

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

27 August 2019 — 20 December 2019

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

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

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

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



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Contents

Preface	3
Research Team	4
Executive Summary.....	6
The Interim Compliance Score	6
Compliance by Member	6
Compliance by Commitment.....	6
The Compliance Gap Between Members.....	6
Future Research and Reports.....	6
Table A: 2019 Priority Commitments Selected for Assessment	7
Table B: 2019 G7 Biarritz Interim Compliance Scores	9
Table C: 2019 G7 Biarritz Interim Compliance Scores by Member	10
Table D: 2019 G7 Biarritz Interim Compliance Scores by Commitment	11
1. Digital Economy: Digital Infrastructure.....	12
2. Digital Economy: Digital Democracy.....	23
3. Digital Economy: Artificial Intelligence	37
4. Gender: Gender Equality.....	50
5. Gender Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa	70
6. Gender: Women’s Entrepreneurship in Africa.....	83
7. Gender: STEM Education.....	99
8. Regional Security: Iran.....	112
9. Regional Security: G5 Sahel Security and Development.....	128
10. Regional Security: G5 Sahel Police.....	145
11. Development: G5 Sahel	157
12. Development: Sustainable Development Goals.....	171
13. Development: Entrepreneurship in Africa.....	191
14. Trade: World Trade Organization Reform	201
15. Trade: Tax Policy.....	209
16. Health: Primary Health Care	221
17. Health: Universal Health Coverage.....	235
18. Health: Mental Health	269
19. Environment: Biodiversity.....	284
20. Crime and Corruption: Procurement.....	299
21. Education: G5 Sahel	308

4. Gender: Gender Equality

“Aside from our domestic commitments, we stand ready to support interested countries through our different expertise and development mechanisms to adopt, implement and monitor laws that remedy this and advance gender equality.”

G7 Biarritz Leaders’ Communiqué

Assessment

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

Background

The G7/G8 members initially recognized gender equality in 2000 as an issue in context of schooling and education. At the 2002 Kananaskis Summit, members committed to supporting African efforts to promote gender equality and empowerment of women.²³⁹ At the 2006 St. Petersburg Summit, members expressed regret towards not meeting interim targets to eliminate disparities in gender equality in primary and secondary education, and reaffirmed commitment to achieve gender equality in schooling by 2015.²⁴⁰

Gender equality was acknowledged as an aspect of promoting good governance for the first time at the 2007 Heiligendamm Summit. Furthermore, members also committed to working together to stop sexual exploitation and gender-based violence at the 2007 summit.²⁴¹ The 2008 Hokkaido Toyako Summit was the first time when gender equality and women’s empowerment were considered an important principle of development.²⁴² At the 2014 Brussels Summit, members recognized the necessity to promote gender equality and to end all forms of violence and discrimination against girls and women, specifically by ending child, early and forced marriage and promoting empowerment of all women and girls.²⁴³ At the 2015 Elmau Summit, members once again reaffirmed their commitment to promote gender equality and empowerment of women.²⁴⁴ At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, members agreed to integrate gender equality within all policy areas of the United Nations

²³⁹ All G7/8 Commitments, 1975-2012, G7/8 (Toronto). Access date: 13 October 2019.

http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/G8_commitments-to-2012.pdf

²⁴⁰ All G7/8 Commitments, 1975-2012, G7/8 (Toronto). Access date: 13 October 2019.

http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/G8_commitments-to-2012.pdf

²⁴¹ All G7/8 Commitments, 1975-2012, G7/8 (Toronto). Access date: 13 October 2019.

http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/G8_commitments-to-2012.pdf

²⁴² G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Declaration: Hokkaido Toyako Summit, G7 (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Access date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>

²⁴³ G7 Brussels Summit Declaration: Brussels Summit, G7 (Brussels) 5 June 2014. Access date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>

²⁴⁴ G7 Leaders’ Declaration: Elmau, G7 (Elmau) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Members at this summit also acknowledged the need to continue promoting gender equality and empowerment of women.²⁴⁵

The 2017 Taormina Summit was monumental for the G7's recognition of mainstreaming gender equality into all policies. Focus was directed towards ensuring economic gender equality, including – but not limited to – reducing the gender wage gap. Members not only recognized gender equality as fundamental for fulfilling human rights, but also adopted the first “G7 Roadmap for a Gender-Responsive Economic Environment.” The Roadmap outlines structural policies falling within central governments’ jurisdiction that will “have the greatest impact in delivering gender equality.” This roadmap was developed with outcomes of previous G7 presidencies and other relevant international frameworks including 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and Women’s 7 Forum – Starting from Girls.²⁴⁶

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, G7 members renewed their recognition of gender equality as fundamental for fulfillment of human rights, and reaffirmed their commitment to advance gender equality and end gender-based violence. These objectives were endorsed in the “Charlevoix Commitment to End Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Abuse and Harassment in Digital Contexts.”²⁴⁷

Commitment Features

The G7 commitment is to “stand ready to support interested countries through our different expertise and development mechanisms to adopt, implement and monitor laws that remedy this and advance gender equality” aside from domestic commitments. In this commitment, there are two targets – to adopt, implement and monitor laws that: 1. remedy the effect of discriminatory laws and lack of legal protection, and 2. to support interested countries in advancing gender equality. The instruments to achieve these targets are different expertise and development mechanisms.

“Adopt” is understood to mean to accept formally and put into effect.

“Implement” is understood to mean 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, for steps to be considered implementation, they need to be taken in the near future. This should not, therefore, be interpreted to mean only prolonged or delayed action.

“Monitor” is understood to mean to watch, to keep track of or check usually for a special purpose.

“Laws” are understood to be binding customs or practices of community, rules of conduct or actions prescribed or formally recognized as binding or enforced by a controlling authority.

To “stand ready” is understood to be prepared mentally or physically for some experience or action.

“Expertise” is understood to mean the skills of an expert.

“Development mechanisms” should be understood as establishment of new initiatives and projects within an area.

²⁴⁵ G7 Leaders’ Declaration: Ise-Shima Summit, G7 (Ise-Shima) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>

²⁴⁶ G7 Roadmap for a gender-response economic environment, G7 (Taormina) 27 May 2017. Access date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/gender.html>

²⁴⁷ G7 Charlevoix Summit Declaration: Charlevoix Summit, G7 (Charlevoix) 5 June 2018. Access date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>

Part One: Remedy Discriminatory Laws and Lack of Legal Protection

“Remedy” is understood to mean a measure that corrects or counteracts an action or circumstance.

“Discriminatory laws” refer to legal and legislative frameworks that may disproportionately disadvantage citizens belonging to a specific gender group and/or enable violence against them.

“Legal protection” is understood to be the benefit or safety which the government affords to its citizens.

Full compliance within part one is achieved through using expertise and development mechanisms to correct discriminatory laws and/or create and implement laws that provide legal protection to populations that are discriminated against.

Part Two: Advancing Gender Equality

To “advance” is to be understood as move or push forward, make progress, give active support to, promote, or cause an event to occur at an earlier date.

