2020>

⁵⁰⁸⁷ Budget 2021: What you need to know, UK Government (London) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/budget-2021-what-you-need-to-know>

On 10 March 2021, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab announced that the UK had helped to raise USD1 billion for the coronavirus COVAX Advance Market Commitment through match-funding other donors, which combined with the GBP548 million of UK aid pledged can help distribute one billion doses of coronavirus vaccines to 92 developing countries in 2021.⁵⁰⁸⁸

The United Kingdom has taken measures to ensure access to vaccines both at national level and through international actions and partnerships.

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

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 21 January 2021, President Joseph Biden issued the National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness. Among the goals set by the initiative were: “to mount a safe, effective, and comprehensive vaccination campaign;” “mitigate spread through expanding masking, testing, data, treatments, health care workforce, and clear public health standards;” and “restore U.S. leadership globally and build better preparedness for future threats.”⁵⁰⁸⁹

On 19 February 2021, President Biden announced the United States’ intention to provide USD4 billion, with the initial transfer of USD2 billion, to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, supporting the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment to provide COVID-19 vaccines to 92 low- and middle-income countries.⁵⁰⁹⁰

On 13 March 2021, the US, along with Japan, Australia and India, pledged to provide up to one billion vaccine doses to developing countries by the end of 2022 through financing vehicles that allow a substantial increase in production capacity in India.⁵⁰⁹¹

On 4 May 2021, President Biden announced the interim results of the national vaccination campaign. According to his speech, by May 2021 almost 150 million US nationals had been partially vaccinated, and further 105 million – fully vaccinated. He also announced the targets for the second phase of the campaign: vaccinating children between 12 and 15 years if age; increasing the convenience of vaccination; and encouraging public confidence in vaccines.⁵⁰⁹²

⁵⁰⁸⁸ UK meets £250m match aid target into COVAX, the global vaccines facility, UK Government (London) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-raises-1bn-so-vulnerable-countries-can-get-vaccine#history>

⁵⁰⁸⁹ National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness, the White House (Washington, DC) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/National-Strategy-for-the-COVID-19-Response-and-Pandemic-Preparedness.pdf>

⁵⁰⁹⁰ USAID To Provide Initial \$2 Billion to Propel Global Access to COVID-19 Vaccines, USAID (Washington, DC) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/feb-19-2021-usaid-provide-initial-2-billion-propel-global-access-covid-19>

⁵⁰⁹¹ Leaders of "Quad" agree to aid vaccine delivery to developing nations, Kyodo (Tokyo) 13 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/03/01a7efa9f9ac-1st-quad-summit-to-focus-on-covid-19-vaccines-with-eye-on-china.html>

⁵⁰⁹² Remarks by President Biden on the COVID-19 Response and the Vaccination Program, the White House (Washington, DC) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/05/04/remarks-by-president-biden-on-the-covid-19-response-and-the-vaccination-program/>

On 5 May 2021, the Agency for International Development Administrator Samantha Power stated that the US was “exploring both multilateral and bilateral approaches to share” “up to 60 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccines with partner countries.”⁵⁰⁹³

The United States took measures to ensure access to vaccines both on national level and through international actions and partnerships.

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

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to ensure affordable and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines.

On 25 November 2020, the European Commission signed the Advanced Purchase Agreement with Moderna providing for the initial purchase of 80 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine on behalf of all EU Member States, plus an option to request up to a further 80 million doses.⁵⁰⁹⁴

On 15 December 2020, the Commission decided to purchase 80 million additional doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.⁵⁰⁹⁵

On 15 December 2020, the European Investment Bank agreed EUR400 million of financing to support the participation of low- and middle-income economies in COVAX Advance Market Commitment.⁵⁰⁹⁶

On 19 January 2021, the European Commission adopted a Communication calling on member states to speed up the roll out of vaccines across the EU. According to this document, by the end of March 2021, at least 80 per cent of people over the age of 80, and 80 percent of health and social care professionals in every EU member state should have get vaccinated. By summer 2021, member states should have vaccinated a minimum of 70 per cent of the entire adult population.⁵⁰⁹⁷

On 4 February 2021, the European Commission set up a taskforce under the authority of the Commissioner for the Internal Market Thierry Breton, in cooperation with the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Stella Kyriakides. The Task Force aims to ramp up production capacity for vaccines, acting as a one-stop-shop for manufacturers in need of support, and to identify and address bottlenecks in terms of capacity and supply chain.⁵⁰⁹⁸

⁵⁰⁹³ Administrator Samantha Power’s Intervention G7 Ministerial Session Sustainable Recovery Session Part 1: Health and Vaccines, USAID (Washington, DC) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/node/404771>

⁵⁰⁹⁴ Coronavirus: Commission approves contract with Moderna to ensure access to a potential vaccine, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2200

⁵⁰⁹⁵ COMMISSION DECISION of 15.12.2020 on implementing Advance Purchase Agreements on COVID-19 vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/commission-decision-implementing-advance-purchase-agreements-covid-19-vaccines.pdf>

⁵⁰⁹⁶ Team Europe contributes €500 million to COVAX initiative to provide one billion COVID-19 vaccine doses for low and middle income countries, European Commission (Brussels) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/team-europe-contributes-eu500-million-covax-initiative-provide-one-billion-covid-19-vaccine_en

⁵⁰⁹⁷ Commission sets out key actions for a united front to beat COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_143

⁵⁰⁹⁸ EU Vaccines Strategy, European Commission (Brussels) Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/public-health/eu-vaccines-strategy_en

On 17 February 2021, the European Commission approved a second contract with Moderna, which provides for an additional purchase of 300 million doses (150 million in 2021 and an option to purchase an additional 150 million in 2022) on behalf of all EU member states.⁵⁰⁹⁹

On 19 February 2021, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen announced EUR100 million in humanitarian assistance to support the rollout of vaccination campaigns in Africa, which are spearheaded by the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The funding will, among others, contribute to ensuring the cold chains, roll-out registration programs, training of medical and support staff as well as logistics.⁵¹⁰⁰

On 19 February 2021, the EU announced an additional EUR500 million for the COVAX Facility, thus doubling its contribution to this global initiative.⁵¹⁰¹

On 10 March 2021, the European Commission reached an agreement with BioNTech-Pfizer for the supply of 4 million more doses of COVID-19 vaccines for member states to tackle coronavirus hotspots and to facilitate free movement across borders. These doses come on top of the schedule of deliveries previously agreed between member states and BioNTech-Pfizer.⁵¹⁰²

The European Union has taken measures to ensure access to vaccines both at national level and through international actions and partnerships.

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

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

⁵⁰⁹⁹ Coronavirus: Commission approves second contract with Moderna to ensure up to additional 300 million doses, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_655

⁵¹⁰⁰ G7: EU to support COVID-19 vaccination strategies and capacity in Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/g7-eu-support-covid-19-vaccination-strategies-and-capacity-africa_en

⁵¹⁰¹ EU doubles contribution to COVAX to €1 billion to ensure safe and effective vaccines for low and middle-income countries, European Commission (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/eu-doubles-contribution-covax-eu1-billion-ensure-safe-and-effective-vaccines-low-and-middle_en

⁵¹⁰² Commission supports Member States in tackling coronavirus hotspots with offer of four million additional doses of BioNTech-Pfizer vaccine to be delivered this month, European Commission (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1101

17. Energy: Fossil Fuels

“We reaffirm our joint commitment on medium term rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, while providing targeted support for the poorest.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina	-1		
Australia	-1		
Brazil		0	
Canada			+1
China			+1
France	-1		
Germany			+1
India		0	
Indonesia			+1
Italy			+1
Japan		0	
Korea			+1
Mexico	-1		
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia	-1		
South Africa		0	
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States	-1		
European Union			+1
Average		+0.10 (55%)	

Background

G20 leaders first addressed the issue surrounding energy security and climate change in its inaugural Washington Summit in 2008 amid rising concerns over global warming.⁵¹⁰³ The commitment is further emphasized and elaborated at the 2009 Pittsburgh Summit, where G20 leaders committed to “phase out and rationalize over the medium term inefficient fossil fuel subsidies while providing targeted support for the poorest.”⁵¹⁰⁴ Since then, this statement has been reiterated in every subsequent summit, highlighting the importance of inefficient energy reduction, clean energy development as well as the need to provide necessary support for developing and underdeveloped countries.

At the 2009 Pittsburgh Summit, G20 leaders included the work of finance and energy ministers in delivering “implementation strategies and timeline for acting” to assist the rationalization and

⁵¹⁰³ Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, 2008 Washington Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2008. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2008/2008declaration1115.html>

⁵¹⁰⁴ G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0925.html>

phasing-out over inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.⁵¹⁰⁵ Furthermore, G20 leaders called attention to assisting low-income countries in bringing clean, affordable energy replacement through programs such as the “Scaling Up Renewable Energy Program.”⁵¹⁰⁶

At the 2010 Toronto Summit, G20 leaders incorporated reports on energy subsidies from the International Energy Agency (IEA), Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as well as the World Bank in monitoring inefficient fossil fuel subsidies reduction.⁵¹⁰⁷

At the 2010 Seoul Summit, G20 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to implement strategies to rationalize and reduce the use of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.⁵¹⁰⁸ At the subsequent 2011 Cannes Summit, G20 Leaders highlighted the importance of improving the functioning of the energy market as part of their strategy to reduce inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.⁵¹⁰⁹ The leaders continued to welcome joint reports from the IEA, OPEC, OECD and the World Bank on fossil fuels and other forms of energy measurements.

During the 2013 Petersburg Summit, G20 leaders highlighted the importance of “providing those in need with essential energy services.”⁵¹¹⁰ The statement underscored the importance of forming an inclusive global environment surrounding energy transformation where necessary to ensure help is provided for low-income countries.

At the 2015 Antalya Summit, G20 leaders reaffirmed the goal of “below 2°C” as stated in the Lima Call for Action.⁵¹¹¹ The Summit encouraged all G20 members to submit their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in preparation for the upcoming Paris Conference.⁵¹¹² The subsequent 2016 Hangzhou Summit further encouraged G20 members to participate in “voluntary peer review process” as a way of monitoring fossil emissions.⁵¹¹³ Furthermore, G20 leaders adopted the Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.⁵¹¹⁴

The 2017 Hamburg Summit took note of the United States of America’s decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement while reiterating the significance of international cooperation as a way to achieve

⁵¹⁰⁵ G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0925.html>

⁵¹⁰⁶ G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0925.html>

⁵¹⁰⁷ The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communique.html>

⁵¹⁰⁸ G20 Seoul Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 November 2010. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/g20seoul.html>

⁵¹⁰⁹ Cannes Summit Final Declaration – Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

⁵¹¹⁰ G20 Leaders Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

⁵¹¹¹ G20 Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communique.html>

⁵¹¹² G20 Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communique.html>

⁵¹¹³ 2016 Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2016hangzhou.html>

⁵¹¹⁴ 2016 Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2016hangzhou.html>

the deployment of clean and renewable energy.⁵¹¹⁵ The subsequent 2018 Buenos Aires Summit reiterated the United States' decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement while affirming its commitment to “economic growth and energy access and security, utilizing all energy sources and technologies, while protecting the environment.”⁵¹¹⁶

At the subsequent 2019 Osaka Summit, the “3E+S” (Energy Security, Economic Efficiency, and Environment + Safety) energy transformation program is highlighted.⁵¹¹⁷ Furthermore, G20 leaders recognized the role of international cooperation in relation to “energy access, affordability and energy efficiency, and energy storage,” while reaffirming the commitment to rationalize and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.⁵¹¹⁸

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, G20 leaders recapitulated the goal of providing affordable, reliable and clean energy for all “in accordance with national circumstances” such as access to clean cooking and electricity.⁵¹¹⁹ Furthermore, G20 leaders acknowledged the importance of maintaining an undisrupted energy market while welcoming “recommendations of the Energy Focus Group (EFG), as endorsed by the Energy Ministers party to the EFG, to rebalance the energy markets and continue short and long-term investments.”⁵¹²⁰

Commitment Features

To define the key terms of this commitment, reaffirm is understood as “affirm again” while affirm is defined as “to assert strongly, state as fact, confirm or ratify a judgment.”⁵¹²¹ To reaffirm the commitment requires the G20 members to continue rationalizing and phasing-out inefficient fossil fuels subsidies, while providing targeted support to the poorest.

“Rationalization” is understood to be facilitated by various factors. To achieve the goal of “medium term rationalization,” the G20 member must fulfill one of the requirements including “(i) identify and quantify all fossil fuel consumer subsidies and one type of fossil fuel producer subsidies; (ii) use a range of economic models to project the impacts of reform in each country across the economy, households, businesses, the energy sector and the environment, including an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the models themselves; and (iii) assess the capacity of existing social protection systems in each country to mitigate the impacts of fossil fuel subsidy reforms.”⁵¹²²

“Phasing-out” refers “to bring or come to an end, one stage at a time.”⁵¹²³ Therefore, to achieve the goal of phasing out on medium term rationalization G20 members are required to take positive actions that will result in a statistically significant reduction of fossil fuel production and

⁵¹¹⁵ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁵¹¹⁶ G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2018buenosaires.html>

⁵¹¹⁷ G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

⁵¹¹⁸ G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

⁵¹¹⁹ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁵¹²⁰ Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁵¹²¹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁵¹²² Assessment and Implications of Rationalizing and Phasing Out Fossil Fuels Subsidies, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) 2015. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.iisd.org/projects/assessment-and-implications-rationalizing-and-phasing-out-fossil-fuel-subsidies>

⁵¹²³ Compliance Coding Manual for International Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

consumption. “Inefficient” refers to “not producing the effect intended or desired.”⁵¹²⁴ This includes fossil fuel subsidies that result in the reduction of energy security and undermine efforts in fighting climate change.

G20 members have not agreed on the criteria for “inefficient fossil fuel subsidies,” as “fossil fuel consumption subsidies are unique in every country and are subject to energy policies designed to adhere to a set of priorities and needs specific to each country.”⁵¹²⁵ As such, each G20 member has adopted their own definition of what inefficient fossil fuel subsidies are. Since the commitment at the 2009 Pittsburgh Summit, several G20 members have engaged in the voluntary peer review process on the reform of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies. As of March 2021, China, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico and the United States have published their peer reviews, while Canada and Argentina are undergoing their own.^{5126,5127}

“Subsidy” refers to “financial aid given by the government to individuals or groups.”⁵¹²⁸ Fossil fuel subsidy is understood as “a form of financial assistance paid to fossil fuel producers or consumers.”⁵¹²⁹ This includes any financial support or monetary fund given to large fossil fuel companies, oil companies as well as natural gas companies.

The term “wasteful” is understood as “not being careful about the amount of resources used for something.” In the context of this commitment, it refers to the utilization of fossil fuels despite the threat they pose to the environment, creating intense carbon emissions that ultimately exacerbate climate change.⁵¹³⁰ The term “providing” is understood as “to supply or make available (something wanted or needed).”⁵¹³¹

The term “target” is understood as commitments referring to “a set goal, percentage or numerical allocation” and “support” is understood as “the action, or act of providing aid, assistance, or backing up an initiative, or entity.”⁵¹³² Therefore, to provide targeted support means that the G20 member is required to take actions that will result in a statistically significant change in areas such as investments in green development, infrastructure, and cooking practices. The “poorest” refer to the demographic of low-income people who are lacking in income, such as the working poor, or those living in poverty and extreme poverty. This relates to low-income people and those living in poverty in every country: the poorest people in their own societies. Those who are the poorest in any country are “lacking enough resources to provide the necessities of life – food, clean water, shelter and clothing. But in today’s world, that can be extended to include access to health care, education and even

⁵¹²⁴ Compliance Coding Manual for International Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁵¹²⁵ Update on recent progress in reform of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Tokyo) 19 April 2019. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

⁵¹²⁶ OECD-IEA Analysis of Fossil Fuels Support, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Paris) n.d. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <http://www.oecd.org/fossil-fuels/publication/>

⁵¹²⁷ Canada and Argentina to Undergo Peer Reviews of Inefficient Fossil Fuel Subsidies, Government of Canada (Bariloche) 14 June 2018. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2018/06/canada-and-argentina-to-undergo-peer-reviews-of-inefficient-fossil-fuel-subsidies.html>

⁵¹²⁸ Compliance Coding Manual for International Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁵¹²⁹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁵¹³⁰ Wasteful, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/wasteful?q=wasteful+>

⁵¹³¹ Provide, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/wasteful>

⁵¹³² Compliance Coding Manual for International Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

transportation.⁵¹³³ With regards to this commitment, the G20 member must specifically take into consideration the struggles of the poorest people of the population when phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies as it can disproportionately impact them. Therefore, the rationalization and phasing out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies must occur in parallel to mitigating policies that ensure affordable energy access.⁵¹³⁴

In order to achieve full compliance, G20 members must take strong actions on the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies while providing the poorest people of the population with adequate support. For full compliance, a G20 member would have to implement policies or pass laws that address inefficient fossil fuel subsidies while implementing policies or passing laws that also ensure affordable energy access. If a G20 member takes action on medium term rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, as per the specific G20 members definition, without taking steps to ensure that those actions do not negatively impact the poorest, it would only be considered partial compliance. If a G20 member takes concrete steps and implements policies that increase affordable energy access and providing support for the poorest without addressing inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, it would also be considered partial compliance. Furthermore, if a G20 member only takes actions in the form of verbal statements or attending meetings to discuss the matter on both components, it would still only be partial compliance.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member fails to take action on the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies NOR does it provide sufficient support for the poorest.
0	G20 member takes action to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies OR provide sufficient support for the poorest.
+1	G20 member takes action to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies AND provide sufficient support for the poorest.

*Compliance Director: Gabriella Shiyuan Zhao
Lead Analyst: Charlie Zeng*

Argentina: -1

Argentina has failed to comply with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

Australia has not taken any actions to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies nor provided sufficient support for the poorest.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of -1.⁵¹³⁵

Analyst: Gabriella Shiyuan Zhao

Australia: -1

Australia has failed to comply with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

⁵¹³³ What is poverty? It's not as simple as you think, World Vision (Uxbridge) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.worldvision.ca/stories/child-sponsorship/what-is-poverty>

⁵¹³⁴ Update on recent progress in reform of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(Tokyo) 19 April 2019. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/g20/summits/osaka/G20-Update-Report-2019-reform-of-inefficient-fossil-fuel-subsidies.pdf>

⁵¹³⁵ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/>, <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ciencia>, <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente>

Australia has not taken any actions to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies nor provided sufficient support for the poorest.

Thus, Australia receives a score of -1 .⁵¹³⁶

Analyst: Omar Danaf

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

On 9 December 2020, Brazil submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for the Paris Climate Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.⁵¹³⁷ Brazil has reaffirmed its commitment to reduce total greenhouse gas emissions by 37 per cent in 2025 and now aims to also reduce its emissions by 43 per cent by 2030, with an additional objective of reaching carbon neutrality by 2060.

On 22-23 April 2021, Brazil participated in the US-hosted Leaders Summit on Climate to discuss climate issues faced by the world. During the summit, the Brazilian government pledged to achieve net-zero economy by 2050, end illegal deforestation by 2030, and double its funding for deforestation enforcement.⁵¹³⁸ The government suggests that it will pursue decarbonization efforts through preventing deforestation. Further, it will promote resilience to subnational and non-state actors on its green recovery plans.

Brazil has taken actions against rationalizing and phasing-out fossil fuel subsidies through its NDC and membership in the MEF, however, it has failed to take any action to provide sufficient support for the poorest.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Julia Gavieta

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

On 11 January 2021, International Development Minister Karina Gould announced a contribution of up to CAD55 million to the UN Land Degradation Neutrality Fund which would include private

⁵¹³⁶ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites:

<https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22media%2Fpressrel%2F7550286%22>,
https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/rp/rp1920/Quick_Guides/LiquidFuelSecurity,
https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/rp/rp1920/Quick_Guides/LiquidFuelSecurity

⁵¹³⁷ Brazil submits its Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/brazil-submits-its-nationally-determined-contribution-under-the-paris-agreement>.

⁵¹³⁸ Leaders Summit Showcases Clean Energy Commitments to Tackle Global Climate Crisis (Winnipeg) 28 April 2021. Accessed Date: 30 April 2021. <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/leaders-summit-showcases-clean-energy-commitments-to-tackle-global-climate-crisis/>

sector investments in support of sustainable land management practices and land restoration projects in developing countries.⁵¹³⁹

On 12 February 2021, Environment and Climate Change Minister Jonathan Wilkinson published the results of Canada's review of its regulatory program for light-duty vehicles.⁵¹⁴⁰ The analysis determined that more stringent fuel-efficiency standards for future models would provide net benefits of CAD2.5 billion and contribute to Canada's emissions reductions targets.⁵¹⁴¹

On 4 March 2021, Minister Wilkinson represented Canada at the first Powering Past Coal Alliance Global Summit, with participants representing various countries, cities, and private-sector entities.⁵¹⁴² The summit encouraged continued effort in reducing coal consumption, with Minister Wilkinson noting that the phase-out of coal power must place coal workers and communities "at the centre of the clean-energy transition."⁵¹⁴³

On 5 March 2021, Minister Wilkinson announced plans for a Federal Greenhouse Gas Offset System which would incentivize regulated industries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by introducing carbon credits.⁵¹⁴⁴ Companies can sell credits by taking actions to reduce emissions, while facilities which exceed emission limits can compensate by purchasing credits, thus encouraging market-based solutions to lowering greenhouse gas emissions.⁵¹⁴⁵

On 17 March 2021, Minister Gould and the Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, Mary Ng, concluded the first Canada-Africa Clean Growth Symposium, which included an announcement of CAD132.9 million to establish the Canada-Africa Development Bank

⁵¹³⁹ Canada announces support to combat land degradation and desertification in developing countries, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/canada-announces-support-to-combat-land-degradation-and-desertification-in-developing-countries.html>

⁵¹⁴⁰ Government of Canada review of fuel efficiency standards confirms the economic and environmental benefits of ambitious action, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-review-of-fuel-efficiency-standards-confirms-the-economic-and-environmental-benefits-of-ambitious-action.html>

⁵¹⁴¹ Government of Canada review of fuel efficiency standards confirms the economic and environmental benefits of ambitious action, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-review-of-fuel-efficiency-standards-confirms-the-economic-and-environmental-benefits-of-ambitious-action.html>

⁵¹⁴² 4 Powering Past Coal Alliance Global Summit, co-hosted by Minister Wilkinson, shows global momentum toward the phase-out of coal and strengthens resolve to accelerate action, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/03/powering-past-coal-alliance-global-summit-co-hosted-by-minister-wilkinson-shows-global-momentum-toward-the-phase-out-of-coal-and-strengthens-resolv.html>

⁵¹⁴³ Powering Past Coal Alliance Global Summit, co-hosted by Minister Wilkinson, shows global momentum toward the phase-out of coal and strengthens resolve to accelerate action, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/03/powering-past-coal-alliance-global-summit-co-hosted-by-minister-wilkinson-shows-global-momentum-toward-the-phase-out-of-coal-and-strengthens-resolv.html>

⁵¹⁴⁴ Government of Canada announces next step in creation of domestic carbon offset to further support clean growth, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-announces-next-st ep-in-creation-of-domestic-carbon-offset-to-further-support-clean-growth.html>

⁵¹⁴⁵ Government of Canada announces next step in creation of domestic carbon offset to further support clean growth, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-announces-next-st ep-in-creation-of-domestic-carbon-offset-to-further-support-clean-growth.html>

Climate Fund.⁵¹⁴⁶ There were 35 African countries that participated in the symposium, which aims to provide private capital investment in support of clean growth in Africa.⁵¹⁴⁷

On 18 March 2021, Natural Resources Minister Seamus O'Regan Jr. announced investment totalling CAD100,000 to raise awareness of zero-emission vehicles, as part of a broader initiative which includes the development of charging technologies and financial incentives up to CAD5,000 through tax write-offs for Canadians and businesses purchasing such vehicles.⁵¹⁴⁸

On 21 May 2021, Minister Wilkinson attended the G7 environment ministers meeting.⁵¹⁴⁹ At this meeting, G7 members issued a communiqué, in which they agreed to “phase out new direct government support for carbon-intensive international fossil fuel energy” and “commit to take concrete steps towards an absolute end to new direct government support for unabated international thermal coal power generation by end of 2021.”⁵¹⁵⁰ Additionally, Canada promoted its new Nationally Determined Contribution, where it intends to phase-out “unabated coal-fired electricity” and its “Powering Past Coal Alliance” with the UK.⁵¹⁵¹

Canada has encouraged private sector innovation towards green technology through financial incentives and regulations which aim to phase-out domestic fossil fuel consumption. Canada has also provided investment towards clean growth in developing countries.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jonathan Ku

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment to take national action to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for poorest countries.

On 18 January 2021, Chinese state-owned firms China National Offshore Oil Corp (CNOOC) and State Power Investment Corp released a timeline of attaining carbon neutrality which aligns with the government's aim to achieve carbon neutrality for the nation by the year 2060. CNOOC announced the establishment of a new research facility in which the firm could plot its course toward carbon

⁵¹⁴⁶ Minister Gould and Minister Ng conclude the first Canada-Africa Clean Growth Symposium and announce the Canada-African Development Bank Climate Fund, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/minister-gould-and-minister-ng-conclude-the-first-canada-africa-clean-growth-symposium-and-announce-the-canada-african-development-bank-climate-fund.html>

⁵¹⁴⁷ Minister Gould and Minister Ng conclude the first Canada-Africa Clean Growth Symposium and announce the Canada-African Development Bank Climate Fund, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/03/minister-gould-and-minister-ng-conclude-the-first-canada-africa-clean-growth-symposium-and-announce-the-canada-african-development-bank-climate-fund.html>

⁵¹⁴⁸ Canada Raising Awareness on Zero-Emission Vehicles, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/03/canada-raising-awareness-on-zero-emission-vehicles.html>

⁵¹⁴⁹ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁵¹⁵⁰ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁵¹⁵¹ Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister of Natural Resources participate in G7 Climate and Environment Ministers' Meeting, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Gatineau) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/05/minister-of-environment-and-climate-change-and-minister-of-natural-resources-participate-in-g7-climate-and-environment-ministers-meeting.html>

neutrality. Likewise, State Power Investment Corp revealed that 56.09 per cent of its energy use in 2020 originated from green energy sources, with a 5.52 per cent improvement from 2019.⁵¹⁵²

On 25 February 2021, the State Council released a guideline which urged a faster transition into a low-carbon and green economy. The document reaffirmed the need for increased efficiency in the nation's use of resources, emphasized the preservation of the environment, and recognized the importance of regulating the emission of greenhouse gasses.⁵¹⁵³

On 9 March 2021, Chen Yulu, the Vice-Governor of the People's Bank of China (PBOC), the nation's central bank, announced that the PBOC will help finance environmentally sustainable projects in its allocation of subsidies to economic and social development initiatives.⁵¹⁵⁴ Moreover, Chen emphasized the need for further international collaboration in the support of green financing initiatives to ensure that each country can meet its stated objectives in reducing net carbon emissions.⁵¹⁵⁵

On 21 April 2021, Vice-Minister of Commerce Qian Kemung declared that China will seek to encourage the pursuit and development of green and low-carbon energy sources in markets within regions participating in the Belt and Road Initiative. Qian announced that Chinese corporations will be urged to employ environmentally sustainable technology in planning and organizing infrastructure initiatives in the Belt and Road Region, and that the Chinese state will further encourage the use of sustainable development methods within the countries situated within Belt and Road Initiative.⁵¹⁵⁶

Through the management of its central bank and state enterprises to promote the use of green and low-carbon technology domestically and within the Belt and Road region, China has taken national action to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provided sufficient support for poorest countries.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Chan-Min Rob

France: -1

France has failed to comply with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provided sufficient support for the poorest.

On 29 December 2020, the French Government passed its Finance Act for 2021. It aims to put an end to export guarantees linked to exploration or exploitation of liquid hydrocarbons permits. In the Finance Act, it is stated that: "As from 1 January 2025, the State guarantee provided for in this article cannot be granted to cover loans granted to foreign buyers with a view to exporting goods and services in the framework of operations having for object the exploration of deposits or the

⁵¹⁵² SOEs set out measures on carbon neutrality, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202101/18/content_WS6004dbfac6d0f72576943fc5.html

⁵¹⁵³ China's resolute pursuit of reducing carbon emissions, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202102/25/content_WS603705ebc6d0719374af98be.html

⁵¹⁵⁴ China's new five-year blueprint paves way for 2060 carbon-neutrality, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202103/09/content_WS6046cf92c6d0719374afa6a5.html

⁵¹⁵⁵ China's new five-year blueprint paves way for 2060 carbon-neutrality, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202103/09/content_WS6046cf92c6d0719374afa6a5.html

⁵¹⁵⁶ Nation to spur green projects in BRI areas, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021.

exploitation of liquid hydrocarbons within the framework of permits corresponding to deposits not yet exploited. No later than 1 January 2035, the State guarantee provided for in this article may not be granted to cover loans granted to foreign buyers with a view to exporting goods and services in the context of operations having for the purpose of exploration of deposits or the exploitation of gaseous hydrocarbons within the framework of permits corresponding to deposits not yet exploited.”⁵¹⁵⁷

On 21 May 2021, Minister of the Environment Barbara Pompili attended the G7 environment ministers meeting.⁵¹⁵⁸ At this meeting, G7 members issued a communiqué, in which they agreed to “phase out new direct government support for carbon-intensive international fossil fuel energy” and “commit to take concrete steps towards an absolute end to new direct government support for unabated international thermal coal power generation by end of 2021.”⁵¹⁵⁹

France has not taken any actions to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies nor provided sufficient support for the poorest.

Thus, France receives a score of -1 .⁵¹⁶⁰

Analyst: Julia Gavieta

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies while providing targeted support for the poorest.

On 17 December 2020, the Environment Council of the EU, chaired by German Environment Minister Svenja Schulze, agreed to raise its 2030 target for greenhouse gas reduction from 40 per cent to 55 per cent. The new Nationally Determined Contribution “sets an example internationally which establishes a credible and prudent path to climate neutrality in 2050,” Minister Schulze said.⁵¹⁶¹

On 25 January 2021, Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged an additional EUR220 million toward enhanced support for the least developed countries’ efforts to adapt to climate change at the Climate Adaptation Summit. The fund aims to provide protection against natural disasters for the poorest countries and invest in adaptive measures.⁵¹⁶²

⁵¹⁵⁷ LAW n° 2020-1721 of December 29, 2020 on finances for 2021 (1), Legifrance (Paris) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 12 July 2021. <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000042753580>

⁵¹⁵⁸ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁵¹⁵⁹ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁵¹⁶⁰ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/news>, [lemonde.fr](https://www.lemonde.fr)

⁵¹⁶¹ Minister Schulze: Climate action in Europe now set in stone, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/minister-schulze-climate-action-in-europe-now-set-in-stone/>

⁵¹⁶² Germany Increases Support for Adaptation to Climate Change in Particularly Vulnerable Countries, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2021/januar/210125_pm_03_Global-Climate-Adaptation-Summit_-German-y-increases-support-for-adaptation-to-climate-change-in-particularly-vulnerable-countries/index.html

On 3 February 2021, the German government increased the greenhouse gas reduction quota for fuels from 6 per cent to 22 per cent by 2030. The new provisions add incentives for more renewable energy in the transport sector, while restricting biofuels from palm oil.⁵¹⁶³

On 11 March 2021, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety released its 12-point plan to complete its nuclear phase-out.⁵¹⁶⁴ As part of its plan, it intends to: “(1) Close the nuclear supply facilities in Lingen and Gronau, (2) Accelerate the expansion of renewable energy so that wind and solar power replace nuclear and coal power more quickly, (3) Determined progress on the disposal of high-level nuclear waste with the highest possible level of safety, (4) provide more information and enable more public participation, (5) Close ranks with countries critical of nuclear power, (6) Safety Risk of Ageing Nuclear Power Plants: Call against lifetime extensions and call for participation, (7) No public money for nuclear power plants in the EU and beyond, (8) Nuclear power plants close to borders – strengthen bilateral commissions, (9) Continue radiological emergency preparedness at a high level against the German phase-out and improve international networking, (10) Work internationally for high safety standards, (11) Improve nuclear civil liability – damage prevention and victim protection are our priority, and (12) Retain competence and introduce solid facts in the international nuclear debate and with regard to new reactor concepts.”⁵¹⁶⁵

On 21 May 2021, Minister Schulze attended the G7 environment ministers meeting.⁵¹⁶⁶ At this meeting, G7 members issued a communiqué, in which they agreed to “phase out new direct government support for carbon-intensive international fossil fuel energy” and “commit to take concrete steps towards an absolute end to new direct government support for unabated international thermal coal power generation by end of 2021.”⁵¹⁶⁷

Germany has taken actions to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, while providing targeted support for the poorest.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Matthew Barrett

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

On 8 April 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated at the India-Seychelles High Level Virtual Event that the country will be “handing over a One Mega Watt solar power plant in Seychelles built

⁵¹⁶³ Minister Schulze: We are promoting fuels that mitigate climate change without destroying nature, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/minister-schulze-we-are-promoting-fuels-that-mitigate-climate-change-without-destroying-nature/>

⁵¹⁶⁴ 12-point plan to complete the nuclear phase-out – the position of the Federal Environment Ministry, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bmu.de/en/download/12-point-plan-to-complete-the-nuclear-phase-out/>

⁵¹⁶⁵ 12-point plan to complete the nuclear phase-out – the position of the Federal Environment Ministry, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bmu.de/en/download/12-point-plan-to-complete-the-nuclear-phase-out/>

⁵¹⁶⁶ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁵¹⁶⁷ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

with India's assistance."⁵¹⁶⁸ The assistance aims to help Seychelles transition from using inefficient fossil fuel energy to green and cleaner energy.

India has not taken any actions to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, however, it has set to provide sufficient support for the poorest.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Gabriella Shiyuan Zhao

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

On 16 December 2020, Minister for Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi signed the Grant Agreements for Solomon Island, Timor Leste, and Fiji. The grants were given to the three countries in the Pacific region for COVID-19 mitigation. Additionally, Minister Marsudi mentioned that Indonesia and the three Pacific countries which were given grants have developed mutually beneficial cooperation in many fields including development and the economy.⁵¹⁶⁹

On 15 January 2021, Director General of New, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation (NREEC) Dadan Kusdiana announced that IDR1,167.8 billion has been allocated to build NREEC infrastructure. NREEC infrastructure involves the implementation of many renewable energy resources, such as the installation of 22,000 solar public lights, the construction of 23 solar power systems, and the revitalization of 8 units of renewable energy infrastructure.⁵¹⁷⁰

On 19 March 2021, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Arifin Tasrif restated the Indonesian government's commitment to encourage the transition towards renewable energy resources. Tasrif mentioned Indonesia's target of reducing emissions by 314 million tons of carbon dioxide in 2030. The Indonesian government plans to reach this goal through various projects such as the building of a large-scale solar power plant starting in 2021 to 2030.⁵¹⁷¹

On 15 April 2021, the Director General of the New, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation (NREEC) Dadan Kusdiana announced that solar rooftop photovoltaic (PV) systems are being promoted to accelerate Indonesia's 23 per cent target of renewables in their energy mix by the year 2025. Director General Kusdiana hopes that the additional installations of rooftop PV systems can reduce 3.2 million tons of CO₂ emissions.⁵¹⁷²

⁵¹⁶⁸ Remarks by Prime Minister at India-Seychelles High Level Virtual Event (New Delhi) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1710486>

⁵¹⁶⁹ Indonesian Aid Strengthens Solidarity and Partnership in the Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

<https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/1987/berita/indonesian-aid-strengthens-solidarity-and-partnership-in-the-pacific>
⁵¹⁷⁰ Performance Report of 2020 and Work Plan for 2021 of New, Renewable Energy Subsector, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (Jakarta) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.esdm.go.id/en/media-center/news-archives/performance-report-of-2020-and-work-plan-for-2021-of-new-renewable-energy-subsector>

⁵¹⁷¹ Launching of IYSRE 2021, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Reaffirms Commitment to Energy Transition, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (Jakarta) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.esdm.go.id/en/media-center/news-archives/launching-iysre-2021-menteri-esdm-kembali-tegaskan-komitmen-terhadap-transisi-energi>

⁵¹⁷² Indonesia to Invest More in Solar Energy, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (Jakarta) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.esdm.go.id/en/media-center/news-archives/indonesia-to-invest-more-in-solar-energy>

Through its commitments to transition to renewable energy along with grants given to poorer Pacific countries, Indonesia has both promoted the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provided sufficient support for poorest countries.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Thérèse Perucho

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with the commitment to take national action to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for poorest countries.

On 16 December 2020, the Official Gazette of the Italian Republic posted a decree which implemented provisions that allow the promotion of sustainable school transport. Through this program, the Ministry of Ecological Transition can give funding to municipalities across Italy to help cover the costs of making school transportation vehicles more sustainable and electric.⁵¹⁷³ The implementation of the program helps to promote the use of green vehicles across the country.⁵¹⁷⁴

On 15 March 2021, cargo consisting of 12 tonnes of humanitarian goods, relief materials and food aid from Italy landed in South Sudan. The goods were provided specifically by the Italian Cooperation and civil society organisations. This assistance is to help the Sudanese people who were affected by the country's food and health crisis, along with those who were displaced by floods in the country.⁵¹⁷⁵

On 12 April 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition approved a list of projects eligible for funding under the Reti intelligenti public notice. The Reti intelligenti public notice works to improve infrastructure concerning the distribution of electricity in Italy, thus creating a smart electrical grid aims to help increase the share of energy needs covered by renewable sources.⁵¹⁷⁶

On 16 April 2021, the Italian Cooperation under the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs along with the Italian Red Cross sent eight tons of medical material to the Tigray region of Ethiopia. The medical materials sent will be used to help the Ethiopian Red Cross in support of the population affected by the humanitarian crisis in Tigray.⁵¹⁷⁷

On 30 April 2021, the Ministry of Sustainable Infrastructure and Mobility announced that EUR62 billion would be designated for interventions on infrastructures, mobility, and sustainable logistics found within Italy's National Recovery and Resilience Plan (Pnrr). The EUR62 billion will be put

⁵¹⁷³ Funding program for the promotion of sustainable school transport, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/pagina/programma-di-finanziamento-la-promozione-del-trasporto-scolastico-sostenibile>

⁵¹⁷⁴ Funding program for the promotion of sustainable school transport, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/pagina/programma-di-finanziamento-la-promozione-del-trasporto-scolastico-sostenibile>

⁵¹⁷⁵ South Sudan. Humanitarian flight by Italian Cooperation to supply humanitarian goods, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/03/sud-sudan-volo-umanitario-della-cooperazione-italiana-per-la-fornitura-di-beni-umanitari.html

⁵¹⁷⁶ Smart Grid, Projects Approved in Southern Italy for a Value of 207 Million, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/notizie/smart-grid-approvati-progetti-nel-sud-italia-un-valore-di-207-milioni>

⁵¹⁷⁷ Ethiopia. Humanitarian flight of the Italian Cooperation for the supply of humanitarian goods in Tigrè, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/04/etiopia-volo-umanitario-della-cooperazione-italiana-per-la-fornitura-di-beni-umanitari-nel-tigre.html

towards different projects in the country relating to economic, social, and environmental sustainability. Some of the projects under the Pnrr, such as the renewal of trains, buses, and ships, will help to reduce emissions and thus will aid with the phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.⁵¹⁷⁸

On 21 May 2021, Minister of the Environment Roberto Cingolani attended the G7 environment ministers meeting.⁵¹⁷⁹ At this meeting, G7 members issued a communiqué, in which they agreed to “phase out new direct government support for carbon-intensive international fossil fuel energy” and “commit to take concrete steps towards an absolute end to new direct government support for unabated international thermal coal power generation by end of 2021.”⁵¹⁸⁰

Through the promotion of sustainable school transport, the Reti intelligenti public notice, components of Italy’s National Recovery and Resilience Plan, and humanitarian aid for South Sudan and Ethiopia, Italy has taken national action to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for poorest countries.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Thérèse Perucho

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

On 4 December 2020, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga pledged JPY2 trillion to promote ecological businesses and innovation, as a part of his goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050.⁵¹⁸¹ According to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry’s January 2021 “Overview of Japan’s Green Growth Strategy Through Achieving Carbon Neutrality in 2050,” the Green Innovation Fund will provide the promised JPY2 trillion for 10 years to “simulate 15 trillion yen” worth of private research, green development, and investment.⁵¹⁸²

On 25 December 2020, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry composed an industrial policy, “Green Growth Strategy Through Achieving Carbon Neutrality,” that aims to initiate positive economic growth alongside environmental protection. The Green Growth Strategy involves collaboration with multiple ministries and agencies to discuss goals and explicate challenges in areas such as “budgets, taxes, regulation reforms and standardization, and international collaboration.”⁵¹⁸³

On 5 March 2021, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism constructed the “Study Group on Automobile Policies for

⁵¹⁷⁸ Pnrr: 62 billion euros at Mims for sustainable mobility, infrastructures and logistics, 56% in the South, Ministry of Sustainable Infrastructure and Mobility (Rome) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.mit.gov.it/comunicazione/news/pnrr/pnrr-al-mims-62-miliardi-di-euro-per-mobilita-infrastrutture-e-logistica>

⁵¹⁷⁹ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁵¹⁸⁰ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁵¹⁸¹ Suga pledges 2 trillion yen to promote ecological businesses, The Asahi Shimbun (Osaka) 5 December 2020. Accessed Date: 26 March 2021. <http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/13992005>

⁵¹⁸² Overview of Japan’s Green Growth Strategy Through Achieving Carbon Neutrality in 2050, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) January 2021. Accessed Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/pdf/1225_001a.pdf

⁵¹⁸³ “Green Growth Strategy Through Achieving Carbon Neutrality” Formulated, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 25 December 2020. Accessed Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1225_001.html

Carbon Neutrality” that will interview industrial actors within the automobile-relevant industries, which will revise action plans.⁵¹⁸⁴

On 19 February 2021, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry formed the Committee on the Green Innovation Project to manage and operate the Green Innovation Fund.⁵¹⁸⁵ Later on 12 March 2021, they created the Basic Policies for the Green Innovation Fund. The Basic Policies are meant to “continuously support companies and other organizations for the coming ten years” as they tackle research and development, and social implementations.⁵¹⁸⁶

On 21 May 2021, Minister of the Environment Shinjiro Koizumi attended the G7 environment ministers meeting.⁵¹⁸⁷ At this meeting, G7 members issued a communiqué, in which they agreed to “phase out new direct government support for carbon-intensive international fossil fuel energy” and “commit to take concrete steps towards an absolute end to new direct government support for unabated international thermal coal power generation by end of 2021.”⁵¹⁸⁸

Japan has taken steps to rationalize and phase-out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies by collaborating with multiple industry actors to create practical action plans. However, Japan has not provided any specific support for the poorest.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Julia Gavieta

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

On 2 December 2020, Environment Minister Cho Myung-rae announced that the national budget for 2021 would include KRW11.171 trillion for the ministry, up 17 per cent from last year, in order to propel Green New Deal (GND) initiatives.⁵¹⁸⁹ KRW1.47 billion of the budget fund for GND initiatives was announced for the hydrogen procurement project in the form of subsidies to hydrogen charging station operators which had deficits in 2020, and a 70 per cent subsidy on hydrogen gas procurement.⁵¹⁹⁰ The budget aims to promote the transition from fossil fuels to green energy.

⁵¹⁸⁴ New Body “Study Group on Automobile Policies for Carbon Neutrality” to be Inaugurated, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 5 March 2021. Accessed Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0305_002.html

⁵¹⁸⁵ New Body “Committee on the Green Innovation Project” under Industrial Structure Council to be Inaugurated and First Meeting to be Held, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 19 February 2021. Accessed Date: 26 March 2021 https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0219_001.html

⁵¹⁸⁶ “The Basic Policies for the Project for the Green Innovation Fund” Formulated, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 12 March 2021. Accessed Date: 26 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0312_002.html

⁵¹⁸⁷ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁵¹⁸⁸ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁵¹⁸⁹ 2021 Ministry of Environment Budget and Fund Set at 11 Trillion 171.5 Billion Korean Won, Ministry of Environment (Sejong) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=titleOrContent&searchValue=subsidy&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1427370&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

⁵¹⁹⁰ 2021 Ministry of Environment Budget and Fund Set at 11 Trillion 171.5 Billion Korean Won, Ministry of Environment (Sejong) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=titleOrContent&searchValue=subsidy&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1427370&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

On 17 December 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs joined with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to establish high-level dialogue in the area of climate change cooperation between the two parties.⁵¹⁹¹ Korea and ASEAN agreed to hold their first Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change in 2021, in order to strengthen cooperation in air pollution, marine pollution, forestry, and carbon mitigation and adaptation.⁵¹⁹²

On 17 December 2020, Director-General for Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Scientific Affairs Chung Keeyong attended a virtual signing ceremony in which Korea contributed USD1 million for the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund in response to the environmental disaster in the Aral Sea region.⁵¹⁹³

On 28 January 2021, Environment Minister Han Jeoung Ae announced plans to reduce carbon consumption in transportation by promoting the production of 136,000 carbon-neutral electric and hydrogen vehicles in 2021, in addition to 179,000 such vehicles produced at the end of 2020.⁵¹⁹⁴ Minister Han also announced a plan to distribute carbon-neutral electric buses and trucks, along with funding of KRW200 million in subsidies for a hydrogen truck development pilot project.⁵¹⁹⁵

On 2 March 2021, Minister Han announced the Action Plan 2021 which would guide the country in implementing its 2050 Carbon Neutrality Strategy by organizing working groups and using research institutes to identify carbon reduction opportunities and communicate plans with civil society and industry.⁵¹⁹⁶ Strategies include the promotion and innovation of emission-free vehicles, creating carbon sinks, and supporting the transition towards renewable energy sources.⁵¹⁹⁷

Korea has made investments into renewable energy and technologies within its GND project and has introduced new subsidy plans which aim to reduce the consumption of fossil fuels for its domestic economy. Korea has also engaged in dialogues with low-income countries that will help foster greater

⁵¹⁹¹ ASEAN and ROK Agree to Establish Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321452&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=14&titleNm=

⁵¹⁹² ASEAN and ROK Agree to Establish Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321452&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=14&titleNm=

⁵¹⁹³ Korea to Contribute 1 Million U.S. Dollars to UN Multi-Partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea for 2 years, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321460&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=13&titleNm=

⁵¹⁹⁴ Devoting in the era of Pollution-free Vehicles...First On-site Trip of Newly Appointed Minister of Environment, Ministry of Environment (Sejong) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=titleOrContent&searchValue=subsidy&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1431520&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

⁵¹⁹⁵ Devoting in the era of Pollution-free Vehicles...First On-site Trip of Newly Appointed Minister of Environment, Ministry of Environment (Sejong) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=titleOrContent&searchValue=subsidy&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1431520&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

⁵¹⁹⁶ Ministry of Environment unveiled its Action Plan 2021 to implement the 2050 Carbon Neutrality Strategy, Ministry of Environment (Sejong) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?jsessionId=IOCmH61ZLo68kdIBL67G68vo.mehome1?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1449070&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

⁵¹⁹⁷ Ministry of Environment unveiled its Action Plan 2021 to implement the 2050 Carbon Neutrality Strategy, Ministry of Environment (Sejong) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?jsessionId=IOCmH61ZLo68kdIBL67G68vo.mehome1?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1449070&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

cooperation and technical assistance in the areas of greenhouse gas emissions and environmental protection.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jonathan Ku

Mexico: -1

Mexico has failed to comply with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

Mexico has not taken any actions to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies nor provided sufficient support for the poorest.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of -1.⁵¹⁹⁸

Analyst: Darwin Gumba

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

On 12 April 2021, Minister of Energy Alexander Novak stated during the final meeting of the collegium of the Ministry of Energy, that decreasing cross-subsidization of energy consumption was a government's objective for 2021.⁵¹⁹⁹ This priority is stipulated in the new draft Strategy for the development of the power grid complex until 2035,⁵²⁰⁰ currently under open review by the Ministry of Energy and public stakeholders. As of late May 2021, the last meeting of the Public council under the Russian Ministry of Energy, which hosted a discussion on the draft Strategy, took place on 2 April 2021. The participants also noted that the adoption and implementation of the Strategy were among the Ministry's goals for 2021.⁵²⁰¹

On 20 April 2021, Deputy Minister of Energy of Russia Pavel Snikkars addressed the State Duma's Committee on Energy, stating that the Energy Ministry was finalizing the draft strategy for the development of the power grid complex until 2035.⁵²⁰² The draft strategy provides for the gradual rationalization and decrease of energy sector cross-subsidization. The paragraph 3.4.1 of the document explicitly states that energy sector cross-subsidization "does not ensure social justice, because in fact the amount of the subsidy is directly proportional to electricity consumption. Thus, the wealthiest household receives a much larger amount of social assistance than a lower-income household." The paragraph 4.3.2 of the Strategy sets the goal of gradual phase-out of cross-subsidization with specific focus on providing more effective and "better targeted support to low-income and socially protected categories of consumers."⁵²⁰³

⁵¹⁹⁸ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <https://www.gob.mx/sre/en>, <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat>

⁵¹⁹⁹ Alexander Novak took part in the final meeting of the collegium of the Ministry of Energy, the Government of Russia 12 April 2021. Access date: 28 May 2021. <http://government.ru/news/41944/>

⁵²⁰⁰ Draft Strategy for the development of the power grid complex until 2035, Russian Ministry of Energy 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2021. <https://minenergo.gov.ru/system/download-pdf/18940/124832>

⁵²⁰¹ A meeting of the Public council under the Russian Ministry of Energy was held, Russian Ministry of Energy 2 April 2021. Access Date: 28 May 2021. <https://minenergo.gov.ru/node/20486>

⁵²⁰² The Ministry of Energy of Russia is finalizing the draft Strategy for the development of the power grid complex until 2035, Russian Ministry of Energy 20 April 2021. Access Date: 28 May 2021. <https://minenergo.gov.ru/node/20559>

⁵²⁰³ Draft Strategy for the development of the power grid complex until 2035, Russian Ministry of Energy 2020. Access Date: 28 May 2021. <https://minenergo.gov.ru/system/download-pdf/18940/124832>

Russia has taken actions to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies while providing sufficient support for the poorest. However, Russia has not taken significant concrete actions for this commitment.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Chan-Min Roh

Saudi Arabia: -1

Saudi Arabia has failed to comply with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

Saudi Arabia has not taken any actions to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies nor provided sufficient support for the poorest.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of -1.⁵²⁰⁴

Analyst: Omar Danaf

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

On 17 December 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa appointed members to the Presidential Climate Change Coordinating Commission. It was formed to coordinate “the just transition towards a low-carbon, inclusive, climate change resilient economy and society.”⁵²⁰⁵

On 10 March 2021, the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries published the Renewable Energy Development Zones to expand South Africa’s energy mix. They are intended for strategic gas transmission pipeline infrastructure, and large-scale wind and solar photovoltaic energy facilities, as the country transitions away from coal energy.⁵²⁰⁶

On 11 March 2021, Deputy President David Mabuza announced that Cabinet had approved the submission of the Gas Amendment Bill of 2020 to Parliament. This bill will allow for scaling up of gas exploration, in order to “mitigate the decrease in coal production and use.”⁵²⁰⁷

On 30 March 2021, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Barbara Creecy launched an updated draft Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) with a range up to an additional 28 per cent reduction of emissions from previous 2015 targets. The finalized NDC will be tabled with Cabinet for approval in advance of COP26 in November.⁵²⁰⁸

⁵²⁰⁴ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <https://www.my.gov.sa>, <https://www.moenergy.gov.sa>, <https://www.mewa.gov.sa>, <https://www.bbc.com>, and <https://www.nytimes.com>.

