



The G7 Research Group presents the

## 2020 G7 Virtual Summit Final Compliance Report

17 March 2020 to 6 May 2021

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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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## 6. Health: Coordinated Research Efforts

“We will increase coordinated research efforts, including through voluntary support for the global alliance Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation.”

*G7 Leaders' Statement*

### Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

### Background

The global response to the COVID-19 pandemic has so far prioritized research efforts, with a significant portion of it taking place under the direction of the World Health Organization (WHO).

On 11 and 12 February 2020, world scientists on COVID-19 met at the WHO'S Geneva headquarters to “assess the current level of knowledge about the new virus, agree on critical research questions that need to be answered urgently, and to find ways to work together to accelerate and fund priority research to curtail this outbreak and prepare for those in the future.”<sup>1353</sup> This meeting produced two main targets: 1) to accelerate innovative research to contain the spread of COVID-19 and provide care for those affected; and 2) support research priorities that contribute to global research platforms, in order to learn from the current response to COVID-19 and inform future responses to pandemics.<sup>1354</sup>

The WHO's R&D Blueprint, for example, is an initiative that aims to “improve coordination between scientists and global health professionals, accelerate the research and development process, and develop new norms and standards to learn from and improve upon the global response.”<sup>1355</sup> The initiative builds on the response to previous outbreaks of the Ebola virus disease, SARS-CoV, and MERS-CoV in order to facilitate a coordinated and accelerated response to COVID-19.

The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) was launched in 2017, in response to a consensus that “a coordinated, international, and intergovernmental plan was needed to develop and deploy new vaccines to prevent future epidemics.”<sup>1356</sup> CEPI comprises a global partnership of public, private, philanthropic, and civil society organisations in order to accelerate the development of vaccines against emerging infectious diseases, and ensure equitable access to them.<sup>1357</sup>

<sup>1353</sup> R&D Blueprint and COVID-19, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/teams/blueprint/covid-19>.

<sup>1354</sup> R&D Blueprint and COVID-19, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/teams/blueprint/covid-19>.

<sup>1355</sup> R&D Blueprint and COVID-19, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/teams/blueprint/covid-19>.

<sup>1356</sup> Why we exist, CEPI (Oslo). Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://cepi.net/about/whyweexist/>.

<sup>1357</sup> Why we exist, CEPI (Oslo). Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://cepi.net/about/whyweexist/>.

In partnership with WHO and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, CEPI launched the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility to ensure fair, equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and end the acute phase of the pandemic by the end of 2021.<sup>1358</sup>

At the 1996 Lyon Summit, G8 leaders first expressed their commitment to combating infectious diseases in the summit's Chairman's Statement, and called for the extension of all forms of national and international cooperation in searching for treatments.<sup>1359</sup>

At the 1997 Denver Summit of the Eight, G8 leaders pledged in the summit's communiqué to provide the resources necessary to accelerate AIDS vaccine research and enhance international scientific cooperation and collaboration.<sup>1360</sup> They reiterated that “[c]ooperation among scientists and governments in the developed and developing world and international agencies will be critical.”<sup>1361</sup>

At the 2000 Okinawa Summit, G8 leaders set out a detailed agenda for global health in the summit's communiqué. Specifically, they committed to working with governments, the WHO and other international organisations, industry such pharmaceutical companies, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other relevant actors in order to strengthen cooperation in the research and development of new drugs, vaccines and other international public health goods.<sup>1362</sup>

At the 2001 Genoa Summit, G8 leaders and the United Nations Secretary General announced in the summit's communiqué the Global Fund to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis, to which they have committed USD1.3 billion.<sup>1363</sup> Among other objectives, the Fund aims to promote improved coordination among donors and provide incentives for private sector research and development.<sup>1364</sup>

At the 2003 Evian Summit, G8 leaders released a Health Action Plan, which commits to supporting the development of research for the effective, safe, and affordable prevention, control, treatment, and cure for diseases affecting mostly developing countries.<sup>1365</sup>

At the 2006 St. Petersburg Summit, G8 leaders emphasized in the summit's Fight Against Infectious Disease document the need for intensified scientific research and cooperation in the area of infectious diseases.<sup>1366</sup> Specifically, they aimed to “increase scientific cooperation with developing countries, encourage partnerships between experts and laboratories of developing and developed countries, and increase the scientific potential in countries of all income levels.”<sup>1367</sup> Again, they reiterated calls to promote investment in the research,

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<sup>1358</sup> COVAX: CEPI's response to COVID-19, CEPI (Oslo). Access Date: 16 December 2020.

<sup>1359</sup> Chairman's Statement: Toward Greater Security and Stability in a More Cooperative World, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 1996. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1996lyon/chair.html>.

<sup>1360</sup> Communiqué, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 June 1997. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1997denver/g8final.htm>.

<sup>1361</sup> Communiqué, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 June 1997. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1997denver/g8final.htm>.

<sup>1362</sup> G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 July 2000. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>.

<sup>1363</sup> Communiqué, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommunique.html>.

<sup>1364</sup> Communiqué, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommunique.html>.

<sup>1365</sup> Health: A G8 Action Plan, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 June 2003. Access Date: 16 December 2020. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2003evian/health\\_en.html](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2003evian/health_en.html).

<sup>1366</sup> Fight Against Infectious Disease, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 July 2006. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2006stpetersburg/infdis.html>.

<sup>1367</sup> Fight Against Infectious Disease, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 July 2006. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2006stpetersburg/infdis.html>.

development and production of vaccines, microbicides and drugs for HIV, tuberculosis, malaria and other diseases.<sup>1368</sup>

At the 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit, G7 leaders emphasized the central role of research in combating neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in the summit's Leaders' Declaration.<sup>1369</sup> They committed to helping coordinate research and development efforts, as well as directly supporting research on NTDs.<sup>1370</sup> They pledged to focus on both basic research on prevention, control and treatment, as well as research focused on faster and targeted development of easily usable and affordable drugs, vaccines and point-of-care technologies.<sup>1371</sup>

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 leaders released their Vision for Global Health, in which they committed to strengthening collaboration between research institutions, funding organizations, and policy makers across G7 members to map research and development activities on NTDs and other infectious diseases.<sup>1372</sup> G7 leaders also committed to supporting existing global research coordination initiatives, such as the Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance, as well as supporting efforts for global clinical trials for the development of antimicrobials, diagnostics and other countermeasures.<sup>1373</sup> They also pledged to explore the possibility of partnerships for coordinated vaccine research and development, as well as promote clinical trials on emerging infectious diseases for rapid research responses in cases of outbreak.<sup>1374</sup>

At the 2020 Virtual Summit, held on 16 March to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, G7 leaders expressed their commitment to increase research efforts to combat the disease.<sup>1375</sup> Specifically, they committed to supporting the launch of joint research projects, and the sharing of facilities, towards rapid development, manufacture and distribution of treatments and a vaccine.<sup>1376</sup> At the time, they expected to meet gain in three months, under the U.S. presidency, at their regularly scheduled summit on 10-12 June 2020, which was later postponed indefinitely.