“Gender equality” as defined by European Institute of Gender Equality refers to equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of men and women and girls and boys. Equality does not mean that they will be the same; rather, rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on the gender one identifies as. The term implies that interests, needs and priorities of all genders are taken into consideration and diversity should be recognized. Gender equality should be viewed as a human rights issue and a “precondition for and indicator of sustainable people-centred development.”²⁴⁸

Full compliance within part two is achieved through aiding interested countries in creating new laws surrounding gender equality in any policy sector. Examples include, but are not limited to, reducing wage gap, creating equal opportunity workplaces, improving access to equal education and reducing gender-based violence.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G7 member does not stand ready to remedy the effect of discriminatory laws and lack of legal protection AND does not move to support interested countries in advancing gender equality.
0	G7 member stands ready to remedy the effect of discriminatory laws and lack of legal protection OR moves to support interested countries in advancing gender equality.
+1	G7 member stands ready to remedy the effect of discriminatory laws and lack of legal protection AND moves to support interested countries in advancing gender equality.

*Compliance Director: Drishti Thakkar
Lead Analyst: Kaylin Dave*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to stand ready to remedy the effect of discriminatory laws and lack of legal protection and move to support interested countries in advancing gender equality.

On 4 September 2019, Member of Parliament for Egmont Bobby Morrisey announced that the federal government will be investing CAD242,393 to the Mi’kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward

²⁴⁸ Gender Mainstreaming Concepts and Definitions, European Institute of Gender Equality. Access date: 13 October 2019. <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/concepts-and-definitions>

Island to bolster women's economic security.²⁴⁹ The funds will be used for 45 different projects that will assist Indigenous women's economic development.²⁵⁰

On 29 October 2019, all states of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), of which Canada is a member, adopted Resolution 2492 which promotes a women, peace and security agenda.²⁵¹ UNSC urges members to facilitate full and equal participation of women at every stage of peacebuilding processes, to address threats and violence against women and to increase number of civilian and uniformed women in peacekeeping operations.²⁵²

On 25 November 2019, Minister of Foreign Affairs Honourable François-Philippe Champagne and Minister of International Development Honourable Karina Gould issued a statement for International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.²⁵³ In this statement, they recognized that women and girls are vulnerable to sexual assault and it has long-lasting effects in both peace and in war. As such, they reaffirmed Canada's commitment to help eliminate gender-based violence using diplomacy and advocacy.²⁵⁴

On 3 December 2019, Jamaica's Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport Honourable Olivia Grange announced that the High Commission of Canada in Jamaica will offer five grants to local organisations to advance gender equality, peace and security in the communities they serve across the island.²⁵⁵ Organizations include the Boxing Board of Jamaica, National Youth Orchestra of Jamaica, Peace Management Initiative, Institute of Law and Economics, and Advocates for Change.²⁵⁶ The money will be used by each organization in order to further their mandates, specifically those that relate to gender equality.²⁵⁷

²⁴⁹ Government of Canada announces investment that will help improve women's economic security in Prince Edward Island, Government of Canada (Summerside) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2019/09/government-of-canada-announces-investment-that-will-help-improve-womens-economic-security-in-prince-edward-island.html>

²⁵⁰ Government of Canada announces investment that will help improve women's economic security in Prince Edward Island, Government of Canada (Summerside) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 28 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2019/09/government-of-canada-announces-investment-that-will-help-improve-womens-economic-security-in-prince-edward-island.html>

²⁵¹ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>.

²⁵² Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>.

²⁵³ Statement to mark International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Government of Canada, 25 November 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/11/statement-to-mark-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women.html>.

²⁵⁴ Statement to mark International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Government of Canada, 25 November 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/11/statement-to-mark-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women.html>.

²⁵⁵ Canada Gives Grants to Local Organizations to Advance Gender Equality, Jamaican Information Service (Jamaica) 3 December 2019. Accessed Date: 6 December 2019. <https://jis.gov.jm/canada-gives-grants-to-local-organisations-to-advance-gender-equality/>.

²⁵⁶ Canada Gives Grants to Local Organizations to Advance Gender Equality, Jamaican Information Service (Jamaica) 3 December 2019. Accessed Date: 6 December 2019. <https://jis.gov.jm/canada-gives-grants-to-local-organisations-to-advance-gender-equality/>.

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On 4 December 2019, Status of Women Ministers met to discuss priorities regarding advancing gender equality.²⁵⁸ At this meeting, they highlighted the importance of women’s empowerment and leadership; combatting gender-based violence such as cyber violence, human trafficking and domestic violence; fostering safety amongst Indigenous women and girls and LGBTQ2S communities.²⁵⁹

On 9 December 2019, Minister of International Development Honourable Karina Gould declared that Canada will provide CAD21 million over five years to “support a gender-sensitive approach to women’s reproductive health services in Pakistan” as part of the United Nations-led “Healthy Families Pakistan” initiative.²⁶⁰ It will also aim to tackle underlying factors that prevent women and girls from accessing health services.²⁶¹

On 10 December 2019, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada Honourable David Lametti announced CAD1.7 million will be allocated towards two Prince Edward Island organizations over the next five years.²⁶² The organizations are the Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commission (PEIHRC) and the Community Legal Information Association (CLIA) that help victims of sexual harassment in the workplace seek justice.²⁶³ This will allow the PEIHRC to launch a public awareness campaign and training to prevent and identify sexual harassment in the workplace.²⁶⁴ Moreover, the funding will allow the CLIA to provide free legal advice to victims and work alongside the PEIHRC for their public awareness campaign.²⁶⁵

Canada has demonstrated its dedication to remedy the effects of discriminatory laws through its numerous regional projects that aim to educate individuals on gender-based violence and how to seek

²⁵⁸ Status of Women Ministers Meet in Victoria to Chart the Way Forward and Advance Gender Equality, Government of Canada (Victoria) 4 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2019/12/status-of-women-ministers-meet-in-victoria-to-chart-the-way-forward-and-advance-gender-equality.html>.

²⁵⁹ Status of Women Ministers Meet in Victoria to Chart the Way Forward and Advance Gender Equality, Government of Canada (Victoria) 4 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2019/12/status-of-women-ministers-meet-in-victoria-to-chart-the-way-forward-and-advance-gender-equality.html>.

²⁶⁰ Minister Gould announces new support for women’s reproductive health services in Pakistan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/12/minister-gould-announces-new-support-for-womens-reproductive-health-services-in-pakistan.html>.

²⁶¹ Minister Gould announces new support for women’s reproductive health services in Pakistan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/12/minister-gould-announces-new-support-for-womens-reproductive-health-services-in-pakistan.html>.

²⁶² Government of Canada supports initiatives to address workplace sexual harassment in Prince Edward Island, Government of Canada (Charlottetown) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-justice/news/2019/12/government-of-canada-supports-initiatives-to-address-workplace-sexual-harassment-in-prince-edward-island.html>.

²⁶³ Government of Canada supports initiatives to address workplace sexual harassment in Prince Edward Island, Government of Canada (Charlottetown) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-justice/news/2019/12/government-of-canada-supports-initiatives-to-address-workplace-sexual-harassment-in-prince-edward-island.html>.

²⁶⁴ Government of Canada supports initiatives to address workplace sexual harassment in Prince Edward Island, Government of Canada (Charlottetown) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-justice/news/2019/12/government-of-canada-supports-initiatives-to-address-workplace-sexual-harassment-in-prince-edward-island.html>.

