The
G7 Research Group
at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at Trinity College
in the University of Toronto presents the

2019 G7 Biarritz Summit Interim Report

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

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

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

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

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1. Digital Economy: Digital Infrastructure

"Enabling the necessary digital infrastructure in order to reduce the digital gap and inequality, including in isolated countries and regions that are excluded or underserved."

Biarritz Declaration for the G7 and Africa Partnership: Annex II Digital Transformation in Africa

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada	−1		
France	−1		
Germany			+1
Italy	−1		
Japan			+1
United Kingdom	−1		
United States	−1		
European Union		0	
Average	−0.38 (31%)		

Background

At the 2000 Okinawa Summit, the leaders agreed to the *Okinawa Charter on Global Information Society* which recognized the need to seize opportunities created from Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).[1] The leaders recognised the need to "bridge the digital divide" by providing universal and "affordable" internet access for underserved and "under-privileged" populations.[2] The Okinawa Summit marked the first time digital infrastructure, and addressing the digital gap was in the G7 agenda.

At the 2011 Deauville Summit, the leaders recognized the internet as unique information resource for education, to conduct commerce, drive innovation and to improve efficiency.[3] The leaders recognized the internet as a multi-stakeholder issue and noted broadband internet access as an "essential infrastructure" to enable participation in the digital economy.[4] The leaders also acknowledged the importance of "enhanced access to the Internet" for developing countries to ensure equal opportunities for all.[5]

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 leaders agreed to the *G7 Principles and Actions on Cyber* that promoted the importance of digital innovations to maximize economic growth in the 21st century.[6] The leaders recognized the potential of digital technology to improve quality of life, enable innovation and achieve progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.[7] The G7 leaders

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[1] G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G7 Research Group (Toronto), 23 July 2000. Access Date: 5 November 2019. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm

[2] Okinawa Charter on Global Information Society, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 22 July 2000. Access Date: 15 October 2019. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/gis.htm

[3] G8 Declaration: Renewed Commitment for Freedom and Democracy, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2011. Access Date: 15 October 2019. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-declaration-en.html#internet

[4] G8 Declaration: Renewed Commitment for Freedom and Democracy, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2011. Access Date: 15 October 2019. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-declaration-en.html#internet

[5] G8 Declaration: Renewed Commitment for Freedom and Democracy, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2011. Access Date: 15 October 2019. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-declaration-en.html#internet

[6] G7 Principles and Actions on Cyber, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 5 November 2019. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/cyber.html

[7] G7 Principles and Actions on Cyber, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 5 November 2019. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/cyber.html

committed to supporting measures against the malicious use of cyberspace to protecting privacy and data protection, promoting digital innovation through enabling transparent policy and legal frameworks through ICT standards and to bridge digital divides through ensuring universal and high quality access to ICT.[8] Also, the leaders acknowledged the *Charter of the Digitally Connected World,* which emphasized the role of ICT to enable connectivity and to become a driver of social activities and source of economic growth.[9]

At the 2017 Taomina Summit, G7 leaders recognized the opportunity posed by the Next Production Revolution to improving competitiveness and boosting economic growth through innovation development.[10] The leaders noted the importance of reshaping existing production systems to allow people from all sectors to reap the benefits from innovation and digitalization and to enhance opportunities for all, including women to pursue STEM careers.[11]

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, G7 leaders recognized the threats posed by digital technologies through malicious misuse of information.[12] The leaders recognised the importance to directly engage with internet service providers and social media platforms to improving transparency to prevent illegal use of personal data and breaches of privacy.[13]

At the 2019 Biarritz Summit, G7 leaders recognized the *G7 and Africa Partnership.* This partnership which committed strong support to reduce the digital divide.[14] The leaders recognized the role for digital transformation to "boost economic growth and industrialisation, alleviate poverty and improve lives."[15] The *Digital Transformation in Africa* declaration recognized the role of digital technology to drive innovation, economic growth and job creation in different sectors of the economy.[16] G7 leaders recognized the underlying role of digitalization to maximise the work done in other sectors including in health, energy, transport, agriculture, education in line with good governance and development policies and programs. To that end, G7 leaders recognized the importance of "accessible, secure and reliable internet" to reducing digital gaps and reducing inequalities.[17] The leaders also noted that women and girls especially in rural communities are most likely to be affected by the digital divide and underlined the need to address specific situations in fragile regions of the Sahel, Horn of Africa and Lake Chad regions.[18]