### **Commitment Features**

At the 2020 United States Summit, G7 members committed to “increase coordinated research efforts, including through voluntary support for the global alliance Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation.”

“Increase” is understood to mean contributing additional efforts to an old commitment. Hence, it does not entail adding new efforts in new ways.<sup>1377</sup>

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<sup>1368</sup> Fight Against Infectious Disease, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 July 2006. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2006stpetersburg/infdis.html>.

<sup>1369</sup> Leaders' Declaration: G7 Summit, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>1370</sup> Leaders' Declaration: G7 Summit, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>1371</sup> Leaders' Declaration: G7 Summit, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>1372</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/health.html>.

<sup>1373</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/health.html>.

<sup>1374</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/health.html>.

<sup>1375</sup> G7 Leaders' Statement, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>1376</sup> G7 Leaders' Statement, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>1377</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 August 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2020. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2019.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2019.pdf).

“Coordinated” is understood to mean in a manner that brings efforts into a common action, movement, or condition.<sup>1378</sup> Specifically, this entails acting in liaison and cooperating with other governments, multilateral organizations, NGOs, and other actors to fulfill the commitment.

“Research efforts” refers to initiatives that conduct research aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19; facilitating care for those affected; and developing treatments for the virus such as vaccines and drugs.

“Voluntary” is understood to mean in a manner that proceeds from the choice or consent of the G7 member, and not as part of a previous obligation.<sup>1379</sup>

“Support” is understood to mean assist (financially and through other means) and promote the cause and interests of an initiative.<sup>1380</sup>

CEPI refers to the 2017 global alliance of public, private, philanthropic, and civil society organisations working to accelerate the development of vaccines against emerging infectious diseases and enable equitable access to those vaccines.<sup>1381</sup> In response to COVID-19, CEPI, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and the WHO launched COVAX to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and end the acute phase of the pandemic by the end of 2021.<sup>1382</sup> Specifically, the initiative aims to produce two billion doses of vaccines for equitable distribution in 2021, and includes a system where participating countries can access CEPI's portfolio of various COVID-19 vaccine candidates, which increases chances of developing multiple successful vaccines.<sup>1383</sup>

Actions to support CEPI include increased funding for the alliance and its initiatives, directing resources and teams to contribute to CEPI's work, establishing bilateral and/or multilateral relationships to contribute to CEPI's work, and directly partnering with the alliance as a G7 member. Moreover, support for CEPI specifically is understood to be crucial for full compliance with the commitment.

Thus, to achieve full compliance, or a score of +1, G7 members must take actions to increase coordinated research efforts in response to COVID-19, both existing and new. In line with the actions taken in previous years, this can include research on effective, safe, and affordable prevention, control, and treatments for COVID-19, including vaccines. Moreover, G7 members must also provide voluntary support for CEPI through the actions listed directly above or more.

To achieve partial compliance, or a score of 0, G7 members must take actions to increase coordinated research efforts in response to COVID-19, both existing and new, but fail to provide voluntary support for CEPI. For example, if a G7 member launches an initiative to research treatment and spread of COVID-19, but does not provide any monetary or other forms of support to CEPI, then it has achieved partial compliance.

Non-compliance, or a score of -1, entails a complete or nearly complete failure to increase coordinated research efforts in response to COVID-19, both existing and new, as well as provide voluntary support for CEPI.

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<sup>1378</sup> Merriam-Webster's Dictionary. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/coordinate>.

<sup>1379</sup> Merriam-Webster's Dictionary. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/voluntary>.

<sup>1380</sup> Merriam-Webster's Dictionary. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/support>.

<sup>1381</sup> Why we exist, CEPI (Oslo). Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://cepi.net/about/whyweexist/>.

<sup>1382</sup> COVAX: CEPI's response to COVID-19, CEPI (Oslo). Access Date: 16 December 2020.

<sup>1383</sup> COVAX: CEPI's response to COVID-19, CEPI (Oslo). Access Date: 16 December 2020.

## Scoring Guidelines

-1	G7 member does not take any action to increase coordinated research efforts OR provide voluntary support for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation
0	G7 member takes actions to increase coordinated research efforts BUT does not make efforts to provide voluntary support for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation
+1	G7 member takes actions to increase coordinated research efforts AND provides voluntary support for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation

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### Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to increase coordinated research efforts, including through voluntary support for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation (CEPI).

On 19 March 2020, the Government of Canada announced an additional CAD25.8 million for research on countermeasures against COVID-19, which will go to 49 researchers across the country.<sup>1384</sup>

On 5 April 2020, the Government of Canada announced that it has committed to a voluntary CAD40 million investment to CEPI alliance to sponsor international COVID-19 vaccine development efforts.<sup>1385</sup>

On 27 June 2020, Minister of International Development Karina Gould confirmed a commitment of CAD120 million to the newly introduced Access to COVID-19 (ACT) Accelerator, with CAD20 million of that total allocated broadly to the CEPI.<sup>1386</sup> The ACT-Accelerator is a vaccine development partnership co-led by CEPI, the Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and the World Health Organization (WHO) to ensure the equitable access and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and other related therapies internationally.<sup>1387</sup>

On 25 September 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau declared a USD440 million agreement with the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) facility led by the Gavi, the WHO, and CEPI.<sup>1388</sup> Through the agreement, CAD220 million will support the procurement of 15 million vaccine doses for Canadians, while an additional CAD220 million will endow the deployment of vaccines for low- and middle-income countries.<sup>1389</sup>

<sup>1384</sup> Health Research, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/institutes-health-research/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-funds-49-additional-covid-19-research-projects-details-of-the-funded-projects.html>

<sup>1385</sup> Backgrounder - Canada provides funding to address COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/backgrounder---canada-provides-funding-to-address-covid-19-pandemic.html>

<sup>1386</sup> Canada announces support for equitable access to new COVID-19 medical solutions, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/06/canada-announces-support-for-equitable-access-to-new-covid-19-medical-solutions.html>

<sup>1387</sup> Canada boosts funding for CEPI's COVID-19 vaccine research, CEPI (Oslo) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [https://cepi.net/news\\_cepi/canada-boosts-funding-for-cepis-covid-19-vaccine-research/](https://cepi.net/news_cepi/canada-boosts-funding-for-cepis-covid-19-vaccine-research/)

<sup>1388</sup> New agreements to secure additional vaccine candidates for COVID-19, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/09/25/new-agreements-secure-additional-vaccine-candidates-covid-19>

<sup>1389</sup> New agreements to secure additional vaccine candidates for COVID-19, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/09/25/new-agreements-secure-additional-vaccine-candidates-covid-19>