²⁶⁵ Government of Canada supports initiatives to address workplace sexual harassment in Prince Edward Island, Government of Canada (Charlottetown) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-justice/news/2019/12/government-of-canada-supports-initiatives-to-address-workplace-sexual-harassment-in-prince-edward-island.html>.

justice or aid. It has also taken measures to support interested countries, Jamaica and Pakistan, advance gender equality.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Aliya Hemani

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to stand ready to remedy the effect of discriminatory laws and lack of legal protection and move to support interested countries in advancing gender equality.

On 26 September 2019, France's Secretary of State of Economy Agnès Pannier-Runacher announced an action plan detailing balanced gender representation in toys.²⁶⁶ The goal is to create a framework that promotes gender neutrality in the toy industry and to combat discrimination from "the very first days."²⁶⁷

On 11 October 2019, leader of the National Rally Julien Odoul asked a woman attending the meeting to take off her hijab.²⁶⁸ He supported his request by citing that secularism is crucial to French identity.²⁶⁹ Minister for Gender Equality Marlène Schiappa condemned this action and stated "it is by publicly humiliating mothers in front of their children that we create divisions."²⁷⁰

On 15 October 2019, France's lower house of parliament passed a bill that will give lesbian couples and single women legal access to obtain reproductive procedures.²⁷¹ Previously, only infertile heterosexual couples were able to access such procedures.²⁷² The health care system will cover the cost of in vitro fertilization, egg freezing and fertility medication for women under 43.²⁷³

²⁶⁶ French government cracks down on 'sexist' toys, The Local (Paris) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 8 December 2019. <https://www.thelocal.fr/20190924/french-government-cracks-down-on-sexist-toys>.

²⁶⁷ French government cracks down on 'sexist' toys, The Local (Paris) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 8 December 2019. <https://www.thelocal.fr/20190924/french-government-cracks-down-on-sexist-toys>.

²⁶⁸ Outrage as far-right politician tells woman to take off veil at French council meeting, France 24 (Paris) 14 September 2019. Access Date: 8 December 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20191014-outrage-as-far-right-politician-tells-woman-to-take-off-veil-at-french-council-meeting>.

²⁶⁹ Outrage as far-right politician tells woman to take off veil at French council meeting, France 24 (Paris) 14 September 2019. Access Date: 8 December 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20191014-outrage-as-far-right-politician-tells-woman-to-take-off-veil-at-french-council-meeting>.

²⁷⁰ Outrage as far-right politician tells woman to take off veil at French council meeting, France 24 (Paris) 14 September 2019. Access Date: 8 December 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20191014-outrage-as-far-right-politician-tells-woman-to-take-off-veil-at-french-council-meeting>.

²⁷¹ France passes bill legalizing IVF for lesbians, single women, CTV News (Paris) 15 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/france-passes-bill-legalizing-ivf-for-lesbians-single-women-1.4638558>.

²⁷² France passes bill legalizing IVF for lesbians, single women, CTV News (Paris) 15 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/france-passes-bill-legalizing-ivf-for-lesbians-single-women-1.4638558>.

²⁷³ France passes bill legalizing IVF for lesbians, single women, CTV News (Paris) 15 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/france-passes-bill-legalizing-ivf-for-lesbians-single-women-1.4638558>.

On 24 October 2019, President Emmanuel Macron announced his support to keep French civic spaces secular in reference to hijabs or headscarves.²⁷⁴ He explained that while wearing a headscarf is not an issue in public spaces, wearing a headscarf in civic spaces affects French national identity.²⁷⁵

On 29 October 2019, France's Minister of Gender Equality Marlene Schiappa along a specialized unit commissioned by the government to address gender equality released a 65 step proposal to address gender based domestic violence.²⁷⁶ One of the 65 recommendations include confiscating firearms from individuals against whom the first domestic violence complaint was registered.²⁷⁷ They aim to create prevention measures to address gender based domestic violence.²⁷⁸

On 29 October 2019, all states of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), of which France is a member, adopted Resolution 2492 which promotes a women, peace and security agenda.²⁷⁹ UNSC urges members to facilitate full and equal participation of women at every stage of peacebuilding processes, to address threats and violence against women and to increase number of civilian and uniformed women in peacekeeping operations.²⁸⁰

On 25 November 2019, the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs announced their support in the fight to end violence against women internationally.²⁸¹ They reaffirmed their commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and called neighboring countries to ratify Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.²⁸² As a member of UNSC, France has also adopted and implemented its resolution on women, peace and security, which urges members to increase participation of women in conflict resolution and peacekeeping activities.²⁸³

²⁷⁴ French president says Muslim hijab 'not my business', The Connexion (Paris) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/French-president-Emmanuel-Macron-says-women-wearing-Muslim-veil-not-my-business>.

²⁷⁵ French president says Muslim hijab 'not my business', The Connexion (Paris) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/French-president-Emmanuel-Macron-says-women-wearing-Muslim-veil-not-my-business>.

²⁷⁶ French government: Seize guns to reduce domestic violence, CTV News (Toronto) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://toronto.citynews.ca/2019/10/29/french-government-seize-guns-to-reduce-domestic-violence/>.

²⁷⁷ French government: Seize guns to reduce domestic violence, CTV News (Toronto) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://toronto.citynews.ca/2019/10/29/french-government-seize-guns-to-reduce-domestic-violence/>.

²⁷⁸ French government: Seize guns to reduce domestic violence, CTV News (Toronto) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://toronto.citynews.ca/2019/10/29/french-government-seize-guns-to-reduce-domestic-violence/>.

²⁷⁹ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>.

²⁸⁰ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>.

²⁸¹ France committed to fighting violence against women internationally (Paris) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/france-committed-to-fighting-violence-against-women-internationally-25-nov-2019>.

²⁸² France committed to fighting violence against women internationally (Paris) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/france-committed-to-fighting-violence-against-women-internationally-25-nov-2019>.

²⁸³ France committed to fighting violence against women internationally (Paris) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/france-committed-to-fighting-violence-against-women-internationally-25-nov-2019>.

On 25 November 2019, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe announced that France will invest EUR360 million towards domestic programs that aim to stop violence against women.²⁸⁴ The goal is to focus on prevention measures in relation to domestic violence by introducing electronic bracelets for abusers, seizing firearms from them and creating 1000 new shelters openings for victims.²⁸⁵

On 19 December 2019, French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian and Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the United Mexican States Marcelo Luis Ebrard Casaubo agreed upon a declaration for effective multilateralism.²⁸⁶ Both countries emphasized the importance of promoting and protecting human rights while acknowledging gender equality and empowerment of women.²⁸⁷ Both countries also reiterated their commitment to Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and will jointly host Generation Equality Forum to promote the commitments within the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.²⁸⁸ Furthermore, both countries agreed to work together to improve access to female education, increase women participation in the labour market, promote the United Nations Women, Peace and Security Agenda, combat violence against women through the European Union and United Nations Spotlight Initiative and provide more comprehensive sexual education to women.²⁸⁹

France has demonstrated its dedication to remedy the effects of discriminatory laws through promoting gender neutrality in the toy industry, creating shelters for victims, taking measures to prevent domestic violence and punish perpetrators. It has also taken measures to support interested countries, nations involved with United Nations Security Council, advance gender equality.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Roba Hena

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to stand ready to remedy the effect of discriminatory laws and lack of legal protection and move to support interested countries in advancing gender equality.