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[8] G7 Principles and Actions on Cyber, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 5 November 2019. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/cyber.html

[9] Charter for the Digitally Connected World, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 30 April 2016. Access Date: 15 October 2019. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/ict/2016-ict-charter.html

[10] G7 Taormina Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 5 November 2019. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html

[11] G7 Taormina Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 5 November 2019. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html

[12] Charlevoix Commitment on Defending Democracy from Foreign Threats, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 7 November 2019. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/democracy-commitment.html

[13] Charlevoix Commitment on Defending Democracy from Foreign Threats, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 7 November 2019. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/democracy-commitment.html

[14] Biarritz Declaration for a G7 & Africa Partnership, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 October 2019. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/biarritz-declaration-africa-partnership.html

[15] Digital Transformation in Africa, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 Oct. 19. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/digital-transformation.html

[16] Digital Transformation in Africa, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 Oct. 19. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/digital-transformation.html

[17] Digital Transformation in Africa, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 Oct. 19. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/digital-transformation.html

[18] Digital Transformation in Africa, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 Oct. 19. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/digital-transformation.html

Commitment Features

Within this framework of digital infrastructure and reducing digital divides, "enabling" is understood as supporting and providing support to make the necessary steps required to build and run digital infrastructure. This support can be in various forms such as through financial, technical or other measures of support. "Digital infrastructure" is understood as the basic physical and organizational structures and facilities needed for the operation of the internet. This includes all forms of digital infrastructure supported or developed by G7 members that support the access of digital information or the functions of the internet. Examples of supporting digital infrastructure can include financing installation of fixed and mobile infrastructure, fiber optic cables, mobile broadcasting stations, cell towers and terminal facilities used for interconnections.

The terms digital inequality, digital gap and digital divide are used interchangeably. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's glossary of statistical terms defines the "digital divide" as "the gap between individuals, households, businesses and geographic areas at different socio-economic levels with regard to both their opportunities to access information and communication technologies (ICTs) and to their use of the Internet for a wide variety of activities."[19] Moreover, digital divides can reflect various differences both among and within countries with regard to access to digital resources.[20] Examples of initiatives to reduce the digital divide include the financing or provision of subsidies, gifts or grants that use digital infrastructure to support the learning or reduction of digital gaps.

"Underserved" refers to groups that have been inadequately provided with a service of a facility. In this context, it refers to sub-Saharan African countries. Lack of access to digital infrastructure for individuals in these countries and regions can be due to a wide range of barriers including financial or physical accessibility, educational accessibility or other forms of barriers, all contributing to widen the digital divide. As this commitment was made in the Biarritz Declaration for the G7 and Africa Partnership: Annex II Digital Transformation in Africa this report analysis G7 efforts to enable digital infrastructure in Africa's isolated and underserved countries and regions. "Isolated" refers to countries that are geographically, or infrastructurally separate. For compliance, isolated countries will be those within regions of the Sahel, Sahara, Savanna, Ethiopian Highlands and Swahili Coast. Isolated countries for compliance include Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Sahel region countries include, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger Nigeria, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan. Sahara region countries include Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Sudan and Tunisia. Savanna region countries include Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leonne, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Ethiopian Highland countries include Eretria and Ethiopia. Countries in the Swahili Coast region include Comoros, Kenya, Mozambique, Somalia and Tanzania.

To achieve full compliance, G7 members must: 1. enable digital infrastructure in multiple isolated/excluded/underserved countries, and 2. enable digital infrastructure in multiple isolated/excluded/underserved regions. Actions must be taken in multiple countries, and regions to achieve a score of full compliance.

