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The G7 Research Group presents the

## **2020 G7 USA Virtual Summit Interim Compliance Report**

17 March 2020 to 25 February 2021

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16 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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## Introduction

This compliance report marks an unusual year in the history of the G7. On 16 March 2020, under the presidency of the United States and President Donald Trump, G7 leaders held their first virtual extraordinary summit to plan a response to the pandemic caused by the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and the COVID-19 pandemic. They were scheduled to meet in person on 10-12 June at Camp David, but as the pandemic worsened plans shifted from an in-person format to a virtual one. On 20 May 2020, the summit was postponed indefinitely. Although President Trump considered holding the summit later in the year, none took place. So, for the first time since 1975 there was no full-strength summit with the usual prepared agenda.

This interim report thus assesses compliance with the commitments made at the March summit in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It assesses actions taken by G7 members between 17 March 2020 and 25 February 2021. A final report will assess final compliance for the full inter-summit period, from 16 March 2020 to just before the Cornwall Summit, scheduled to take place under the UK presidency on 11-13 June 2021. All previous compliance reports are available at the G7 Information Centre website at <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance>.

For its assessment of compliance with the 2020 Virtual Summit commitments, the G7 Research Group researchers selected 20 priority commitments from the total of 26 commitments made at the 2020 virtual summit on 16 March 2020. Researchers rely on publicly available information, documentation and media reports of actions taken beginning the day after the summit.

The G7 Research Group has been producing annual compliance reports since 1996. It began publishing interim reports in 2002 to assess progress at the time of the transition from the outgoing G7 presidency to the incoming presidency each 1 January. These reports are offered to the general public and to policy makers, academics, civil society, the media and interested citizens around the world in an effort to make the work of the G7 more transparent and accessible, and to provide scientific data to enable meaningful analysis of the impact of this unique informal international institution.

Based at the University of Toronto and founded in 1987, the G7 Research Group strives to be the leading independent source of information and analysis on the institutions, performance, issues and participants of the G7 summit and system of global governance. It is a global network of scholars, students and professionals. The group oversees the G7 Information Centre, which publishes freely available research on the G7 as well as official documents issued by the G7.

This report is produced entirely on a voluntary basis. It receives no direct financial support from any source. It comes from a process entirely insulated from the other major activities of the G7 Research Group, such as its pre-summit conferences sponsored by various institutions or the “background books” produced by GT Media.

To ensure the accuracy, comprehensiveness and integrity of these reports, comments and suggestions are always welcome. Indeed, this is a living document, and the scores can be recalibrated if new material becomes available. All feedback remains anonymous and is never attributed. Responsibility for this report’s contents lies exclusively with the report’s authors and the analysts of the G7 Research Group.

The work of the G7 Research Group would not be possible without the steadfast dedication of many people around the world. This report is the product of a team of energetic and hard-working analysts led by Meagan Byrd, chair of summit studies, and her team of compliance directors, lead analysts and analysts. It would also not be possible without the efforts of Professor John Kirton, director of the G7 Research Group, Brittany Warren, director of compliance, Dr. Ella Kokotsis, director of accountability, and Madeline Koch, executive director. We are also indebted to the many people who provide feedback on our drafts, whose comments are always carefully considered in the published report.

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## Summary

The G7 Research Group's Interim Compliance Report on the 2020 Virtual Summit in response to COVID-19 assesses the compliance of the G7 members with 20 priority commitments selected from the total of 26 they made on 16 March 2020, based on members' implementing actions taken between 17 March 2020 and 25 February 2021 (see Table A). This selection reflects the breadth and focus of the extraordinary summit's agenda, organized in short notice to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the understanding that a regular summit would take place three months later in June. The G7 Research Group is continuing to monitor G7 members' actions to fulfill their 2020 virtual summit commitments, and a final report will be issued on the eve of the Cornwall Summit scheduled to take place on 11-13 June 2021.

The previous compliance reports are available for review at <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance>.

### The Interim Compliance Score

Compliance is measured on a three-point scientific scale. A score of +1 (100%) indicates full compliance with a commitment, a score of 0 (50%) indicates partial compliance or a work in progress, and a score of -1 (0%) indicates non-compliance or a failure to comply or action taken that is counter to the commitment. Table B contains the interim compliance scores.

For the period of 17 March 2020 to 25 February 2021, average compliance for the 20 commitments assessed is +0.86 (93%). This is the highest average from the five previous compliance cycles. This is a significant increase from the 2019 Biarritz interim compliance score of +0.24 (62%). The final compliance average from the 2018 Charlevoix Summit at +0.66 (83%) is the closest recent compliance average to the current cycle. Table C contains the compliance scores from previous years.

### Compliance by Member

The European Union ranked first with an average compliance score of +0.95 (98%), followed by France and Germany at +0.90 (95%), Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States at +0.85 (93%). Italy is the lowest scoring member at +0.75 (88%). Canada is the second lowest scoring member at +0.80 (90%). This is a different configuration from the 2019 interm compliance report where the European Union, Germany and United Kingdom were the highest scoring members. In the 2019 interim compliance report, Italy was also the lowest scoring member.

### Compliance by Commitment

Of the 20 commitments assessed, 13 had compliance of +1.00 (100%). Ten of those 13 commitments are on health and three are on trade. The lowest compliance came on two global economy commitments: one at +0.25 (63%) on economic growth and one at 0 (50%) on restoring growth.

### The Compliance Gap Between Members

These final results from the 2020 virtual summit show a difference of 0.1 between the highest and lowest compliance scores of members.

### Future Research and Reports

The information contained within this report provides G7 members and other stakeholders with an indication of the G7 members' compliance with 20 commitments for the period beginning immediately after the 2020 virtual summit on 16 March 2020 until 25 February 2021. A final report will be published on the eve of the Cornwall Summit. As with previous compliance reports, this report has been produced as an invitation for others to provide additional or more complete information on G7 members' compliance. Comments are always welcomed and would be considered as part of an analytical reassessment. Please send your feedback to [g7@utoronto.ca](mailto:g7@utoronto.ca).

**Table A: 2020 USA Virtual Summit Priority Commitments Selected for Assessment\***

	Commitment
1	“We are committed to marshalling the full power of our governments to: Coordinate on necessary public health measures to protect people at risk from COVID-19”
2	“By acting together, we will work to resolve the health ... risks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic”
3	“We will work hard to protect the health and safety of everyone in our countries.”
4	“We will enhance our efforts to strengthen health systems in our countries and globally.”
5	“We will pool epidemiologic and other data to better understand and fight the virus.
6	We will increase coordinated research efforts, including through voluntary support for the global alliance”
7	“We will support the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources, and the sharing of facilities, towards rapid development, manufacture and distribution of treatments and a vaccine, adhering to the principles of efficacy, safety, and accessibility.”
8	“We will make efforts to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed.”
9	“We will coordinate with online platforms to maximize public access to the latest correct and relevant official information, in recognition that millions of citizens receive information and news via social media.”
10	“We fully support the World Health Organization in its global mandate to lead on disease outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences, leaving no geographical vacuum”
11	“We will coordinate our efforts to delay the spread of the virus, including through appropriate border management measures.”
12	“We are committed to doing whatever is necessary to ensure a strong global response through closer cooperation and enhanced coordination of our efforts.”
13	“We are committed to marshalling the full power of our governments to: Encourage science, research, and technology cooperation.”
14	“We are committed to marshalling the full power of our governments to: Restore confidence, growth, and protect jobs”
15	“We resolve to coordinate measures and do whatever it takes, using all policy tools, to achieve strong growth in the G7 economies”
16	“[We resolve to ] ... safeguard against downside risks.”
17	“In facing the economic challenge, we are determined not only to restore the level of growth anticipated before the COVID-19 pandemic”
18	“We are committed to marshalling the full power of our governments to: Support global trade and investment”
19	“We will address disturbances to international supply chains”
20	“[We will] ... continue our work to facilitate international trade.”

\*For the full list of commitments, please contact the G7 Research Group at [g7@utoronto.ca](mailto:g7@utoronto.ca).

**Table B: 2020 G7 USA Virtual Summit Interim Compliance Scores**

		Canada	France	Germany	Italy	Japan	United Kingdom	United States	European Union	Average	
1	Health: Public Health Measures	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
2	Health: Addressing Health	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
3	Health: Protecting Health and Safety	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
4	Health: Strengthening Health Systems	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
5	Health: Data Sharing	0	0	+1	+1	0	0	+1	+1	+0.50	75%
6	Health: Coordinated Research Efforts	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
7	Health: Joint Research Projects	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
8	Health: Medical Equipment	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
9	Health: Online Platforms	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
10	Health: Supporting the World Health Organization	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
11	Health: Delaying the Spread of COVID-19	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
12	International Cooperation: Global Response	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+0.88	94%
13	International Cooperation: Science, Research & Tech	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.88	94%
14	Global Economy: Restoring Confidence and Growth	0	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.75	88%
15	Global Economy: Economic Growth	0	+1	+1	-1	0	0	0	+1	+0.25	63%
16	Global Economy: Downside Risk	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.88	94%
17	Global Economy: Restoring Growth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50%
18	Trade: Supporting Trade and Investment	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
19	Trade: International Supply Chains	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
20	Trade: Facilitating International Trade	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
	2020 Interim Compliance Average	+0.80	+0.90	+0.90	+0.75	+0.85	+0.85	+0.85	+0.95	+0.86	93%
		90%	95%	95%	88%	93%	93%	93%	98%		



**Table C: 2020 G7 USA Virtual Summit Compliance Scores by Member**

	2020		2019				2018				2017				2016					
	Interim		Final		2nd interim		1st interim		final		interim		final		interim		final		interim	
European Union	+0.95	98%	+0.71	86%	+0.67	83%	+0.52	76%	+0.90	95%	+0.85	93%	+0.95	98%	+0.94	97%	+0.67	84%	+0.91	96%
France	+0.90	95%	+0.67	83%	+0.76	88%	+0.33	67%	+0.65	83%	+0.45	73%	+0.68	84%	+0.50	75%	+0.26	63%	+0.27	64%
Germany	+0.90	95%	+0.86	93%	+0.67	83%	+0.48	74%	+0.50	75%	+0.40	70%	+0.63	82%	+0.44	72%	+0.67	84%	+0.55	78%
Japan	+0.85	93%	+0.48	74%	+0.38	69%	+0.38	69%	+0.68	84%	+0.58	79%	+0.47	74%	+0.25	63%	+0.28	64%	+0.18	59%
United Kingdom	+0.85	93%	+0.81	90%	+0.76	88%	+0.43	72%	+0.85	93%	+0.70	85%	+0.84	92%	+0.56	78%	+0.53	77%	+0.64	82%
United States	+0.85	93%	+0.29	64%	+0.19	60%	+0.05	53%	+0.47	74%	+0.24	62%	+0.17	59%	+0.13	57%	+0.63	82%	+0.82	91%
Canada	+0.80	90%	+0.62	81%	+0.48	74%	+0.05	53%	+0.80	90%	+0.70	85%	+0.68	84%	+0.44	72%	+0.58	79%	+0.55	78%
Italy	+0.75	88%	+0.19	60%	+0.10	55%	-0.29	36%	+0.50	75%	+0.15	58%	+0.37	69%	+0.31	66%	+0.21	61%	+0.18	59%
Average	+0.85	93%	+0.58	79%	+0.50	75%	+0.24	62%	+0.66	83%	+0.51	76%	+0.59	80%	+0.44	72%	+0.49	75%	+0.51	76%
Spread	0.10		0.67		0.66		0.81		0.45		0.70		0.78		0.81		0.46		0.73	

**Table D: 2020 G7 USA Virtual Summit Interim Compliance Scores by Commitment**

1	Health: Addressing Health	+1.00	100%
	Health: Coordinated Research Efforts		
	Health: Delaying the Spread of COVID-19		
	Health: Joint Research Projects		
	Health: Medical Equipment		
	Health: Online Platforms		
	Health: Protecting Health and Safety		
	Health: Public Health Measures		
	Health: Strengthening Health Systems		
	Health: Supporting the World Health Organization		
	Trade: Facilitating International Trade		
	Trade: International Supply Chains		
	Trade: Supporting Trade and Investment		
14	Global Economy: Downside Risk	+0.88	94%
	International Cooperation: Global Response		
	International Cooperation: Science, Research and Technology		
17	Global Economy: Restoring Confidence and Growth	+0.75	88%
18	Health: Data Sharing	+0.50	75%
19	Global Economy: Economic Growth	+0.25	63%
20	Global Economy: Restoring Growth	0	50%

## 1. Health: Public Health Measures

“We are committed to marshalling the full power of our governments to: Coordinate on necessary public health measures to protect people at risk from COVID-19”

*G7 Leaders’ Statement*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+1.00 (100%)	

### Background

The G7 leaders first made a statement on health at the 1978 Bonn Summit.<sup>1</sup> The statement was given orally regarding the impact of drugs on health.<sup>2</sup> At the 1984 London Summit, the Summit Chair Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher delivered an oral statement on health.<sup>3</sup> Prime Minister Thatcher’s health statement focused on cancer.<sup>4</sup>

At the 1987 Venice Summit, the G7 leaders made a statement on AIDS.<sup>5</sup> The statement identifies AIDS as “one of the biggest health problems in the world.”<sup>6</sup> They identified that “national efforts need to be intensified and more effective by international cooperation and concerted campaigns to prevent AIDS from spreading further.”<sup>7</sup> The G7 leaders identified public education strategy on the seriousness of the AIDS epidemic as a strategy for combat and prevention.<sup>8</sup>

A decade later, at the 1998 Denver Summit, health came back on the summit agenda.<sup>9</sup> The focus was on the health of aging populations.<sup>10</sup> The G8 leaders identified increased life expectancy and improved health among

<sup>1</sup> 1978 Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 July 1978. Access Date: 9 February 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1978bonn/communique.html>.

<sup>2</sup> 1978 Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 July 1978. Access Date: 9 February 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1978bonn/communique.html>.

<sup>3</sup> The London Economic Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 1984. Access Date: 9 February 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1984london/communique.html>.

<sup>4</sup> The London Economic Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 1984. Access Date: 9 February 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1984london/communique.html>.

<sup>5</sup> Chairman’s Statement on AIDS, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 10 June 1987. Access Date: 9 February 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1987venice/aids.html>.

<sup>6</sup> Chairman’s Statement on AIDS, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 10 June 1987. Access Date: 9 February 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1987venice/aids.html>.

<sup>7</sup> Chairman’s Statement on AIDS, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 10 June 1987. Access Date: 9 February 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1987venice/aids.html>.

<sup>8</sup> Chairman’s Statement on AIDS, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 10 June 1987. Access Date: 9 February 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1987venice/aids.html>.

<sup>9</sup> Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 June 1997. Access Date: 9 February 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1997denver/g8final.htm>.

<sup>10</sup> Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 June 1997. Access Date: 9 February 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1997denver/g8final.htm>.

the elderly as major achievements of the century in health.<sup>11</sup> The leaders agreed to promote active aging by strengthening pensions, health and long-term care systems.<sup>12</sup>

At the 1998 Birmingham Summit, the G8 leaders agreed to mutual cooperation on infectious and parasitic diseases, and to support the efforts of the World Health Organization (WHO's in those respective areas.<sup>13</sup> At the 1999 Koln Summit, the G8 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the World Health Organization on infectious and parasitic diseases.<sup>14</sup> In addition, the G8 leaders committed to adding malaria, polio and tuberculosis and drug-resistant forms to their priority national and international efforts on health.<sup>15</sup>

At the 2000 Okinawa Summit, health was a key issue on the agenda.<sup>16</sup> The G8 leaders agreed to strengthen health delivery systems to reach beyond traditional approaches.<sup>17</sup>

At the 2001 Genoa Summit, the G8 leaders affirmed that “strong national health systems will continue to play a key role in the delivery of effective prevention, treatment and care in providing access to essential health services.”<sup>18</sup> The G8 leaders committed to initiatives to promote health, education and good security.<sup>19</sup>

At the 2003 G8 Evian Summit, the G8 leaders released “Health: A G8 Action Plan.”<sup>20</sup> The action plan had six main pillars: fighting HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria; strengthening health systems; access to medicines; fighting diseases mostly affecting developing countries, eradicating polio, and confronting the threat of severe, acute respiratory syndrome.<sup>21</sup> The G8 leaders committed to working in partnership with developing countries, the private sector, multilateral organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to assist in achieving these goals.<sup>22</sup>

At the 2007 G8 Heiligendamm Summit, the G8 leaders committed to “Improving health systems, fighting HIV/ AIDS, TB and Malaria.”<sup>23</sup> The G8 leaders recognize that “the access to quality health services remains

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<sup>11</sup> Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 June 1997. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1997denver/g8final.htm>.

<sup>12</sup> Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 June 1997. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1997denver/g8final.htm>.

<sup>13</sup> Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 May 1998. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1998birmingham/finalcom.htm>.

<sup>14</sup> Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 May 1998. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1998birmingham/finalcom.htm>.

<sup>15</sup> Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 May 1998. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1998birmingham/finalcom.htm>.

<sup>16</sup> G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 July 2000. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>.

<sup>17</sup> G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 July 2000. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>.

<sup>18</sup> Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommunique.html>.

<sup>19</sup> Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommunique.html>.

<sup>20</sup> Health: A G8 Action Plan, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 June 2003. Access Date: 9 February 2021. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2003evian/health\\_en.html](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2003evian/health_en.html).

<sup>21</sup> Health: A G8 Action Plan, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 June 2003. Access Date: 9 February 2021. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2003evian/health\\_en.html](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2003evian/health_en.html).

<sup>22</sup> Health: A G8 Action Plan, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 June 2003. Access Date: 9 February 2021. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2003evian/health\\_en.html](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2003evian/health_en.html).

<sup>23</sup> Chair's Summary, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2007. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2007heilgendamm/g8-2007-summary.html>.

a critical challenge in many African countries.”<sup>24</sup> Finally, the G8 leaders committed the sustainable and equitable financing of health systems.<sup>25</sup>

At the 2008 G8 Toyako-Hokkaido Summit, the G8 leaders made numerous commitments on health and health related issues.<sup>26</sup> The G8 leaders identified that their actions have raised international awareness on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care.<sup>27</sup> The G8 leaders committed to “strengthening health systems including social health protection.”<sup>28</sup> The G8 leaders supported African partners commitment to “ensure that by 2015 all children have access to basic health care.”<sup>29</sup>

At the 2010 G8 Muskoka Summit, the G8 leaders made numerous health commitments aligned with the Millennium Development Goal 5.<sup>30</sup> Additionally, the G8 leaders developed a Joint Action Plan to Improve the Health of Women and Children.<sup>31</sup>

At the 2015 G7 Elmau Summit, the G7 leaders made commitments on three main areas of health: Ebola, antimicrobial resistance and neglected tropical diseases.<sup>32</sup> The G7 leaders identified “the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being.”<sup>33</sup> On Ebola, the G7 leaders committed to preventing future outbreaks from becoming epidemics by assisting countries to implement the WHO’s International Health Regulations.<sup>34</sup> On antimicrobial resistance, the G7 leaders strongly committed to the One Health approach.<sup>35</sup> Finally, on neglected tropical diseases, the G7 leaders committed to “the fight against neglected tropical diseases.”<sup>36</sup>

Health stayed on the forefront of the G7 Agenda at the G7 Ise-Shima Summit.<sup>37</sup> The G7 leaders created the “G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health.”<sup>38</sup> The Vision committed to four main areas of health: reinforcing

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<sup>24</sup> Chair’s Summary, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2007. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2007heiligendamm/g8-2007-summary.html>.

<sup>25</sup> Chair’s Summary, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2007. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2007heiligendamm/g8-2007-summary.html>.

<sup>26</sup> G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

<sup>27</sup> G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

<sup>28</sup> G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

<sup>29</sup> G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

<sup>30</sup> Muskoka Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 June 2010. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html>.

<sup>31</sup> Muskoka Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 June 2010. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html>.

<sup>32</sup> Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>33</sup> Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>34</sup> Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>35</sup> Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>36</sup> Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>37</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/health.html>.

<sup>38</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/health.html>.

the global health architecture, attaining universal health coverage with strong health systems, antimicrobial resistance, and research and development innovation.<sup>39</sup>

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, the G7 leaders committed to “advancing global health security and pursuing policies that advance physical and mental health.”<sup>40</sup> Additionally, the G7 leaders committed to “strengthening health systems.”<sup>41</sup>

On 16 March 2020, the G7 leaders met virtually to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic, and to form a global response.<sup>42</sup> At the time, they expected to meet again in three months, under the U.S. presidency, at their regularly scheduled summit on 10-12 June 2020, which was later postponed indefinitely. At the Virtual Summit, the G7 leaders “acknowledge[d] that the COVID-19 pandemic is a human tragedy and a global health crisis.”<sup>43</sup> The main focus of the G7 response to COVID-19 was to accelerate the response to COVID-19, address the economic impact of the outbreak, and restore and expand growth.<sup>44</sup>

### **Commitment Features**

The G7 leaders committed “to marshalling the full power of our governments to: Coordinate on necessary public health measures to protect people at risk from COVID-19.”<sup>45</sup> In this commitment, the main target is for the G7 members to “coordinate on necessary public health measures” through domestic and international action.<sup>46</sup>

“Marshalling” is understood as organizing and directing in an effective manner. Therefore, actions must demonstrate a commitment to the aim of encouraging the aforementioned targets. “Full power” is understood as the fullest extent to which governments are capable of implementing a certain process. Therefore, providing funding is understood as the fullest extent to which governments can act because it demonstrates a purposeful commitment to achieving cooperation in the target areas.