On 21 October 2019, the German Federal Ministry of Family, Seniors, Women and Youth announced that it will invest EUR120 million between 2020 and 2023 towards the “Together Against Violence Against Women” program.²⁹⁰ This funding will be used to construct new women’s shelters,

²⁸⁴ France unveils \$396-million plan to stop violence against women, Global News (Paris) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 4 December 2019. <https://globalnews.ca/news/6213471/france-violence-against-women/>.

²⁸⁵ France unveils \$396-million plan to stop violence against women, Global News (Paris) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 4 December 2019. <https://globalnews.ca/news/6213471/france-violence-against-women/>.

²⁸⁶ French-Mexican Declaration for Effective Multilateralism (19 December 2019), France Diplomatie (Paris) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/mexico/news/article/french-mexican-declaration-for-effective-multilateralism-19-dec-2019>.

²⁸⁷ French-Mexican Declaration for Effective Multilateralism (19 December 2019), France Diplomatie (Paris) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/mexico/news/article/french-mexican-declaration-for-effective-multilateralism-19-dec-2019>.

²⁸⁸ French-Mexican Declaration for Effective Multilateralism (19 December 2019), France Diplomatie (Paris) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/mexico/news/article/french-mexican-declaration-for-effective-multilateralism-19-dec-2019>.

²⁸⁹ French-Mexican Declaration for Effective Multilateralism (19 December 2019), France Diplomatie (Paris) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/mexico/news/article/french-mexican-declaration-for-effective-multilateralism-19-dec-2019>.

²⁹⁰ Federal investment program “Together against violence against women” starts, Federal German Government (Berlin) 21 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/bundesinvestitionsprogramm--gemeinsam-gegen-gewalt-an-frauen--startet/140312>.

advice centres and expanding currently existing ones.²⁹¹ The goal of the program is to make shelters more accessible to women facing violence, particularly vulnerable women to protect women against violence.²⁹²

On 29 October 2019, all states of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), of which Germany is a member, adopted Resolution 2492 which promotes a women, peace and security agenda.²⁹³ UNSC urges members to facilitate full and equal participation of women at every stage of peacebuilding processes, to address threats and violence against women and to increase number of civilian and uniformed women in peacekeeping operations.²⁹⁴ German Minister of State Michelle Müntefering noted that Germany aims to implement 10 out of 12 commitments of the women, peace and security agenda.²⁹⁵

On 31 October 2019, Germany pledged at the Nairobi Summit to work with partners at home and abroad to ensure that pregnancies are wanted and that births are safe.²⁹⁶ This involves creating policies that address sexual and reproductive rights and combat violence against women to ensure that women are empowered to make decisions about their health.²⁹⁷

On 13 November 2019, Germany's government passed a bill that would criminalize "upskirting" and "downblousing" which are defined as the practice of taking unsolicited photos or videos under another person's clothing.²⁹⁸ The draft law, which states that taking and distributing images of "the genitals, the buttocks, the female breast" will be a criminal offence.²⁹⁹ It requires parliamentary approval before it becomes law.

²⁹¹ Federal investment program "Together against violence against women" starts, Federal German Government (Berlin) 21 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/bundesinvestitionsprogramm--gemeinsam-gegen-gewalt-an-frauen--startet/140312>.

²⁹² Federal investment program "Together against violence against women" starts, Federal German Government (Berlin) 21 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/bundesinvestitionsprogramm--gemeinsam-gegen-gewalt-an-frauen--startet/140312>.

²⁹³ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>.

²⁹⁴ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>.

²⁹⁵ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>.

²⁹⁶ Investing in Health, Rights and Choices for All, Nairobi Summit ICPD (Nairobi) 31 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.naibisummiticpd.org/commitment/investing-health-rights-and-choices-all>.

²⁹⁷ Investing in Health, Rights and Choices for All, Nairobi Summit ICPD (Nairobi) 31 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.naibisummiticpd.org/commitment/investing-health-rights-and-choices-all>.

²⁹⁸ Better Protection Against Exposing Photos, Federal German Government (Berlin) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 9 December 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/suche/persoentlichkeitsschutz-1690994>.

²⁹⁹ Germany Moves to Criminalize Upskirting in Major Victory for Campaigners, CNN (Germany) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 9 December 2019. <https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/14/europe/upskirting-germany-ban-intl-grm/index.html>.

On 13 December 2019, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, of which Germany is a member, adopted a renewed Gender Action plan at COP25, which aims to promote gender-responsive climate action.³⁰⁰

On 17 December 2019, Germany's Cabinet passed a bill banning gay conversion therapy for children under 18 and non-consenting adults.³⁰¹ This bill recognizes the lack of empirical evidence in favour of conversion therapy and the negative psychological effects to the recipients.³⁰² The proposed law would result in a fine of up to EUR30,000 for anyone who is violates the ban.³⁰³ The law will need parliamentary approval.³⁰⁴

Germany has demonstrated its dedication to remedy the effects of discriminatory laws through by making shelters more accessible for victims and banning conversion therapy. It has also taken measures to support interested countries, Nairobi and other nations involved with United Nations Security Council, advance gender equality.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Daniella Marciano

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to stand ready to remedy the effect of discriminatory laws and lack of legal protection and move to support interested countries in advancing gender equality.

On 9 September 2019, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation announced a partnership with UN Women to strengthen institutional capacity in Jordan in order to support gender equality and women's empowerment over two years.³⁰⁵ The partnership will provide technical assistance to the Jordanian Ministry of Social Development to enhance the quality of services provided to vulnerable girls and women.³⁰⁶ UN Women will also support Jordanian Ministry of Social Development to consolidate the experience of model of support for gender mainstreaming and the benefits of it in a report that can be presented to other ministries and at a regional level through a conference.³⁰⁷

³⁰⁰ Enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan, UNFCCC (Germany) 13 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. https://unfccc.int/resource/cop25/cop25_auv_13gender.pdf.

³⁰¹ Protection of Sexual Self-Determination, Federal German Government (Berlin) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/suche/verbot-konversionstherapie-1707674>.

³⁰² Protection of Sexual Self-Determination, Federal German Government (Berlin) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/suche/verbot-konversionstherapie-1707674>.

³⁰³ Protection of Sexual Self-Determination, Federal German Government (Berlin) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/suche/verbot-konversionstherapie-1707674>.

³⁰⁴ Protection of Sexual Self-Determination, Federal German Government (Berlin) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/suche/verbot-konversionstherapie-1707674>.

³⁰⁵ Government of Italy, UN Women announce partnership to strengthen institutional capacity on women's empowerment, UN Women (Amman) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019.

<https://jordan.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/september/italy-and-un-women-partnership>

³⁰⁶ Government of Italy, UN Women announce partnership to strengthen institutional capacity on women's empowerment, UN Women (Amman) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019.