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[19]Glossary of Statistical Terms - Digital Divide, OECD (Paris), 5 August 2002. Access Date: 15 October 2019. https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=4719
[20]Glossary of Statistical Terms - Digital Divide, OECD (Paris), 5 August 2002. Access Date: 15 October 2019. https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=4719

If a G7 member takes action to: 1 enable digital infrastructure in one isolated/excluded/underserved country, and 2. enable digital infrastructure in one isolated/excluded/underserved region, a score of 0 or partial compliance will be assigned. A score of partial compliance will also be given if a G7 member takes plural actions in one of the two thresholds of the commitment.

A score of −1, or no compliance, will be assigned if a G7 member takes action to: 1. enable digital infrastructure in one isolated/excluded/underserved country, or 2. enable digital infrastructure in one isolated/excluded/underserved region. A score of no compliance, will also be awarded if a G7 member takes no action to either of the two thresholds of the commitment.

Scoring Guidelines

−1	G7 member takes action to enable digital infrastructure in ONE isolated/excluded/ underserved country OR enable digital infrastructure in ONE isolated/excluded/ underserved region OR takes no action towards either of the aforementioned thresholds.
0	G7 member takes action to enable digital infrastructure in ONE isolated/excluded/ underserved country AND enable digital infrastructure in ONE isolated/excluded/ underserved region OR takes plural actions in one of the two thresholds of the commitment.
+1	G7 member takes actions to enable digital infrastructure in multiple isolated/excluded/ underserved countries AND takes actions to enable digital infrastructure in multiple isolated/excluded/underserved regions.

Compliance Director: Joe Wu
Lead Analyst: Priscilla Layarda

Canada: −1

Canada has failed to comply with its commitment to either enable digital infrastructure in one isolated/excluded/underserved country and one isolated/excluded/underserved region, or take plural actions in one of the two thresholds.

On 27 August 2019, a funding partnership of CAD6.7 million was signed by Sustainable Development Technology Canada owned by the Canadian Federal government and Ecopia Tech to digitally map the Sub-Saharan African Region.[21] The project intends to promote data-driven decisions in African countries in areas including the environment, economy, health care and vaccination, and infrastructure.[22] The project expects a total of 38 million kilometres of roads, 342 million buildings and 582 million hectares of forest to be included in the digital map.[23]

Canada's action enabled the development digital infrastructure in one isolated/excluded/underserved region.

Thus, Canada receives a score of −1.[24]

Analyst: Omar Abdellatif

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[21] Sub-Saharan Africa: Canada funds first digital map for renewables, Smart Energy International (Rondebosch) 27 August 2019. Access Date: 09 December 2019. https://www.smart-energy.com/industry-sectors/business-finance-regulation/sub-saharan-africa-canada-funds-first-digital-map-for-renewables/

[22] Sub-Saharan Africa: Canada funds first digital map for renewables, Smart Energy International (Rondebosch) 27 August 2019. Access Date: 09 December 2019. https://www.smart-energy.com/industry-sectors/business-finance-regulation/sub-saharan-africa-canada-funds-first-digital-map-for-renewables/

[23] Sub-Saharan Africa: Canada funds first digital map for renewables, Smart Energy International (Rondebosch) 27 August 2019. Access Date: 09 December 2019. https://www.smart-energy.com/industry-sectors/business-finance-regulation/sub-saharan-africa-canada-funds-first-digital-map-for-renewables/

[24] This non-compliance was determined after a deep search of the following websites: www.international.gc.ca, www.cbc.ca, www.bbc.com, www.business.financialpost.com, www.economist.com.

France: −1

France has failed to comply with its commitment to either enable digital infrastructure in one isolated/excluded/underserved country and one isolated/excluded/underserved region, or take plural actions in one of the two thresholds.

On 9 December 2019, France announced that it had created a EUR15 million seed fund to expand Africa's "digital ecosystem."[25] This fund seek to help small and medium enterprises in 45 African countries which lacks funding.[26] The Agence Française de Développement (AFD) will be running this initiative.[27] Each emerging start-up can receive a maximum of EUR300,000 via "AFD's local partners."[28]

France has taken action on fostering digital innovation, however, has not worked to enable digital infrastructure in one isolated/excluded/underserved country and one isolated/excluded/underserved region, or take plural actions in one of the two thresholds.