On 14 December 2020, Minister of International Development Gould announced that Canada would contribute an additional CAD255 million in support of the ACT-Accelerator for global vaccine development and distribution.<sup>1390</sup>

On 18 February 2021, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) partnered with CEPI to launch a new CAD2.4 million research and development grant, the CIHR-CEPI Leadership Award for Excellence in Vaccine Research for Infectious Disease of Epidemic Potential funding opportunity.<sup>1391</sup> The grant opportunity will go towards the domestic development of vaccines for infectious diseases like COVID-19, and is intended to further advance the progress of CEPI's work.<sup>1392</sup> The grant opportunity will support up to six independent Canadian researchers to undertake two-year projects to research treatments for global health threats like COVID-19, Lassa fever, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, Nipah, Rift Valley fever, as well as "Disease X," otherwise known as future novel or unidentified pathogens.<sup>1393</sup>

On 19 February 2021, the United States with the European Commission, Japan, Germany, and Canada jointly invested USD4.3 billion to the ACT-Accelerator to finance the production and rollout of tests, vaccines, and therapies needed to end the acute phase of the pandemic.<sup>1394</sup>

On 19 February 2021, at a G7 virtual leaders meeting, Prime Minister Trudeau pledged an additional CAD75 million to the COVAX initiative.<sup>1395</sup>

On 31 March 2021, the Canadian government announced CAD415 million in funding for a partnership with Sanofi Pasteur Ltd. to bolster Canadian research and development as well as vaccine manufacturing capacity.<sup>1396</sup>

Through its voluntary monetary support of CEPI and the creation of partnerships for research grants targeting vaccine development, Canada has taken action to promote coordinated international research efforts.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Grace Parish*

## **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to increase coordinated research efforts, including through voluntary support for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation (CEPI).

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<sup>1390</sup> Canada boosts funding for CEPI's COVID-19 vaccine research, CEPI (Oslo) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [https://cepi.net/news\\_cepi/canada-boosts-funding-for-cepis-covid-19-vaccine-research/](https://cepi.net/news_cepi/canada-boosts-funding-for-cepis-covid-19-vaccine-research/).

<sup>1391</sup> New infectious disease R&D grant opportunity launches for Canadian researchers, CEPI (Oslo) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [https://cepi.net/news\\_cepi/new-infectious-disease-rd-grant-opportunity-launches-for-canadian-researchers/](https://cepi.net/news_cepi/new-infectious-disease-rd-grant-opportunity-launches-for-canadian-researchers/).

<sup>1392</sup> Upcoming CEPI-CIHR grant funding opportunity for Canadian researchers, CEPI (Oslo) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [https://cepi.net/news\\_cepi/upcoming-cepi-cihr-grant-funding-opportunity-for-canadian-researchers/](https://cepi.net/news_cepi/upcoming-cepi-cihr-grant-funding-opportunity-for-canadian-researchers/).

<sup>1393</sup> Upcoming CEPI-CIHR grant funding opportunity for Canadian researchers, CEPI (Oslo) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [https://cepi.net/news\\_cepi/upcoming-cepi-cihr-grant-funding-opportunity-for-canadian-researchers/](https://cepi.net/news_cepi/upcoming-cepi-cihr-grant-funding-opportunity-for-canadian-researchers/).

<sup>1394</sup> G7 leaders commit US\$ 4.3 billion to finance global equitable access to tests, treatments and vaccines in 2021, World Health Organization (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-02-2021-g7-leaders-commit-us-4.3-billion-to-finance-global-equitable-access-to-tests-treatments-and-vaccines-in-2021>.

<sup>1395</sup> Trudeau pledges more cash as G7 leaders aim for wider COVID-19 vaccine distribution, CTV (Toronto) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/trudeau-pledges-more-cash-as-g7-leaders-aim-for-wider-covid-19-vaccine-distribution-1.5315485>.

<sup>1396</sup> Canada to take COVAX vaccines, won't share doses until every Canadian is inoculated: Anand, CBC (Ottawa) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/covax-anand-vaccine-timetable-1.5939270>.



On 19 March 2020, the Government of France announced that it will invest an extra EUR5 billion over the next decade to support scientific research programs, intended to tackle both the COVID-19 pandemic and also prepare the country for future epidemics.<sup>1397</sup> Of this funding, EUR50 million will be released as part of an emergency fund for research on COVID-19.<sup>1398</sup>

On 16 April 2020, the Government of France and the Chair of the Analysis, Research and Expert Committee Françoise Barré-Sinoussi convened a conference call focused on the need to strengthen global coordination around the World Health Organization (WHO) and create a multilateral initiative.<sup>1399</sup> The call included international health organizations, including but not limited to the WHO, the Global Fund, and CEPI, and the participants agreed on the need for a coordinated, comprehensive initiative.<sup>1400</sup>

On 24 April 2020, France, alongside its European and international partners and the WHO, launched a global cooperation platform called Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.<sup>1401</sup> The ACT-Accelerator has three aims: “1) to speed up the design and production of diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines, 2) guarantee safe, equitable and universal access to these solutions and 3) consolidate healthcare systems against COVID-19 and other diseases.”<sup>1402</sup>

On 4 May 2020, President Emmanuel Macron pledged EUR500 million to the ACT-Accelerator, effectively making France one of its leading contributors.<sup>1403</sup> This funding will go towards advancing research and development of a COVID-19 vaccine, in partnership with CEPI and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.<sup>1404</sup>

On 5 June 2020, France announced a vaccine alliance along with Germany, Netherlands, and Italy, which aims to focus on development, production, and accessibility of the COVID-19 vaccine to members of the European Union and other countries.<sup>1405</sup>

On 25 June 2020, Minister for Solidarity and Health Olivier Véran announced EUR90 million to support the WHO in training and innovation in global health in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1406</sup>

On 13 November 2020, President Macron pledged new funding to the ACT-Accelerator at the Paris Peace Forum, which along with the rest of the donors totaled USD360 million to the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access facility.<sup>1407</sup>

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<sup>1397</sup> France to invest an extra 5 billion euros in scientific research amid coronavirus, Reuters (Paris) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-france-research-idUSKBN216395>.

<sup>1398</sup> France reaches for research bazooka, adding over €5B over 10 years to fight COVID-19 and future epidemics, Science|Business (Brussels) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://sciencebusiness.net/covid-19/news/france-reaches-research-bazooka-adding-over-eu5b-over-10-years-fight-covid-19-and>.

<sup>1399</sup> France pledges €500m against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

<sup>1400</sup> France pledges €500m against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

<sup>1401</sup> France pledges €500m against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

<sup>1402</sup> France pledges €500m against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

<sup>1403</sup> Macron: France to pledge 500 million euros for global coronavirus vaccine hunt, Reuters (London) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-eu-france-idUSKBN22G1NO>.

<sup>1404</sup> Macron: France to pledge 500 million euros for global coronavirus vaccine hunt, Reuters (London) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-eu-france-idUSKBN22G1NO>.