“Coordinate” can be understood to mean organizing all different COVID-19 responses by each G7 member to work effectively together. Therefore, action by the G7 member would be to ensure that pandemic responses are coordinated and synchronous to other members, governments, NGOs and international organizations. “Necessary” can be understood to mean essential or needed. “Necessary public health measures” can be understood to mean essential or needed action or measures with regards to public health. Therefore, it can be interpreted that the necessary public health measures are imperative for the response to COVID-19. “At Risk” can be interpreted to be any person who is capable of contracting and falling ill from COVID-19.

For full compliance or a score of +1, a G7 member must take steps to coordinate on necessary public health measures at the national and international level. National action can be allocated money for public health

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<sup>39</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/health.html>.

<sup>40</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

<sup>41</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

<sup>42</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>43</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>44</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>45</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>46</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

entities, allocated personnel in areas directly responding to COVID-19, the creation and launch of a new program for coordinated COVID-19 action. Relaunching an existing program with a new framework specifically for the response to the COVID-19 pandemic would also be an action for compliance. Finally, other domestic action can include legislative changes or policy and judicial enforcement of measures. International action can include international legislation such as sponsoring, signing or ratifying an international treaty. Other international action can be international finance or resource support, or joining, participating in international organization. The last example of international action can be border opening or closures. For any of these actions to count towards compliance, they have to be achieved through a coordinated effort.

If a G7 member takes action in coordinated national action through any of the aforementioned national examples and does not take any action through coordinated international action, the G7 member will be awarded a score of 0, or partial compliance. A score of partial 0 or partial compliance will also be awarded if a G7 member takes action in any of the aforementioned international examples without taking any action through coordinated national action.

If none of the aforementioned criteria is achieved, the G7 member will be awarded a score of -1, or non-compliance.

**Scoring Metric**

-1	G7 member does not take any steps towards coordinated national action for necessary public health measures or take any steps towards coordinated international action for necessary public health measures.
0	G7 member takes action to EITHER coordinate national action for necessary public health measures OR coordinate international action for necessary public health measures.
+1	G7 member takes steps for BOTH coordinated national action for necessary public health measures AND coordinated international action for necessary public health measures.

*Compliance Director: Eunice Yong  
Lead Analyst: Maryanna Diab*

**Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to marshal the full power of its government to coordinate necessary public health measures to protect people at risk from COVID-19.

On 21 March 2020, the Canadian Government placed a temporary restriction on all discretionary travel at the Canada-U.S. border.<sup>47</sup> The Canada-U.S. border closure was extended until 21 March 2021.<sup>48</sup> The Canadian Government also required that all persons entering Canada must quarantine themselves for 14 days upon arrival.<sup>49</sup> Non-Canadian citizens displaying symptoms of COVID-19 would not be permitted to enter Canada.<sup>50</sup>

<sup>47</sup> Travel Restriction to Canada remains in place for September long weekend, Canada Border Services Agency (Ottawa) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2020/08/travel-restrictions-to-canada-remain-in-place-for-september-long-weekend.html>.

<sup>48</sup> Canada-U.S. border closure to be extended until Mar. 21, Blair says, Global News (Toronto) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7652286/canada-us-border-closure-march-extension/>.

<sup>49</sup> Travel Restriction to Canada remains in place for September long weekend, Canada Border Services Agency (Ottawa) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2020/08/travel-restrictions-to-canada-remain-in-place-for-september-long-weekend.html>.

<sup>50</sup> Travel Restriction to Canada remains in place for September long weekend, Canada Border Services Agency (Ottawa) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2020/08/travel-restrictions-to-canada-remain-in-place-for-september-long-weekend.html>.

On 31 March 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the government's partnership with Canadian industries to fight COVID-19.<sup>51</sup> Under Canada's Plan to Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19, the government would be able to increase its "ability to respond to the outbreak with necessary medical equipment and supplies."<sup>52</sup> Moreover, the Canadian Government announced that it would invest CAD2 billion to purchase diagnostic tests, ventilators and protective personal equipment, which include masks, face shields, gowns and hand sanitizer.<sup>53</sup> The Canadian Government has also entered an agreement with Canadian companies Thornhill Medical, Medicom, and Spartan Bioscience to purchase and increase manufacturing capabilities for necessary medical equipment.<sup>54</sup>

On 20 April 2020, the Canadian Government responded to Quebec's Request for Assistance by sending in the Canadian Armed Force to provide care in the province's long-term care facilities who were struck by COVID-19 outbreaks.<sup>55</sup>

On 31 August 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that the government would procure millions of doses of COVID-19 vaccines from Johnson & Johnson and Novavax in addition to the already established agreements reached with Pfizer and Moderna.<sup>56</sup>

On 23 October 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that the government would invest up to CAD173 million in the Strategic Innovation Fund for a Quebec City-based biotechnology company, Medicago, to further support the government's response to COVID-19.<sup>57</sup>

On 23 December 2020, Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, and Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health, announced that the Canadian Government would provide CAD70 million to the Red Cross for their ongoing COVID-19 response.<sup>58</sup> The Canadian Government had initially provided the Red Cross with CAD100 million in May 2020.<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> Prime Minister announces new partnerships with Canadian industries to fight COVID-19, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/31/prime-minister-announces-new-partnerships-canadian-industries-fight>.

<sup>52</sup> Prime Minister announces new partnerships with Canadian industries to fight COVID-19, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/31/prime-minister-announces-new-partnerships-canadian-industries-fight>.

<sup>53</sup> Prime Minister announces new partnerships with Canadian industries to fight COVID-19, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/31/prime-minister-announces-new-partnerships-canadian-industries-fight>.

<sup>54</sup> Prime Minister announces new partnerships with Canadian industries to fight COVID-19, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/31/prime-minister-announces-new-partnerships-canadian-industries-fight>.

<sup>55</sup> Government of Canada continues federal support to Quebec COVID-19 response through partnership with Canadian Red Cross, Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2020/06/goc-continues-fed-supt-to-quebec-covid-19-response-through-partnership-with-canadian-red-cross.html>.

<sup>56</sup> New measures to ensure the supply of future vaccines and therapies against COVID-19, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Montréal) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/08/31/new-measures-ensure-supply-future-vaccines-and-therapies-against>

<sup>57</sup> Prime Minister announces funding to advance the development of Canadian COVID-19 vaccine technologies, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 23 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/10/23/prime-minister-announces-funding-advance-development-canadian-covid>.

<sup>58</sup> Government of Canada provides \$70 million in additional funding to Red Cross for ongoing COVID-19 response, Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-provides-70-million-in-additional-funding-to-the-red-cross-for-ongoing-covid-19-response.html>.

<sup>59</sup> Government of Canada provides \$70 million in additional funding to Red Cross for ongoing COVID-19 response, Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-provides-70-million-in-additional-funding-to-the-red-cross-for-ongoing-covid-19-response.html>.



On 22 January 2021, Minister Blair, Minister Hajdu and Minister of Public Services and Procurement Canada Anita Anand said that the Canadian Government would further assist Ontario with its COVID-19 response by providing the province with two federal mobile health units.<sup>60</sup>

On 2 February 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau announced the government's investment in the production of COVID-19 vaccines in Canada.<sup>61</sup>

On 25 February 2021, Canada committed USD59 million to the Access to COVID-19 Tool Accelerator with the World Health Organization.<sup>62</sup>

Canada remains committed to marshal the full power of its government to coordinate on necessary public health measures to protect people at risk from COVID-19.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Ceylan Borgers*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to marshal the full power of its government to coordinate necessary public health measures to protect people at risk from COVID-19.

On 17 March 2020, President Emmanuel Macron announced a 15-day nation-wide lockdown effective to curb the rising COVID-19 cases in the country.<sup>63</sup> A number of measures were introduced, including the suspension of the second round of municipal elections, the deployment of 100,000 officers to enforce the lockdown, the deployment of the French army to help transport the ill and the building of a field hospital in the Alsace region.<sup>64</sup> In addition, Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire announced a EUR45 billion for crisis measures to help companies affected by the pandemic.<sup>65</sup> This was in addition to the EUR300 billion of bank loans President Macron guaranteed to companies impacted by the pandemic.<sup>66</sup> Residents were ordered to remain home unless they needed to buy groceries, go to work, exercise or access medical care.<sup>67</sup> France, along

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<sup>60</sup> Government of Canada provides mobile Health Unites to assist Ontario with COVID-19 response, Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2021/01/government-of-canada-provides-mobile-health-units-to-assist-ontario-with-covid-19-response.html>

<sup>61</sup> New support to produce COVID-19 vaccines and treatments in Canada, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/02/02/new-support-produce-covid-19-vaccines-and-treatments-canada>.

<sup>62</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: 25 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>63</sup> Macron announces 15-day lockdown in French 'war' on coronavirus, France 24 (Paris) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200316-live-france-s-macron-addresses-nation-amid-worsening-coronavirus-outbreak>.

<sup>64</sup> Macron announces 15-day lockdown in French 'war' on coronavirus, France 24 16 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200316-live-france-s-macron-addresses-nation-amid-worsening-coronavirus-outbreak>.

<sup>65</sup> France rolls out initial €45 billion package to help struggling companies, France 24 (Paris) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200317-france-rolls-out-initial-%E2%82%AC45-billion-package-to-help-struggling-companies>.

<sup>66</sup> Ania Nussbaum and William Horobin. France to Guarantee \$335 Billion of Bank Loans, Macron Says, Bloomberg (New York City) 16 March, 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-03-16/france-to-put-all-reforms-on-hold-to-focus-on-virus-macron-says>.

<sup>67</sup> Macron announces 15-day lockdown in French 'war' on coronavirus, France 24 (Paris) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200316-live-france-s-macron-addresses-nation-amid-worsening-coronavirus-outbreak>.

with other European leaders, agreed to close the external European Union border for 30 days to slow the spread but allowed for movement within the EU.<sup>68</sup>

On 23 March 2020, Prime Minister Édouard Philippe announced the new restriction that all French residents and citizens are required to carry a “nouvelle attestation de déplacement dérogatoire,” a certificate justifying their outside presence for essential purposes.<sup>69</sup> Police would be enforcing this law across the country and anyone found without the notification could be fined anywhere from EUR135 to EUR1,500.<sup>70</sup>

On 25 March 2020, President Macron promised a massive investment plan for public hospitals and the launch of “Operation Resilience” in which the army will be deployed to help with logistics and medical support for the general population.<sup>71</sup>

On 27 March 2020, the French Development Agency (AFD) and the National Institute for Health and Medical Research (INSERM) announced their intentions to support health initiatives in Francophone Africa.<sup>72</sup> The EUR1.5 million initiative, financially supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, seeks to achieve four goals including the training and reinforcement of national public health institutes: training and reinforcing capacities of giving laboratory hospitals; training and reinforcing capacities of infectious disease departments in five university hospitals; and supporting training in social sciences and analysis to aid decision-makers.<sup>73</sup> Domestically, Prime Minister Philippe announced an extension of the lockdown until 15 April to help hospitals manage the treatment of patients in hospital.<sup>74</sup>

On 30 March 2020, France dedicated approximately EUR7 billion towards a “solidarity fund” which allowed small companies impacted by COVID-19 to receive payments to offset the negative financial impact of the virus on their business.<sup>75</sup> Payments, which were exempt from income tax, started at EUR1,500 per entity and

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<sup>68</sup> Silvia Amaro and Dan Mangan. European Union will close external borders for 30 days to slow coronavirus pandemic, CNBC News17 (Englewood Cliffs) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/03/17/coronavirus-european-union-leaders-agree-to-close-borders.html>.

<sup>69</sup> Confinement. The new exceptional travel certificate is available, Ouest France 24 (Paris) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/sante/virus/coronavirus/confinement-la-nouvelle-attestation-de-deplacement-derogatoire-est-disponible-6790808>.

<sup>70</sup> Confinement. The new exceptional travel certificate is available, Ouest France 24 (Paris) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.ouest-france.fr/sante/virus/coronavirus/confinement-la-nouvelle-attestation-de-deplacement-derogatoire-est-disponible-6790808>.

<sup>71</sup> 20 Macron launches army Operation Resilience to support the fight against coronavirus, France 24 (Paris) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/200325-macron-launches-army-operation-resilience-to-support-fight-against-coronavirus>.

<sup>72</sup> Coronavirus: AFD and INSERM Implement a Support Mechanism of 1.5 million Euros for French-Speaking Africa, French Development Agency (Paris) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://www.afd.fr/fr/actualites/coronavirus-afd-et-inserm-mettent-en-oeuvre-un-dispositif-de-soutien-pour-l-afrique-francophone?origin=/fr/actualites?field\\_region\\_country\\_target\\_id=231](https://www.afd.fr/fr/actualites/coronavirus-afd-et-inserm-mettent-en-oeuvre-un-dispositif-de-soutien-pour-l-afrique-francophone?origin=/fr/actualites?field_region_country_target_id=231).

<sup>73</sup> Coronavirus: AFD and INSERM Implement a Support Mechanism of 1.5 million Euros for French-Speaking Africa, French Development Agency (Paris) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February, 2021. [https://www.afd.fr/fr/actualites/coronavirus-afd-et-inserm-mettent-en-oeuvre-un-dispositif-de-soutien-pour-l-afrique-francophone?origin=/fr/actualites?field\\_region\\_country\\_target\\_id=231](https://www.afd.fr/fr/actualites/coronavirus-afd-et-inserm-mettent-en-oeuvre-un-dispositif-de-soutien-pour-l-afrique-francophone?origin=/fr/actualites?field_region_country_target_id=231).

<sup>74</sup> French PM extends coronavirus lockdown until April 15, France 24 (Paris) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200327-french-pm-extends-coronavirus-lockdown-by-two-weeks-until-april-15>.

<sup>75</sup> Decree n° 2020-371 of March 30, 2020 relating to the solidarity fund intended for companies particularly affected by the economic, financial and social consequences of the spread of the covid-19 epidemic and the measures taken to limit this spread, Legifrance (Paris) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000041768315/>.

could be increased from EUR2,000 to EUR5,000 if the company could prove significant financial difficulties.<sup>76</sup>

On 13 April 2020, President Macron announced the extension of the nation-wide lockdown from 15 April to 11 May 2020.<sup>77</sup>

On 14 April 2020, President Macron, with other European and African world leaders, co-signed an op-ed in the Financial Times calling for a debt moratorium and to offer both health and economic assistance to help African countries in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>78</sup>

On 15 April 2020, the Paris Club, a coalition of creditor countries including France, announced their intention to temporarily suspend debt service payments for the poorest countries in the world.<sup>79</sup> This was done as a supportive measure to combat the adverse socio-economic effects of COVID-19 on poorer nations.<sup>80</sup> On the same day, the French government announced it would increase its rescue package for companies from EUR45 billion to EUR110 billion with eligible aid for smaller companies increasing to as much as EUR5,000.<sup>81</sup>

On 16 April 2020, Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister of Foreign Affairs, along with 23 other ministers signed the “Joint Declaration of the Alliance for Multilateralism,” committing their nations to providing resources to support global health organizations such as GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, and called for other governments, organizations and the private sector to do the same.<sup>82</sup> These nations are all part of the Alliance for Multilateralism, an alliance founded by both foreign ministers from Germany and France in April 2019.<sup>83</sup> The alliance seeks to support and promote the values of the United Nations to increase international cooperation, an aspect they emphasized is essential to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>84</sup>

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<sup>76</sup> Decree n° 2020-371 of March 30, 2020 relating to the solidarity fund intended for companies particularly affected by the economic, financial and social consequences of the spread of the covid-19 epidemic and the measures taken to limit this spread, Legifrance (Paris) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000041768315/>.

<sup>77</sup> France's Macron extends coronavirus lockdown until May 11, Reuters (London) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-france-idUSKCN21V1UO>.

<sup>78</sup> Only victory in Africa can end the pandemic everywhere - World leaders call for an urgent debt moratorium and unprecedented health and economic aid packages, European Council (Brussels) 15 April 2020. Access Date: February 21, 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/04/15/only-victory-in-africa-can-end-the-pandemic-everywhere/#:~:text=In%20fact%2C%20only%20a%20global,this%20pandemic%20to%20an%20end.text=For%20Africa's%20part%2C%20governments%2C%20medics,the%20co%2Dordinated%20continental%20response>.

<sup>79</sup> Debt Suspension Initiative for the Poorest Countries – Addendum (\*), Club de Paris/The Paris Club (Paris) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/debt-suspension-initiative-for-the-poorest-countries-addendum-15-04>.

<sup>80</sup> Debt Suspension Initiative for the Poorest Countries – Addendum (\*), Club de Paris/The Paris Club (Paris) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://clubdeparis.org/en/communications/press-release/debt-suspension-initiative-for-the-poorest-countries-addendum-15-04>.

<sup>81</sup> France boosts Covid-19 economic rescue package to €110 billion, France 24 (Paris) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200415-france-boosts-covid-19-economic-rescue-package-to-%E2%82%AC110-billion>.

<sup>82</sup> COVID-19 - Joint Declaration of the Alliance for Multilateralism, Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/multilateralism-a-principle-of-action-for-france/alliance-for-multilateralism/news-about-the-alliance-for-multilateralism/article/covid-19-joint-declaration-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism-16-apr-2020>.

<sup>83</sup> Alliance for Multilateralism, Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 16 November 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/multilateralism-a-principle-of-action-for-france/alliance-for-multilateralism/>.

<sup>84</sup> COVID-19 - Joint Declaration of the Alliance for Multilateralism, Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/multilateralism-a-principle-of-action-for-france/alliance-for-multilateralism/news-about-the-alliance-for-multilateralism/article/covid-19-joint-declaration-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism-16-apr-2020>.

On 24 April 2020, President Macron, together with the President of the European Commission, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO) launched the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator during an online event.<sup>85</sup> The ACT-Accelerator is a global collaboration between governments, businesses, philanthropists, scientists, civil society and global health organizations who support the development and distribution of test and vaccines needed to control the COVID-19 disease and restore economic/societal function globally.<sup>86</sup> There are four main pillars to the initiative: supporting health systems, tests and diagnostic, access to treatments and access to vaccines.<sup>87</sup> France has pledged EUR510 million towards the initiative.<sup>88</sup>

On 24 April 2020, Secretary of State for the Economy Agnès Pannier-Runacher confirmed that the French government was set to produce EUR25 million washable masks by the end of April and that face mask distribution to French residents would begin on May 4.<sup>89</sup> This would be in coordination with the local mayors of each city and done in conjunction with the easing of restrictions later in the month.<sup>90</sup> In coordination with health experts and the case numbers in various regions, the country was split into two “zones” of restrictions; the “red zone” in Paris and north-eastern regions of France and the “green zone” in other regions of the country.<sup>91</sup> Businesses and primary schools were to open in both zones, but cafes restaurants and secondary schools were permitted to open in June in the green zones, while red zones had to wait.<sup>92</sup> The ban on journeys more than 100 km outside of one’s residence would also end in June.<sup>93</sup> Masks were made mandatory on all public transit and shop owners could ask that they be worn in stores.<sup>94</sup>

On 27 April 2020, France announced they would provide a support package of EUR7 billion in collaboration with the Dutch government for the airline Air France, while the Dutch were prepared to offer between EUR2 billion to EUR4 billion in aid for the Air France-KLM Group.<sup>95</sup> In a joint editorial published in *Le Journal du Dimanche*, French President Emmanuel Macron along with German Chancellor Angela Merkel,

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<sup>85</sup>The ACT-A initiative a united and coordinated response to the COVID-19 crisis, l'Élysée du France (Paris) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/02/12/initiative-act-a-une-reponse-solidaire-et-coordonnee-a-la-crise-de-la-covid-19>.

<sup>86</sup> What is the ACT-Accelerator? World Health Organization (WHO). 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator/about>.

<sup>87</sup> The ACT-A initiative: a united and coordinated response to the COVID-19 crisis, l'Élysée du France (Paris) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2021/02/12/initiative-act-a-une-reponse-solidaire-et-coordonnee-a-la-crise-de-la-covid-19>.

<sup>88</sup> Global health – Participation of Clément Beaune in the first council meeting of the initiative Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A), Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/coronavirus-statements/article/global-health-participation-of-clement-beaune-in-the-first-council-meeting-of>.

<sup>89</sup> France: Face masks to be distributed from May 4, The Connexion (Monaco) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/Face-mask-distribution-for-covid-19-protection-to-start-on-May-4-says-government-minister>.

<sup>90</sup> France: Face masks to be distributed from May 4, The Connexion (Monaco) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/Face-mask-distribution-for-covid-19-protection-to-start-on-May-4-says-government-minister>.

<sup>91</sup> Coronavirus: Paris restrictions to stay as France reopens, BBC News (London) 7 May 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-52579482>.

<sup>92</sup> Coronavirus: Paris restrictions to stay as France reopens, BBC News (London) 7 May 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-52579482>.

<sup>93</sup> Global report: France to ease Covid-19 travel restrictions and open restaurants, The Guardian (London) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/28/global-report-france-eases-coronavirus-travel-restrictions>.

<sup>94</sup> Coronavirus: Paris restrictions to stay as France reopens, BBC News (London) 7 May 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-52579482>.

<sup>95</sup> Air France-KLM to receive up to \$12 billion in state aid to deal with Covid-19 blow out, CNBC News (Englewood Cliffs) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/04/27/coronavirus-air-france-klm-to-receive-up-to-12-billion-in-state-aid.html>.

Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and EU Council President Charles Michel launched a call to action to secure EUR7.5 million in funding to help the global pandemic response.<sup>96</sup>

On 2 May 2020, Minister of Health Olivier Veran announced the government's intention to extend the state of emergency in France from 2 May 2020 until 24 July 2020.<sup>97</sup> The bill, which passed in the parliament and senate, included quarantine plans for persons coming from abroad. All those coming to France, including French citizens were to face a mandatory two-week quarantine when they arrived in the nation.<sup>98</sup>

On 4 May 2020, during an online pledging conference, France contributed EUR500 million towards the EU's Coronavirus Global Response.<sup>99</sup> The money was to be channelled to global health organizations like GAVI, the Global Fund and Unitaid.<sup>100</sup>

On 18 May 2020, the French Council of State, France's top court, ordered the government to reopen places of worship.<sup>101</sup> The ban on gatherings in places of worship was introduced by Prime Minister Philippe on 11 May 2020. The court gave eight days for the ban to be lifted from its ruling on the 18 May 2020.<sup>102</sup>

On 2 June 2020, restaurants and museums were allowed to re-open across most of France and the 100 km limit on travel was no longer in place, where France began a coordinated further re-opening.<sup>103</sup> In Paris, only outdoor dining was allowed.<sup>104</sup> A full reopening of the cafes and restaurants was in place on 15 June 2020 with Paris being moved into the green zone.<sup>105</sup> All schools across the country would be open for in-person learning, with social distancing measures in place.<sup>106</sup> Cinemas also reopened on 22 June 2020 with health measures in place.<sup>107</sup> The "StopCovid" app was all officially approved by parliament and French security

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<sup>96</sup> EXCLUSIVE. Von der Leyen, Michel, Macron, Merkel, Conte, Solberg detail the Global Telethon against Covid. Le Journal du Dimanche (Paris) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.lejdd.fr/Politique/exclusif-von-der-leyen-michel-macron-merkel-conte-solberg-detaillent-le-telethon-mondial-contre-le-covid-3965772>.

<sup>97</sup> France to extend coronavirus emergency for two months, Al Jazeera (Doha) 2 May 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/5/2/france-to-extend-coronavirus-emergency-for-two-months>.

<sup>98</sup> France to extend coronavirus emergency for two months, Al Jazeera (Doha) 2 May 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/5/2/france-to-extend-coronavirus-emergency-for-two-months>.

<sup>99</sup> Coronavirus: European Union raises more than 7 billion euros for a vaccine during a global telethon. Franceinfo (Paris) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. [https://www.francetvinfo.fr/sante/maladie/coronavirus/coronavirus-l-union-europeenne-leve-plus-de-7-milliards-d-euros-pour-un-vaccin-lors-d-un-telethon-mondial\\_3948685.html](https://www.francetvinfo.fr/sante/maladie/coronavirus/coronavirus-l-union-europeenne-leve-plus-de-7-milliards-d-euros-pour-un-vaccin-lors-d-un-telethon-mondial_3948685.html).

<sup>100</sup> The global response: Working together to help the world get better, European Commission (Geneva) 3 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/AC\\_20\\_795](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/AC_20_795)

<sup>101</sup> Gatherings in places of worship: the Council of State orders the Prime Minister to take less restrictive measures, Council of State (Paris) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.conseil-etat.fr/actualites/actualites/rassemblements-dans-les-lieux-de-culte-le-conseil-d-etat-ordonne-au-premier-ministre-de-prendre-des-mesures-moins-contraindantes>.

<sup>102</sup> Gatherings in places of worship: the Council of State orders the Prime Minister to take less restrictive measures, Council of State (Paris) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.conseil-etat.fr/actualites/actualites/rassemblements-dans-les-lieux-de-culte-le-conseil-d-etat-ordonne-au-premier-ministre-de-prendre-des-mesures-moins-contraindantes>.

<sup>103</sup> French bars, restaurants and parks to reopen with restrictions from June 2, France 24 (Paris) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200528-live-french-pm-philippe-unveils-second-phase-in-lifting-of-covid-19-lockdown>.

<sup>104</sup> French bars, restaurants and parks to reopen with restrictions from June 2, France 24 (Paris) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200528-live-french-pm-philippe-unveils-second-phase-in-lifting-of-covid-19-lockdown>.

<sup>105</sup> France Announces Further Reopening Amid Declining Number Of Coronavirus Cases, NPR (Washington, D.C.) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 22 February, 2021. <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/06/15/876953360/france-announces-further-reopening-amid-declining-number-of-coronavirus-cases>.

<sup>106</sup> France Announces Further Reopening Amid Declining Number Of Coronavirus Cases, NPR (Washington, D.C.) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 22 February, 2021. <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/06/15/876953360/france-announces-further-reopening-amid-declining-number-of-coronavirus-cases>.

<sup>107</sup> Cinemas reopen across France after three-month Covid-19 closure, France 24 (Paris) 22 June 2020. Access Date: 22 February, 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200622-cinemas-reopen-across-france-after-three-month-covid-19-closure>.

experts and rolled out in France on June 2 2020. The contact-tracing app used Bluetooth to alert app users if they came in contact with someone who has COVID-19, and reported it on their app.<sup>108</sup>

On 4 June 2020, during the Global Vaccine Summit in the United Kingdom France announced it was increasing its contribution to Gavi.<sup>109</sup> It pledged EUR350 million in additional contributions.<sup>110</sup> EUR250 million was designated funding for Gavi's main programs for 2021-2025, and EUR100 million was allocated towards the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Advance Market Commitment (AMC), which supports equitable distribution of a vaccine against the current COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>111</sup> Overall, representatives from 52 countries, including France pledged a total of USD8.8 billion for Gavi.<sup>112</sup>

On 8 June 2020, Muriel Pénicaud, Minister of Labour, announced the two-year extension of the “temporary unemployment scheme” which the state paid subsidies to companies (anywhere from 84 to 100 per cent of the costs depending on the scheme) to pay the salaries of those who could not work due to COVID-19.<sup>113</sup> Any remaining costs not subsidized by the state for salaries would be financed by the company.<sup>114</sup>

On 9 June 2020, the government of France announced a EUR15 billion rescue package for the airline industry.<sup>115</sup> In exchange for aid, companies would have to work to invest in more low-emission aircraft.<sup>116</sup>

On 1 July 2020, France, in coordination with other member states in the EU opened the border to internationals.<sup>117</sup> Incoming travellers were asked to voluntarily quarantine for two weeks on arrival.<sup>118</sup>

On 14 July 2020, Prime Minister Jean Castex agreed to give EUR7.5 billion in raises for healthcare workers, after seven weeks of negotiations between the government and unions.<sup>119</sup> This comes to a raise of about EUR183 per month for healthcare workers.<sup>120</sup>

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<sup>108</sup> France rolls out Covid-19 tracing app amid privacy debate, France 24 (Paris) 2 June 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200602-france-rolls-out-covid-19-tracing-app-amid-privacy-debate>.

<sup>109</sup> Message from President Emmanuel Macron at the World Immunization Summit, l'Élysée du France (Paris) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2020/06/04/message-du-president-emmanuel-macron-lors-du-sommet-mondial-sur-la-vaccination-2020-alliance-du-vaccin-gavi>.

<sup>110</sup> Message from President Emmanuel Macron at the World Immunization Summit, l'Élysée du France (Paris) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2020/06/04/message-du-president-emmanuel-macron-lors-du-sommet-mondial-sur-la-vaccination-2020-alliance-du-vaccin-gavi>.

<sup>111</sup> Gavi Donor Profiles: France, GAVI, The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/investing-gavi/funding/donor-profiles/france>.

<sup>112</sup> World leaders make historic commitments to provide equal access to vaccines for all, GAVI, The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/world-leaders-make-historic-commitments-provide-equal-access-vaccines-all>.

<sup>113</sup> France to extend crisis jobs scheme for up to two years, Financial Times (London) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.ft.com/content/63b33ede-4463-4342-845a-26cf85a91d3d>.

<sup>114</sup> France to extend crisis jobs scheme for up to two years, Financial Times (London) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.ft.com/content/63b33ede-4463-4342-845a-26cf85a91d3d>.

<sup>115</sup> France announces billions in aid to aviation industry, CBC News (Toronto) 9 June 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/france-aviation-industry-aid-1.5604190>.

<sup>116</sup> France announces billions in aid to aviation industry, CBC News (Toronto) 9 June 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/france-aviation-industry-aid-1.5604190>.

<sup>117</sup> France to open non-EU borders from July 1, The Connexion (Monaco) 14 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/France-to-open-non-EU-borders-from-July-1-and-Europe-tomorrow-June-15-but-restrictions-on-UK-still-apply>.

<sup>118</sup> France to open non-EU borders from July 1, The Connexion (Monaco) 14 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/France-to-open-non-EU-borders-from-July-1-and-Europe-tomorrow-June-15-but-restrictions-on-UK-still-apply>.

<sup>119</sup> French Health Care Workers Given A Raise, Honored On Bastille Day, NPR (Washington, D.C.) 14 July 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/07/14/890721869/french-health-care-workers-given-a-raise-honored-on-bastille-day>.

On 20 July 2020, masks were made mandatory in all indoor public spaces across France.<sup>121</sup> Authorities would be enforcing the new policy across the region, with a EUR135 fine for all those who do not wear a mask.<sup>122</sup> Prefectures across France were empowered with the ability to decide how broad the mask law should be in their regions.<sup>123</sup> Prime Minister Castex announced that travelers arriving from outside the EU in 16 where the virus is “circulating very strongly” would be subject to mandatory testing at all points of entry to France from 1 August 2020, unless they could provide a negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test 72 hours within their departure.<sup>124</sup>

On 28 August 2020, Prime Minister Castex initially announced the change that masks would be mandatory in Paris.<sup>125</sup> Paris had previously initiated a partial requirement for masks in places such as tourist areas.<sup>126</sup>

On 1 September 2020, France, in coordination with other EU members, joined the COVAX facility.<sup>127</sup> Led by GAVI, WHO and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, COVAX helps buy and distribute COVID-19 vaccines around the world in an equitable manner.<sup>128</sup>

On 3 September 2020, France unveiled its EUR100 billion Economic Recovery Plan.<sup>129</sup> It contained significant investments including a EUR30 billion investment for green transitions, EUR34 billion in support to improve competitiveness of the French economy and EUR36 billion investment in supporting youth looking for jobs and those in vulnerable groups.<sup>130</sup>

On 24 September 2020, President Macron announced regional restrictions in certain regions, including the closure of all bars and restaurants in Marseille and shorter opening hours for businesses in other cities.<sup>131</sup> The move was met with backlash from restaurant and bar owners in Marseille who took to the streets to protest, arguing that the move might force owners to permanently close.<sup>132</sup>

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<sup>120</sup> French Health Care Workers Given A Raise, Honored On Bastille Day, NPR (Washington, D.C.) 14 July 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/07/14/890721869/french-health-care-workers-given-a-raise-honored-on-bastille-day>.

<sup>121</sup> Coronavirus: Masks mandatory in France amid fresh outbreaks, BBC News (London) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-53471497>.

<sup>122</sup> Coronavirus: Masks mandatory in France amid fresh outbreaks, BBC News (London) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-53471497>.

<sup>123</sup> Coronavirus: Masks mandatory in France amid fresh outbreaks, BBC News (London) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-53471497>.

<sup>124</sup> France makes Covid-19 test obligatory for travellers from 16 countries, France 24 (Paris) 1 August 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200801-france-begins-requiring-coronavirus-test-for-certain-travelers>

<sup>125</sup> Face masks mandated throughout Paris, under-11s and people exercising exempt, France 24 (Paris) 28 August 2020. Access Date: 23 February, 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200828-face-masks-compulsory-throughout-paris-from-8-am-local-time>.

<sup>126</sup> Face masks mandated throughout Paris, under-11s and people exercising exempt, France 24 (Paris) 28 August 2020. Access Date: 23 February, 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200828-face-masks-compulsory-throughout-paris-from-8-am-local-time>.

<sup>127</sup> Commission joins the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX), European Commission (Brussels) 1 September 2020, Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/north-america/commission-joins-covid-19-vaccine-global-access-facility-covax>.

<sup>128</sup> Dr Seth Berkley, COVAX Explained, GAVI, The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/covax-explained>.

<sup>129</sup> Launch of the French recovery plan, Ministry for the Economy and Finance (Paris) 15 September 2020. Access Date: 23 February, 2021. <https://www.tresor.economie.gouv.fr/Articles/2020/09/15/launch-of-the-french-recovery-plan>.

<sup>130</sup> Launch of the French recovery plan, Ministry for the Economy and Finance (Paris) 15 September 2020. Access Date: 23 February, 2021. <https://www.tresor.economie.gouv.fr/Articles/2020/09/15/launch-of-the-french-recovery-plan>.

<sup>131</sup> Coronavirus digest: France imposes restrictions after record cases, DW News (Berlin) 24 September 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/coronavirus-digest-france-imposes-restrictions-after-record-cases/a-55046847>.

<sup>132</sup> Coronavirus digest: France imposes restrictions after record cases, DW News (Berlin) 24 September 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/coronavirus-digest-france-imposes-restrictions-after-record-cases/a-55046847>

On 13 October 2020, the French government contributed EUR10 million to Unitaïd's work in the Therapeutics Partnership of the ACT-Accelerator.<sup>133</sup> Unitaïd is a global health agency in partnership with the WHO which seeks to find solutions to treat, diagnose and prevent diseases in low to middle-income countries.<sup>134</sup>

On 24 October 2020, Prime Minister Castex announced a 9 P.M. to 6 A.M. curfew to 38 departments across France starting.<sup>135</sup> This was in addition a nightly curfew imposed in Paris and eight other cities — Aix-Marseille, Lyon, Saint-Étienne, Toulouse, Lille, Montpellier, Rouen and Grenoble — on 17 October 2020.<sup>136</sup> In addition to municipal police forces, 12,000 police officers and gendarmes were deployed to enforce the curfews.<sup>137</sup> Anyone caught breaking curfew could face fines from EUR135 to EUR3,750 for repeat offenders.<sup>138</sup>

On 30 October 2020, France entered a second lockdown to slow the spread of COVID-19.<sup>139</sup> As part of the lockdown, regional travel was banned within the nation and police were advised to enforce this policy.<sup>140</sup> External borders to the EU including France were closed, but internal EU borders remained open.<sup>141</sup> Those which French nationality or residency could cross international borders to return home, and essential workers were exempted from the ban.<sup>142</sup> All non-essential businesses were closed, declarations were reinstated to leave the home, but schools remained open.<sup>143</sup> Public services remained open and private gatherings were banned.<sup>144</sup> An additional EUR15 billion in government economic support was announced for businesses impacted by the lockdown including EUR7 billion invested into the furlough scheme, EUR6 billion for the Solidarity Fund, EUR1 billion for social security charges and EUR1 billion for rent support.<sup>145</sup>

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<sup>133</sup> France gives extra US\$11 million to support Unitaïd work on COVID-19 therapies, Unitaïd (Geneva) 13 October 2020, Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://unitaid.org/news-blog/france-gives-extra-us11-million-to-support-unitaid-work-on-covid-19-therapies/#en>.

<sup>134</sup> About us: Unitaïd, Unitaïd (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://unitaid.org/about-us/#en>

<sup>135</sup> French PM Castex extends Covid-19 curfew to 38 more departments as cases surge, France 24 (Paris) 22 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20201022-french-pm-castex-announces-new-coronavirus-measures-as-cases-surge>.

<sup>136</sup> French PM Castex extends Covid-19 curfew to 38 more departments as cases surge, France 24 (Paris) 22 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20201022-french-pm-castex-announces-new-coronavirus-measures-as-cases-surge>.

<sup>137</sup> French PM Castex extends Covid-19 curfew to 38 more departments as cases surge, France 24 (Paris) 22 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20201022-french-pm-castex-announces-new-coronavirus-measures-as-cases-surge>.

<sup>138</sup> French PM Castex extends Covid-19 curfew to 38 more departments as cases surge, France 24 (Paris) 22 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20201022-french-pm-castex-announces-new-coronavirus-measures-as-cases-surge>.

<sup>139</sup> Coronavirus: France announces second lockdown, DW News (Berlin) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/coronavirus-france-announces-second-lockdown/a-55426861>.

<sup>140</sup> Coronavirus: France announces second lockdown, DW News (Berlin) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/coronavirus-france-announces-second-lockdown/a-55426861>.

<sup>141</sup> France second lockdown: What travel is allowed?, The Connexion (Monaco) 29 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/France-second-lockdown-What-travel-is-allowed-regionally-and-internationally>.

<sup>142</sup> France second lockdown: What travel is allowed?, The Connexion (Monaco) 29 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/France-second-lockdown-What-travel-is-allowed-regionally-and-internationally>.

<sup>143</sup> France imposes four-week national lockdown to combat coronavirus, The Guardian (London) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/28/france-expected-to-impose-four-week-national-lockdown-covid>.

<sup>144</sup> France imposes four-week national lockdown to combat coronavirus, The Guardian (London) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/28/france-expected-to-impose-four-week-national-lockdown-covid>.

<sup>145</sup> France announces support for businesses during new Covid-19 lockdown, France 24 (Paris) 30 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/tv-shows/business-daily/20201030-france-announces-support-for-businesses-during-new-covid-19-lockdown>.



On 28 November 2020, France began easing COVID-19 restrictions across the country. From 28 November, non-essential businesses could open with strict health restrictions in place and residents could leave their home to exercise for up to an hour within a 20-km radius of their home.<sup>146</sup> Religious places could open but with a limit of 30 people in attendance, a law that France's top court ordered a government review on just a day later, 29 November 2020.<sup>147</sup>

On 10 December 2020, Prime Minister Jean Castex announced that "home visits" would be provided to those who are staying because they tested positive for COVID-19.<sup>148</sup> The team will consist of healthcare workers and other professionals that will offer support and advice. These visits would include shopping, food, childcare, and the possibility of being rehoused.<sup>149</sup>

On 15 December 2020, France transitioned from a lockdown to a nation-wide 9 P.M. to 6 A.M. curfew enforced by all levels of authorities. Museums, cinemas, theatres and other cultural venues remained closed, and restaurants and bars would remain closed until January.<sup>150</sup> Curfew would only be waived for Christmas Eve, and people would be allowed to travel across the country without a declaration.<sup>151</sup>

On 20 December 2020, France closed its borders with the United Kingdom for 48 hours over concerns about the spread of the COVID-19 variant found in the UK.<sup>152</sup> After negotiations between officials, the border was partially reopened on 22 December 2020 to truck drivers and French/EU citizens travelling for essential reasons only, who presented a negative COVID-19 test less than 72 hours old.<sup>153</sup>

On 27 December 2020, France began its vaccination campaign focusing its efforts on coordinating vaccine inoculation for the elderly living in care homes across the country.<sup>154</sup>

On 11 January 2021, the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation together with the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs launched the PREZODE (PREventing ZOonotic Diseases Emergence) initiative, which aims to "identify and prevent" potential zoonotic diseases and pandemics.<sup>155</sup> The initiative aims to utilize different research centers from France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

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<sup>146</sup> France Loosens COVID-19 Restrictions, But Bars, Restaurants Will Remain Shut, NPR (Washington, D.C.) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/11/25/938738191/france-loosens-covid-19-restrictions-but-bars-restaurants-will-remain-shut>.

<sup>147</sup> France's top court orders review of Covid-19 restrictions on church attendance, France 24 (Paris) 29 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20201129-france-must-review-covid-19-restrictions-on-church-attendance-top-court-rules>.

<sup>148</sup> France Covid-19: Self-isolation recommended but not forced, The Connexion (Monaco) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/France-Covid-19-Self-isolation-recommended-but-not-forced-as-new-home-visits-introduced>.

<sup>149</sup> France Covid-19: Self-isolation recommended but not forced, The Connexion (Monaco) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/France-Covid-19-Self-isolation-recommended-but-not-forced-as-new-home-visits-introduced>.

<sup>150</sup> Covid-19: France moves to night-time curfew from 15 December, BBC News (London) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55266332>.

<sup>151</sup> Covid-19: France moves to night-time curfew from 15 December, BBC News (London) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55266332>.

<sup>152</sup> Covid-19: French PM says border with UK to stay shut, vows to speed up vaccines, France 24 (Paris) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210107-covid-19-french-pm-announces-closure-of-border-with-uk-vows-speedy-approval-of-more-vaccines>.

<sup>153</sup> France reopens border with UK after virus closure, Financial Times (London) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.ft.com/content/e2d2e680-752a-44a5-b014-60cd837532e7>.

<sup>154</sup> France criticised for slow start to Covid-19 vaccinations, France 24 (Paris) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20201230-france-criticised-for-slow-start-to-covid-19-vaccinations>.

<sup>155</sup> One Planet Summit: launch of PREZODE, a first-ever international initiative to prevent future pandemics, French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (Paris) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.cirad.fr/en/news/all-news-items/press-releases/2021/prezode-preventing-pandemics>.

On 16 January 2021, France extended its enforced nationwide lockdown from 6 P.M. to 6 A.M. due to rising cases and deaths in France.<sup>156</sup> In addition, new restrictions were added for both international and EU travelers. In mid-January, France announced that international travelers coming from outside the EU needed to provide a negative PCR test within 72 hours of departure to enter the country.<sup>157</sup> This was extended to include arrivals from EU countries on 31 January 2021.<sup>158</sup>

On 31 January 2021, France once again closed its borders to those arriving from non-EU countries to avoid another lockdown within the country.<sup>159</sup> Those arriving within the EU and certain neighbouring states including Andorra, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, the Vatican, and Switzerland would have to present a negative PCR test to enter the country.<sup>160</sup> The ban did not apply to essential workers such as truck drivers, health workers, cross-border workers and diplomats.<sup>161</sup>

On 11 February 2021, France deployed 20 police officers to the French overseas territory of Mayotte to enforce the lockdown and to help combat violent crimes in the region.<sup>162</sup>

On 19 February 2021, France, along with other G7 members raised their total commitment to the COVAX initiative to USD7.5 billion.<sup>163</sup> Funds will go towards both the COVAX initiative and the ACT-Accelerator.<sup>164</sup>

On 22 February 2021, France imposed a regional lockdown for the next two weekends in the Alpes-Maritimes regions to curb the surge of COVID-19 cases in the area.<sup>165</sup>

France has fully complied with its commitment to coordinate on necessary public health measures to protect people at risk of COVID-19, both at the international and national levels.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Sylvia Lorico*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to marshal the full power of its government to coordinate necessary public health measures to protect people at risk from COVID-19.