<https://jordan.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/september/italy-and-un-women-partnership>

³⁰⁷ Government of Italy, UN Women announce partnership to strengthen institutional capacity on women's empowerment, UN Women (Amman) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019.

<https://jordan.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/september/italy-and-un-women-partnership>

On 9 October 2019, Member of Italian Chamber of Deputies Chiara Gribaudo presented a bill that intends to support and strengthen equal opportunities in work and fill the gender wage gap.³⁰⁸ The bill proposes to modify Article 46 of the Code of Equal Opportunities, introducing a report on gender workplace balance for companies that employ less than 100 employees.³⁰⁹ The proposal also requires that the Istituto Nazionale della Previdenza Sociale send a list each year to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies of companies that employ over 100 employees.³¹⁰ These companies are obliged to write a report on the gender balance in their workplace.³¹¹ Finally, the bill proposes to issue a “certification of equal employment opportunities” to companies that have complied with the minimum requirements of equal opportunities.³¹²

On 7 November 2019, Italy committed programmatic action at the Nairobi Summit for the International Conference on Population and Development to facilitate the end of maternal and child mortality in the Horn of Africa.³¹³ Italy will support the African health system in areas including sexual health, adolescent and youth, gender equality, empowerment of women and population dynamics.³¹⁴

On 11 December 2019, the Italian government approved an amendment that would allow Italian female soccer league players professional status, affording them the same benefits and protections as their male colleagues.³¹⁵ Serie A Femminile teams will be required to pay players a fair wage and remove the salary cap.³¹⁶ EUR11 million has been allocated by the Italian Senate over the next three years to semi-professional clubs to help with the transition.³¹⁷

On 13 December 2019, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, of which Italy is a member, adopted a renewed Gender Action plan at the 25th Conference of the Parties,

³⁰⁸ Bill to Fill the Gender Pay Gap: Declaration by the National Equality Councillors, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 9 December 2019. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Proposta-di-legge-per-colmare-il-gender-pay-gap-dichiarazione-delle-Consigliere-Nazionali-di-Parita.aspx>

³⁰⁹ Bill to Fill the Gender Pay Gap: Declaration by the National Equality Councillors, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 9 December 2019. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Proposta-di-legge-per-colmare-il-gender-pay-gap-dichiarazione-delle-Consigliere-Nazionali-di-Parita.aspx>

³¹⁰ Bill to Fill the Gender Pay Gap: Declaration by the National Equality Councillors, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 9 December 2019. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Proposta-di-legge-per-colmare-il-gender-pay-gap-dichiarazione-delle-Consigliere-Nazionali-di-Parita.aspx>

³¹¹ Bill to Fill the Gender Pay Gap: Declaration by the National Equality Councillors, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 9 December 2019. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Proposta-di-legge-per-colmare-il-gender-pay-gap-dichiarazione-delle-Consigliere-Nazionali-di-Parita.aspx>

³¹² Bill to Fill the Gender Pay Gap: Declaration by the National Equality Councillors, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 9 December 2019. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Proposta-di-legge-per-colmare-il-gender-pay-gap-dichiarazione-delle-Consigliere-Nazionali-di-Parita.aspx>

³¹³ Facilitate the ending of maternal and child mortality in the Horn of Africa, Nairobi Summit ICPD (Nairobi) 14 November. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.nairobisummiticpd.org/commitment/facilitate-ending-maternal-and-child-mortality-horn-africa>

³¹⁴ Facilitate the ending of maternal and child mortality in the Horn of Africa, Nairobi Summit ICPD (Nairobi) 14 November. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.nairobisummiticpd.org/commitment/facilitate-ending-maternal-and-child-mortality-horn-africa>

³¹⁵ Female Footballers Are One Step Closer To Professional Status In Italy, Forbes (Italy) 14 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/giacomogalardini/2019/12/14/female-soccer-players-italy-professional-status-equality/#4a5dc57e1b5a>

³¹⁶ Female Footballers Are One Step Closer To Professional Status In Italy, Forbes (Italy) 14 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/giacomogalardini/2019/12/14/female-soccer-players-italy-professional-status-equality/#4a5dc57e1b5a>

³¹⁷ Female Footballers Are One Step Closer To Professional Status In Italy, Forbes (Italy) 14 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/giacomogalardini/2019/12/14/female-soccer-players-italy-professional-status-equality/#4a5dc57e1b5a>

which aims to promote gender-responsive climate action including increasing women representation in constituted bodies and Party delegations.³¹⁸

On 16 December 2019, a measure was approved in the Italian Senate to tighten quotas that require corporate boards to be made up of 40 per cent women.³¹⁹ The original law, titled the “pink quota” was passed in 2011, which required companies to have 30 per cent female representation.³²⁰ The measure is expected to receive final approval from the lower house by the end of 2020.³²¹

Italy has demonstrated its dedication to remedy the effects of discriminatory laws by promoting women representation in labour workforce and government bodies, reduce the gender wage gap and improving access to benefits for female soccer players. It has also taken measures to support interested countries, Nairobi and Jordan, advance gender equality.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Daniella Marviano

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to stand ready to remedy the effect of discriminatory laws and lack of legal protection and move to support interested countries in advancing gender equality.

On 30 August 2019, Japan’s Ministry of Defense released its 2020 Budget Request, in which it included a measure to ensure women’s continued military participation, and to improve work-life balance.³²² This program, among others, creates women-specific facilities, institutes gender-sensitive training, creates measures to prevent sexual harassment, and provides temporary child-care services. On 19 December 2019, Japan approved the budget request.³²³

On 30 August 2019, Japanese and African Union Member States’ delegations participated in the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development, where Japan committed to working with the African Union to reduce the gender gap, combat gender-based violence, and empower women and youth.³²⁴

On 18 September 2019, Government of Japan provided JPY218 million of grant aid through United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for the project of

³¹⁸ Enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan, UNFCCC (Italy) 13 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. https://unfccc.int/resource/cop25/cop25_auv_13gender.pdf.

³¹⁹ Italy aims to boost quotas for women on corporate boards, Reuters (Milan) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/italy-women/italy-aims-to-boost-quotas-for-women-on-corporate-boards-idUSL8N28Q49S>

³²⁰ Italy aims to boost quotas for women on corporate boards, Reuters (Milan) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/italy-women/italy-aims-to-boost-quotas-for-women-on-corporate-boards-idUSL8N28Q49S>

³²¹ Italy aims to boost quotas for women on corporate boards, Reuters (Milan) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/italy-women/italy-aims-to-boost-quotas-for-women-on-corporate-boards-idUSL8N28Q49S>

³²² Defense Programs and Budget of Japan: Overview of FY2020 Budget Request, Ministry of Defense (Shinjuku) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.mod.go.jp/e/d_budget/pdf/191112b.pdf

³²³ Japan Approves Record Defense Budget of \$48.5 Billion, Bloomberg, 19 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-12-20/japan-approves-record-defense-budget-of-5-3-trillion-yen>

³²⁴ Yokohama Declaration 2019 Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Yokohama) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/yokohama_declaration_en.pdf

“Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Sri Lanka.”³²⁵ The project aims to improve economic empowerment of women, awareness of women’s rights and political participation while paying attention to vulnerable groups.³²⁶