<sup>1405</sup> European Initiative for the Covid-19 Vaccine, French Government (France) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/european-initiative-for-the-covid-19-vaccine>.

<sup>1406</sup> Partners in health: Germany and France commit to increased support to WHO affirming the Organization's crucial role in global public health, World Health Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/29-06-2020-partners-in-health-germany-and-france-commit-to-increased-support-to-who-affirming-the-organization-s-crucial-role-in-global-public-health>.

On 23 April 2021, France became the first country and G7 member to donate COVID-19 vaccine doses to the COVAX facility for distribution to lower-income countries.<sup>1408</sup> The first batch consisted of 105,000 doses that were allocated to Mauritania through the facility. On the same day, France announced an overall commitment of 500,000 doses to COVAX by mid-June. President Macron has called on other rich countries to “accelerate” international solidarity during the COVID-19 pandemic by doing the same.<sup>1409</sup>

France has taken concrete action towards increasing coordinated research efforts through multilateral initiatives and voluntary monetary support for CEPI.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Cole Murray*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to increase coordinated research efforts, including through voluntary support for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation (CEPI).

On 4 May 2020, Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged EUR535 million for the Global Response Initiative, which is the European Commission's response to the call by the World Health Organization (WHO) for global action for universal access to affordable COVID-19 vaccination, treatment and testing.<sup>1410</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Chancellor Merkel pledged an additional EUR1.3 billion to global health projects in support of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and to improve health systems in the Global South.<sup>1411</sup>

On 4 June 2020, Chancellor Merkel committed EUR100 million to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance to help contain the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1412</sup>

On 15 June 2020, the German government invested EUR300 million for a 23 per cent share in German biotech firm CureVac to aid its vaccine development efforts.<sup>1413</sup>

On 15 September 2020, the German government awarded USD745 million to biotech firms BioNTech and CureVac to expedite vaccine research and domestic production capability.<sup>1414</sup>

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<sup>1407</sup> Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator commitments reach US 5.1 billion following new contributions, including at Paris Peace Forum, World Health Organization (Geneva) 13 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/13-11-2020-access-to-covid-19-tools-accelerator-commitments-reach-us-5.1billion-following-new-contributions-including-at-paris-peace-forum>.

<sup>1408</sup> France donates COVID vaccines to Africa through UN program, Associated Press (New York) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/mauritania-health-coronavirus-pandemic-france-africa-b5073e38b03c251a9d066660adc07ccb>.

<sup>1409</sup> France donates COVID vaccines to Africa through UN program, Associated Press (New York) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/mauritania-health-coronavirus-pandemic-france-africa-b5073e38b03c251a9d066660adc07ccb>.

<sup>1410</sup> Global Goal: unite for our Future, European Union (Brussels) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. [https://global-response.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://global-response.europa.eu/index_en).

<sup>1411</sup> Billions pledged for the fight against the coronavirus, The Federal Government (Berlin) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/geberkonferenz-covid-19-1750332>.

<sup>1412</sup> Gavi Conference lays foundation for global immunization campaign, says Minister Muller, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/juni/200604\\_Gavi-conference-lays-foundation-for-global-immunisation-campaign-says-Minister-Mueller/index.html](https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/juni/200604_Gavi-conference-lays-foundation-for-global-immunisation-campaign-says-Minister-Mueller/index.html).

<sup>1413</sup> Coronavirus vaccine maker CureVac plans U.S. listing in July, Reuters (Berlin) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-germany-curevac-ex-idUSKBN23M14Z>.

<sup>1414</sup> Germany grants BioNTech, CureVac \$745 million to speed up COVID-19 vaccine work, Reuters (Berlin) 15 September 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-germany-vaccine-idUSKBN2661JB>.

On 30 September 2020, Chancellor Merkel announced that the EUR100 million pledged to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance in June 2020 will be allocated to the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access Advance Market Commitment (COVAX AMC) led by Gavi, the WHO, and CEPI.<sup>1415</sup>

On 12 November 2020, the Ministry of Economic Cooperation agreed to a contribution of EUR150 million to the Global Fund in order to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in low- and middle-income countries.<sup>1416</sup>

On 19 February 2021, the United States with the European Commission, Japan, Germany, and Canada jointly invested USD4.3 billion to the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator to finance the production and rollout of tests, vaccines, and therapies needed to end the acute phase of the pandemic.<sup>1417</sup>

On 19 February 2021, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas announced that Germany will provide an additional EUR1.5 billion to the ACT-Accelerator, aimed at strengthening research and development of vaccines.<sup>1418</sup> This funding will include EUR1.21 billion allocated to the COVAX vaccine pillar, as well as EUR10 million to the WHO's Response Fund.<sup>1419</sup>

Germany has taken concrete steps to increasing coordinated research efforts through multilateral initiatives and through voluntary monetary support for CEPI.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Cole Murray*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to increase coordinated research efforts, including through voluntary support for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation (CEPI).

On 1 April 2020, the Ministry of Health announced an open call for research projects on COVID-19 with EUR7 million available in research funding.<sup>1420</sup> Research projects should focus on possible clinical and public health measures that can be quickly implemented to limit the transmission of COVID-19 and to aid understandings of the pathogenesis of COVID-19.<sup>1421</sup> Funding can only be granted to research groups of institutes recognized as Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico, which refers to scientific institutes for hospitalization and healthcare.<sup>1422</sup> Minister of Health Roberto Speranza said this initiative would

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<sup>1415</sup> Minister Gerd Müller welcomes COVAX commitment, says we must not leave developing countries to fend for themselves in the fight against COVID-19, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 30 September 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/september/200930\\_Minister-Gerd-Mueller-welcomes-COVAX-commitment\\_says-we-must-not-leave-developing-countries-to-fend-for-themselves-in-the-fight-against-COVID-19/index.html](https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/september/200930_Minister-Gerd-Mueller-welcomes-COVAX-commitment_says-we-must-not-leave-developing-countries-to-fend-for-themselves-in-the-fight-against-COVID-19/index.html).

<sup>1416</sup> Germany signs EUR150 million contribution to the Global Fund's COVID-19 response, The Global Fund (Geneva) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/news/2020-11-12-germany-signs-eur150-million-contribution-to-the-global-fund-s-covid-19-response/>.

<sup>1417</sup> G7 leaders commit US\$ 4.3 billion to finance global equitable access to tests, treatments and vaccines in 2021, World Health Organization (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-02-2021-g7-leaders-commit-us-4.3-billion-to-finance-global-equitable-access-to-tests-treatments-and-vaccines-in-2021>.

<sup>1418</sup> Foreign Minister Maas on the global fight against COVID-19, German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-covax/2443492>.

<sup>1419</sup> Foreign Minister Maas on the global fight against COVID-19, German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-covax/2443492>.