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<sup>156</sup> France goes under nationwide 6pm curfew as Covid-19 death toll surpasses 70,000, France 24 (Paris) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210116-france-set-for-nationwide-6pm-curfew-in-effort-to-stem-covid-19>.

<sup>157</sup> France imposes new border controls in effort to curb Covid-19, France 24 (Paris) 24 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210124-france-imposes-new-border-controls-in-effort-to-curb-spread-of-covid-19>.

<sup>158</sup> France imposes new border controls in effort to curb Covid-19, France 24 (Paris) 24 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210124-france-imposes-new-border-controls-in-effort-to-curb-spread-of-covid-19>.

<sup>159</sup> France to avoid new lockdown but close borders to non-EU countries, France 24 (Paris) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210129-france-to-avoid-new-lockdown-but-close-borders-to-non-eu-countries>.

<sup>160</sup> Covid-19: France closes borders to most non-EU travel, BBC News (London) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55863069>.

<sup>161</sup> France tightens border restrictions to curb spread of Covid-19 variants, France 24 (Paris) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210201-france-tightens-border-restrictions-to-curb-spread-of-covid-variants>.

<sup>162</sup> France to send more police to Mayotte amid crime wave, rising Covid-19 cases, France 24 (Paris) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210211-france-to-send-more-police-to-mayotte-amid-crime-wave-rising-covid-19-cases>.

<sup>163</sup> Joint Statement of G7 Leaders, G7 Information Centre 19 February 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210219-leaders.html>.

<sup>164</sup> Joint Statement of G7 Leaders, G7 Information Centre 19 February 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210219-leaders.html>.

<sup>165</sup> COVID-19: France imposes weekend lockdown on southeastern region, Euronews (Lyon) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/02/22/covid-19-france-imposes-weekend-lockdown-on-southeastern-region>.

On 22 March 2020, Chancellor Angela Merkel announced with cooperation from federal states the implementation of nation-wide restrictions on gatherings of over two individuals who do not live together.<sup>166</sup> Each couple must ensure a minimum distance of 1.5 metres during their interactions.<sup>167</sup> Unlike other nations within the European Union, Germany did not impose a curfew.<sup>168</sup>

On 10 April 2020, Germany announced further international traveller restrictions, requiring all travellers, quarantine.<sup>169</sup>

On 20 April 2020, Germany relaxed lockdown measures, and this included a reduction in social distancing requirements.<sup>170</sup> Germany continued to relax lockdown measures throughout May, with schools reopening on 4 May and reduced border restrictions on 16 May.<sup>171</sup> Despite the easing, Germany implemented an “emergency brake” precaution set to kick in and halt re-openings in individual states if cases exceed 50 new infections per 100,000 people over seven days.<sup>172</sup>

On 3 June 2020, Germany approved an additional EUR130 billion stimulus package to help tackle the COVID-19 Pandemic on-top of the March EUR750 billion rescue package.<sup>173</sup>

On 27 June 2020, at the Global Citizen #GlobalGoalUnite For Our Future Summit, Chancellor Merkel announced Germany’s pledge to help finance EUR150 million to Global Fund’s COVID-19 Response initiatives.<sup>174</sup>

On 9 December 2020, Chancellor Merkel expressed in Germany’s federal parliament that regardless of their want to return to regular cultural activities, “if the price we [Germans] pay is 590 deaths a day, then that is unacceptable in my view.”<sup>175</sup>

As of 16 December 2020, Germany reinstated lockdown measures. These measures resulted in the closure of schools, non-essential businesses, but it allowed for the visitation of four close family members per

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<sup>166</sup> Emerging COVID-19 success story: Germany’s strong enabling environment, Our World in Data (Oxford) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-exemplar-germany>.

<sup>167</sup> Emerging COVID-19 success story: Germany’s strong enabling environment, Our World in Data (Oxford) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-exemplar-germany>.

<sup>168</sup> Emerging COVID-19 success story: Germany’s strong enabling environment, Our World in Data (Oxford) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-exemplar-germany>.

<sup>169</sup> Emerging COVID-19 success story: Germany’s strong enabling environment, Our World in Data (Oxford) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-exemplar-germany>.

<sup>170</sup> Policy Tracker, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.). Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#G>.

<sup>171</sup> Policy Tracker, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.). Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#G>.

<sup>172</sup> Policy Tracker, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.). Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#G>.

<sup>173</sup> German coalition parties agree 130 billion euro stimulus package, Reuters (Berlin) 3 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-germany-stimulus-idUSKBN23A26W>.

<sup>174</sup> Germany Pledges €150 Million to Global Fund COVID-19 Response at Global Citizen Summit, The Global Fund (Geneva) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/video/2020-06-30-germany-pledges-150-million-to-global-fund-covid-19-response-at-global-citizen-summit/>.

<sup>175</sup> Canadian federalism has created an uneven COVID-19 response, but in Germany a tradition of legal and political co-operation has proven useful, Institute for Research on Public Policy (Montreal) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/december-2020/how-germanys-federation-co-ordinated-a-pandemic-response/>.

household around Christmas.<sup>176</sup> Originally slated to expire on 10 January 2021, Chancellor Merkel and German state premiers agreed to extend measures until 14 February 2020.<sup>177</sup>

On 1 January 2021, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its tolls on at-risk populations, Germany's supplementary child benefit program received an increase in funding, resulting in benefit payments going up from EUR185 to EUR205.<sup>178</sup>

On 14 January 2020, Germany began requiring registration and negative COVID-19 test results within 48 hours from travellers who plan to enter the country and come from high-risk areas.<sup>179</sup> High-risk areas encompass any region that experiences significantly higher incidence rates than Germany.<sup>180</sup> German Federal Health Minister Jens Spahn emphasized the need for these additional requirements as the global community continues to identify new COVID-19 variants, stating, "Mutations of the virus are an additional threat to our health. We must prevent them from spreading in Germany as far as possible."<sup>181</sup>

On 17 February 2021, Minister Spahn announced the total vaccination of 4,422,007 individuals, with roughly 700,000 nursing home workers and residents.<sup>182</sup> Minister Spahn reiterated his confidence in ensuring the safety of nursing home occupants, despite the refusal of vaccinations by some.<sup>183</sup>

On 19 February 2021, Germany announced an additional EUR1.5 billion in funding to global COVID-19 vaccination efforts, increasing Germany's total financial commitment to EUR2.1 billion.<sup>184</sup> Finance Minister Olaf Scholz announced that Germany would direct the funding to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access facility, World Health Organization and other international entities.<sup>185</sup>

Although Germany relaxed COVID-19 measures before the most recent 16 December, 2020 lockdown, Germany reinstated lockdowns with its domestic governments' coordination, increased social program funding and relief for its populous, and has committed to funding international initiatives aimed at addressing and resolving the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Ali Nadhum*

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<sup>176</sup> Covid-19: Germany introduces new restrictions amid rise in cases, British Broadcasting Corporation (London) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55324422>.

<sup>177</sup> The precautionary principle takes precedence for us, Bundesregierung (Berlin) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/decision-of-federal-and-state-governments-1841104>.

<sup>178</sup> What the German government is doing for children during the pandemic, Bundesregierung (Berlin) 20 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/universal-children-s-day-1818286>.

<sup>179</sup> These rules apply to travellers arriving in Germany from risk areas in other countries, Bundesregierung (Berlin) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/immigration-regulations-1845898>.

<sup>180</sup> These rules apply to travellers arriving in Germany from risk areas in other countries, Bundesregierung (Berlin) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/immigration-regulations-1845898>.

<sup>181</sup> These rules apply to travellers arriving in Germany from risk areas in other countries, Bundesregierung (Berlin) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/immigration-regulations-1845898>.

<sup>182</sup> The vaccination campaign gathers speed, Bundesregierung (Berlin) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/covid-19-vaccination-1854914>.

<sup>183</sup> The vaccination campaign gathers speed, Bundesregierung (Berlin) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/covid-19-vaccination-1854914>.

<sup>184</sup> Germany pledges additional 1.5 billion euros for COVAX and WHO, Reuters (Berlin) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-germany-covax-idUSKBN2AJ1SA>.

<sup>185</sup> Germany pledges additional 1.5 billion euros for COVAX and WHO, Reuters (Berlin) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-germany-covax-idUSKBN2AJ1SA>.

## Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to marshal the full power of its government to: coordinate necessary public health measures to protect people at risk from COVID-19.

On 11 March 2020, the President Mario Draghi declared that the COVID-19 epidemic has surpassed all expectations and uniformity was necessary in the national response in order to succeed at a domestic and international level.<sup>186</sup> A new decree was passed where urgent measures were taken to contain the disease throughout the national territory.<sup>187</sup> The retail business was suspended except for the food industry and in those establishments personal safety distance must be maintained.<sup>188</sup> All personal services were suspended.<sup>189</sup> Other services such as banking, finance and insurance will remain open as long as their activities run in accordance with the established health standards.<sup>190</sup>

On 17 March 2020, Italy passed the Decree-Law, no. 18, called “Cure Italy” introduced urgent measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19.<sup>191</sup> These measures focused on the expansion of social safety nets in order to aid employers who suspended their business on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>192</sup> The decree reduced working hours, granted leaves for one parent and regulated the conditions of self-employment by granting an allowance of EUR600.<sup>193</sup>

On 22 March 2020, the government of Italy ordered the closure of all non-essential businesses until 3 April 2020.<sup>194</sup> Only the businesses that were identified as essential to the country’s supply chain were allowed to function.<sup>195</sup> These businesses included supermarkets, banking services and several public services such as transport.

On 1 April 2020, Italy and the United States joined to launch “Italy Stay Strong,” a fundraising campaign to assist Italy with the damages caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>196</sup> The embassy of Italy in Washington joined with the Italian Scientists and Scholars in North America Foundation and with the administration of

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<sup>186</sup> Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://www.venice.coe.int/files/EmergencyPowersObservatory/attachments/ITA\\_DPCM\\_11\\_03\\_20\\_en.pdf](https://www.venice.coe.int/files/EmergencyPowersObservatory/attachments/ITA_DPCM_11_03_20_en.pdf).

<sup>187</sup> Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://www.venice.coe.int/files/EmergencyPowersObservatory/attachments/ITA\\_DPCM\\_11\\_03\\_20\\_en.pdf](https://www.venice.coe.int/files/EmergencyPowersObservatory/attachments/ITA_DPCM_11_03_20_en.pdf).

<sup>188</sup> Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://www.venice.coe.int/files/EmergencyPowersObservatory/attachments/ITA\\_DPCM\\_11\\_03\\_20\\_en.pdf](https://www.venice.coe.int/files/EmergencyPowersObservatory/attachments/ITA_DPCM_11_03_20_en.pdf).

<sup>189</sup> Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://www.venice.coe.int/files/EmergencyPowersObservatory/attachments/ITA\\_DPCM\\_11\\_03\\_20\\_en.pdf](https://www.venice.coe.int/files/EmergencyPowersObservatory/attachments/ITA_DPCM_11_03_20_en.pdf).

<sup>190</sup> Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://www.venice.coe.int/files/EmergencyPowersObservatory/attachments/ITA\\_DPCM\\_11\\_03\\_20\\_en.pdf](https://www.venice.coe.int/files/EmergencyPowersObservatory/attachments/ITA_DPCM_11_03_20_en.pdf).

<sup>191</sup> Covid-19 ‘Cure Italy’ Decree, KPMG (Italy) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://assets.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/us/pdf/2020/03/tnf-italy-mar20-2020.pdf>.

<sup>192</sup> Covid-19 ‘Cure Italy’ Decree, KPMG (Italy) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://assets.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/us/pdf/2020/03/tnf-italy-mar20-2020.pdf>.

<sup>193</sup> Covid-19 ‘Cure Italy’ Decree, KPMG (Italy) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://assets.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/us/pdf/2020/03/tnf-italy-mar20-2020.pdf>.

<sup>194</sup> Further implementing provisions of the decree-law 23 February 2020, n. 6, containing urgent measures regarding the containment and management of the epidemiological emergency from COVID-19, applicable throughout the national territory Ministry of Health (Rome) 22 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <http://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=73729>.

<sup>195</sup> Further implementing provisions of the decree-law 23 February 2020, n. 6, containing urgent measures regarding the containment and management of the epidemiological emergency from COVID-19, applicable throughout the national territory Ministry of Health (Rome) 22 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <http://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=73729>.

<sup>196</sup> The Embassy of Italy has launched in partnership with the Italian Scientist and Scholars in North America Foundation (ISSNAF) a fundraising campaign for the Covid-19, The Embassy of Italy in Washington (Washington, D.C.) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://ambwashingtondc.esteri.it/ambasciata\\_washington/en/sala-stampa/dall\\_ambasciata/italystaystrong-l-ambasciata-d.html](https://ambwashingtondc.esteri.it/ambasciata_washington/en/sala-stampa/dall_ambasciata/italystaystrong-l-ambasciata-d.html).

the American government in order to deliver the funds to three Italian research institutes that have been researching the disease.<sup>197</sup>

On 19 May 2020, Italy passed the “Relaunch decree,” no. 34, urged new measures to support healthcare.<sup>198</sup> It added further measures regarding health to be urgently implemented in order to combat the COVID-19 emergency.<sup>199</sup> These measures included wage-funds, extensions of long-term contracts and bonuses up to EUR1,000.<sup>200</sup> The aforementioned measures were in an effort to aid citizens and businesses affected by the pandemic and to deter the population from risking themselves.<sup>201</sup>

On 14 January 2021, the Ministry of Health passed a decree which classified regions and provinces into four areas, each with their corresponding level of epidemiological risk.<sup>202</sup> This was part of risk scenarios and planning for the transition into the winter months.<sup>203</sup> The red area referred to the regions with the highest levels of risk and maximum security.<sup>204</sup> The orange area also included regions with high levels of risk but with less applied restrictions.<sup>205</sup> The yellow area included zones where general restrictions applied and the white area was free of restrictions.<sup>206</sup>

Through issuing several decrees to coordinate on necessary public health measures at a national and international level, Italy remains committed to the coordination for COVID-19 action.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1

*Analyst: Sara Teme*

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

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to marshal the full power of its government to coordinate necessary public health measures to protect people at risk from COVID-19.

On 18 March 2020, Japan announced that all travellers coming from 30 European countries (including Britain and some nations outside the Schengen bloc) were to self-quarantine for 14 days upon arrival in Japan.<sup>207</sup>

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<sup>197</sup> The Embassy of Italy has launched in partnership with the Italian Scientist and Scholars in North America Foundation (ISSNAF) a fundraising campaign for the Covid-19, The Embassy of Italy in Washington (Washington, D.C.) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://ambwashingtondc.esteri.it/ambasciata\\_washington/en/sala-stampa/dall\\_ambasciata/italystaystrong-l-ambasciata-d.html](https://ambwashingtondc.esteri.it/ambasciata_washington/en/sala-stampa/dall_ambasciata/italystaystrong-l-ambasciata-d.html).

<sup>198</sup> Italy government and institution measures in response to COVID-19, KPMG (Italy) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/italy-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>.

<sup>199</sup> Italy government and institution measures in response to COVID-19, KPMG (Italy) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/italy-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>.

<sup>200</sup> Italy government and institution measures in response to COVID-19, KPMG (Italy) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/italy-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>.

<sup>201</sup> Italy government and institution measures in response to COVID-19, KPMG (Italy) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://home.kpmg/xx/en/home/insights/2020/04/italy-government-and-institution-measures-in-response-to-covid.html>.

<sup>202</sup> Further urgent provisions regarding the containment and prevention of the epidemiological emergency from COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Rome) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=78456>.

<sup>203</sup> Further urgent provisions regarding the containment and prevention of the epidemiological emergency from COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Rome) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=78456>.

<sup>204</sup> Further urgent provisions regarding the containment and prevention of the epidemiological emergency from COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Rome) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=78456>.

<sup>205</sup> Further urgent provisions regarding the containment and prevention of the epidemiological emergency from COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Rome) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=78456>.

<sup>206</sup> Further urgent provisions regarding the containment and prevention of the epidemiological emergency from COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Rome) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.trovanorme.salute.gov.it/norme/dettaglioAtto?id=78456>.

<sup>207</sup> Japan to ask visitors from Europe to self-quarantine for 14 days, Kyodo News (Tokyo) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2020/03/13aafdde89c1-japan-mulls-entry-ban-from-iceland-northern-italy-spain-switzerland.html>.

On 24 March 2020, Japan temporarily banned foreign travellers from 18 European countries and Iran to limit the spread of COVID-19.<sup>208</sup>

On 30 March 2020, Japan contributed USD7 million to the United Nations World Food Programme to support the COVID-19 response in Iran.<sup>209</sup> The funds will be used to support healthcare works in Iran and aid the refugee community in the country.<sup>210</sup>

On 3 April 2020, Japan temporarily banned entry to foreign national travelling from 73 different countries, including much of Europe, countries in the Americas and Africa after consultations with the government task force for COVID-19 response.<sup>211</sup>

On 7 April 2020, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe declared a state of emergency in Tokyo and six other prefectures, accounting for almost half the population.<sup>212</sup> The declaration allows prefecture governors to ask that people stay home and businesses close.<sup>213</sup> Furthermore, the Abe government announced JPY108 trillion economic package that will be expected to pay out JPY300,000 to each household with severe income loss due to COVID-19 and will include JPY26 trillion to cover delays in taxes and social welfare.<sup>214</sup> The state of emergency was expanded to include all 47 of Japan's prefectures until 6 May 2020.<sup>215</sup> The health ministry also asked prefectural governments to secure facilities or hotels to transfer patients with mild symptoms from hospitals, since it wanted to prioritize hospital treatment for those with severe symptoms.<sup>216</sup> Later in April, it was announced that the government secured roughly 210,000 hotel rooms nationwide to accommodate transfers, as well as the intention to distribute 120,000 face masks to hospital staff.<sup>217</sup>

On 17 April 2020, the World Bank announced that it would activate the Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility (PEF) insurance for countries of the International Development Associations in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>218</sup> The PEF has two aspects: a “cash window” to provide financial support to

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<sup>208</sup> Japan to ask visitors from Europe to self-quarantine for 14 days, Kyodo News (Tokyo) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2020/03/13aafdde89c1-japan-mulls-entry-ban-from-iceland-northern-italy-spain-switzerland.html>.

<sup>209</sup> WFP Iran receives historical contribution from Japan to support coronavirus response, United Nations World Food Programme (Rome) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.wfp.org/news/wfp-iran-receives-historical-contribution-japan-support-coronavirus-response>.

<sup>210</sup> WFP Iran receives historical contribution from Japan to support coronavirus response, United Nations World Food Programme (Rome) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.wfp.org/news/wfp-iran-receives-historical-contribution-japan-support-coronavirus-response>.

<sup>211</sup> Japan to expand entry ban to 73 countries, regions amid virus spread, Kyodo News (Tokyo) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2020/04/5176f48c552d-japan-to-expand-entry-ban-to-73-countries-regions-amid-virus-spread.html>.

<sup>212</sup> Japan declares coronavirus emergency and approves a near \$1 trillion stimulus package, CNBC News (Englewood Cliffs) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/04/07/japan-declares-coronavirus-emergency-and-approves-a-near-1-trillion-stimulus-package.html>.

<sup>213</sup> Japan declares coronavirus emergency and approves a near \$1 trillion stimulus package, CNBC News (Englewood Cliffs) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/04/07/japan-declares-coronavirus-emergency-and-approves-a-near-1-trillion-stimulus-package.html>.

<sup>214</sup> Japan preparing to declare state of emergency to COVID-19 fight, CBC News (Englewood Cliffs) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/japan-covid-19-emergency-1.5523049>.

<sup>215</sup> Japan Declares Nationwide State Of Emergency As Coronavirus Spreads, NPR (Washington, D.C.) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/04/16/835925031/japans-declares-nationwide-state-of-emergency-as-coronavirus-spreads>.

<sup>216</sup> Tokyo reports 83 new coronavirus infections, Kyodo News (Tokyo) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2020/04/d2f0c6649e4f-tokyo-to-confirm-83-new-coronavirus-infections.html>.

<sup>217</sup> Over 210,000 hotel rooms secured to treat coronavirus patients in Japan, Kyodo News (Tokyo) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2020/04/07fb9ed5cdf2-over-210000-hotel-rooms-secured-to-treat-coronavirus-patients.html>.