On 4 November 2019, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan released “The Mekong-Japan Initiative for SDGs [Sustainable Development Goals] toward 2030,” which highlighted areas of co-operation between Japan and countries in the Mekong region (e.g. Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia).³²⁷ It included a commitment to promoting gender equality.³²⁸ Japan offered to microfinance women’s enterprises in Asia, and to collaborate with Mekong countries to eradicate human trafficking.³²⁹

On 4 November 2019, Japan attended the 14th East Asia Summit, and was party to a statement regarding recognizing and combatting transnational crime.³³⁰ The statement reflected the decision to empower women and girls as a means to counter organized crime and enhance coordination to combat human trafficking.³³¹

On 20 November 2019, the Labor Policy Council subcommittee approved draft guidelines for preventing workplace power harassment.³³² The guidelines outline specific types of harassment to be banned and require companies to set up power harassment consultation offices and to implement any necessary measures to protect victims from further harassment.³³³

On 22 November 2019, Japan Justice Minister Masako Mori recognized the necessity for improvement in sexual abuse laws that place “an unfairly high burden on victims.”³³⁴ She noted that she would improve assistance for parents with dependent children after divorce to combat domestic violence and is committed to strive for work-life balance policies aimed at “creating an environment where men and women alike can balance work with their private lives.”³³⁵

³²⁵ Japan provides USD 2 million grant aid for Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Sri Lanka, Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka (Colombo), 18 September 2019. Access date: 3 January 2020. https://www.lk.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/00_000930.html

³²⁶ Japan provides USD 2 million grant aid for Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Sri Lanka, Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka (Colombo), 18 September 2019. Access date: 3 January 2020. https://www.lk.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/00_000930.html

³²⁷ The Mekong-Japan Initiative for SDGs toward 2030, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 4 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000535957.pdf>

³²⁸ The Mekong-Japan Initiative for SDGs toward 2030, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 4 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000535957.pdf>

³²⁹ The Mekong-Japan Initiative for SDGs toward 2030, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 4 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000535957.pdf>

³³⁰ East Asia Summit Leaders’ Statement on Cooperation to Combat Transnational Crime Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Bangkok) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000541237.pdf>

³³¹ East Asia Summit Leaders’ Statement on Cooperation to Combat Transnational Crime Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Bangkok) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000541237.pdf>

³³² Japan to Require Firms to Clearly Ban Power Harassment under Work Rules, Nippon Communications (Tokyo) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yjj2019112001220/japan-to-require-firms-to-clearly-ban-power-harassment-under-work-rules.html>

³³³ Japan to Require Firms to Clearly Ban Power Harassment under Work Rules, Nippon Communications (Tokyo) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yjj2019112001220/japan-to-require-firms-to-clearly-ban-power-harassment-under-work-rules.html>

³³⁴ New Japan Justice Minister Masako Mori vows reforms to protect human rights, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 22 November 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/11/22/national/justice-minister-masako-mori-vows-reforms-human-rights/#.XhASdhdKjfy>

³³⁵ New Japan Justice Minister Masako Mori vows reforms to protect human rights, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 22 November 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/11/22/national/justice-minister-masako-mori-vows-reforms-human-rights/#.XhASdhdKjfy>

Japan has demonstrated its dedication to remedy the effects of discriminatory laws by promoting women representation in military, preventing workplace harassment, improving assistance measures for parents with dependent children after divorce, striving for sexual abuse policies that place lesser burden on victim and workplace policies that promote a healthy work-life balance. It has also taken measures to support interested countries, African Union and Mekong region countries, advance gender equality.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Sanjna Ullal

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to stand ready to remedy the effect of discriminatory laws and lack of legal protection and move to support interested countries in advancing gender equality.

On 22 September 2019, the United Kingdom announced an additional aid of GBP 87 million to sustain its operations in Cox Bazar for Rohingya refugees. Part of this amount will fund reproductive services, protection for victims, and basic living and healthcare needs for Rohingya women and girls.³³⁶

On 24 September 2019, the UK announced an education commitment of GBP 515 million for women and girls at the United Nations. The aim is to increase education in areas of warzones and conflict areas to further social and economic empowerment of women.³³⁷ The UK also announced additional GBP 5 billion that will be used move towards education investment in Africa and Asia.³³⁸

On 24 September 2019, the UK pledged GBP 600 million to women and girls of the most vulnerable developing countries as part of the United Nations Population Fund for implementing and perpetuating proper family planning techniques.³³⁹

On 2 October 2019, the UK pledged that it will work towards limiting preventable maternal and infant mortality in the developing world by 2030 in partnership with the private sector, and aim to focus on providing serious access to reproductive and infant health care needs such as vaccines, medicine and family planning services.³⁴⁰

On 8 October 2019, the British ambassador to Turkmenistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage and abet gender equality, sensitivity and empowerment in the Turkmen

³³⁶ UK announces extra £87 million funding for Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh, British High Commission (Dhaka) 22 September 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-extra-87-million-funding-for-rohingya-crisis-in-bangladesh>

³³⁷ PM steps up UK effort to get every girl in the world into school, Prime Minister Office (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 26 December, 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-effort-to-get-every-girl-in-the-world-into-school>

³³⁸ PM steps up UK effort to get every girl in the world into school, Prime Minister Office (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 26 December, 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-effort-to-get-every-girl-in-the-world-into-school>.

³³⁹ UK promises extra £600m for family planning in poorest countries, The Guardian, 24 September 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/sep/24/uk-promises-extra-600m-family-planning-poorest-countries>

³⁴⁰ UK will step up efforts to end preventable deaths of mothers, new-born babies and children in the developing world by 2030, Department for International Development (London) 2 October 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-will-step-up-efforts-to-end-preventable-deaths-of-mothers-new-born-babies-and-children-in-the-developing-world-by-2030>

security sector as a part of an Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe project.³⁴¹ The aim is to promote gender main-streaming, particularly in male-dominated sectors, and provide gender sensitivity training to security officials.³⁴²

On 2 November 2019, Department for International Development launched “What Works to Prevent Violence: Impact at Scale,” which is a seven-year program that aims to gather evidence regarding the scale and impact of violence against women and girls and how to prevent it.³⁴³ This EUR 67.5 million initiative will be focused towards developing pilot programs in various developing countries to combat violence against women by implementing previously successful programs in new locations and conducting research on tactics to prevent violence.³⁴⁴

On 12 December 2019, the UK embassy in Cairo announced its moral and financial support of the first Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security in Egypt to prevent the effects of conflict and injustice on women and girls.³⁴⁵ It also aims to support the involvement of women in peace processes to ensure peace and security in the region.³⁴⁶

On 17 December 2019, consultations to amend Scotland’s Gender Recognition Reform bill began.³⁴⁷ This draft bill aims to reform the process of obtaining legal gender recognition by removing “unnecessary practical barriers.”³⁴⁸

United Kingdom has demonstrated its dedication to remedy the effects of discriminatory laws by working towards removing barriers in receiving legal gender recognition for transgenders. It has also taken measures to support interested countries, particularly developing countries, advance gender equality.