Thus, France receives a score of −1.[29]

Analyst: Mark Edwards

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to either enable digital infrastructure in one isolated/excluded/underserved country and one isolated/excluded/underserved region, or take plural actions in one of the two thresholds.

On 30 October 2019, Germany held the 6th German-African Healthcare Forum, sponsored by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), where a "recurring theme" was "the need for support with IT-infrastructure."[30]

On 18 November 2019, Germany announced the launch of seven flagship digital projects in Africa.[31] The BMZ announced an investment of EUR270 Million in over 200 digital projects across Africa.[32] Development Minister Gerd Müeller announced the launch of the Africa Cloud Initiative that will

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[25] AFD Group: Driver For African Start-Ups, Agence française de développement (AFD) (Paris). 09 December 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.afd.fr/en/afd-group-driver-african-start-ups

[26] AFD Group: Driver For African Start-Ups, Agence française de développement (AFD) (Paris). 09 December 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.afd.fr/en/afd-group-driver-african-start-ups

[27] AFD: Towards A World In Common, Agence française de développement (AFD) (Paris). Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.afd.fr/en

[28] AFD Group: Driver For African Start-Ups, Agence française de développement (AFD) (Paris). 09 December 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.afd.fr/en/afd-group-driver-african-start-ups

[29] This non-compliance was determined after a deep search of the following websites: www.gouvernement.fr, www.afd.fr, www.diplomatie.gouv.fr, www.franceintheus.org.

[30]African ministers meet German innovators and investors, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. 30 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. shttp://health.bmz.de/events/Events_2019/african_ministers_meet_german_innovators_investors/index.html

[31] Minister Muller announces launch of Africa Cloud initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. 18 November 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118_pm_065_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html

[32] Minister Muller announces launch of Africa Cloud initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. 18 November 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118_pm_065_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html

provide "e-learning opportunities to young people in remote and rural areas of Africa."[33] Other projects include the Digital Africa Initiative, with EUR150 million distributed between over 50 project to "strengthen good governance using internet-based public participation methods,"[34] the Make-IT Initiative that focuses on "supporting the digital start-up scene" in countries such as Kenya, Rwanda, Nigeria Ghana and Tunisia, [35] and Digital Centres to provide technical expertise, information technology theory and digital entrepreneurship "under one roof."[36] To date, Digital Centres have been built in Tunisia, Senegal, Kenya, Ghana and Rwanda with the aim of enabling a "pan-African network."[37]

On 26 November 2019, Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel spoke about the necessity of "improv[ing] internet access and equal participation in the digital transformation."[38]

Germany's actions have enabled digital infrastructure in multiple isolated/excluded/underserved countries and regions.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Mark Edwards

Italy: −1

Italy has failed to comply with its commitment to either enable digital infrastructure in one isolated/ excluded/underserved country and one isolated/excluded/underserved region, or take plural actions in one of the two thresholds.

On 13 December 2019, Italy's Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Emanuela Del Re, hosted an inaugural meeting of the South Africa-Italy Bilateral Consultations with the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, Alvin Botes.[39]

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[33] Minister Muller announces launch of Africa Cloud initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. 18 November 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019.
http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118_pm_065_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html

[34] Minister Muller announces launch of Africa Cloud initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. 18 November 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019.
http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118_pm_065_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html

[35] Minister Muller announces launch of Africa Cloud initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. 18 November 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019.
http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118_pm_065_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html

[36] Minister Muller announces launch of Africa Cloud initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. 18 November 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019.
http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118_pm_065_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html

[37] Minister Muller announces launch of Africa Cloud initiative, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. 18 November 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019.
http://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2019/november/191118_pm_065_Minister-Mueller-announces-launch-of-Africa-Cloud-initiative/index.html