<sup>218</sup> Fact Sheet: Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility, The World Bank (Washington, D.C.) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/pandemics/brief/fact-sheet-pandemic-emergency-financing-facility>.

countries in need and an “insurance window” for countries to buy insurance against worst case scenarios.<sup>219</sup> Premiums are paid by the donor countries of Japan, Australia, and Germany.<sup>220</sup> As of 30 September 2020, all the USD195.84 million in COVID-19 insurance payout was transferred to support COVID-19 strategies in 64 countries.<sup>221</sup>

On 14 May, the state of emergency was lifted for 39 prefectures except in eight urban prefectures including Toyko and Osaka.<sup>222</sup> On 21 May, the state of emergency ended in the Osaka, Hyogo and Kyoto prefectures.<sup>223</sup> On 25 May, the remaining prefectures of Tokyo, Kanagawa, Chiba, Saitama and Hokkaido saw their state of emergencies lifted.<sup>224</sup>

On 16 May 2020, the Japanese Permanent Mission to the United Nations held an online conference focusing on the need for universal health coverage in the wake of the pandemic.<sup>225</sup> The conference was joined by policy experts from the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and UN Ambassadors from more than 100 countries.<sup>226</sup>

On 27 May 2020, the Japanese government approved a JPY117 trillion-yen relief package to help protect from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>227</sup> The package included rent subsidies for individuals and small-medium businesses hit by the pandemic.<sup>228</sup> The government will also pay an addition JPY200,000 to each of its front-line medical workers to support their work during the pandemic.<sup>229</sup>

On 4 June 2020, Japan pledged an additional JPY33 billion in support for GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance for the period of 2021–2025 during the Global Vaccine Summit.<sup>230</sup> Prime Minister Abe emphasized the hope that Japanese companies would help support the development of affordable vaccines for developing countries,

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<sup>219</sup> Fact Sheet: Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility, The World Bank (Washington, D.C.) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/pandemics/brief/fact-sheet-pandemic-emergency-financing-facility>.

<sup>220</sup> Fact Sheet: Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility, The World Bank (Washington, D.C.) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/pandemics/brief/fact-sheet-pandemic-emergency-financing-facility>.

<sup>221</sup> Fact Sheet: Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility, The World Bank (Washington, D.C.) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/pandemics/brief/fact-sheet-pandemic-emergency-financing-facility>.

<sup>222</sup> Japan lifts coronavirus emergency outside Tokyo, Osaka regions, Kyodo News (Tokyo) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2020/05/8128172584ce-japan-may-lift-coronavirus-emergency-in-kyoto-38-other-prefectures.html>.

<sup>223</sup> Kansai sees end to virus state of emergency, but Tokyo area must wait, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/05/21/national/coronavirus-emergency-lifted-kansai/>.

<sup>224</sup> Japan lifts coronavirus emergency in Tokyo, all other remaining areas, CBC News (Toronto) 25 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/japan-coronavirus-stimulus-1.5583000>.

<sup>225</sup> WHO New Coronavirus: It is necessary for everyone to receive medical care to suppress it, Japan Broadcasting Corporation (Tokyo), Published 16 May 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20200516/k10012432671000.html>.

<sup>226</sup> WHO New Coronavirus: It is necessary for everyone to receive medical care to suppress it, Japan Broadcasting Corporation (Tokyo), Published 16 May 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20200516/k10012432671000.html>.

<sup>227</sup> Japan's economy just got another \$1 trillion shot in the arm, CNN Business (Atlanta) 27 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/27/economy/japan-economic-stimulus-coronavirus/index.html>.

<sup>228</sup> Japan's economy just got another \$1 trillion shot in the arm, CNN Business (Atlanta) 27 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/27/economy/japan-economic-stimulus-coronavirus/index.html>.

<sup>229</sup> Japan's economy just got another \$1 trillion shot in the arm, CNN Business (Atlanta) 27 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/27/economy/japan-economic-stimulus-coronavirus/index.html>.

<sup>230</sup> Prime Minister announces contribution of 33 billion yen to the spread of vaccines.” The Sankei News. Publish 4 June, 2020. Access date 21 February 22, 2021. <https://www.sankei.com/life/news/200604/lif2006040070-n1.html>.



and stressed the importance of international cooperation to combat the virus.<sup>231</sup> Overall, representatives from 52 countries, including France pledged a total of USD8.8 billion for GAVI.<sup>232</sup>

On June 5, 2020 it committed JPY1.5 billion for health and medical equipment in Laos.<sup>233</sup> On the same day, the Japanese government announced another JPY2 billion in grant aid to support Myanmar's need for healthcare and medical equipment.<sup>234</sup> Later on June 17 2020, Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced JPY1 billion in support for healthcare and medical equipment for Mongolia, as well as an additional JPY249 million for human resource development.<sup>235</sup> Japan has supported numerous countries with grant aid during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 8 July 2020, Japan provided grant aid of USD7 million for health and medical equipment in Sri Lanka.<sup>236</sup> Japan also announced JPY2 billion in grant aid and an official development assistance (ODA) loan of JPY50 million to support Indonesia's response to the COVID-19 outbreak on 20 July 2020.<sup>237</sup> Then on 22 July 2020, Japan announced it would provide JPY900 million in grant aid for health and medical equipment in Peru.<sup>238</sup> Later on 27 July 2020, Japan announced another JPY400 million in grant aid for health and medical system development in Jordan.<sup>239</sup>

On 22 July 2020, Prime Minister Abe announced the "Go to Travel" campaign, a JPY1.35 trillion campaign to promote domestic travel to any destination (except Tokyo) with up to 50 per cent discounts through vouchers and deals with companies in the tourism industry.<sup>240</sup> The campaign was met with mixed receptions from governors. The governor of Osaka called for a "re-think" of the campaign while governors of the Shimane and Wakayama prefectures supported the decision.<sup>241</sup>

On 6 August 2020, Japan announced it would provide JPY9.1 billion in official development assistance loans for water and sewage development in Paraguay, as well as an additional grant amount of JPY300 million

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<sup>231</sup> Holding of Global Vaccine Summit 2020 (Gavi Vaccine Alliance Third Capital Increase Meeting), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/ic/ghp/page4\\_005161.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/ic/ghp/page4_005161.html).

<sup>232</sup> World leaders make historic commitments to provide equal access to vaccines for all, GAVI, The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/world-leaders-make-historic-commitments-provide-equal-access-vaccines-all>.

<sup>233</sup> Exchange of letters on grant aid for health and medical equipment development to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4\\_008469.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4_008469.html).

<sup>234</sup> Exchange of letters on grant aid for health and medical equipment development to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4\\_008469.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4_008469.html).

<sup>235</sup> Signing of two grant aids related to infectious disease control, health and medical system development support, and human resource development support for Mongolia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4\\_008495.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4_008495.html).

<sup>236</sup> Support for infectious disease control and health / medical system development for Sri Lanka (grant aid), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4\\_008562.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4_008562.html).

<sup>237</sup> Signing of exchange letter regarding grant aid for infectious disease control and support for health and medical system development for Indonesia and yen loan for response to the crisis of new coronavirus infectious disease, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4\\_008600.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4_008600.html).

<sup>238</sup> Support for infectious disease control and health / medical system development for the Republic of Peru (grant aid), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4\\_008606.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4_008606.html).

<sup>239</sup> Support for infectious disease control and health / medical system development for the Republic of Peru (grant aid), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4\\_008606.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4_008606.html).

<sup>240</sup> Japan's controversial Go To Travel campaign kicks off as criticism and concerns grow, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/07/22/national/japan-go-to-travel-campaign-criticism-coronavirus/>.

<sup>241</sup> Japan's controversial Go To Travel campaign kicks off as criticism and concerns grow, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/07/22/national/japan-go-to-travel-campaign-criticism-coronavirus/>.

towards the nation's COVID-19 response.<sup>242</sup> Additionally, on 11 August 2020 the nation announced another grant of JPY700 million towards infectious disease control and medical systems in Ecuador.<sup>243</sup>

On 29 August 2020 the Labour Ministry announced the extension of a special measure under the government's employment adjustment subsidy to the end of the year.<sup>244</sup> The upper limit for government subsidies to support businesses trying to pay workers on leave was increased from JPY8,370 to JPY15,000 per day per employee.<sup>245</sup>

On 1 September 2020, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare announced it would be participating in the WHO's COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility.<sup>246</sup> Led by GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, WHO and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, COVAX helps buy and distribute COVID-19 vaccines around the world.<sup>247</sup> The ministry noted that COVAX would be one of the sources where Japan could obtain COVID-19 vaccines.<sup>248</sup> On the same date, Japan then signed two loans. One was a loan agreement with India to provide an ODA loan of up to JPY50 billion to support India's COVID-19 response.<sup>249</sup> The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) also signed a JPY30 billion concessional loan to the Myanmar government to help with economic recovery due to COVID-19.<sup>250</sup>

On 9 September 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided JPY500 million in grant aid to support health and medical systems in Chile.<sup>251</sup>

On 15 September 2020, Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare Katsunobu Kato announced that Japan would be participating in the COVAX facility to secure COVID-19 vaccines for those in Japan.<sup>252</sup> Japan will contribute JPY17.2 billion in advanced payments and if vaccine development is successful, it will be allowed to purchase vaccines for 25 million people.<sup>253</sup>

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<sup>242</sup> Support for water and sewage development for the Republic of Paraguay (yen loan) and support for infectious disease control and health / medical system development (grant aid), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 6 August 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4\\_008661.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4_008661.html).

<sup>243</sup> Support for water and sewage development for the Republic of Paraguay (yen loan) and support for infectious disease control and health / medical system development (grant aid), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 6 August 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4\\_008661.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4_008661.html).

<sup>244</sup> Japan to extend special measure for job adjustment subsidies, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 29 August 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/08/29/business/economy-business/japan-jobs-subsidies>.

<sup>245</sup> Japan to extend special measure for job adjustment subsidies. The Japan Times, Published 29 August, 2020, Access Date: 25 February, 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/08/29/business/economy-business/japan-jobs-subsidies>].

<sup>246</sup> Summary of Minister Kato's interview." Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Published 1 September, 2020, Access Date: 22 February 22, 2021. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/kaiken/daijin/0000194708\\_00272.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/kaiken/daijin/0000194708_00272.html).

<sup>247</sup> Dr Seth Berkley. "COVAX Explained." GAVI, The Vaccine Alliance. Published 3 September, 2020, Access Date: 22 February, 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/covax-explained>.

<sup>248</sup> Framework for joint purchase of new corona vaccine Japan also intends to participate Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare, NHK Japan Broadcasting Corporation (Tokyo) 1 September 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/html/20200901/k10012594481000.html>.

<sup>249</sup> Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with India: Contributing to COVID-19 Crisis Response in India through providing budgetary support, Japan International Cooperation Agency. 1 September 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20200901\\_31\\_en.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20200901_31_en.html).

<sup>250</sup> JICA gives Myanmar \$280M loan for budget support, Myanmar Times (Yangon) 2 September 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/jica-gives-myanmar-280m-loan-budget-support.html>.

<sup>251</sup> Support for infectious disease control and health / medical system development for the Republic of Chile (grant aid), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4\\_008737.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4_008737.html).

<sup>252</sup> Participate in the international group purchasing framework (COVAX facility) for new coronavirus infection vaccines, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 15 September 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage\\_13597.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_13597.html).

<sup>253</sup> Formal participation in international joint purchase of vaccines Advance payment 17.2 billion yen, MHLW Digital (Tokyo) 15 September 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.asahi.com/articles/ASN9H66FLN9HULBJ00X.html>.

On October 8, 2020, at the Group of Friends of Universal Health Coverage Ministerial Meeting Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi announced that Japan would contribute more than USD130 million to the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment (COVAX AMC).<sup>254</sup> COVAX AMC is part of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator and ensures that 92 middle- to low-income countries get the same access to vaccines as those in higher-income nations.<sup>255</sup>

On 30 October 2020, the Japanese government announced a new revised policy for travellers coming to Japan, effective in November.<sup>256</sup> Business travelers and returnees who are Japanese nationals or foreign residents with valid permits would be exempt from the 14-day quarantine policy imposed by the Japanese government.<sup>257</sup> In addition, Japan also announced it would relax required testing upon arrival for travelers from Australia, Brunei, China, Hong Kong, Macau, New Zealand, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam, provided they observe a 14-day quarantine and do not take public transport.<sup>258</sup> The move comes after negotiations with countries such as Australia to mutually ease travel restrictions and the lowering of travel advisories by the Foreign Ministry to Level 2, out of a scale of 4.<sup>259,260</sup>

On 5 November 2020, JICA signed a loan agreement with the Government of Mongolia to provide a loan of up to JPY25 billion to help Mongolia combat the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>261</sup>

On 12 November 2020, Japan announced its intent to cooperate with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>262</sup> It also pledged an additional USD1 million towards the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund to support the region.<sup>263</sup>

On 21 November 2020, the Education Ministry announced it would work with embassies and support groups for foreign nationals to create a list of unauthorized schools and send information about COVID-19 to them in multiple languages including English and Portuguese.<sup>264</sup> Unauthorized foreign schools in Japan are schools

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<sup>254</sup> Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu co-hosted Ministerial Meeting of Group of Friends of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002929.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002929.html).

<sup>255</sup> Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu co-hosted Ministerial Meeting of Group of Friends of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002929.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002929.html).

<sup>256</sup> Japan to ease entry rules for business travelers and returnees, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 30 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/10/30/national/japan-exempt-returning-residents-quarantine/>.

<sup>257</sup> Japan to ease entry rules for business travelers and returnees, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 30 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/10/30/national/japan-exempt-returning-residents-quarantine/>.

<sup>258</sup> Japan to ease entry rules for business travelers and returnees, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 30 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/10/30/national/japan-exempt-returning-residents-quarantine/>.

<sup>259</sup> Japan and Australia to promote talks on easing mutual travel curbs, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/10/07/national/japan-australia-mutual-travel-curbs/>.

<sup>260</sup> Japan and Australia to promote talks on easing mutual travel curbs, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/10/07/national/japan-australia-mutual-travel-curbs/>.

<sup>261</sup> Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Mongolia: Contributing to COVID-19 crisis response in Mongolia through providing budgetary support, Japan International Cooperation Agency. 5 November 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20201105\\_30.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20201105_30.html).

<sup>262</sup> 23rd Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/a\\_o/rp/page3e\\_001075.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/a_o/rp/page3e_001075.html).

<sup>263</sup> 23rd Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/a\\_o/rp/page3e\\_001075.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/a_o/rp/page3e_001075.html).

<sup>264</sup> Japan to help schools for foreign nationals with multilingual virus info, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/11/22/national/japan-schools-foreign-nationals-multilingual-coronavirus-info/>.

that have not registered with the Ministry of Education.<sup>265</sup> The move is being done as these schools could be left out from forms of official support due to their status, which posed a possibility of virus clusters.<sup>266</sup>

On 24 November 2020, Japan announced the suspension of the “Go to Travel” campaign in Sapporo and Osaka after an increase of infections in the area.<sup>267</sup> The announcement was made after Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga announced on 21 November 2020 that areas hardest hit by new infections would be removed from the campaign pending consultation with the governors.<sup>268</sup> A draft proposal submitted by the National Governors Association submitted on 23 November 2020 urged the central government to consider a more flexible approach towards removals of regions from the travel campaign.<sup>269</sup>

On 2 December 2020, the Japanese government announced that coronavirus vaccines would be given to all residents for free following the passage of a bill in both houses of parliament.<sup>270</sup> A budget of JPY671.4 billion was set aside to cover the cost of the vaccines and compensate suppliers if side effects occurred.<sup>271</sup> The government would work on encouraging all residents to get the vaccine and coordinating with suppliers.<sup>272</sup>

On 3 December 2020, JICA provided a USD200 million ODA loan to Morocco.<sup>273</sup> Co-financed by the African Development Bank, the loan aims to strengthen Morocco’s healthcare system and help achieve economic stabilization.<sup>274</sup> Near the end of 2020, Japan continued to aid the COVID-19 response developing nations.

On 27 December 2020, Japan temporarily banned foreign nationals from entering the country from 28 December 2020 into January 2021.<sup>275</sup> Japanese citizens and foreign residents could enter but they would be

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<sup>265</sup> Japan to help schools for foreign nationals with multilingual virus info, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/11/22/national/japan-schools-foreign-nationals-multilingual-coronavirus-info/>.

<sup>266</sup> Japan to help schools for foreign nationals with multilingual virus info, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/11/22/national/japan-schools-foreign-nationals-multilingual-coronavirus-info/>.

<sup>267</sup> Sapporo and Osaka suspended as Go To Travel destinations, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/11/24/national/social-issues/sapporo-osaka-suspended-go-travel-destinations/>.

<sup>268</sup> Sapporo and Osaka suspended as Go To Travel destinations, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/11/24/national/social-issues/sapporo-osaka-suspended-go-travel-destinations/>.

<sup>269</sup> Sapporo and Osaka suspended as Go To Travel destinations, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/11/24/national/social-issues/sapporo-osaka-suspended-go-travel-destinations/>.

<sup>270</sup> Japan residents to get free Covid-19 vaccine, France 24 (Paris) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20201202-japan-residents-to-get-free-covid-19-vaccine>.

<sup>271</sup> Japan gov’t OKs bill to offer free coronavirus vaccines, Kyodo News (Tokyo) 27 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2020/10/707f1661dff4-japan-govt-oks-bill-to-offer-free-coronavirus-vaccines.html>.

<sup>272</sup> Japan gov’t OKs bill to offer free coronavirus vaccines, Kyodo News (Tokyo) 27 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2020/10/707f1661dff4-japan-govt-oks-bill-to-offer-free-coronavirus-vaccines.html>.

<sup>273</sup> Signing of Dollar-Denominated Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Morocco: Contributing to COVID-19 crisis response in Morocco through providing budget support, Japan International Cooperation Agency. 3 December 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20201204\\_41\\_en.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20201204_41_en.html).

<sup>274</sup> Signing of Dollar-Denominated Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Morocco: Contributing to COVID-19 crisis response in Morocco through providing budget support, Japan International Cooperation Agency. 3 December 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20201204\\_41\\_en.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20201204_41_en.html).

<sup>275</sup> Japan will ban entry to foreign nationals after Covid-19 variant detected in country, CNN (Atlanta) 27 December 2020. Access Date: 25 February, 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/12/26/asia/japan-ban-foreign-nationals-intl/index.html>.

required to self-quarantine for 14 days and have to submit a negative polymerase chain reaction test 72 hours before arrival in the country.<sup>276</sup>

On 8 January 2021, Prime Minister Suga announced a state of emergency in Tokyo after warnings that Tokyo's hospitals would not be able to cope with an influx of COVID-19 patients.<sup>277</sup> Schools and non-essential businesses will remain open, but restaurants and bars will be asked to stop serving alcohol at 7 P.M. and close at 8 P.M.<sup>278</sup> People were encouraged to stop non-essential outings after 8 P.M.<sup>279</sup> Japanese authorities lack the legal powers to enforce virus prevention measures but were planning on passing legislation imposing fines later in the year.<sup>280</sup>

On 12 January 2021, Japan provided a USD275 million loan to India for the COVID-19 Crisis Response Support Loan for Social Protection.<sup>281</sup> The loan seeks to help “support poor and vulnerable communities” and develop policies in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.<sup>282</sup>

On 13 January 2021, Japan expanded its state of emergency to 47 prefectures across the country.<sup>283</sup> New restrictions included widening the ban on foreign visitors by suspending a program that allowed business visits from 11 countries and regions.<sup>284</sup> Only existing residences could enter the country.<sup>285</sup>

On 22 January 2020, during the 17th Asia Cooperation Dialogue Ministerial Meeting between 35 countries, Japan's Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Konosuke Kokuba affirmed Japanese support to counter the pandemic's effects on low-income countries stating the government would implement the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan with funds up to JPY500 billion over two years.<sup>286</sup>

On 26 January 2021, State Minister of Foreign Affairs Uto Takahashi announced that Japan would provide USD10 million for the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>287</sup>

On 29 January 2021, JICA provided a USD289 million loan for the COVID-19 response in Papua New Guinea.<sup>288</sup>

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<sup>276</sup> Japan will ban entry to foreign nationals after Covid-19 variant detected in country, CNN (Atlanta) 27 December 2020. Access Date: 25 February, 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/12/26/asia/japan-ban-foreign-nationals-intl/index.html>.

<sup>277</sup> Japan's PM declares state of emergency in Tokyo amid Covid crisis, The Guardian (London) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/07/japans-pm-declares-state-of-emergency-in-tokyo-amid-covid-crisis>.

<sup>278</sup> Japan's PM declares state of emergency in Tokyo amid Covid crisis, The Guardian (London) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/07/japans-pm-declares-state-of-emergency-in-tokyo-amid-covid-crisis>.

<sup>279</sup> Japan's PM declares state of emergency in Tokyo amid Covid crisis, The Guardian (London) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/07/japans-pm-declares-state-of-emergency-in-tokyo-amid-covid-crisis>.

<sup>280</sup> Japan's PM declares state of emergency in Tokyo amid Covid crisis, The Guardian (London) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/07/japans-pm-declares-state-of-emergency-in-tokyo-amid-covid-crisis>.

<sup>281</sup> Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with India: Budgetary support to contribute to COVID-19 Crisis Response in India by supporting the livelihood of poor and vulnerable communities, Japan International Cooperation Agency. 12 January 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20210112\\_30.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20210112_30.html).

<sup>282</sup> Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with India: Budgetary support to contribute to COVID-19 Crisis Response in India by supporting the livelihood of poor and vulnerable communities, Japan International Cooperation Agency. 12 January 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20210112\\_30.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20210112_30.html).

<sup>283</sup> State of Emergency Declared to Prevent Spread of the Novel Coronavirus, Cabinet Secretariat of Japan (Tokyo) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://corona.go.jp/en/>.

<sup>284</sup> Japan expands virus emergency, tightens border restrictions, CTV News (Toronto) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/japan-expands-virus-emergency-tightens-border-restrictions-1.5264785>.

<sup>285</sup> Japan expands virus emergency, tightens border restrictions, CTV News (Toronto) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/japan-expands-virus-emergency-tightens-border-restrictions-1.5264785>.

<sup>286</sup> Holding of the 17th Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) (Results), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/a\\_o/rp/page3\\_003000.html#](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/a_o/rp/page3_003000.html#).

<sup>287</sup> Video message by State Minister for Foreign Affairs UTO at the High-level Replenishment Conference for the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e\\_000160.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000160.html).