<sup>1420</sup> Call for Covid-19 Research, Ministry of Health (Rome) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/ministro/p4\\_10\\_1\\_1\\_atti\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&id=216](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/ministro/p4_10_1_1_atti_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&id=216).

<sup>1421</sup> Call for Covid-19 Research, Ministry of Health (Rome) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/ministro/p4\\_10\\_1\\_1\\_atti\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&id=216](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/ministro/p4_10_1_1_atti_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&id=216).

<sup>1422</sup> Call for Covid-19 Research, Ministry of Health (Rome) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/ministro/p4\\_10\\_1\\_1\\_atti\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&id=216](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/ministro/p4_10_1_1_atti_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&id=216).

encourage inter-institutional collaborations between the Ministry of Health and the medical and scientific communities.<sup>1423</sup> Ten projects among 91 were selected for funding.<sup>1424</sup>

On 24 April 2020, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte announced Italy's participation in the launch of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, and urged global cooperation on COVID-19 vaccine development.<sup>1425</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Prime Minister Conte announced a contribution of EUR10 million to CEPI to accelerate vaccine research at the Coronavirus Global Response Pledging Conference.<sup>1426</sup> Additionally, he announced additional contributions of EUR10 million to the World Health Organization and EUR120 million over five years to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.<sup>1427</sup>

On 7 May 2020, the Government of Italy signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Government of Japan to strengthen international collaborations in the medical and health field.<sup>1428</sup> This memorandum supports collaborative efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19 and to identify appropriate treatments and vaccines against the COVID-19 virus.<sup>1429</sup>

On 4 June 2020, Prime Minister Conte pledged EUR120 million at the Global Vaccine Summit for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.<sup>1430</sup> Of these funds, Italy will contribute USD103 million to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Advance Market Commitment initiative.<sup>1431</sup>

On 28 October 2020, the Government of Italy officially joined CEPI by contributing the first EUR5 million of a total pledge of EUR10 million.<sup>1432</sup> CEPI's goal is to develop at least three COVID-19 vaccine candidates.<sup>1433</sup>

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<sup>1423</sup> Call for research on Covid-19 is underway, Ministry of Health (Rome) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5508](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5508).

<sup>1424</sup> Scientific research, Sileri: 7 million allocated for research by the IRCSS, Ministry of Health (Rome) 28 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5620](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5620).

<sup>1425</sup> Italian Prime Minister Conte joins launch of 'Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator', Donor Tracker (Berlin) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://donortracker.org/Italian-Prime-Minister-Conte-joins-launch-of-Access-to-COVID-19-Tools-Accelerator>.

<sup>1426</sup> Coronavirus, the fundraising marathon for a vaccine has started, Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata (Rome) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.ansa.it/europa/notizie/rubriche/altrenews/2020/05/04/gabriel-ue-in-prima-linea-per-trovare-vaccino\\_f8aa1eed-efb7-49fc-91fe-5899fd6a1836.html](https://www.ansa.it/europa/notizie/rubriche/altrenews/2020/05/04/gabriel-ue-in-prima-linea-per-trovare-vaccino_f8aa1eed-efb7-49fc-91fe-5899fd6a1836.html).

<sup>1427</sup> Coronavirus, the fundraising marathon for a vaccine has started, Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata (Rome) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.ansa.it/europa/notizie/rubriche/altrenews/2020/05/04/gabriel-ue-in-prima-linea-per-trovare-vaccino\\_f8aa1eed-efb7-49fc-91fe-5899fd6a1836.html](https://www.ansa.it/europa/notizie/rubriche/altrenews/2020/05/04/gabriel-ue-in-prima-linea-per-trovare-vaccino_f8aa1eed-efb7-49fc-91fe-5899fd6a1836.html).

<sup>1428</sup> Note of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Memorandum of Cooperation in the health field Italy – Japan signed today between the two Ministries of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 7 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/05/memorandum-di-cooperazione-in-campo-sanitario-italia-giappone-firmato-oggi-tra-i-due-ministeri-della-salute.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/05/memorandum-di-cooperazione-in-campo-sanitario-italia-giappone-firmato-oggi-tra-i-due-ministeri-della-salute.html).

<sup>1429</sup> Note of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Memorandum of Cooperation in the health field Italy – Japan signed today between the two Ministries of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 7 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/05/memorandum-di-cooperazione-in-campo-sanitario-italia-giappone-firmato-oggi-tra-i-due-ministeri-della-salute.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/05/memorandum-di-cooperazione-in-campo-sanitario-italia-giappone-firmato-oggi-tra-i-due-ministeri-della-salute.html).

<sup>1430</sup> Italy Donor Profile, Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/investing-gavi/funding/donor-profiles/italy>.

<sup>1431</sup> Italy Donor Profile, Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/investing-gavi/funding/donor-profiles/italy>.

<sup>1432</sup> Italy pledges first EUR 5 million funding to CEPI to advance COVID-19 vaccine development efforts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-al-cepi.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-al-cepi.html).

On 26 January 2021, Italy committed EUR5 million to the International Finance Facility for Immunisation to hasten funding for the CEPI.<sup>1434</sup>

On 27 January 2021, Deputy Minister of Health Pierpaolo Sileri announced the establishment of the Italian Consortium for the genotyping and phenotyping of SARS-CoV-2, which will be coordinated by the Istituto Superiore di Sanità.<sup>1435</sup> This Consortium involves collaboration between the Government of Italy and other actors such as the Italian Society for Virology.<sup>1436</sup>

Italy has taken steps to increase coordinated research efforts along inter-institutional, international and interdisciplinary lines through open calls for projects, memorandums and consortiums while also voluntarily funding the CEPI's vaccine development efforts.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Brandon Yib*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to increase coordinated research efforts, including through voluntary support for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation (CEPI).

On 27 March 2020, the Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) announced its efforts to strengthen collaborations with the Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association on the research and development of COVID-19 pharmaceuticals and vaccines.<sup>1437</sup>

On 8 April 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced an emergency grant aid of USD1 million to expand clinical research on Avigan, an antiviral medicine, on COVID-19 in cooperation with interested countries.<sup>1438</sup> This will also entail the procurement and transport of Avigan tablets to beneficiary countries with COVID-19 patients.<sup>1439</sup>

On 24 April 2020, the AMED announced an open call for research projects by private corporations, universities, and research institutes focused on technology development and countermeasures against

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<sup>1433</sup> Italy pledges first EUR 5 million funding to CEPI to advance COVID-19 vaccine development efforts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021.

[https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-al-cepi.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-al-cepi.html).

<sup>1434</sup> Italy reaffirms support of Gavi and CEPI with €5 million grant to IFFIm, International Finance Facility for Immunisation (London) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://iffim.org/press-releases/italy-reaffirms-support-gavi-and-cepi-eu5-million-grant-iffim>.

<sup>1435</sup> The Italian proposal for the viro-immunological surveillance of COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Rome) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5746](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5746).