[38] Speech by Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel opening the 14th Annual Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum in Berlin on 26 November 2019, Federal Ministry on Economic Cooperation and Development. 26 November 2019. Access Date: 26 November 2019. https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/speech-by-federal-chancellor-dr-angela-merkel-opening-the-14th-annual-meeting-of-the-internet-governance-forum-in-berlin-on-26-november-2019-1701494

[39] Deputy Minister Botes to host Bilateral Consultations with his Italian counterpart, Department of Foreign Affairs (Pretoria). 30 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2019/media1212.htm

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Minister Del Re emphasized Italy's wish to enhance their relationship through investments and technologies.[40]

Italy's actions have not enabled digital infrastructure in one isolated/excluded/underserved country and region.

Thus, Italy receives a score of −1.[41]

Analyst: Priscilla Layarda

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to either enable digital infrastructure in one isolated/excluded/underserved country and one isolated/excluded/underserved region, or take plural actions in one of the two thresholds.

From 28 August to 30 August 2019, Japan co-hosted the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) with the United Nations, United Nations Development Programme, World Bank, and African Union (AU) Commission .[42] The conference was attended by "42 African leaders from 53 African countries, 52 development partner countries, 108 heads of international and regional organizations, and representatives of civil society and the private sector."[43] Japan pledged to assist the development of digital infrastructure in Africa through "develop[ing]5,000 highly skilled people for Science Technology and Innovation (STI) [including artificial intelligence] at Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST) and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)."[44] E-JUST received 150 African students to develop their "information and communications technology (ICT) talents."[45] Other areas of cooperation include developing ICT talents through "supporting the development, operation and utilization of small satellites, including small satellites deployment from the Japanese Experiment module "kibo" of International Space Station and satellite data to solve social issues."[46]

Between 28 August and 31 August 2019, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe "held 47 meetings with leaders from 42 countries and the chair of the AU Commission, 3 heads of international organizations and 1 private invitee," while Foreign Minister Kono Taro "held 25 bilateral meetings with ministers of African countries and heads of international organizations." In one of the meetings on 29 August 2019 between Mr. Kono Taro and H. Dr. Unity Dow, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International

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[40]Del Re Attends Italy-South Africa Bilateral Political Consultations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome). 13 December 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/2019/12/del-re-a-consultazioni-politiche-bilaterali-italia-sudafrica.html

[41] This non-compliance was determined after a deep search of the following websites: www.esteri.it, www.dirco.gov.za, www.worldbank.org, www.bbc.com, www.business.financialpost.com, www.economist.com.

[42] The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) (Yokohama, 28th - 30th August, 2019), Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/afr/af2/page25e_000274.html

[43] The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) (Yokohama, 28th - 30th August, 2019), Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/afr/af2/page25e_000274.html

[44] Summary of results, Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000521256.pdf

[45] Summary of results, Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000521256.pdf

[46] Summary of results, Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000521256.pdf

Cooperation of the Republic of Botswana,[47] Japan expressed its support for Botswana "in expanding the use of the Japanese system of the digital terrestrial broadcasting that Botswana has adopted."[48]

Japan's actions have enabled the development of digital infrastructure in multiple isolated/excluded/underserved region and multiple isolated/excluded/underserved countries.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Lauren Hung

United Kingdom: −1

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to enable digital infrastructure in multiple isolated/excluded/underserved countries and multiple isolated/excluded/underserved regions.

On 6 May 2019, Secretary of Britain's Department of International Development urged "basic connectivity of underserved communities, digital skills and investment in EdTech solutions, support in digital ID [identification] deployment, partnerships on digital financial services, and the promotion of digital ecosystems and entrepreneurship."[49] The secretary, however, did not elaborate on the specific plans to improve such conditions.