On 3 February 2020, the National Diet, Japan's bicameral legislature, passed two new bills that help authorities enforce violations of COVID-19 guidelines.<sup>289</sup> In areas under a state of emergency, businesses who do not comply with shut down orders or orders to shorten their hours would face a fine of JPY300,000<sup>290</sup> The legislation also lets authorities inspect businesses during a Stage 3 alert to ensure compliance to shortened hours and those that refuse now face a JPY200,000 fine.<sup>291</sup> These revisions were deemed necessary since prior to the new laws, demands on businesses to close were essentially voluntary, and authorities had no legal way to punish rulebreakers even under a state of emergency.<sup>292</sup>

On 9 February 2021, during the ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council meeting, Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, announced an addition USD70 million in funding towards COVAX AMC.<sup>293</sup> COVAX AMC is a financial tool which aims to support low and middle-income countries access to COVID-19 vaccines.<sup>294</sup> This brought Japan's total commitment to USD200 million since it initially pledged funds in October 2020.<sup>295</sup>

On 17 February 2021, Japan received its initial imported vaccine doses and began its rollout plan.<sup>296</sup> The coordinated plan includes the inoculation of front-line medical workers, followed by the inoculation of people aged 65 and older beginning in April.<sup>297</sup> Then those with underlying health conditions, caregivers at facilities will be next, before the general population.<sup>298</sup> Distribution of vaccines will be based on population in prefectures and foreign nationals living in Japan are expected to receive the vaccine around the same time as other Japanese citizens, depending on their groups.<sup>299</sup> Provision of interpretation in six languages is being developed to ensure efficiency in campaigns.<sup>300</sup>

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to coordinate on necessary public health measures to protect people at risk of COVID-19, both at the international and national levels.

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<sup>288</sup> Emergency support for the new coronavirus crisis in Papua New Guinea independent country (yen loan), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press6\\_000737.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press6_000737.html).

<sup>289</sup> Japan's new virus law: Fines for noncompliance and support for hard-hit firms, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/02/04/national/new-virus-law-explainer/>.

<sup>290</sup> Japan's new virus law: Fines for noncompliance and support for hard-hit firms, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/02/04/national/new-virus-law-explainer/>.

<sup>291</sup> Japan's new virus law: Fines for noncompliance and support for hard-hit firms, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/02/04/national/new-virus-law-explainer/>.

<sup>292</sup> Japan's new virus law: Fines for noncompliance and support for hard-hit firms, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/02/04/national/new-virus-law-explainer/>.

<sup>293</sup> Video message of Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi at the 4th meeting of the ACT Accelerator Facilitation Council (Steering Board), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002974.html#](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002974.html#).

<sup>294</sup> Video message of Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi at the 4th meeting of the ACT Accelerator Facilitation Council (Steering Board), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002974.html#](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002974.html#).

<sup>295</sup> Video message of Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi at the 4th meeting of the ACT Accelerator Facilitation Council (Steering Board), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002974.html#](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002974.html#).

<sup>296</sup> Japan launches COVID-19 vaccination rollout with eye on Olympics, CBC News (Toronto) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/sports/olympics/japan-begins-covid-19-vaccinations-with-eye-on-olympics-1.5916825>.

<sup>297</sup> Japan launches COVID-19 vaccination rollout with eye on Olympics, CBC News (Toronto) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/sports/olympics/japan-begins-covid-19-vaccinations-with-eye-on-olympics-1.5916825>.

<sup>298</sup> Japan to distribute COVID-19 vaccines for older people based on population, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/02/23/national/kono-coronavirus-vaccines/>.

<sup>299</sup> Japan to distribute COVID-19 vaccines for older people based on population, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/02/23/national/kono-coronavirus-vaccines/>.

<sup>300</sup> Japan to distribute COVID-19 vaccines for older people based on population, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/02/23/national/kono-coronavirus-vaccines/>.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Sylvia Lorico*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to marshal the full power of its government to coordinate necessary public health measures to protect people at risk from COVID-19.

On 17 March 2020, Foreign Secretary Dominic Saab gave an announcement advising individuals against all non-essential international travel.<sup>301</sup>

On 17 March 2020, the British government introduced an emergency bill to strengthen their response to COVID-19.<sup>302</sup> The emergency bill includes an increase in support from the National Health Service.<sup>303</sup>

On 19 March 2020, the British government announced GBP2.9 billion in funding to strengthen the care for the vulnerable.<sup>304</sup> GBP1.6 billion will be allocated to local authorities to help with their COVID-19 response and GBP1.3 billion will be used to facilitate the National Health Service discharge process so patients that no longer need urgent treatment can return home.<sup>305</sup> By enhancing the National Health Service discharge process, over 15,000 hospital beds would be made available for COVID-19 patients.<sup>306</sup>

On 10 April 2020, the British government announced a plan to improve the distribution of personal protective equipment throughout the United Kingdom.<sup>307</sup>

On 12 April 2020, it was announced that the United Kingdom would contribute GBP200 million to support international organisations and national charities to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.<sup>308</sup>

On 15 April 2020, the British government announced that it would offer COVID-19 tests to all care home residents and social care staff.<sup>309</sup>

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<sup>301</sup> Travel Advice against all non-essential travel: Foreign Secretary's statement, 17 March 2020, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/travel-advice-foreign-secretary-statement-17-march-2020>.

<sup>302</sup> Emergency bill to strengthen coronavirus (COVID-19) response plans, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/emergency-bill-to-strengthen-coronavirus-covid-19-response-plans>.

<sup>303</sup> Emergency bill to strengthen coronavirus (COVID-19) response plans, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/emergency-bill-to-strengthen-coronavirus-covid-19-response-plans>.

<sup>304</sup> £2.9 billion funding to strengthen care for the vulnerable, Department of Health and Social Care and Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (London) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2-9-billion-funding-to-strengthen-care-for-the-vulnerable>.

<sup>305</sup> £2.9 billion funding to strengthen care for the vulnerable, Department of Health and Social Care and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (London) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2-9-billion-funding-to-strengthen-care-for-the-vulnerable>.

<sup>306</sup> £2.9 billion funding to strengthen care for the vulnerable, Department of Health and Social Care and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (London) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2-9-billion-funding-to-strengthen-care-for-the-vulnerable>.

<sup>307</sup> Government sets out plan for national effort on PPE, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-plan-for-national-effort-on-ppe>.

<sup>308</sup> UK leads global fight to prevent second wave of coronavirus, Department for International Development and the Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP (London) 12 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-leads-global-fight-to-prevent-second-wave-of-coronavirus>.

<sup>309</sup> Government to offer testing for "everyone who needs one" in social care settings, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-offer-testing-for-everyone-who-needs-one-in-social-care-settings>.

On 15 May 2020, the British government confirmed that it would allocate an extra GBP35 million to support Wales with its fight against COVID-19.<sup>310</sup> The following day, it was announced that the British government would also provide an additional GBP58 million to Scotland with its fight against COVID-19.<sup>311</sup>

On 20 May 2020, the United Kingdom announced that it would invest GBP20 million to help with the African Union's fight against COVID-19.<sup>312</sup>

On 5 September 2020, the British government announced that it will be investing GBP7.2 million in 20 COVID-19 research programs across the United Kingdom, including the universities of Edinburgh and Strathclyde.<sup>313</sup> The research programs will help provide developing countries who have been hit hard by COVID-19 with sustainable solutions to handle COVID-19.<sup>314</sup>

On 16 November 2020, the British government announced that it secured five million doses of the Moderna vaccine.<sup>315</sup>

On 2 December 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson gave a speech stating that the United Kingdom had secured over 350 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines from seven different vaccine candidates.<sup>316</sup>

On 14 December 2020, it was announced that the United Kingdom would commit GBP1 million, through the World Health Organization, to support Egypt's fight against COVID-19.<sup>317</sup>

On 15 February 2021, the British government announced that as of 15 February 2021, people travelling to the United Kingdom from a country on its travel ban list will need to quarantine in a government-approved facility for 10 days.<sup>318</sup>

On 17 February 2021, Foreign Secretary Raab called for a ceasefire in conflict zones so that people living in areas of conflict could receive the COVID-19 vaccine.<sup>319</sup>

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<sup>310</sup> Extra £35 million for Wales in fight against coronavirus, Office of the Secretary of State for Wales and The Rt Hon Simon Hart MP (London) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-35m-for-wales-in-fight-against-coronavirus>.

<sup>311</sup> Additional £58 million to help Scotland tackle coronavirus, Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland and The Rt Hon Alister Jack MP (London) 16 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/additional-58-million-to-help-scotland-tackle-coronavirus>.

<sup>312</sup> UK to work with African Union to slow spread of coronavirus in Africa, Department for International Development and the Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP (London) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-work-with-african-union-to-slow-spread-of-coronavirus-in-africa>.

<sup>313</sup> UK Government to fund international Covid-19 studies in Scotland, Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, and Iain Stewart MP (London) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-to-fund-international-covid-19-studies-in-scotland>.

<sup>314</sup> UK Government to fund international Covid-19 studies in Scotland, Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, and Iain Stewart MP (London) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-to-fund-international-covid-19-studies-in-scotland>.

<sup>315</sup> Government secures 5 million doses of Moderna vaccine, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Department of Health and Social Care, The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, and The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP (London) 16 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-secures-5-million-doses-of-moderna-vaccine>.

<sup>316</sup> Prime Minister's statement on coronavirus (COVID-19): 2 December 2020, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street and The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP (London) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-statement-on-coronavirus-covid-19-2-december-2020>.

<sup>317</sup> WHO and UK commit £1m to support Egypt in against COVID-19, British Embassy Cairo (Cairo) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/who-and-uk-commit-1m-to-support-egypt-in-against-covid-19>.

<sup>318</sup> Government confirms mandatory hotel quarantine to be introduced from 15 February, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-confirms-mandatory-hotel-quarantine-to-be-introduced-from-15-february>.



The United Kingdom remains committed to marshal the full power of its government to coordinate on necessary public health measures to protect people at risk from COVID-19.

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

*Analyst: Ceylan Borgers*

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

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to marshal the full power of its government to coordinate necessary public health measures to protect people at risk from COVID-19.

On 18 March 2020, President Donald Trump authorized the release of USD200 billion in financial support to the virus response initiative.<sup>320</sup> These initiatives included vaccine development, paid sick leave, and testing support, amongst other programs.<sup>321</sup>

On 27 March 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed through Congress and became law successfully, delivering USD2.3 trillion in COVID-19 relief to households, businesses, and delivered a one-time cheque of USD1,200 to U.S. residents.<sup>322</sup>

On 3 April 2020, President Trump invoked the Defense Production Act to prevent surgical mask and glove exports; however, he ensured to reaffirm his commitment to providing the necessary equipment to struggling nations, saying, “If they have long-term orders and they’re in there and they want to get certain things, I’ve let them go out, in certain instances, because I think it’s only fair.”<sup>323</sup>

On 24 April 2020, President Trump completed the signing of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Health Care Enhancement Act, providing further support to small businesses and hospitals under-stress from the pandemic. PPP provided USD321 billion in funding with USD60 billion set aside for small businesses and USD50 billion for Disaster Loan Programs.<sup>324</sup> The three aforementioned legislations remained the only form of significant support for American families until December 2020.<sup>325</sup>

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<sup>319</sup> UK calls for ceasefires to vaccinate people against COVID-19, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and The Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP (London) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-calls-for-ceasefires-to-vaccinate-people-against-covid-19>.

<sup>320</sup> Comparing U.S., Japanese, and German Fiscal Responses to Covid-19, Center for Strategic & International Studies (Washington, D.C.) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/comparing-us-japanese-and-german-fiscal-responses-covid-19>.

<sup>321</sup> Comparing U.S., Japanese, and German Fiscal Responses to Covid-19, Center for Strategic & International Studies (Washington, D.C.) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/comparing-us-japanese-and-german-fiscal-responses-covid-19>.

<sup>322</sup> Comparing U.S., Japanese, and German Fiscal Responses to Covid-19, Center for Strategic & International Studies (Washington, D.C.) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/comparing-us-japanese-and-german-fiscal-responses-covid-19>.

<sup>323</sup> Trump invokes Defense Production Act to prevent export of surgical masks, gloves, The Hill (Washington D.C.) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/491137-trump-invokes-defense-production-act-to-prevent-export-of-surgical?rl=1>.

<sup>324</sup> Summary of the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (COVID 3.5), American Medical Association (Chicago) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/summary-paycheck-protection-program-and-health-care-enhancement-act>.

<sup>325</sup> Comparing U.S., Japanese, and German Fiscal Responses to Covid-19, Center for Strategic & International Studies (Washington, D.C.) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/comparing-us-japanese-and-german-fiscal-responses-covid-19>

On 6 July 2020, the U.S. informed the United Nations Secretary-General of its intent to withdraw from the World Health Organization (WHO).<sup>326</sup>

On 18 September 2020, in defiance of Canadian Public Safety Minister Bill Blair's extension of border closures on non-essential land travel, President Trump announced that the U.S. was "looking at the border with Canada. Canada would like it opened and, you know, we want to get back to normal business."<sup>327</sup>

On 7 December 2020, President Trump signed an executive order to ensure the U.S. priority access to COVID-19 vaccinations, and only when the vaccine companies fulfil the needs of the U.S. can vaccinations be shipped readily to other nations.<sup>328</sup>

On 22 December 2020, President Trump threatened to veto the senate-proposed USD892 billion COVID-19 relief package, a successor to the original CARES Act with the delivery of another round of one-time cheques; however, this time of a value of only USD600.<sup>329</sup> Despite these threats, on 27 December 2020, then-President Trump signed the new COVID-19 relief package.<sup>330</sup>

On 22 January 2021, President Joseph Biden said, "[t]he American people are hurting and they can't afford to wait. They need help right now" in response to the delays of the most recent COVID-19<sup>331</sup> stimulus packages. As a result, President Biden announced two executive orders to increase the speed and reliability of COVID-19 relief by the Treasury Department of cheques issued in the original CARES Act.<sup>332</sup>

On 19 February 2021, in coordination with Canadian Minister Blair, the U.S. extended land border restrictions on non-essential travel.<sup>333</sup> Before this extension, on 26 January 2021, the U.S. began requiring negative COVID-19 tests from international air travellers within three days of travel.<sup>334</sup> These restrictions do not extend to land border crossings.<sup>335</sup> Furthermore, during his first Group of Seven meeting, President Biden committed a total of USD4 billion to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access facility. The U.S. will

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<sup>326</sup> Trump Sets Date To End WHO Membership Over Its Handling Of Virus, National Public Radio (Washington D.C.) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/07/07/888186158/trump-sets-date-to-end-who-membership-over-its-handling-of-virus>.

<sup>327</sup> Canada-U.S. border closure extended but Trump, Trudeau far apart on next steps, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (Toronto) 18 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/trudeau-trump-canada-u-s-border-closure-1.5765323>.

<sup>328</sup> Order aims to ensure vaccines procured by U.S. government given to Americans first, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (Toronto) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/vaccine-trump-executive-order-1.5832293>.

<sup>329</sup> Trump threatens to not sign COVID-19 bill, wants bigger stimulus checks, Reuters (Washington, D.C) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-trump-idUSKBN28X01V>.

<sup>330</sup> Covid vaccines and \$600 payments: key provisions in the US stimulus bill, Reuters (New York) 28 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/dec/28/us-stimulus-coronavirus-relief-package-bill>.

<sup>331</sup> Biden to sign orders speeding delivery of U.S. coronavirus stimulus cheques, food aid, Global News (Washington, D.C.) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7594238/us-biden-coronavirus-stimulus-checks/>.

<sup>332</sup> Biden to sign orders speeding delivery of U.S. coronavirus stimulus cheques, food aid, Global News (Washington, D.C.) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7594238/us-biden-coronavirus-stimulus-checks/>.

<sup>333</sup> U.S. extends travel restrictions at land borders with Canada, Mexico through March 21, Reuters (Washington, D.C) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-borders/u-s-extends-travel-restrictions-at-land-borders-with-canada-mexico-through-march-21-idUSKBN2AJ22P>.

<sup>334</sup> U.S. extends travel restrictions at land borders with Canada, Mexico through March 21, Reuters (Washington, D.C) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-borders/u-s-extends-travel-restrictions-at-land-borders-with-canada-mexico-through-march-21-idUSKBN2AJ22P>.

<sup>335</sup> U.S. extends travel restrictions at land borders with Canada, Mexico through March 21, Reuters (Washington, D.C) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-borders/u-s-extends-travel-restrictions-at-land-borders-with-canada-mexico-through-march-21-idUSKBN2AJ22P>.

deliver the first USD2 billion to the vaccine alliance Gavi and the WHO.<sup>336</sup> The U.S. plans to distribute the remaining USD2 billion throughout two-years.<sup>337</sup>

As of 24 February 2021, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), under President Biden's authority, restricted business loan applications to businesses with less than 20 employees for 14 days.<sup>338</sup> These 14 days provide small businesses with the opportunity to have exclusive support from SBA while also allowing enough time for larger businesses to apply for PPP loans before the 31 March 2021 deadline.<sup>339</sup>

The U.S. financial support of vaccine alliances, coordination of border closures, and on-going support for increased domestic social support for the most at-risk warrants full compliance.

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

*Analyst: Ali Nadhum*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to marshal the full power of its government to: coordinate necessary public health measures to protect people at risk from COVID-19.

On 17 March 2020, the European Union launched a team of experts that would research COVID-19.<sup>340</sup> The team was made up of virologists and epidemiologists from its member states.<sup>341</sup> Its goal would be to formulate, based on science and risk measuring procedures, the guidelines that the EU would implement.<sup>342</sup>

On 14 April 2020, the EU gave EUR2.7 billion from the EU budget to support the EU healthcare sector.<sup>343</sup> It activated the Emergency Support instrument in order to support the healthcare systems of its member states in the struggle against COVID-19.<sup>344</sup> The money was immediately provided where it was most needed.<sup>345</sup>

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<sup>336</sup> Why Biden's pledge of \$4 billion to help vaccinate the world isn't enough, Vox (Washington, D.C.) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.vox.com/22291086/biden-covax-united-states-covid-19-vaccinations-world-g7>.

<sup>337</sup> Why Biden's pledge of \$4 billion to help vaccinate the world isn't enough, Vox (Washington, D.C.) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.vox.com/22291086/biden-covax-united-states-covid-19-vaccinations-world-g7>.

<sup>338</sup> Coronavirus (COVID-19): Small Business Guidance & Loan Resources, U.S. Small Business Administration (Washington, D.C.) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources#section-header-3>.

<sup>339</sup> Coronavirus (COVID-19): Small Business Guidance & Loan Resources, U.S. Small Business Administration (Washington, D.C.) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources#section-header-3>.

<sup>340</sup> Statement by European Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen on the latest measures to address the Coronavirus, European Commission (Brussels) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/topnews/M-004585>.

<sup>341</sup> Statement by European Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen on the latest measures to address the Coronavirus, European Commission (Brussels) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/topnews/M-004585>.

<sup>342</sup> Statement by European Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen on the latest measures to address the Coronavirus, European Commission (Brussels) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/topnews/M-004585>.

<sup>343</sup> EUR 2.7 billion from the EU budget to support the EU healthcare sector, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/timeline-eu-action\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/timeline-eu-action_en).

<sup>344</sup> EUR 2.7 billion from the EU budget to support the EU healthcare sector, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/timeline-eu-action\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/timeline-eu-action_en).

<sup>345</sup> EUR 2.7 billion from the EU budget to support the EU healthcare sector, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/timeline-eu-action\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/timeline-eu-action_en).

On 4 May 2020, the EU Commission raised EUR7.4 billion for the Coronavirus Global Response event.<sup>346</sup> Of that sum, EUR1.4 billion were donated by the Commission itself.<sup>347</sup> The World Health Organization and other health organizations launched this cause to develop access to safe and effective diagnostics and vaccines against the coronavirus.<sup>348</sup> The aim of the campaign was to increase access to COVID-29 tools.<sup>349</sup> The EU proposed a collaborative and solid framework to ensure that the money is put to good use.<sup>350</sup>

On 17 June 2020, the EU presented a strategy to speed up the process of COVID-19 vaccine development and manufacturing.<sup>351</sup> The vaccine is considered to be the best long-term solution to the pandemic.<sup>352</sup> The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, states that this European strategy aimed to accelerate the vaccine development so that a deployable version would be ready in 12 to 18 months.<sup>353</sup> The members of the EU have already participated in the formation of a vaccine alliance with Italy and France.<sup>354</sup>

On 21 December 2020, the EU Commission authorized the first safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine.<sup>355</sup> The Commission granted a conditional marketing authorization for the vaccine developed by BioNTech and Pfizer.<sup>356</sup> The member states and the European Medicines agency also endorsed the vaccine after a positive scientific recommendation.<sup>357</sup>

On 19 February 2021, the European Union announced that it would double its financial contribution to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility, which aimed to deliver the distribution of two billion COVID-19 vaccine by the end of 2021.<sup>358</sup> The EU will add EUR500 million which would make its total donation go up to EUR1 billion. Ursula von der Leyen, stated at the G7 Virtual Summit that an additional EUR100 million will also be provided to aid the vaccination in Africa.<sup>359</sup>

The European Union has taken the necessary measure to mobilize all its available resources to help its member states coordinate their national responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has done so by creating

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<sup>346</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: EUR 7.4 billion raised for universal access to vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_797](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_797).

<sup>347</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: EUR 7.4 billion raised for universal access to vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_797](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_797).

<sup>348</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: EUR 7.4 billion raised for universal access to vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_797](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_797).

<sup>349</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: EUR 7.4 billion raised for universal access to vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_797](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_797).