<sup>1436</sup> The Italian consortium for the genotyping and phenotyping of Sars-Cov2 is born, AboutPharma Online (Milan) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.aboutpharma.com/blog/2021/01/27/nasce-il-consorzio-italiano-per-la-genotipizzazione-e-fenotipizzazione-di-sars-cov2>.

<sup>1437</sup> AMED and JPMA strengthen collaboration on drug development, Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (Tokyo) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.amed.go.jp/en/news/topics/20200327.html>.

<sup>1438</sup> Emergency grant aid to deliver the anti-viral medicine Avigan to countries with COVID-19 patients, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000149.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000149.html).

<sup>1439</sup> Emergency grant aid to deliver the anti-viral medicine Avigan to countries with COVID-19 patients, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000149.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000149.html).

COVID-19 and infectious diseases.<sup>1440</sup> This open call comes in response to the Cabinet of Japan's "Emergency Economic Measures for Coronavirus Infectious Diseases," announced on 7 April 2020.<sup>1441</sup>

On 7 May 2020, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Health in support of the health and medical sciences.<sup>1442</sup> This memorandum supports collaborative efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19 and to identify appropriate treatments and vaccines against the virus.<sup>1443</sup>

On 8 May 2020, Japan committed USD100 million in initial funding to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance to aid Gavi's COVID-19 response efforts and to help immunize more than 300 million children in the next five years.<sup>1444</sup>

On 21 May 2020, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) announced a measure to support seven research and development projects aimed at patient care approaches and treatments for COVID-19.<sup>1445</sup> Japanese universities, corporations and other non-governmental actors with support from the METI will lead the research efforts.<sup>1446</sup>

On 15 September 2020, Japan committed JPY17.2 billion in funding for the COVID-19 the Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) facility, the vaccination programme led by the World Health Organization (WHO) and other organizations.<sup>1447</sup>

On 8 October 2020, Japan pledged USD130 million to fund the COVAX Advance Market Commitment (COVAX AMC), a financing mechanism that aims to reserve and provide safe COVID-19 vaccines to developing countries.<sup>1448</sup>

On 9 February 2021, Japan committed to providing an additional USD70 million to COVAX to support equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for developing countries.<sup>1449</sup>

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<sup>1440</sup> About open call for participants in 2020 "Technology development project for infectious diseases such as viruses," Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (Tokyo) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [https://www.amed.go.jp/koubo/02/01/0201B\\_00094.html](https://www.amed.go.jp/koubo/02/01/0201B_00094.html).

<sup>1441</sup> About open call for participants in 2020 "Technology development project for infectious diseases such as viruses," Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (Tokyo) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [https://www.amed.go.jp/koubo/02/01/0201B\\_00094.html](https://www.amed.go.jp/koubo/02/01/0201B_00094.html).

<sup>1442</sup> Note of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Health of the Italian Republic and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan in the field of Health and Medical Sciences, Ministry of Health of the Italian Republic (Rome) 7 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [http://www.salute.gov.it/imgs/C\\_17\\_paginaAree\\_4258\\_2\\_file.pdf](http://www.salute.gov.it/imgs/C_17_paginaAree_4258_2_file.pdf).

<sup>1443</sup> Note of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Memorandum of Cooperation in the health field Italy – Japan signed today between the two Ministries of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 7 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/05/memorandum-di-cooperazione-in-campo-sanitario-italia-giappone-firmato-oggi-tra-i-due-ministeri-della-salute.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/05/memorandum-di-cooperazione-in-campo-sanitario-italia-giappone-firmato-oggi-tra-i-due-ministeri-della-salute.html).

<sup>1444</sup> Japan pledges new support to Gavi, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/japan-pledges-new-support-gavi>.

<sup>1445</sup> Measure for Supporting Organizations in Advancing Research and Development of Technologies for Addressing the Novel Coronaviruses Disease and Other Infectious Diseases Starts, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0521\\_001.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0521_001.html).

<sup>1446</sup> Measure for Supporting Organizations in Advancing Research and Development of Technologies for Addressing the Novel Coronaviruses Disease and Other Infectious Diseases Starts, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0521\\_001.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0521_001.html).

<sup>1447</sup> Japan commits \$165 million to WHO's global coronavirus vaccine programme, Reuters (Tokyo) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-japan-covax/japan-commits-165-million-to-whos-global-coronavirus-vaccine-programme-idUKKBN2670AE>.

<sup>1448</sup> Japan pledges US\$130 million to support global access to COVID-19 vaccines, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/japan-pledges-us-130-million-support-global-access-covid-19-vaccines>.

On 19 February 2021, the United States with the European Commission, Japan, Germany, and Canada jointly invested USD4.3 billion to the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator to finance the production and rollout of tests, vaccines, and therapies needed to end the acute phase of the pandemic.<sup>1450</sup>

On 19 February 2021, Japan pledged an additional USD70 million in funding for the COVAX AMC.<sup>1451</sup>

Japan has taken steps to increase coordinated research efforts in response to COVID-19 with other countries, universities, corporations and other non-governmental entities. Japan has also provided voluntary support to CEPI through COVAX.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Brandon Yih*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to increase coordinated research efforts, including through voluntary support for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation (CEPI).

On 17 March 2020, the UK government deployed its UK Public Health Rapid Support Team (UK-PHRST) of public health specialists to the Philippines, Ethiopia, and Nepal to help respond to COVID-19 outbreaks and conduct research on international epidemic preparedness and response.<sup>1452</sup> UK-PHRST further deployed scientists to Malaysia, India, and the World Health Organization (WHO) to support global response to the emerging COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1453</sup>

On 23 March 2020, Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government of the United Kingdom Patrick Vallance confirmed a GBP20 million government investment in the COVID-19 Genomics UK Consortium, an organization made up of the National Health Service, Public Health Agencies, and other academic institutions to investigate and map genome sequencing of COVID-19 spread.<sup>1454</sup> The consortium's stated purpose is to deliver large-scale genome virus sequencing to inform both national and international strategies to manage the pandemic.<sup>1455</sup>

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<sup>1449</sup> Japan offers \$70 mil. More to ensure poor nations' access to vaccines, Kyodo News (Tokyo) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/02/bb5fa13be2af-japan-offers-70-mil-more-to-ensure-poor-nations-access-to-vaccines.html>.

<sup>1450</sup> G7 leaders commit US\$ 4.3 billion to finance global equitable access to tests, treatments and vaccines in 2021, World Health Organization (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-02-2021-g7-leaders-commit-us-4.3-billion-to-finance-global-equitable-access-to-tests-treatments-and-vaccines-in-2021>.

<sup>1451</sup> G7 backs Gavi's COVAX Advance Market Commitment to boost COVID-19 vaccines in world's poorest countries, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/g7-backs-gavis-covax-amc-boost-covid-19-vaccines-worlds-poorest-countries>.