On 14 October 2019, United Kingdom's Minister for Africa, Andrew Stephenson, announced the UK-Africa Investment Summit which will take place on 20 January 2020. The summit aims to "mobilise new and substantial investment to create jobs and boost mutual prosperity"[50] through commercial partnerships in building technological infrastructure.[51] Additionally, it was announced that an Infrastructure Commission was established to secure sustainable development and technological innovation in Africa.[52]

United Kingdom's actions promise to but have not enabled digital infrastructure in one isolated/excluded/underserved country or region.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of −1.[53]

Analyst: Michael Levinson

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[47] Japan-Botswana Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/afr/af2/bw/page3e_001073.html

[48] Japan-Botswana Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/afr/af2/bw/page3e_001073.html

[49] Achieving Africa's Digital Transformation is an Ambition that Requires Game-changing cooperation, The World Bank (United States) May 6, 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2019/05/06/achieving-africas-digital-transformation-is-an-ambition-that-requires-game-changing-cooperation.

[50] UK-Africa Investment Summit 2020, GOV.UK (United Kingdom) N.D. Access Date: 16 December 2019. https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/uk-africa-investment-summit-2020/about.

[51] FT Africa Summit 2019: Minister for Africa's speech, GOV.UK (United Kingdom) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/speech-by-andrew-stephenson-minister-for-africa-to-ft-africa-summit-october-2019.

[52] FT Africa Summit 2019: Minister for Africa's speech, GOV.UK (United Kingdom) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/speech-by-andrew-stephenson-minister-for-africa-to-ft-africa-summit-october-2019.

[53] This non-compliance was determined after a deep search of the following websites: www.gov.uk, www.worldbank.org, www.bbc.com, www.economist.com, www.ft.com.

United States: −1

The United States has failed to comply with its commitment to either enable digital infrastructure in one isolated/excluded/underserved country and one isolated/excluded/underserved region, or take plural actions in one of the two thresholds.

On 30 September 2019, the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) in partnership with Atlas Mara announced an agreement to provide USD200 million in financing for the Union Bank of Nigeria to support inclusive lending across Nigeria.[54] The loan will enable investments in digitization, lending to Small and Medium Enterprises and funding for women-led businesses as part of the 2X Women's Initiative.[55]

On 12 November 2019, at the Africa Investment Forum in Johannesburg, South Africa, Adam Boehler, Chief Executive Officer of the DFC announced at the first disbursement of a USD40 Million loan to Tetra4 Proprietary Ltd. to support the development of critical gas infrastructure and advance energy security in South Africa.[56] The project will introduce new technology to South Africa with important applications in telecommunications and other sectors.[57]

The United States' actions have not enabled digital infrastructure in one isolated/excluded/ underserved country and or region.

Thus, the United States receives a score of −1.[58]

Analyst: Michael Levinson

European Union: 0

The European Union partially complied with its commitment to enable digital infrastructure in multiple isolated/excluded/underserved countries and multiple isolated/excluded/underserved regions.

On 15 October 2019, the official launch of the "Digital Explorers" programme financed by the European Commission Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs took place in the Lithuanian capital.[59] The programme aims to enhance the EU-African cooperation in information and communication technologies (ICT).[60] Lithuanian experts will engage with Nigerian ICT specialists in efforts to digitalize public services, secure critical cyber infrastructures, and develop

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[54] Atlas Mara, OPIC and UBN Partner to Fund $200 Million for Inclusive Lending in Nigeria, US International Development Finance Corporation (Washington). 30 September 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. https://www.dfc.gov/media/opic-press-releases/atlas-mara-opic-and-ubn-partner-fund-200-million-inclusive-lending

[55] Atlas Mara, OPIC and UBN Partner to Fund $200 Million for Inclusive Lending in Nigeria, US International Development Finance Corporation (Washington). 30 September 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. https://www.dfc.gov/media/opic-press-releases/atlas-mara-opic-and-ubn-partner-fund-200-million-inclusive-lending

[56] U.S. Provides Financing to Tetra4 to Develop Energy Infrastructure in South Africa, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (Washington, DC) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. https://www.dfc.gov/media/press-releases/us-provides-financing-tetra4-develop-energy-infrastructure-south-africa

[57] Information Summary for the Public, OPIC (United States) N.D. Access Date: 15 December 2019. https://www.opic.gov/sites/default/files/files/9000083060.pdf.

[58] This non-compliance was determined after a deep search of the following websites: www.dfc.gov, www.opic.gov, www.eda.gov, www.worldbank.org.