⁵²⁰⁵ Presidential Climate Change Coordinating Commission appointed, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Cape Town) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/press-statements/presidential-climate-change-coordinating-commission-appointed>

⁵²⁰⁶ Environment, Forestry and Fisheries Gazettes Geographical Areas for Development of Renewable Energy, Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (Pretoria) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/environment-gazettes-geographical-areas-development-renewable-energy-10-mar-2021-0000>

⁵²⁰⁷ Deputy President: Oral Reply in the National Council of Provinces, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Cape Town) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-president-oral-reply-national-council-provinces-11-mar-2021-0000>

⁵²⁰⁸ Minister Barbara Creecy launches South Africa’s Nationally Determined Contribution, Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (Cape Town) 30 March 2021. Accessed Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-barbara-creecy-launches-south-africa%E2%80%99s-nationally-determined-contribution-30-mar>

On 22 April 2021, President Ramaphosa announced that South Africa's emissions will begin to decline in 2025, shifting the downturn ahead a decade from the previous commitment of a carbon emissions plateau until 2035.⁵²⁰⁹

South Africa has taken steps to promote its commitment to phase out inefficient fossil fuels but has not provided any specific support for the poorest.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Matthew Barrett

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with the commitment to take national action to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for poorest countries.

On 13 March 2021, the Energy and Natural Resources Minister Fatih Donmez reported that the country received 709 applications for 74 upcoming mini solar Renewable Energy Resource Zone (YEKA) tenders. The YEKA tenders are a component of Turkey's plan to supply 65 per cent of its energy needs from domestic and renewable sources by 2023. The Minister stated that "the mini YEKA scheme will start a new era in renewable energy as it will attract more small and medium-sized investors to the sector."⁵²¹⁰

On 23 March 2021, the Energy and Natural Resources Minister Fatih Donmez declared that Turkey intends to increase its installed power in solar energy by 10,000 megawatts in the following 10 years by conducting a minimum of 1,000 megawatts of solar YEKA tenders each year. This was stated during the annual meeting of Turkey's Renewable Energy Investors Association. YEKA tenders are a component of Turkey's goal towards self-sufficiency in energy resources.⁵²¹¹

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment through its YEKA tenders and increased trade with Bangladesh to take national action to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies. However, Turkey has not provided sufficient support for poorest countries.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Thérèse Perucho

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

On 4 December 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a new nationally determined contribution targeted to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 68 per cent by 2030, relative to 1990

⁵²⁰⁹ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Virtual Leaders' Summit on Climate Change, The Presidency Republic of South Africa (Cape Town) 22 April 2021. Accessed Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-virtual-leaders-summit-climate-22-apr-2021-0000#>

⁵²¹⁰ Turkey receives 709 applications for mini solar tenders, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/news-detail?id=793>

⁵²¹¹ Turkey's solar power generation soars 50%: Energy min., Republic of Turkey Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/news-detail?id=797>

levels. This goal will be supported by the Prime Minister's Ten Point Plan for a green industrial revolution, which aims to produce 250, 000 jobs by 2030.⁵²¹²

On 12 December 2020, Prime Minister Johnson announced that the UK will end direct government support for the fossil fuel energy sector overseas. The new policy will complement the North Sea Transition Deal, promoting areas like Teesside and Aberdeen as “global hubs for wind energy, carbon capture and other clean technologies of the future.” The UK also announced a GBP10 million commitment to a Green Recovery Initiative, designed to support developing countries by incorporating renewable solutions into pandemic recovery efforts. Between 2021 and 2026, the UK has dedicated GBP11.6 billion to International Climate Finance.⁵²¹³

On 12 April 2021, the UK dedicated GBP2.7 million to the Rapid Response Facility, an initiative designed to provide technical assistance to developing countries. COP26 President Alok Sharma said the RRF “will play a key role in supporting countries to make real and clear progress in their transition from coal to clean power, ahead of COP26.”⁵²¹⁴

On 20 April 2021, Prime Minister Johnson announced a new world-leading emission reduction target of 78 per cent by 2035, which will be enshrined in law by the end of June 2021. Additionally, the sixth Carbon Budget will now account for international aviation and shipping emissions, enhancing the consistency of emissions reports.⁵²¹⁵

On 21 May 2021, the UK hosted the G7 environment ministers meeting.⁵²¹⁶ At this meeting, G7 members issued a communique, in which they agreed to “phase out new direct government support for carbon-intensive international fossil fuel energy” and “commit to take concrete steps towards an absolute end to new direct government support for unabated international thermal coal power generation by end of 2021.”⁵²¹⁷

Through its plan to cut support for fossil fuel energy development overseas and its technical assistance to development countries, the UK has taken steps in promoting the phasing out fossil fuel subsidies both internationally and domestically, while pledging financial support for the poorest.

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

Analyst: Matthew Barrett

United States: –1

The United States has failed to comply with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

⁵²¹² UK sets ambitious new climate target ahead of UN Summit, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-sets-ambitious-new-climate-target-ahead-of-un-summit>

⁵²¹³ PM announces the UK will end support for fossil fuel sector overseas, Prime Minister's Office (London) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-the-uk-will-end-support-for-fossil-fuel-sector-overseas>

⁵²¹⁴ Second Energy Transition Council Ministerial & Rapid Response Facility launch, Cabinet Office and The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/second-energy-transition-council-ministerial-rapid-response-facility-launch>

⁵²¹⁵ UK enshrines new target in law to slash emissions by 78% by 2035, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-enshrines-new-target-in-law-to-slash-emissions-by-78-by-2035>

⁵²¹⁶ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁵²¹⁷ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

On 21 May 2021, the US attended the G7 environment ministers meeting.⁵²¹⁸ At this meeting, G7 members issued a communiqué, in which they agreed to “phase out new direct government support for carbon-intensive international fossil fuel energy” and “commit to take concrete steps towards an absolute end to new direct government support for unabated international thermal coal power generation by end of 2021.”⁵²¹⁹

The United States has not taken any actions to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies nor provided sufficient support for the poorest.

Thus, the United States receives a score of -1 .⁵²²⁰

Analyst: Omar Danaf

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to promote the rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide sufficient support for the poorest.

On 10 December 2020, EU leaders gathered in Brussels to declare their goal to cut greenhouse gases by 55 per cent in 2030, rather than the previously agreed 40 per cent.⁵²²¹ In order for this reduced carbon footprint to be met, the EU has reaffirmed their commitment to their blueprint drafted in September of 2020, which says that a minimum of 30 per cent of the EU’s EUR1.8 trillion budget would be allocated towards climate efforts.⁵²²²

On 17 December 2020, the Environment Council of the EU, chaired by German Environment Minister Svenja Schulze, agreed to raise its 2030 target for greenhouse gas reduction from 40 per cent to 55 per cent. The new Nationally Determined Contribution “sets an example internationally which establishes a credible and prudent path to climate neutrality in 2050,” Minister Schulze said.⁵²²³

On 30 December 2020, EU foreign ministers declared in a meeting that they will commence a global phase out of fossil fuels within their continent and promote similar efforts in developing nations.⁵²²⁴ As written in the draft statement, “the EU will ensure that its trade policy and its trade agreements are consistent with its climate ambition.”⁵²²⁵ Furthermore, the EU acknowledges its role as a leading body in the effort to reduce global carbon emissions. It has vocalized its intentions to join other wealthy, industrialized nations in contributing USD100 billion per year towards climate action in

⁵²¹⁸ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁵²¹⁹ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁵²²⁰ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <https://www.eenews.net/stories/1062143491>, <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-announces-intent-provide-122m-establish-coal-products-innovation-centers>, <https://www.nytimes.com>

⁵²²¹ Climate change: EU leaders set 55% target for CO2 emissions cut, BBC News (London, UK). 11 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55273004>

⁵²²² Climate change: EU leaders set 55% target for CO2 emissions cut, BBC News (London, UK). 11 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55273004>

⁵²²³ Minister Schulze: Climate action in Europe now set in stone, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021.

<https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/minister-schulze-climate-action-in-europe-now-set-in-stone/>

⁵²²⁴ EU foreign ministers call for end to financing fossil fuels abroad, Climate Home News (Kent, UK). 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/01/25/eu-foreign-ministers-call-end-financing-fossil-fuels-abroad/>

⁵²²⁵ EU foreign ministers call for end to financing fossil fuels abroad, Climate Home News (Kent, UK). 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/01/25/eu-foreign-ministers-call-end-financing-fossil-fuels-abroad/>

developing nations.⁵²²⁶ In spite of such declarations, countries like France were found to have exaggerated its contribution by USD104 million, stating that USD93 million went to climate efforts in the Philippines when, in reality, only five per cent was allotted. On Monday's meeting, EU foreign ministers reviewed their environmental diplomatic relations with developing nations to ensure greater accuracy of the declared amounts sent to the third world.⁵²²⁷

On 21 May 2021, Environment Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius attended the G7 environment ministers meeting.⁵²²⁸ At this meeting, G7 members issued a communiqué, in which they agreed to “phase out new direct government support for carbon-intensive international fossil fuel energy” and “commit to take concrete steps towards an absolute end to new direct government support for unabated international thermal coal power generation by end of 2021.”⁵²²⁹

Through its continued funding to the poorest and development of wind and solar energy sources, the European Union remains committed in leading the continent-wide phase out of coal, gas, and nuclear sources by 2030. It has taken steps in promoting the phasing out fossil fuel subsidies and has provided financial support for the poorest.

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

Analyst: Darwin Gumba

⁵²²⁶ EU foreign ministers call for end to financing fossil fuels abroad, Climate Home News (Kent, UK). 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/01/25/eu-foreign-ministers-call-end-financing-fossil-fuels-abroad/>

⁵²²⁷ EU foreign ministers call for end to financing fossil fuels abroad, Climate Home News (Kent, UK). 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/01/25/eu-foreign-ministers-call-end-financing-fossil-fuels-abroad/>

⁵²²⁸ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

⁵²²⁹ Climate change: G7 ministers agree new steps against fossil fuels, BBC (London) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 22 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-57203400>

18. Environment: Marine Plastic Litter

“We reaffirm our commitment to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter, as articulated by the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil		0	
Canada		0	
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India		0	
Indonesia	-1		
Italy	-1		
Japan		0	
Korea	-1		
Mexico		0	
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa		0	
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom		0	
United States		0	
European Union		0	
Average		+0.10 (55%)	

Background

The accumulation of plastics and microplastics in the world’s oceans pose a significant environmental, health, and economic threat to marine and coastal ecology and biodiversity.⁵²³⁰ The large-scale production of plastics and the ongoing trends of rapid population growth, urbanization, and increased resource consumption have contributed to the issue of marine plastic litter.⁵²³¹ According to the World Economic Forum, without concrete and sustained action, the world’s oceans will contain more plastic than fish by 2050.⁵²³² Thus, protecting the global marine environment through actions to reduce and prevent the effects of plastics and microplastics has received increasing attention at G20 summits.

⁵²³⁰ G20 Report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter: Second Information Sharing based on the G20 Implementation Framework, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

https://g20mpl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/G20mpl_20201214_IGES_second-edition.pdf

⁵²³¹ G20 Report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter: Second Information Sharing based on the G20 Implementation Framework, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

https://g20mpl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/G20mpl_20201214_IGES_second-edition.pdf

⁵²³² More Plastics than Fish in the Ocean by 2050: Report Offers Blueprint for Change, World Economic Forum (Cologne) 19 January 2016. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.weforum.org/press/2016/01/more-plastic-than-fish-in-the-ocean-by-2050-report-offers-blueprint-for-change/>

The G20 first recognized marine environmental protection as a distinct commitment area at the 2011 Cannes Summit.⁵²³³ While safeguarding the marine environment had been mentioned at the Toronto and Seoul Summits, this summit was the first to offer a more serious consideration of the issue. G20 members committed to preventing marine accidents and those relating to offshore oil and gas exploration and development activities.⁵²³⁴ They further called upon the Global Marine Environment Protection working group to report on the progress made on the commitment area the following year and committed to discuss marine environmental protection with relevant international organizations and stakeholders.⁵²³⁵

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, G20 leaders welcomed “the establishment of a Global Marine Environment Protection Best Practices Sharing Mechanism website and look forward to its launch in accordance with the Cannes mandate.”⁵²³⁶ The following year, G20 leaders stated “We appreciate the progress achieved since the establishment of the G20 Global Marine Environment Protection (GMEP) Initiative and welcome the launch of the GMEP Initiative website as a key element of the GMEP Mechanism for the voluntary exchange of national best practices to protect the marine environment, in particular to prevent accidents related to offshore oil and gas exploration and development, as well as marine transportation, and to deal with their consequences. We encourage participants to make full use of the website and share relevant information under the auspices of the G20 in cooperation with relevant international organizations in accordance with the GMEP mandates.”⁵²³⁷ The marine environment was not mentioned at the 2014 Brisbane, 2015 Antalya or 2016 Hangzhou Summits.

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 members recognized the need to reduce and prevent marine litter for the preservation of human health and marine and coastal ecosystems.⁵²³⁸ To display their commitment to marine environmental protection, the G20 members launched the G20 Marine Litter Action Plan to “prevent and reduce marine litter of all kinds, including from single-use plastics and micro-plastics.”⁵²³⁹ Additionally, the summit emphasized the importance of knowledge exchange and dissemination on marine plastic prevention and reduction amongst G20 members.⁵²⁴⁰

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 members committed to taking “national actions for the prevention and significant reduction of discharges of plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans” thereby affirming the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.⁵²⁴¹

⁵²³³ Cannes Summit Final Declaration – Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

⁵²³⁴ Cannes Summit Final Declaration – Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

⁵²³⁵ Cannes Summit Final Declaration – Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

⁵²³⁶ G20 Leaders Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

⁵²³⁷ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

⁵²³⁸ G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter (Hamburg), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-g20-marine-litter.html>

⁵²³⁹ G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter (Hamburg), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-g20-marine-litter.html>

⁵²⁴⁰ G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter (Hamburg), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-g20-marine-litter.html>

⁵²⁴¹ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 21 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, the Saudi presidency prioritized safeguarding the planet and signalled a strong commitment to the issues of sustainable development, ocean preservation, and the reduction of food loss and waste.⁵²⁴² Saudi Arabia built on the Japanese G20 presidency and advanced discussions on marine ecosystem preservation.⁵²⁴³ The commitment made by G20 leaders to reaffirm the Osaka Blue Vision highlights the growing importance and urgency of collective environmental protection.

Commitment Features

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, G20 members reaffirmed their commitment to the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.⁵²⁴⁴ The Osaka Blue Ocean Vision “aims to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050 through a comprehensive life-cycle approach that includes reducing the discharge of mismanaged plastic litter by improved waste management and innovative solutions while recognising the important role of plastics for society.”⁵²⁴⁵ In this commitment, there are four requirements: 1) to reduce marine plastic litter, 2) to reduce microplastic waste, 3) to prevent marine plastic litter and 4) to prevent microplastic waste.

Marine plastic litter is any human-created plastic, “a synthetic organic polymer made from petroleum” discarded or disposed of in the environment, sea, ocean, or coastlines.⁵²⁴⁶ Plastic litter can come in different shapes or sizes, but plastic pieces less than 5 mm in length are called microplastics.⁵²⁴⁷ There are two categories of microplastics: 1) primary, which are released directly as small particles in the environment and 2) secondary, which originate from degraded larger pieces of plastic litter.⁵²⁴⁸ Examples of materials and products defined as plastic litter include plastic bags, plastic straws, single-use beverage cups, plastic water bottles and caps, plastic packaging, and microbeads, etc.

The “life-cycle approach” to waste management considers the environmental impact (emissions and resource consumption) of a product through its lifetime.⁵²⁴⁹ The life cycle of a product starts from its natural extraction to material processing, its manufacturing, distribution, and use, and ends with its re-use, recycling, energy recovery, and disposal.⁵²⁵⁰

The word “reduce” means to “diminish in size, amount, extent, or number.”⁵²⁵¹ The word “additional” is understood as a preventative measure meaning “more than is usual or expected,” whereby “prevent” means “to keep from happening or existing.”^{5252,5253} Therefore, G20 members are

⁵²⁴² Safeguarding the Planet, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-Safeguarding_the_Planet.pdf

⁵²⁴³ Safeguarding the Planet, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-Safeguarding_the_Planet.pdf

⁵²⁴⁴ Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁵²⁴⁵ About Us, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) n.d. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/about>

⁵²⁴⁶ Marine Plastics, International Union for Conservation of Nature (Gland) n.d. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.iucn.org/resources/issues-briefs/marine-plastics>

⁵²⁴⁷ What are microplastics?, National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/microplastics.html>

⁵²⁴⁸ Microplastics: sources, effects and solutions, European Parliament (Brussels) 22 November 2018. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20181116STO19217/microplastics-sources-effects-and-solutions>

⁵²⁴⁹ Life Cycle Thinking and Assessment for Waste Management, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/publications/>

⁵²⁵⁰ Life Cycle Thinking and Assessment for Waste Management, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/publications/>

⁵²⁵¹ Reduce, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/reduce>

⁵²⁵² Additional, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/addition>

required to take action to lessen the current amount of plastic litter in the oceans and to stop the release of plastic litter into the oceans.

G20 members can take domestic (or in the case of the EU, supranational) and international action to achieve compliance. Domestic actions refer to federal or national government-level initiatives undertaken by G20 members. Examples of domestic action include, but are not limited to, legislation that improves methods of waste management, the national reduction or prohibition of single-use plastics and microbeads, private sector partnerships to reduce the output of plastic litter and improving water filtration and wastewater treatment systems to reduce or remove microfibers.⁵²⁵⁴ International action refers to efforts undertaken by G20 members at the international or global level. Examples of international action include, but are not limited to, international cooperation with other members or states to improve national technical capacities, waste generation and littering and the promotion of sustainable consumption, engagement in information-sharing and scientific knowledge production on best practices through the G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue, and international private sector engagement for the advancement of resource-efficient business models and environmentally sound product design.⁵²⁵⁵ Actions can also be partial or strong actions. If a G20 member gives verbal declarations of support towards the implementation of preventative/reduction strategies, organizes ocean clean ups or initiates environmental campaigns on marine plastic litter and microplastic waste, it would only be considered partial action. For strong action, a G20 member would have to engage in strong domestic or international actions listed above.

For full compliance, a G20 member must take domestic and international action to reduce and prevent both marine plastic litter and microplastic waste. Therefore, a G20 member would have to take domestic and international action to reduce marine plastic litter, reduce microplastic waste, prevent marine plastic litter and prevent microplastic waste. If a G20 member only takes action, domestically and/or internationally, to reduce or prevent marine plastic litter and/or microplastic waste, it would still be considered partial compliance. Actions that do not result in the reduction or prevention of additional pollution by marine plastic litter and microplastic waste will receive a negative score.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G20 member takes no action to reduce NOR prevent marine plastic litter and microplastic waste.
0	The G20 member takes action to EITHER reduce OR prevent marine plastic litter AND/OR microplastic waste.
+1	The G20 member takes actions both domestically and internationally to both reduce AND prevent marine plastic litter AND microplastic waste.

*Compliance Director: Nammal Khan
Lead Analyst: Omar Abdellatif*

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

⁵²⁵³ Prevent, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/prevent>

⁵²⁵⁴ Environment: Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 19 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/compliance/2019osaka-final/index.html>

⁵²⁵⁵ About Us, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) n.d. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/about>

On 30 November 2020, Argentina banned the production, importation, and marketing of cosmetic and care products containing microbeads.⁵²⁵⁶ According to the regulation, the cosmetic industry and companies have two years to adapt and exhaust their current stock.⁵²⁵⁷

On 8 April 2021, Argentina and 29 other countries signed on to a new United Nations-backed initiative, the GloLitter Partnerships Project, to prevent and reduce marine litter from the maritime transport and fisheries sectors.⁵²⁵⁸ The initiative is led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in tandem with the International Maritime Organization and funding from Norway through the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.⁵²⁵⁹

Argentina has taken domestic action through the ban on microbeads in cosmetic and care products and supported international efforts to reduce and prevent additional pollution from marine plastic litter and microplastic waste.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Kate Haberl

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 15 December 2020, Australia passed the Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020, the first national waste reduction plan.⁵²⁶⁰ The legislation has the objectives of reducing the “impact on human and environmental health of products” and to “develop a circular economy that maximizes the continued use of products and waste material over their life cycle and accounts for their environmental impacts.”⁵²⁶¹ This legislation serves to encourage the prevention of marine plastic litter by “regulating the export of waste material to promote its management in an environmentally sound way.”⁵²⁶²

On 17 February 2021, Australia joined the Global Oceans Alliance. The Alliance’s goal is to protect at least 30 per cent of the world’s oceans marine protected areas and marine conservation measures by 2030.⁵²⁶³ Additionally, Australia pledged AUD67.4 million to protect Australia’s oceans and

⁵²⁵⁶ Argentina Becomes the First Country in South America To Ban Microbeads, Beat The Microbead (Amsterdam) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.beatthemicrobead.org/argentina-becomes-first-country-in-south-america-to-ban-microbeads/>

⁵²⁵⁷ Argentina Becomes the First Country in South America To Ban Microbeads, Beat The Microbead (Amsterdam) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2021. <https://www.beatthemicrobead.org/argentina-becomes-first-country-in-south-america-to-ban-microbeads/>

⁵²⁵⁸ New project to help 30 developing countries tackle marine litter scourge, UN News (New York) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/04/1089322>

⁵²⁵⁹ UN Global Initiative Tackles Marine Litter to Clean World's Oceans, The Maritime Executive (Fort Lauderdale) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/un-global-initiative-tackles-marine-litter-to-clean-world-s-oceans>

⁵²⁶⁰ Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020, Parliament of Australia (Canberra) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2020A00119>

⁵²⁶¹ Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020, Parliament of Australia (Canberra) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2020A00119>

⁵²⁶² Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020, Parliament of Australia (Canberra) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2020A00119>

⁵²⁶³ Australia joins Global Oceans Alliance, Australian Government (Canberra) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/australia-joins-global-oceans-alliance>

marine ecosystems, AUD14.8 million to reduce the impacts of ghost nets and plastic litter, and AUD28.3 million to enhance marine parks.⁵²⁶⁴

On 4 March 2021, the Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment reaffirmed its commitment to the Pacific Ocean Litter Project.⁵²⁶⁵ This project works in tandem with Pacific island states to adopt single-use plastic bans, promote ocean cleanup plans, and raise “consumer awareness, support and motivation for reducing the use of single-use plastics.”⁵²⁶⁶ The Australian government has committed to investing a total of AUD16 million through 2025 to support this project.⁵²⁶⁷ Further, the federal government committed support to “coordinated global action to address marine plastic” with the United Nations.⁵²⁶⁸

On 4 March 2021, Environment Minister Sussan Ley unveiled the National Plastics Plan 2021, which works to “fast-track the phase-out of particularly problematic plastic materials.”⁵²⁶⁹ The plan affirms that by 1 July 2021, unsorted mixed plastic exports will be banned. Unprocessed single polymer plastic exports will be banned by 1 July 2022.⁵²⁷⁰ Minister Ley stated that the plan serves to encourage Australians to change the way they “produce, consume and recycle plastic.”⁵²⁷¹

On 23 April 2021, the Australian government invested an additional AUD100 million towards the management of ocean and coastal environments and global emissions reduction.⁵²⁷² The investment aims to cut emissions to create cleaner beaches, improve fish stocks, and offer better protection and assistance for marine animals and indigenous communities reliant on oceans for their livelihoods.⁵²⁷³

On 2 May 2021, the Australian government announced an investment of AUD14.8 million towards Parks Australia’s efforts to track and identify sources of ghost nets and ensure their removal from

⁵²⁶⁴ Australia joins Global Oceans Alliance, Australian Government (Canberra) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/australia-joins-global-oceans-alliance>

⁵²⁶⁵ National Plastics Plan 2021, Department of Agriculture, Water, and Environment (Canberra) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/a327406c-79f5-47f1-b71b-7388407c35a0/files/national-plastics-plan-2021.pdf>

⁵²⁶⁶ Pacific Ocean Litter Project, Department of Agriculture, Water, and Environment (Canberra). Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.environment.gov.au/marine/international-activities/pacific-ocean-litter-project>

⁵²⁶⁷ National Plastics Plan 2021, Department of Agriculture, Water, and Environment (Canberra) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/a327406c-79f5-47f1-b71b-7388407c35a0/files/national-plastics-plan-2021.pdf>

⁵²⁶⁸ Polystyrene to be phased out next year under Australia's plastic waste plan, The Guardian News International Edition (London) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/mar/04/polystyrene-to-be-phased-out-next-year-under-australias-plastic-waste-plan>

⁵²⁶⁹ National Plastics Plan 2021, Department of Agriculture, Water, and Environment (Brisbane) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/a327406c-79f5-47f1-b71b-7388407c35a0/files/national-plastics-plan-2021.pdf>

⁵²⁷⁰ National Plastics Plan 2021, Department of Agriculture, Water, and Environment (Brisbane) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/a327406c-79f5-47f1-b71b-7388407c35a0/files/national-plastics-plan-2021.pdf>

⁵²⁷¹ Polystyrene to be phased out next year under Australia's plastic waste plan, The Guardian News International Edition (London) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/mar/04/polystyrene-to-be-phased-out-next-year-under-australias-plastic-waste-plan>

⁵²⁷² Joint media release: Australia announces \$100 million initiative to protect our oceans, Australian Government (Canberra) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/australia-announces-100-million-initiative-protect-our-oceans>

⁵²⁷³ Joint media release: Australia announces \$100 million initiative to protect our oceans, Australian Government (Canberra) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/australia-announces-100-million-initiative-protect-our-oceans>

bodies of water.⁵²⁷⁴ The funding will get invested in initiatives that address ghost nets and marine debris litter, such as data collection and new technology.⁵²⁷⁵

On 11 May 2021, the Australian government unveiled its 2021-2022 budget, which includes funding for oceans, recycling, biodiversity, and climate resilience.⁵²⁷⁶ The budget sets aside AUD5 million to support small and medium-sized businesses to adopt the Australian Recycling Label and an additional AUD5.9 million for investments in industry-led stewardship schemes to reduce waste and increase resource recovery.⁵²⁷⁷ The budget further includes a new AUD100.1 million Oceans Leadership Package, which aims to restore blue carbon ecosystems, expand Australia's marine park network to protect 45 per cent of Australian waters, and protect marine species.⁵²⁷⁸

Australia has taken domestic actions and supported international efforts to reduce and prevent additional pollution from marine plastic litter and microplastic waste through its 2021-2022 budget, National Plastics Plan 2021 and Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Matthew Brubacher

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 8 April 2021, Brazil and 29 other countries signed on to a new UN-backed initiative, the GloLitter Partnerships Project, to prevent and reduce marine litter from the maritime transport and fisheries sectors.⁵²⁷⁹ The initiative is led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in tandem with the International Maritime Organization and funding from Norway through the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.⁵²⁸⁰

Brazil has taken partial action by supporting international efforts to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter. However, it has not taken domestic action to reduce or prevent marine plastic litter or microplastic waste.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Kate Haberl

⁵²⁷⁴ Tackling the ghostly killers in our oceans, Australian Government (Canberra) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.ave.gov.au/ley/media-releases/tackling-ghostly-killers-our-oceans>

⁵²⁷⁵ Tackling the ghostly killers in our oceans, Australian Government (Canberra) 2 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.ave.gov.au/ley/media-releases/tackling-ghostly-killers-our-oceans>

⁵²⁷⁶ Budget 2021-2022: Supporting oceans, recycling, biodiversity and climate resilience, Australian Government (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.ave.gov.au/ley/media-releases/budget-2021-22-supporting-oceans-recycling-biodiversity-and-climate-resilience>

⁵²⁷⁷ Budget 2021-2022: Supporting oceans, recycling, biodiversity and climate resilience, Australian Government (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.ave.gov.au/ley/media-releases/budget-2021-22-supporting-oceans-recycling-biodiversity-and-climate-resilience>

⁵²⁷⁸ Budget 2021-2022: Supporting oceans, recycling, biodiversity and climate resilience, Australian Government (Canberra) 11 May 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://minister.ave.gov.au/ley/media-releases/budget-2021-22-supporting-oceans-recycling-biodiversity-and-climate-resilience>

⁵²⁷⁹ New project to help 30 developing countries tackle marine litter scourge, UN News (New York) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/04/1089322>

⁵²⁸⁰ UN Global Initiative Tackles Marine Litter to Clean World's Oceans, The Maritime Executive (Fort Lauderdale) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/un-global-initiative-tackles-marine-litter-to-clean-world-s-oceans>

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 9 December 2020, Canada concluded a public consultation period on a proposed integrated management approach to plastic products to prevent waste and pollution, initiated by a paper on the subject published in October 2020. The purpose of this initiative is to provide “the basis for the developed of an integrated management approach to plastics, including proposed actions across the value chain to achieve zero plastic waste (including a ban on plastic checkout bags, straws, stir sticks, six-pack rings, cutlery, and food ware made from hard-to-recycle plastics), as well as systemic improvements to recover and recycle plastic,” with regulations expected to be finalized by the end of 2021. This work directly stems from Canada’s adoption of the Ocean Plastics Charter in June 2018.⁵²⁸¹

On 5 March 2021, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson announced four winners of the Canadian Plastics Innovation Challenges.⁵²⁸² These small and medium companies, Magemi Mining Inc., CACITH Inc., Met-Tech Inc., and Singular Solutions In., will receive up to CAD150,000 to develop solutions to address plastic waste.⁵²⁸³ The Canadian Plastics Innovation Challenges are a part of the innovative Solutions Canada program and support Canada’s commitment to plastic waste reduction.⁵²⁸⁴

On 31 March 2021, Canada’s Parliamentary Committee passed a bill banning the export of non-recyclable plastic waste from Canada to foreign countries.⁵²⁸⁵ Bill C-204, sponsored by Member of Parliament Scot Davidson, was adopted by the environmental committee in a 6-5 vote.⁵²⁸⁶ The committee also approved an amendment requiring the Canadian government to implement the bill within 12 months of receiving royal assent.⁵²⁸⁷

On 9 April 2021, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety Joël Lightbound announced a CAD1 million investment to BOSK Bioproducts Inc.⁵²⁸⁸ The investment is a part of the

⁵²⁸¹ Canada: Coalition of Canadian Plastic Industry Members Launch Legal Challenge to Designation of Plastic Manufactured Items As Toxic Under CEPA, Mondaq (Toronto) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/canada/waste-management/1077476/coalition-of-canadian-plastic-industry-members-launch-legal-challenge-to-designation-of-plastic-manufactured-items-as-toxic-under-cepa>

⁵²⁸² Government of Canada supports innovative made-in-Canada solutions to plastic waste, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-supports-innovative-made-in-canada-solutions-to-plastic-waste.html>

⁵²⁸³ Government of Canada supports innovative made-in-Canada solutions to plastic waste, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-supports-innovative-made-in-canada-solutions-to-plastic-waste.html>

⁵²⁸⁴ Government of Canada supports innovative made-in-Canada solutions to plastic waste, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/03/government-of-canada-supports-innovative-made-in-canada-solutions-to-plastic-waste.html>

⁵²⁸⁵ Bill banning plastic exports passes through committee, Canada’s National Observer (Toronto) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2021/04/01/news/bill-banning-plastic-exports-passes-through-committee>

⁵²⁸⁶ Bill banning plastic exports passes through committee, Canada’s National Observer (Toronto) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2021/04/01/news/bill-banning-plastic-exports-passes-through-committee>

⁵²⁸⁷ Bill banning plastic exports passes through committee, Canada’s National Observer (Toronto) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.nationalobserver.com/2021/04/01/news/bill-banning-plastic-exports-passes-through-committee>

⁵²⁸⁸ Canada supports innovation for compostable bioplastic, Natural Resources Canada (Quebec) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-supports-innovation-for-compostable-bioplastic-824701707.html>

second phase of the Bioplastics Challenge, aimed to help small businesses reduce pollution by turning forest-based residue into sustainable plastic materials.⁵²⁸⁹ The BOSK Bioproducts Inc. will focus on installing a small-scale production line for proto-typing the formulations of compostable bioplastics made from forest biomass.⁵²⁹⁰

On 15 April 2021, Minister Wilkinson announced CAD1.3 million to support five projects that aim to reduce plastic waste, prevent plastic pollution and support Canada's transition to a circular plastics economy.⁵²⁹¹ The projects will include recycling personal protective equipment from hospitals, improving the management of compostable products and supporting the development of new standards for bioplastics. The projects receiving funding from the government include the Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation, the Canadian Coalition for Green Healthcare, the Conference Board of Canada, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Ontario, and Scout Environmental.⁵²⁹²

On 16 April 2021, the Government of Canada, through FedDev Ontario, the federal economic development agency for southern Ontario, invested CAD5 million to the City of Guelph to develop the Circular Opportunity Innovation LaunchPad (COIL).⁵²⁹³ COIL is Canada's first circular economy test platform and is expected "to create 400 jobs, commercialize over 100 new products or services, and support the development and growth of up to 70 businesses."⁵²⁹⁴

On 12 May 2021, Canada published the Order Adding a Toxic Substance to Schedule 1 to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 regarding adding plastic manufactured items to the list of toxic substances. The purpose of this is to achieve zero-plastic waste by 2030 as stipulated under the Oceans Plastics Charter.⁵²⁹⁵

Canada has taken domestic action through public and private sector partnerships to reduce the output of plastic waste. However, it has not taken international action to reduce and prevent marine plastic litter and microplastic waste.

⁵²⁸⁹ Canada supports innovation for compostable bioplastic, Natural Resources Canada (Quebec) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-supports-innovation-for-compostable-bioplastic-824701707.html>

⁵²⁹⁰ Canada supports innovation for compostable bioplastic, Natural Resources Canada (Quebec) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-supports-innovation-for-compostable-bioplastic-824701707.html>

⁵²⁹¹ Government of Canada invests in reducing plastic waste and supporting the transition of a circular economy for plastics, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-invests-in-reducing-plastic-waste-and-supporting-the-transition-of-a-circular-economy-for-plastics-879248296.html>

⁵²⁹² Government of Canada invests in reducing plastic waste and supporting the transition of a circular economy for plastics, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-invests-in-reducing-plastic-waste-and-supporting-the-transition-of-a-circular-economy-for-plastics-879248296.html>

⁵²⁹³ Government of Canada invests in Canada's first circular economy focused accelerator and test platform, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-in-canadas-first-circular-economy-focused-accelerator-and-test-platform.html>

⁵²⁹⁴ Government of Canada invests in Canada's first circular economy focused accelerator and test platform, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-in-canadas-first-circular-economy-focused-accelerator-and-test-platform.html>

⁵²⁹⁵ Canada: Coalition of Canadian Plastic Industry Members Launch Legal Challenge to Designation of Plastic Manufactured Items As Toxic Under CEPA, Mondaq (Toronto) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://www.mondaq.com/canada/waste-management/1077476/coalition-of-canadian-plastic-industry-members-launch-legal-challenge-to-designation-of-plastic-manufactured-items-as-toxic-under-cepa>

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Luisa Cortat Simonetti Goncalves

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 27 November 2020, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, through a video conference, highlighted the importance of the 14th Five-Year Plan for key river basins and the marine ecological environment.⁵²⁹⁶ According to the consultation suggestions, provincial ecological and environmental departments would further fulfil their primary responsibilities and provide technical guidance and supervision to protect the marine environment.⁵²⁹⁷

On 1 December 2020, the Ministry of Commerce issued the Measures on the Use and Recycling of Disposable Plastic Products in the Commercial Field (Test) to encourage and guide the commercial field to reduce the use and actively recycle plastic bags and other disposable plastic products.⁵²⁹⁸ The measures aim to promote recyclable, easy to recycle and biodegradable alternatives, thereby reducing the severe threat that plastics pose to the sustainable development of soils, oceans, organisms and people.⁵²⁹⁹

On 3 December 2020, the Ministry of Commerce unveiled a nationwide reporting system to record the use and recycling of disposable plastic products.⁵³⁰⁰ The reporting system intends to urge businesses to reduce reliance on single-use plastics and supports China's efforts to control plastic pollution by 2025.⁵³⁰¹

On 8 December 2020, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment announced that China will institute a sweeping ban on all solid waste imports, which will come into force on 1 January 2021.⁵³⁰²

On 9 December 2020, Geng Shuang, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, called on all parties to take joint action on building a maritime community with a shared future under

⁵²⁹⁶ The Ministry of Ecology and Environment carried out scheduling and consultation on the compilation of the 14th Five-Year Plan for key river basins and Marine ecological and environmental protection, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-11/27/content_5565311.htm

⁵²⁹⁷ The Ministry of Ecology and Environment carried out scheduling and consultation on the compilation of the 14th Five-Year Plan for key river basins and Marine ecological and environmental protection, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-11/27/content_5565311.htm

⁵²⁹⁸ Ministry of Commerce: encourage and guide the business sector to reduce the use of plastic bags and other disposable plastic products, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-12/01/content_5566241.htm

⁵²⁹⁹ Ministry of Commerce: encourage and guide the business sector to reduce the use of plastic bags and other disposable plastic products, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-12/01/content_5566241.htm

⁵³⁰⁰ China urges cutting use of disposable plastics, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (Beijing) 3 December 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/media_news/202012/t20201203_811327.shtml

⁵³⁰¹ China urges cutting use of disposable plastics, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (Beijing) 3 December 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/media_news/202012/t20201203_811327.shtml

⁵³⁰² In green milestone, China to end solid waste, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (Beijing) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/media_news/202012/t20201208_811909.shtml

the issue of oceans and the law of the sea at the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly.⁵³⁰³

On 1 January 2021, China's plastic ban took effect, prohibiting restaurants and stores across the country from providing single-use plastic straws and plastic shopping bags.⁵³⁰⁴

On 7 January 2021, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment and National Development and Reform Commission issued the Opinions on Further Strengthening the Control of Plastic Pollution, which covers three periods of time: 2020, 2022 and 2025, and sets out tasks and objectives for strengthening the control of plastic pollution in different stages.⁵³⁰⁵ By 7 January 2021, 31 provinces had issued and enacted implementation or action plans related to plastic pollution control.⁵³⁰⁶

On 4 February 2021, China and Japan, during the 12th round of high-level consultations on maritime affairs, agreed to cooperate on the prevention and control of marine plastic waste.⁵³⁰⁷

On 23 February 2021, the State Council issued the Guidelines on Accelerating the Establishment and Improvement of a Green, Low-Carbon, and Circular Economic System for Development. The Guidelines suggest the consumption of green products, a green and low-carbon lifestyle, the prevention of food and beverage waste, and the sorting, reduction, and recycling of household waste per local conditions.⁵³⁰⁸ Additionally, they promote the prevention and treatment of plastic pollution throughout the supply chain.⁵³⁰⁹

China has taken domestic actions and promoted bi-lateral and international efforts to reduce and prevent additional pollution from marine plastic litter and microplastic waste.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Tianyang (Victoria) Wang

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

⁵³⁰³ China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations has called for joint efforts to build a maritime community with a shared future, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2020. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-12/09/content_5568474.htm

⁵³⁰⁴ China: Single-Use Plastic Straw and Bag Ban Takes Effect, Library of Congress (Washington) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/china-single-use-plastic-straw-and-bag-ban-takes-effect/>

⁵³⁰⁵ Thirty-one provinces have issued implementation plans or action plans related to plastic pollution control, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-01/07/content_5577567.htm

⁵³⁰⁶ Thirty-one provinces have issued implementation plans or action plans related to plastic pollution control, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-01/07/content_5577567.htm

⁵³⁰⁷ China, Japan agree to manage differences, promote cooperation in maritime affairs, the State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202102/04/content_WS601be05bc6d0f725769451e6.html

⁵³⁰⁸ The State Council issued the Guiding Opinions on Accelerating the Establishment and Improvement of a Green, Low-carbon and Circulating Economic System, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/shizhengyaowen/202102/t20210223_409950.html

⁵³⁰⁹ The State Council issued the Guiding Opinions on Accelerating the Establishment and Improvement of a Green, Low-carbon and Circulating Economic System, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYrlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/shizhengyaowen/202102/t20210223_409950.html

On 1 January 2021, France enacted several measures as part of its anti-waste law to reduce plastic waste and single-use plastics in the country.⁵³¹⁰ In particular, the enacted measures banned the distribution of plastic bottles in public and commercial facilities and professional premises, the use and production of plastic confetti and expandable polystyrene containers and the production and use of single-use plastics.⁵³¹¹ Additionally, supermarkets in the country are now obligated to provide sorting containers to encourage recycling.⁵³¹² Further, France outlined future commitments: amongst them, effective 1 January 2022, public facilities must have at least one drinking water fountain on site, press publications will have to be expedited without plastic wrapping, toys distributed to children as part of menus will have to be plastic-free, and the State will no longer purchase single-use plastic whether for usage in its workplaces or the events it organizes.⁵³¹³ To reduce microplastic in oceans, France announced that effective 1 January 2025, washing machine manufacturers must install a microfibre filter on any new washing machine put on the market.⁵³¹⁴

On 11 January 2021, France participated in the One Planet Summit to discuss accelerating international action against climate change.⁵³¹⁵ France and Costa Rica launched the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People, now composed of 52 states, pledging to protect 30 per cent of the world's land and oceans by 2030.⁵³¹⁶ President Macron announced France's commitment to abide by this level of protection by 2022 and published in January 2021 the National Protected Areas Strategy, which documents the efforts to reach this objective.⁵³¹⁷

On 12 January 2021, France, along with Spain and Monaco, launched the Exemplary Mediterranean in 2030.⁵³¹⁸ The coalition is built around four commitments of developing a grid of protected areas, putting an end to overfishing, fighting against marine pollution and putting an end to single-use plastic, and "greening up" maritime transport.⁵³¹⁹

On 16 April 2021, France issued a decree on the presence of industrial plastics in the environment.⁵³²⁰ The decree stipulates the obligation for all sites producing, manipulating and/or

⁵³¹⁰ The Anti-Waste Law for a circular economy, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/loi-anti-gaspillage-economie-circulaire-1>

⁵³¹¹ The Anti-Waste Law for a circular economy, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/loi-anti-gaspillage-economie-circulaire-1>

⁵³¹² The Anti-Waste Law for a circular economy, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/loi-anti-gaspillage-economie-circulaire-1>

⁵³¹³ The Anti-Waste Law for a circular economy, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/loi-anti-gaspillage-economie-circulaire-1>

⁵³¹⁴ The Anti-Waste Law for a circular economy, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/loi-anti-gaspillage-economie-circulaire-1>

⁵³¹⁵ One Planet Summit: Commitments to act in favour of biodiversity, Élysée (Paris) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/01/12/one-planet-summit-des-engagements-pour-agir-en-faveur-de-la-biodiversite>

⁵³¹⁶ One Planet Summit: Commitments to act in favour of biodiversity, Élysée (Paris) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/01/12/one-planet-summit-des-engagements-pour-agir-en-faveur-de-la-biodiversite>

⁵³¹⁷ National Strategy for Protected Areas, French Office for Biodiversity (Paris) n.d. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://ofb.gouv.fr/la-strategie-nationale-pour-les-aires-protégees>

⁵³¹⁸ One Planet Summit: Commitments to act in favour of biodiversity, Élysée (Paris) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/01/12/one-planet-summit-des-engagements-pour-agir-en-faveur-de-la-biodiversite>

⁵³¹⁹ One Planet Summit: Commitments to act in favour of biodiversity, Élysée (Paris) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/01/12/one-planet-summit-des-engagements-pour-agir-en-faveur-de-la-biodiversite>

⁵³²⁰ Fighting against plastic granules in the environment, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lutter-contre-granules-plastiques-industriels-dans-nature>

transporting industrial plastic granules to adapt their equipment and set up procedures to prevent plastic leakages into the environments.⁵³²¹

France has taken domestic actions and supported international efforts to reduce and prevent additional pollution from marine plastic litter and microplastic waste.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Clémentine Benoit

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 11 January 2021, Germany participated in the One Planet Summit, where Chancellor Angela Merkel stated that “Germany would join the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People (HAC).”⁵³²² The HAC for Nature and People is an intergovernmental group, composed of 50 states, committed to protecting 30 per cent of the world’s land and ocean inhabitants by 2030.⁵³²³

On 9 February 2021, Germany amended the Packaging Act to ban the distribution of lightweight plastic bags at the point of sale of goods, such as malls, grocery stores, and markets.⁵³²⁴ The ban will become effective starting 1 January 2022, and merchants will face a fine of up to EUR100,000 for violating the ban.⁵³²⁵

On 19 April 2021, Germany entered a partnership with India to establish the “Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment” programme.⁵³²⁶ The programme aims to reduce the discharge of waste into bodies of water.⁵³²⁷ The project will operate in the Indian states of Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Andaman Nicobar Islands and the cities of Port Blair, Kochi, and Kanpur for a period of three and a half years.⁵³²⁸

On 6 May 2021, the German Bundestag adopted the law to “implement the requirements of the single-use plastics directive and the waste framework directive in the packaging act and other laws.” With this action, the European Directive (EU) 2019/904 will be implemented into German law. The aim of the European Single-Use Plastic Directive is to reduce plastic products waste on European

⁵³²¹ Fighting against plastic granules in the environment, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 21 April 2021.

Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lutter-contre-granules-plastiques-industriels-dans-nature>

⁵³²² One Planet summit: Merkel rails against deforestation, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/one-planet-summit-merkel-rails-against-deforestation/a-56194295>

⁵³²³ One Planet summit: Merkel rails against deforestation, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/one-planet-summit-merkel-rails-against-deforestation/a-56194295>

⁵³²⁴ Germany: Lightweight Plastic Bag Ban to Take Effect January 1, 2022, Library of Congress (Washington) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/germany-lightweight-plastic-bag-ban-to-take-effect-january-1-2022>

⁵³²⁵ Germany: Lightweight Plastic Bag Ban to Take Effect January 1, 2022, Library of Congress (Washington) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/germany-lightweight-plastic-bag-ban-to-take-effect-january-1-2022>

⁵³²⁶ Plastic waste: India, Germany to stem discharge into water systems, Construction World (Mumbai) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.constructionworld.in/urban-infrastructure/wastewater-and-sewage-treatment/plastic-waste--india--germany-to-stem-discharge-into-water-systems/26692>

⁵³²⁷ Plastic waste: India, Germany to stem discharge into water systems, Construction World (Mumbai) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.constructionworld.in/urban-infrastructure/wastewater-and-sewage-treatment/plastic-waste--india--germany-to-stem-discharge-into-water-systems/26692>

⁵³²⁸ Plastic waste: India, Germany to stem discharge into water systems, Construction World (Mumbai) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.constructionworld.in/urban-infrastructure/wastewater-and-sewage-treatment/plastic-waste--india--germany-to-stem-discharge-into-water-systems/26692>

beaches, protect the environment from plastics and microplastics, and promote recycling-oriented management of plastics.⁵³²⁹

Germany has fully complied with this commitment through bi-lateral initiatives and a verbal declaration of support for an intergovernmental initiative to safeguard the oceans. Additionally, it has taken measures to implement EU Directive 2019/904 to reduce and prevent marine plastic litter.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ema Marcheska

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 7 December 2020, India and the UK launched the UK-India Marine Litter Twin Cities project, an initiative conceptualized by India's Ministry of Earth Sciences and the UK Science and Innovation Network.⁵³³⁰ Through the project, three coastal port cities in India are to be twinned with three coastal towns in the UK.⁵³³¹ The project aims to promote bilateral engagement between scientists, innovators and policymakers in the twinned cities and strengthen best practices for managing marine litter.⁵³³²

On 16 February 2021, Minister of Earth Sciences Madhavan Rajeevan announced India's intent to strengthen collaborations with Japan on the reduction of marine litter through scientific and regional-level data sharing.⁵³³³ Secretary Rajeevan announced this collaboration during the Indo-Japan online seminar "Marine Plastic Prevention and Management."⁵³³⁴

On 19 April 2021, India and Germany signed an agreement to establish the "Cities Combating Plastic Entering the Marine Environment" program.⁵³³⁵ The project aims to enhance practices to prevent plastic accumulation in oceans that adversely affect marine ecosystems on the national level.⁵³³⁶ The

⁵³²⁹ Drucksache 19/27634, German Bundestag (Berlin) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://dserver.bundestag.de/btd/19/276/1927634.pdf>

⁵³³⁰ Marine plastic pollution: Panaji, Mumbai, Kochi to link with UK towns, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/marine-plastic-pollution-panaji-mumbai-kochi-to-link-with-uk-towns/story-zb9JNNScx76SBZLHvtVKCK.html>

⁵³³¹ Marine plastic pollution: Panaji, Mumbai, Kochi to link with UK towns, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/marine-plastic-pollution-panaji-mumbai-kochi-to-link-with-uk-towns/story-zb9JNNScx76SBZLHvtVKCK.html>

⁵³³² Marine plastic pollution: Panaji, Mumbai, Kochi to link with UK towns, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/marine-plastic-pollution-panaji-mumbai-kochi-to-link-with-uk-towns/story-zb9JNNScx76SBZLHvtVKCK.html>

⁵³³³ India and Japan to strengthen efforts to fight marine litter, Indian Express (Pune) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 30 March 2021. <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/india-and-japan-to-strengthen-efforts-to-fight-marine-litter-7190967/>

⁵³³⁴ India and Japan to strengthen efforts to fight marine litter, Indian Express (Pune) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 30 March 2021. <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/india-and-japan-to-strengthen-efforts-to-fight-marine-litter-7190967/>

⁵³³⁵ India-Germany Enter into Agreement to Prevent Plastic Waste Entering Oceans, Swarajya (Coimbatore) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://swarajyamag.com/news-brief/india-germany-enter-into-agreement-to-prevent-plastic-waste-entering-oceans>

⁵³³⁶ India-Germany Enter into Agreement to Prevent Plastic Waste Entering Oceans, Swarajya (Coimbatore) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://swarajyamag.com/news-brief/india-germany-enter-into-agreement-to-prevent-plastic-waste-entering-oceans>

project will operate in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Andaman Nicobar Islands and the cities of Port Blair, Kochi and Kanpur over a span of three and a half years.⁵³³⁷

India has taken partial action through bilateral efforts to engage in information sharing on best practices for marine plastic reduction. However, India has not taken domestic action to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Linda Wang

Indonesia: -1

Indonesia has not complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

Indonesia has not taken any actions or made any collaborative commitments both domestically and internationally to reduce or prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter and microplastic waste as articulated by the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of -1.⁵³³⁸

Analyst: Aida Zarghami

Italy: -1

Italy has not complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 30 December 2020, Italy published the budget law, which postponed the entry into force of the plastic tax from 1 January 2021 to 1 July 2021 (article 1084).⁵³³⁹ The plastic tax established the charge of EUR0.45 per kilogram of single-use plastic produced from virgin feedstock (i.e., not recycled).⁵³⁴⁰

Although Italy has the intention to support the reduction and prevention of additional pollution by marine plastic litter, Italy has yet to implement any concrete national actions or support international efforts concerning this commitment.

Thus, Italy receives a score of -1.⁵³⁴¹

Analyst: Luisa Cortat Simonetti Goncalves

⁵³³⁷ India-Germany Enter into Agreement to Prevent Plastic Waste Entering Oceans, Swarajya (Coimbatore) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://swarajyamag.com/news-brief/india-germany-enter-into-agreement-to-prevent-plastic-waste-entering-oceans>

⁵³³⁸ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <https://www.indonesia.go.id/>, <http://www.menlhk.go.id/>, <https://kkp.go.id/>, <https://g20mpl.org>, <https://sdg.iisd.org/>, <https://www.unep.org/>, <https://www.rnz.co.nz/>, and <https://www.reutersevents.com/>

⁵³³⁹ State Budget for the financial year 2021 and multi-year budget for the three-year period 2021-2023, Italian Government (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/12/30/20G00202/sg>

⁵³⁴⁰ State Budget for the financial year 2021 and multi-year budget for the three-year period 2021-2023, Italian Government (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/12/30/20G00202/sg>

⁵³⁴¹ This non-compliance was determined after searching the following websites: <http://www.governo.it/>, www.minambiente.it, <https://unfccc.int/>, <https://www.governo.it/notizie-presidente>, <https://g20mpl.org/partners/italy>, <https://www.thelocal.it/>, and <https://www.corriere.it/>

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 18 January 2021, Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi gave a speech at the 204th session of the Diet and said that “Japan will accelerate its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and tackle global issues by making active and strategic use of Official Development Assistance. In particular, actively working on solving marine plastic litter issues to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.”⁵³⁴²

In January 2021, the Ministry of the Environment released its initiatives to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and reiterated the Ministry’s resolution to promote measures to tackle marine plastic pollution in Japan and abroad.⁵³⁴³

On 19 January 2021, the Ministry of Economic, Trade and Industry and the Ministry of the Environment jointly compiled the Disclosure and Engagement Guidance to Accelerate Sustainable Finance for a Circular Economy.⁵³⁴⁴ The purpose of the guidance was to improve Japanese companies’ ability to promote a circular economy over the medium or long term and enhance the resource circulation for plastics waste.⁵³⁴⁵

On 4 February 2021, Japan and China, during the 12th round of high-level consultations on maritime affairs, agreed to cooperate on the prevention and control of marine plastic waste.⁵³⁴⁶

On 16 February 2021, Japan and India announced their intent to collaborate on the reduction of marine litter through scientific and regional-level data sharing.⁵³⁴⁷ This collaboration got announced during the Indo-Japan online seminar “Marine Plastic Prevention and Management.”⁵³⁴⁸

Japan has verbally reaffirmed its commitment and encouraged bi-lateral and international cooperation to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter. However, it has not taken concrete domestic or international action to reduce and prevent marine plastic litter and microplastic waste.

Thus, Japan has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Tianyang (Victoria) Wang

⁵³⁴² Foreign Policy Speech by Foreign Minister MOTEGI to the 204th Session of the Diet, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/pp/page3e_001106.html

⁵³⁴³ Japan Environment Quarterly, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. <http://www.env.go.jp/en/focus/jeq/issue/vol26/vol26l.pdf>

⁵³⁴⁴ Disclosure and Engagement Guidance to Accelerate Sustainable Finance for a Circular Economy Compiled, the Ministry of Economic, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0119_004.html

⁵³⁴⁵ Disclosure and Engagement Guidance to Accelerate Sustainable Finance for a Circular Economy Compiled, the Ministry of Economic, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0119_004.html

⁵³⁴⁶ China, Japan agree to manage differences, promote cooperation in maritime affairs, the State Council of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2020. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/international/exchanges/202102/04/content_WS601be05bc6d0f725769451e6.html

⁵³⁴⁷ India and Japan to strengthen efforts to fight marine litter, Indian Express (Pune) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 30 March 2021. <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/india-and-japan-to-strengthen-efforts-to-fight-marine-litter-7190967/>

⁵³⁴⁸ India and Japan to strengthen efforts to fight marine litter, Indian Express (Pune) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 30 March 2021. <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/india-and-japan-to-strengthen-efforts-to-fight-marine-litter-7190967/>

Korea: -1

Korea has not complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

Korea has not taken any actions or made any collaborative commitments, domestically or internationally, to reduce or prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter and microplastic waste as articulated by the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.

Thus, Korea receives a score of -1.⁵³⁴⁹

Analyst: Linda Wang

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 1 February 2021, Senator Raúl Bolaños-Cacho Cué, the President of the Commission on the Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change called for more extensive regulation on the use of plastics and microplastics in Mexico during an Open Parliament session.⁵³⁵⁰ Senator Cué has proposed a legislative draft for federal regulations on plastic pollution.⁵³⁵¹

On 16 February 2021, Senator Xóchitl Gálvez Ruiz affirmed the legislative draft for federal regulations on plastic pollution by placing an emphasis on coordinating state and municipal action.⁵³⁵²

Mexico has affirmed its intentions to support the reduction and prevention of additional pollution by marine plastic litter but has yet to implement any concrete national actions or support international efforts concerning this commitment.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Matthew Brubacher

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 5 March 2021, Russia, along with other members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) revealed plans to impose a ban on single-use disposable plastic bags by the end of March 2021.⁵³⁵³

⁵³⁴⁹ This non-compliance was determined after deep search of the following websites:

<https://english1.president.go.kr/>, <https://www.unep.org/>, <https://www.korea.net>, <https://sdg.iisd.org/>, <https://www.mof.go.kr/>, <http://www.koica.go.kr/>, and <http://www.moe.go.kr/>

⁵³⁵⁰ Legislador urge una regulación viable sobre uso de plásticos Portal Ambiental (Ciudad de México) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.portalambiental.com.mx/legislacion/20210204/legislador-urge-una-regulacion-viable-sobre-uso-de-plasticos>

⁵³⁵¹ Legislator urges viable regulations on the use of plastics, Portal Ambiental (Mexico City) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.portalambiental.com.mx/legislacion/20210204/legislador-urge-una-regulacion-viable-sobre-uso-de-plasticos>

⁵³⁵² Management of plastic waste in states and municipalities must be coordinated, Portal Ambiental (Mexico City) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.portalambiental.com.mx/legislacion/20210218/manejo-de-residuos-plasticos-en-estados-y-municipio-debe-ser-coordinado>

On 12 March 2021, Russia and Norway began discussing the MPA-5 project which aims to tackle marine litter and microplastics in the Barents Sea.⁵³⁵⁴ Several Russian officials in the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia and the Marine Environment Monitoring Department of the Federal State Budgetary Institution attended the meetings. In addition, several Russian Oblasts are taking initiatives to reduce waste.⁵³⁵⁵

On 12 May 2021, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin reaffirmed the government's intentions of developing a circular economy during the State Duma's annual performance review.⁵³⁵⁶ He stated, "we are also going to develop a circular economy, stimulate businesses to stop making products that cannot be recycled, and generally reduce unnecessary packaging."⁵³⁵⁷

Russia has affirmed its intention to support the reduction and prevention of additional pollution by marine plastic litter but has yet to implement any concrete nation actions or support international efforts concerning this commitment.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Vlada Taitis

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 30 November 2020, Saudi Arabia's National Centre for Waste Management issued a new promotion of the circular economy activation.⁵³⁵⁸ These new measures include communications with different stakeholders to prevent and reduce plastic waste generation.⁵³⁵⁹

On 1 February 2021, the Saudi Council of Ministers issued new environmental regulations to achieve its 2030 vision by using best international practices.⁵³⁶⁰ As part of the new environmental regulations, The Saudi Council of Ministers produced an initiative to develop and implement a Marine Litter

⁵³⁵³ Russia & Eurasian Economic Union to Ban Disposable Plastics By End March 2021, Russia Briefing (Moscow) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021 <https://www.russia-briefing.com/news/russia-eurasian-economic-union-to-ban-disposable-plastics-by-end-march-2021.html/>

⁵³⁵⁴ A meeting of experts was held within the framework of the Russian-Norwegian project MOP-5 on marine debris and microplastics, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia (Moscow) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/sostoyalas_vstrecha_ekspertov_v_ramkakh_rossiysko_norvezhskogo_proekta_mor_5_po_morskomu_musoru_i_mi/?sphrase_id=348041

⁵³⁵⁵ A meeting of experts was held within the framework of the Russian-Norwegian project MOP-5 on marine debris and microplastics, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia (Moscow) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 26 March 2021. http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/sostoyalas_vstrecha_ekspertov_v_ramkakh_rossiysko_norvezhskogo_proekta_mor_5_po_morskomu_musoru_i_mi/?sphrase_id=348041

⁵³⁵⁶ Annual Government Report on its performance to the State Duma, The Russian Government (Moscow) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42158/>

⁵³⁵⁷ Annual Government Report on its performance to the State Duma, The Russian Government (Moscow) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42158/>

⁵³⁵⁸ G20 Report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter 2nd Edition, Ministry of Environment (Tokyo) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.env.go.jp/press/files/en/872.pdf>

⁵³⁵⁹ G20 Report on Actions against Marine Plastic Litter 2nd Edition, Ministry of Environment (Tokyo) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.env.go.jp/press/files/en/872.pdf>

⁵³⁶⁰ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudiarabia>

Prevention Strategy that will commence in 2022.⁵³⁶¹ Some of these practices include the identification of existing initiatives and projects to align and incorporate in the strategy where needed.⁵³⁶²

On 1 February 2021, the Saudi Council of Ministers issued some of their best practices that evolve in three different sectors: national level, private sector and international cooperation.⁵³⁶³ The Saudi Council of Ministers will be investing in different national companies such as the Saudi in Saudi Investment Recycling Company.⁵³⁶⁴ In the private sector, The Saudi Council of Ministers will be investing in a private company named “Sabic” to reduce plastic waste generation.⁵³⁶⁵ The Saudi Council of Ministers will also be internationally cooperating with countries like Spain, Sweden, United States, Australia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and Germany to protect Marine Areas and practice waste management.⁵³⁶⁶

Saudi Arabia has reaffirmed its intention to support the reduction and prevention of additional pollution by marine plastic litter by using and sharing best practices and developing a Marine Litter Prevention Strategy. However, Saudi Arabia has yet to implement any concrete nation actions or support international efforts concerning this commitment.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Aida Zarghami

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 15 March 2021, South Africa launched its National Water Week, hosted by Plastics SA and their partners.⁵³⁶⁷ The initiative aims to promote the importance of clean water and the involvement in marine and coastal clean-ups.⁵³⁶⁸

On 7 April 2021, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Barbara Creecy made amendments to Plastic Carrier Bags and Plastic Flat Bags Regulations.⁵³⁶⁹ These amendments focus

⁵³⁶¹ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudiarabia>

⁵³⁶² Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudiarabia>

⁵³⁶³ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudiarabia>

⁵³⁶⁴ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudiarabia>

⁵³⁶⁵ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudiarabia>

⁵³⁶⁶ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework For Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://g20mpl.org/partners/saudiarabia>

⁵³⁶⁷ National Water Week, Plastics SA (Midrand) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

<https://www.plasticsinfo.co.za/2021/03/18/national-water-week-highlights-national-eco-heroes/>

⁵³⁶⁸ National Water Week, Plastics SA (Midrand) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021.

<https://www.plasticsinfo.co.za/2021/03/18/national-water-week-highlights-national-eco-heroes/>

on all policies regarding plastic bags in the country and concentrate on promoting a circular economy.⁵³⁷⁰ The amendment prohibits the manufacture, trade or commercial distribution of domestically produced or imported plastic flat bags and requires all plastic bags to contain 50 per cent recycled content starting in 2023 and increasing to 100 per cent by 2027.⁵³⁷¹

On 4 May 2021, South Africa implemented a mandatory extended producer responsibility fee for any company or brand that produces plastic packaging for distribution.⁵³⁷² Existing plastic producers must register with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries between 5 May 2021 to 5 November 2021.⁵³⁷³

On 14 May 2021, Minister Creecy delivered the budget speech to the National Assembly.⁵³⁷⁴ The speech called for the implementation of the National Waste Management Strategy 2020 and emphasized plastic reduction as a crucial component of managing environmental pollution.⁵³⁷⁵

South Africa has taken domestic action through the ban on plastic production and restriction of commercial plastic bag usage to prevent additional pollution from plastic waste. However, it has not taken domestic or international action to reduce and prevent marine plastic litter and microplastic waste.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Ema Marcheska

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 1 February 2021, Turkey announced that it is working to institute a credit rebate to citizens for recycling beverages and other containers.⁵³⁷⁶

⁵³⁶⁹ Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment on amendments to plastic bag regulations, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/amendments-plastic-bag-regulations-published-implementation-18-apr-2021-0000>

⁵³⁷⁰ Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment on amendments to plastic bag regulations, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/amendments-plastic-bag-regulations-published-implementation-18-apr-2021-0000>

⁵³⁷¹ Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment on amendments to plastic bag regulations, South African Government (Pretoria) 18 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/amendments-plastic-bag-regulations-published-implementation-18-apr-2021-0000>

⁵³⁷² South Africa implements mandatory EPR for plastics packaging from 5 May, Independent Commodity Intelligence Services (California) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.icis.com/explore/resources/news/2021/04/29/10634055/south-africa-implements-mandatory-epr-for-plastics-packaging-from-5-may>

⁵³⁷³ South Africa implements mandatory EPR for plastics packaging from 5 May, Independent Commodity Intelligence Services (California) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.icis.com/explore/resources/news/2021/04/29/10634055/south-africa-implements-mandatory-epr-for-plastics-packaging-from-5-may>

⁵³⁷⁴ Minister Barbara Creecy: Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Dept Budget Vote 2021/22, South African Government (Pretoria) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-barbara-creecy-forestry-fisheries-and-environment-dept-budget-vote-202122-14-may>

⁵³⁷⁵ Minister Barbara Creecy: Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Dept Budget Vote 2021/22, South African Government (Pretoria) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-barbara-creecy-forestry-fisheries-and-environment-dept-budget-vote-202122-14-may>

⁵³⁷⁶ Saudi Arabia Actions and Progress on Marine Plastic Litter, Towards Osaka Blue Ocean Vision G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter (Osaka) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://g20mpl.org/partners/turkey>

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment by working on an initiative that will give a credit rebate for recycling, which will support the reduction and prevention of additional pollution by marine plastic litter. However, Turkey has not taken concrete action on this commitment.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Vlada Taitis

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 7 December 2020, the UK and India launched the UK-India Marine Litter Twin Cities project, an initiative conceptualized by India's Ministry of Earth Sciences and the UK Science and Innovation Network.⁵³⁷⁷ Through the project, three coastal port cities in India are to be twinned with three coastal towns in the UK.⁵³⁷⁸ The project aims to promote bilateral engagement between scientists, innovators and policymakers in the twinned cities and strengthen best practices for managing marine litter.⁵³⁷⁹

On 18 March 2021, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs released plans for a new Waste Prevention Programme for England.⁵³⁸⁰ This program sets out how the UK and industry can minimize waste and its impact on the environment across seven key sectors, including packaging, plastics, and single-use items.⁵³⁸¹ The plan will be open for stakeholder consultation until 10 June 2021.⁵³⁸²

On 30 April 2021, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Rebecca Pow announced that the charge for plastic bags in all UK retail stores would be doubled to GBP0.10, starting on 21 May 2021.⁵³⁸³ This is a delay from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs' original plan to implement the change in April 2021.⁵³⁸⁴

⁵³⁷⁷ Marine plastic pollution: Panaji, Mumbai, Kochi to link with UK towns, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/marine-plastic-pollution-panaji-mumbai-kochi-to-link-with-uk-towns/story-zb9JNNScx76SBZLHvtVKCK.html>

⁵³⁷⁸ Marine plastic pollution: Panaji, Mumbai, Kochi to link with UK towns, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/marine-plastic-pollution-panaji-mumbai-kochi-to-link-with-uk-towns/story-zb9JNNScx76SBZLHvtVKCK.html>

⁵³⁷⁹ Marine plastic pollution: Panaji, Mumbai, Kochi to link with UK towns, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/marine-plastic-pollution-panaji-mumbai-kochi-to-link-with-uk-towns/story-zb9JNNScx76SBZLHvtVKCK.html>

⁵³⁸⁰ Government unveils plans for wide-ranging Waste Prevention Programme, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-plans-for-wide-ranging-waste-prevention-programme>

⁵³⁸¹ Government unveils plans for wide-ranging Waste Prevention Programme, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-plans-for-wide-ranging-waste-prevention-programme>

⁵³⁸² Consultation on the Waste Prevention Programme for England: Towards a Resource-Efficient Economy, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 25 March 2021.

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/waste-prevention-programme-for-england-2021/>

⁵³⁸³ Exclusive: 10p Plastic Bag Charge To Be Rolled Out In All Shops From May 21, Politics Home (London) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.politicshome.com/news/article/exclusive-10p-plastic-bag-charge-to-be-rolled-out-in-may#.YlwkGYBDHIs.twitter>

⁵³⁸⁴ War on plastic waste stepped up with extension of plastic bag charge, Department for Environment-Food & Rural Affairs (London) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/war-on-plastic-waste-stepped-up-with-extension-of-plastic-bag-charge>

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment by reducing and preventing additional pollution in India, has announced a new initiative to minimize waste and has implemented a higher charge for plastic bags. However, the UK has yet to implement significant concrete actions or support international efforts.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Claire Parish

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 21 December 2020, President Donald Trump signed into law the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act. This act aims to improve work and research surrounding marine debris and waste management.⁵³⁸⁵ The act created a Marine Debris Foundation and a Genius Prize for Save Our Seas Innovation, alongside grants for waste management and mitigation studies.⁵³⁸⁶ It also formalized US policy on international cooperation and federal outreach around Marine debris, encouraging action and cooperation to prevent and reduce marine litter.⁵³⁸⁷

The United States has partially complied with its commitment by passing a law that will support the reduction and prevention of marine plastic litter. However, the United States has not taken enough significant, concrete actions on the commitment.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Claire Parish

European Union: 0

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to reduce and prevent additional pollution by marine plastic litter.

On 14 December 2020, the European Commission's Independent Group of Chief Scientific Advisors (GCSA) unveiled a Scientific Opinion on Plastics' Biodegradability in the Open Environment, a report highlighting recommendations to assess which specific biodegradable plastic applications can offer environmental benefits.⁵³⁸⁸ According to the Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevičius, the report's conclusions "provide a sound basis for the policy framework for biodegradable and compostable plastics announced in the new Circular Economy Action Plan."⁵³⁸⁹

⁵³⁸⁵ Bipartisan Save Our Seas 2.0 Act Signed into Law, Sheldon Whitehouse: US Senator for Rhode Island (Washington D.C.) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.senate.gov/news/release/-bipartisan-save-our-seas-20-act-signed-into-law>

⁵³⁸⁶ S.1982 – Save Our Seas 2.0 Act, Congress (Washington D.C.) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1982/text>

⁵³⁸⁷ S.1982 – Save Our Seas 2.0 Act, Congress (Washington D.C.) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1982/text>

⁵³⁸⁸ New Scientific Opinion on the Biodegradability of Plastics in the Open Environment, European Commission (Brussels) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/new-scientific-opinion-biodegradability-plastics-open-environment-2020-dec-14_en

⁵³⁸⁹ New Scientific Opinion on the Biodegradability of Plastics in the Open Environment, European Commission (Brussels) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/new-scientific-opinion-biodegradability-plastics-open-environment-2020-dec-14_en

On 16 December 2020, the European Parliament adopted the revised Drinking Water Directive.⁵³⁹⁰ The initiative aims to grant all individuals in member states better access to drinkable tap water and reduce plastic waste from water bottles.⁵³⁹¹

On 22 December 2020, the European Commission adopted new rules regarding the export, import and intra-EU shipment of plastic waste.⁵³⁹² Moving forward, the export of plastic waste from the EU to non-OECD countries will be banned, with an exception for clean plastic waste destined to be recycled.⁵³⁹³ Additionally, stricter controls will be implemented regarding plastic waste exported from the EU to OECD countries as well as imports within the EU.⁵³⁹⁴

The European Union has taken action through information sharing and regulations to prevent additional pollution from plastic litter. However, it has not taken supranational or international action to reduce and prevent marine plastic litter.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Clémentine Benoit

⁵³⁹⁰ The revised Drinking Water Directive, European Commission (Brussels) Access Date: 18 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-drink/legislation_en.html

⁵³⁹¹ Commission welcomes final agreement on water quality and access to drinking water, European Commission (Brussels) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2417

⁵³⁹² Plastic waste shipments: new EU rules on importing and exporting plastic waste, European Commission (Brussels) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/plastic-waste-shipments-new-eu-rules-importing-and-exporting-plastic-waste-2020-12-22_en

⁵³⁹³ Plastic waste shipments: new EU rules on importing and exporting plastic waste, European Commission (Brussels) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/plastic-waste-shipments-new-eu-rules-importing-and-exporting-plastic-waste-2020-12-22_en

⁵³⁹⁴ Plastic waste shipments: new EU rules on importing and exporting plastic waste, European Commission (Brussels) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/plastic-waste-shipments-new-eu-rules-importing-and-exporting-plastic-waste-2020-12-22_en

19. Climate Change: Circular Carbon Economy

“We endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil		0	
Canada			+1
China		0	
France			+1
Germany		0	
India		0	
Indonesia	-1		
Italy		0	
Japan		0	
Korea		0	
Mexico	-1		
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa		0	
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.30 (65%)	

Background

According to the United Nations, “the impacts of climate change are global in scope and unprecedented in scale,”⁵³⁹⁵ threatening food production, the availability of resources, and economic development. For several decades, international organs such as the UN have begun referring to the rising climate and depletion of resources as a point of significant concern. The first earth conference was hosted by the UN in Stockholm, Sweden in 1972, introducing recommendations for international environmental action.⁵³⁹⁶ In more recent years, these recommendations have evolved into further commitments, namely the 2015 Paris Agreement. Accordingly, the G20 members have addressed climate change in some capacity at every summit held since the inaugural summit in 2008.⁵³⁹⁷ Accounting for nearly 80 per cent of global emissions, the G20 member states have a

⁵³⁹⁵ Climate Change, United Nations (New York) n.d. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

<https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/climate-change/>

⁵³⁹⁶ From Stockholm to Kyoto: A Brief History of Climate Change, United Nations (New York) n.d. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/stockholm-kyoto-brief-history-climate-change>

⁵³⁹⁷ Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, G20 Research Group (Washington) 15 November 2008. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2008/2008declaration1115.html>

significant role to play in collective actions aimed at addressing climate change and its effects.⁵³⁹⁸ Additionally, bold action on climate change has the potential to produce USD26 trillion in economic benefits, as is cited by the UN.⁵³⁹⁹ Meaning, addressing climate change is and will continue to be a pressing issue for the G20, as their primary goal is to promote “international financial stability.”⁵⁴⁰⁰

The topic of climate change was addressed at the G20 inaugural summit, the 2008 Washington, D.C. Summit. G20 members acknowledged climate change as a “critical challenge” that needed to be addressed; however, failed to provide further specificity indicating the instruments to do so.⁵⁴⁰¹ Nor did they identify a specific goal to meet in this topic area.

At the 2009 London Summit, the G20 members reaffirmed their “commitment to address the threat of irreversible climate change, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and to reach agreement at the UN Climate Change conference in Copenhagen in December 2009” in their single commitment dedicated towards climate change.⁵⁴⁰² This marked the first time climate change was addressed in a commitment while referencing specific and measurable goals outlined in the 2009 UN Climate Change Agreement.

At the 2009 Pittsburgh Summit, the G20 members dedicated a significant portion of the conference to consider energy security and climate change, marking the first time the members recognized climate change as a multi-faceted issue with multiple factors. In the leaders’ statement, they addressed specific issues concerning climate change, including “inefficient fossil fuel subsidies [that] encourage wasteful consumption, distort markets, impede investment in clean energy sources and undermine efforts to deal with climate change.”⁵⁴⁰³ Members also identified specific steps to address climate change, including “increasing clean and renewable energy supplies, improving energy efficiency, and promoting conservation.”⁵⁴⁰⁴

At the 2010 Toronto Summit, the G20 members reaffirmed their previous commitments to addressing climate change but failed to make any further commitments on the topic.⁵⁴⁰⁵ The commitments on climate change at this summit also lack further specificity.

At the 2010 Seoul Summit, the G20 members reaffirmed their commitment to fight climate change. More specifically, they made a commitment to “rationalize and phase-out over the medium-term inefficient fossil fuel subsidies; mitigate excessive fossil fuel price volatility; safeguard the global marine environment; and combat the challenges of global climate change.”⁵⁴⁰⁶

⁵³⁹⁸ Lagging in climate action, G20 nations have huge opportunities to increase ambition, United Nations (New York) 21 September 2019. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/lagging-climate-action-g20-nations-have-huge-opportunities-increase>

⁵³⁹⁹ Climate Action Key Findings, United Nations (New York) n.d. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/key-findings>

⁵⁴⁰⁰ G20 Information Centre, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 30 November 1999. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/g20whatisit.html>

⁵⁴⁰¹ Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2008. Access Date: 26 February 2021 <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2008/2008declaration1115.html>

⁵⁴⁰² London Summit – Leader’s Statement, G20 Information Centre (London) 2 April 2009. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communiqu0402.pdf>

⁵⁴⁰³ G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communiqu0925.html#energy>

⁵⁴⁰⁴ G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communiqu0925.html#energy>

⁵⁴⁰⁵ The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communiqu.html>

⁵⁴⁰⁶ G20 Seoul Summit, G20 Information Centre (Seoul) 12 November 2010. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2010seoul.html>

At the 2011 Cannes Summit, the G20 members identified the fight against climate change as a main priority. Specifically, there was a significant focus placed on financing initiatives addressing climate change, primarily supporting “climate-related investments in developing countries” and “assist[ing] developing countries to mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change.”⁵⁴⁰⁷ Additionally, G20 members committed to “fostering clean energy, green growth and sustainable development [through] promot[ing] low-carbon development strategies.”⁵⁴⁰⁸

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, the G20 members acknowledged the significant impact of climate change on the world economy and reaffirmed their commitment to fight climate change. They committed to take action to fulfill their Rio+20 and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change agreements, the Green Climate Fund, implementation of Cancun and Durban outcomes and achieving greater outcomes at COP-18. Additionally, they recognized the importance of adapting agriculture to climate change, namely through “improving the efficiency of water and soil use in a sustainable manner.”⁵⁴⁰⁹

At the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, the G20 members reaffirmed their commitment to the fight against climate change and committed to the full implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change outcomes, as well as the Green Climate Fund.⁵⁴¹⁰ In this, they specified their commitment to adhering to the Kyoto protocol for accounting and reporting emissions, marking the first direct reference to the role of CO₂ emissions in addressing climate change.⁵⁴¹¹

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, the G20 members reaffirmed their commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change’s outcomes, as well as to the Green Climate Fund.⁵⁴¹² Additionally, they committed to “an Action Plan for Voluntary Collaboration on Energy Efficiency, including new work on the efficiency and emissions performance of vehicles, particularly heavy-duty vehicles; networked devices; buildings; industrial processes; and electricity generation; as well as work on financing for energy efficiency.”⁵⁴¹³

At the 2015 Antalya Summit, the G20 members identified climate change as “one of the greatest challenges of our time” and committed to the below 2°C goal in the Lima Call for Action, as well as the commitments made in the “ambitious agreement in Paris.”⁵⁴¹⁴ Additionally, members emphasized

⁵⁴⁰⁷ Cannes Summit Final Declaration – Building on our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Research Group (Cannes) 4 November 2011. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

⁵⁴⁰⁸ Cannes Summit Final Declaration – Building on our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Research Group (Cannes) 4 November 2011. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

⁵⁴⁰⁹ G20 Leaders Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

⁵⁴¹⁰ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

⁵⁴¹¹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

⁵⁴¹² G20 Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communiqu.html>

⁵⁴¹³ G20 Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communiqu.html>

⁵⁴¹⁴ G20 Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communiqu.html>

the importance of “improving energy efficiency, increasing investments in clean energy technologies and supporting related research and development activities.”⁵⁴¹⁵

At the 2016 Hangzhou Summit, the G20 members reaffirmed their commitment to the Paris Agreement and the Green Climate Fund, specifically “in providing means of implementation including financial resources to assist developing countries with respect to both mitigation and adaptation actions in line with Paris outcomes.”⁵⁴¹⁶ Additionally, members restated their commitment to “to building well-functioning, open, competitive, efficient, stable and transparent energy markets, fostering more effective and inclusive global energy architecture to better reflect the changing realities of the world’s energy landscape, and shaping an affordable, reliable, sustainable and low greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions energy future while utilizing energy sources and technologies.”⁵⁴¹⁷

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, the G20 members recognized that “a strong economy and a healthy planet are mutually reinforcing”⁵⁴¹⁸ and reaffirmed their commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Members also acknowledged the importance of a collaborative effort in keeping in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, identifying “energy security as one of the guiding principles for the transformation of our energy systems.”⁵⁴¹⁹ The decision of the United States to withdraw from the Paris Climate Change Agreement was noted, and the leaders of the other G20 members acknowledged the irreversibility of the agreement.

At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, the G20 members “recognize[d] the importance of comprehensive adaptation strategies, including investment in infrastructure that is resilient to extreme weather events and disasters,” noting the global warming of 1.5 degrees.⁵⁴²⁰ Members also reaffirmed the importance of “energy security, sustainability, resilience, efficiency, affordability and stability” in achieving the broader goal of reduced emissions.⁵⁴²¹

From 15-16 June 2019, G20 Energy and Environment Ministers met for the first time. They stated that “We, the G20 Environment Ministers, recognize that improving resource efficiency through policies and approaches, such as circular economy, sustainable materials management, the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) and waste to value, supports our belief that economic growth and environmental protection can and should go hand-in-hand, contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals” and “We recognize the economic and environmental benefits of resource efficiency and circular economy policies in their potential to reduce all types of emissions, and look forward to pursuing these benefits.”⁵⁴²²

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, the G20 members recognized the “urgent need for addressing complex and pressing global issues and challenges including climate change; resource efficiency; air, land, freshwater and marine pollution; biodiversity loss; sustainable consumption and production; urban

⁵⁴¹⁵ G20 Leaders’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communication.html>

⁵⁴¹⁶ G20 Leaders’ Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communication.html>

⁵⁴¹⁷ G20 Leaders’ Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communication.html>

⁵⁴¹⁸ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁵⁴¹⁹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁵⁴²⁰ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

⁵⁴²¹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

⁵⁴²² Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Kaurizawa) 16 June 2019. Access Date: 26 March 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-energy-environment-communication.html>

environmental quality; and other environmental issues.”⁵⁴²³ Key areas of focus on this topic were reducing emissions and fostering resilient development. In regard to resource efficiency, the G20 leaders also emphasized that “We recognize that improving resource efficiency through policies and approaches, such as circular economy, sustainable materials management, the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) and waste to value, contributes to the SDGs, as well as to addressing a wide range of environmental challenges, enhancing competitiveness and economic growth, managing resources sustainably, and creating jobs.”⁵⁴²⁴

On 28 September 2020, G20 Energy Ministers met virtually, dedicating an entire section of the communiqué to the “Circular Carbon Economy for Cleaner and More Sustainable Energy Systems.” G20 Energy Ministers stated “we endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform and its “4Rs” framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove) while acknowledging...and recognizing the key importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances, including its specific resources endowment and its political, economic, environmental, social, and risk-informed development contexts, noting:

- “Reduce: Lower GHG [greenhouse gas] emissions by utilizing technologies and innovations such as renewable energy and nuclear energy, improving energy productivity and efficiency, and better managing energy supply and consumption. Recognizing the vital role that:
 - “Energy efficiency plays an important role in reducing overall energy demand, avoiding energy waste and increasing energy productivity. We acknowledge the achievements of the G20 cooperation on Energy Efficiency and will encourage future international collaboration to fully utilize the potential energy efficiency;
 - “Renewables, such as wind, solar, hydro, geothermal, marine/ocean, bioenergy and biofuels, are important for providing clean energy systems;
 - “Nuclear plays, in providing clean energy, for those who opt to use it, as well as in enhancing energy security. We note the importance of addressing challenges including decommissioning and final disposal of radioactive waste issues;
- “Reuse: Convert emissions into useful industrial feedstock by deploying Carbon Capture and Utilization (CCU), including Emissions to Value (E2V) and Carbon Recycling (CR). Noting the potential of CCU as an advanced and cleaner technology that can help mitigate the impacts of emissions by capturing and reusing them;
- “Recycle: Neutralize carbon emissions through natural processes and decomposition, including through the use of renewable sources of energy such as biofuels, bioenergy and energy carriers such as methanol, ammonia, and urea representing the natural cycle and the recycling; and
- “Remove: Remove emissions from the atmosphere as well as from heavy industries and facilities through Carbon Capture and Storage (natural and geological) and Direct Air Capture.”⁵⁴²⁵

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, the G20 members identified “preventing environmental degradation, conserving, sustainably using and restoring biodiversity, preserving our oceans, promoting clean air and clean water, responding to natural disasters and extreme weather events, and tackling climate

⁵⁴²³ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

⁵⁴²⁴ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

⁵⁴²⁵ G20 Energy Ministers Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 September 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-energy-0928.html>

change” as being among the most “pressing issues of our time.”⁵⁴²⁶ They also reaffirmed the importance of international cooperation in addressing climate change, in accordance with the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

Commitment Features

On 21 November 2020, G20 leaders adopted the present commitment at a virtual summit hosted by Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The commitment reads as the following: “We endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.” This was the first time the G20 leaders used the phrase “circular carbon economy.”

To “endorse” is understood as “to make a public statement of your approval or support for something or someone.”⁵⁴²⁷ This verb constitutes a weak politically binding commitment, meaning, this term signifies a firm commitment but is a weak catalyst for compliance.⁵⁴²⁸ The definition of this term indicates that actions surrounding this commitment are likely to be more political in nature, rather than policy centered. Actions compliant with this commitment include, but are not limited to, allocating funding towards renewable energy, implementing a more effective waste system, and taking steps towards reducing carbon emissions.

The “circular carbon economy” (CCE), as defined by the G20 in their Riyadh communiqué is a “voluntary, holistic, integrated, inclusive, pragmatic, and complementary approach to promote economic growth while enhancing environmental stewardship through managing emissions in all sectors including, but not limited to, energy, industry, mobility, and food.”⁵⁴²⁹ Similarly, the CCE guide defines the CCE as “an integrated and inclusive approach to transitioning toward more comprehensive, resilient, sustainable, and climate-friendly energy systems that support and enable sustainable development. CCE enables countries to take advantage of all technologies, forms of energy, and mitigation opportunities according to resource availability, economics, and national circumstances.”⁵⁴³⁰ The CCE Platform incorporates the 4Rs “while acknowledging and recognizing the key importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances, including its specific resources endowment and its political, economic, environmental, social and risk-informed development contexts.”⁵⁴³¹

The CCE “builds on the principles of circular economy and applies them to managing carbon emissions: to reduce the carbon that must be managed in the first place, to reuse carbon as an input to create feedstocks and fuels, to recycle carbon through the natural carbon cycle with bioenergy, and, unique to circular carbon economy, to remove excess carbon and store it.”⁵⁴³² To “reduce” refers to carbon reductions and energy efficiency, non-bio renewables, and nuclear electricity. To “reuse” refers to converting CO₂ into fuels, chemicals and building materials, including synthetic

⁵⁴²⁶ Leader’s Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁵⁴²⁷ Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/endorse>

⁵⁴²⁸ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁵⁴²⁹ Leader’s Declaration, G20 Research Group (Riyadh) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁵⁴³⁰ Guide to the Circular Carbon Economy, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Centre (Riyadh) August 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.cceguide.org/guide/>

⁵⁴³¹ G20 Energy Ministers Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 September 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-energy-0928.html>

⁵⁴³² Guide to the Circular Carbon Economy, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Centre (Riyadh) August 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.cceguide.org/guide/>

hydrocarbon fuels. To “recycle” refers to using bioenergy as fuel and feedstock or to generate electricity.⁵⁴³³ To “remove” refers to carbon capture and storage,⁵⁴³⁴ which involves “the capture of [CO₂] from fuel combustion or industrial processes, the transport of this CO₂ via ship or pipeline, and either its use as a resource to create valuable products or services or its permanent storage deep underground in geological formations.”⁵⁴³⁵ Furthermore, the CCE incorporates the use of hydrogen as “a highly versatile fuel that can help decarbonize hard-to-abate sectors where other low carbon alternatives are not an option (such as transport, industrial applications or buildings) while serving to store energy from renewable generation and assist in balancing its variability.”⁵⁴³⁶ Enabling policies that support the CCE are overcoming barriers to financing the carbon capture, utilization and storage (“remove”) and accelerating innovation.⁵⁴³⁷

The term “efficiency” is to be understood as “the good use of time and energy in a way that does not waste any.”⁵⁴³⁸ In this context, system efficiency indicates an understanding that policies in accordance with this commitment should be balanced with maintaining the efficiency of existing systems and when possible, should enhance the efficiency of these systems. Examples of systems to be considered include transportation systems, financial systems, and food production systems. These definitions indicate that this commitment takes into account the use of energy and emphasizes policies that reduce energy waste within systems. In cases where a complete shift in policy would disrupt the efficiency of an existing system, policies that commit to transitioning to a CCE will be considered.

In this context, “national circumstance” is to be understood as the consideration of the varying resources available to different G20 members. Meaning, policies in accordance with this compliance will vary between members and should utilize the resources available on a case-by-case basis. For example, members with little access to water as a source of renewable energy due to geographical reasons would be expected to employ other forms of venerable energy. The phrase “national circumstances” also takes into account each member state’s share of global CO₂ emissions when assessing policies aimed at reducing emissions.

To achieve full compliance (+1), G20 members must take actions in all 4Rs, including in the hydrogen or enabling policies aspect of the CCE. These actions must be strong actions where a G20 member takes concrete action on at least three of the 4Rs and partial action on the final of the 4Rs, as well as either hydrogen or enabling policies. Concrete actions include implementing policies, changing or drafting laws, initiating or implementing a new program or project, or contributing technical or financial assistance to an existing program or project. If a G20 member takes concrete action in all 4Rs, without specifically targeting the hydrogen or enabling practices, it would still be considered full compliance.

For partial compliance (0), a G20 member would take strong action in two three of the 4Rs without taking into consideration hydrogen or enabling policies.

⁵⁴³³ Guide to the Circular Carbon Economy, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Centre (Riyadh) August 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.cceguide.org/guide/>

⁵⁴³⁴ Guide to the Circular Carbon Economy, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Centre (Riyadh) August 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.cceguide.org/guide/>

⁵⁴³⁵ Carbon capture, utilization and storage, International Energy Agency (Paris) 5 November 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.iea.org/fuels-and-technologies/carbon-capture-utilisation-and-storage>

⁵⁴³⁶ Guide to the Circular Carbon Economy, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Centre (Riyadh) August 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.cceguide.org/guide/>

⁵⁴³⁷ Guide to the Circular Carbon Economy, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Centre (Riyadh) August 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2021. <https://www.cceguide.org/guide/>

⁵⁴³⁸ Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/efficiency>

If a G20 member only takes partial action, such as reaffirmation of the commitment or attending a meeting, on one or two of the 4Rs, it would be non-compliance (-1). Similarly, if a G20 member takes no action, it would be considered non-compliance.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member does not take strong action on any of the 4Rs.
0	G20 member takes strong action in TWO or THREE of the 4Rs, without taking into consideration hydrogen or enabling policies.
+1	G20 member takes strong action on THREE or FOUR of the 4Rs, while also taking into consideration hydrogen AND/OR enabling policies.

Compliance Director: Jenna Im
Lead Analyst: Omar Kassam

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 1 December 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development introduced a working instruction that hopes to promote a Sustainable Public Administration. This methodology was developed to analyze the level of sustainability in areas including: “energy management; water management, waste management; maintenance, order and cleanliness; rationalization of the use of paper and implementation of the electronic process; sustainable shopping; sustainable mobility and telework; surfaces and green spaces, among others.”⁵⁴³⁹

On 2 December 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development announced it would implement a biodigester in the Bolivian Community Fruit and Vegetable Concentrator Market in Buenos Aires. The goal is to reduce organic waste and use the process of biodigestion to generate electricity.⁵⁴⁴⁰

On 12 December 2020, President Alberto Fernández announced Argentina’s goal of reducing greenhouse emissions by 25.7 per cent and reaching carbon neutrality by 2050 at the Climate Ambition Summit.⁵⁴⁴¹ The President stated: “Argentina reaffirms its commitment to the Paris Agreement and adopts climate change as a State policy.”⁵⁴⁴² It was also announced that Argentina

⁵⁴³⁹ Cabandié and Montero headed the first meeting of the Internal Control Committee of the Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-y-montero-encabezaron-la-primera-reunion-del-comite-de-control-interno-deln>

⁵⁴⁴⁰ The fruit and vegetable market "Bolivian Community" of Escobar will soon have a biodigester, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-mercado-frutihorticola-comunidad-boliviana-de-escobar-contara-proximamente-con-un>

⁵⁴⁴¹ Cabandié: "We are committing ourselves to the world to a much more ambitious reduction of greenhouse gases", Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-nos-estamos-comprometiendo-ante-el-mundo-una-reduccion-de-gases-de-efecto>

⁵⁴⁴² Argentina announced its new commitment in the fight against climate change, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-anuncio-su-nuevo-compromiso-en-la-lucha-contra-el-cambio-climatico>

would start preparing its National Plan for Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change and involve the participation of actors from public and private sectors.⁵⁴⁴³

On 14 December 2020, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development Juan Cabandié presented the new Nationally Determined Contribution to the year 2030.⁵⁴⁴⁴ It seeks to reaffirm Argentina's commitment to climate action. Through committing to delivering this commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at the end of the year. Additionally, President Fernández announced that Argentina has identified carbon neutrality as the goal for 2050.

On 16 December 2020, Minister Cabandié announced the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development's contributions of ARS367 million to Santiago del Estero.⁵⁴⁴⁵ Of the ARS367 million allocated to the city, ARS6.9 million will be used for renovation works, to be carried out through work cooperatives in the area, with the inclusion of recycled materials for urban furniture. Another ARS80 million is allocated for the purchase of machinery aimed at optimizing the management of urban solid waste and enhancing its classification, and separation. The remaining ARS280 million will be used for the national environmental portfolio through the Bosques Nativos y Comunidad project which will incorporate a variety of initiatives, namely forest regeneration, improved wood-burning stoves, and rainwater collection roofs.