<sup>1452</sup> UK Public Health Rapid Support Team deployed to help international coronavirus effort, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (London) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/newsevents/news/2020/uk-public-health-rapid-support-team-deployed-help-international-coronavirus>.

<sup>1453</sup> UK Public Health Rapid Support Team deployed to help international coronavirus effort, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (London) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/newsevents/news/2020/uk-public-health-rapid-support-team-deployed-help-international-coronavirus>.

<sup>1454</sup> UK launches whole genome sequence alliance to map spread of coronavirus, Government of the UK (London) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-launches-whole-genome-sequence-alliance-to-map-spread-of-coronavirus>.

<sup>1455</sup> UK launches whole genome sequence alliance to map spread of coronavirus, Government of the UK (London) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-launches-whole-genome-sequence-alliance-to-map-spread-of-coronavirus>.

On 26 March 2020, the UK government announced a voluntary pledge of GBP210 million to CEPI to support coordinated COVID-19 vaccine development, the largest contribution of any individual country.<sup>1456</sup> Furthermore, Prime Minister Boris Johnson called upon other G20 members to pledge USD100 million in funding towards this goal to “help us defeat the virus”<sup>1457</sup> and meet CEPI’s February call for USD2 billion to support vaccine development.<sup>1458</sup> This builds on the UK government’s previous funding of GBP50 million to CEPI to support its vaccine development for COVID-19 and other emerging infectious diseases.<sup>1459</sup>

On 29 March 2020, the UK government committed GBP40 million to the COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator initiative by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Wellcome, and Mastercard, which provides grants to fund new research on the development and widespread access to therapies to treat COVID-19.<sup>1460</sup> Funding will go to three institutions: the University of Washington, the Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit and La Jolla Institute for Immunology, in order to study repurposed drugs and their effectiveness as therapies against COVID-19.<sup>1461</sup>

On 4 June 2020, at the Global Vaccine Summit, Secretary of State Priti Patel pledged USD60.6 million to the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access Advance Market Commitment initiative led by the Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the WHO, and CEPI.<sup>1462</sup>

On 30 September 2020, at the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab committed an additional GBP500 million to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility to support international efforts for safe and affordable inoculations.<sup>1463</sup>

On 20 March 2021, Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock announced GBP3.2 million in funding for two new clinical trials testing the effectiveness of treatments in preventing vulnerable individuals from catching COVID-19 and transmitting the virus.<sup>1464</sup>

The UK has taken concrete action to increase coordinated research efforts through the deployment of scientists and the allocation of new research grants, and has voluntarily supported the CEPI and COVAX by unmatched monetary support.

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

*Analyst: Grace Parish*

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<sup>1456</sup> UK boosts support for CEPI to spur COVID-19 vaccine development, CEPI (Oslo) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://cepi.net/news\\_cepi/uk-boosts-support-for-cepi-to-spur-covid-19-vaccine-development/](https://cepi.net/news_cepi/uk-boosts-support-for-cepi-to-spur-covid-19-vaccine-development/).

<sup>1457</sup> UK boosts support for CEPI to spur COVID-19 vaccine development, CEPI (Oslo) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://cepi.net/news\\_cepi/uk-boosts-support-for-cepi-to-spur-covid-19-vaccine-development/](https://cepi.net/news_cepi/uk-boosts-support-for-cepi-to-spur-covid-19-vaccine-development/).

<sup>1458</sup> UK Commits £210 Million Toward Global Efforts to Find COVID-19 Vaccine, Eyewire News (Wayne) 27 March 2010. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://eyewire.news/articles/uk-commits-210-million-toward-global-efforts-to-find-covid-19-vaccine/>.

<sup>1459</sup> UK boosts support for CEPI to spur COVID-19 vaccine development, CEPI (Oslo) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://cepi.net/news\\_cepi/uk-boosts-support-for-cepi-to-spur-covid-19-vaccine-development/](https://cepi.net/news_cepi/uk-boosts-support-for-cepi-to-spur-covid-19-vaccine-development/).

<sup>1460</sup> COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator awards \$20 million in initial grants to fund clinical trials, The Wellcome Sanger Institute (Hinxton) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://wellcome.org/press-release/covid-19-therapeutics-accelerator-awards-20-million-initial-grants-fund-clinical?utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_medium=o-wellcome](https://wellcome.org/press-release/covid-19-therapeutics-accelerator-awards-20-million-initial-grants-fund-clinical?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=o-wellcome).

<sup>1461</sup> COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator awards \$20 million in initial grants to fund clinical trials, The Wellcome Sanger Institute (Hinxton) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://wellcome.org/press-release/covid-19-therapeutics-accelerator-awards-20-million-initial-grants-fund-clinical?utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_medium=o-wellcome](https://wellcome.org/press-release/covid-19-therapeutics-accelerator-awards-20-million-initial-grants-fund-clinical?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=o-wellcome).

<sup>1462</sup> United Kingdom, Gavi Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/investing-gavi/funding/donor-profiles/united-kingdom>.

<sup>1463</sup> United Kingdom, Gavi Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/investing-gavi/funding/donor-profiles/united-kingdom>.

<sup>1464</sup> Trials to Find Preventative COVID-19 Treatments for Most Vulnerable to Launch in UK, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/trials-to-find-preventative-covid-19-treatments-for-most-vulnerable-to-launch-in-uk>.



## United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to increase coordinated research efforts, including through voluntary support for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation (CEPI).

On 23 October 2020, the U.S. International Development Agency (USAID) committed USD20 million in financial support to CEPI advance vaccine development for emerging infectious diseases and ensure access to the vaccines for populations experiencing outbreaks internationally.<sup>1465</sup> The partnership between CEPI and USAID builds on previous partnerships between CEPI and leading US biomedical institutions worldwide, including the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), as well as a large range of U.S.-based vaccine developers who are working with CEPI to develop vaccines against COVID-19, Middle East respiratory syndrome, Nipah virus, Lassa fever, and Rift Valley Fever.<sup>1466</sup> The funding will go towards vaccine developments against these “priority diseases” as well as unknown pathogens, known as “Disease X.”<sup>1467</sup>

On 15 May 2020, the U.S. government announced Operation Warp Speed, a national program to lead the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and therapies.<sup>1468</sup> It is a public-private partnership between the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Defense, other federal agencies, and the private sector.<sup>1469</sup>

On 4 June 2020, the United States at the Global Vaccine Summit pledged USD1.16 billion to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.<sup>1470</sup>

On 19 February 2021, the United States with the European Commission, Japan, Germany, and Canada jointly invested USD4.3 billion to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator to finance the production and rollout of tests, vaccines, and therapies needed to end the acute phase of the pandemic.<sup>1471</sup> The U.S. pledged an extra USD2 billion to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Advance Market Commitment on top of its initial funding.<sup>1472</sup>

On 24 February 2021, the National Institutes of Health published its findings on a study of detectable antibodies against SARS-CoV-2.<sup>1473</sup> This study was part of a USD306 million initiative to “develop, validate, improve, and implement serological testing and associated technologies applicable to COVID-19.”<sup>1474</sup>

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<sup>1465</sup> USA joins CEPI to support the development of epidemic vaccines, CEPI (Oslo) 23 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://cepi.net/news\\_cepi/usa-joins-cepi-to-support-the-development-of-epidemic-vaccines/](https://cepi.net/news_cepi/usa-joins-cepi-to-support-the-development-of-epidemic-vaccines/).