<sup>350</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: EUR 7.4 billion raised for universal access to vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_797](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_797).

<sup>351</sup> Coronavirus: Commission unveils EU vaccines Strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1103](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1103).

<sup>352</sup> Coronavirus: Commission unveils EU vaccines Strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1103](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1103).

<sup>353</sup> Coronavirus: Commission unveils EU vaccines Strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1103](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1103).

<sup>354</sup> Coronavirus: Commission unveils EU vaccines Strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1103](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1103).

<sup>355</sup> European Commission authorises first safe and effective vaccine against COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/topnews/M-006027>.

<sup>356</sup> European Commission authorises first safe and effective vaccine against COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/topnews/M-006027>.

<sup>357</sup> European Commission authorises first safe and effective vaccine against COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/topnews/M-006027>.

<sup>358</sup> G7 backs Gavi's COVAX Advance Market Commitment to boost COVID-19 vaccines in world's poorest countries, Gavi: the Vaccine Alliance (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/g7-backs-gavis-covax-amc-boost-covid-19-vaccines-worlds-poorest-countries>.

<sup>359</sup> G7 backs Gavi's COVAX Advance Market Commitment to boost COVID-19 vaccines in world's poorest countries, Gavi: the Vaccine Alliance (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/g7-backs-gavis-covax-amc-boost-covid-19-vaccines-worlds-poorest-countries>.

and launching new programs for action and through allocating money for public health entities such as COVAX.

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

*Analyst: Sara Teme*

## 2. Health: Addressing Risk

“By acting together, we will work to resolve the health ... risks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.”

*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

COVID-19, the infectious disease caused by the novel coronavirus, has resulted in significant health risks since its outbreak.<sup>360</sup> Generally, the World Health Organization (WHO) describes the effects of COVID-19 as being mild to moderate respiratory illness, which typically subsides after two to six weeks.<sup>361</sup> However, older people and individuals with underlying medical conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness as a result of the virus.<sup>362</sup> Moreover, COVID-19 can sometimes result in prolonged illness and persistent symptoms even in younger individuals and individuals without underlying medical conditions.<sup>363</sup> Long-term health effects of the virus include damage to heart muscle and heart failure, damage to lung tissue and restrictive lung failure, cognitive impairment, and fatigue.<sup>364</sup> Despite the severity of health risks associated with COVID-19, researchers are still working to determine why they persist, how exactly they affect patients, and likelihood of full recovery.<sup>365</sup>

At the 1996 Lyon Summit, G8 leaders first expressed their commitment to combating infectious diseases in the summit’s Chairman’s Statement, which endorsed “the creation and implementation of mechanisms to aid in the prevention, detection, surveillance and response to the emergence and re-emergence of communicable diseases.”<sup>366</sup> They also reiterated a commitment to “research, prevention, accessible and affordable health care

<sup>360</sup> Coronavirus, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 16 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1).

<sup>361</sup> What we know about the long-term effects of COVID-19, World Health Organization (Geneva) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 16 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/risk-comms-updates/update-36-long-term-symptoms.pdf?sfvrsn=5d3789a6\\_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/risk-comms-updates/update-36-long-term-symptoms.pdf?sfvrsn=5d3789a6_2).

<sup>362</sup> Coronavirus, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 16 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1).

<sup>363</sup> What we know about the long-term effects of COVID-19, World Health Organization (Geneva) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 16 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/risk-comms-updates/update-36-long-term-symptoms.pdf?sfvrsn=5d3789a6\\_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/risk-comms-updates/update-36-long-term-symptoms.pdf?sfvrsn=5d3789a6_2).

<sup>364</sup> What we know about the long-term effects of COVID-19, World Health Organization (Geneva) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 16 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/risk-comms-updates/update-36-long-term-symptoms.pdf?sfvrsn=5d3789a6\\_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/risk-comms-updates/update-36-long-term-symptoms.pdf?sfvrsn=5d3789a6_2).

<sup>365</sup> What we know about the long-term effects of COVID-19, World Health Organization (Geneva) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 16 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/risk-comms-updates/update-36-long-term-symptoms.pdf?sfvrsn=5d3789a6\\_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/risk-comms-updates/update-36-long-term-symptoms.pdf?sfvrsn=5d3789a6_2).

<sup>366</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>.

services and diagnostics in the treatment and control of these diseases.”<sup>367</sup> Furthermore, they strongly emphasized international cooperation in researching and providing safe and effective treatments for HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases.<sup>368</sup>

At the 1997 Denver Summit of the Eight, G8 leaders expressed in the summit’s communiqué their commitment to “promote more effective coordination of international responses to outbreaks; promote development of a global surveillance network, building upon existing national and regional surveillance systems; and help to build public health capacity to prevent, detect and control infectious diseases globally.”<sup>369</sup> They similarly emphasized international coordination through institutions like the WHO in order to combat outbreaks and global health emergencies.<sup>370</sup>

At the 1998 Birmingham Summit, G8 leaders expressed in the summit’s communiqué their support for the “Roll Back Malaria initiative,” intended to significantly reduce the death rate from malaria by 2010.<sup>371</sup> They also committed to support vaccine development, preventative programmes, and other initiatives in order to reduce the global effects of AIDS.<sup>372</sup>

At the 2000 Okinawa Summit, G8 leaders extensively covered the area of health in the summit’s Communiqué. Specifically, they committed to meeting the goals of the WHO Roll Back Malaria campaign and Stop TB Initiative, as well as reducing the number of HIV/AIDS-infected young people by 25% by 2010.<sup>373</sup> In order to achieve these targets, they emphasized the development of equitable and effective health systems; expanded immunisation, nutrition and micro-nutrients; the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases; providing cost-effective interventions such as vaccines and treatments; and strengthening cooperation in research and developments on new drugs, vaccines, and other international public health goods.<sup>374</sup>

At the 2001 Genoa Summit, G8 leaders and the United Nations Secretary General announced in the summit’s Communiqué a new Global Fund to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, which promotes “an integrated approach emphasising prevention in a continuum of treatment and care.”<sup>375</sup> They committed USD1.3 billion to the fund.<sup>376</sup>

At the 2003 Evian Summit, G8 leaders released a Health Action Plan, which reaffirms their commitment to achieving the health goals outlined in the Millennium Summit and the World Summit on Sustainable

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<sup>367</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>368</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>369</sup> Communiqué, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 June 1997. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1997denver/g8final.htm>.

<sup>370</sup> Communiqué, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 June 1997. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1997denver/g8final.htm>.

<sup>371</sup> Communiqué, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 May 1998. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1998birmingham/finalcom.htm>.

<sup>372</sup> Communiqué, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 May 1998. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1998birmingham/finalcom.htm>.

<sup>373</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>374</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>375</sup> Communiqué, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommuniqué.html>.

<sup>376</sup> Communiqué, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommuniqué.html>.

Development.<sup>377</sup> They also reiterated their commitment to fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria through initiatives like the Global Fund.<sup>378</sup> Furthermore, G8 leaders expressed their commitment to provide resources and an additional USD500 million in order to fully eradicate polio by 2005, and also committed to strengthening international cooperation to contain severe acute respiratory syndrome.<sup>379</sup>

At the 2006 St. Petersburg Summit, G8 leaders committed to achieving “improved access to prevention and treatment of diseases for those in need, through assistance programs focused on strengthening the capacity of health systems and the training, deployment, and retention of qualified health workers; and through innovative clinical research programs, private-public partnerships, and other innovative mechanisms” in the summit’s Fight Against Infectious Disease document.<sup>380</sup> Moreover, they reiterated support for efforts to work with international organizations to mitigate the health consequences of emergencies.<sup>381</sup> They also expressed support for global efforts to prepare for a possible influenza pandemic, and pledged to coordinate initiatives and investments to “fight the spread and impact of the disease.”<sup>382</sup> G8 leaders specifically emphasized improved access to prevention, treatment, and care in regard to infectious diseases, and have pledged to work towards sustainable health systems and the promotion of research, development, and production of treatments for diseases.<sup>383</sup>

At the 2008 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, G8 leaders emphasized in their Summit Leaders’ Declaration the importance of strengthening health systems and programs to counter infectious diseases, as well as the access to essential medicines, vaccines, and other treatments.<sup>384</sup> They reiterated commitments to provide USD60 billion to fight infectious diseases over five years.<sup>385</sup>

At the 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit, G7 leaders responded to the Ebola epidemic in the summit’s Leaders’ Declaration by committing to assist at least 60 countries in implementing the WHO’s International Health Regulations, including through the Global Health Security Agenda and other multilateral initiatives.<sup>386</sup>

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 leaders released their Vision for Global Health, which emphasized increased funding and international cooperation to support governments, multilateral agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for prompt detection, containment, and control of public health emergencies.<sup>387</sup> They also committed to support the WHO in implementing reforms for its outbreak and

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<sup>377</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>378</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>379</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>380</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>381</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>382</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>383</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>384</sup> G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

<sup>385</sup> G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

<sup>386</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>387</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>.



health emergencies response, and reaffirmed its central importance in responding to public health emergencies.<sup>388</sup>

At the 2020 Virtual Summit under the U.S. presidency held 16 March to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, G7 leaders expressed in their commitment to “ensure a strong global response” to COVID-19 through “closer cooperation and enhanced coordination of our efforts.”<sup>389</sup> Specifically, they committed to coordinate and enhance efforts to delay the spread of the virus and strengthen health systems globally.<sup>390</sup> They also committed to increasing coordinated research efforts to fight the virus, as well as efforts to increase the availability of medical equipment “where it is most needed.”<sup>391</sup> At the time, they expected to meet again in three months at their regularly scheduled summit on 10-12 June 2020, which was later postponed indefinitely.

### **Commitment Features**

At the 2020 United States Summit, G7 leaders made a commitment that by “acting together, we will work to resolve the health ... risks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Based on previous G8 summits, the phrase “acting together,” is understood to mean acting in liaison and cooperation with other governments, multilateral organizations such as the WHO, NGOs, and other actors. Moreover, this commitment is expected to encompass both the public and private sector, including private investors and public-private partnerships.

The phrase “work to” is understood to mean that the actors are applying international diplomacy, such as drafting proposals, putting forth new ideas, and encouraging new initiatives.<sup>392</sup> It does not mean making no effort, resisting or destroying efforts by other actors, or “merely tagging along with the consensus reached.”<sup>393</sup>

The key verb in this commitment is “to resolve,” which means “to deal with successfully” or “clear up.”<sup>394</sup> Thus, we will consider initiatives to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and treating and caring for patients with health risks caused by COVID-19.

Health risks caused by COVID-19, as defined by the WHO, include the following:

1. Mild to moderate respiratory illness;
2. Long-term health problems including damage to heart muscle and heart failure;
3. Damage to lung tissue and restrictive lung failure,
4. Loss of sense of smell;
5. Pulmonary embolism, heart attack, and stroke;
6. Cognitive impairment;

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<sup>388</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>389</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>390</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>391</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>392</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).

<sup>393</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).

<sup>394</sup> Merriam-Webster's Dictionary. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/resolve>.

7. Anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and sleep disturbance;
8. Pain in joints and muscles;
9. Fatigue
10. Death<sup>395</sup>

Thus, to achieve full compliance, or a score of +1, G7 members must pursue efforts and initiatives to resolve the health risks caused by COVID-19, in conjunction with other governments, multilateral organizations, NGOs, and other actors. This includes bilateral and multilateral initiatives, as well as public-private partnerships. Actions to resolve health risks caused by COVID-19 can include funding and increasing the capacity of healthcare systems and health workers; funding existing research initiatives or creating new initiatives for the development of treatments for COVID-19; ensuring the availability and affordability of vaccines and other treatments for COVID-19; and funding existing initiatives or creating new initiatives aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19.

To achieve partial compliance, or a score of 0, G7 members must pursue efforts and initiatives to deal with the health risks caused by COVID-19, but do so in a unilateral, non-cooperative manner. This entails a failure to work with other governments, multilateral organizations, NGOs, and other actors. For example, if a G7 member works to resolve health risks caused by COVID-19 without coordinating with other governments and actors, and pursues initiatives in a non-transparent, non-collaborative manner, then that is partial compliance.

Non-compliance, or a score of -1, entails a complete or near-complete failure to pursue efforts and initiatives to address with the health risks caused by COVID-19. The G7 member must demonstrate that it has not worked towards resolving health risks caused by COVID-19 at all.

**Scoring Guidelines**

-1	G7 member does not take any steps to pursue efforts OR any initiatives to address the health risks caused by COVID-19.
0	G7 member works to resolve health risks in a unilateral manner without coordinating with other governments, international organizations, multilateral organizations, non-governmental organizations or other actors.
+1	G7 member works to resolve health risks by coordinating with other governments, international organizations, multilateral organizations, non-governmental organizations or other actors.

*Lead Analyst: Hillary Song  
Compliance Director: Ninar Fawal*

**Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to act together to resolve the health risks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 17 March 2020, Minister of Health Patricia A. Hajdu amended the schedule to the Quarantine Act.<sup>396</sup> The new regulations required all travellers to notify Canadian authorities of any possible exposure to the COVID-19 virus to ensure the health of Canadians.<sup>397</sup>

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<sup>395</sup> What we know about the long-term effects of COVID-19, World Health Organization (Geneva) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 16 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/risk-comms-updates/update-36-long-term-symptoms.pdf?sfvrsn=5d3789a6\\_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/risk-comms-updates/update-36-long-term-symptoms.pdf?sfvrsn=5d3789a6_2).

<sup>396</sup> Regulations Amending the Schedule to the Quarantine Act (COVID-19 Coronavirus Disease): SOR/2020-53, Canada Gazette (Ottawa) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://canadagazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2020/2020-04-01/html/sor-dors53-eng.html>.

On 19 March 2020, the Government of Canada announced an additional CAD25.8 million for research on the implementation of new COVID-19 measures aimed at detecting, managing, and reducing the transmission of the virus.<sup>398</sup> This funding will go to 49 researchers across the country.<sup>399</sup>

On 5 April 2020, Minister of International Development Karina Gould committed to an additional CAD110 million for international countries to support front-line workers responding to COVID-19, including vulnerable populations such as women and children.<sup>400</sup>

On 15 June 2020, the Government of Canada responded to the United Nations request for humanitarian supplies, and mobilized the Canadian Armed Forces to transport medical and humanitarian supplies to underdeveloped countries in Africa and the Middle East in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>401</sup>

On 25 September 2020, the Canadian government announced a total funding of CAD440 million for the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility Advance Market Commitment to provide vaccines to Canadians as well as low and middle-income countries internationally.<sup>402</sup>

On 23 October 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced a funding of CAD173 million to Medicago to advance Canadian COVID-19 vaccine development.<sup>403</sup>

On 14 December 2020, Minister Gould committed CAD485 million to help healthcare systems in developing countries cope with the impact of COVID-19.<sup>404</sup> This funding will help fund COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, and treatments, and will also be allocated to the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator to advance the development, production, and equitable distribution of COVID-19 treatments.<sup>405</sup>

On 12 February 2021, the Canadian government implemented new travel and border measures at air and land ports of entry.<sup>406</sup> These measures include proof of a negative COVID-19 test before entry and submitting quarantine plans in order to ensure the health and safety of Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>407</sup>

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<sup>397</sup> Regulations Amending the Schedule to the Quarantine Act (COVID-19 Coronavirus Disease): SOR/2020-53, Canada Gazette (Ottawa) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://canadagazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2020/2020-04-01/html/sor-dors53-eng.html>.

<sup>398</sup> Government of Canada funds 49 additional COVID-19 research projects – Details of the funded projects, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Canada) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 27 February 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>399</sup> Government of Canada funds 49 additional COVID-19 research projects – Details of the funded projects, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Canada) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 27 February 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>400</sup> Canada's support for international efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/canadas-support-for-international-efforts-to-fight-the-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

<sup>401</sup> Canada's ongoing humanitarian efforts in response to COVID-19 pandemic, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/06/canadas-ongoing-humanitarian-efforts-in-response-to-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

<sup>402</sup> Canada Just Committed \$440 Million to an International COVID-19 Vaccine Program, Global Citizen (Canada) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/canada-220-million-covax/>.

<sup>403</sup> Address by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 23 October 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021.

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/10/23/prime-minister-announces-funding-advance-development-canadian-covid>.

<sup>404</sup> Canada to contribute \$485M to help developing countries cope with COVID-19, CBC News (Toronto) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/covid-therapies-gould-funding-1.5840273>.

<sup>405</sup> Canada to contribute \$485M to help developing countries cope with COVID-19, CBC News (Toronto) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/covid-therapies-gould-funding-1.5840273>.

<sup>406</sup> Government of Canada expands restrictions to international travel by land and air, Public Health Agency of Canada (Ottawa) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-expands-restrictions-to-international-travel-by-land-and-air.html>.

Canada has coordinated with other governments, multilateral organizations, and other actors to pursue new initiatives in an effort to resolve the health risks of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Fazeela Amiri*

**France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to act together to resolve the health risks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 2 April 2020, the French government launched the “COVID-19-Health In Common” initiative to help countries in the Middle East and Africa as well as Madagascar, Comoros, and Haiti cope with the COVID-19 crisis.<sup>408</sup> This EUR1.2 billion initiative aims to support non-governmental organizations (NGOs), foundations, and research groups.<sup>409</sup> The funding will contribute to supporting COVID-19 response plans, reinforcing epidemiological networks, and supporting health care systems.<sup>410</sup>

On 24 April 2020, France worked with its European partners and the World Health Organization (WHO) to launch a global cooperation platform called Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.<sup>411</sup> This platform has worked to consolidate healthcare systems against COVID-19; accelerate the production of treatments for COVID-19; and guarantee safe, equitable, and universal distribution of these treatments.<sup>412</sup>

On 4 May 2020, France committed EUR500 million to ACT-Accelerator, making it one of the leading contributors to the initiative.<sup>413</sup> Among other objectives, this funding will support the WHO and its initiatives; support research and vaccine development in partnership with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; and consolidate support for healthcare systems in the most vulnerable countries.<sup>414</sup>

On 5 June 2020, France announced an inclusive vaccine alliance along with Germany, the Netherlands, and Italy.<sup>415</sup> This alliance will focus on development, production, and accessibility of the COVID-19 vaccine to members of the European Union and other countries.<sup>416</sup>

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<sup>407</sup> Government of Canada expands restrictions to international travel by land and air, Public Health Agency of Canada (Ottawa) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-expands-restrictions-to-international-travel-by-land-and-air.html>.

<sup>408</sup> France Launches, via AFD, The “Covid-19-Health in Common” Initiative to Support African Countries, France Diplomacy (Paris) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2020/article/france-launches-via-afd-the-covid-19-health-in-common-initiative-to-support>.

<sup>409</sup> France Launches, via AFD, The “Covid-19-Health in Common” Initiative to Support African Countries, France Diplomacy (Paris) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2020/article/france-launches-via-afd-the-covid-19-health-in-common-initiative-to-support>.

<sup>410</sup> France Launches, via AFD, The “Covid-19-Health in Common” Initiative to Support African Countries, France Diplomacy (Paris) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2020/article/france-launches-via-afd-the-covid-19-health-in-common-initiative-to-support>.

<sup>411</sup> France Pledges EUR500 million against Covid-19, French Government (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

<sup>412</sup> France Pledges EUR500 million against Covid-19, French Government (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

<sup>413</sup> France Pledges EUR500 million against Covid-19, French Government (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

<sup>414</sup> France Pledges EUR500 million against Covid-19, French Government (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

<sup>415</sup> European Initiative for the Covid-19 Vaccine, French Government (France) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/european-initiative-for-the-covid-19-vaccine>.

On 25 June 2020, Minister for Solidarity and Health Olivier Véran announced a funding of EUR90 million to support the WHO in training and innovation in global health.<sup>417</sup>

On 13 November 2020, President Emmanuel Macron pledged new funding to the ACT-Accelerator at the Paris Peace Forum.<sup>418</sup> Together with the rest of the donors of ACT, they pledged a total funding of USD360 million to the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) facility.<sup>419</sup>

On 31 January 2021, France imposed new COVID-19 border restrictions to ban non-essential travel to and from all countries outside the European Union, and tightened testing requirements on travelers from within the EU.<sup>420</sup>

France has coordinated with other governments, multilateral organizations, NGOs, and other actors to pursue new initiatives in an effort to resolve the health risks of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Fazeela Amiri*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to act together to resolve the health risks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 25 March 2020, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas and UK Foreign Minister Dominic Raab presented proposals on the role of the G7 during the COVID-19 crisis at the virtual meeting of the G7 Foreign Ministers.<sup>421</sup> This included international cooperation on the development and provision of medicines and vaccines, as well as support for countries less equipped to respond to the virus.<sup>422</sup>

On 14 April 2020, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) sent a team of experts from the German Epidemic Preparedness Team (SEEG) to Benin in order to boost local testing capacity.<sup>423</sup>

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<sup>416</sup> European Initiative for the Covid-19 Vaccine, French Government (France) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/european-initiative-for-the-covid-19-vaccine>.

<sup>417</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: 28 February 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>.

<sup>418</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: 28 February 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>419</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: 28 February 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>420</sup> Covid-19: France closes borders to most non-EU travel, BBC News (France) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55863069>.

<sup>421</sup> Foreign Minister Maas following a virtual meeting of the G7 Foreign Ministers, German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2328788>.

<sup>422</sup> Foreign Minister Maas following a virtual meeting of the G7 Foreign Ministers, German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2328788>.