On 17 December 2020, Ambassador of Portugal in Argentina José Ludovice and Minister Cabandié reaffirmed their commitment to continue two collaborative environmental and sustainable development projects. One of the projects, called "Program of systematization and online monitoring of the circular economy," aims to solicit statistical information to better understand urban solid waste and reinforce the circular economy.⁵⁴⁴⁶

On 30 December 2020, Minister Cabandié signed agreements for six projects under the Comprehensive Common House Plan, investing a total of ARS33 million.⁵⁴⁴⁷ The Common House Program aims to promote sustainability and environmentalism, with particular commitment to the circular economy. The six projects are described as the following: the remodeling of the sustainable public space in Plaza Eva Perón, located in Puerto Iguazú, Misiones province; the improvement and development of the sustainable plaza Campanas del Rosario, located in the town of Fray Mamerto Esquiú in the province of Catamarca; the creation of the Villa Pehuena Environmental Park, in the province of Neuquén; the construction of a shed that will allow urban solid waste treatment tasks in

⁵⁴⁴³ Cabandié: "We are committing ourselves to the world to a much more ambitious reduction of greenhouse gases", Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-nos-estamos-comprometiendo-ante-el-mundo-una-reduccion-de-gases-de-efecto>

⁵⁴⁴⁴ Climate change: the government advances in the commitment towards an environmentally sustainable development, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cambio-climatico-el-gobierno-avanza-en-el-compromiso-hacia-un-desarrollo-ambientalmente>

⁵⁴⁴⁵ "We have to do everything in our power to continue reversing the historical disadvantages that the North had.", Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/tenemos-que-hacer-todo-lo-que-este-nuestro-alcance-para-seguir-revirtiendolo-las-desventajas>

⁵⁴⁴⁶ Argentina and Portugal promote cooperation projects in the field of environment and sustainable development, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-y-portugal-impulsan-proyectos-de-cooperacion-en-materia-de-ambiente-y-desarrollo>

⁵⁴⁴⁷ Cabandié signed agreements of the Comprehensive Common House Plan with municipalities of the country, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-firmo-convenios-del-plan-integral-casa-comun-con-municipios-del-pais>

El Pingo, Entre Ríos; and finally, the construction of a municipal nursery in Alto Río Senguer and the enhancement of the urban nature reserve located in Cholila, both located in Chubut.⁵⁴⁴⁸

On 30 December 2020, Minister Cabandié stated that the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development is making deliveries in 60 municipalities throughout Argentina to provide better infrastructure and equipment for waste management workers, investing a total of ARS60 million. The goal is to make improvements within local waste management systems across Argentina.⁵⁴⁴⁹

On 31 December 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development published the Second Contribution Determined at the National Level, which outlines Argentina's commitment to Paris Agreement objectives. This Second Contribution aims to improve adaptations to climate change and promote sustainable development in accordance with the Paris Agreement. In these objectives, Argentina commits to limiting gas emissions to 26 per cent lower than the goal identified in 2016.⁵⁴⁵⁰

On 22 January 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development deposited its ratification instrument of the Escazú Agreement before the Secretary-General of the United Nations on behalf of the Argentine Government. The Agreement, signed by 24 countries in Latin American and the Caribbean, outlines protocols for protecting the environment and points to Argentina's commitment to sustainability.⁵⁴⁵¹

On 26 January 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development signed an agreement with the municipality of Escobar and the Asociación Civil Colectividad Boliviana de Escobar to install a biodigester in the region's Fruit and Vegetable Market. The biodigester will generate clean electricity from the organic waste and also produce natural biofertilizer.⁵⁴⁵²

On 5 February 2021, the Ministers of Environment of Chile and Argentina announced a collaborative initiative to share good practices for the implementation of climate action. The goal is to uphold the Paris Agreement by sharing resources and working with other Latin American and Caribbean countries.⁵⁴⁵³

⁵⁴⁴⁸ Cabandié signed agreements of the Comprehensive Common House Plan with municipalities of the country, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-firmo-convenios-del-plan-integral-casa-comun-con-municipios-del-pais>

⁵⁴⁴⁹ Cabandié led the delivery of machinery for Escobar's waste management, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-encabezo-la-entrega-de-maquinaria-para-la-gestion-de-residuos-de-escobar>

⁵⁴⁵⁰ Climate change: Environment made official the Second Contribution Determined at the National Level, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cambio-climatico-ambiente-oficializo-la-segunda-contribucion-determinada-nivel-nacional>

⁵⁴⁵¹ Argentina facilitates the entry into force of the Escazú Agreement, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-facilita-la-entrada-en-vigor-del-acuerdo-de-escazu>

⁵⁴⁵² Environment promotes the generation of renewable energy in the Escobar Fruit and Vegetable Market, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ambiente-impulsa-la-generacion-de-energia-renovable-en-el-mercado-frutihorticola-de-escobar>

⁵⁴⁵³ Climate finance for Latin America and the Caribbean, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/finanzas-climaticas-para-america-latina-y-el-caribe>

On 22 February 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development announced it will implement a biogas plant in the Gualeguaychú Ecopark of Entre Ríos. The plant will reduce greenhouse gas emissions while converting the biogas into electrical energy.⁵⁴⁵⁴

On 22 February 2021, Minister Cabandié announced that the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development tripled all provincial budgets towards the preservation of forest basins. The increased budget will encourage provinces to work to protect native forests. Additionally, a donation of ARS82 million was made to the Green Climate Fund for the next six years.⁵⁴⁵⁵

On 1 March 2021, President Fernández highlighted Argentina's commitment to climate sustainability, the circular economy, protection of native forests and the creation of new protected areas. The President stated, "We are absolutely committed to the principles established in the Paris Agreement." The President then announced Argentina's commitment to active policy promotion of the circular economy to "eradicate open-air dumps, improve the final disposal of urban solid waste and the working conditions of urban waste collectors."⁵⁴⁵⁶

On 16 March 2021, Minister Cabandié and Head of the Ministry of Agrarian Development of Buenos Aires Javier Rodríguez signed an agreement establishing collaboration between the two organizations. The agreement aims to "encourage innovative proposals that incorporate environmental criteria in order to design and implement specific programs, plans and projects at the local level for sustainable development in the provincial territory."⁵⁴⁵⁷

On 25 March 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development signed a financial and technical collaborative protocol with the Environmental Fund of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Action of Portugal.⁵⁴⁵⁸ The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development will receive EUR200,000 as a result.⁵⁴⁵⁹ The protocol will finance two initiatives: a national platform to monitor the progress of the management of urban solid waste, as well as comprehensive waste management in coastal areas.⁵⁴⁶⁰ The goal of the protocol is to strengthen cooperation on education

⁵⁴⁵⁴ The Ministry will install a biogas plant in the Gualeguaychú Ecopark, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

⁵⁴⁵⁵ Cabandié: "In the region we are indebted countries, but we are also environmental creditors because the entire planet benefits from our ecosystems", Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-en-la-region-somos-paises-endeudados-pero-tambien-somos-acreedores-ambientales>

⁵⁴⁵⁶ Minister Cabandié accompanied the President at the opening of the ordinary sessions of the National Congress, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministro-cabandie-acompano-al-presidente-en-la-apertura-de-las-sesiones-ordinarias-del>

⁵⁴⁵⁷ Environment signed an institutional collaboration agreement with the Ministry of Agrarian Development of Buenos Aires, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ambiente-celebro-un-acuerdo-de-colaboracion-institucional-con-el-ministerio-de-desarrollo>

⁵⁴⁵⁸ Argentina will receive financing from Portugal to carry out projects to tackle the problem of waste, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-recibira-financiamiento-de-portugal-para-realizar-proyectos-de-abordaje-de-la>

⁵⁴⁵⁹ Argentina will receive financing from Portugal to carry out projects to tackle the problem of waste, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

⁵⁴⁶⁰ Argentina will receive financing from Portugal to carry out projects to tackle the problem of waste, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-recibira-financiamiento-de-portugal-para-realizar-proyectos-de-abordaje-de-la>

for sustainable development, waste management, and circular economy.⁵⁴⁶¹ This commitment aims to increase awareness surrounding recycling and waste management.⁵⁴⁶²

On 30 March 2021, the Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers Santiago Cafiero and the Minister of Economy Martín Guzmán signed a modification of the 2021 National Budget raising the budget of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development to more than ARS11.33 million, 300 per cent more than the 2020 budget.⁵⁴⁶³ Also, the Inter-American Development Bank loan financing Argentina's Comprehensive Urban Solid Waste Management Program increased by ARS1.937 million and will go towards the eradication of open pit garbage dumps and optimizing urban solid waste disposal.⁵⁴⁶⁴ These budgetary increases will provide more resources for the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and "reaffirms [Argentina's] commitment to environmental policy," said Minister Cabanié.⁵⁴⁶⁵

On 10 April 2021, President Fernández and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development launched a forest fire prevention campaign, aiming to raise awareness about the importance of protecting native forests.⁵⁴⁶⁶ The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development recognized the necessity of the country's forests and reported that most forest fires are the result of recreational fires, fires used to burn waste and clearing of the land for livestock or urbanization.⁵⁴⁶⁷ The campaign works towards preserving Argentina's forests, which serve as important carbon sinks.

On 22 April 2021, President Fernández renewed Argentina's commitment to the Paris Agreement while vowing to increase climate ambitions during the Leaders Summit on Climate hosted by President Joseph Biden of the United States.⁵⁴⁶⁸ President Fernández announced that Argentina is committed to ensuring 30 per cent of the national energy matrix is developed using renewable energy

⁵⁴⁶¹ Argentina will receive financing from Portugal to carry out projects to tackle the problem of waste, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-recibira-financiamiento-de-portugal-para-realizar-proyectos-de-abordaje-de-la>

⁵⁴⁶² Argentina will receive financing from Portugal to carry out projects to tackle the problem of waste, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-recibira-financiamiento-de-portugal-para-realizar-proyectos-de-abordaje-de-la>

⁵⁴⁶³ The budget of the Ministry of Environment will be 300% higher than that of 2020, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

⁵⁴⁶⁴ The budget of the Ministry of Environment will be 300% higher than that of 2020, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

⁵⁴⁶⁵ The budget of the Ministry of Environment will be 300% higher than that of 2020, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

⁵⁴⁶⁶ The national government launched a forest fire prevention campaign, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 10 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-lanzo-una-campana-de-prevencion-de-incendios-forestales>

⁵⁴⁶⁷ The national government launched a forest fire prevention campaign, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 10 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-lanzo-una-campana-de-prevencion-de-incendios-forestales>

⁵⁴⁶⁸ "Argentina has put climate and environmental action at the center of its convictions", Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-ha-puesto-la-accion-climatica-y-ambiental-en-el-centro-de-sus-convicciones>

and promoting energy efficient measures in transportation and construction industries.⁵⁴⁶⁹ These measures focus on encouraging and increasing the use of renewable energy to lower the country's emissions.

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the CCE platform with its 4Rs framework. It has complied with its commitment to “recycle” and “reuse” carbon emissions through the implementation of a biogas plant and plans to install a biodigester. It has also complied with its commitment to reducing carbon emissions by establishing more ambitious emissions reduction goals and increasing Argentina's use of renewable energy-efficient sources. Argentina has also supported initiatives to remove carbon emissions through its investments in educational campaigns and activities towards forest protection.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Amanda Wang

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 18 December 2020, Australia announced it will fund a feasibility study into turning a former underground coal mine into pumped hydro energy storage, contributing AUD4.16 million to the AUD13.04 million project. If feasible, the site could supply an additional 600 megawatts of renewable energy to the grid. If the trial and study are successful, it could result in repurposing other retired coal sites into producing renewable energy.⁵⁴⁷⁰

On 30 December 2020, Australia submitted a new climate pledge to the United Nations, stating it will “meet and beat” the 2030 targets of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28 per cent below the country's 2005 emission levels. The report states Australia's reduction funds have been effective and delivered 60 million tons of abatement. The report includes the anticipated investment of AUD18 billion over the period to 2030. The package also includes an additional AUD2 billion for a Climate Solutions Fund to continue investment in low-cost abatement through the Emissions Reduction Fund and to support the adoption of new and emerging low emissions technologies inaccessible sectors.⁵⁴⁷¹

On 17 February 2021, Australia's Entrepreneurs' Programme financed research and projects to motivate environmental action through seven grants.⁵⁴⁷² The Sea Forest Grant which will cultivate a special seaweed to reduce livestock emission by more than 99 per cent has been granted AUD1

⁵⁴⁶⁹ "Argentina has put climate and environmental action at the center of its convictions", Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-ha-puesto-la-accion-climatica-y-ambiental-en-el-centro-de-sus-convicciones>

⁵⁴⁷⁰ Renewable future for retired coal mines, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra, Australia) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.energy.gov.au/news-media/news/renewable-future-retired-coal-mine>

⁵⁴⁷¹ Australia's First Nationally Determined Contribution, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn, Germany) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021.

<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/Pages/Party.aspx?party=AUS&prototype=1>

⁵⁴⁷² Grants for environmental game changers, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra, Australia) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.energy.gov.au/news-media/news/grants-environmental-game-changers>

million.⁵⁴⁷³ UPower, a company that offers end to end service for household solar and battery installations have received an AUD493,746 grant. Monsoon Aquatics has been granted AUD304,058 to commercialize its coral reproduction process to rebuild reefs.⁵⁴⁷⁴

On 25 February 2021, Australia, through the Clean Energy Finance Corporation, finalized their AUD160 million investment in Neoen's Victorian Big Battery to support the integration of renewable energy into the grid. The battery will secure the state of Victoria's energy grid while reducing carbon emissions. This project will play a large part in helping Victoria reach its target of 50 per cent of energy being used from renewable sources.⁵⁴⁷⁵

On 4 March 2021, Australia launched the National Plastics Plan.⁵⁴⁷⁶ The plan is set to combat different plastics, on different fronts. Plastics on beaches will be banned. The plan aims to work with the industry to phase out fragmentable plastics by 2022.⁵⁴⁷⁷ Polyvinyl chloride packaging labels will be phased out by the end of 2022. Expanded polystyrene from loose packaging fills and moulded packaging in consumer packaging will be phased out by July 2022. Ending polystyrene packaging for takeaway containers and phasing in microplastic filters in washing machines by the end of 2022.⁵⁴⁷⁸ The Australian Recycling Label will be on at least 80 per cent of supermarket products by 2023 and 100 per cent of packaging will be reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025 while also introducing an AUD20 million investment to create a waste data visualization platform.⁵⁴⁷⁹

On 19 March 2021, Australia signed on as a member of the Gglobal Adaptation Action Coalition. Australia has announced its commitment to practical climate adaptation strategies, with on-ground support for vulnerable communities. Australia's membership in the coalition builds on Prime Minister Scott Morrison's commitment to global climate action. The Ministry for Environment stated that Australia is committed to building partnerships that drive adaptation to protect and grow our economies, communities and the environment. At the conference, Australia also noted that the country is working on climate resilience and adaptation strategy.⁵⁴⁸⁰

On 18 April 2021, the Australian government, in collaboration with the state of South Australia, signed an AUS1.1 billion deal to finance measures aimed at making energy more affordable and to

⁵⁴⁷³ Environmental game changes lead the way amongst Entrepreneurs' Programme grant recipients, Australian Government Business (Canberra, Australia) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://business.gov.au/news/environmental-game-changers-lead-the-way-amongst-entrepreneurs-programme-grant-recipients>

⁵⁴⁷⁴ Grants for environmental game changers, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra, Australia) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.energy.gov.au/news-media/news/grants-environmental-game-changers>

⁵⁴⁷⁵ Boosting the security of Victoria's energy grid, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra, Australia) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.energy.gov.au/news-media/news/boosting-security-victorias-energy-grid>

⁵⁴⁷⁶ National Plastics Plan, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra, Australia) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste/plastics-and-packaging/national-plastics-plan>

⁵⁴⁷⁷ National Plastics Plan, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra, Australia) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste/plastics-and-packaging/national-plastics-plan>

⁵⁴⁷⁸ National Plastics Plan, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra, Australia) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste/plastics-and-packaging/national-plastics-plan>

⁵⁴⁷⁹ National Plastics Plan, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra, Australia) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste/plastics-and-packaging/national-plastics-plan>

⁵⁴⁸⁰ Australia joins coalition for climate adaptation action, Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment (Canberra, Australia) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/australia-joins-coalition-climate-adaptation-action>

help curb carbon emissions.⁵⁴⁸¹ This money will be used in areas such as carbon storage, implementing electric vehicles, hydrogen and other projects with the aim to reduce emissions.⁵⁴⁸²

On 21 April 2021, Prime Minister Morrison pledged to spend AUD417 million on hydrogen and carbon capture.⁵⁴⁸³ He stated that it is essential for Australia to position itself in a state where industries are supported while also contributing to lower emissions.⁵⁴⁸⁴ The funding is part of the government's economic blueprint for 2022's fiscal year, and is yet to receive Parliament approval.⁵⁴⁸⁵ This expenditure is part of the government's pledge to spend AUS18 billion over the next 10 years to meet climate goals.⁵⁴⁸⁶

On 23 April 2021, the Australian government announced a AUS100 million initiative to protect the Australian oceans.⁵⁴⁸⁷ This ocean and coastal management will contribute to the reduction of Australia's emissions. The investment will target blue carbon systems involving seagrass and mangroves to draw carbon out of the atmosphere.⁵⁴⁸⁸

Australia has taken actions to address three out of the four Rs framework and endorse the CCE platform, partially complying with its commitment. By introducing the National Plastics Plan, the Australian government has fulfilled its commitment towards recycling. Through the study funded towards reusing former underground coal mines, Australia has complied with the reuse commitment. Australia has taken many actions towards reducing their carbon emissions, including the implementation of the Big Battery in Victoria which will reduce the state's emissions, and be a source for renewable energy. Further, Australia has taken into consideration hydrogen policies through the investment into hydrogen carbon capture.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Surabhi Pradhan

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

⁵⁴⁸¹ Energy and Emissions Reduction Agreement with South Australia, Prime Minister of Australia (Sydney) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/energy-and-emissions-reduction-agreement-south-australia>

⁵⁴⁸² Energy and Emissions Reduction Agreement with South Australia, Prime Minister of Australia (Sydney) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/energy-and-emissions-reduction-agreement-south-australia>

⁵⁴⁸³ Australia to spend \$420 mln on hydrogen, carbon capture projects, PM to say, Financial Post (Canberra) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://financialpost.com/pmnbusiness/pmnbusiness/australia-to-spend-420-mln-on-hydrogen-carbon-capture-projects-pm-to-say>

⁵⁴⁸⁴ Australia to spend \$420 mln on hydrogen, carbon capture projects, PM to say, Financial Post (Canberra) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://financialpost.com/pmnbusiness/pmnbusiness/australia-to-spend-420-mln-on-hydrogen-carbon-capture-projects-pm-to-say>

⁵⁴⁸⁵ Australia to spend \$420 mln on hydrogen, carbon capture projects, PM to say, Financial Post (Canberra) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://financialpost.com/pmnbusiness/pmnbusiness/australia-to-spend-420-mln-on-hydrogen-carbon-capture-projects-pm-to-say>

⁵⁴⁸⁶ Australia to spend \$420 mln on hydrogen, carbon capture projects, PM to say, Financial Post (Canberra) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://financialpost.com/pmnbusiness/pmnbusiness/australia-to-spend-420-mln-on-hydrogen-carbon-capture-projects-pm-to-say>

⁵⁴⁸⁷ Australia Announces \$100 Million Initiative to Protect Our Oceans, Prime Minister of Australia (Sydney) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/australia-announces-100-million-initiative-protect-our-oceans>

⁵⁴⁸⁸ Energy and Emissions Reduction Agreement with South Australia, Prime Minister of Australia (Sydney) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/energy-and-emissions-reduction-agreement-south-australia>

On 24 February 2021, the Ministry of Economy announced the signing of an agreement between the Securities and Exchange Commission (CVM) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), to produce “solutions to strengthen the capital market and the sustainable development of the country.”⁵⁴⁸⁹ The four-year agreement aims for “cooperation between institutions to promote green finance and a favorable environment for fintechs” and consolidating the “partnership between CVM and IDB in favor of the Financial Innovation Laboratory [LAB].”⁵⁴⁹⁰ The LAB will collaborate with the IDB projects titled “Green Finance Program for Latin America and the Caribbean to Mobilize Private Investment in Mitigation Actions and Sustainable and Low Carbon Business Models through National Development Banks” and “Support for the Development of Institutional Frameworks, Policies and Regulations of Fintech in Latin America and the Caribbean.”⁵⁴⁹¹

On 14 April 2021, President Jair Bolsonaro signed a decree to include nine national parks in the Investment Partnership Program.⁵⁴⁹² This was done with the goal of promoting and improving efforts to conserve and protect the environment in these regions.⁵⁴⁹³

On 20 April 2021, the National Energy Policy Council approved the resolution to institute the Fuel of the Future program.⁵⁴⁹⁴ This program was developed with the primary goal of transitioning Brazil into alternative forms of energy such as low carbon fuels and biofuels, thus decarbonizing the use of energy.⁵⁴⁹⁵ The program will also propose measures for the development of technology to capture and store carbon dioxide, either through the production of biofuels or blue hydrogen.⁵⁴⁹⁶

On 29 April 2021, the Foreign Finance Commission of the Ministry of Economy approved USD767.10 million for 10 projects, some of which will be allocated towards the environment and the prevention of floods.⁵⁴⁹⁷ More specifically, USD40 million will be allocated towards water security and increased resilience to extreme weather events.⁵⁴⁹⁸

Brazil has taken actions to address two of the four key commitment areas within the four Rs framework to endorse the CCE platform. Their actions, namely the decision to implement the Fuel for the Future program, addresses the reduce and the remove commitment areas. Further, Brazil has

⁵⁴⁸⁹ CVM and IDB sign agreement for exchange on Capital Markets, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/cvm/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/cvm-e-bid-firmam-convenio-para-intercambio-sobre-mercado-de-capitais>

⁵⁴⁹⁰ CVM and IDB sign agreement for exchange on Capital Markets, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/cvm/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/cvm-e-bid-firmam-convenio-para-intercambio-sobre-mercado-de-capitais>

⁵⁴⁹¹ CVM and IDB sign agreement for exchange on Capital Markets, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/cvm/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/cvm-e-bid-firmam-convenio-para-intercambio-sobre-mercado-de-capitais>

⁵⁴⁹² Presidential decree signed for concession of nine national parks (Brasilia) 14 April 2021. Access Date: May 14 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/assinado-decreto-presidencial-para-concessao-de-nove-parques-nacionais>

⁵⁴⁹³ Presidential decree signed for concession of nine national parks (Brasilia) 14 April 2021. Access Date: May 14 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/assinado-decreto-presidencial-para-concessao-de-nove-parques-nacionais>

⁵⁴⁹⁴ CNPE approves resolution that creates the Fuel of the Future Program (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mme/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/cnpe-aprova-resolucao-que-cria-o-programa-combustivel-do-futuro>

⁵⁴⁹⁵ CNPE approves resolution that creates the Fuel of the Future Program (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mme/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/cnpe-aprova-resolucao-que-cria-o-programa-combustivel-do-futuro>

⁵⁴⁹⁶ CNPE approves resolution that creates the Fuel of the Future Program (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mme/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/cnpe-aprova-resolucao-que-cria-o-programa-combustivel-do-futuro>

⁵⁴⁹⁷ Cofix approves US \$ 767.10 million in external resources for projects in Brazil (Brasilia) 29 April 2021. Access Date: May 14 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/cofix-aprova-us-767-10-milhoes-em-recursos-externos-para-projetos-no-brasil>

⁵⁴⁹⁸ Cofix approves US \$ 767.10 million in external resources for projects in Brazil (Brasilia) 29 April 2021. Access Date: May 14 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/abril/cofix-aprova-us-767-10-milhoes-em-recursos-externos-para-projetos-no-brasil>

done so while taking into consideration the use of hydrogen policies. Nevertheless, no actions have been taken to reuse or recycle.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Aadi Thulasingham

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 11 December 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Canada's strengthened climate plan, A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy, funded by a CAD15 billion investment. Included in this plan are steady annual increases to its carbon tax from CAD50 per ton in 2022 to CAD170 per ton by 2030.⁵⁴⁹⁹

On 14 December 2020, Transport Canada amended the Canadian Aviation Regulations to require air operators flying internationally to offset their share of increased greenhouse gas emissions. The new amendments would allow Canada to fulfil its international climate change obligations and “require Canada's operators to do their part to maintain the annual global net carbon emissions from international aviation at 2020 levels.”⁵⁵⁰⁰

On 16 December 2020, Canada released its Hydrogen Strategy for Canada. The strategy “seeks to modernize Canada's energy systems by leveraging Canadian expertise – including increased participation from marginalized and underrepresented groups – through building new hydrogen supply and distribution infrastructure and fostering uptake in various end-uses, that will underpin a low-carbon energy ecosystem in the near- and long-term. It will set the foundation to do this over the next five years.” The strategy outlines opportunities, challenges and recommendations.⁵⁵⁰¹

On 18 December 2020, Canada published the proposed regulations for Clean Fuel Standard, as well as initiated the public consultations for the Clean Fuel Standard which will lead to finalized regulations in late 2021. The proposed Clean Fuel Regulations “would require liquid fossil fuel primary suppliers (i.e. producers and importers) to reduce the carbon intensity of the liquid fossil fuels they produce in and import into Canada from 2016 CI [carbon intensity] levels by 2.4 gCO_{2e}/MJ in 2022, increasing to 12 gCO_{2e}/MJ in 2030. The proposed Regulations would also establish a credit market whereby the annual CI reduction requirement could be met via three main categories of credit-creating actions: (1) actions that reduce the CI of the fossil fuel throughout its lifecycle, (2) supplying low-carbon fuels, and (3) specified end-use fuel switching in transportation.”⁵⁵⁰²

⁵⁴⁹⁹ Prime Minister announces Canada's strengthened climate plan to protect the environment, create jobs, and support communities, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/12/11/prime-minister-announces-canadas-strengthened-climate-plan-protect>

⁵⁵⁰⁰ Regulations Amending the Canadian Aviation Regulations (Parts I and X — Offsetting of CO₂ Emissions — CORSIA) Amendments: SOR/2020-275, Canada Gazette (Ottawa) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021.

<https://canadagazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2020/2020-12-23/html/sor-dors275-eng.html>

⁵⁵⁰¹ Hydrogen Strategy for Canada, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 7 July 2021.

https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/sites/www.nrcan.gc.ca/files/environment/hydrogen/NRCan_Hydrogen-Strategy-Canada-na-en-v3.pdf

⁵⁵⁰² Canada Gazette, Part I, Volume 154, Number 51: Clean Fuel Regulations, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 December 2020. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2020/2020-12-19/html/reg2-eng.html>

On 10 February 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau announced CAD14.9 million for green public transit projects over the next eight years. The investments will reduce pollution and will enhance public transit systems and switching them to cleaner electrical power, including supporting the use of zero-emission vehicles and related infrastructure.⁵⁵⁰³

On 5 March 2021, the Government of Canada announced a proposal for a greenhouse gas carbon offset program which will “allow municipalities, farmers, Indigenous communities, businesses and others to earn credits for projects that reduce carbon emissions or take them out of the atmosphere.” The offset program will allow participants to earn credits in four different areas including projects that reduce the use of fluorinated refrigerants in refrigeration systems, projects that reduce methane from landfills, initiatives that improve carbon storage management and farming practices that promote carbon sequestration in soils.⁵⁵⁰⁴

On 10 March 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Communities announced a CAD40.8 million investment into 162 schools in Ontario to become more energy efficient. This will be done through the Climate Action Incentive Fund.

On 16 March 2021, during the international energy transition conference in Berlin, Natural Resources Minister Seamus O’Regan signed a memorandum of understanding with Germany outlining Canada’s commitment to green energy. It focuses on liquified natural gas and green hydrogen, which burns cleanly and can be produced using wind and solar power.

On 22 March 2021, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food Marie-Claude Bibeau announced CAD4.5 million in funding for five green agriculture projects that will help Canadian farms responsibly manage plastic waste and improve their sustainability.⁵⁵⁰⁵ The projects will help advance organic bioplastics replacing petroleum-based plastics.⁵⁵⁰⁶

On 31 March 2021, Special representative for the Prairies Jim Carr announced CAD2.890 million in funding to the University of Alberta’s biojet technology.⁵⁵⁰⁷ This new investment will support the university’s Lipid-to-Hydrocarbon technology by developing pathways to generate renewable jet fuel from a range of feedstocks, including waste materials from the restaurant and livestock

⁵⁵⁰³New public transit investments to build strong communities, fight climate change, and create new jobs across Canada, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/02/10/new-public-transit-investments-build-strong-communities-fight-climate>

⁵⁵⁰⁴Federal government unveils plan to allow communities, industry to earn carbon offset credits, CBC News (Toronto) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/carbon-offset-credits-proposals-1.5938829>

⁵⁵⁰⁵Managing on-farm plastic waste and growing the bioeconomy, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Ottawa) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/03/managing-on-farm-plastic-waste-and-growing-the-bioeconomy.html>

⁵⁵⁰⁶Managing on-farm plastic waste and growing the bioeconomy, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Ottawa) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/03/managing-on-farm-plastic-waste-and-growing-the-bioeconomy.html>

⁵⁵⁰⁷Managing on-farm plastic waste and growing the bioeconomy, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Ottawa) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/03/managing-on-farm-plastic-waste-and-growing-the-bioeconomy.html>

industries.”⁵⁵⁰⁸ The goal of the Lipid-to-Hydrocarbon technology is to reduce emissions from the aviation sector by 90 per cent.⁵⁵⁰⁹

On 1 April 2021, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Natural Resources Marc Serré announced CAD3 million investment to Envoy Energy to install three compressed natural gas stations in Northern Ontario.⁵⁵¹⁰ The new stations will allow drivers to switch from diesel to compressed natural gas which produces more than 25 per cent fewer greenhouse gas emissions and can be produced using waste feedstocks.⁵⁵¹¹

On 6 April 2021, Minister of Northern Affairs Dan Vandal, announced CAD7.6 million in funding for three clean energy projects in Nunavut.⁵⁵¹² The projects include an installation of a wind turbine that will decrease the use of diesel fuel by 50 per cent and a hybrid wind, solar and energy storage system.⁵⁵¹³

On 7 April 2021, Minister O’Regan announced a CAD23 million investment to Hydro Ottawa through the Green Municipal Fund which will transform 34 acres of brownfield lands between Ottawa and Gatineau into a carbon-neutral community.⁵⁵¹⁴ The goal of the project is to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions by using hydroelectricity and waste industrial heat.⁵⁵¹⁵

On 9 April 2021, Parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Joël Lightbound announced CAD1 million to BOSK Bioproducts Inc to create a small production line to create compostable bioplastics made from forest biomass. The bioplastics can be used for food packaging and water bottles, therefore reducing pollution.⁵⁵¹⁶

On 14 April 2021, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Catherine McKenna announced the launch of the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program. It will deliver CAD1.5 billion in

⁵⁵⁰⁸ Managing on-farm plastic waste and growing the bioeconomy, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Ottawa) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/03/managing-on-farm-plastic-waste-and-growing-the-bioeconomy.html>

⁵⁵⁰⁹ Canada Invests in Innovative Clean Technology at the University of Alberta, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/03/canada-invests-in-innovative-clean-technology-at-the-university-of-alberta.html>

⁵⁵¹⁰ Cleaner Refuelling Options for Northern Ontario Truck Drivers Coming to Trans-Canada Highway, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/03/cleaner-refuelling-options-for-northern-ontario-truck-drivers-coming-to-trans-canada-highway.html>

⁵⁵¹¹ Cleaner Refuelling Options for Northern Ontario Truck Drivers Coming to Trans-Canada Highway, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/03/cleaner-refuelling-options-for-northern-ontario-truck-drivers-coming-to-trans-canada-highway.html>

⁵⁵¹² Canada Invests Over \$7.6 Million in Community-Led Clean Energy Projects in Nunavut, Natural Resources Canada (Nunavut) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/04/canada-invests-over-76-million-in-community-led-clean-energy-projects-in-nunavut.html>

⁵⁵¹³ Canada Invests Over \$7.6 Million in Community-Led Clean Energy Projects in Nunavut, Natural Resources Canada (Nunavut) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/04/canada-invests-over-76-million-in-community-led-clean-energy-projects-in-nunavut.html>

⁵⁵¹⁴ Canada and FCM Invest in National Capital Region's First Net-Zero Community, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/04/canada-and-fcm-invest-in-national-capital-regions-first-net-zero-community.html>

⁵⁵¹⁵ Canada and FCM Invest in National Capital Region's First Net-Zero Community, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/04/canada-and-fcm-invest-in-national-capital-regions-first-net-zero-community.html>

⁵⁵¹⁶ Canada Supports Innovation for Compostable Bioplastic, Natural Resources Canada (Quebec City) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/04/canada-supports-innovation-for-compostable-bioplastic.html>

funding in the next five years to projects that include reductions of energy waste and installations of energy efficient windows.⁵⁵¹⁷

On 15 April 2021, Minister O'Regan announced a CAD500,000 investment in Compressed Air Energy Storage technology.⁵⁵¹⁸ The goal of this is to decrease greenhouse gas emissions by transitioning to a cleaner electricity grid.⁵⁵¹⁹

On 15 April 2021, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson announced a CAD1.3 million to support five projects that aim to reduce plastic waste, prevent plastic pollution and support Canada in transitioning to a national circular plastics economy.⁵⁵²⁰ The projects will include recycling personal protective equipment from hospitals, improving the management of compostable products and supporting the development of new standards for bioplastics.⁵⁵²¹

On 16 April 2021, Member of Parliament for Toronto Centre Marci Ien announced CAD3.3million for Noventa Energy Partners to reduce pollution at the Toronto Western hospital.⁵⁵²² The project will supply the hospital with clean energy using recovered heat extracted from wastewater and the sewage system. The cumulative greenhouse gas emissions reductions amounts to 169,000 tonnes.⁵⁵²³

On 16 April 2021, Special Representative Carr announced CAD41.1 million for 11 green infrastructure projects.⁵⁵²⁴ The projects include improvements to solid waste management and a new solar power plant. The goal of these projects is to reduce emissions in the Prairies.⁵⁵²⁵

⁵⁵¹⁷ Government of Canada to invest in green and inclusive community buildings, Infrastructure Canada (Ottawa) 14 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-to-invest-in-green-and-inclusive-community-buildings.html>

⁵⁵¹⁸ Canada Invests in Innovative Energy Storage Solution, Natural Resources Canada (Toronto) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/04/canada-invests-in-innovative-energy-storage-solution.html>

⁵⁵¹⁹ Canada Invests in Innovative Energy Storage Solution, Natural Resources Canada (Toronto) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/04/canada-invests-in-innovative-energy-storage-solution.html>

⁵⁵²⁰ Government of Canada invests in reducing plastic waste and supporting the transition of a circular economy for plastics, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-in-reducing-plastic-waste-and-supporting-the-transition-of-a-circular-economy-for-plastics.html>

⁵⁵²¹ Government of Canada invests in reducing plastic waste and supporting the transition of a circular economy for plastics, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-invests-in-reducing-plastic-waste-and-supporting-the-transition-of-a-circular-economy-for-plastics.html>

⁵⁵²² Noventa Energy Partners using innovative technology to cut pollution at Toronto Western Hospital, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Toronto) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/04/noventa-energy-partners-using-innovative-technology-to-cut-pollution-at-toronto-western-hospital.html>

⁵⁵²³ Noventa Energy Partners using innovative technology to cut pollution at Toronto Western Hospital, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Toronto) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/04/noventa-energy-partners-using-innovative-technology-to-cut-pollution-at-toronto-western-hospital.html>

⁵⁵²⁴ Residents of Saskatoon area to benefit from upgrades to water, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure, and other community and green infrastructure projects, Infrastructure Canada (Saskatoon) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/04/residents-of-saskatoon-area-to-benefit-from-upgrades-to-water-wastewater-and-solid-waste-infrastructure-and-other-community-and-green-infrastructur.html>

⁵⁵²⁵ Residents of Saskatoon area to benefit from upgrades to water, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure, and other community and green infrastructure projects, Infrastructure Canada (Saskatoon) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/04/residents-of-saskatoon-area-to-benefit-from-upgrades-to-water-wastewater-and-solid-waste-infrastructure-and-other-community-and-green-infrastructur.html>

On 19 April 2021, Canada tabled Budget 2021. It was the first budget to specifically mention carbon capture, utilization and storage and proposed a tax incentive for these actions through “an investment tax credit invested in [carbon capture, utilization and storage] projects with the goal of reducing emissions by at least 15 megatonnes of Co2 annually. This measure will come into effect in 2022.”⁵⁵²⁶

On 22 April 2021, the Department of Finance Canada announced key elements of Budget 2021 that will contribute to creating a healthy environment for Canadians. Budget 2021 includes a CAD17.6 billion investment towards fighting climate change, reducing pollution and developing clean technology.⁵⁵²⁷ Budget 2021 includes zero-interest loans of up to CAD40,000 for 200,00 households planning to make energy efficient upgrades to their homes. Budget 2021 also proposes an investment of CAD5 billion for seven years in the Net Zero Accelerator which will support companies in reducing their emissions.⁵⁵²⁸

On 22 April 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that Canada will increase its emissions reductions target by 40-45 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.⁵⁵²⁹

On 22 April 2021, Minister of Northern Affairs Daniel Vandal announced CAD40.4 million from budget 2021 to create hydroelectricity and grid interconnection projects in the North. The projects will reduce the reliance on fuels for electricity and heating.⁵⁵³⁰

Canada has taken action to address three out of the four commitment features of the four Rs framework, partially complying with its commitment to endorse the CCE platform. It has complied with its commitment to reduce carbon emissions by investing in renewable energy like wind turbines, and solar power plants. It has also complied with its commitment to reuse by investing in lipid-to-hydrocarbon technology, while additionally taking into consideration hydrogen policies. Additionally, Canada has complied with its commitment to recycling by promoting the use of bioenergy as feedstock and investing in recycling projects.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Meryem Althani

China: 0

China has partially complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

⁵⁵²⁶ Canada’s Budget 2021: Carbon Caputre & Storage, International CCS Knowledge Centre (Regina) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. <https://ccsknowledge.com/news/canadas-budget-2021-carbon-capture-and-storage>

⁵⁵²⁷ Government of Canada highlights Budget 2021 investments to create a healthy environment for a healthy economy, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-highlights-budget-2021-investments-to-create-a-healthy-environment-for-a-healthy-economy.html>

⁵⁵²⁸ Government of Canada highlights Budget 2021 investments to create a healthy environment for a healthy economy, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-highlights-budget-2021-investments-to-create-a-healthy-environment-for-a-healthy-economy.html>

⁵⁵²⁹ Prime Minister Trudeau announces increased climate ambition, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/04/22/prime-minister-trudeau-announces-increased-climate-ambition>

⁵⁵³⁰ Minister Vandal highlights clean energy investments in Budget 2021, Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/crown-indigenous-relations-northern-affairs/news/2021/04/minister-vandal-highlights-clean-energy-investments-in-budget-2021.html>

On 30 December 2020, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment published an interim regulation on the management of carbon trading, allocating carbon emission allowances to 2,225 companies, for the year 2019-2020. The documents issued a rule stating that companies could use China Certified Emission Reductions, generated within the China Greenhouse Gas Voluntary Emission Reduction Program, but that they can only offset 5 per cent of required permits using such reductions.⁵⁵³¹

On 1 February 2021, China put into effect a set of interim rules aimed at establishing its national emissions trading system. This allows 2,225 power entities with assigned carbon dioxide emission caps to trade their emission quotas. Entities who exceed their emission caps can purchase unused quotas from low emitters. The objective of these rules is to meet the country's goals of peaking in carbon emissions before 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2060.⁵⁵³²

On 22 February 2021, the State Council issued a circular outlining its goal for 2025 that “industry, energy and transportation system will see a noticeable improvement, with the manufacturing, circulation and consumption system featuring green, low-carbon and circular development taking initial shape.”⁵⁵³³ It also stated that by 2035, “the endogenous power for green development will be intensified, the scale of green industry will advance to a new level.”⁵⁵³⁴

On 23 February 2021, the State Council released a guideline to “accelerate the development of a green and low-carbon circular economic development system.”⁵⁵³⁵ The policy is aimed at efficient resource usage, strengthening environmental protection and curbing greenhouse gas emissions. The guideline calls for a “marked rise in the scale of green industries, a continued drop in major pollutants, and a slashed carbon emission intensity” by 2025. It adds that by 2035, “energy and resource utilization efficiency in key industries and for key products is expected to reach an internationally-advanced level.” The policy measures it outlines include developing “green and low-carbon production, consumption and circulation systems.”⁵⁵³⁶

On 22 April 2021, the General Office of the State Council issued a notice on “Effectively Strengthening Reservoir Reinforcement and Operation Management and Protection” during a policy briefing.⁵⁵³⁷ As part of this notice, it was announced that the Ministry of Water Resources, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Finance and other relevant departments will collaborate on a joint task force to work towards better protecting China's reservoirs.⁵⁵³⁸ Reservoirs are one of the crucial engineering measures to support the development and

⁵⁵³¹ Nation's carbon trading efforts could serve as model, Government of China (Beijing) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202101/07/content_WS5ff643dcc6d0f725769435bd.html

⁵⁵³² New carbon trading rules take effect to strengthen China's green development, Government of China (Beijing) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

http://english.www.gov.cn/news/videos/202102/02/content_WS6018ad31c6d0f72576944f2e.html

⁵⁵³³ State Council calls for green, low-carbon and circular development, Government of China (Beijing) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202102/22/content_WS6033af98c6d0719374af946b.html

⁵⁵³⁴ State Council calls for green, low-carbon and circular development, Government of China (Beijing) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021

http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202102/22/content_WS6033af98c6d0719374af946b.html

⁵⁵³⁵ State Council releases guideline to boost green, low-carbon economy, Government of China (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. http://www.china.org.cn/business/2021-02/23/content_77239599.htm

⁵⁵³⁶ State Council releases guideline to boost green, low-carbon economy, Government of China (Beijing) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. http://www.china.org.cn/business/2021-02/23/content_77239599.htm

⁵⁵³⁷ Strengthening of Reservoir Reinforcement and Operation Management and Protection in China (Beijing) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2021-04/23/content_5601541.htm

⁵⁵³⁸ Strengthening of Reservoir Reinforcement and Operation Management and Protection in China (Beijing) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2021-04/23/content_5601541.htm

utilization of water resources, including flood control, water supply, and power generation⁵⁵³⁹. As hydropower is a useful form of renewable energy, this action contributes towards reducing emissions in China.