Thus, United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jaiivika Kataria

³⁴¹ British Embassy Ashgabat supports women's empowerment and gender sensitivity, British Embassy (Ashgabat) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/british-embassy-ashgabat-supports-womens-empowerment-and-gender-sensitivity>

³⁴² British Embassy Ashgabat supports women's empowerment and gender sensitivity, British Embassy (Ashgabat) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/british-embassy-ashgabat-supports-womens-empowerment-and-gender-sensitivity>

³⁴³ British Government takes global lead on violence against women and girls, The Guardian (London) 2 November 2019. Access date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/nov/02/british-government-takes-global-lead-on-violence-against-women-and-girls>

³⁴⁴ British Government takes global lead on violence against women and girls, The Guardian (London) 2 November 2019. Access date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/nov/02/british-government-takes-global-lead-on-violence-against-women-and-girls>

³⁴⁵ UK supports Egypt in developing 1st action plan on women, peace, security, Ahram (Cairo) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/357664/Egypt/Politics-/UK-supports-Egypt-in-developing-st-action-plan-on-.aspx>

³⁴⁶ UK supports Egypt in developing 1st action plan on women, peace, security, Ahram (Cairo) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/357664/Egypt/Politics-/UK-supports-Egypt-in-developing-st-action-plan-on-.aspx>

³⁴⁷ Gender recognition consultation opens, Scottish Government (Edinburgh) 17 December 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.gov.scot/news/gender-recognition-consultation-opens/>

³⁴⁸ Gender recognition consultation opens, Scottish Government (Edinburgh) 17 December 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.gov.scot/news/gender-recognition-consultation-opens/>

United States: 0

The United States has fully partially with its commitment to stand ready to remedy the effect of discriminatory laws and lack of legal protection and move to support interested countries in advancing gender equality.

On 11 October 2019, Administrator Mark Green of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) released a statement on International Day of the Girl and reaffirmed United States' commitment to removing barriers to girls' education in developing countries by making it safer.³⁴⁹

On 29 October 2019, all states of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), of which the United States is a member, adopted Resolution 2492 which promotes a women, peace and security agenda.³⁵⁰ UNSC urges members to facilitate full and equal participation of women at every stage of peacebuilding processes, to address threats and violence against women and to increase number of civilian and uniformed women in peacekeeping operations.³⁵¹

On 30 October 2019, four U.S. senators noted that the lobbying efforts towards 70 countries of the Trump administration to remove protections for "sexual and reproductive health" from a UN agreement on universal health coverage may be in violation of Siljander Amendment.³⁵² Siljander Amendment prohibits use of foreign assistance in lobbying for or against abortion.³⁵³

On 1 November 2019, the Department of Health and Human Services proposed a rule that would allow organizations, including adoption agencies and foster care agencies, to discriminate based on sexual orientation and gender identity.³⁵⁴ Previously, sexual orientation and gender identity were included as protected classes from discrimination.³⁵⁵ On 19 November 2019, up to three U.S. district judges rejected a Health and Human Services Department rule that would allow health workers to

³⁴⁹ Statement by USAID Administrator Mark Green on International Day of the Girl, USAID (Washington D.C.) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 4 January 2020. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/oct-11-2019-statement-usaid-administrator-mark-green-international-day-girl>

³⁵⁰ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>

³⁵¹ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>

³⁵² US effort to remove 'sexual health' from UN agreement may violate law, say senators, The Guardian (New York City) 30 October 2019. Access Date: 4 January 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/oct/30/trump-administration-un-sexual-reproductive-health-senators-letter>

³⁵³ US effort to remove 'sexual health' from UN agreement may violate law, say senators, The Guardian (New York City) 30 October 2019. Access Date: 4 January 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/oct/30/trump-administration-un-sexual-reproductive-health-senators-letter>

³⁵⁴ Adoption Groups Could Turn Away L.G.B.T. Families Under Proposed Rule, The New York Times (New York City) 2 November 2019. Access Date: 24 December 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/02/us/trump-hhs-lgbtq-rule.html>

³⁵⁵ Adoption Groups Could Turn Away L.G.B.T. Families Under Proposed Rule, The New York Times (New York City) 2 November 2019. Access Date: 24 December 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/02/us/trump-hhs-lgbtq-rule.html>

refuse treatment to transgender patients.³⁵⁶ This was done to protect health workers' religious beliefs.³⁵⁷

On 18 November 2019, USAID Administrator Mark Green and Advisor to Ivanka Trump announced that additional USD50 million funding will be directed towards Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (W-GDP).³⁵⁸ W-GDP aims to advance women's economic empowerment in developing countries with the goal of reaching 50 million women by 2025 through collaboration with local organizations.³⁵⁹

On 26 November 2019, President Donald Trump issued an executive order called "Operation Lady Justice."³⁶⁰ Operation Lady Justice organizes an interagency task force that reviews unsolved cases of missing and murdered Native American women.³⁶¹ The goal is to investigate violence against Indigenous women and to raise awareness of violence against women, specifically against Native American women.³⁶² This executive order will also direct Department of Justice grants to improve safety in Native American communities.³⁶³

On 2 December 2019, USAID and Aga Khan Foundation announced USD37.5 million in funding for project known as "Local Impact."³⁶⁴ Funds from this project will help Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan "expand opportunity and overall quality of life" for women and girls specifically.³⁶⁵

³⁵⁶ Trump's Rollback of Transgender Rights Extends Through Entire Government, The New York Times (New York City) 6 December 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/06/us/politics/trump-transgender-rights.html>

³⁵⁷ Trump's Rollback of Transgender Rights Extends Through Entire Government, The New York Times (New York City) 6 December 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/06/us/politics/trump-transgender-rights.html>

³⁵⁸ USAID Administrator Mark Green and Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump announce Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative Fund's increase to \$100 million in first year and launch of new partnerships, USAID (Washington D.C.) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 4 January 2020. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/nov-18-2019-administrator-green-advisor-trump-w-gdp-funding-increase>

³⁵⁹ USAID Administrator Mark Green and Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump announce Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative Fund's increase to \$100 million in first year and launch of new partnerships, USAID (Washington D.C.) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 4 January 2020. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/nov-18-2019-administrator-green-advisor-trump-w-gdp-funding-increase>.

³⁶⁰ President Donald J. Trump Is Committed to Supporting and Protecting Native American Women and Children Across The Country, The White House (Washington, D.C.). 26 November 2019. Access Date: 9 December 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trump-committed-supporting-protecting-native-american-women-children-across-country/>.

³⁶¹ President Donald J. Trump Is Committed to Supporting and Protecting Native American Women and Children Across The Country, The White House (Washington, D.C.). 26 November 2019. Access Date: 9 December 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trump-committed-supporting-protecting-native-american-women-children-across-country/>.

³⁶² President Donald J. Trump Is Committed to Supporting and Protecting Native American Women and Children Across The Country, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 9 December 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trump-committed-supporting-protecting-native-american-women-children-across-country/>.

³⁶³ President Donald J. Trump Is Committed to Supporting and Protecting Native American Women and Children Across The Country, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 26 November 2019. Access Date: 9 December 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trump-committed-supporting-protecting-native-american-women-children-across-country/>.