<sup>1466</sup> USA joins CEPI to support the development of epidemic vaccines, CEPI (Oslo) 23 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://cepi.net/news\\_cepi/usa-joins-cepi-to-support-the-development-of-epidemic-vaccines/](https://cepi.net/news_cepi/usa-joins-cepi-to-support-the-development-of-epidemic-vaccines/).

<sup>1467</sup> USA joins CEPI to support the development of epidemic vaccines, CEPI (Oslo) 23 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://cepi.net/news\\_cepi/usa-joins-cepi-to-support-the-development-of-epidemic-vaccines/](https://cepi.net/news_cepi/usa-joins-cepi-to-support-the-development-of-epidemic-vaccines/).

<sup>1468</sup> Trump Administration Announces Framework and Leadership for ‘Operation Warp Speed,’ Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/15/trump-administration-announces-framework-and-leadership-for-operation-warp-speed.html>.

<sup>1469</sup> Trump Administration Announces Framework and Leadership for ‘Operation Warp Speed,’ Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/15/trump-administration-announces-framework-and-leadership-for-operation-warp-speed.html>.

<sup>1470</sup> United States of America, GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 30 September 2020. Access Date: <https://www.gavi.org/investing-gavi/funding/donor-profiles/united-states-america>.

<sup>1471</sup> G7 leaders commit US\$ 4.3 billion to finance global equitable access to tests, treatments and vaccines in 2021, World Health Organization (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-02-2021-g7-leaders-commit-us-4.3-billion-to-finance-global-equitable-access-to-tests-treatments-and-vaccines-in-2021>.

<sup>1472</sup> G7 leaders commit US\$ 4.3 billion to finance global equitable access to tests, treatments and vaccines in 2021, World Health Organization (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-02-2021-g7-leaders-commit-us-4.3-billion-to-finance-global-equitable-access-to-tests-treatments-and-vaccines-in-2021>.

<sup>1473</sup> NIH Study finds that people with SARS-CoV-2 antibodies may have a low risk of future infection, National Institutes of Health (Maryland) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-study-finds-people-sars-cov-2-antibodies-may-have-low-risk-future-infection>.

The United States has taken concrete steps to improve coordinated research efforts among scientists and global health experts through its funding for the acceleration of research and development, and has voluntarily provided monetary support to CEPI.

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

*Analyst: Michelle Noor*

### **European Union: +1**

European Union has fully complied with its commitment to increase coordinated research efforts, including through voluntary support for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation (CEPI).

On 21 April 2020, the EU pledged USD544.996 million to the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and COVID-19 relief activities in Africa.<sup>1475</sup>

On 4 June 2020, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen at the Global Vaccine Summit pledged EUR300 million to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, for the 2021-2025 period.<sup>1476</sup> This contribution marks a 50 per cent increase in the Commission's contribution relative to the previous period.<sup>1477</sup>

On 22 July 2020, the EU pledged an investment of EUR1 billion to CEPI in support of research and innovation programmes to prevent COVID-19.<sup>1478</sup> Half this investment was already expected but was doubled after the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>1479</sup>

On 19 February 2021, the United States with the European Commission, Japan, Germany, and Canada jointly invested USD4.3 billion to the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator to finance the production and rollout of tests, vaccines, and therapies needed to end the acute phase of the pandemic.<sup>1480</sup>

On 19 February 2021, the European Commission committed USD363 million to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Advance Market Commitment.<sup>1481</sup> Further, the European Investment Bank, the

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<sup>1474</sup> NIH Study finds that people with SARS-CoV-2 antibodies may have a low risk of future infection, National Institutes of Health (Maryland) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-study-finds-people-sars-cov-2-antibodies-may-have-low-risk-future-infection>.

<sup>1475</sup> Donor Funding for the Global Novel Coronavirus Response, Kaiser Family Foundation (San Francisco) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/donor-funding-for-the-global-novel-coronavirus-response/>.

<sup>1476</sup> European Commission, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 30 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/investing-gavi/funding/donor-profiles/european-commission>.

<sup>1477</sup> European Commission, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 30 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/investing-gavi/funding/donor-profiles/european-commission>.

<sup>1478</sup> Coronavirus: EU Supports Vaccine Research with additional EUR100 million, European Commission (Brussels) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/coronavirus-eu-supports-vaccine-research-additional-eu100-million-2020-jul-22\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/coronavirus-eu-supports-vaccine-research-additional-eu100-million-2020-jul-22_en).

<sup>1479</sup> Coronavirus: EU Supports Vaccine Research with additional EUR100 million, European Commission (Brussels) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/coronavirus-eu-supports-vaccine-research-additional-eu100-million-2020-jul-22\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/coronavirus-eu-supports-vaccine-research-additional-eu100-million-2020-jul-22_en).

<sup>1480</sup> G7 leaders commit US\$ 4.3 billion to finance global equitable access to tests, treatments and vaccines in 2021, World Health Organization (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-02-2021-g7-leaders-commit-us-4.3-billion-to-finance-global-equitable-access-to-tests-treatments-and-vaccines-in-2021>.

<sup>1481</sup> G7 leaders commit US\$ 4.3 billion to finance global equitable access to tests, treatments and vaccines in 2021, World Health Organization (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-02-2021-g7-leaders-commit-us-4.3-billion-to-finance-global-equitable-access-to-tests-treatments-and-vaccines-in-2021>.

lending arm of the EU, offered an additional USD242 million in loan guarantees, intended to help ACT-Accelerator to frontload future payments to speed up the response.<sup>1482</sup>

On 25 February 2021, the EU reaffirmed their support to COVAX and its goals of distributing vaccines to 92 low- and middle-income countries, and also committed to contributing the EU's "fair share" to the ACT-Accelerator.<sup>1483</sup>

The European Union has taken concrete steps to increase coordinated research efforts and has voluntarily supported CEPI through monetary investments.

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

*Analyst: Michelle Noor*

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<sup>1482</sup> G7 leaders commit US\$ 4.3 billion to finance global equitable access to tests, treatments and vaccines in 2021, World Health Organization (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-02-2021-g7-leaders-commit-us-4.3-billion-to-finance-global-equitable-access-to-tests-treatments-and-vaccines-in-2021>.

<sup>1483</sup> Statement of the members of the European Council on COVID-19 and health, 25 February 2021, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/02/25/statement-of-the-members-of-the-european-council-on-covid-19-and-health-25-february-2021/>.