On 28 April 2021, Director of the Eco-Environment Enforcement Bureau of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment Cao Liping announced a commitment to focus special law enforcement resources this year on activities that threaten the environment: the disposal of hazardous waste and environmental violations.⁵⁵⁴⁰ This will be done with the goal of preserving the environmental rights of Chinese citizens and achieving a better-quality environment.⁵⁵⁴¹

China has taken action to address two of the four key commitment areas within the four Rs framework of the CCE Economy, namely reducing carbon emissions and reusing emission quotas. Further, they have done so while taking into consideration hydrogen policies through efforts to preserve reservoirs. Nevertheless, China has not taken actions towards recycling or removing.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Aadi Thulasingham

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 22 November 2020, the French Development Agency and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources announced a EUR10 million grant agreement, as part of the ongoing Minka Middle East Initiative, to fund ecologically responsible and economically accessible updates to Jordan's agricultural sector. The project seeks to modernize farms in order to make them more productive and resource efficient, (particularly to reduce water-use).⁵⁵⁴²

On 12 December 2020, France co-hosted the Climate Ambition Summit with the UK and the EU. The summit saw new commitments from 75 world leaders and reaffirmed the global community's commitment to net zero emissions by 2050. At the conference, President Emmanuel Macron noted that the COVID-19 crisis presented an opportunity to accelerate ecological transition and reaffirmed France's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and to climate financing.⁵⁵⁴³

On 14 December 2020, Minister of Ecological Transition Barbara Pompili, and Minister Delegate to the Minister of the Economy, Finance and Recovery Agnès Pannier-Runacher announced 60 projects that will receive EUR16 million in aid to support the continued recycling of plastics. This funding initiative is part of the circular economy portion of France's COVID-19 economic recovery initiative, France Relance. Propping up these businesses is conducive to France's goal of having 100 per cent

⁵⁵³⁹ Strengthening of Reservoir Reinforcement and Operation Management and Protection in China (Beijing) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2021-04/23/content_5601541.htm

⁵⁵⁴⁰ The Ministry of Ecology and Environment will carry out four special law enforcement activities this year (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-04/28/content_5603634.htm

⁵⁵⁴¹ The Ministry of Ecology and Environment will carry out four special law enforcement activities this year (Beijing) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2021-04/28/content_5603634.htm

⁵⁵⁴² A 10 Million Euros Grant To Support The Development Of Ecologically Responsible And Economically Accessible Agricultural Solutions And Techniques In Jordan, the French Development Agency (Amman) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/communique-de-presse/10-million-euros-grant-support-development-ecologically-responsible-and-economically-accessible-agricultural-solutions-and-techniques-jordan>

⁵⁵⁴³ Climate Ambition Summit Builds Momentum for COP26, UNFCCC Secretariat (New York, London, Paris) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://unfccc.int/news/climate-ambition-summit-builds-momentum-for-cop26>

recycled plastics by 2025. The funds will be distributed by the French Ecological Transition Agency.⁵⁵⁴⁴

On 14 December 2020, Prime Minister Jean Castex announced that 4,214 projects were selected to receive funding for renovations of government, public and higher education buildings. The renovations, all of which will be finished by 2023, will improve energy efficiency allowing for a reduction in energy use. The total funding for these projects amounts to EUR2.7 billion.⁵⁵⁴⁵

On 11 January 2021, Minister Pompili, Minister of the Economy, Finance and Recovery Bruno Le Maire, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation Frédérique Vidal and Minister Agnès Pannier-Runacher announced the formation of the National Hydrogen Council. The council will oversee the development of the French hydrogen sector and the implementation of the national strategy for the development of carbon-free hydrogen. This announcement included a commitment to invest EUR7 billion into this strategy by 2030.⁵⁵⁴⁶

On 11 January 2021, France co-hosted the One Planet Summit along with the United Nations and the World Bank. The summit discussed the protection of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, agroecology, financing biodiversity and protecting forests.⁵⁵⁴⁷ At the summit, France, Spain, and Monaco launched the Coalition for an Exemplary Mediterranean in 2030. The coalition intends to develop a network of protected areas, fight marine pollution, ban single-use plastics and reduce the environmental impact of maritime transport.⁵⁵⁴⁸ France also announced its support for the initiative undertaken by the Great Green Wall to plant 7,000 kilometres of hedgerows by 2022.⁵⁵⁴⁹ This initiative is part of a plan to sequester 250 million tonnes of carbon, and restore 100 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.⁵⁵⁵⁰

On 12 January 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition and the Environment and Energy Management Agency announced the #LesBonnesHabitudes awareness campaign. The goal of this campaign is to inform and encourage French citizens to act according to the 3 Rs of individual consumption, reduce, reuse, and recycle, and in doing so contribute towards the development of a circular economy.⁵⁵⁵¹

⁵⁵⁴⁴ The Government supports the circular economy of plastics: 16 million euros in emergency aid for the plastics industry, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/gouvernement-soutient-leconomie-circulaire-des-plastiques-16-millions-deuros-daide-durgence-secteur>

⁵⁵⁴⁵ Thermal renovation for 4,214 state and higher education buildings by 2023, State Real Estate Department (Paris) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://immobilier-etat.gouv.fr/actualites/renovation-thermique-pour-4214-batiments-letat-lenseignement-superieur-dici-2023>

⁵⁵⁴⁶ Installation of the National Hydrogen Council, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/installation-du-conseil-national-lhydrogene>

⁵⁵⁴⁷ One Planet Summit – Commitments to act in favor of biodiversity, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/climate-and-environment/the-one-planet-movement/article/one-planet-summit-commitments-to-act-in-favor-of-biodiversity-12-jan-2021>

⁵⁵⁴⁸ One Planet Summit – Commitments to act in favor of biodiversity, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/climate-and-environment/the-one-planet-movement/article/one-planet-summit-commitments-to-act-in-favor-of-biodiversity-12-jan-2021>

⁵⁵⁴⁹ One Planet Summit – Commitments to act in favor of biodiversity, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/climate-and-environment/the-one-planet-movement/article/one-planet-summit-commitments-to-act-in-favor-of-biodiversity-12-jan-2021>

⁵⁵⁵⁰ 4th edition of the One Planet Summit: mobilizing and taking action for biodiversity, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/climate-and-environment/news/article/4th-edition-of-the-one-planet-summit-mobilizing-and-taking-action-for>

⁵⁵⁵¹ #LesBonnesHabitudes: launch of a campaign to reduce, reuse and recycle, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lancement-campagne-les-bonnes-habitudes>

On 28 January 2021, the French Development Agency signed an agreement with the Indian government to support the development of the Surat metro. The project is financed by a EUR250 million loan from the French Development Agency. The goal of the project is to support emission reduction and provide sustainable and easily accessible transportation as the metro will reduce carbon emissions by 40,000 tons and service 400,000 people.⁵⁵⁵²

On 28 January 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition and the Environment and Energy Management Agency launched the “Springboard for the ecological transition of [small and medium sized enterprises]” initiative, which provides funding to small and medium businesses who are conducting studies on ecological studies or renovating their businesses for improved energy efficiency. A flat rate between EUR5,000 and EUR20,000 depending on the project. This fund is part of France’s COVID-19 recovery program, France Relance, which has dedicated EUR30 billion to matters of ecological transition including promoting the circular economy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.⁵⁵⁵³

On 23 February 2021, Minister Pompili and Secretary of State for Digital Transition and Electronic Communications Cédric O released the digital and environment roadmap, the national strategy on the transition to digital technology and its impact and role in ecological transitions. This national strategy focuses on developing knowledge of the impact of digital technology on the environment, reducing the environmental footprint of digital technology and using digital technology to innovate for the purpose of ecological transition.⁵⁵⁵⁴

On 17 March 2021, Minister Pompili and Minister Delegate in charge of Transport Jean-Baptiste announced a microcredit for low-income purchasers of low-polluting vehicles. EUR1.9 billion has been dedicated to the plan, and eligible recipients can receive up to EUR5,000.⁵⁵⁵⁵

On 7 April 2021, the French Development Agency approved a EUR50 million loan and a EUR500,000 technical assistance grant in order to support Serbia’s agenda on climate change and low carbon development in accordance with its commitments under the Paris Agreement.⁵⁵⁵⁶

On 9 April 2021, Secretary of State for Biodiversity Bérandère Abba announced the creation of a new nature reserve “Étangs et Rigoles d’Yveline.”⁵⁵⁵⁷ The new reserve will protect 310 hectares of land including the former Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines reserve. The protection of this land places 308

⁵⁵⁵² France and India sign 250M€ credit financing agreement to build Surat Metro, the French Embassy in India (New Delhi) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://in.ambafrance.org/France-and-India-sign-250MEUR-credit-financing-agreement-to-build-Surat-Metro>

⁵⁵⁵³ Launch of the “Springboard for the Ecological Transition of SMEs,” Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://presse.ademe.fr/2021/01/lancement-de-linitiative-tremplin-pour-la-transition-ecologique-des-pme.html>

⁵⁵⁵⁴ Digital and environment: new stage of the Government’s roadmap, The Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery (Paris) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/environnement-numerique-feuille-de-route-gouvernement>

⁵⁵⁵⁵ Barbara Pompili and Jean-Baptiste Djebbari announce the establishment of the “Clean vehicles” microcredit for low-income households, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/barbara-pompili-et-jean-baptiste-djebbari-annoncent-mise-en-place-du-microcredit-vehicules-propres>

⁵⁵⁵⁶ AFD Approves EUR 50 Million to Support Serbia’s Reform Agenda on Climate Change, the French Development Agency (Belgrade), 7 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/communique-de-presse/afd-approuve-eur-50-million-support-serbia-reform-agenda-climate-change>

⁵⁵⁵⁷ Bérandère Abba announces the creation of the Yveline Ponds and Rigoles National Nature Reserve, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/berangere-abba-annonce-creation-reserve-naturelle-nationale-des-etangs-et-rigoles-dyveline>

hectares under strong protection.⁵⁵⁵⁸ The new reserve also contains wetlands, valuable carbon sinks, whose inclusion in the protected area is consistent with the government's focus on wetland protection in its 2021-2030 national strategy for protected areas.⁵⁵⁵⁹

On 19 April 2021, Minister of Agriculture and Food Julien Denormandie, Minister responsible for Housing Emmanuelle Wargon, and Minister Pannier-Runacher signed an amendment to the timber sector strategy contract.⁵⁵⁶⁰ This action aims to achieve France's decarbonization goals by promoting construction of wood buildings which will serve as carbon sinks.⁵⁵⁶¹ To this end, environmental regulations for new buildings will also be modified, promoting the use of mixed materials in buildings.⁵⁵⁶²

On 22 April 2021, the French Development Agency announced funding for sustainable and green development projects in Montenegro⁵⁵⁶³. The French Development Agency signed two financing agreements with the Development Fund of Montenegro, in which the French Development Agency will provide a EUR50 million line of credit and EUR400,000 grant for the purpose of promoting and funding green investment projects undertaken by Montenegrin municipalities and small and medium sized businesses.⁵⁵⁶⁴

On 26 April 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition published its climate action plan. This action plan will complement France's National Low Carbon Strategy and the National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change in the ministry's policy and decision-making.⁵⁵⁶⁵ The plan focuses on mitigation primarily through the reduction of emissions and on adaptation, limiting the effects of climate change on human societies and the environment.⁵⁵⁶⁶

⁵⁵⁵⁸ Bérangère Abba announces the creation of the Yveline Ponds and Rigoles National Nature Reserve, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/berangere-abba-annonce-creation-reserve-naturelle-nationale-des-etangs-et-rigoles-dyveline>

⁵⁵⁵⁹ Bérangère Abba announces the creation of the Yveline Ponds and Rigoles National Nature Reserve, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/berangere-abba-annonce-creation-reserve-naturelle-nationale-des-etangs-et-rigoles-dyveline>

⁵⁵⁶⁰ Bérangère Abba announces the creation of the Yveline Ponds and Rigoles National Nature Reserve, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/berangere-abba-annonce-creation-reserve-naturelle-nationale-des-etangs-et-rigoles-dyveline>

⁵⁵⁶¹ Bérangère Abba announces the creation of the Yveline Ponds and Rigoles National Nature Reserve, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/berangere-abba-annonce-creation-reserve-naturelle-nationale-des-etangs-et-rigoles-dyveline>

⁵⁵⁶² Low-carbon transition: the Government places the timber industry at the heart of its strategy, Ministry of Agriculture, Agrifood, and Forestry (Paris) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/transition-bas-carbone-le-gouvernement-place-la-filiere-bois-au-coeur-de-sa-strategie>

⁵⁵⁶³ Climate Finance and Post-COVID-19 Recovery: AFD Supports Sustainable and Inclusive Development Projects in Montenegro, the French Development Agency (Paris) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/communique-de-presse/climate-finance-afd-support-sustainable-and-inclusive-development-projects-in-montenegro>

⁵⁵⁶⁴ Climate Finance and Post-COVID-19 Recovery: AFD Supports Sustainable and Inclusive Development Projects in Montenegro, the French Development Agency (Paris) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/communique-de-presse/climate-finance-afd-support-sustainable-and-inclusive-development-projects-in-montenegro>

⁵⁵⁶⁵ Climate mission letters: The Ministry of Ecological Transition publishes its action plan, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lettres-mission-climat-ministere-transition-ecologique-publie-plan-dactions>

⁵⁵⁶⁶ Climate mission letters: The Ministry of Ecological Transition publishes its action plan, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lettres-mission-climat-ministere-transition-ecologique-publie-plan-dactions>

On 28 April 2021, France announced the fifth phase of the Energy Saving Certificate scheme.⁵⁵⁶⁷ This scheme impacts energy producers, requiring them to undertake actions to improve energy efficiency such as improving company infrastructure or producing energy saving products.⁵⁵⁶⁸ This fifth phase sets the target for energy savings at 2,500 terawatt hours with 730 terawatt hours set aside for energy reduction projects on houses with the lowest incomes.⁵⁵⁶⁹ This fifth phase of the scheme will help France meet its energy reduction goals outlined in the National Low Carbon Strategy (SNBC).⁵⁵⁷⁰

On 29 April 2021, the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery presented its climate action plan.⁵⁵⁷¹ The ministry presented an 11-point action plan that will guide its actions in accordance with the SNBC, the National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change and France's commitments under the Paris Agreement.⁵⁵⁷²

On 30 April 2021, Minister Pompili and Minister Djebbari announced the signing of a contract of objectives and performance with Waterways of France providing additional funding of EUR175 million.⁵⁵⁷³ The purpose of the contract is to provide funding for diversifying river infrastructure and make transporting goods by river a more viable alternative to road transport.⁵⁵⁷⁴ The funding will also enable Waterways of France to modernize France's waterways and provide water management support globally. Modernization measures would include introducing green technology such as hydrogen powered boats as well as the installation of hydroelectric dams and water turbines along waterways.⁵⁵⁷⁵

⁵⁵⁶⁷ The Government specifies the levels of obligation of energy saving certificates for the 5th period, in order to strengthen the ecological ambition and support for the most modest households, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 28 April, 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/gouvernement-precise-niveaux-dobligation-des-certificats-deconomies-denergie-5eme-periode-afin>

⁵⁵⁶⁸ The Government specifies the levels of obligation of energy saving certificates for the 5th period, in order to strengthen the ecological ambition and support for the most modest households, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 28 April, 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/gouvernement-precise-niveaux-dobligation-des-certificats-deconomies-denergie-5eme-periode-afin>

⁵⁵⁶⁹ The Government specifies the levels of obligation of energy saving certificates for the 5th period, in order to strengthen the ecological ambition and support for the most modest households, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 28 April, 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/gouvernement-precise-niveaux-dobligation-des-certificats-deconomies-denergie-5eme-periode-afin>

⁵⁵⁷⁰ The Government specifies the levels of obligation of energy saving certificates for the 5th period, in order to strengthen the ecological ambition and support for the most modest households, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 28 April, 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/gouvernement-precise-niveaux-dobligation-des-certificats-deconomies-denergie-5eme-periode-afin>

⁵⁵⁷¹ Environment: Bercy publishes its climate action plan, The Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery (Paris) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/plan-de-relance/environnement-bercy-plan-action-clima>

⁵⁵⁷² Environment: Bercy publishes its climate action plan, The Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery (Paris) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/plan-de-relance/environnement-bercy-plan-action-climat>

⁵⁵⁷³ Barbara Pompili and Jean-Baptiste Dejabbari signed today with Voies Navigables de France a contract of objectives providing for an additional € 175 million in State support, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/barbara-pompili-et-jean-baptiste-dejabbari-ont-signe-jour-voies-navigables-france-contrat-dobjectifs>

⁵⁵⁷⁴ Barbara Pompili and Jean-Baptiste Dejabbari signed today with Voies Navigables de France a contract of objectives providing for an additional € 175 million in State support, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/barbara-pompili-et-jean-baptiste-dejabbari-ont-signe-jour-voies-navigables-france-contrat-dobjectifs>

⁵⁵⁷⁵ Barbara Pompili and Jean-Baptiste Dejabbari signed today with Voies Navigables de France a contract of objectives providing for an additional € 175 million in State support, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Paris) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/barbara-pompili-et-jean-baptiste-dejabbari-ont-signe-jour-voies-navigables-france-contrat-dobjectifs>

France has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the CCE platform with its 4Rs framework, while also taking into consideration hydrogen and hydrogen enabling policies. It has complied with its commitment to reduce carbon emissions by investing in renewable energy, providing incentives for businesses to take actions to improve energy efficiency and by taking action to prevent waste and unnecessary production of materials. It has also complied with its commitment to reuse and recycle by raising public awareness about waste, the importance of recycling and the energy efficiency of products. Additionally, France has complied with its commitment to remove carbon by promoting the removal of emissions through investment in the conservation and production of carbon sinks. France also announced policies targeted towards hydrogen including the formation of the National Hydrogen Council.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Karči Aldridge Végi

Germany: 0

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 4 December 2020, Germany launched a EUR5 million funding program for the production of climate-friendly steel, also known as “green steel,” a s part of a wider industry decarbonization project. The Ministry of Environment intends “to reduce process-related greenhouse gas emissions in energy-intensive industries such as steel, cement, lime, and chemicals” using innovative technologies.⁵⁵⁷⁶

On 12 December 2020, Germany pledged an additional EUR500 million to help developing countries meet their climate targets, agreed upon at the United Nations Climate Summit. Of this investment, EUR50 million is allocated to the Adaptation Fund and EUR100 million to the NAMA facility which helps developing countries cut emissions.⁵⁵⁷⁷

On 15 December 2020, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy released its call for funding for CO₂ capture and use in the primary industry. The call aims to “help close technical gaps that currently hinder the use of technologies and processes for CO₂ capture and use on a large scale.” Those eligible to apply include “universities and non-university research institutions as well as regional authorities or public administrations, clubs, associations and foundations.”⁵⁵⁷⁸

On 11 January 2021, Chancellor Angela Merkel announced that Germany would join the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, making a minimum of 30 per cent of land and sea in Germany protected areas. The goal is to protect biological diversity, as well as the indigenous

⁵⁵⁷⁶ Germany launches funding programme for ‘green steel’, Euractiv (Berlin) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/news/germany-launches-funding-programme-for-green-steel/>

⁵⁵⁷⁷ AS IT HAPPENED: World leaders upgrade climate commitments on Paris anniversary, Climate Change News (Broadstairs) 12 December 2020. Access Date: April 5 2021. <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2020/12/12/live-world-leaders-upgrade-climate-commitments-paris-anniversary-summit/>

⁵⁵⁷⁸ Call for funding for CO₂ capture and use in the primary industry, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2021.

<https://www.energieforschung.de/antragsteller/foerderangebote/co2-abscheidung-und-nutzung>

communities in these regions. Germany also agreed to support the funding of protecting areas in developing countries and emerging Geconomies through the Legacy Landscapes Fund.⁵⁵⁷⁹

On 10 March 2021, Germany updated its sustainable development strategy. This update included a broader commitment to promoting and supporting climate action globally, rather than within Germany alone. Additionally, the updated strategy outlines a plan for the quicker implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.⁵⁵⁸⁰

On 24 March 2021, Germany announced their decision to compensate payments to energy companies for residual electricity volumes that can no longer be generated due to the phaseout of nuclear power.⁵⁵⁸¹ In return, energy companies will remove any barriers preventing the phaseout of nuclear power.⁵⁵⁸² The decision to phase out nuclear power will contribute to Germany's climate and renewable energy goals.

On 20 April 2021, Germany and Russia signed a Declaration of Intent. The document stipulated the creation of the High-level working group on sustainable energy and its constituent Sub-group on cooperation in the field of hydrogen energy. The Sub-group's goals include the exchange of experience in studying the technology of hydrogen production, storage, use, and transportation.⁵⁵⁸³

On 27 April 2021, the Ministry of Finance announced the German Recovery plan for the European Commission Regarding Corona Recovery Assistance, which included a significant investment and dedication to climate action and energy transformation.⁵⁵⁸⁴ The various investments into climate action outlined in this plan amount to roughly EUR28 billion.⁵⁵⁸⁵

On 12 May 2021, the German government adopted its revised Climate Change Act. It is stated that the "purpose of this law is to protect against the effects of global climate change, the fulfillment of the national climate protection targets as well as the compliance with the European [and to] ensure targets are met." To do this, there will be a focus on carbon sinks to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 and negative emissions by 2050.⁵⁵⁸⁶

Germany has taken actions to address two out of the four Rs framework, partially complying with its commitment to endorse the CCE platform. Their actions towards reducing emissions, as well as removing harm through investments in biodiversity contribute to their commitment. However, they have not taken sufficient action on reusing or recycling, or enabling policies.

Thus, Germany receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Angelo Wijaya

⁵⁵⁷⁹ Protecting 30 per cent of the world's natural environment, the Federal Government (Berlin) 11 January 2021.

Access Date April 5 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/protecting-biodiversity-1836008>

⁵⁵⁸⁰ New version of the Sustainable Development Strategy, Federal Government (Berlin) 10 March 2021. Access Date:

April 5 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/sustainable-development-strategy-2021-1875228>

⁵⁵⁸¹ Compensation for the phaseout of nuclear power (Berlin) 24 March 2021. Access Date: May 3 2021.

<https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/compensation-for-nuclear-phaseout-1881422>

⁵⁵⁸² Compensation for the phaseout of nuclear power (Berlin) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021.

<https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/compensation-for-nuclear-phaseout-1881422>

⁵⁵⁸³ The Ministry of Energy of Russia and the Ministry of Economy and Energy of Germany Signed a Joint Declaration of

Intent on Cooperation in the Field of Sustainable Energy, Russian Ministry of Energy (Moscow) 20 April 2021. Access

Date: 28 May 2021. <https://minenergo.gov.ru/node/20562>

⁵⁵⁸⁴ 28 billion euros for climate action and digitalisation (Berlin) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021.

<https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/german-recovery-and-resilience-plan-1898532>

⁵⁵⁸⁵ 28 billion euros for climate action and digitalisation (Berlin) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021.

<https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/german-recovery-and-resilience-plan-1898532>

⁵⁵⁸⁶ Lesefassung des Bundes-Klimaschutzgesetzes 2021 mit markierten Änderungen zur Fassung von 2019, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021.

https://www.bmu.de/fileadmin/Daten_BMU/Download_PDF/Klimaschutz/ksg_aendg_2021_bf.pdf

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 22 November 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced India's aim to "restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030," "encouraging a circular economy."⁵⁵⁸⁷ This project is aimed at achieving the country's target of producing 175 gigawatts of renewable energy annually by 2022. Prime Minister Modi added that India is "taking a big step ahead by seeking to achieve 450 gigawatts [GW] by 2030."⁵⁵⁸⁸

On 10 March 2021, the Ministry for New and Renewable Energy reported an 419.74 megawatts of renewable energy capacity was added in February 2021, taking the cumulative renewable energy capacity to 92.97 GW as of 28 February 2021.⁵⁵⁸⁹ The Ministry's report added projects adding 50.15 GW capacity are at different implementation stages and projects adding 27.02 GW of capacity are at different bidding stages.⁵⁵⁹⁰ This additional capacity will support India in their transition to renewable energy, and reaffirms their commitment to this goal.

On 7 April 2021, the cabinet approved the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's proposal for "implementation of the Production Linked Incentive Scheme "National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PhotoVoltaic Modules" for achieving manufacturing capacity of [GW] scale in high efficiency solar [photovoltaic] PV modules with an outlay of Rs.4,500 crore."⁵⁵⁹¹ As the capacity of solar energy largely depends on solar PV cells, this action works towards the goal of transitioning to renewable energy.⁵⁵⁹²

On 15 April 2021, Oil Secretary Tarun Kapoor announced at the "Hydrogen Economy – New Delhi Dialogue" event that India has directed state-run oil and gas companies to establish seven hydrogen pilot plants by the end of the current financial year.⁵⁵⁹³ This is a significant initiative as part of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's commitment to invest USD200 million for promoting hydrogen use over the next five to seven years.⁵⁵⁹⁴

⁵⁵⁸⁷ G20 Summit | PM Modi calls for integrated approach to combat climate change, The Hindu (New Delhi/Riyadh) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/climate-change-must-be-fought-not-in-silos-but-in-integrated-holistic-way-pm-modi-at-g20/article33155391.ece>

⁵⁵⁸⁸ G20 Summit | PM Modi calls for integrated approach to combat climate change, The Hindu (New Delhi/Riyadh) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/climate-change-must-be-fought-not-in-silos-but-in-integrated-holistic-way-pm-modi-at-g20/article33155391.ece>

⁵⁵⁸⁹ Monthly Summary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for the month of February 2021, Government of India (New Delhi) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://mnre.gov.in/img/documents/uploads/file_f-1615785529839.pdf

⁵⁵⁹⁰ Monthly Summary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for the month of February 2021, Government of India (New Delhi) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://mnre.gov.in/img/documents/uploads/file_f-1615785529839.pdf

⁵⁵⁹¹ Cabinet approves Production Linked Incentive scheme 'National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules' (New Delhi) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1710114>

⁵⁵⁹² Cabinet approves Production Linked Incentive scheme 'National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules' (New Delhi) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1710114>

⁵⁵⁹³ India to spend \$200 mln in next 5-7 years to promote hydrogen use, Reuters (New Delhi) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/india/india-spend-200-mln-next-5-7-years-promote-hydrogen-use-2021-04-15/>

⁵⁵⁹⁴ India to spend \$200 mln in next 5-7 years to promote hydrogen use, Reuters (New Delhi) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/india/india-spend-200-mln-next-5-7-years-promote-hydrogen-use-2021-04-15/>

On 22 April 2021, Prime Minister Modi, addressed the Leaders Summit on Climate 2021, emphasizing the importance of taking action to combat climate change.⁵⁵⁹⁵ In his address, he reaffirmed India's commitment to achieving its renewable energy target of 450 GW by 2030.⁵⁵⁹⁶ Further, he announced the launching of the India-US climate and clean energy Agenda 2030 partnership alongside President Joseph Biden of the United States.⁵⁵⁹⁷

India has taken actions to address two out of the four Rs framework of the CCE, namely reducing carbon emissions by increasing renewable energy generation and removing emissions by increasing forest cover and hydrogen-enabling policies. Nevertheless, India has not taken actions towards reusing or recycling.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Aadi Thulasingham

Indonesia: -1

Indonesia has not complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 1 December 2020, Environment and Forestry Minister Siti Nurbaya announced the extension of the Peat Restoration Agency for the following years.⁵⁵⁹⁸ The extension implements President Joko Widodo's commitment and efforts for peatland ecosystem recovery.⁵⁵⁹⁹ Rehabilitating the country's peatland will enable the government to meet its emissions commitments, and help avoid forest fires, which have contributed substantially to carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases entering the atmosphere. The Agency will work to restore five million acres of degraded peatland and mangrove ecosystems across 13 provinces.⁵⁶⁰⁰

On 22 December 2020, Indonesia launched biodiesel containing 30 per cent palm-based fuel, to reduce the country's fossil fuel imports by IDR63 trillion a year.⁵⁶⁰¹ Through this program, Indonesia plans to eventually phase out the use of conventional diesel and replace current oil consumption. The program aims to reach a 50 per cent palm oil blend by 2025.⁵⁶⁰²

⁵⁵⁹⁵ Address by Prime Minister at the Leaders' Summit on Climate 2021 (New Delhi) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1713442>

⁵⁵⁹⁶ Address by Prime Minister at the Leaders' Summit on Climate 2021 (New Delhi) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1713442>

⁵⁵⁹⁷ Address by Prime Minister at the Leaders' Summit on Climate 2021 (New Delhi) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1713442>

⁵⁵⁹⁸ Minister: Indonesia peat restoration agency's tenure extended, FORESTHINTS.NEWS (Jakarta) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://foresthints.news/minister-indonesian-peat-restoration-agency-tenure-extended/>

⁵⁵⁹⁹ Minister: Indonesia peat restoration agency's tenure extended, FORESTHINTS.NEWS (Jakarta) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://foresthints.news/minister-indonesian-peat-restoration-agency-tenure-extended/>

⁵⁶⁰⁰ Indonesia's Peatland Restoration Agency gets an extension despite failing to hit its target: what are the hurdles and next strategies?, The Conversation (Melbourne) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://theconversation.com/indonesias-peatland-restoration-agency-gets-an-extension-despite-failing-to-hit-its-target-what-are-the-hurdles-and-next-strategies-151989>

⁵⁶⁰¹ Indonesia launches B30 biodiesel to cut costs, boost palm oil, Reuters (Jakarta) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-indonesia-biodiesel-idUSKBN1YROD2>

⁵⁶⁰² Need 15 Million Hectares of Palm Oil to Replace Oil, Yes or No?, CNBC Indonesia (Jakarta) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.cnbcindonesia.com/news/20201123192446-4-204061/butuh-15-juta-hektar-sawit-buat-gantikan-minyak-yes-or-no>

On 15 March 2021, Indonesia committed to offering tax incentives on electric vehicles.⁵⁶⁰³ The tax break provided for hybrid cars will provide Indonesians with more incentive to purchase a low-emissions vehicle. Battery-powered electric vehicles will maintain their zero per cent tax rate, while plug-in-hybrid vehicles will have their five per cent drop to zero per cent.

On 19 March 2021, the Environment and Forestry Ministry Climate Change Management Director General Ruandha Agung Sugardiman acknowledged in a conference, reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a pressing issue, due to the rise in natural disasters.⁵⁶⁰⁴ Director General Sugardiman stated that by 2050, the government will start working toward a net-zero emission, with the hopes of reaching the goal by 2070.⁵⁶⁰⁵ This pledge contributes towards the commitment of reducing carbon emissions in the country.

On April 29 2021, President Widodo tasked the National Energy Council ministers and stakeholders to plan energy policies.⁵⁶⁰⁶ The group has stated that the country will stop both liquefied petroleum gas and fuel imports by 2030.⁵⁶⁰⁷ The Council's secretary general Djoko Siswanto has committed to introducing devise strategies to halt the imports, by building or upgrading refineries, converting refineries to biodiesel refineries, and increasing domestic production.⁵⁶⁰⁸ This action will contribute towards the nation reducing their emissions with the introduction of biodiesel.

Indonesia has taken actions to address one out of the four Rs framework and endorse the CCE platform. Indonesia has implemented many policies and actions towards reducing their carbon emissions, but has not taken actions towards reusing, recycling, or removing. Further, they have not taken into consideration hydrogen or enabling policies.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Surabhi Pradhan

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 10 December 2020, Minister of Environment Sergio Costa signed a decree on the Minimum Environmental Criteria for the industrial washing and rental service of textiles and mattresses.⁵⁶⁰⁹ This decree is in line with “the objectives of reducing the environmental impact set out in the Action Plan for environmental sustainability and consumption in the public administration adopted in 2008”

⁵⁶⁰³ Indonesia Offers More Aggressive Tax Perks for Electric Vehicles, BNN Bloomberg (Toronto) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/indonesia-offers-more-aggressive-tax-perks-for-electric-vehicles-1.1577069>

⁵⁶⁰⁴ Indonesia mulls net-zero emissions target by 2070, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/03/22/indonesia-mulls-net-zero-emissions-target-by-2070.html>

⁵⁶⁰⁵ Indonesia mulls net-zero emissions target by 2070, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 27 March 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/03/22/indonesia-mulls-net-zero-emissions-target-by-2070.html>

⁵⁶⁰⁶ Indonesia to stop LPG and fuel imports by 2030- official, Reuters (Jakarta) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/indonesia-oil/indonesia-to-stop-lpg-and-fuel-imports-by-2030-official-idUSL4N2MM0YZ>

⁵⁶⁰⁷ Indonesia to stop LPG and fuel imports by 2030- official, Reuters (Jakarta) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/indonesia-oil/indonesia-to-stop-lpg-and-fuel-imports-by-2030-official-idUSL4N2MM0YZ>

⁵⁶⁰⁸ Indonesia to stop LPG and fuel imports by 2030- official, Reuters (Jakarta) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/indonesia-oil/indonesia-to-stop-lpg-and-fuel-imports-by-2030-official-idUSL4N2MM0YZ>

⁵⁶⁰⁹ Environment: Minister Costa Signs a Decree on CAMs for Sterile Textiles, Mattresses and Medical Devices, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 10 December 2020. Access date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/ambiente-ministro-costa-firma-decreto-sui-cam-tessili-materassi-e-dispositivi-medici>

and contributes to the “reuse” aspect of the four Rs framework through improving the ability to reuse textiles and mattresses.⁵⁶¹⁰

On 17 December 2020, Minister Costa published a decree allocating EUR20 million for “experimental projects for the construction or implementation of the school transport service with hybrid or electric means of transport.”⁵⁶¹¹ This initiative is aimed at addressing violations of air quality parameters.

On 23 March 2021, Italy convened the National Conference on the Circular Economy, at which the third annual report was presented.⁵⁶¹² Minister of Ecological Transition Roberto Cingolani delivered remarks, in which he reaffirmed Italy’s commitment to the circular economy and environmental and economic sustainability.⁵⁶¹³ He observed that “Circularity is an essential tool in our context, with the climate emergency we are experiencing and the awareness that we must achieve important objectives of decarbonisation, upgrading of renewables, restoration of the natural values of our environment.”⁵⁶¹⁴ He also reiterated Italy’s strides thus far, noting that the country “recycle[s] almost double the total waste compared to the European Community...with a circularity rate that is around 30% higher than in the rest of Europe.”⁵⁶¹⁵

On 21 April 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition delivered 50 zero-emission electric vehicles to the Port Authority Corps of the Italian Coast Guard.⁵⁶¹⁶ The vehicles will be used by the Port Authority Corps to provide control and patrol services in support of the Coast Guard’s mission.⁵⁶¹⁷ The Coast Guard’s new green fleet is part of a broader effort by the Ministry of Ecological Transition to improve environmental sustainability through decarbonization.⁵⁶¹⁸

Italy has taken actions to address two out of the four Rs framework and to endorse the CCE platform. This has been done through actions to reuse textiles and mattresses, as well as through efforts to reduce emissions. However, Italy has not taken significant action on removing or recycling, nor has it taken into consideration hydrogen or enabling policies.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Aisha Shafaqat

⁵⁶¹⁰ CAMs Published for the Wash-Hire Services, L. C. A. Ambiente. (Rome) 18 January 2021. Access date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.lca-ambiente.com/en/news/pubblicati-i-cam-per-il-servizio-di-lavano/>

⁵⁶¹¹ Twenty Million to Municipalities for “Ecological” School Buses, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 17 December 2020. Access date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/venti-milioni-ai-comuni-scuolabus-ecologici>

⁵⁶¹² “Circularity Essential Tool for the Future of Society,” Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/circularita-strumento-essenziale-il-futuro-della-societa>

⁵⁶¹³ “Circularity Essential Tool for the Future of Society,” Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/circularita-strumento-essenziale-il-futuro-della-societa>

⁵⁶¹⁴ “Circularity Essential Tool for the Future of Society,” Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/circularita-strumento-essenziale-il-futuro-della-societa>

⁵⁶¹⁵ “Circularity Essential Tool for the Future of Society,” Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/circularita-strumento-essenziale-il-futuro-della-societa>

⁵⁶¹⁶ Environment: Deliver 50 Electric Cars to the Port Authorities – Coast Guard, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/ambiente-consegnate-50-auto-elettriche-alle-capitanerie-di-porto-guardia-costiera>

⁵⁶¹⁷ Environment: Deliver 50 Electric Cars to the Port Authorities – Coast Guard, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/ambiente-consegnate-50-auto-elettriche-alle-capitanerie-di-porto-guardia-costiera>

⁵⁶¹⁸ Environment: Deliver 50 Electric Cars to the Port Authorities – Coast Guard, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 8 May 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/ambiente-consegnate-50-auto-elettriche-alle-capitanerie-di-porto-guardia-costiera>

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 4 December 2020, Prime Minister Yoshihida Suga announced that Japan will establish a fund of JPY2 trillion for environmental investment that it “will provide continuing assistance to companies taking up the challenge of ambitious innovations.” Additionally, Japan will develop hydrogen powered airplanes, hydrogen powered cargo ships, and low-cost storage batteries, contributing to the goal of decarbonization⁵⁶¹⁹

On 14 December 2020, the Ministry of the Environment announced three projects to be selected for the Joint Crediting Mechanism Model Projects. The projects will introduce solar power systems at factories and universities in Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand. The purpose of this programme is “to achieve the GHG emission reduction target by the Japanese government.”⁵⁶²⁰

On 25 December 2020, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry formulated a “Green Growth Strategy Through Achieving Carbon Neutrality,” an industrial policy that will support lead the challenging goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. It includes “action plans covering comprehensive policies in areas such as budgets, taxes, regulatory reform, standardization and international collaboration.”⁵⁶²¹ The strategy is also projected to increase Japan’s electricity demand by 30 to 50 per cent and sets an installation target for offshore wind power of up to 45 gigawatts by 2040.⁵⁶²²

On 8 April 2021, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Ejima Kiyoshi signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on hydrogen with the Minister of Energy and Infrastructure of the United Arab Emirates Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei.⁵⁶²³ This will facilitate the construction of hydrogen supply chains and the exchange of information between Japan and the United Arab Emirates.⁵⁶²⁴

On 22 April 2021, Prime Minister Suga declared at the Leaders Summit on Climate, that Japan aims to “reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 46 per cent in fiscal year 2030 from its fiscal year 2013

⁵⁶¹⁹ Press Release: Press Conference by the Prime Minister, Prime minister and his cabinet (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. http://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202012/_00003.html

⁵⁶²⁰ Preliminary selection result for financing programme for JCM Model projects in FY2020 (3rd selection), Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan (Tokyo) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2484.html>

⁵⁶²¹ Press Release: Green Growth Strategy through Achieving carbon neutrality, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1225_001.html

⁵⁶²² Press Release: Green Growth Strategy through Achieving carbon neutrality, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1225_001.html

⁵⁶²³ State Minister Ejima Signs MOC on Hydrogen with H.E. Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, UAE, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0409_001.html

⁵⁶²⁴ State Minister Ejima Signs MOC on Hydrogen with H.E. Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, UAE, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0409_001.html

levels.”⁵⁶²⁵ Suga also announced that to achieve this, Japan is committed to utilizing decarbonized power sources and assisting other countries in decarbonization.⁵⁶²⁶

Japan has taken action to address two of the four key commitment areas within the four Rs framework, partially complying with its commitment to endorsing the CCE platform. It has taken actions on both reducing and removing emissions through policies aimed at growing renewable energy usage and decarbonization. Further, it has done so through employing hydrogen policies. Nevertheless, Japan has not contributed to reusing or recycling.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Meryem Althani

Korea: 0

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

In December 2020, Korea submitted its Carbon Neutrality Strategy 2050 to the United Nations, where it pledged net-zero emissions for 2050. The strategy outlines key steps for a “sustainable and green society,” which include expanding the use of clean energy and clean hydrogen. The strategy also outlines mitigation measures which “will provide an opportunity for sustainable development.” Improving carbon efficiency, deployment of carbon removal technologies, and enhancing carbon sinks are among the planned efforts outlined in the strategy, as is either phasing out coal plants or converting them into liquified natural gas.⁵⁶²⁷

On 24 December 2020, the Ministry of Environment announced its plans for reducing plastic waste through increasing the recycling rate of plastic products.⁵⁶²⁸ The Ministry plans to reduce greenhouse gas emission from plastic by 30 per cent by 2030 through reducing production of plastic and reusing plastic waste for extracting oil. It also announced banning overseas plastic waste from Korea entirely by 2022, replacing petroleum plastics with bioplastics by 2050 and decreasing the usage of plastic containers to 38 per cent from 47 per cent.⁵⁶²⁹

On 21 January 2021, the Ministry of Environment announced its plans for supplying more than 300,000 electric and hydrogen vehicles for reducing pollution and carbon emissions. It has estimated 136,185 pollution-free vehicles with high air quality improvement effects to be supplied by the end of 2021, which will aim to advance plans for carbon neutrality in transportation.⁵⁶³⁰

⁵⁶²⁵ Prime Minister Suga’s attendance at the Leaders’ Summit on Climate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ch/page6e_000236.html

⁵⁶²⁶ Prime Minister Suga’s attendance at the Leaders’ Summit on Climate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ch/page6e_000236.html

⁵⁶²⁷ South Korea 2050 net zero pledge spurs renewables investment (Broadstairs) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2021/01/14/south-korea-2050-net-zero-pledge-spurs-renewables-investment/>

⁵⁶²⁸ South Korea’s Ministry of Environment: Plan to reduce plastic waste by 20% by 2025 (London) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://ycnews.com/south-koreas-ministry-of-environment-plan-to-reduce-plastic-waste-by-20-by-2025/>

⁵⁶²⁹ S. Korea aims to reduce plastic waste 20 pct by 2025 (Seoul) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20201224005700315>

⁵⁶³⁰ Devoting in the era of pollution-free vehicles...First on-site trip of newly appointed Minister of Environment (Sejong) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021.

<https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1431520&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

On 5 February 2021, President Moon Jae-in signed a USD48 billion deal for building the “world’s biggest offshore wind power farm,” “moving more actively towards carbon neutrality, accelerating the transition to eco-friendly energy.”⁵⁶³¹ As 40 per cent of electricity in Korea is provided by coal, this project is a step towards developing cleaner energy and reducing carbon emissions.⁵⁶³²

On 2 March 2021, the Ministry of Environment announced its planned initiatives for achieving the 2050 carbon neutrality goal, which includes the transition from combustion vehicles to zero-emission vehicles. According to the strategy, the government will supply zero-emission and eco-friendly vehicles and increase research facilities for their development. The Ministry will “promote transition in all sectors of society and set a foundation to achieve the carbon neutrality goal.”⁵⁶³³

On 31 March 2021, the Technology Innovation Strategy for Carbon Neutrality was established which presented goals and strategies for meeting the carbon neutrality goal of 2050. These include presentation of strategies for the development of carbon neutral technologies like wind and solar power, hydrogen, and bioenergy.⁵⁶³⁴ These also included planning and promoting large scale carbon emitters for developing low carbon processing methods, funding and accelerating new technologies, and providing tax exemptions for carbon neutral research and development projects to attract more private investments.⁵⁶³⁵

On 22 April 2021, President Moon announced Korea’s pledge of ending all public financing for building coal-fired power plants overseas during the Leaders Summit on Climate.⁵⁶³⁶ This action will aim to further reduce emission levels and Korea’s reliance on power generated by coal. Korea will also increase the production of renewable energy which will include solar and wind power.⁵⁶³⁷

On 27 April 2021, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy announced the approved amendments to the “Enforcement Decree of the Act on Promotion of Development and Distribution of Environment-friendly Motor Vehicles.”⁵⁶³⁸ Under these amendments, public institutions, and private vehicles for the heads of public institutions are required to purchase and use only environment-friendly vehicles which include electric vehicles or hydrogen-fueled vehicles.⁵⁶³⁹

⁵⁶³¹ Moon pledges full support for new sea wind energy project (Seoul) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2021/02/371_303662.html

⁵⁶³² \$43 billion deal inked for ‘world’s biggest’ offshore wind farm in South Korea (Scarborough) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/business/43-billion-deal-inked-for-world-s-biggest-offshore-wind-farm-in-south-korea-1.5296978>

⁵⁶³³ All vehicles in Korea to be emission-free by 2050: ministry (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Sci-Tech/view?articleId=195541>

⁵⁶³⁴ Establishment of the Strategy for Technology Innovation for Carbon Neutrality, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and Korean Culture and Information Service (Seoul) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.korea.net/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=5483>

⁵⁶³⁵ Establishment of the Strategy for Technology Innovation for Carbon Neutrality, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and Korean Culture and Information Service (Seoul) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.korea.net/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=5483&>

⁵⁶³⁶ President Announces Higher Targets for CO2 Emissions at Climate Summit, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and Korean Culture and Information Service (Sejong-si) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=197349>

⁵⁶³⁷ President Announces Higher Targets for CO2 Emissions at Climate Summit, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and Korean Culture and Information Service (Sejong-si) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=197349>

⁵⁶³⁸ Amendments to the Enforcement Decree of the Environment-friendly Vehicles Act Accepted at Cabinet Meeting, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (Sejong-si) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://english.motie.go.kr/en/pc/pressreleases/bbs/bbsView.do?bbs_seq_n=844&bbs_cd_n=2

⁵⁶³⁹ Amendments to the Enforcement Decree of the Environment-friendly Vehicles Act Accepted at Cabinet Meeting, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (Sejong-si) 30 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. http://english.motie.go.kr/en/pc/pressreleases/bbs/bbsView.do?bbs_seq_n=844&bbs_cd_n=2

Korea has taken actions to address three of the four Rs framework and endorse the CCE platform. It has complied with its commitment to reduce carbon emissions through investing in technologies for renewable energy production like wind, solar and hydrogen. It has complied with its commitment to reuse and reduce through investments and production of electric and hydrogen power and sources. It has complied with its commitment to remove and reduce carbon emissions by limiting investments and reliance on coal-generated power. It has also partially complied with its commitment to reuse by investing in carbon capture technologies. However, it has not sufficiently complied with its commitment of recycle and remove.

Thus, Korea receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Minabil Iftikbar

Mexico: -1

Mexico has not complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 2 February 2021, the Ministry of Energy released the National Electricity System Development Program for the 2020-2034 period. This program outlines a plan to increase the capacity of hydroelectric power generation by 6.8 per cent by 2024. This is done with the goal of achieving 35 per cent clean energy generation by 2024 and 43 per cent by 2030.⁵⁶⁴⁰ Nevertheless, the plan outlines intent to more natural gas builds after 2024, a non-renewable form of energy.⁵⁶⁴¹

On 23 February 2021, the Lower House of Congress passed a bill that would increase state control of the electricity market.⁵⁶⁴² This bill has been criticized by environmental groups as the bill is seen as a reversal to Mexico's endeavors in energy transition in the past decade—putting renewable energy supply to the “back of the queue.”⁵⁶⁴³

Mexico has not taken actions to address the four Rs framework and endorse the CCE platform.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Angelo Wijaya

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 27 January 2021, Russia presented a project for the processing of batteries. These solutions are aiming at solving issues of battery recycling within the framework of the federal project

⁵⁶⁴⁰ Ministry of Energy Releases Energy Sector Development Plan (Mexico City) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://mexicobusiness.news/energy/news/ministry-energy-releases-energy-sector-development-plan>

⁵⁶⁴¹ Natural Gas Dominates Capacity Additions in Mexico's Energy Ministry Power Plans (Sterling) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.naturalgasintel.com/natural-gas-dominates-capacity-additions-for-mexicos-energy-ministry-power-plants/>

⁵⁶⁴² Mexico's lower house approves divisive electricity bill (Mexico City) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/mexico-energy-electricity-idINL1N2KU01E>

⁵⁶⁴³ Mexico urged to 'restore clean energy progress' (Winchester) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://renews.biz/66709/mexico-urged-to-restore-clean-energy-progress/>

“Infrastructure for Waste Management of the I-II classes” as part of the national project “Ecology” and were presented by JSC Rusatom Gateway.⁵⁶⁴⁴

On 12 February 2021, Russia finalized amendments to the methodological guidelines aiming at the creation of a national system for accounting for greenhouse gas emissions. The new methodological guidelines make it possible to calculate the absorbing capacity of all-natural ecosystems within the Russian Federation and also determine the methods for accounting for the absorption and emissions of greenhouse gases (CO₂, CH₄, N₂O) by natural ecosystems (forests, steppes, tundra, swamps, freshwater bodies).⁵⁶⁴⁵

On 11 March 2021, Russian state-owned company, Novatek PJSC agreed on tripling the clean output of energy by the end of the decade, which includes installing carbon capture and storage in one of its Arctic fields and exploring hydrogen opportunities.⁵⁶⁴⁶

On 18 March 2021, Russia supported the initiative of the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug to create carbon polygons, assessing the carbon absorptive capacity of forests and other ecosystems on the territory of the district jointly by specialized federal departments.⁵⁶⁴⁷

On 20 April 2021, the State Duma, the lower chamber of the Russian parliament, approved the law that creates a framework for climate projects in the country, and allows trading carbon units from emissions cuts or absorption.⁵⁶⁴⁸ The law also requires companies to report their emission levels to regulators. From 2025, the legally mandated threshold of emissions will be lowered from 150,000 tons to 50,000 tons.⁵⁶⁴⁹

On 20 April 2021 Russia and German signed a Declaration of Intent. The document stipulated the creation of the High-level working group on sustainable energy and its constituent Sub-group on cooperation in the field of hydrogen energy. The Sub-group’s goals include the exchange of experience in studying the technology of hydrogen production, storage, use, and transportation.⁵⁶⁵⁰

Russia has taken action to address two out of the four Rs framework (Recycle and Reduce) through projects that support green processing of batteries and regulations towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and partially address two out of the four Rs framework through agreements to proceed with carbon capture and storage projects (Remove and Reuse). However, Russia has not taken significant enough action on all 4Rs.

⁵⁶⁴⁴ Within the framework of the national project "Ecology" presented a project for the processing of batteries, Russia Ministry of Natural Resources (Moscow) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/v_ramkakh_natsproekta_ekologiya_predstavlen_proekt_po_pererabotke_akkumulyatornykh_batarey/

⁵⁶⁴⁵ The Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia has developed an order on amendments to the Methodological Guidelines for the quantitative determination of the volume of absorption of greenhouse gases, Russia Ministry of Natural Resources (Moscow) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/minprirody_rossii_razrabotalo_rasporyazhenie_o_vnesenii_izmeneniy_v_metodicheskie_ukazaniya_po_kolich/

⁵⁶⁴⁶ Russia’s biggest LNG producer joins race to make fuel greener, JNW (Toronto) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.jwnenergy.com/article/2021/3/11/russias-biggest-lng-producer-joins-race-to-make-fu/>

⁵⁶⁴⁷ Ministry of Natural Resources Supported the Initiative of the Khanty – Mansy Autonomous Okrug to create “carbon polygons,” Russia Ministry of Natural Resources (Moscow) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rosleskhoz_podderzhal_initsiativu_khmao_po_sozdaniyu_karbonovykh_poligonov

⁵⁶⁴⁸ Russian lawmakers back the nation’s first ever climate law, Bloomberg (New York) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-04-20/russian-lawmakers-back-the-nation-s-first-ever-climate-law>

⁵⁶⁴⁹ Russian lawmakers back the nation’s first ever climate law, Bloomberg (New York) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-04-20/russian-lawmakers-back-the-nation-s-first-ever-climate-law>

⁵⁶⁵⁰ The Ministry of Energy of Russia and the Ministry of Economy and Energy of Germany Signed a Joint Declaration of Intent on Cooperation in the Field of Sustainable Energy, Russian Ministry of Energy (Moscow) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 28 May 2021. <https://minenergo.gov.ru/node/20562>

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Dimitris Symeonidis

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 16 December 2020, the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture signed a memorandum of cooperation with Japan's Ministry of Environment to strengthen cooperation in the field of environmental protection. It aims to enhance collaboration on environmental protection and preservation and strategic planning and to promote environmental technology studies and capacity-building. It seeks to improve methods and techniques to monitor and control air pollution, develop methods and techniques to treat and dispose of contaminated soil and to reduce noise pollution and control vibration, improve environmental impact assessment procedures through studying the current status and management of waste including chemicals and hazardous waste.⁵⁶⁵¹

On 11 March 2021, the Ministry of Energy signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Germany on the production and exploitation of hydrogen. This memorandum of understanding comes in the context of cooperation between the two countries in the field of hydrogen, in order to enhance development sustainability and prosperity, job opportunities in the two countries, protect the environment, and work to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change, especially with regard to reducing emissions.⁵⁶⁵²

On 3 February 2021, the Ministry of Energy announced the readiness of small solar photovoltaic systems, which allow consumer electricity production from home or work and link it to the public electrical grid distribution systems in the country. These systems include a calculator to determine the economic feasibility of the installation of the energy system of a small solar photovoltaic system, to clarify the estimated costs and to determine the procedures for a secure connection to the network.⁵⁶⁵³

On 2 December 2020, the Ministry of Energy, in cooperation with King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, inaugurated the university's Circular Carbon Initiative. The ultimate goal of the initiative is to harness the strength of the university's research and innovations, in order to support the circular carbon economy agenda.⁵⁶⁵⁴

On 11 January 2021, Saudi Arabia unveiled plans to build an emissions-free city, known as "The Line," powered entirely by clean energy and designed to function without cars or roads. The 170-kilometre belt of "hyper-connected future communities" will be part of the country's Neom urban

⁵⁶⁵¹ MEWA, Japan's Ministry of Environment sign MoC on environmental protection, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of Environment, Water & Agriculture (Riyadh) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.mewa.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News16122020.aspx>

⁵⁶⁵² Minister of Energy signs the Saudi – German Memorandum of Understanding on Hydrogen Cooperation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of Energy (Riyadh) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.moenergy.gov.sa/arabic/mediacenter/press-releases/Pages/Saudi-German-Memorandum.aspx>

⁵⁶⁵³ Ministry of Energy announces the readiness to operate with small solar PV systems, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of Energy (Riyadh) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.moenergy.gov.sa/arabic/mediacenter/press-releases/Pages/readiness-work-small-solar-PV-systems.aspx>

⁵⁶⁵⁴ Minister of Energy confirms readiness of KAUST to activate their circular carbon economy initiative, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of Energy (Riyadh) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.moenergy.gov.sa/arabic/mediacenter/press-releases/Pages/kaust-cce-initiative-participation.aspx>

mega-project—the USD500 billion centrepiece of the Saudi Vision 2030 scheme, which Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman hopes will drive the kingdom’s long-term diversification away from oil.⁵⁶⁵⁵

On 24 April 2021, the Ministry of Energy announced that Saudi Arabia would join the US, Canada, Norway and Qatar to establish the net-zero producers’ forum, a platform to discuss on finding ways to further support the Paris Convention on Climate Change goals.⁵⁶⁵⁶ In this forum, Saudi Arabia, together the other member states will develop practical strategies to bring emissions to zero neutrality, including limiting methane emissions and promoting the circular carbon economy approach, developing and disseminating clean energy technologies, carbon capture and storage, diversifying sources of income that do not depend on hydrocarbon revenues, and other measures that are compatible with the national conditions of each country.⁵⁶⁵⁷

On 28 March 2021, Crown Prince bin Salman announced the “Saudi Green Initiative.” The initiative will include, among others, planting over 10 billion trees, which, among other functions, will act as carbon sinks, but it will also work to reduce carbon emissions as it will include an ambitious renewable energy program that will generate 50 per cent of Saudi Arabia’s energy from renewables by 2030, and several other projects in the field of clean hydrocarbons, estimated to eliminate more than 130 MT of carbon emissions.⁵⁶⁵⁸

Saudi Arabia has taken actions to address three of the four Rs. The Kingdom has been consistently implementing green policies such as the installation of solar power plants, cooperating on environmentally friendly policies on an international level, such as the MoU with Germany, but also has been conducting research, in cooperation with the country’s academic community, to address the circular carbon economy issue.⁵⁶⁵⁹ These actions have led Saudi Arabia to partially comply with its commitment to endorse the CCE platform.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Dimitris Symeonidis

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy (CCE) Platform, with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove), recognizing the key importance and ambition of reducing emissions, taking into account system efficiency and national circumstances.