[59] "Digital Explorers" at the Forefront of EU - Africa Digital Partnership, Enterprise Lithuania (Vilnius) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.enterpriselithuania.com/en/news/digital-explorers-forefront-eu-africa-digital-partnership/

[60] "Digital Explorers" at the Forefront of EU - Africa Digital Partnership, Enterprise Lithuania (Vilnius) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.enterpriselithuania.com/en/news/digital-explorers-forefront-eu-africa-digital-partnership/

mobile products or e-commerce platforms in Africa and Nigeria.[61] Elijus Čivilis, the Vice Minister of Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania stated: "the programme brings together public, non-profit and private organizations from EU, Lithuania and Nigeria and looks for innovative ways for exploiting the potential of digitalization."[62]

On 12 November 2019, simultaneously in Luxembourg at the European Investment Bank (EIB) headquarters and at the Africa Investment Forum in Johannesburg, South Africa, the EIB launched the SheInvest initiative mobilising EUR1 billion for women across Africa.[63] Guided by the 2X Challenge Criteria, the EIB aims to invest in projects, sectors and markets that have "transformative effects on gender equality and can increase the capacity of women and girls to participate in the economy and labour market."[64] The initiative will provide technical assistance in providing capacity building and mentoring to women entrepreneurs to "better access finance" and to design "financial products tailored to their needs."[65] The initiative will focus on investment in "innovative digital solutions and financial products" to reach women and girls often excluded from such services to "increase the economic opportunities and social inclusion."[66]

On 18 December 2019, the European Union granted the "Africa Connect" project, EUR30 million to fund the implementation of the third phase of the project, connecting 800 academic institutions across the African continent with high-speed internet capacity and affordable connectivity.[67] The fund will be distributed to three research and academic networks, each covering a different region: UbuntuNet Alliance (Eastern and Southern Africa), WACREN (Western and Central Africa), and ASREN (Northern Africa and Middle East).The European Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen stated: "affordable high-speed broadband connectivity enables African youths, students, and researchers to boost collaborative scientific research with their peers around the world to help them tackle challenges in Africa. This is an important step towards tackling the digital divide."[68]

The European Union has taken actions to enable digital infrastructure in multiple isolated/excluded/underserved regions and one isolated/excluded/underserved country.

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[61] "Digital Explorers" at the Forefront of EU - Africa Digital Partnership, Enterprise Lithuania (Vilnius) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.enterpriselithuania.com/en/news/digital-explorers-forefront-eu-africa-digital-partnership/

[62] "Digital Explorers" at the Forefront of EU - Africa Digital Partnership, Enterprise Lithuania (Vilnius) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. https://www.enterpriselithuania.com/en/news/digital-explorers-forefront-eu-africa-digital-partnership/

[63] SheInvest-New Initiative to mobilise EUR 1 billion for women across Africa, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019 https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-306-sheinvest-new-initiative-to-mobilise-eur-1-billion-for-women-across-africa

[64] SheInvest-New Initiative to mobilise EUR 1 billion for women across Africa, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019 https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-306-sheinvest-new-initiative-to-mobilise-eur-1-billion-for-women-across-africa

[65] SheInvest-New Initiative to mobilise EUR 1 billion for women across Africa, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019 https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-306-sheinvest-new-initiative-to-mobilise-eur-1-billion-for-women-across-africa

[66] SheInvest-New Initiative to mobilise EUR 1 billion for women across Africa, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019 https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-306-sheinvest-new-initiative-to-mobilise-eur-1-billion-for-women-across-africa

[67] Africa-Europe Alliance: EU boosts pan-African Internet connectivity with €30 million, European Commission (Brussels) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/africa-europe-alliance-eu-boosts-pan-african-internet-connectivity-eu30-million_en

[68] Africa-Europe Alliance: EU boosts pan-African Internet connectivity with €30 million, European Commission (Brussels) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/africa-europe-alliance-eu-boosts-pan-african-internet-connectivity-eu30-million_en

Thus, the European Union receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Omar Abdellatif