³⁶⁴ USAID and The Aga Khan Foundation work to increase the impact of local organizations in Central Asia, USAID (Washington D.C.) 2 December 2019. Access Date: 4 January 2020. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/dec-2-2019-usaid-and-aga-khan-foundation-work-increase-impact-local-organizations>.

³⁶⁵ USAID and The Aga Khan Foundation work to increase the impact of local organizations in Central Asia, USAID (Washington D.C.) 2 December 2019. Access Date: 4 January 2020. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/dec-2-2019-usaid-and-aga-khan-foundation-work-increase-impact-local-organizations>.

On 23 December 2019, President Donald Trump issued a Presidential Memoranda called “Addressing Legal and Societal Barriers to Women’s Global Development and Prosperity.”³⁶⁶ The memorandum recognizes the economic, legal, and societal barriers faced by women. The goal is to reaffirm the administration’s stance in removing them.³⁶⁷

The United States has demonstrated its dedication to remedy the effects of discriminatory laws by working to improve protection and investigate violence against Native women and recognizing barriers faced by women. However, the United States has also taken action to remove gender identity and sexual orientation as protected classes against discrimination. It has also taken measures to support interested countries, particularly developing countries, members of UNSC, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan, advance gender equality. However, the United States has also taken action to lobby to 70 countries against inclusion sexual and reproductive rights of women within universal healthcare.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Shaina Sharma

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to stand ready to remedy the effect of discriminatory laws and lack of legal protection and has taken measures to support interested countries in advancing gender equality.

On 26 August 2019, the EU issued a statement at the Fifth Conference of States Parties with respect to the Arms Trade Treaty.³⁶⁸ It restated its commitment to women’s empowerment and gender mainstreaming; women’s involvement in decision-making processes; and promoting access to justice for survivors of gender-based conflict-related crimes through “activating legal procedures at the national, regional and international levels,” while emphasizing the importance of prevention.³⁶⁹

On 2 September 2019, EU Programmes Officer Mathe Tau signed a financing agreement called “EU Support to Civil Society,” which provided a grant to the Lesotho chapter of Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA).³⁷⁰ WLSA will use this grant towards a project called ‘Socio-Economic Empowerment through Gender-Responsive Policies, Legislations and Action’ to contribute to the development of gender-sensitive policies and laws, increased knowledge about gender-based violence,

³⁶⁶ Memorandum on Addressing Legal and Societal Barriers to Women’s Global Development and Prosperity, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 23 December 2019. Access Date: 24 December 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/memorandum-addressing-legal-societal-barriers-womens-global-development-prosperity/>.

³⁶⁷ Memorandum on Addressing Legal and Societal Barriers to Women’s Global Development and Prosperity, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 23 December 2019. Access Date: 24 December 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/memorandum-addressing-legal-societal-barriers-womens-global-development-prosperity/>.

³⁶⁸ Arms Trade Treaty - Fifth Conference of States Parties - EU Statement on Gender and Gender Based Violence European External Action Service (Geneva) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/66715/arms-trade-treaty-fifth-conference-states-parties-eu-statement-gender-and-gender-based_en.

³⁶⁹ Arms Trade Treaty - Fifth Conference of States Parties - EU Statement on Gender and Gender Based Violence European External Action Service (Geneva) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/66715/arms-trade-treaty-fifth-conference-states-parties-eu-statement-gender-and-gender-based_en.

³⁷⁰ The EU supports the fight for gender justice in Lesotho European External Action Service (Brussels) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67216/eu-supports-fight-gender-justice-lesotho_en.

and towards women's economic empowerment.³⁷¹ WLSA will collaborate with Lesotho National Council of Women, the Women's Law Clinic, the Migrants Workers Association of Lesotho and the Lesotho Youth Federation for this 48-month project.³⁷²

On 24 September 2019, Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development announced a EUR2 million contribution to the International Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, which is twice the amount it announced at the G7 Summit in Biarritz.³⁷³ The fund is run in collaboration with multiple partners and provides survivors of conflict-related sexual violence with access to reparations and advocates for reparations for them and helps them reintegrate into communities.³⁷⁴

On 8 October 2019, the EU released an action plan for supporting gender equality in Libya. The action plan reflected the ways in which the EU is working in Libya to prevent and combat violence against women and girls, promote women's economic and social rights, and strengthen their ability to participate in society.³⁷⁵

On 14 October 2019, the EU Delegation to Egypt and the Embassy of Sweden in Cairo launched the Gender Champion initiative to support Egypt in empowering its women to participate more in public life and support female leadership.³⁷⁶ The EU also stated its intent to help combat female genital mutilation in collaboration with the National Council for Women and United Nations.

On 10 December 2019, the European Council adopted conclusions on gender-equal economies, which call on EU member states to promote gender equality, both through political and substantive means.³⁷⁷

On 9 and 10 December 2019, the European Union and Zambia launched the 'Natwampane' Programme. The European Development Fund allocated a budget of EUR25 million to prevent sexual and gender-based violence, while simultaneously improving access to services for survivors within the Zambian's Northern Province and Luapula Province.³⁷⁸ This will be achieved through

³⁷¹ The EU supports the fight for gender justice in Lesotho European External Action Service (Brussels) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67216/eu-supports-fight-gender-justice-lesotho_en.

³⁷² The EU supports the fight for gender justice in Lesotho European External Action Service (Brussels) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67216/eu-supports-fight-gender-justice-lesotho_en

³⁷³ European Union supports survivors of sexual violence in conflict European External Action Service (Brussels) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67807/european-union-supports-survivors-sexual-violence-conflict_en

³⁷⁴ The EU supports the fight for gender justice in Lesotho European External Action Service (Brussels) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67216/eu-supports-fight-gender-justice-lesotho_en

³⁷⁵ European Union support to gender equality in Libya European External Action Service (Brussels) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/eu_support_for_gender_equality_final_web.pdf

³⁷⁶ EU Gender Champions working with Egypt to support women empowerment (Brussels) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/68873/eu-gender-champions-working-egypt-support-women-empowerment_en

³⁷⁷ Gender equality in the EU: the Council adopts conclusions Council of the EU, European Council (Brussels) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/12/10/gender-equality-in-the-eu-the-council-adopts-conclusions/>

³⁷⁸ Launch of the Natwampane Programme "together to STOP sexual and gender-based violence" European External Action Service (Brussels) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/72468/launch-natwampane-programme-%E2%80%9Ctogether-stop-sexual-and-gender-based-violence%E2%80%9D_en.

sexual education for 235000 children; sensitization of 335,000 children; engagement of 1,600 faith leaders, 1,800 civic leaders, 1,530 marriage counsellors; and 392 radio programs to reach 200,000 youth.³⁷⁹

European Union has demonstrated its dedication to remedy the effects of discriminatory laws through promoting access of justice for sexual violence survivors, contributing to the development of gender-sensitive policies, improving access to other services for survivors, and adopting conclusions on gender-equal economies. It has also taken measures to support interested countries, Libya, Zambia, and Egypt, advance gender equality.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Sanjna Ullal

³⁷⁹ Launch of the Natwampane Programme “together to STOP sexual and gender-based violence” European External Action Service (Brussels) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/72468/launch-natwampane-programme-%E2%80%9Ctogether-stop-sexual-and-gender-based-violence%E2%80%9D_en