On 24 November 2020, the Green Economy unit of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism announced a three-year Municipal Energy Resilience Project in collaboration with

⁵⁶⁵⁵ Saudi Arabia announces ‘The Line’:A futuristic zero-carbon city without cars, NS Energy Business (London) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.nsenerybusiness.com/news/industry-news/the-line-saudi-arabia-neom/>

⁵⁶⁵⁶ The Kingdom will join the USA, Canada, Norway and Qatar to establish the “Net-zero producers’ forum,” Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of Energy (Riyadh) 24 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021.

<https://www.moenergy.gov.sa/arabic/mediacenter/press-releases/Pages/Zero-Neutrality-Producers-Forum.aspx>
⁵⁶⁵⁷ The Kingdom will join the USA, Canada, Norway and Qatar to establish the “Net-zero producers’ forum,” Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of Energy (Riyadh) 24 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021.

<https://www.moenergy.gov.sa/arabic/mediacenter/press-releases/Pages/Zero-Neutrality-Producers-Forum.aspx>
⁵⁶⁵⁸ Crown Prince announces: “The Saudi Green Initiative and the Middle East Green Initiative,” Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-280320211>

⁵⁶⁵⁹ Crown Prince announces: “The Saudi Green Initiative and the Middle East Green Initiative,” Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-280320211>

Western Cape Economic Development and Tourism.⁵⁶⁶⁰ This project aims to work with the national government to explore how new energy regulations could lead to renewable energy generations within Western Cape.⁵⁶⁶¹

On 2 December 2020, South Africa received a USD305,000 World Bank grant to “develop a study on sustainable financial mechanisms for demand-side energy efficiency market.” The beneficiaries of the study, the National Energy Development Institute and the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, will “identify and develop appropriate financing mechanisms and associated institutional structures for implementing energy efficiency measures at scale, focusing on the public, agriculture and industrial sectors.”⁵⁶⁶²

On 13 December 2020, the Department of Environment, Forest and Fisheries approved the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Strategy. This project aims “for the coordination and implementation of the Antarctic Treaties Act, relating to research, conservation, sustainable resource use and environmental management in support of the African agenda.” The Southern Ocean is a significant sink for heat and carbon dioxide, meaning action towards its preservation will have significant results in reducing and mitigating climate change.⁵⁶⁶³

On 19 January 2021, the Department of Water and Sanitation pledged to strategically intervene to minimize the impact of raw sewer spillage into the Vaal River and waters in the southern Gauteng region. The department promised to improve local infrastructure and “would refurbish the wastewater treatment works and repair reservoirs, pump stations and rising mains.” To support this initiative, Deputy President Mabuza has dedicated R1.8 billion.⁵⁶⁶⁴

On 17 March 2021, Member of Executive Council David Maynier announced over R48.8 million over the medium term and R20 million in provincial reserves for the Municipal Energy Resilience (MER) Project in the Western Cape.⁵⁶⁶⁵

South Africa has taken actions to address three out of the four Rs framework, partially complying with its commitment to endorse the CCE platform. This was achieved through policies to reduce emissions through renewable energy, removal of emissions by protecting carbon sinks, and reuse of wastewater treatment works through infrastructure. Nevertheless, South Africa has not taken any actions towards recycling, or towards implementing hydrogen or enabling policies.

⁵⁶⁶⁰ Western Cape Economic Development and Tourism launches Municipal Energy Resilience Project, South African Government (Cape Town) 24 November 2020. Access date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/more-energy-secure-future-24-nov-2020-0000>

⁵⁶⁶¹ MEC David Meynier Announces Municipalities Participating in the Municipal Energy Resilience Project, South African Government (Cape Town) 17 March 2021. Access date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/mec-david-meynier-announces-municipalities-participating-municipal-energy-resilience>

⁵⁶⁶² South Africa Receives World Bank Support to Stimulate Demand-Side Energy Efficiency Market, Department of Mineral Resources and Energy. (Cape Town) 02 December 2020. Access date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.dmr.gov.za/news-room/post/1883/south-africa-receives-world-bank-support-to-stimulate-demand-side-energy-efficiency-market>

⁵⁶⁶³ Environment, Forestry and Fisheries approves Antarctic and Southern Ocean Strategy for South Africa, South African Government (Cape Town) 13 December 2020. Access date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/cabinet-approves-antarctic-and-southern-ocean-strategy-south-africa-13-dec-2020-0000>

⁵⁶⁶⁴ Water and Sanitation commits to deal with Vaal River pollution Crisis, South African Government (Cape Town) 19 January 2021. Access date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/water-and-sanitation-commits-deal-vaal-river-pollution-crisis-12-mar-2021-0000>

⁵⁶⁶⁵ MEC David Meynier Announces Municipalities Participating in the Municipal Energy Resilience Project, South African Government (Cape Town) 16 March 2021. Access date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/mec-david-meynier-announces-municipalities-participating-municipal-energy-resilience>

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Aisha Shafaqat

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy platform with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove).

On 23 November 2020, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Fatih Dönmez announced that Turkey expects to increase its capacity for solar and wind energy. Also, the Minister stated that the production of wind energy surpassed the total production of other renewable resources for the first time in Turkey's history. The goal is to reduce carbon emissions and invest in clean energy.⁵⁶⁶⁶

On 25 November 2020, Minister Dönmez announced that Turkey would establish a wind turbine and research and development factory in Izmir in line with the Renewable Energy Resource Areas project. The aim is to lead the world in wind energy innovation and increase the use of renewable energy.⁵⁶⁶⁷

On 10 December 2020, the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources committed to increasing electricity generation that uses domestic and renewable energy to 65 per cent of all total installed power by 2023, compared to 50 per cent for the past 2 years. The goal is to increase Turkey's use of domestic and renewable energy.⁵⁶⁶⁸

On 10 December 2020, Minister Dönmez announced that Turkey's carbon dioxide emissions will be reduced by 66 million tonnes by 2023. The goal is to lessen Turkey's carbon emissions.⁵⁶⁶⁹

On 10 December 2020, Minister Dönmez announced that the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources has implemented the Renewable Energy Resource Areas model that aims to accelerate Turkey's renewable energy investments. The model "requires domestic production, domestic engineers, domestic R&D and innovation in the field of renewable energy," with the goal of supporting energy and export technologies.⁵⁶⁷⁰

On 10 December 2020, Minister Dönmez announced that the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources will launch the Renewable Energy Source Guarantee Document in 2021.⁵⁶⁷¹ It will certify that a certain proportion of electricity is produced from renewable energy sources. The goal is to provide transparency for consumers and encourage the consumption of renewable electricity.⁵⁶⁷²

⁵⁶⁶⁶ Turkey has left behind the European countries in renewable energy, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=732>

⁵⁶⁶⁷ Wind power "light" 9.6 million households, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=733>

⁵⁶⁶⁸ Minister Dönmez made evaluations on the activities and budget of the ministry, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=742>

⁵⁶⁶⁹ Minister Dönmez made evaluations on the activities and budget of the ministry, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=742>

⁵⁶⁷⁰ Minister Dönmez made evaluations on the activities and budget of the ministry, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=742>

⁵⁶⁷¹ Minister Dönmez made evaluations on the activities and budget of the ministry, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=742>

⁵⁶⁷² Minister Dönmez made evaluations on the activities and budget of the ministry, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=742>

On 6 January 2021, Minister Dönmez stated that Turkey increased its solar power capacity from 40 megawatts in 2014 to 6,630 megawatts. The goal is to increase Turkey's use of renewable energy.⁵⁶⁷³

On 17 February 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning announced that it strives to conduct projects to combat climate change on national and global levels. The Ministry outlined 541 actions and institutions to collaborate with, including other ministries, local governments and universities. Turkey will also be conducting climate research with the National Climate Change Platform and establishing the National Climate Change Research Center “where we will have our professors, local governments, non-governmental organizations in these scientific researches, and where policies will be determined and followed.”⁵⁶⁷⁴

On 17 February 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning highlighted that it aims to increase the recovery rate of waste to 60 per cent by 2035 as part of the Zero Waste Project. The Zero Waste project is expected to expand across Turkey by 2023. The goal is to increase recycling within Turkey.⁵⁶⁷⁵

On 17 February 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning also said it will work to install solar energy systems and construct energy-efficient buildings that have strong insulation. The Ministry also announced its aim to reduce fossil fuel usage in its buildings by 25 per cent by 2023. The goal is to reduce carbon emissions through more energy-efficient buildings.⁵⁶⁷⁶

On 17 February 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning announced its plans to expand protected areas and ecological corridors through the creation of new national gardens across Turkey. The goal is to increase carbon sinks, in line with Turkey's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.⁵⁶⁷⁷

On 10 March 2021, Minister Dönmez announced that the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant is commissioned for 2023 where it will generate electricity with zero emission value, which contributes to Turkey's green energy target. The goal is to reduce Turkey's carbon dioxide emissions using more sustainable energy sources.⁵⁶⁷⁸

On 24 March 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization announced plans to update the Turkish National Climate Change Strategy and National Climate Action Plan.⁵⁶⁷⁹ The update will include the goal of increasing electricity production from solar energy to 10 gigawatts and from wind energy to 16 gigawatts, along with the implementation of the Emission Trading System for clean

⁵⁶⁷³ Applications for mini YEKA competitions in the sun will be received within 2 months, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=753>

⁵⁶⁷⁴ Ministerial Institution: “We Will Submit The Combating Climate Change Report to the Assembly,” The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 17b February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-iklim-degisikligiyle-mucadele-raporunu-meclise-sunacagiz-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-30881>

⁵⁶⁷⁵ Ministerial Institution: “We Will Submit The Combating Climate Change Report to the Assembly,” The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 17b February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-iklim-degisikligiyle-mucadele-raporunu-meclise-sunacagiz-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-30881>

⁵⁶⁷⁶ Ministerial Institution: “We Will Submit The Combating Climate Change Report to the Assembly,” The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 17b February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-iklim-degisikligiyle-mucadele-raporunu-meclise-sunacagiz-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-30881>

⁵⁶⁷⁷ Ministerial Institution: “We Will Submit The Combating Climate Change Report to the Assembly,” The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 17b February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-iklim-degisikligiyle-mucadele-raporunu-meclise-sunacagiz-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-30881>

⁵⁶⁷⁸ The groundbreaking ceremony of the third unit of Akkuyu NGS was held, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=788>

⁵⁶⁷⁹ Ministerial Institution: “We Update the Climate Change Action Plan with the 2050 Target,” The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-iklim-degisikligi-eylem-planini-2050-hedefi-ile-guncelliyoruz-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-30890>

energy production.⁵⁶⁸⁰ The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization also stated that by 2023, it will reduce fossil fuel usage in buildings by 25 per cent and ensure that all buildings have an energy identity certificate by 2030.⁵⁶⁸¹ The goal is to increase the use of renewable energy sources and better manage energy consumption.⁵⁶⁸²

On 2 April 2021, Minister Dönmez announced that the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources aims to achieve 1000 megawatts of installed power within two years at the Karapınar Solar Power Plant that is currently under construction.⁵⁶⁸³ This power plant is to be “the world’s largest solar power plant,” after receiving TRY1.042 billion from the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources in 2020.⁵⁶⁸⁴ The Ministry plans to invest an additional TRY612 million in the power plant in 2021.⁵⁶⁸⁵ The power plant can increase Turkey’s solar power capacity, which is an important renewable energy source for the country.

On 2 April 2021, Minister Dönmez stated that in 2021, the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources will build Turkey’s hydrogen strategy after consulting industry experts and the public.⁵⁶⁸⁶ Turkey will continue its intensive research and development on alternative energy sources, especially hydrogen and the potential of mixing hydrogen into the existing natural gas network.⁵⁶⁸⁷ The Turkish Energy, Nuclear and Mining Research Council is conducting studies on hydrogen and transportation manufacturers are considering transforming diesel trains to being hydrogen-powered.⁵⁶⁸⁸ Minister Dönmez noted 4 key advantages of the transition to hydrogen: the increased use of renewable energy sources; the ability to decarbonize the heat industry; the ability to produce hydrogen from domestic coal; and increased use of boron to store hydrogen.⁵⁶⁸⁹ Minister Dönmez stated that Turkey’s goal is to produce hydrogen from renewable sources, also known as “green hydrogen.”⁵⁶⁹⁰

On 9 April 2021, the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources and the Rectorate of Marmara University in Istanbul signed the “Cooperation Protocol for the Development of National and International Projects within the Scope of Energy Efficiency.”⁵⁶⁹¹ The protocol includes developing

⁵⁶⁸⁰ Ministerial Institution: “We Update the Climate Change Action Plan with the 2050 Target,” The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-iklim-degisikligi-eylem-planini-2050-hedefi-ile-guncelliyoruz-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-30890>

⁵⁶⁸¹ Ministerial Institution: “We Update the Climate Change Action Plan with the 2050 Target,” The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-iklim-degisikligi-eylem-planini-2050-hedefi-ile-guncelliyoruz-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-30890>

⁵⁶⁸² Ministerial Institution: “We Update the Climate Change Action Plan with the 2050 Target,” The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-iklim-degisikligi-eylem-planini-2050-hedefi-ile-guncelliyoruz-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-30890>

⁵⁶⁸³ “We aim to reach an installed power of 1000 megawatts in 2 years”, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=802>

⁵⁶⁸⁴ “We aim to reach an installed power of 1000 megawatts in 2 years”, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=802>

⁵⁶⁸⁵ “We aim to reach an installed power of 1000 megawatts in 2 years”, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=802>

⁵⁶⁸⁶ “We will form the hydrogen strategy of Turkey”, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=803>

⁵⁶⁸⁷ “We will form the hydrogen strategy of Turkey”, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=803>

⁵⁶⁸⁸ “We will form the hydrogen strategy of Turkey”, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=803>

⁵⁶⁸⁹ “We will form the hydrogen strategy of Turkey”, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=803>

⁵⁶⁹⁰ “We will form the hydrogen strategy of Turkey”, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=803>

⁵⁶⁹¹ 870 million lira savings will be achieved by 2023 with energy efficiency in public buildings, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=807>

studies, organizing events and conducting joint projects to promote and increase energy efficiency.⁵⁶⁹² Minister Dönmez stated that the Marmara University campus will be focusing on maintaining zero-waste facilities that operate using renewable energy-efficient sources.⁵⁶⁹³ The goal is to reduce energy usage in public buildings by 15 per cent compared to last year.⁵⁶⁹⁴

On 21 April 2021, the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources announced its goal of producing a yearly minimum of 1000 megawatts of wind power and 1000 megawatts of solar power within the framework of the National Energy and Mining Policy.⁵⁶⁹⁵ Minister Dönmez stated that investments in renewable energy are expected to double in the next five years and electricity using renewable energy is expected to surpass coal electricity in the next five to 10 years.⁵⁶⁹⁶ Minister Dönmez noted that legal regulations and incentives such as the European Union's carbon tax will "reinforce the dominance of carbon-free production resources in the coming period."⁵⁶⁹⁷

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the CCE platform with its 4Rs framework. It has complied with its commitment to reduce carbon emissions with its investments in solar, nuclear and wind energy, installation of energy-efficient buildings and the introduction of 3D software to detect sources of air pollution. It has also complied with its commitment to recycle and reduce waste through the Zero Waste Project. Additionally, Turkey has made efforts to remove carbon emissions through the expansion of national gardens and protected ecological areas. Turkey has also committed to research and development on hydrogen and the creation of Turkey's hydrogen strategy to help the country work towards decarbonization and accelerate hydrogen innovation.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Amanda Wang

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy platform with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove).

On 25 November 2020, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak announced the government's 2020 Spending Review forecasting government spending for 2021 to 2022.⁵⁶⁹⁸ The government announced, in line with its aims to reduce emissions in the transport sector, GBP1.9 billion in funding for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and consumer incentives. Further, the government will provide GBP1.1 billion to make homes and buildings more energy efficient. The government also announced the allocation of GBP1 billion for a Carbon Capture and Storage Infrastructure Fund as well as GBP92 million to the Nature for Climate Fund to increase tree-planting and peatland restoration,

⁵⁶⁹² 870 million lira savings will be achieved by 2023 with energy efficiency in public buildings, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=807>

⁵⁶⁹³ 870 million lira savings will be achieved by 2023 with energy efficiency in public buildings, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=807>

⁵⁶⁹⁴ 870 million lira savings will be achieved by 2023 with energy efficiency in public buildings, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=807>

⁵⁶⁹⁵ Mini YEKA competitions in solar energy will start on Monday., The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=10811>

⁵⁶⁹⁶ Mini YEKA competitions in solar energy will start on Monday., The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=10811>

⁵⁶⁹⁷ Mini YEKA competitions in solar energy will start on Monday., The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=10811>

⁵⁶⁹⁸ Spending Review to fight virus, deliver promises and invest in UK's recovery, HM Treasury (London) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/spending-review-to-fight-virus-deliver-promises-and-invest-in-uks-recovery>

both key sources of carbon sequestration. This funding is conducive to the UK's goal of planting 30,000 hectares of trees a year by 2025.⁵⁶⁹⁹

On 4 December 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced new emissions targets aiming for a 68 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. This is an increase from the previous commitment of 53 per cent. With this increase the UK commits to reducing emissions at the fastest rate of any major economy.⁵⁷⁰⁰

On 5 December 2020, the UK announced increased funding for tree planting measures. The GBP3.9 million in funding includes GBP2.5 million for pilot studies to develop new and efficient methods for planting trees in towns, cities and the countryside. The other GBP1.4 million has been given to the Environment Agency to fund 15 projects that will plant 850,000 trees along rivers. These initiatives contribute towards the government's goal of planting 30,000 hectares of trees per year by 2025.⁵⁷⁰¹

On 6 December 2020, the UK launched Trees for Climate, funded by a GBP12.1 million, which will the planting of over 500 hectares of trees. When matured these trees will store 100,000 tons of carbon and will help the government reach its zero net emissions by 2050 target.⁵⁷⁰²

On 10 December 2020, the UK announced nearly GBP40 million in funding to 68 projects that will plant over 800,000 trees and create over 300 hectares of woodland. The funding is part of the Green Recovery Challenge Fund and will help create green industries and sequester carbon.⁵⁷⁰³

On 12 December 2020, the UK communicated its Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The updated contribution plan commits the UK to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 68 per cent of 1990 levels by 2030.⁵⁷⁰⁴

On 12 December 2020, the UK co-convened the Climate Ambition Summit with the United Nations and France.⁵⁷⁰⁵ At the summit, Prime Minister Johnson announced that the UK will end taxpayer support of international fossil fuel projects "as soon as possible" after a period of consultation and before COP26 in November 2021. This will accelerate the transition to green technology and

⁵⁶⁹⁹ Spending Review 2020, HM Treasury (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spending-review-2020-documents/spending-review-2020>

⁵⁷⁰⁰ UK sets ambitious new climate target ahead of UN Summit, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-sets-ambitious-new-climate-target-ahead-of-un-summit>

⁵⁷⁰¹ £3.9 million to drive innovative tree planting, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London), 5 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/39-million-to-drive-innovative-tree-planting>

⁵⁷⁰² 500 hectare planting boost for England's Community Forests, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) December 6 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/500-hectare-planting-boost-for-englands-community-forests>

⁵⁷⁰³ 800,000 trees set to be planted as Green Recovery Challenge Fund projects announced, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/800000-trees-set-to-be-planted-as-green-recovery-challenge-fund-projects-announced>

⁵⁷⁰⁴ Formal submission of the UK's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC under the Paris Agreement, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 12 December 2020. 20 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uks-nationally-determined-contribution-communication-to-the-unfccc>

⁵⁷⁰⁵ Summit shows new surge in action and ambition on road to Glasgow Climate Conference, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/summit-shows-new-surge-in-action-and-ambition-on-road-to-glasgow-climate-conference>

renewable energy and the government will work with the UK oil and gas sector to facilitate the transition to low carbon energy sources.⁵⁷⁰⁶

On 14 December 2020, the UK set out the Energy White Paper, a plan to clean up energy systems. Within this plan includes steps to reduce emissions by 230 million metric tons by shifting away from fossil fuels with a GBP6.7 billion investment. While the timeline of this reduction was not specified, it supports a broader goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. Additionally, this plan establishes a UK emissions trading scheme to come into effect 1 January 2021, to increase ambition on reducing emissions. The plan also includes the decision to invest GBP1 billion into carbon-capture storage in four industrial clusters by 2030 and at least one fully net-zero cluster by 2040. Finally, the plan outlines steps to stimulate the hydrogen economy by working with industry to aim for 5GW of production by 2030, backed up by a new GBP240 million net-zero Hydrogen Fund for low carbon hydrogen production.⁵⁷⁰⁷

On 6 January 2021, Science Minister Amanda Solloway announced an investment of GBP213 million to upgrade the UK's scientific infrastructure. Some of the funding, although it is unclear how much, will go towards funding wind turbine testing facilities at the University of Plymouth and an X-ray facility at the University of Liverpool which will help scientists understand how carbon dioxide interacts with sandstone rocks aiding the development of improved methods of carbon capture and storage in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.⁵⁷⁰⁸

On 27 January 2021, Business Minister Paul Scully announced the investment of GBP42.3 million matched by the aviation industry for a total of GBP84.6 million in three projects seeking to develop green technology in the aviation industry with the goal of powering zero-emission flights by 2023.⁵⁷⁰⁹

On 29 January 2021, the UK announced that it will present legislation regarding the protection of vegetation on bog habitats. The burning of vegetation on blanket bogs is damaging to the habitat and complicates restoration efforts. The UK has 13 per cent of the world's blanket bogs and they are a natural carbon sink making them crucial to the UK's emission reduction goals.⁵⁷¹⁰

On 4 February 2021, Energy Minister Anne-Marie Trevelyan announced the latest round of the Energy Entrepreneurs Fund which will provide GBP11 million in funding to small and medium sized businesses for the development of green technologies that reduce carbon emissions. The fund will support up to 15 projects and is part of the GBP1 billion Net Zero Innovation Portfolio seeking to reduce emissions in line with the UK's 2030 goals.⁵⁷¹¹

⁵⁷⁰⁶ PM announces the UK will end support for fossil fuel sector overseas, Prime Minister's Office (London), 12 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-the-uk-will-end-support-for-fossil-fuel-sector-overseas>

⁵⁷⁰⁷ Government sets out plans for clean energy system and green jobs boom to build back greener, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-plans-for-clean-energy-system-and-green-jobs-boom-to-build-back-greener>

⁵⁷⁰⁸ Over £200 million boost to upgrade UK labs to help scientists tackle COVID-19 and cut emissions, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-200-million-boost-to-upgrade-uk-labs-to-help-scientists-tackle-covid-19-and-cut-emissions>

⁵⁷⁰⁹ £84 million boost for technology to power a green aviation revolution, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/84-million-boost-for-technology-to-power-a-green-aviation-revolution>

⁵⁷¹⁰ Legislation will be brought forward to prevent the burning of heather and other vegetation on protected blanket bog habitats, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/englands-national-rainforests-to-be-protected-by-new-rules>

⁵⁷¹¹ £11 million boost for energy entrepreneurs to turn green dreams into reality, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/11-million-boost-for-energy-entrepreneurs-to-turn-green-dreams-into-reality>

On 7 February 2021, the UK announced an investment of GBP40 million to help the UK's most polluting industries cut their carbon emissions. This announcement marks the start of the second funding window for the government's Industrial Energy Transformation Fund which will give between GBP100,000 and GBP14 million to single applicants and will provide a total GBP289 million in funding through to 2024. As a result of these projects, carbon emissions will be reduced by an estimated 2.6 million tons.⁵⁷¹²

On 15 February 2021, Minister Trevelyan announced the creation of the UK Centre for Greening Finance and Investment funded by a GBP10 million government investment. The Centre, which is set to begin operations in April 2021, has physical hubs in Leeds and London and provides data and analytics to businesses that are looking to consider the impact of their investments and business decisions on the climate and the environment.⁵⁷¹³

On 1 March 2021, the UK introduced updated energy labels which simplify the way energy efficiency is represented on products. The new system raises the standards for each class of energy efficiency (scale of A to G) making it so that few products will receive an A classification (whereas, under the old system, most products were classified as A+, A++ or A+++). The new labels will provide clarification on energy efficiency and incentivize producers to make their products more energy efficient.⁵⁷¹⁴

On 9 March 2021, the UK announced a GBP92 million investment for the development of green technologies as part of the GBP1 billion Net Zero Innovation Portfolio. GBP68 million of this investment is dedicated to improving storage capacity technology which will improve the reliability of clean energy and accelerate commercialization. GBP20 million will fund floating offshore wind turbines, allowing them to be situated in areas where the water is too deep for them to be embedded in the sea floor or by advancing the development of dynamic high voltage cable systems and moorings. This is in line with the government's commitment to power every home in the country with wind by 2030. The final GBP4 million is dedicated to increasing the production of sustainably sourced biomass.⁵⁷¹⁵

On 10 March 2021, the UK announced legislation on energy efficiency and "premature obsolescence" standards. Manufacturers of items such as washing machines, fridges and televisions will now have to adhere to stricter energy consumption standards and will also be required to make spare parts available in order to extend the lifespan of products. The new standards will reduce 8 million tons of carbon emissions and improve the lifespan of certain products by up to 10 years.⁵⁷¹⁶

On 12 March 2021, the UK launched the Mobilizing Finance for Forests Programme through which it will invest GBP150 million in order to fund sustainable land-use projects and rainforest protection

⁵⁷¹² £40 million government funding to help polluting businesses clean up, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 7 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/40-million-government-funding-to-help-polluting-businesses-clean-up>

⁵⁷¹³ Leeds and London set to become global centres of green finance, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/leeds-and-london-set-to-become-global-centres-of-green-finance>

⁵⁷¹⁴ Electrical appliances to be cheaper to run and last longer with new standards, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/electrical-appliances-to-be-cheaper-to-run-and-last-longer-with-new-standards>

⁵⁷¹⁵ Over £90 million government funding to power green technologies, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-90-million-government-funding-to-power-green-technologies>

⁵⁷¹⁶ Electrical appliances to be cheaper to run and last longer with new standards, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/electrical-appliances-to-be-cheaper-to-run-and-last-longer-with-new-standards>

and reforestation projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The fund will also attract private financial investment. The funding will help remove 28 million tons of carbon from the atmosphere over the next 15 years. This funding is part of the UK's commitment to provide GBP11.6 billion in international climate financing.⁵⁷¹⁷

On 12 March 2021, the UK announced that an allocation of GBP2.7 million, as part of the Local Authority Treescapes fund, will go towards planting trees in previously neglected landscapes such as urban centers and beside roads and footpaths. The planting of these trees, particularly in urban areas or along roads, will help with carbon sequestration.⁵⁷¹⁸

On 15 March 2021, Prime Minister Johnson announced the government's new bus strategy. The strategy, backed by GBP3 billion investment, will deliver 4,000 electric or hydrogen buses providing zero-emission travel. As part of the measures, the government also announced that they will end the sale of new diesel buses and launched a consultation period to determine an appropriate end date.⁵⁷¹⁹

On 16 March 2021, the UK announced the launch of the Green Fuel, Green Skies competition which will see GBP15 million allocated to the development of facilities capable of turning everyday waste into jet fuel. Companies will bid for a portion of the funding to put towards projects that are seeking to develop technologies to convert household waste, wood and excess electricity into aviation fuel. This fuel is made of recycled materials and also emits up to 70 per cent less than conventional jet fuel.⁵⁷²⁰

On 17 March 2021, Business and Energy Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng announced the government's new Industrial Decarbonization Strategy which outlines the government's plans for creating a low carbon industrial sector. In line with the strategy, the government announced funding of GBP171 million from the Industrial Decarbonization Challenge to green technology projects for the purpose of aiding the rollout of decarbonization infrastructure (carbon capture, usage and storage and hydrogen). Further funding of GBP932 million in from the Public Sector Decarbonization Scheme will also be directed to reduce carbon emissions from public buildings. The government also announced its intent to introduce new rules on measuring the energy and carbon performance of large commercial and industrial buildings which includes office buildings and factories in England and Wales which could lead to a reduction in annual carbon emissions by over 2 million tons.⁵⁷²¹

On 18 March 2021, the UK announced the opening of a consultation period for the formation of a new Waste Prevention Programme for England. This programme would guide government and industry action across key sectors including textiles, packaging and plastic (including single-use items) in order to reduce waste and repair and reuse products more efficiently.⁵⁷²²

⁵⁷¹⁷ £150 million government investment to save the world's rainforests Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/150-million-government-investment-to-save-the-worlds-rainforests>

⁵⁷¹⁸ New tree fund for local communities announced, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-tree-fund-for-local-communities-announced>

⁵⁷¹⁹ Prime Minister launches £3 billion bus revolution, Department for Transport (London) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-launches-3-billion-bus-revolution>

⁵⁷²⁰ Jet Zero launches £15 million competition to reduce aviation emissions, Department for Transport (London) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jet-zero-launches-15-million-competition-to-reduce-aviation-emissions>

⁵⁷²¹ Major blueprint to create green jobs and slash emissions from industry, schools and hospitals, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-blueprint-to-create-green-jobs-and-slash-emissions-from-industry-schools-and-hospitals>

⁵⁷²² Government unveils plans for wide-ranging Waste Prevention Programme, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-plans-for-wide-ranging-waste-prevention-programme>

On 19 March 2021, Forestry Minister Lord Frank Zacharias Robin Goldsmith announced GBP120,000 in funding from the Nature for Climate Fund to support the new partnership between the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and Forest for Cornwall. DEFRA and Forest for Cornwall will conduct a pilot called National Woodland Creation Partnership to support and increase regional planting.⁵⁷²³

On 20 March 2021, the UK announced a second wave of funding totaling GBP8.9 million, in order to meet its goal of decarbonizing the UK's distilleries. The production of whiskey was responsible for approximately 530,000 tons of carbon and carbon equivalents in 2018 and the industry grew by 20 per cent in 2019. The generation of heat for the distillation process primarily utilizes fossil fuels and accounts for more than 80 per cent of the industry's fuel consumption, this makes it a prime sector for the introduction of low carbon alternatives. The allotted funding to help accelerate the adaptation of low-carbon technologies is part of the GBP1 billion Net Zero Innovation Portfolio.⁵⁷²⁴

On 22 March 2021, the UK announced funding of GBP20 million for a competition for green maritime projects. The goal of the competition is to provide funding for development and testing of new green technologies for sea vessels and port infrastructure such as hydrogen powered vessels and e-charging stations.⁵⁷²⁵

On 22 March 2021, Secretary Kwarteng announced GBP54 million in funding for three electric truck and hydrogen-powered bus projects.⁵⁷²⁶ The funded projects deal with improving travel range and energy efficiency for electric trucks and the development and manufacturing of low-cost hydrogen fuel cell technology.⁵⁷²⁷ These projects are expected to save up to 45 million tonnes of carbon emissions.⁵⁷²⁸

On 24 March 2021, the UK announced the North Sea Transition Deal which will aid the oil and gas industry in their transition to net zero emissions.⁵⁷²⁹ Through this deal the government will emphasize the use of carbon captures, hydrogen production and offshore wind farming.⁵⁷³⁰ The deal

⁵⁷²³ Defra announces funding boost and new partnership with Forest for Cornwall, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/defra-announces-funding-boost-and-new-partnership-with-forest-for-cornwall>

⁵⁷²⁴ Distilleries ready to raise a toast and go green, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/distilleries-ready-to-raise-a-toast-and-go-green>

⁵⁷²⁵ £20 million fund to propel green shipbuilding launched, Department for Transport (London) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/20-million-fund-to-propel-green-shipbuilding-launched>

⁵⁷²⁶ Emissions-cutting trucks and next-gen hydrogen buses closer to hitting the road with £54 million government-led funding, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, Department for Transport (London) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/emissions-cutting-trucks-and-next-gen-hydrogen-buses-closer-to-hitting-the-road-with-54-million-government-led-funding>

⁵⁷²⁷ Emissions-cutting trucks and next-gen hydrogen buses closer to hitting the road with £54 million government-led funding, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, Department for Transport (London) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/emissions-cutting-trucks-and-next-gen-hydrogen-buses-closer-to-hitting-the-road-with-54-million-government-led-funding>

⁵⁷²⁸ Emissions-cutting trucks and next-gen hydrogen buses closer to hitting the road with £54 million government-led funding, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, Department for Transport (London) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/emissions-cutting-trucks-and-next-gen-hydrogen-buses-closer-to-hitting-the-road-with-54-million-government-led-funding>

⁵⁷²⁹ North Sea deal to protect jobs in green energy transition, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 24 March 2021. Access Date 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-sea-deal-to-protect-jobs-in-green-energy-transition>

⁵⁷³⁰ North Sea deal to protect jobs in green energy transition, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 24 March 2021. Access Date 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-sea-deal-to-protect-jobs-in-green-energy-transition>

outlines the government's intention to cut the North Sea's oil and gas industry by 10 per cent based on a 2018 baseline by 2025, rising to 50 per cent by 2030.⁵⁷³¹ The goal is to reach net zero by 2050. To this end, an investment of GBP14 to 16 billion will be allocated to the industry by 2030, with up to GBP10 billion being directed towards hydrogen production and GBP3 billion towards carbon captures and stores. Further, the government is introducing a Climate Compatibility Checkpoint in order to ensure that all licenses awarded to companies are compatible with the UK's emission targets.⁵⁷³²

On 24 March 2021, the UK announced that it would end support for overseas fossil fuel sectors on 31 March 2021.⁵⁷³³ This announcement provides an official end to the support for overseas fossil fuels, which Prime Minister Johnson had announced at the Climate Ambition Summit on 12 December 2020.⁵⁷³⁴ In ending support for overseas fossil fuel sectors, the government will no longer fund or promote new crude oil, natural gas or thermal coal projects.⁵⁷³⁵

On 27 March 2021, the UK announced an additional GBP300 million in funding to the Green Home Grant voucher scheme.⁵⁷³⁶ This increased funding is part of the government's commitment to provide GBP9 billion in funding for improvements to energy efficiency and lower carbon emissions in buildings.⁵⁷³⁷ The funds will enable the replacement of gas boilers with low carbon alternatives such as heat pumps and will also allow for houses to receive updated insulation and solar panels.⁵⁷³⁸

On 20 April 2021, the UK presented its sixth Carbon Budget in which it committed to reducing the country's carbon emissions by 78 per cent of 1990 levels by 2035, this announcement builds on the previously announced goal of reducing the UK's carbon emissions by 68 per cent of 1990 levels by 2030.⁵⁷³⁹ The Carbon Budget will now also track the UK's share of international aviation and shipping, allowing for more accurate and consistent tracking of emissions.⁵⁷⁴⁰

⁵⁷³¹ North Sea Transition Deal, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/north-sea-transition-deal>

⁵⁷³² North Sea deal to protect jobs in green energy transition, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 24 March 2021. Access Date 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-sea-deal-to-protect-jobs-in-green-energy-transition>

⁵⁷³³ North Sea deal to protect jobs in green energy transition, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 24 March 2021. Access Date 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-sea-deal-to-protect-jobs-in-green-energy-transition>

⁵⁷³⁴ PM announces the UK will end support for fossil fuel sector overseas, Prime Minister's Office (London), 12 December 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-the-uk-will-end-support-for-fossil-fuel-sector-overseas>

⁵⁷³⁵ North Sea deal to protect jobs in green energy transition, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 24 March 2021. Access Date 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-sea-deal-to-protect-jobs-in-green-energy-transition>

⁵⁷³⁶ Government boosts energy efficiency spending to £1.3 billion with extra funding for green homes, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-boosts-energy-efficiency-spending-to-13-billion-with-extra-funding-for-green-homes>

⁵⁷³⁷ Government boosts energy efficiency spending to £1.3 billion with extra funding for green homes, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-boosts-energy-efficiency-spending-to-13-billion-with-extra-funding-for-green-homes>

⁵⁷³⁸ Government boosts energy efficiency spending to £1.3 billion with extra funding for green homes, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-boosts-energy-efficiency-spending-to-13-billion-with-extra-funding-for-green-homes>

⁵⁷³⁹ UK enshrines new target in law to slash emissions by 78% by 2035, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-enshrines-new-target-in-law-to-slash-emissions-by-78-by-2035>

⁵⁷⁴⁰ UK enshrines new target in law to slash emissions by 78% by 2035, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-enshrines-new-target-in-law-to-slash-emissions-by-78-by-2035>

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the CCE platform with its 4Rs framework, while also taking into consideration hydrogen and hydrogen enabling policies. It has complied with its commitment to reduce carbon emissions with its investments in renewable energy, green technology and transportation as well as through consumer awareness initiatives. It has complied with its commitment to reuse and recycle through supporting initiatives to extend product life as well as innovative recycling projects. Additionally, the United Kingdom has promoted the removal of carbon emissions through conservation of forests and bogs and the planting of trees as well as through investment in the development and deployment of carbon capturing and storage initiatives. The United Kingdom has also enacted policy in support of hydrogen, setting energy production targets for the industry, creating a fund to stimulate the hydrogen economy, including hydrogen projects in the Industrial Decarbonization Challenge and by promoting transportation infrastructure that uses hydrogen.

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

Analyst: Karči Aldridge Végi

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment of endorsing the Circular Carbon Economy platform with its 4 Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Remove).

On 27 December 2020, Congress authorized USD35 billion for funding solar, wind and other clean energy and sustainable energy technologies over the next five years. By extending federal tax credits, the bill will incentivize development and construction of clean energy technologies, which also surpasses the total dollar amount of investments for renewable energy in 2020.⁵⁷⁴¹ The bill outlines extensions of investments to new fuel cells, for waste heat energy recovery and for offshore wind energy development. Tax credits will also be extended for carbon capture, utilization and storage, and for the development of carbon capture facilities under this bill, which will reduce carbon emissions.⁵⁷⁴²

On 20 January 2021, the US rejoined the Paris Climate Agreement, aiming to focus on the climate crisis and take quick actions. This is seen as a step towards achieving its net-zero emissions goal by 2050.⁵⁷⁴³

On 5 February 2021, the US reintroduced the Growing Renewable Energy and Efficiency Now Act (GREEN Act), which was first introduced in June 2020.⁵⁷⁴⁴ This Act is part of President Joseph Biden's "rescue and recovery" plan, which will aim to further enhance developments for clean energy, including solar and wind technologies. The GREEN Act will also include proposals for electric and zero-emission vehicles and modifying the existing limitations on the credits available for electric vehicles. The bill will expand and enhance the use of renewable energy by promoting clean energy

⁵⁷⁴¹ Big stimulus for clean energy: Covid relief bill to include bipartisan support for Green Tax credits () 21 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/allanmarks/2020/12/21/clean-energy-investments-get-a-bipartisan-boost-from-congress-in-relief-bill/?sh=53df99fa36f2>

⁵⁷⁴² Big stimulus for clean energy: Covid relief bill to include bipartisan support for Green Tax credits () 21 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/allanmarks/2020/12/21/clean-energy-investments-get-a-bipartisan-boost-from-congress-in-relief-bill/?sh=53df99fa36f2>

⁵⁷⁴³ Paris climate accord: Biden announces US will rejoin landmark agreement (Washington DC) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/20/politics/paris-climate-biden/index.html>

⁵⁷⁴⁴ KPMG report: Outlook for what's ahead for energy tax incentives (Amstelveen) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2021/02/tnf-kpmg-report-outlook-for-whats-ahead-for-energy-tax-incentives-green-act.html>

technologies and deploying zero-emission vehicles.⁵⁷⁴⁵ Incentives will also be provided through this act for the conservation of energy in homes and buildings.

On 8 March 2021, the Department of Energy announced up to USD52.5 million for university-based training programs of Industrial Assessment Centres, which help the manufacturers and wastewater treatment facilities in reducing their carbon footprint.⁵⁷⁴⁶ According to the Secretary of Energy, “This new funding is an investment in both the infrastructure and next generation clean energy workforce we need to tackle climate emergency.”⁵⁷⁴⁷

On 10 March 2021, the Department of Energy announced the construction of the Grid Storage Launchpad, which will increase the adaptation of clean energy, and the development of low-duration energy storage. According to the Secretary of Energy, “Developing new grid technologies means we can get more renewable power on the system, support a growing fleet of electric vehicles, make our grid more reliable and resilient and secure our clean energy future.” The Washington State Department of Commerce also announced the allotment of USD8.3 million for any required advanced research and equipment.⁵⁷⁴⁸

On 15 March 2021, the Department of Energy awarded USD2 million to four clean-hydrogen production technologies projects. These projects aim to reduce carbon emissions and create more clean energy sources. As natural gas usage in industrial facilities is the main source of hydrogen production in the US, these projects will use the process of co-gasification as a different way to produce cleaner hydrogen as a clean energy source.⁵⁷⁴⁹

On 8 April 2021, the Department of Energy announced an investment of USD81 million for the development of technologies for producing low cost and low carbon biofuels and for sustainable aviation fuel.⁵⁷⁵⁰ This initiative is a step towards decarbonizing the transportation sector which include heavy duty vehicles like airplanes and ships which are difficult to convert to current electric technologies.⁵⁷⁵¹ They will further develop technologies for converting waste resources into biofuels and bioproducts for reducing transportation emissions.⁵⁷⁵²

⁵⁷⁴⁵ Chairman Thompson, Ways and Means democrats introduce GREEN Act (Washington) 5 February, 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://mikethompson.house.gov/newsroom/press-releases/chairman-thompson-ways-and-means-democrats-introduce-green-act>

⁵⁷⁴⁶ U.S Department of Energy announces \$52.5 million to support U.S manufacturers and industrial workers (Washington) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/articles/us-department-energy-announces-525-million-support-us-manufacturers-and-industrial>

⁵⁷⁴⁷ U.S Department of Energy announces \$52.5 million to support U.S manufacturers and industrial workers (Washington) 8 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/articles/us-department-energy-announces-525-million-support-us-manufacturers-and-industrial>

⁵⁷⁴⁸ DOE launches design and construction of \$75 million Grid Energy Storage research facility (Washington) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-launches-design-construction-75-million-grid-energy-storage-research-facility>

⁵⁷⁴⁹ U.S. Department of Energy awards \$2 million to develop clean hydrogen technologies (Washington) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/us-department-energy-awards-2-million-develop-clean-hydrogen-technologies>

⁵⁷⁵⁰ U.S Department of Energy Announces \$61 Million for Biofuels Research to Reduce Transmission, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (Washington) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 15 April 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/bioenergy/articles/us-department-energy-announces-61-million-biofuels-research-reduce>

⁵⁷⁵¹ U.S Department of Energy Announces \$61 Million for Biofuels Research to Reduce Transmission, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (Washington) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 15 April 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/bioenergy/articles/us-department-energy-announces-61-million-biofuels-research-reduce>

⁵⁷⁵² U.S Department of Energy Announces \$61 Million for Biofuels Research to Reduce Transmission, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (Washington) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 15 April 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/bioenergy/articles/us-department-energy-announces-61-million-biofuels-research-reduce>

On 21 April 2021, Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack announced investments in projects for increasing climate-smart agriculture.⁵⁷⁵³ The open enrolment to the Conservation Reserve Program was announced allowing up to 4 million new acres, which will allow an increased reduction in nitrogen runoff and sequestering carbon.⁵⁷⁵⁴ For increased enrollment and implementation of conservation practices by producers, the USDA announced a further investment of USD140 million for technical assistance.⁵⁷⁵⁵ The Natural Resources Conservation Service will further invest USD330 million in 85 local partnerships for addressing natural resources challenges.⁵⁷⁵⁶

On 22 April 2021, President Biden announced a new target of reducing 50 to 52 per cent of greenhouse gas pollution from the 2005 levels by the end of 2030.⁵⁷⁵⁷

On 22 April 2021, the US announced seven new clean energy programs for USD200 million for a net-zero energy grid in Asia.⁵⁷⁵⁸ These programs will also aim to support transition to electric vehicles, and reforming of power sectors, which will be a step towards clean energy development and net-zero carbon emissions.⁵⁷⁵⁹

On 22 April 2021, the US announced the cooperation of USAID for supporting programs and initiatives for decarbonization during the Leaders Summit on Climate.⁵⁷⁶⁰ This will include supporting the development of the largest solar-generation project in Southern Africa which is estimated to reduce 6.5 million tons of carbon dioxide annually and replacing coal-generated electricity from South Africa, estimating to remove 1.5 million cars off roads.⁵⁷⁶¹

⁵⁷⁵³ USDA Expands and Renews Conservation Reserve Program in Effort to Boost Enrollment and Address Climate Change, U.S Department of Agriculture (Washington) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2021/usda-expands-and-renews-conservation-reserve-program-in-effort-to-boost-enrollment-and-address-climate-change>

⁵⁷⁵⁴ USDA Expands and Renews Conservation Reserve Program in Effort to Boost Enrollment and Address Climate Change, U.S Department of Agriculture (Washington) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2021/usda-expands-and-renews-conservation-reserve-program-in-effort-to-boost-enrollment-and-address-climate-change>

⁵⁷⁵⁵ USDA Expands and Renews Conservation Reserve Program in Effort to Boost Enrollment and Address Climate Change, U.S Department of Agriculture (Washington) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2021/usda-expands-and-renews-conservation-reserve-program-in-effort-to-boost-enrollment-and-address-climate-change>

⁵⁷⁵⁶ USDA Expands and Renews Conservation Reserve Program in Effort to Boost Enrollment and Address Climate Change, U.S Department of Agriculture (Washington) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2021/usda-expands-and-renews-conservation-reserve-program-in-effort-to-boost-enrollment-and-address-climate-change>

⁵⁷⁵⁷ Fact Sheet: President Biden Sets 2030 Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Target Aimed at Creating Good-Paying Union Jobs and Securing U.S Leadership on Clean Energy Technologies, The White House (Washington) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/22/fact-sheet-president-biden-sets-2030-greenhouse-gas-pollution-reduction-target-aimed-at-creating-good-paying-union-jobs-and-securing-u-s-leadership-on-clean-energy-technologies/>

⁵⁷⁵⁸ Leaders Summit on Climate Change: USAID Announcements, U.S Agency for International Development (Washington) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/fact-sheets/apr-2021-leaders-summit-climate-usaid-announcements>

⁵⁷⁵⁹ Leaders Summit on Climate Change: USAID Announcements, U.S Agency for International Development (Washington) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/fact-sheets/apr-2021-leaders-summit-climate-usaid-announcements>

⁵⁷⁶⁰ Leaders' Summit on Climate: USAID Announcements, U.S Agency for International Development (Washington) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/fact-sheets/apr-2021-leaders-summit-climate-usaid-announcements>

⁵⁷⁶¹ Leaders' Summit on Climate: USAID Announcements, U.S Agency for International Development (Washington) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/fact-sheets/apr-2021-leaders-summit-climate-usaid-announcements>

On 23 April 2021, the Department of Energy announced a funding of USD109.5 million energy development projects.⁵⁷⁶² These included USD75 million for engineering and installing carbon capture and storage technologies for power plants and USD19.5 million for the extraction of critical minerals from coal waste streams for manufacturing batteries and other necessary components of electric vehicles and clean energy technology.⁵⁷⁶³

On 26 April 2021, the Agency for International Development announced two investments to assist Vietnam in addressing their climate crisis.⁵⁷⁶⁴ These projects include investments of USD36 million for the Sustainable Forest Management Project for reducing carbon emission from deforestation and forest degradation and an investment of USD38 million for the Biodiversity Conservation Project for increasing forest quality.⁵⁷⁶⁵ Through the protection of forests and biodiversity, both these projects will aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.⁵⁷⁶⁶

On 27 April 2021, the Department of Energy announced the availability of financial tools which will provide up to USD8.2 billion in loans for improving and modernizing the nation's transmission grid and for increasing access to more reliable and clean power.⁵⁷⁶⁷ These include up to USD5 billion in loans from the Loans Program Office which will support innovative transmission projects including transmissions to connect offshore wind and facilities which are sited alongside rail and highway routes.⁵⁷⁶⁸ They also include up to USD3.25 billion from the Western Area Power Administration's Transmission Infrastructure Program for supporting and facilitative infrastructure projects for the delivery of reliable and clean power in the West.⁵⁷⁶⁹ These initiatives are part of the US' goal of reaching 100 per cent clean energy by 2035 and President Biden's American Job Plan.⁵⁷⁷⁰

The United States has taken actions to fully address three out of four Rs framework and endorse the CCE platform. It has complied with its commitment to reduce carbon emissions through investing in

⁵⁷⁶² Fact Sheet: Biden Administration Outlines Key Resources to Invest in Coal and Power Plant Community Economic Revitalization, The White House (Washington) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/23/fact-sheet-biden-administration-outlines-key-resources-to-invest-in-coal-and-power-plant-community-economic-revitalization/>

⁵⁷⁶³ Fact Sheet: Biden Administration Outlines Key Resources to Invest in Coal and Power Plant Community Economic Revitalization, The White House (Washington) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/23/fact-sheet-biden-administration-outlines-key-resources-to-invest-in-coal-and-power-plant-community-economic-revitalization/>

⁵⁷⁶⁴ USAID Launches Two Projects Worth \$74 Million To Help Vietnam Address the Climate Crisis, U.S Agency for International Development (Washington) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/apr-26-2021-usaid-launches-two-projects-worth-74-million-help-vietnam-address-climate-crisis>

⁵⁷⁶⁵ USAID Launches Two Projects Worth \$74 Million To Help Vietnam Address the Climate Crisis, U.S Agency for International Development (Washington) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/apr-26-2021-usaid-launches-two-projects-worth-74-million-help-vietnam-address-climate-crisis>

⁵⁷⁶⁶ USAID Launches Two Projects Worth \$74 Million To Help Vietnam Address the Climate Crisis, U.S Agency for International Development (Washington) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/apr-26-2021-usaid-launches-two-projects-worth-74-million-help-vietnam-address-climate-crisis>

⁵⁷⁶⁷ Loans Will Support Projects to Widen Clean Electricity Reach and Enhance Grid Reliability, U.S Department of Energy (Washington) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-announces-825-billion-loans-enhance-electrical-transmission-nationwide>

⁵⁷⁶⁸ Loans Will Support Projects to Widen Clean Electricity Reach and Enhance Grid Reliability, U.S Department of Energy (Washington) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-announces-825-billion-loans-enhance-electrical-transmission-nationwide>

⁵⁷⁶⁹ Loans Will Support Projects to Widen Clean Electricity Reach and Enhance Grid Reliability, U.S Department of Energy (Washington) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-announces-825-billion-loans-enhance-electrical-transmission-nationwide>

⁵⁷⁷⁰ Loans Will Support Projects to Widen Clean Electricity Reach and Enhance Grid Reliability, U.S Department of Energy (Washington) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-announces-825-billion-loans-enhance-electrical-transmission-nationwide>

the development of renewable energy technology and production, including wind and solar energy, and hydrogen and to produce clean and reliable power through initiatives like production of electric vehicles. The United States has complied with its commitment to remove emissions and recycle through investments in biofuel production and hydrogen technologies, as well as biodiversity and forest protection. It has complied with its commitment to reuse through initiatives of conversion to cleaner energy and energy sources which include electric and hydrogen. It has complied with its commitment to remove emissions through carbon capture technologies.

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

Analyst: Minabil Iftikhar

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy platform with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove).

On 1 December 2020, the European Commission initiated its second call for projects for the Innovation Fund, a funding program that supports low-carbon technological innovations. The program provides financial aid to projects focused in addressing “in renewable energy, energy-intensive industries, including substitute products, energy storage, and carbon capture, use and storage.”⁵⁷⁷¹ The goal is to support and encourage sustainable technological innovations.⁵⁷⁷²

On 8 December 2020, the European Parliament voted that all member states must become climate neutral by 2050. It also increased the EU’s emissions reduction target to 60 per cent by 2030, in accordance with the Paris Agreement, and called for ambitious 2030 and 2040 emissions reduction goals. This sought to reduce emissions by enshrining these objectives in legislation. The European Parliament announced that “the EU and member states must also phase out all direct and indirect fossil fuel subsidies by 31 December 2025.” The goal is to decrease emissions by investing less in fossil fuels.⁵⁷⁷³

On 8 December 2020, the European Parliament and the European Council agreed on a provisional deal regarding the future of regional and cohesion funds. The deal says that a significant portion of the European Regional Development Fund will be invested in “smart growth and the green economy.” A minimum of 30 per cent of regional funding will go towards supporting climate action. The deal will respect climate, circular economy and biodiversity goals. The goal is to encourage sustainability through economic, social and territorial cohesion.⁵⁷⁷⁴

On 15 December 2020, the European Commission adopted an implementing decision regarding annual emission allocations for 2021-2030 under the Effort Sharing Regulation. The Commission Implementing Decision will translate emissions limits “in tons of CO2 equivalent for each year and

⁵⁷⁷¹ Second Innovation Fund call for projects: Commission to invest €100 million in innovative small-scale clean technologies, European Commission (Brussels) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/second-innovation-fund-call-projects-commission-invest-100-million-innovative-small-scale_en

⁵⁷⁷² Second Innovation Fund call for projects: Commission to invest €100 million in innovative small-scale clean technologies, European Commission (Brussels) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/second-innovation-fund-call-projects-commission-invest-100-million-innovative-small-scale_en

⁵⁷⁷³ EU climate law: MEPs want to increase 2030 emissions reduction target to 60%, European Parliament (Brussels) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201002IPR88431/eu-climate-law-meps-want-to-increase-2030-emissions-reduction-target-to-60>

⁵⁷⁷⁴ Agreement reached on the 2021-2027 EU regional and cohesion funding, European Parliament (Brussels) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201207IPR93206/agreement-reached-on-the-2021-2027-eu-regional-and-cohesion-funding>

Member State along a linear trajectory between 2021 and 2030.” The goal is to reduce emissions through the implementation of a binding emissions target.⁵⁷⁷⁵

On 16 December 2020, the European Parliament approved a seven-year EU budget ranging from 2021-2027. The budget states that there will be increased tracking to ensure 30 per cent of the EU budget and Next Generation EU expenditures will go towards climate action initiatives, and 7.5 per cent of the yearly budget will support biodiversity objectives. The goal is to increase various actions to combat climate change.⁵⁷⁷⁶

On 8 January 2021, the European Investment Bank signed a EUR150 million loan to shift a paper mill in Oulu, Finland, from producing printing paper to instead making packaging materials composed of unbleached pulp. The European Investment Bank claims the project has an “important climate change mitigation angle,” because it favours the use of sustainable raw materials over fossil-based materials while generating renewable energy.⁵⁷⁷⁷

On 27 January 2021, the European Parliament adopted policy recommendations from the EU Circular Carbon Economy Plan for a “carbon-neutral, sustainable, toxic-free and fully circular economy by 2050 at the latest.” Members of Parliament highlighted the need for a genuine circular economy through waste prevention and the reduction of energy and resource usage. Members of Parliament endorse the Commission’s focus on ensuring that products placed on the EU market are “durable, reusable, can be easily repaired, are not toxic, can be upgraded and recycled, contain recycled content, and are resource- and energy-efficient.” The goal is to decrease waste through extending the life of products and making them recyclable.⁵⁷⁷⁸

On 5 February 2021, the European Parliament adopted the resolution to implement a World Trade Organization-compatible carbon border adjustment mechanism that would impose a carbon price on certain imports. The goal is to incentivize the EU and non-EU trade industries to lessen their carbon emissions in accordance with the Paris Agreement.⁵⁷⁷⁹

On 10 February 2021, the European Investment Bank approved a EUR600 million package for automotive supplier Valeo to finance its emissions reduction research initiatives. The goal is to support “research and innovation, as well as the transition to a low-carbon, environmentally friendly economy.”⁵⁷⁸⁰

⁵⁷⁷⁵ State aid: Commission approves €30 billion Dutch scheme to support projects reducing greenhouse gas emissions, European Commission (Brussels) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2410.

⁵⁷⁷⁶ Parliament approves seven-year EU budget 2021-2027, European Parliament (Brussels) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201207IPR93206/agreement-reached-on-the-2021-2027-eu-regional-and-cohesion-funding>

⁵⁷⁷⁷ Finland: EIB supports environmental conversion of Stora Enso mill, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-005-eib-supports-environmental-conversion-of-stora-enso-mill-in-finland>

⁵⁷⁷⁸ MEPs call for binding 2030 targets for materials use and consumption footprint, European Parliament (Brussels) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210122IPR96214/meps-call-for-binding-2030-targets-for-materials-use-and-consumption-footprint>

⁵⁷⁷⁹ Carbon levy on EU imports needed to raise global climate ambition, European Parliament (Brussels) 27 January 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210201IPR96812/carbon-levy-on-eu-imports-needed-to-raise-global-climate-ambition>

⁵⁷⁸⁰ France: EIB approves 600 million euros in financing for Valeo's research projects related to technologies designed to reduce CO2 emissions and improve active safety, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-051-eib-approves-600-million-euros-in-financing-for-valeo-s-research-projects-related-to-technologies-designed-to-reduce-co2-emissions-and-improve-active-safety>

On 11 February 2021, the European Investment Bank invested EUR1.3 billion into Czech Republic for “businesses, regional infrastructure, climate adaptation, the energy transition and sustainable transport.”⁵⁷⁸¹ Within this investment includes a EUR190 million loan to the Czech Transmission System Operator, partly to increase renewable energy in the electricity network.⁵⁷⁸²

On 17 February 2021, the EU increased its funding by 20 per cent, investing EUR121 million in new projects under the LIFE program for the Environment and Climate Action. The goal is to support various climate projects in several member states. This includes an initiative to decarbonize the Mátra Power Plant in Hungary, the restoration of 10,000 hectares of peatlands with high carbon storage capacity in Ireland, and the reduction of plastic waste in Belgium.⁵⁷⁸³

On 24 February 2021, the European Commission adopted a new EU strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change to “shift the focus from understanding the problem to developing solutions, and to move from planning to implementation.”⁵⁷⁸⁴ The EU plans to do this by improving its knowledge of climate issues, working on climate risk assessments and propelling adaptation solutions.⁵⁷⁸⁵

On 11 March 2021, the European Investment Bank approved financing to accelerate the transition to clean energy and increase solar and wind power generation. It said it will dedicate EUR688 million with the goal to implement renewable energy across Europe.⁵⁷⁸⁶

On 18 March 2021, the European Investment Bank financed EUR500 million to support sustainable urban investment and EUR375 million towards cutting energy costs and increasing energy efficiency in public buildings. The goal is “accelerating climate action and sustainable urban investment across Greece.”⁵⁷⁸⁷

On 30 March 2021, the European Commission and the International Energy Agency agreed to deepen their collaboration to accelerate efforts to achieve climate neutrality.⁵⁷⁸⁸ More specifically, the two organizations also agreed to: cultivate an international net-zero campaign to raise awareness and call other countries to action; collaborate with willing partners to support the development of

⁵⁷⁸¹ EIB Group supported €1.4 billion of investments in 2020 in the Czech Republic for businesses, regional infrastructure, climate adaptation, the energy transition and sustainable transport, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-053-eib-group-supported-eur1-4-billion-of-investments-in-2020-in-the-czech-republic-for-businesses-regional-infrastructure-climate-adaptation-the-energy-transition-and-sustainable-transport>

⁵⁷⁸² EIB Group supported €1.4 billion of investments in 2020 in the Czech Republic for businesses, regional infrastructure, climate adaptation, the energy transition and sustainable transport, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-053-eib-group-supported-eur1-4-billion-of-investments-in-2020-in-the-czech-republic-for-businesses-regional-infrastructure-climate-adaptation-the-energy-transition-and-sustainable-transport>

⁵⁷⁸³ LIFE Programme: EU invests €121 million in environment, nature and climate action projects, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_501

⁵⁷⁸⁴ Building a Climate-Resilient Future – A new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, European Commission (Brussels) 24 February 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_663

⁵⁷⁸⁵ Building a Climate-Resilient Future – A new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, European Commission (Brussels) 24 February 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_663

⁵⁷⁸⁶ EIB backs EUR 3.7 billion COVID-19 business support, renewable energy, internet, health, education and sustainable urban investment, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-092-eib-backs-eur-3-7-billion-covid-19-business-support-renewable-energy-internet-health-education-and-sustainable-urban-investment>

⁵⁷⁸⁷ Greece: Prime Minister Mitsotakis welcomes EIB backing for EUR 3 billion urban development and energy efficiency investment across Greece, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-098-prime-minister-mitsotakis-welcomes-eib-backing-for-eur-3-billion-urban-development-and-energy-efficiency-investment-across-greece>

⁵⁷⁸⁸ European Commission and IEA pull together for net-zero, European Commission (Brussels) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/european-commission-and-iea-pull-together-net-zero_en

sustainable energy services and clean technologies in African countries; and expand the net-zero movement through the energy sector.⁵⁷⁸⁹

On 23 March 2021, the European Investment Bank granted a consortium consisting of EDF Renewables, Enbridge and a EUR350 million credit line to finance the construction of a wind farm off the coast of Courseulles-sur-Mer, France.⁵⁷⁹⁰ The project's total cost is estimated at EUR2 billion and involves the building of 64 wind turbines.⁵⁷⁹¹ The capacity will be 450 megawatts and will produce enough annual electricity to be used by 630,000 people.⁵⁷⁹² The wind turbines are a step towards increasing the EU's use of more sustainable energy sources.

On 7 April 2021, the European Investment Bank and Portugal signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at fostering cooperation in the development of the hydrogen sector in Portugal.⁵⁷⁹³ The hydrogen sector is expected to play a key role in the decarbonization of Europe and accelerate the use of sustainable energy sources.⁵⁷⁹⁴ This collaboration between the two entities is in line with the European Hydrogen Strategy of 2020, which works towards installing 40 gigawatts of green hydrogen capacity by 2030.⁵⁷⁹⁵

On 12 April 2021, the European Investment Bank formally agreed to help Greece in managing up to EUR5 billion in its implementation of the country's National Recovery and Resilience Plan, known as "Greece 2.0."⁵⁷⁹⁶ The European Investment Bank's technical, financial and environmental experts

⁵⁷⁸⁹ European Commission and IEA pull together for net-zero, European Commission (Brussels) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/european-commission-and-iea-pull-together-net-zero_en

⁵⁷⁹⁰ France: Investment Plan – EIB co-finances the construction of an offshore wind farm in Calvados for €350 million, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

<https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-102-plan-d-investissement-la-banque-europeenne-d-investissement-cofinance-la-construction-du-parc-eolien-en-mer-du-calvados-a-hauteur-de-350-millions-d-euros>

⁵⁷⁹¹ France: Investment Plan – EIB co-finances the construction of an offshore wind farm in Calvados for €350 million, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

<https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-102-plan-d-investissement-la-banque-europeenne-d-investissement-cofinance-la-construction-du-parc-eolien-en-mer-du-calvados-a-hauteur-de-350-millions-d-euros>

⁵⁷⁹² France: Investment Plan – EIB co-finances the construction of an offshore wind farm in Calvados for €350 million, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

<https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-102-plan-d-investissement-la-banque-europeenne-d-investissement-cofinance-la-construction-du-parc-eolien-en-mer-du-calvados-a-hauteur-de-350-millions-d-euros>

⁵⁷⁹³ Portugal: The EIB partners up with the Portuguese Republic to accelerate investments in the hydrogen sector, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-117-the-eib-partners-up-with-the-portuguese-republic-to-accelerate-investments-in-the-hydrogen-sector>

⁵⁷⁹⁴ Portugal: The EIB partners up with the Portuguese Republic to accelerate investments in the hydrogen sector, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-117-the-eib-partners-up-with-the-portuguese-republic-to-accelerate-investments-in-the-hydrogen-sector>

⁵⁷⁹⁵ Portugal: The EIB partners up with the Portuguese Republic to accelerate investments in the hydrogen sector, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-117-the-eib-partners-up-with-the-portuguese-republic-to-accelerate-investments-in-the-hydrogen-sector>

⁵⁷⁹⁶ Greece: EIB to help manage EUR 5 billion of investments as part of Greek National Recovery and Resilience Plan: "Greece 2.0," European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

<https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-120-eib-to-help-manage-eur-5-billion-of-investments-as-part-of-greek-national-recovery-and-resilience-plan-greece-2-0>

will help ensure the best use of the new grant in Greece.⁵⁷⁹⁷ A central focus of the plan will be supporting climate action, digital transformation, and green energy transition.⁵⁷⁹⁸

On 21 April 2021, the European Commission welcomed a provisional agreement on the European Climate Law, working to enshrine the EU's climate neutrality target into binding legislation and serve to guide future environmental policies for the next 30 years.⁵⁷⁹⁹ The agreement entails several measures to strengthen the EU's climate change mitigation efforts, including: greater clarity on emission reductions and removals; plans to make proposals in June 2021 to enhance the EU's carbon sink through Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry regulation; a process for establishing a 2040 climate target; plans to publish a greenhouse gas budget for 2030-2050; a commitment to negative emissions following 2050; the creation of the independent European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change that will offer scientific advice; stronger adherence to climate neutrality objectives across EU policies; and a commitment to establish sector-specific plans to encourage climate neutrality efforts in various sectors of the economy.⁵⁸⁰⁰

On 22 April 2021, the European Investment Bank approved EUR3.4 billion of new financing to support sustainable transport and shifts towards renewable energy across the EU, among other social and economic concerns.⁵⁸⁰¹ EUR2 billion will be dedicated to increasing renewable energy developments in the form of wind and solar power investments.⁵⁸⁰² Renewable energy projects include: developments in France and Germany; the scaling up of solar power across Spain; wind power in Ireland; improving energy distribution in Italy; and a photovoltaic plant that is hydrogen and battery powered. EUR700 million will be directed towards sustainable transportation initiatives.⁵⁸⁰³ Projects include increasing renewable energy at airports in Spain; the acquisition of hydrogen powered trains; the installation of hydrogen refuelling facilities in the Netherlands; and improvements to regional rail services in Germany.⁵⁸⁰⁴

⁵⁷⁹⁷Greece: EIB to help manage EUR 5 billion of investments as part of Greek National Recovery and Resilience Plan: "Greece 2.0," European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-120-eib-to-help-manage-eur-5-billion-of-investments-as-part-of-greek-national-recovery-and-resilience-plan-greece-2-0>

⁵⁷⁹⁸Greece: EIB to help manage EUR 5 billion of investments as part of Greek National Recovery and Resilience Plan: "Greece 2.0," European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-120-eib-to-help-manage-eur-5-billion-of-investments-as-part-of-greek-national-recovery-and-resilience-plan-greece-2-0>

⁵⁷⁹⁹ Commission welcomes provisional agreement on the European Climate Law, European Commission (Brussels) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1828

⁵⁸⁰⁰ Commission welcomes provisional agreement on the European Climate Law, European Commission (Brussels) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1828

⁵⁸⁰¹ EIB backs € 3.4 billion investment for climate action and clean energy, sustainable transport, communications, water and private sector, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-135-eib-backs-eur-3-4-billion-investment-for-climate-action-and-clean-energy-sustainable-transport-communications-water-and-private-sector>

⁵⁸⁰² EIB backs € 3.4 billion investment for climate action and clean energy, sustainable transport, communications, water and private sector, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-135-eib-backs-eur-3-4-billion-investment-for-climate-action-and-clean-energy-sustainable-transport-communications-water-and-private-sector>

⁵⁸⁰³ EIB backs € 3.4 billion investment for climate action and clean energy, sustainable transport, communications, water and private sector, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-135-eib-backs-eur-3-4-billion-investment-for-climate-action-and-clean-energy-sustainable-transport-communications-water-and-private-sector>

⁵⁸⁰⁴ EIB backs € 3.4 billion investment for climate action and clean energy, sustainable transport, communications, water and private sector, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-135-eib-backs-eur-3-4-billion-investment-for-climate-action-and-clean-energy-sustainable-transport-communications-water-and-private-sector>

On 27 April 2021, the European Commission published the two-year study titled “Technical Guidance Handbook – setting up and implementing result-based carbon farming mechanisms in the EU,” that explores how to implement carbon farming in the EU.⁵⁸⁰⁵ This study will serve as a basis for the European Commission’s plans to launch carbon farming initiatives by the end of 2021.⁵⁸⁰⁶ The study will act as a guide for public and private actors to increase carbon farming initiatives.⁵⁸⁰⁷ By the end of 2021, the European Commission plans to establish an action plan to promote carbon farming and create a regulatory framework to certify and verify the authenticity of carbon removals.⁵⁸⁰⁸ Carbon farming allows for the capture and storage of carbon and contributes to the EU’s climate neutrality objective.

On 27 April 2021, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on operational and technical measures for more environmentally sustainable and efficient maritime transport.⁵⁸⁰⁹ The resolution is in line with the European Parliament’s calls for emissions reductions, clean ports, and the gradual elimination of heavy fuel oil.⁵⁸¹⁰ The European Parliament advocated for adequate funding, research and innovation in clean fuels and technologies to transition the maritime transportation industry to climate neutrality by 2050.⁵⁸¹¹ Members of the European Parliament urged the European Commission to invest in the automation and digitalization of ports and ships, vessel speed optimization, innovation in hydrodynamics and tax exemptions to encourage the use of alternatives to heavy fuels.⁵⁸¹²

On 29 April 2021, the European Investment Bank and France’s Deposits and Consignments Fund agreed to introduce a new EUR1 billion credit line to support small-scale investments particularly in “energy-efficiency measures for buildings, water supply and sewerage networks, sustainable mobility and clean public transport.”⁵⁸¹³ A minimum of half of the new line will go towards projects dedicated to mitigating the effects of climate change.⁵⁸¹⁴ These projects will aid the EU in its emissions reduction and climate neutrality goals.

On 29 April 2021, the European Parliament approved a deal on the 2021-2027 program for Environment and Climate Action (LIFE), which includes a total budget of EUR5.4 billion for

⁵⁸⁰⁵ Commission sets the carbon farming initiative in motion, European Commission (Brussels) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/commission-sets-carbon-farming-initiative-motion_en

⁵⁸⁰⁶ Commission sets the carbon farming initiative in motion, European Commission (Brussels) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/commission-sets-carbon-farming-initiative-motion_en

⁵⁸⁰⁷ Commission sets the carbon farming initiative in motion, European Commission (Brussels) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/commission-sets-carbon-farming-initiative-motion_en

⁵⁸⁰⁸ Commission sets the carbon farming initiative in motion, European Commission (Brussels) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/commission-sets-carbon-farming-initiative-motion_en

⁵⁸⁰⁹ MEPs call for a cleaner maritime transport, European Parliament (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210422IPRO2632/meps-call-for-a-cleaner-maritime-transport>

⁵⁸¹⁰ MEPs call for a cleaner maritime transport, European Parliament (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210422IPRO2632/meps-call-for-a-cleaner-maritime-transport>

⁵⁸¹¹ MEPs call for a cleaner maritime transport, European Parliament (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210422IPRO2632/meps-call-for-a-cleaner-maritime-transport>

⁵⁸¹² MEPs call for a cleaner maritime transport, European Parliament (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210422IPRO2632/meps-call-for-a-cleaner-maritime-transport>

⁵⁸¹³ France: Partnership between the EIB and Caisse des Dépôts – €1 billion for local authorities and their energy transition, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-142-partenariat-beicaisse-des-depots-1-milliard-d-euros-pour-les-collectivites-locales-et-leur-transition-ecologique#_ftnref1

⁵⁸¹⁴ France: Partnership between the EIB and Caisse des Dépôts – €1 billion for local authorities and their energy transition, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-142-partenariat-beicaisse-des-depots-1-milliard-d-euros-pour-les-collectivites-locales-et-leur-transition-ecologique#_ftnref1

environmental and climate-related initiatives.⁵⁸¹⁵ LIFE will become the most ambitious EU-wide environmental and climate program in EU's history.⁵⁸¹⁶ The program will work towards building a more “clean, circular, energy-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy.”⁵⁸¹⁷ EUR3.9 billion will be directed towards environmental activities and EUR1.9 billion will go towards climate action.⁵⁸¹⁸

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the Circular Carbon Economy platform with its 4Rs framework (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Remove). It has complied with its commitment to reduce carbon emissions with its investments in renewable energy and decarbonization research initiatives, as well as the introduction of binding emissions targets and carbon taxes on imports. It has also complied with its commitment to recycle by supporting initiatives to extend product life and recycling projects. The European Union has also committed to the productive reusing of emissions through carbon farming and carbon capture and storage projects. Additionally, the European Union has also complied with its commitment to remove carbon emissions by promoting the conservation of biodiversity. The European Union has also committed to the development of the hydrogen sector, as well as hydrogen-powered transportation and refueling facilities.

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

Analyst: Amanda Wang

⁵⁸¹⁵ MEPs approve deal to invest €5.4 billion in climate and environmental projects, European Parliament (Brussels) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210422IPR02614/meps-approve-deal-to-invest-EU5-4-billion-in-climate-and-environmental-projects>

⁵⁸¹⁶ MEPs approve deal to invest €5.4 billion in climate and environmental projects, European Parliament (Brussels) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210422IPR02614/meps-approve-deal-to-invest-EU5-4-billion-in-climate-and-environmental-projects>

⁵⁸¹⁷ MEPs approve deal to invest €5.4 billion in climate and environmental projects, European Parliament (Brussels) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210422IPR02614/meps-approve-deal-to-invest-EU5-4-billion-in-climate-and-environmental-projects>

⁵⁸¹⁸ MEPs approve deal to invest €5.4 billion in climate and environmental projects, European Parliament (Brussels) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210422IPR02614/meps-approve-deal-to-invest-EU5-4-billion-in-climate-and-environmental-projects>

20. Climate Change: Paris Agreement

“Signatories to the Paris Agreement who confirmed at Osaka their determination to implement it, once again, reaffirm their commitment to its full implementation, reflecting common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia		0	
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India		0	
Indonesia			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa			+1
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.90 (95%)	

Background

The G20 first addressed the issue of climate change at its inaugural summit in Washington D.C. in 2008.⁵⁸¹⁹ It is recognized that, “climate change represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to human societies and the planet, and thus requires to be urgently addressed by all [countries].”⁵⁸²⁰ Many commitments made at past G20 summits have either dealt directly with climate change, or have had climate change as an underlying theme. These include commitments relating to clean energy, food and agriculture, among others.

At the London Summit in 2009, G20 members expressed their support for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).⁵⁸²¹ This support was reiterated at every G20 summit, including the one in Hamburg in 2017 where leaders reiterated the importance of fulfilling

⁵⁸¹⁹ Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2008. Access Date: 28 May 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2008/2008declaration1115.html>

⁵⁸²⁰ Report of the Conference of the Parties on its Seventeenth Session, Held in Durban from 28 November to 11 December 2011, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn) 15 March 2012. Access Date: 10 January 2021. <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/cop17/eng/09a01.pdf>.

⁵⁸²¹ Global Plan for Recovery and Reform, 2009 London Summit, RANEPa (Moscow) 2 April 2009. Access Date: 10 January 2021. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2009london/2009communique0402.pdf>

the UNFCCC commitment by developed countries in providing means of implementation including financial resources to assist developing countries with respect to both mitigation and adaptation actions in line with Paris outcomes and note the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's report "Investing in Climate, Investing in Growth."⁵⁸²²

The Paris Agreement was adopted by the participants of the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC on 12 December 2015. The provisions agreed upon by the parties are aimed at keeping the global average temperature below 2°C above pre-industrial level. In addition, the parties pledged to "pursue efforts" to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C. COP participants also agreed provide national inventory reports on anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and provide other information necessary for assessing the implementation progress.⁵⁸²³ The Agreement entered into force on 4 November 2016 after the threshold of 55 ratifying parties responsible for at least 55 per cent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions had been met. The Agreement has been ratified by 152 states to date.⁵⁸²⁴

The United States withdrawal from the Paris Agreement on 1 June 2017 raised concerns over the prospects of the agreement itself and international climate change cooperation in general.⁵⁸²⁵ According to the provisions of Article 28 of the document, the termination of the participation of a signatory and ratifying party to the agreement is only possible four years after its entry into force (three years before a country can withdraw and another year before the decision takes effect), that is, on 4 November 2020. Thus, the United States can no longer be considered a signatory of the Paris Agreement and, thus, is not assessed on this commitment's implementation.

Commitment Features

The commitment requires the G20 members to strive for the full implementation of the Paris Agreement. The Agreement stipulates three major goals:

1. Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;
2. Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production; and
3. Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.⁵⁸²⁶

Thus, to fully comply with the commitment the G20 members must take action on all the three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement, that is: to take action aimed at greenhouse gases emissions

⁵⁸²² G20 Leaders' Declaration Shaping an interconnected world, CIIR RANEP (Moscow) July 2017. Access Date: 10 January 2021.

https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/G20%20Hamburg&20leaders_%20communiqu%C3%A9.pdf

⁵⁸²³ Paris Agreement, United Nations (New York City) 12 December 2015. Access Date: 10 January 2021
http://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/convention/application/pdf/english_paris_agreement.pdf 2839

⁵⁸²⁴ The Paris Agreement, United Nations (New York City) 12 December 2015. Access Date: 10 January 2021.
http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php

⁵⁸²⁵ Statement by President Trump on the Paris Climate Accord, the White House (Washington, DC) 1 June 2017. Access Date: 10 January 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/06/01/statement-president-trump-parisclimate-accord>.

⁵⁸²⁶ Paris Agreement, United Nations (New York City) 12 December 2015. Access Date: 10 January 2021.
https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf

reduction; to support climate adaptation and resilience; to mobilize climate finance from a wide variety of sources.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member does not take action on any of the three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization
0	G20 member takes action to address one or two of the three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization.
+1	G20 member takes action to implement the Paris Agreement addressing all three issue areas: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization.

Compliance Director: Alexander Ignatov

Lead Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with the commitment to implement the Paris Agreement.

On 12 December 2021, President Alberto Fernández announced a new commitment by Argentina to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and to strengthen the adaptation capacities of communities to the consequences of climate change, particularly the most vulnerable, with the aim of promoting integral and sustainable development.⁵⁸²⁷

On 8 February 2021, the Chamber of Renewable Energies held a meeting with the Undersecretary of Electric Energy, Federico Basualdo, to advance the joint work of proposals that encourage renewable energies in the country.⁵⁸²⁸

On 27 April 2021, the Renewable Energy Project in Rural Markets of the Ministry of Energy defined the companies that will be in charge of the design, construction and initial operation of four photovoltaic and wind mini-grids in the towns of Catua, El Toro and San Juan of Quillaques, in the Susques Department of the Province of Jujuy; and Naupa Huen, in the Province of Río Negro.⁵⁸²⁹

On 27 April 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Nation, led by Juan Cabandié, held the second Roundtable of Focal Points of the National Climate Change Cabinet of the year, in which they sought to plan the next steps to achieve the commitments announced by President Alberto Fernández at the Climate Leaders' Summit. At the summit, organized by the United States government, Fernández announced a set of strategic lines of action and the revision of the mitigation goal of the second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), to achieve a limitation

⁵⁸²⁷ Argentina announced its new commitment in the fight against climate change, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 12 December 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-anuncio-su-nuevo-compromiso-en-la-lucha-contra-el-cambio-climatico>

⁵⁸²⁸ CADER met with the nation's undersecretary of electric power to promote renewable energy, CADER (Buenos Aires) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.cader.org.ar/cader-se-reunio-con-el-subsecretario-de-energia-electrica-de-la-nacion-para-promover-energias-renovables/>

⁵⁸²⁹ PERMER: 4 mini-grids of renewable energies will provide electricity to rural localities, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/permer-4-mini-redes-de-energias-renovables-daran-electricidad-localidades-rurales>

of gas emissions. It is 27.7 per cent more ambitious than that presented in the first Argentine NDC in 2016.⁵⁸³⁰

During the compliance period, Argentina addressed all three issue areas: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Australia: 0

Australia has partially complied with the commitment to implement the Paris Agreement.

On 8 December 2020, the government-funded Clean Energy Finance Corporation, on behalf of the Australian government, has committed AUD80 million (approximately USD59 million) in an investment that will be used to assess the likely emissions profile of target companies and the companies that it acquires will be required to implement emissions reduction targets that aim to either eliminate or offset their emissions within a decade.⁵⁸³¹

On 1 March 2021, it was announced that the Australian government opened for application a fund to support carbon capture, use and storage. This new fund offers successful projects a share in up to USD50 million in grants over three years. Businesses, researchers and governments can apply.⁵⁸³²

On 21 April 2021, it was announced that through 2021-2022 budget Australian government will invest USD539.2 million into clean hydrogen and carbon capture, use and storage projects. This investment is expected to create 2,500 jobs as part of the government's technology-led plan to grow the economy and meet and beat Australia's emissions reduction commitments.⁵⁸³³

On 22 April 2021, it was announced that through 2021-2022 budget Australian government will invest USD565.8 million into establishing low emissions technology partnerships and initiatives with key trading and strategic partners. The funding will advance and support the goals of Australia's Technology Investment Roadmap in its effort to reduce emissions while supporting economic growth and lowering energy costs.⁵⁸³⁴

On 23 April 2021, it was announced that the Australian government will invest USD59.9 million in setting up a high-integrity carbon offset scheme for Australia and countries in the Indo-Pacific region,

⁵⁸³⁰ A new meeting of focal points of the National Climate Change Cabinet was held, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 27 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-celebro-un-nuevo-encuentro-de-puntos-focales-del-gabinete-nacional-de-cambio-climatico>

⁵⁸³¹ CEFC and Adamantem target ambitious emissions reduction across private equity sector, Clean Energy Finance Corporation (Sydney) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.cefc.com.au/media/media-release/cefc-and-adamantem-target-ambitious-emissions-reduction-across-private-equity-sector/>

⁵⁸³² New fund to support carbon capture, use and storage projects, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.industry.gov.au/news/new-fund-to-support-carbon-capture-use-and-storage-projects>

⁵⁸³³ Clean hydrogen and carbon capture investment to create 2,500 jobs while reducing emissions, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.industry.gov.au/news/clean-hydrogen-and-carbon-capture-investment-to-create-2500-jobs-while-reducing-emissions>

⁵⁸³⁴ International partnerships to accelerate low emissions technology, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.industry.gov.au/news/international-partnerships-to-accelerate-low-emissions-technology>

helping to boost public and private investment in climate action and help Australia and countries in the region meet their international climate change commitments.⁵⁸³⁵

Australia is taking action to implement the Paris Agreement but fails to address all three issue areas outlined.

Thus, Australia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to implement the Paris Agreement.

On 15 December 2020, National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES) approved the financing of BRL 191 million for the construction of three photovoltaic plants with 90 megawatts of installed capacity and the generation of sufficient clean and renewable energy to supply 125 thousand homes. The project will be implemented in the municipality of Pedranópolis, in the northwest of São Paulo, and should generate almost 1,400 jobs.⁵⁸³⁶

On 26 January 2021, Brazil launched an online platform where it is possible to view climate change scenarios for the entire national territory, the Climate Projections portal. The unprecedented tool in the country was built to make climate projections accessible, derived from global and regional models, accessible. Through the platform, it is possible to visualize the increase in temperature, the reduction or increase in rainfall, the variation in the number of consecutive hot days, among other aspects related to climate change. Queries can be made through the selection of filters that involve scenarios projected by time horizon, for the next years or decades, or scenarios by level of warming, that is, what should occur in a given region if the global average temperature increases 1, 5 °C, 2 °C or 4°C.⁵⁸³⁷

On 28 January 2021, board of the BNDES approved the creation of the BNDES Program to Encourage the Reduction of CO₂ Emissions in the Fuel Sector (BNDES RenovaBio). The program will provide loans to companies that produce biofuels to encourage them to improve energy-environmental efficiency. Those that, during the loan repayment period, reach the CO₂ emission reduction targets stipulated by the program will have a reduction in the interest rate.⁵⁸³⁸

On 8 February 2021, BNDES approved two loans for the production of biogas in the interior of Goiás and Paraná. Together, they will avoid the emission of 154 tons of polluting gases, equivalent to the planting of 1,076 trees. Credits of USD 13.3 million will be granted to Albioma Codora Energia, the second cogeneration plant of the sugar cane producer group Albioma, in Goiás, and BRL10.1 million to Cooperativa Agroindustrial Consolata (Copacol), of Paraná. Most of the support from BNDES (about 98 per cent of the total directed to the two companies) will be financed by resources

⁵⁸³⁵ Australia invests in carbon offset scheme for Indo-Pacific, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.industry.gov.au/news/australia-invests-in-carbon-offset-scheme-for-indo-pacific>

⁵⁸³⁶ BNDES finances R \$ 191 million for solar energy project in the interior of São Paulo, Brazilian Development Bank (Rio de Janeiro) 15 December 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.bndes.gov.br/wps/portal/site/home/imprensa/noticias/conteudo/bndes-financia-r-191-milhoes-para-projeto-de-energia-solar-no-interior-de-sao-paulo!/ut/p/z1>

⁵⁸³⁷ Platform allows access to climate change projections for the whole of Brazil, Brazilian Government (Brasília) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/educacao-e-pesquisa/2020/11/plataforma-permite-acessar-projecoes-de-mudanca-do-clima-para-todo-o-brasil>

⁵⁸³⁸ Program created to encourage reduction of CO₂ emissions in the fuel sector, Brazilian Government (Brasília) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/meio-ambiente-e-clima/2021/01/criado-programa-para-estimular-reducao-de-emissoes-de-co2-no-setor-de-combustiveis>

from the Climate Fund – Renewable Energies subprogram, which has facilitated conditions for the implementation of such projects.⁵⁸³⁹

On 17 February 2021, Foreign Minister Ernesto Araújo and Environment Minister Ricardo Salle held a virtual meeting with the US government’s presidential climate envoy John Kerry. On that occasion, possibilities for cooperation and dialogue between Brazil and the US were examined in the area of climate change and combating deforestation. It was agreed to deepen the bilateral dialogue in the mentioned areas, with a structured process in frequent meetings, in search of sustainable and lasting solutions to common climate challenges.⁵⁸⁴⁰

On 1 April 2021, BNDES created new structure for issuing green, social and sustainable bonds – Sustainability Bond Framework (SBF). The funds to be raised in future operations based on the SBF will be used to finance and refinance new or existing projects in the BNDES portfolio. The project models eligible for the allocation of resources cover six green and three social categories. Green categories include: renewable energy; energy efficiency; sustainable water, wastewater and sanitation management; pollution prevention and control; clean transportation; and environmentally sustainable management of living natural resources and land use. Social categories, in turn, include health; education; and support for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and microcredit.⁵⁸⁴¹

On 20 April 2021, National Energy Policy Council (CNPE) proposed the development of guidelines for the National Hydrogen Program. “In view of the difficulties encountered by several countries in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions, hydrogen has gained strength as a resource aimed at the decarbonization of economies. The input carries a high energy density, has versatility in use, does not emit CO₂ and can function as energy storage,” stated Secretary of Energy Planning and Development, Paulo Cesar Magalhães.⁵⁸⁴²

On 22 April 2021, CNPE approved a resolution establishing the Combustível do Futuro program, which has as its principle the use of alternative energy sources and the strengthening of national technological development. With the initiative, Brazil takes another step in leading the global energy transition. The program aims to propose measures to increase the use of sustainable and low-carbon fuels, as well as the application of national vehicle technology, with biofuels, with a view to further decarbonizing our transportation matrix.⁵⁸⁴³

On 23 April 2021, Brazil joined the initiative “Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate,” a joint proposal by the United States and the United Arab Emirates to foster innovation, research and development (R&D) in agriculture in the world. Australia, Denmark, United Kingdom, Singapore and Uruguay also participate. The terms of the initiative and the work plan will be defined until the Food Systems Summit, next September, in New York, and are expected to present concrete

⁵⁸³⁹ BNDES finances biogas projects in Parana and Gioas, Brazilian Development Bank (Brasilia) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.bndes.gov.br/wps/portal/site/home/imprensa/noticias/conteudo/bndes-financia-projetos-de-biogas-no-parana-e-em-goias!/ut/p/z1>

⁵⁸⁴⁰ Brazil-US Dialogue on Climate Change – Joint note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Environment, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/dialogo-brasil-eua-sobre-mudanca-do-clima-nota-conjunta-do-ministerio-das-relacoes-exteriores-e-do-ministerio-do-meio-ambiente

⁵⁸⁴¹ BNDES creates new structure for issuing green, social and sustainable bonds, with the support of the IDB, Brazilian Development Bank (Brasilia) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.bndes.gov.br/wps/portal/site/home/imprensa/noticias/conteudo/bndes-cria-nova-estrutura-para-emissao-de-bonus-verdes-sociais-e-sustentaveis!/ut/p/z1>

⁵⁸⁴² CNPE proposes guidelines for the National Hydrogen Program, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mme/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/cnpe-propoe-diretrizes-para-o-programa-nacional-do-hidrogenio>

⁵⁸⁴³ Created the Fuel of the Future program, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/energia-minerais-e-combustiveis/2021/04/criado-o-programa-combustivel-do-futuro>

proposals at the 26th United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP 26), in November 2021. Until COP-26, the new initiative aims to announce a collective increase in global investments in innovation and research and development aimed at resilient agrifood systems that are resistant to climate change. It also intends to outline a structure for the discussion and promotion of priorities, at the national and international levels, which allows amplifying the actions of the initiative's members. Investments in innovation should increase agricultural productivity, in a sustainable manner and with a consequent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. It is also essential to ensure that technologies are available to producers at affordable costs, contributing to rural income and democratizing access to food. By catalyzing global investments in agricultural research, the initiative hopes to be able to globally disseminate fast, efficient and transformative actions based on policies and decisions based on data and science.⁵⁸⁴⁴

During the compliance period Brazil addressed all three issue areas: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment to implement the Paris Agreement.

On 19 April 2020, the Government of Canada presented the Budget 2021. According to the Budget Speech by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland, the budget is “a plan for green recovery that fights climate change, helps more than 200,000 Canadians make their homes greener, build a net-zero economy by investing in world-leading technologies that make industry cleaner, and helps Canada reach its goal of conserving 25 per cent of our lands and oceans by 2025.”⁵⁸⁴⁵ Budget 2021 provides for CAD17.6 billion investment in green recovery, providing zero-interest loans to households, wishing to improve their homes' energy efficiency. The budget proposed a CAD5 billion investment into the Net Zero Accelerator, designed to help businesses efficiently reduce pollution while retaining economic competitiveness. The budget also provides for a CAD1.4 billion investment in Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund, to support projects such as wildfire mitigation activities, rehabilitation of storm water systems, and restoration of wetlands and shorelines.⁵⁸⁴⁶

On 23 April 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Canada's new Nationally Determined Contribution target. The target was raised from 30 per cent to 40-45 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.⁵⁸⁴⁷

⁵⁸⁴⁴ Agricultural Innovation Mission for Climate Initiative (AIM-C) – Joint Note MRE-MAPA, Brazilian Government (Brasilia) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 11 May 2021. https://www.gov.br/mre/pt-br/canais_atendimento/imprensa/notas-a-imprensa/iniciativa-da-missao-de-inovacao-agricola-para-o-clima-aim-c-nota-conjunta-mre-mapa

⁵⁸⁴⁵ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/budget-2021-a-recovery-plan-for-jobs-growth-and-resilience.html>.

⁵⁸⁴⁶ Government of Canada highlights Budget 2021 investments to create a healthy environment for a healthy economy, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/government-of-canada-highlights-budget-2021-investments-to-create-a-healthy-environment-for-a-healthy-economy.html>.

⁵⁸⁴⁷ Canada's Enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/04/canadas-enhanced-nationally-determined-contribution.html>.

On 5 May 2021, Canadian Minister of Natural Resources announced project recipients of the Emissions Reduction Fund's Offshore Research, Development and Demonstration program. Sixteen offshore projects will receive a total of CAD24.4 million to accelerate innovation in emissions reduction technology in the Newfoundland and Labrador offshore oil and gas industry. This funding is part of the Government of Canada CAD750 million Emissions Reduction Fund.⁵⁸⁴⁸

On 13 May 2021, the Government of Canada announced the investment of CAD469,973 Service New Brunswick's Energy Management branch to support the implementation of a government-wide energy management and reporting system. The project is to increase awareness on the benefits of improved energy performance and ensure accountability for energy consumption, as well as reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy costs.⁵⁸⁴⁹

On 13 May 2021, the Government of Canada announced the investment of CAD90,000 for a study that explores power system options to help reduce diesel dependency in Labrador's remote and Indigenous communities. The study is intended to assess the value of bringing more renewable integration to isolated communities in Labrador. The funding is provided through Natural Resources Canada's Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities program. This eight-year, CAD220 million program aims to reduce reliance on diesel in rural and remote communities by deploying and demonstrating renewable energy, encouraging energy efficiency and building local skills and capacity. It is part of the broader Investing in Canada Plan, a more than CAD180 billion infrastructure investment over 12 years.⁵⁸⁵⁰

Canada took action to implement the Paris Agreement addressing all three issue areas: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment on implement the Paris Agreement.

On 24 November 2020, the General Office of the State Council released the guidelines on artificial weather-modification work. Among other things, it was mentioned that in order to support and restore the environment and continue sustainable development, the guidelines must be followed, and by 2025, a well-organized and effective weather-modification work system should be formed.⁵⁸⁵¹

On 12 December 2020, President Xi Jinping announced three proposals to improve global climate governance. China will "lower its carbon dioxide emissions per unit of gross domestic product by over 65 per cent from the 2005 level, increase the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to around 25 per cent, increase the forest stock volume by 6 billion cubic meters from

⁵⁸⁴⁸ Canada and PRNL Announce Project Recipients of ERF Offshore RD&D Funding, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/05/canada-and-prnl-announce-project-recipients-of-erf-offshore-rdd-funding.html>.

⁵⁸⁴⁹ Canada Invests in Energy-Efficient Buildings in New Brunswick, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/05/canada-invests-in-energy-efficient-buildings-in-new-brunswick.html>.

⁵⁸⁵⁰ Reducing Diesel Dependency in Isolated Labrador Communities, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/05/reducing-diesel-dependency-in-isolated-labrador-communities.html>.

⁵⁸⁵¹ The General Office of the State Council on promoting the work on Artificial Weather Modification. High-quality opinions on development, Office of the State Council (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 21 January 2021. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2020-12/02/content_5566429.htm

the 2005 level, and bring its total installed capacity of wind and solar power to over 1.2 billion kilowatts.⁵⁸⁵²

On 24 December 2020, the Chinese Academy of Sciences announced the establishment of China's first research center engaged in working on reaching carbon neutrality. The Center will plan research plans and estimate carbon budgets in 2030 and 2060. In the future, the Center will also release the optimal path to reaching carbon neutrality.⁵⁸⁵³

On 31 December 2020, the Ministry of Finance released a notice on "further improving" the system of financial subsidies in order to promote a healthy development of the new energy vehicle industry. It stated that the subsidies will be cut by 10 per cent.⁵⁸⁵⁴

On 12 January 2021, China published a guideline on implementing the new system of forest chiefs. From then on, each province, city or a town would have forest chiefs, who would organize and lead the protection and development of forests and other green resources.⁵⁸⁵⁵

On 15 January 2021, the state-owned enterprise China National Offshore Oil Corporation launched a large carbon neutrality project, stating that it was only the beginning of the company's green transformation. The company has decided to establish several research institutions, and will continue its path to decarbonization.⁵⁸⁵⁶

On 9 February 2021, China issued its first batch of carbon-neutral bonds worth about USD991.74 million. The issuers of the bonds: China Three Gorges Corporation, China Huaneng Group, State Power Investment Corporation Limited, China Southern Power Grid Company, Yalong River Hydropower Development Company and Sichuan Province Airport Group. The bonds will be used to finance carbon-reduction projects.⁵⁸⁵⁷

On 5 March 2021, the draft outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan was announced. According to the plan, China will cut the particulate matter 2.5 concentrations of cities at the prefectural level and above by 10 per cent.⁵⁸⁵⁸ Moreover, China will promote the comprehensive green transformation of the social and economic development.⁵⁸⁵⁹ Also, according to the plan, the autonomous region Inner Mongolia must make breakthroughs in reduction of carbon emissions and energy conservation.⁵⁸⁶⁰

China has taken actions to implement the Paris Agreement, addressing all three issue areas outlined in it.

⁵⁸⁵² Xinhua Headlines-Xi Focus: China's further commitments inject impetus for global climate actions, Xinhua (Beijing) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2021. http://www.cma.gov.cn/en2014/news/News/202012/t20201214_568424.html

⁵⁸⁵³ Carbon neutrality to be achieved by 2060. The Chinese Academy of Sciences established a special research center, Xinhua (Beijing) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2021. http://www.xinhuanet.com/2020-12/25/c_1126907810.htm

⁵⁸⁵⁴ On "Notice of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Development and Reform Commission on Further Improving the Financial Subsidy Policy for the Promotion and Application of New Energy Vehicles," Ministry of Finance (Beijing) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2021. http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/2020-12/31/content_5575908.htm

⁵⁸⁵⁵ Opinions on the Full Implementation of the Forest Chief System, Xinhua (Beijing) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 30 January 2021. http://www.mee.gov.cn/zcwj/zygwj/202101/t20210115_817597.shtml

⁵⁸⁵⁶ CNOOC launches its carbon neutral plan, ChinaNews (Beijing) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 30 January 2021. <http://www.chinanews.com/cj/2021/01-15/9388542.shtml>

⁵⁸⁵⁷ China issues first batch of carbon-neutral bonds, Xinhua (Beijing), 9 February 2021. Access Date: 15 February 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202102/09/content_WS60227233c6d0719374af8a7e.html

⁵⁸⁵⁸ China to improve urban air quality, Xinhua (Beijing), 5 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202103/05/content_WS6041b78cc6d0719374afa16c.html

⁵⁸⁵⁹ China to promote green transformation of development, Xinhua (Beijing), 5 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202103/05/content_WS604226b2c6d0719374afa26f.html

⁵⁸⁶⁰ Inner Mongolia set to clean up its energy act, China Daily (Beijing) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 16 March 2021. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202103/12/content_WS604ac038c6d0719374afaae7.html

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

France: +1

France has fully complied with the commitment on climate change.

On 26 November 2020, it was announced that Agence Française de Développement (AFD) joined the coalition the German Federal Ministry of the Environment and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation to launch the South East Asia Energy Transition Partnership, a USD50 million investment initiative to support energy transition in South East Asia with technical assistance projects.⁵⁸⁶¹

On 4 December 2020, a TerraMaz program was officially launched in Ecuador.⁵⁸⁶² It is financed with a EUR9.5 million grant from AFD to fight against deforestation and transit to sustainable development models.⁵⁸⁶³

On 12 January 2021, Turkey and France teamed up to address the issue of forest adaptation to climate change in a joint initiative financed with a public policy loan and a grant from AFD; 15 joint projects within the initiative were announced for 2021.⁵⁸⁶⁴

On 18 January 2021, AFD's MobiliseYourCity initiative for South Asia was announced; the initiative aims to support policy development and facilitate access to increased financing for sustainable urban mobility.⁵⁸⁶⁵

On 10 February 2021, AFD, the French Embassy and the European Union Delegation inaugurated the second phase of photovoltaic power station in Bolivia; AFD's loan contribution amounted to EUR60 million; the project expands the supply of non-carbon energy alternatives for Bolivia.⁵⁸⁶⁶

On 17 February 2021, the AFD's New Delhi branch signed three project agreements with Indian partners on accessible public transport (EUR250 million credit facility for the development of the Surat Metro, which is expected to create an accessible and sustainable public transport system for about 400,000 people living the rapidly expanding Gujarati port and reduce carbon emissions by 40,000 tons), as well as on a floating solar power system, and sustainable forest management.⁵⁸⁶⁷

⁵⁸⁶¹ The energy transition ramps up in Southeast Asia, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/energy-transition-ramps-southeast-asia>

⁵⁸⁶² TerraMaz: a program to fight deforestation and promote sustainable development in Ecuador, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/terramaz-program-fight-deforestation-and-promote-sustainable-development-ecuador>

⁵⁸⁶³ TerraMaz: a program to fight deforestation and promote sustainable development in Ecuador, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/terramaz-program-fight-deforestation-and-promote-sustainable-development-ecuador>

⁵⁸⁶⁴ Protecting forests in Turkey: climate change adaptation and biodiversity protection, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/protecting-forests-turkey-climate-change-adaptation-and-biodiversity-protection>

⁵⁸⁶⁵ "MobiliseYourCity"; climate financing for sustainable urban development in South Asia, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/mobiliseyourcity-climate-financing-sustainable-urban-mobility-south-asia>

⁵⁸⁶⁶ Boosting Bolivia's energy supply with one of the world's highest solar power plants, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/boosting-bolivias-energy-supply-one-worlds-highest-solar-power-plants>

⁵⁸⁶⁷ In India, AFD signs three new agreements during Minister Barbara Pompili's visit, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/india-afd-signs-three-new-agreements-during-minister-barbara-pompilis-visit>

On 22 February 2021, the AFD pledged a EUR50 million public policy loan to Serbia to complement similar financing put forward by the World Bank, as well as to deploy a technical cooperation program for Serbia, with the goal to help the country apply the climate roadmap nationally and locally to meet its climate commitments under the Paris Agreement.⁵⁸⁶⁸

On 16 March 2021, France published its National Low Carbon Strategy describing the country's "ecological and inclusive transition towards carbon neutrality"; the strategy provides guidelines for the transition to a low-carbon economy in the following sectors: buildings, transport, agriculture, forestry and soils, energy production, industry, and waste, and sets five-year carbon budgets until 2033; to achieve carbon neutrality, France's strategy aims to: "Make energy production fully carbon-free by 2050; Halve energy consumption through energy efficiency of installations and "more moderate" lifestyles; Drastically reduce non-energy emissions, including by 38 percent compared to 2015 in the farming sector and by 60 percent compared to 2015 in industrial processes; Increase and safeguard carbon sinks such as soils and forests, and promote carbon capture and storage technologies and products from the bio-economy; and promote measures to combat carbon leakage."⁵⁸⁶⁹

On 18 March 2021, it was reported that France pledged to promote European Union efforts to put a charge on emissions-intensive imports when it takes over the EU's rotating presidency in 2021.⁵⁸⁷⁰

On 1 April 2021, the AFD launched the Biodiversity Partners Program pilot project to accelerate pro-nature projects led by 30 entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs from eight countries in Southern Africa; the program will provide participants with a broader perspective of biodiversity issues, enable them to integrate these issues into their projects, and provide support in their operational deployment, in order to work to ensure their viability and impacts.⁵⁸⁷¹

During the compliance period, France has taken important steps to promote climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as climate finance mobilization both at home and internationally.

Thus, France it a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment on addressing climate change.

On 1 December 2020, Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the German Corporation for International Cooperation GmbH launched the second call for proposals under the "IKI Small Grants" scheme, deploying funds provided by the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The scheme aims to support creative ideas that are tailored to local needs

⁵⁸⁶⁸ Clear skies for Serbia's climate commitments, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/clear-skies-serbias-climate-commitments>

⁵⁸⁶⁹ France, Switzerland Present Roadmaps to Reach Net Zero by 2050, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Geneva) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/france-switzerland-present-roadmaps-to-reach-net-zero-by-2050/>

⁵⁸⁷⁰ France vows to make EU carbon border levy top green deal issue, Ajot (Plymouth) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://ajot.com/news/france-vows-to-make-eu-carbon-border-levy-top-green-deal-issue>

⁵⁸⁷¹ Biodiversity partners program (BIPP): supporting pro-nature initiatives in Southern Africa, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/biodiversity-partners-program-bipp-supporting-pro-nature-initiatives-southern-africa>

and effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions. IKI Small Grants also promotes projects that enhance local adaptation measures and focus on forest and biodiversity conservation.⁵⁸⁷²

On 4 February 2021, the KfW Development Bank announced further investments in green bonds under mandate of the Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. KfW Group will remain committed to the green bond market as an ambitious investor, thereby contributing to the further development of this market segment. Green bonds are considered by the KfW as an important instrument to mobilize capital for the transition to an environmentally friendly and climate-neutral economy. Since 2015, KfW has built up a portfolio of green bonds which has reached its initial EUR2 billion target and will be further maintained at a level of EUR2-2.5 billion.⁵⁸⁷³

On 5 May 2021, the Government of Germany adopted the first German Sustainable Finance Strategy. The goal of the strategy is to mobilize investments that are urgently needed for climate action and sustainability while also addressing the climate risks that are increasingly relevant to the financial system.⁵⁸⁷⁴

On 12 May 2021, the German government adopted the revised Climate Change Act. According to the document, Germany is to become climate neutral by 2045 following a clear path to achieve this with binding targets for the 2020s and 2030s. The interim target for 2030, previously 55 per cent, was increased to a 65 per cent greenhouse gas reduction compared to 1990. A new interim reduction target of 88 per cent was set for 2040.⁵⁸⁷⁵

Germany has taken actions to implement the Paris Agreement addressing all three issue areas: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Sbelepor

India: 0

India has partially complied with the commitment on the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

On 2 December 2020, India has constituted a high-level inter-ministerial Apex Committee for Implementation of Paris Agreement (AIPA). The purpose of AIPA is to generate a coordinated

⁵⁸⁷² The Federal Environment Ministry supports small-scale local projects in developing countries, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/the-federal-environment-ministry-supports-small-scale-local-projects-in-developing-countries/>

⁵⁸⁷³ Investments in green bonds will continue, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/investments-in-green-bonds-will-continue/>

⁵⁸⁷⁴ Setting the course for the financial sector: climate action and sustainability as core themes, German Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/2021-05-05-sustainable-finance-strategy.html>.

⁵⁸⁷⁵ Revised Climate Change Act sets out binding trajectory towards climate neutrality by 2045, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/revised-climate-change-act-sets-out-binding-trajectory-towards-climate-neutrality-by-2045/>.

response on climate change matters that ensures India is on track towards meeting its obligations under the Paris Agreement including its Nationally Determined Contributions.⁵⁸⁷⁶

On 22 December 2020, the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region (NCR) and Adjoining Areas reviewed the progress of switching over of Industries operating in Delhi to Piped Natural Gas with the Government of Delhi, GAIL and Indraprastha Gas Limited. 1644 of Industrial Units will switch to the new fuel until 31 January 2021.⁵⁸⁷⁷

From 31 December 2020 to 15 January 2021, government agencies conducted inspections in the project premises and transportation of materials related to Construction & Demolition activities in the NCR in order to abate dust and air pollution levies.⁵⁸⁷⁸

India takes actions on two of the three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Anastasiya Kirillova

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with the commitment on climate change.

On 30 March 2021, it was reported that Indonesia was considering legislation and rules to boost development of renewable energy and set a price on carbon to help limit emissions; renewable energy bill is expected to be passed in 2021, while presidential decree on carbon pricing was being finalized at the moment of release.⁵⁸⁷⁹

On 30 March 2021, it was also announced that the International Energy Agency (IEA) would join the IEA – Indonesia Energy Transition Alliance to support Indonesia’s ambition to undergo energy transition; the Alliance would act as a framework to work together to support policy development, accelerate Indonesia’s energy transition (including power system enhancement, renewables deployment, energy efficiency implementation and the strengthening of energy investment), and mobilize high-level political engagement.⁵⁸⁸⁰

On 1 April 2021, the Indonesian government reiterated its commitment to address climate change (under the Paris Agreement nationally determined contribution – to cut greenhouse emissions by 29 per cent through its own efforts, and by 41 per cent with the support of the international community by 2030), and willingness to co-chair the UK-led 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties’ Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade Dialogue.⁵⁸⁸¹

⁵⁸⁷⁶ Government constitutes High-level Ministerial Committee for implementation of Paris Agreement, Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1677630>

⁵⁸⁷⁷ Air Quality Commission directs for 100 percent switching over of industries in Delhi to PNG, Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 12 April 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1682640>

⁵⁸⁷⁸ Inspection teams to abate dust and related Air Pollution levies charges of nearly 76 lakh rupees on non-compliant entities, Public Information Bureau (Delhi) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 12 April 2021.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1690035>

⁵⁸⁷⁹ Indonesia Plans New Renewables Incentives to Limit Emissions (1), Bloomberg Tax (Arlington) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report-international/indonesia-plans-renewable-incentives-this-year-to-curb-emissions>

⁵⁸⁸⁰ The IEA to support Indonesia’s energy transition, Energy Global (Surrey) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.energyglobal.com/special-reports/30032021/the-iea-to-support-indonesias-energy-transition/>

⁵⁸⁸¹ Indonesia reiterates commitment to tackle climate change, Antara News (Jakarta) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/171482/indonesia-reiterates-commitment-to-tackle-climate-change>

On 12 April 2021, Indonesia's national oil and gas company Pertamina was planning to issue its maiden green bonds within 12 months as a move to secure funds to progress its renewable energy projects, in particular geothermal developments; Pertamina also announced plans to increase the share of its green business in total revenues from current 5 per cent to 10-15 per cent within five years (to operate 10,000 megawatts of renewable energy power projects by 2026 compare to current figure of 4.146 megawatts), while its subsidiary Pertamina Geothermal Energy prepares for its initial public offering plus a merger of the three Indonesian state-owned geothermal players.⁵⁸⁸²

On 20 April 2021, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources announced the country's plans to increase the share of renewable energy in its energy mix through several strategies, including halting imports of fossil fuels and liquified petroleum gas (LPG) by 2030 and expediting solar power projects; in particular, it was mentioned Indonesia aimed to stop imports of fuel oil and LPG by 2030, and to have 24,000 megawatts of installed capacity of environment-friendly electricity by 2025 and increase it to 38 thousand megawatts by 2035 (from current 10,467 megawatts), with solar energy as a "backbone" of the country's national energy source.⁵⁸⁸³

On 22 April 2021, speaking at the Leaders Summit on Climate, President Joko Widodo stressed the importance of global partnerships, including with the Pacific, in responding to climate change, which require the fulfillment of commitments and support by developed countries for the developing countries; President Widodo further emphasized that Indonesia's upcoming presidency of the G20 would prioritize enhancement of co-operation on climate with its partners including in the Pacific; he also informed the summit that deforestation was at a 20-year low in Indonesia, and that Indonesia was accelerating pilot projects for its goal of achieving net zero emissions in the coming decades, including rehabilitation of 620,000 hectares of mangrove forests (with four times the carbon absorption compared to tropical forests) to be completed in 2024.⁵⁸⁸⁴

On 24 April 2021, state-owned geothermal developer and operator PT Geo Dipa Energi (Persero) announced having conducted pre-operational trial of the 10 megawatts small scale geothermal power plant in Wonosobo Regency; the project is expected be a pilot for small-scale geothermal power plants deployment in other areas of the country.⁵⁸⁸⁵

On 5 May 2021, the Green Leadership Program was initiated by the Green Institute in partnership with Ministry of Environment and Forestry to facilitate young people as the nation's next generation to have a social and environmental justice perspective, and empower them with skills to have green perspective, save and preserve environment.⁵⁸⁸⁶

Indonesia has taken a number of important steps on both climate change mitigation and adaptation, and climate finance mobilization.

⁵⁸⁸² Indonesia's Pertamina eyes green finance with focus on geothermal projects, Upstream (Oslo) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.upstreamonline.com/finance/indonesias-pertamina-eyes-green-finance-with-focus-on-geothermal-projects/2-1-993976>

⁵⁸⁸³ Indonesia banking on solar power to boost renewable energy generation, Antara News (Jakarta) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/172926/indonesia-banking-on-solar-power-to-boost-renewable-energy-generation>

⁵⁸⁸⁴ Widodo claims Indonesia leading by example on climate change, RNZ Pacific (Wellington) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/441113/widodo-claims-indonesia-leading-by-example-on-climate-change>

⁵⁸⁸⁵ First tests conducted on 10 MW Dieng geothermal plant, Think GeoEnergy (Reykavik) 24 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.thinkgeoenergy.com/first-tests-conducted-on-10-mw-dieng-geothermal-plant/>

⁵⁸⁸⁶ Green Leadership Indonesia, Ministry of Environment and Forestry (Jakarta) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 9 May 2021. http://www.menlhk.go.id/site/single_post/3961/green-leadership-indonesia

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with the commitment to implement the Paris Agreement.

On 26 March 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition published the public notice on the Experimental Program for Urban Reforestation, launching the financing of the program. The initiative's aim is to plant trees, including medium and long cycle tree plantations, and the creation of urban and peri-urban forests, as well as maintenance thereof. EUR18 million were allocated for the year 2021 to finance the project proposals that will be presented by metropolitan cities. Each metropolitan city can present up to a maximum of five projects.⁵⁸⁸⁷

On 31 March 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition issued an executive decree approving the funding of the projects under the "Smart Networks" Public Notice issued on 20 December 2019 for the "demarcation" of the power distribution network in Southern Italy, in order to strengthen the electricity distribution infrastructure, and to increase the share of energy needs covered by renewable sources. The projects' total value is estimated at EUR207 million, out of which EUR120 million are provided by the government.⁵⁸⁸⁸

On 25 April 2021, the Government of Italy presented the National Recovery and Resilience Plan to the Parliament. The Plan is a part of the European Next Generation EU EUR750 billion package, aimed at environmental transition and carbon-neutral recovery from the pandemic-induced crisis. The Italian plan calls for investments of EUR191.5 billion, financed through the Recovery and Resilience Facility. A further 30.6 billion are part of a complementary Fund, financed through the multi-year budget. The total amount of planned investments is EUR222.1 billion. According to the government statement, 27 per cent of the investment under the Plan is dedicated to digitalization, 40 per cent to combating climate change, and more than 10 per cent to combating inequalities and regional disproportions. EUR69.6 billion is devoted to ecological transition goals, such as energy efficiency, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, stimulating renewable energy sources development, as well as building resilient infrastructure and providing more ecologically sustainable transportation options.⁵⁸⁸⁹

Italy has taken actions to implement the Paris Agreement addressing all three issue areas: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with the commitment to implement the Paris Agreement.

⁵⁸⁸⁷ Environment: The Experimental Program for Urban Reforestation is Underway, Ministry of Ecological Transition of Italy (Rome) 26 March 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/notizie/ambiente-al-il-programma-sperimentale-la-riforestazione-urbana>

⁵⁸⁸⁸ Smart Grid, Projects Approved in Southern Italy for a Value of 207 Million, Ministry of Ecological Transition of Italy (Rome) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.minambiente.it/notizie/smart-grid-approvati-progetti-nel-sud-italia-un-valore-di-207-milioni>

⁵⁸⁸⁹ National Recovery and Resilience Plan, Italian Government (Rome) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.governo.it/sites/governo.it/files/PNRR.pdf>

On 25 November 2020, it was reported that Japan's and China's Foreign Ministers agreed to establish a climate change dialogue between the two countries following declarations by Tokyo and Beijing to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2050 and 2060 respectively.⁵⁸⁹⁰

On 25 December 2020, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry in collaboration with related ministries and agencies formulated a "Green Growth Strategy Through Achieving Carbon Neutrality" as an industrial policy set to lead the challenging goal of achieving carbon neutrality while ensuring a positive cycle of economic growth and the environmental protection; the Green Growth Strategy makes explicit current challenges and future actions by priority field, and formulates action plans covering comprehensive policies in areas such as budgets, taxes, regulation reforms and standardization, and international collaboration.⁵⁸⁹¹

On 7 January 2021, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a Record of Discussions with the Government of Cabo Verde for the technical cooperation project on hybrid power generation system; the project aims to promote and operate renewable energy power generation system that combines renewable energy and thermal power generation.⁵⁸⁹²

On 29 January 2021, the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry attended the World Trade Organizations' videoconference informal meeting; Japan's inputs at the meeting included the call to start discussions on tariff and non-tariff aspects in order to smoothly disseminate goods and technologies that contribute to decreasing greenhouse gas emissions at a global level.⁵⁸⁹³

On 19 February 2021, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry announced the launch of the Committee on the Green Innovation Project as a new body to operate Green Innovation Fund to develop new approaches for achievement of carbon neutrality by 2050.⁵⁸⁹⁴

On 12 March 2021, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry formulated basic policies for the Green Innovation Fund in order to optimize the results of its activities; the fund worth JPY2 trillion is intended to continuously support companies and other organizations for the coming ten years, which show their commitment to challenge such ambitious goals as their business issues ranging from research and development to demonstrations of social effects of implementation of their climate programs.⁵⁸⁹⁵

⁵⁸⁹⁰ Japan, China to Launch Dialogue on Climate Change, Nippon Express (Tokyo) 25 November 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yjj2020112500057/>

⁵⁸⁹¹ "Green Growth Strategy Through Achieving Carbon Neutrality" Formulated, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1225_001.html

⁵⁸⁹² Signing of Record of Discussions on Technical Cooperation Project with Cabo Verde: Supporting the promotion of renewable energy development, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20210108_30.html

⁵⁸⁹³ Minister Kajiyama Attends WTO Informal Ministerial Meeting, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0129_001.html

⁵⁸⁹⁴ New Body "Committee on the Green Innovation Project" under Industrial Structure Council to be Inaugurated and First Meeting to be Held, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0219_001.html

⁵⁸⁹⁵ "The Basic Policies for the Project for the Green Innovation Fund" Formulated, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0312_002.html

On 14 March 2021, JICA signed a Record of Discussions with the Government of Bangladesh for the technical cooperation project on developing an integrated energy and power master plan to promote a low or zero carbon transformation of the total energy supply and demand system.⁵⁸⁹⁶

On 18 March 2021, the Green Climate Fund approved the first project proposed by JICA on enhanced climate resilience and reduction of deforestation in critical watersheds in Timor-Leste; the project aims to reduce forest degradation and deforestation and as a result reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Timor-Leste by 4.4 million tons over 20 years.⁵⁸⁹⁷

On 23 March 2021, the Government of Japan worked to set a new, more ambitious carbon emissions reduction goal for 2030 ahead of the June 2021 G7 Summit, as part of its efforts towards achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.⁵⁸⁹⁸

On 25 March 2021, JICA signed a loan agreement for a maximum amount of JPY 10 billion with India's Indian Non-Banking Financial Company and Tata Cleantech Capital Limited to support the company to offer loans to businesses across India that focus on renewable energy generation, electric vehicles and energy efficiency.⁵⁸⁹⁹

During the compliance period, Japan has taken important steps to promote climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as climate finance mobilization both at home and internationally.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with the commitment on taking actions on three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement.

On 2 December 2020, the National Assembly of Korea approved extended budgeting for the national Ministry of Environment. 17.1 per cent increase was proposed to establish the foundation for implementing the 2050 carbon neutrality goal, climate crisis flooding response and support for hydrogen fueling stations.⁵⁹⁰⁰

On 30 December 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs submitted the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and its long-term low greenhouse gas Emission Development Strategy

⁵⁸⁹⁶ Signing of Record of Discussions on Technical Cooperation for Development Planning with Bangladesh: Contributing to a transformation to low or zero carbon energy system through formulating a comprehensive, long-term energy plan, Japan International Cooperation (Tokyo) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20210315_30.html

⁵⁸⁹⁷ The Green Climate Fund approves the first JICA proposed-project: To reduce CO₂ emissions through forest conservation and enhance community climate resilience in Timor-Leste, Japan International Cooperation (Tokyo) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20210325_30.html

⁵⁸⁹⁸ Japan to set bolder 2030 emissions target with eye on US alliance, Nikkei Asia (Tokyo) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Environment/Climate-Change/Japan-to-set-bolder-2030-emissions-target-with-eye-on-US-alliance>

⁵⁸⁹⁹ Signing of Loan Agreement for "Climate Change Management Project" in India: Supporting India to reduce the emission of greenhouse gas through Private Sector Investment Finance, Japan International Cooperation (Tokyo) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20210325_10_en.html

⁵⁹⁰⁰ 2021 Ministry of Environment Budget and Fund Set at 11 Trillion 171.5 Billion Korean Won, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea (Seoul) 2 December 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=10&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1427370&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

(LEDS).⁵⁹⁰¹ The NDC includes a pledge to the international community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and presents Korea's target to reduce 24.4 per cent from its national greenhouse gas emissions in 2017. LEDS includes Korea's long-term vision and national strategy for achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.⁵⁹⁰²

On 2 March 2021, the Ministry of Environment presented the 2021 Action Plan to implement the 2050 Carbon Neutrality Strategy. The plan pushes ahead with carbon neutrality in each sector, including expanding renewable energy, providing eco-friendly and autonomous vehicles as well as fueling the transition into a circular economy.⁵⁹⁰³

Korea takes actions on all the three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement: greenhouse gases emissions reduction; climate adaptation and resilience; climate finance from a wide variety of sources.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with the commitment to implement the Paris Agreement.

On 29 December 2020, Mexico presented its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In terms of mitigation, Mexico ratified its level of ambition to reduce emissions for both greenhouse gases (–22 per cent) and black carbon, (–51 per cent), by 2030; this with respect to a baseline (business as usual) that takes 2013 as a starting point. With respect to the conditional goals, Mexico committed to reducing its emissions by up to 36 per cent and 70 per cent of black carbon, also by 2030; the latter, depending on the establishment of technology transfer mechanisms, allows a carbon trading price to be defined, technical cooperation to continue and access to affordable financial resources to become available. The adaptation objectives were also expanded to 27 lines of action in five axes: (1) prevention and attention to negative impacts on the human population and in the territory; (2) resilient productive systems and food security; (3) conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services; (4) integrated management of water resources with a climate change approach; and (5) protection of strategic infrastructure and tangible cultural heritage. One of the new multisectoral approaches is blue carbon, which refers to the carbon dioxide removed from the atmosphere by coastal marine ecosystems. The update of Mexico's NDC included a broad process of consultation and social participation.⁵⁹⁰⁴

On 21 January 2021, Energy Transition Law, supported the creation of Fund for Energy Transition and Sustainable Use of Energy (FOTEASE). The FOTEASE is a public policy instrument of the Ministry of Energy whose objective is to implement actions that serve to contribute to the fulfillment of the National Strategy for the Energy Transition and the Sustainable Use of Energy, promoting the use, development and investment of renewable energies and energy efficiency, thereby allowing:

⁵⁹⁰¹ Korea Submits its Nationally Determined Contribution and Long-term Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Development Strategy to UNFCCC Secretariat, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea (Seoul) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=321476

⁵⁹⁰² 2050 Carbon Neutral Strategy of the Republic of Korea, UNFCCC Secretariat (Bonn) December 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/LTS1_RKorea.pdf

⁵⁹⁰³ Ministry of Environment unveiled its Action Plan 2021 to implement the 2050 Carbon Neutrality Strategy, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea (Seoul) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1449070&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

⁵⁹⁰⁴ Mexico presents the update of its 2020's NDC, International Climate Initiative Alliance (Mexico City) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://iki-alliance.mx/en/mexico-presents-the-update-of-its-2020s-ndc/>

“Promote, encourage and disseminate the use and application of clean technologies in all productive activities and for domestic, commercial, industrial and agricultural use; Promote the diversification of primary energy sources, increasing the supply of renewable energy sources; Establish a standardization program for energy efficiency. Promote and disseminate measures for energy efficiency, as well as energy saving; Propose the necessary measures so that the population has access to reliable, timely and easily consulted information in relation to the energy consumption of equipment, devices and vehicles, which require the supply of energy for their operation.”⁵⁹⁰⁵

On 4 February 2021, the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples, the Federal Electricity Commission and the authorities of the Santa María del Mar agency, Juchitán de Zaragoza municipality, agreed to put the 450 KW Solar Power Plant into operation of effective power per day, which will allow to supply electricity to the families of this place, who have been without the service for more than 10 years.⁵⁹⁰⁶

On 10 March 2021, the Tool for the Preparation of Programs for Adaptation to Climate Change in Natural Protected Areas was issued by National Commission of Protected Natural Areas. This tool aims to highlight the role of Protected Natural Areas as natural solutions for adaptation.⁵⁹⁰⁷

During the compliance period Mexico addressed all three issue areas: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Irina Popova

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment on taking actions on three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement.

On 15 December 2020, Minister for Natural Resources and Ecology Alexander Kozlov gave an order to renew the list of methods used to calculate harmful fumes air emissions in energy, industry, oil pumping and processing, and agriculture.⁵⁹⁰⁸

On 12 February 2021, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation issued a ministerial decree on establishment of the nation-wide greenhouse gas emissions recording

⁵⁹⁰⁵ Fund for the Energy Transition and Sustainable Use of Energy, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sener/articulos/el-fondo-para-la-transicion-energetica-y-el-aprovechamiento-sustentable-de-la-energia-es-un-instrumento-de-politica-publica-de-la-secretaria>

⁵⁹⁰⁶ INPI and CFE agree on the commissioning of the commissioning of the Solar Electric Pant in the Huave de Santa Maria del Mar community, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/inpi/articulos/acuerdan-inpi-y-cfe-atender-necesidad-de-energia-electrica-en-el-municipio-de-santa-maria-del-mar-oaxaca>

⁵⁹⁰⁷ Tool for the Preparation of Programs for Adaptation to Climate Change in Protected Natural Areas, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 13 May 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/conanp/documentos/herramienta-para-la-elaboracion-de-programas-de-adaptacion-al-cambio-climatico-en-areas-naturales-protegidas>

⁵⁹⁰⁸ List of Methods to Calculate Polluters Air Emissions to be Extended, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Moscow) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 17 May 2021. http://mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rasshiren_perechen_metodik_rascheta_vybrossov_zagryaznyayushchikh_veshchestv_v_atmosfernyy_vozdukh/

system. The President had previously ordered to prepare a draft concept of such a system that would facilitate local ecosystems' absorbing capacity estimation.⁵⁹⁰⁹

On 17 March 2021, the state-owned company "Russian Railways" issued irredeemable "green" bonds worth CHF250 million to purchase electricity-powered passenger locomotives and finance social projects.⁵⁹¹⁰

On 21 April 2021, President Vladimir Putin announced a new system designed to properly allocate funding received from businesses conducting environmental-harmful activities. Funding would be dedicated to environment restoration projects. Also, President Putin ordered to lower atmosphere emissions in 12 biggest industrial complexes by 20 per cent by 2024.⁵⁹¹¹

Russia takes actions on all the three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement: greenhouse gases emissions reduction; climate adaptation and resilience; climate finance from a wide variety of sources.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with the commitment on climate change.

On 27 January 2021, speaking at the Future Investment Initiative forum in Riyadh, the energy minister claimed that the Kingdom would "be doing more than most European countries by 2030 (to combat climate change)," and reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's commitment to combat climate change via the framework of the Circular Carbon Economy and to do everything to achieve the Paris Agreement.⁵⁹¹²

On 27 March 2021, the Saudi Green Initiative and the Middle East Green Initiative were announced to be launched soon by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman – recognizing Saudi Arabia's share of responsibility in advancing the fight against the climate crisis as the world's leading oil producer, in response to significant climate challenges faced by the region, and with the goal "to chart a path for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the region in protecting the planet, by clearly defining an ambitious road map that rallies the region and significantly contributes to achieving global targets in confronting climate change."⁵⁹¹³ The two initiatives goals include the following: "To plant 10 billion trees in Saudi Arabia and 50 billion across the Middle East region, the equivalent to rehabilitating roughly 200 million hectares of degraded lands, translating into the largest reforestation program in the world (which represents the Kingdom's contribution of more than 5 percent in achieving the global target to plant 1 trillion trees, and reducing 2.5 per cent of global carbon levels); To reduce carbon emissions by more than 4 per cent of global contributions, through an ambitious renewable energy program that will generate 50 per cent of the Kingdom's energy from renewables by 2030,

⁵⁹⁰⁹ Ministry of Environment to Amend Greenhouse Gases Absorption Qualitative Criteria, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. http://mnr.gov.ru/press/news/minprirody_rossii_razrabotalo_rasporiyazhenie_o_vnesenii_izmeneniy_v_metodicheskie_ukazaniya_po_kolich/

⁵⁹¹⁰ "Russian Railways" to Issue CHF250 Million "Green" irredeemable Bonds, Cbonds (St. Petersburg) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://cbonds.ru/news/1344405/>

⁵⁹¹¹ Vladimir Putin Proposed to Mark All Eco-Payments, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. http://mnr.gov.ru/press/news/vladimir_putin_predlozhit_okrasit_vse_ekologicheskie_platezhi/

⁵⁹¹² Saudi Arabia 'leading the way' in climate change fight, Arab News (Riyadh) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1799501/business-economy>

⁵⁹¹³ HRH Crown Prince Announces: "The Saudi Green Initiative and The Middle East Green Initiative," Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2208375>

and several other projects in the fields of clean hydrocarbon technologies, estimated to eliminate more than 130 MT of carbon emissions; To cut carbon dioxide emissions in the Middle East by 60 per cent; To divert 94 per cent of the Kingdom's rubbish now going to landfills; To raise the percentage of protected areas to more than 30 per cent of its total land area, representing roughly 600,000 square kilometers, exceeding the current global target of 17 percent, in addition to launching a number of ambitious initiatives to protect Marine and Coastal Environments.”⁵⁹¹⁴

On 6 April 2021, the National Renewable Energy Program set the target of SR60 billion (USD15.9 billion) worth pipeline of the renewable's projects for investment; the projects are aimed to increase the generation capacity of renewable energy sources to about 58.7 gigawatts by 2030, of which 40 gigawatts would be from solar generation and 16 gigawatts from wind generation, with the rest coming from other renewable energy sources.⁵⁹¹⁵

On 9 April 2021, Saudi Arabia inaugurated the Sakaka independent power producer photovoltaic power plant, the first renewable energy project in Saudi Arabia; the plant has an output capacity of 300 megawatts and represents Saudi Arabia's “first steps to utilize renewable energy;” the opening also witnessed the signing of power purchase agreements for seven other renewable energy projects in a number of regions with 12 Saudi and international companies.⁵⁹¹⁶ It was further reported that Saudi Arabia had plans to launch seven more solar power plants with overall capacity of 3.7 gigawatts.⁵⁹¹⁷

On 22 April 2021, speaking at the Leaders Climate Summit King Salman called for global approach to tackling climate change and enhancing the level of international cooperation as the optimal solution to meeting the challenges of climate change; King Salman also updated other Leaders on the Kingdom's recently launched packages of strategies and regulations on the climate agenda.⁵⁹¹⁸

On 24 April 2021, it was reported that Saudi Arabia would join the Net Zero Producers Forum made up of the United States, Norway, Canada and Qatar to discuss the ways in which they can uphold the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.⁵⁹¹⁹

Saudi Arabia has taken a number of important actions to foster climate change mitigation, adaptation and mobilization of climate finance.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment on taking actions on three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement.

⁵⁹¹⁴ HRH Crown Prince Announces: “The Saudi Green Initiative and The Middle East Green Initiative,” Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2208375>

⁵⁹¹⁵ Saudi National Renewable Energy Program targets \$15.9 billion project pipeline, Arab News (Riyadh) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1838516/business-economy>

⁵⁹¹⁶ Saudi Arabia inaugurates 1st renewable energy power plant, AzerNews (Baku) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.azernews.az/region/177801.html>

⁵⁹¹⁷ Saudi Arabia to add 3.7 GW in solar power, achieves world's lowest price, Balkan Green Energy News (Belgrade) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://balkangreenenergynews.com/saudi-arabia-to-add-3-7-gw-in-solar-power-achieves-worlds-lowest-price/>

⁵⁹¹⁸ King Salman calls for global approach to tackling climate change, ArabNews (Riyadh) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1846901/saudi-arabia>

⁵⁹¹⁹ Saudi Arabia to join international forum on climate change: report, The Hill (Washington, DC) 24 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/550126-saudi-arabia-to-join-international-forum-on-climate-change-report>

On 3 February 2021, the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) has launched its first green bond. The EUR200m bond was issued through a private placement with French development finance institution Agence Française de Développement.⁵⁹²⁰

On 9 March 2021, the United Kingdom Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions and South Africa announced a project portfolio to support South Africa's climate change priorities. The total financing would reach GBP3 million. The selected projects focus on three priority areas of climate change action and greenhouse gas emissions reduction, namely energy transition, low-carbon mobility development and green finance facilitation.⁵⁹²¹

South Africa takes actions on all the three main issue areas of the Paris Agreement: greenhouse gases emissions reduction; climate adaptation and resilience; climate finance from a wide variety of sources.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Alexander Ignatov

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with the commitment on climate change.

On 17 February 2021, Turkey released details of measures to curb the impact of climate change on Turkey in the Fight Against Climate Change Declaration which came as the result of discussions and the contributions of scientists and nongovernmental organizations to the government's efforts to address climate change; the Declaration includes: "An action plan for an adaptation strategy to climate change, support for environmentally friendly production practices and investments, and the recycling of waste, among other steps; "Action plans for climate-friendly development for all 7 regions of Turkey, smart-city and zero-waste programs, development of energy-efficient, climate-sensitive residential areas; Strategies for sectors affected by climate change most, namely, agriculture, livestock breeding, tourism, renewable energy and industry; Increasing capacities of solar electricity generation to 10 gigawatts and wind generation to 16 gigawatts by 2030, reducing usage of fossil fuels in buildings by 25 percent by 2023; Support for climate-friendly investments and rewards for investing in clean production technologies, greater access for the public and private sectors to international financial resources to boost their capacity in the fight against climate change; Setting up a Climate Change Research Center which will shape policies on the issue and conduct studies, along with a climate change platform where studies and data on climate change will be shared."⁵⁹²²

On 22 April 2021, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan spoke at the virtual Leaders' Summit on Climate and noted the following aspects: Turkey expects a reduction of its greenhouse gas emission up to 21 percent until 2030 within the framework of the nationally determined contribution presented in 2015 (prevention of total 1.92 billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions); Turkey's installed power capacity has a share of 52.3 percent of renewable energy (6th rank in Europe and 13th in the world); Turkey has launched the zero waste project and will increase the recycling rate to 60 percent by 2035; Turkey believes that the burden of the global fight against climate change should be shared equally; Despite not having ratified the Paris Agreement, Turkey still takes much effort to reduce carbon emissions

⁵⁹²⁰ DBSA Launches Green Bond, DBSA (Johannesburg) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.dbsa.org/press-releases/dbsa-launches-green-bond>

⁵⁹²¹ UK PACT South Africa announces project portfolio of over £3M, British High Commission Pretoria (Pretoria) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-pact-south-africa-announces-project-portfolio-of-over-3m>

⁵⁹²² Turkey sets new goals in fight against climate change, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/turkey-sets-new-goals-in-fight-against-climate-change/news>

and boost renewable energies in line with its national plans, while a recent massive economic reform plan launched by the government has prioritized green transformation.⁵⁹²³

On 31 March 2021, Turkey's fifth largest bank Garanti BBVA announced it would stop financing coal-related activities to encourage sustainable investments and climate action and that the bank's loan portfolio would be cleaned of coal projects by 2040; Garanti BBVA became the first Turkish Bank to take such a decision.⁵⁹²⁴

On 13 April 2021, it was reported that Turkey ranked as the fifth-biggest wind power investor in Europe in 2020 with EUR1.6 billion, according to WindEurope's report.⁵⁹²⁵

On 17 November 2020, it was reported that within Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency's (TIKA) "Breath for the Future" campaign 20,000 trees had been planted across 25 countries.⁵⁹²⁶

On 27 January 2021, it was reported that TIKA installed a solar energy system on the campus of Unite Lebanon Youth Project, a non-profit organization carrying out activities for Palestinian and Syrian refugee children as well as Lebanese people in need.⁵⁹²⁷

Turkey has taken important steps to promote climate change mitigation, adaptation and climate finance both domestically and internationally.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pavel Doronin

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment on addressing climate change.

On 4 December 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a new target to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 68 per cent by 2030, compared to 1990 levels.⁵⁹²⁸

On 25 January 2021, Prime Minister Johnson launched the Adaptation Action Coalition, a new international coalition to tackle the impacts of climate change. Developed by the UK in partnership with Egypt, Bangladesh, Malawi, the Netherlands, Saint Lucia and the United Nations, the new

⁵⁹²³ Turkey expects up to 21 percent decline of emissions until 2030, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/environment/turkey-expects-up-to-21-decline-of-emissions-until-2030/2217416> and Turkey calls on equal share of burden on climate change, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-calls-on-equal-share-of-burden-on-climate-change-164160>

⁵⁹²⁴ Turkey's Garanti BBVA bank to stop financing coal projects, Balkan Green Energy News (Belgrade) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://balkangreenenergynews.com/turkeys-garanti-bbva-bank-to-stop-financing-coal-projects/>

⁵⁹²⁵ Turkey ranks as 5th biggest wind investor in Europe, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-ranks-as-5th-biggest-wind-investor-in-europe-163935>

⁵⁹²⁶ "Breath For the Future" Becomes a Breath for the World, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (Ankara) 17 November 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

http://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/breath_for_the_future_becomes_a_breath_for_the_world-59862

⁵⁹²⁷ TIKA Supplies Power for the Education of Palestinian and Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (Ankara) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. http://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/tika_supplies_power_for_the_education_of_palestinian_and_syrian_refugees_in_lebanon-60968

⁵⁹²⁸ UK sets ambitious new climate target ahead of UN Summit, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-sets-ambitious-new-climate-target-ahead-of-un-summit>

Coalition will work to turn international political commitments made through the UN Call for Action on Adaptation and Resilience into on-the-ground support for vulnerable communities.⁵⁹²⁹

On 9 March 2021, the UK Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions and South Africa announced projects to support South Africa's climate change priorities. The total financing would reach GBP3 million. The selected projects focus on three priority areas of climate change action and greenhouse gas emissions reduction, namely energy transition, low-carbon mobility development and green finance facilitation.⁵⁹³⁰

On 12 March 2021, the UK government launched the Mobilising Finance for Forests Programme. The Programme will use a blended finance investment approach to combat deforestation and other environmentally unsustainable land use practices that are contributing to global climate change. The UK will initially allocate up to GBP150 million across five to six investment funds operating in selected tropical forest regions in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The initiative is expected to attract as much as GBP850 million of green private sector investment.⁵⁹³¹

The United Kingdom has taken action to implement the Paris Agreement addressing all three issue areas: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization.

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

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with the commitment to implement the Paris Agreement.

On 15 January 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency announced the availability of approximately USD46 million grant funding to implement projects reducing emissions from the existing fleet of older diesel engines. Eligible applicants include regional, state, local or tribal agencies, as well as nonprofit organizations, that provide pollution reduction or educational services to diesel fleet owners or promote air quality and clean transportation.⁵⁹³²

On 20 January 2021, President Joseph Biden signed the instrument of acceptance of the Paris Agreement on behalf of the United States.⁵⁹³³

On 20 January 2021, President Biden signed an Executive Order on Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis. The order directed all executive departments and agencies to review and address the promulgation of Federal regulations and other

⁵⁹²⁹ New Global Coalition launched to address impacts of Climate Change, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-global-coalition-launched-to-address-impacts-of-climate-change>

⁵⁹³⁰ UK PACT South Africa announces project portfolio of over £3M, British High Commission Pretoria (Pretoria) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 17 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-pact-south-africa-announces-project-portfolio-of-over-3m>

⁵⁹³¹ £150 million government investment to save the world's rainforests, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/150-million-government-investment-to-save-the-worlds-rainforests>

⁵⁹³² EPA Announces \$46 Million in Funding Available to Reduce Emissions from Diesel Engines, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington, DC) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-46-million-funding-available-reduce-emissions-diesel-engines>

⁵⁹³³ Paris Climate Agreement, Acceptance on Behalf of the United States of America, the White House (Washington, DC) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/01/20/paris-climate-agreement/>

actions taken by the Trump administration that conflict with the objectives of combating climate change, “and to immediately commence work to confront the climate crisis.”⁵⁹³⁴

On 27 January 2021, President Biden issued an Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. According to the text of the document the Biden Administration commits to “putting the climate crisis at the center of United States foreign policy and national security,” including through supporting international emissions reductions efforts. The United States additionally plans to develop “climate finance plan, making strategic use of multilateral and bilateral channels and institutions, to assist developing countries in implementing ambitious emissions reduction measures, protecting critical ecosystems, building resilience against the impacts of climate change, and promoting the flow of capital toward climate-aligned investments and away from high-carbon investments.” The order also mandated all Federal agencies to submit a draft action plan describing specific steps to bolster adaptation and increase resilience to the impacts of climate change.⁵⁹³⁵

On 4 February 2021, President Biden signed an Executive Order on Rebuilding and Enhancing Programs to Resettle Refugees and Planning for the Impact of Climate Change on Migration, mandating the inter-agency report on climate change and its impact on migration, including forced migration, internal displacement, and planned relocation.⁵⁹³⁶

On 22 April 2021, President Biden announced the new target to achieve a 50-52 per cent reduction from 2005 levels in net greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.⁵⁹³⁷

On 7 May 2021, President Biden issued an Executive Order on the Establishment of the Climate Change Support Office. According to the Order, the purpose of the Climate Change Support Office is to “perform the specific project of supporting bilateral and multilateral engagement to advance the United States initiative to address the global climate crisis, led by the Department of State and in coordination with other executive departments and agencies, consistent with Executive Order 14008 of 27 January 2021 (Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad).”⁵⁹³⁸

On 13 May 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency announced the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management as a recipient of USD300,000 grant to assess contaminated properties under the agency’s Brownfields Program. The funds support under-served and economically disadvantaged communities in assessing and cleaning up abandoned industrial and commercial properties. The Agency distributes 154 grant awards across the United States totaling USD66.5

⁵⁹³⁴Executive Order on Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis, the White House (Washington, DC) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-protecting-public-health-and-environment-and-restoring-science-to-tackle-climate-crisis/>

⁵⁹³⁵ Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, the White House (Washington, DC) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/27/executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad/>

⁵⁹³⁶ Executive Order on Rebuilding and Enhancing Programs to Resettle Refugees and Planning for the Impact of Climate Change on Migration, the White House (Washington, DC) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/02/04/executive-order-on-rebuilding-and-enhancing-programs-to-resettle-refugees-and-planning-for-the-impact-of-climate-change-on-migration/>

⁵⁹³⁷ Fact Sheet: President Biden Sets 2030 Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Target Aimed at Creating Good-Paying Union Jobs and Securing U.S. Leadership on Clean Energy Technologies, the White House (Washington, DC) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/22/fact-sheet-president-biden-sets-2030-greenhouse-gas-pollution-reduction-target-aimed-at-creating-good-paying-union-jobs-and-securing-u-s-leadership-on-clean-energy-technologies/>

⁵⁹³⁸ Executive Order on the Establishment of the Climate Change Support Office, the White House (Washington, DC) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/05/07/executive-order-on-the-establishment-of-the-climate-change-support-office/>

million in Brownfield's funding through its Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grants program.⁵⁹³⁹

The United States took action to implement the Paris Agreement addressing all three issue areas: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization.

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

Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment on addressing climate change.

On 10 December 2020, the EU increased its funding of the Climate Investor One to boost renewable energy in Nigeria, including for the benefit of vulnerable communities. This contribution of EUR10 additional million is channeled through the Dutch Development Bank. According to the European Commission, together with the original commitment of EUR30 million, this top-up has the potential to unlock EUR100 million in renewable energy investments from the private sector.⁵⁹⁴⁰

On 24 February 2021, the European Commission adopted a new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, setting out the pathway to prepare for the unavoidable impacts of climate change. The Strategy provides for actions to build a climate resilient society in the EU by improving knowledge of climate impacts and adaptation solutions; stepping up adaptation planning and climate risk assessments; accelerating adaptation action; and helping to strengthen climate resilience globally.⁵⁹⁴¹

On 12 May 2021, the European Commission adopted the EU Action Plan: Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil – a key deliverable of the European Green Deal. The Plan outlines a number of flagship initiatives and actions, including those related to greenhouse gas emissions.⁵⁹⁴²

The EU has taken actions to implement the Paris Agreement addressing all three issue areas: greenhouse gases emissions reduction, climate adaptation and resilience, and climate finance mobilization.

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

Analyst: Andrey Sbelepon

⁵⁹³⁹ EPA Selects Rhode Island Project to Receive \$300K Brownfields Assessment Grant, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington, DC) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-selects-rhode-island-project-receive-300k-brownfields-assessment-grant>

⁵⁹⁴⁰ The European Union injects €10 million in Climate Investor One for the financing of renewable energy projects in Nigeria, European Commission (Brussels) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 5 May 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/european-union-injects-eu10-million-climate-investor-one-financing-renewable-energy-projects_en

⁵⁹⁴¹ Building a Climate-Resilient Future – A new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, European Commission (Brussels) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 5 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_663

⁵⁹⁴² European Green Deal: Commission aims for zero pollution in air, water and soil, European Commission (Brussels) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 14 May 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2345