<sup>423</sup> German Epidemic Preparedness Team helps tackle COVID-19 in Benin, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/april/200414\\_German-Epidemic-Preparedness-Team-helps-tackle-COVID-19-in-Benin/index.html](https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/april/200414_German-Epidemic-Preparedness-Team-helps-tackle-COVID-19-in-Benin/index.html).

On 23 April 2020, the BMZ announced a global Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme for developing countries worth EUR1.15 billion, including EUR200 million for health and pandemic control.<sup>424</sup>

On 27 April 2020, the Federal Foreign Office made available EUR300 million in COVID-related humanitarian assistance, including EUR40 million for the World Food Programme, EUR35 million for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, EUR50 million for humanitarian non-governmental organizations, EUR50 million for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, EUR30 million for the Country-Based Pooled Funds, EUR20 million for the World Health Organization (WHO), EUR20 million for the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, EUR20 million for the International Organization of Migration, EUR20 million for the UN International Children's Emergency Fund, and EUR5 million for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA).<sup>425</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Germany co-hosted a major virtual donor conference to raise funds towards the Access to COVID-19 (ACT) Accelerator, initiated by the European Commission.<sup>426</sup> Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged EUR525 million towards the development of a vaccine and drugs through platform.<sup>427</sup>

On 7 May 2020, the BMZ made available EUR5.2 million to support converting a Volkswagen production facility in South Africa into a medical facility for treating up to 4,000 COVID-19 patients.<sup>428</sup>

On 18 and 20 May 2020, Minister Maas met virtually with the Foreign Ministers of Germany's direct neighbours, agreeing to coordinate health and hygiene standards for tourist destinations of German residents.<sup>429</sup>

On 2 June 2020, at a virtual donors conference organized by Saudi Arabia and UN OCHA, Germany pledged that its Federal Foreign Office would disburse EUR5 million to the WHO's activities in Yemen in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development additionally pledged EUR125 million and EUR70 million respectively in humanitarian assistance for Yemen over 2020, partly to be used on sanitation and healthcare measures.<sup>430</sup>

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<sup>424</sup> German Development Ministry presents Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

[https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/april/200423\\_German-Development-Ministry-presents-Emergency-COVID-19-Support-Programme-We-will-either-beat-the-pandemic-worldwide-or-not-at-all/index.html](https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/april/200423_German-Development-Ministry-presents-Emergency-COVID-19-Support-Programme-We-will-either-beat-the-pandemic-worldwide-or-not-at-all/index.html).

<sup>425</sup> Foreign Minister Maas on the Federal Foreign Office's Covid-19-related humanitarian assistance, German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-covid19/2337446>.

<sup>426</sup> COVID-19: Fair Access to Vaccines and Drugs, German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/gesundheits/covid-19-vaccines/2340640>.

<sup>427</sup> COVID-19: Fair Access to Vaccines and Drugs, German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/gesundheits/covid-19-vaccines/2340640>.

<sup>428</sup> Development Ministry and Volkswagen provide 4,000 additional hospital beds in South Africa, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 7 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/mai/200507\\_pm\\_010\\_Corona-crisis-Development-Ministry-and-Volkswagen-provide-4000-additional-hospital-beds-in-South-Africa/index.html](https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/mai/200507_pm_010_Corona-crisis-Development-Ministry-and-Volkswagen-provide-4000-additional-hospital-beds-in-South-Africa/index.html).

<sup>429</sup> Foreign Minister Maas following part two of the dialogue with Germany's direct neighbours, German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2343852>.

<sup>430</sup> The Fight against COVID-19: Helping Save Lives in Yemen, German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 2 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/jemen-node/donor-conference-yemen/2346684>.

On 4 June 2020, Chancellor Angela Merkel declared EUR100 million to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, a public-private global health partnership, to help contain the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>431</sup>

On 15 June 2020, the German government paid EUR300 million for a 23% share in German biotech firm CureVac to support its vaccine development.<sup>432</sup>

On 23 June 2020, the SEEG sent COVID-19 test kits to Peru and trained local partners to deal with the ongoing pandemic.<sup>433</sup>

On 29 June 2020, Minister of Health Jens Spahn announced an additional EUR41.4 million to the WHO, and an additional EUR200 million towards the implementation of the COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan.<sup>434</sup>

On 21 July 2020, the German government announced an additional funding of EUR150 million towards COVID-19 related humanitarian assistance.<sup>435</sup>

On 29 July 2020, SEEG announced a donation of a total of 1.4 million COVID-19 tests to the African Union, as part of the BMZ's Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme.<sup>436</sup>

On 7 September 2020, the Foreign Ministers of Germany, Cambodia, the EU, Singapore, and Russia issued a statement at the 13th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM Summit), which urged the implementation of disability- and gender-sensitive national action plans and supported efforts of laboratory capacity building through joint research and training.<sup>437</sup> Germany acted as the Regional Coordinator of the European Group at the Summit.<sup>438</sup>

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<sup>431</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: 24 February 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>432</sup> Coronavirus vaccine maker CureVac plans U.S. listing in July, Reuters (Berlin) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-germany-curevac-ex-idUSKBN23M14Z>.

<sup>433</sup> German team of experts assists Peru, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/juni/200623\\_pm\\_032\\_German-team-of-experts-assists-Peru-in-COVID-19-crisis/index.html](https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/juni/200623_pm_032_German-team-of-experts-assists-Peru-in-COVID-19-crisis/index.html).

<sup>434</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>.

<sup>435</sup> The fight against COVID-19: Germany marks available an additional 150 million euro for humanitarian assistance, German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 21 July 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/humanitaerehilfe/covid-19/2369514>.

<sup>436</sup> German Epidemic Preparedness Team hands over 1.4 million tests to the African Union, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin, Addis Ababa) 29 July 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/juli/200729\\_pm-22\\_COVID-19-pandemic-German-Epidemic-Preparedness-Team-hands-over-1\\_4-million-tests-to-the-African-Union/index.html](https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/juli/200729_pm-22_COVID-19-pandemic-German-Epidemic-Preparedness-Team-hands-over-1_4-million-tests-to-the-African-Union/index.html).

<sup>437</sup> Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Statement on Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 7 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/asem-coronavirus/2381556>.

<sup>438</sup> Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Statement on Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 7 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/asem-coronavirus/2381556>.

On 15 September 2020, the Ministry of Education and Research granted three German firms the following amounts in order to boost vaccine research and domestic production capability: EUR375 million to BioNTech, EUR252 million to CureVac,<sup>439</sup> and EUR114 million to IDT Biologika.<sup>440</sup>

On 30 September 2020, Chancellor Angela Merkel announced that the EUR100 million pledged in June 2020 to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance will be fully channelled to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Advance Market Commitment (AMC).<sup>441</sup>

Between 30 December 2020 and 15 January 2021, Germany provided medical equipment to countries of the Western Balkans region.<sup>442</sup> This includes 84 ventilators and 100 pulse oximeters on 30 December to North Macedonia, 200 ventilators and 5000 pulse oximeters on 14 January to Kosovo, 1000 pulse oximeters on 15 January to Albania, and 50 ventilators and 10,000 pulse oximeters on 15 January to Bosnia and Herzegovina.<sup>443</sup>

On 19 February 2021, Minister Maas announced that the German government will contribute an additional EUR1.5 billion to the ACT-Accelerator. This sum includes EUR1.21 billion to the COVAX facility, and EUR10 million to the WHO's Response Fund.<sup>444</sup>

Germany has engaged in extensive efforts to coordinate with other governments, multilateral organizations, and private companies in order to boost vaccine research, increase the capacity of global health care systems, and to ensure the worldwide availability and affordability of COVID-19 treatments.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Ashton Mathias*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to act together to resolve the health risks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 18 March 2020, the Italian government adopted the Cura Italia emergency package, which allocated EUR25 billion to strengthen the Italian health care system and provide support for workers and businesses in Italy.<sup>445</sup>

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<sup>439</sup> Germany grants BioNTech, CureVac \$745 million to speed up COVID-19 vaccine work, Reuters (Berlin) 15 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-germany-vaccine-idUSKBN2661JB>.

<sup>440</sup> Karliczek: Unsere Förderung ebnet der Impfstoff-Forschung gegen Covid-19 den Weg, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.bmbf.de/files/2020-10-08\\_149%20PM%20Impfstoff-Forschung%20Unternehmen.pdf](https://www.bmbf.de/files/2020-10-08_149%20PM%20Impfstoff-Forschung%20Unternehmen.pdf).

<sup>441</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: 24 February 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>442</sup> The fight against COVID-19 – Medical equipment for Western Balkan countries, German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/gesundheit/covid-19-equipment-for-western-balkan-countries/2439632>.

<sup>443</sup> The fight against COVID-19 – Medical equipment for Western Balkan countries, German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/gesundheit/covid-19-equipment-for-western-balkan-countries/2439632>.

<sup>444</sup> Foreign Minister Maas on the global fight against COVID-19, German Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-covax/2443492>.

<sup>445</sup> Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#top>.



On 4 June 2020, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte pledged EUR120 million at the Global Vaccine Summit for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.<sup>446</sup> With this pledge, Italy will contribute USD103 million to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Advance Market Commitment (AMC).<sup>447</sup> Italy was the first country to announce financial support for the Global Fund's COVID-19 response mechanism and COVAX to ensure equitable access to vaccines in 92 developing countries.<sup>448</sup>

On 26 June 2020, the Peiro and Lucille Corti Foundation delivered medical supplies to the Lacor Hospital in Uganda as part of Italy's international response to COVID-19 and its alliance in the search for a cure.<sup>449</sup>

On 1 July 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs Luigi Di Maio commenced the first meeting of the inter-institutional operating table to discuss Italian contribution to the prevention of COVID-19 globally.<sup>450</sup> The meeting consisted of representatives of civil society including the private sector, the pharmaceutical industry and Italian research institutions.<sup>451</sup> The participating members concentrated on two thematic focuses surrounding Italy's national response plan and its global initiatives to combat COVID-19.<sup>452</sup>

On 3 November 2020, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Emanuela Del Re virtually participated at the 11th Ministerial Roundtable hosted by the Foreign Minister of Canada to discuss global responses to COVID-19.<sup>453</sup> The Deputy Minister stressed the importance of multilateralism and underlined Italy's dedication for cooperation.<sup>454</sup>

On 30 November 2020, Deputy Minister Del Re participated in the sixth meeting of the Contact Group of Development Ministers to discuss a resilient and sustainable recovery from COVID-19.<sup>455</sup> The initiative was started by the United Kingdom and Canada to further discuss issues related to the response and prevention

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<sup>446</sup> Italy Donor Profile, Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/investing-gavi/funding/donor-profiles/italy>.

<sup>447</sup> Italy Donor Profile, Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/investing-gavi/funding/donor-profiles/italy>.

<sup>448</sup> Del Re: Italy among the first to work for a global response to a pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 14 November 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/11/del-re-italia-tra-primi-a-lavorare-per-risposta-globale-a-pandemia.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/11/del-re-italia-tra-primi-a-lavorare-per-risposta-globale-a-pandemia.html).

<sup>449</sup> Uganda: First aid load delivered to fight COVID-19, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/uganda-consegnato-primi-carico-aiuti-per-lotta-a-covid-19.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/retediplomatica/uganda-consegnato-primi-carico-aiuti-per-lotta-a-covid-19.html).

<sup>450</sup> 1 meeting of the inter-institutional operational table on the Italian contribution to the prevention and global response to COVID-19, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/i-riunione-del-tavolo-operativo-inter-istituzionale-sul-contributo-italiano-alla-prevenzione-e-alla-risposta-globale-al-covid-19.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/i-riunione-del-tavolo-operativo-inter-istituzionale-sul-contributo-italiano-alla-prevenzione-e-alla-risposta-globale-al-covid-19.html).

<sup>451</sup> 1 meeting of the inter-institutional operational table on the Italian contribution to the prevention and global response to COVID-19, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/i-riunione-del-tavolo-operativo-inter-istituzionale-sul-contributo-italiano-alla-prevenzione-e-alla-risposta-globale-al-covid-19.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/i-riunione-del-tavolo-operativo-inter-istituzionale-sul-contributo-italiano-alla-prevenzione-e-alla-risposta-globale-al-covid-19.html).

<sup>452</sup> 1 meeting of the inter-institutional operational table on the Italian contribution to the prevention and global response to COVID-19, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/i-riunione-del-tavolo-operativo-inter-istituzionale-sul-contributo-italiano-alla-prevenzione-e-alla-risposta-globale-al-covid-19.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/i-riunione-del-tavolo-operativo-inter-istituzionale-sul-contributo-italiano-alla-prevenzione-e-alla-risposta-globale-al-covid-19.html).

<sup>453</sup> Del Re at ministerial meeting on COVID-19: International cooperation needed, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 3 November 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/11/del-re-a-riunione-ministeriale-su-covid-19-necessaria-cooperazione-internazionale.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/11/del-re-a-riunione-ministeriale-su-covid-19-necessaria-cooperazione-internazionale.html).

<sup>454</sup> Del Re: Italy among the first to work for a global response to a pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 14 November 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/11/del-re-italia-tra-primi-a-lavorare-per-risposta-globale-a-pandemia.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/11/del-re-italia-tra-primi-a-lavorare-per-risposta-globale-a-pandemia.html).

<sup>455</sup> Del Re: Post-Covid recovery is green, inclusive and fair, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/11/del-re-ripresa-post-covid-sia-verde-inclusiva-e-giusta.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/11/del-re-ripresa-post-covid-sia-verde-inclusiva-e-giusta.html).

of COVID-19.<sup>456</sup> Deputy Minister Del Re announced Italy's commitment to invest more in active labor market policies to create an empowering and inclusive environment for everyone.<sup>457</sup>

On 27 December 2020, the Italian government began the Anti-COVID-19 Vaccine Campaign.<sup>458</sup> The goal of the campaign is to achieve herd immunity to COVID-19 by providing the entire Italian population vaccinations free of charge.<sup>459</sup>

Italy has taken the necessary steps on the national and international level to act in a cooperative way to resolve the health risks caused by COVID-19.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Yasmine Nasereddin*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to act together to resolve the health risks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 27 March 2020, the Japanese Agency for Medical Research and Development announced its intention to work together with the Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association on research and development of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments.<sup>460</sup>

On 8 April 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan announced an emergency grant aid of USD1 million to further clinical research on Avigan, an anti-viral medicine used to treat COVID-19, in cooperation with interested countries.<sup>461</sup> The Ministry stated that this would also include the procurement and transport of Avigan tablets to beneficiary countries with COVID-19 patients.<sup>462</sup>

On 7 May 2020, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Health, which supports collaborative efforts between the two countries to counter the spread of COVID-19 and to identify appropriate treatments and vaccines against the virus.<sup>463</sup>

On 8 May 2020, Japan committed USD100 million in initial funding to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, intended to assist Gavi's COVID-19 response efforts.<sup>464</sup>

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<sup>456</sup> Del Re: Post-Covid recovery is green, inclusive and fair, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/11/del-re-ripresa-post-covid-sia-verde-inclusiva-e-giusta.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/11/del-re-ripresa-post-covid-sia-verde-inclusiva-e-giusta.html).

<sup>457</sup> Del Re: Post-Covid recovery is green, inclusive and fair, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/11/del-re-ripresa-post-covid-sia-verde-inclusiva-e-giusta.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/11/del-re-ripresa-post-covid-sia-verde-inclusiva-e-giusta.html).

<sup>458</sup> Anti COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.governo.it/it/approfondimento/campagna-vaccinazione-anti-covid-19/16000>.

<sup>459</sup> Anti COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.governo.it/it/approfondimento/campagna-vaccinazione-anti-covid-19/16000>.

<sup>460</sup> AMED and JPMA strengthen collaboration on drug development, Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (Tokyo) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.amed.go.jp/en/news/topics/20200327.html>.

<sup>461</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: 11 March 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000149.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000149.html).

<sup>462</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: 11 March 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000149.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000149.html).

<sup>463</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: 11 March 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).

On 12 June 2020, the Japanese government announced the second supplementary budget for the fiscal year 2020.<sup>465</sup> The budget focused on enhancing government measures to protect the lives of the public from the COVID-19 pandemic and move forward with economic recovery.<sup>466</sup>

On 15 September 2020, Japan committed JPY17.2 billion in funding for the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) facility.<sup>467</sup>

On 8 October 2020, Japan pledged USD130 million to fund the COVAX Advance Market Commitment (COVAX AMC), a financing mechanism that aims to distribute safe COVID-19 vaccines to developing countries.<sup>468</sup>

On 9 February 2021, Japan committed to providing an additional USD70 million to the COVAX initiative to support the equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to developing countries.<sup>469</sup>

On 14 February 2021, the Japanese government announced that it would begin a vaccine rollout for the general population, having approved a vaccine made by the US company Pfizer.<sup>470</sup> Regulatory Reform Minister Kono Taro stated that many local governments are planning to use a combination of mass vaccination sites and medical facilities for the inoculations.<sup>471</sup>

On 19 February 2021, Japan pledged an additional USD70 million in funding for the COVAX AMC.<sup>472</sup>

Japan has successfully coordinated and engaged in extensive efforts with other governments, multilateral organizations, and other actors to pursue new initiatives in an effort to resolve the health risks of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to ensure the worldwide availability and affordability of COVID-19 treatments.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Abishek Arul*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to act together to resolve the health risks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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<sup>464</sup> Japan pledges new support to Gavi, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

<https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/japan-pledges-new-support-gavi>.

<sup>465</sup> [COVID-19] Second Supplementary Budget, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. [http://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/\\_00028.html](http://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/_00028.html).

<sup>466</sup> [COVID-19] Second Supplementary Budget, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. [http://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/\\_00028.html](http://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/_00028.html).

<sup>467</sup> Japan commits \$165 million to WHO's global coronavirus vaccine programme, Reuters (Tokyo) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-japan-covax/japan-commits-165-million-to-whos-global-coronavirus-vaccine-programme-idUKKBN2670AE>.

<sup>468</sup> Japan pledges US\$130 million to support global access to COVID-19 vaccines, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/japan-pledges-us-130-million-support-global-access-covid-19-vaccines>.

<sup>469</sup> Japan offers \$70 mil. More to ensure poor nations' access to vaccines, Kyodo News (Tokyo) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/02/bb5fa13be2af-japan-offers-70-mil-more-to-ensure-poor-nations-access-to-vaccines.html>.

<sup>470</sup> Japan to begin COVID vaccinations on Wednesday, NHK (Tokyo) 14 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20210215\\_10/](https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20210215_10/).

<sup>471</sup> Japan to begin COVID vaccinations on Wednesday, NHK (Tokyo) 14 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20210215\\_10/](https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20210215_10/).

<sup>472</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: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/g7-backs-gavis-covax-amc-boost-covid-19-vaccines-worlds-poorest-countries>.

On 16 March 2020, the UK government announced GBP1.5 billion funding for the Devolved Administrations of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Island for their COVID-19 response, part of which will be used to increase funding for the National Health Service (NHS).<sup>473</sup>

On 17 March 2020, the UK parliament passed an emergency measures bill related to COVID-19 in an effort to bolster the capacity of the NHS.<sup>474</sup> This bill allowed recently retired NHS staff to return to work and allowed for employment safeguards for temporary volunteers putting their main jobs on pause.<sup>475</sup>

On 18 March 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson pledged GBP71 million to the global response tackling COVID-19 and has committed GBP150 million to the International Monetary Fund's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust.<sup>476</sup>

On 23 March 2020, the UK's Chief Scientific Adviser announced a GBP20 million investment into the COVID-19 Genomics UK Consortium, in order to map the spread of COVID-19 using genomic sequencing.<sup>477</sup> The Consortium is composed of the NHS, public health agencies, the Wellcome Sanger Institute, and numerous academic institutions.<sup>478</sup>

On 23 March 2020, Business Secretary Alok Sharma announced that six research projects will receive GBP10.5 million, including GBP2.2 million to the vaccine research team at the University of Oxford.<sup>479</sup> The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) announced the investment pool in February, which totals GBP25 million, and coordinated with the World Health Organization (WHO) to ensure no duplication of effort.<sup>480</sup>

On 26 March 2020, Prime Minister Johnson announced a new round of UK aid funding towards COVID equivalent to GBP323 million.<sup>481</sup> This includes GBP210 million towards the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), GBP40 million to the Therapeutic Accelerator to develop antiretrovirals, and GBP50 million in a joint campaign with Unilever to distribute 20 million hygiene and cleaning

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<sup>473</sup> Devolved administrations will receive £1.5 billion for coronavirus response, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/devolved-administrations-will-receive-15-billion-for-coronavirus-response>.

<sup>474</sup> Emergency bill to strengthen coronavirus (COVID-19) response plans, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/emergency-bill-to-strengthen-coronavirus-covid-19-response-plans>.

<sup>475</sup> Emergency bill to strengthen coronavirus (COVID-19) response plans, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/emergency-bill-to-strengthen-coronavirus-covid-19-response-plans>.

<sup>476</sup> UK takes drastic measures to tackle COVID-19, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-takes-drastring-measures-to-tackle-covid-19>.

<sup>477</sup> UK launches whole genome sequence alliance to map spread of coronavirus, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-launches-whole-genome-sequence-alliance-to-map-spread-of-coronavirus>.

<sup>478</sup> UK launches whole genome sequence alliance to map spread of coronavirus, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-launches-whole-genome-sequence-alliance-to-map-spread-of-coronavirus>.

<sup>479</sup> Vaccine trials among recipients of £20 million coronavirus research investment, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 23 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vaccine-trials-among-recipients-of-20-million-coronavirus-research-investment>.

<sup>480</sup> Vaccine trials among recipients of £20 million coronavirus research investment, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 23 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vaccine-trials-among-recipients-of-20-million-coronavirus-research-investment>.

<sup>481</sup> PM announces record funding to find a coronavirus vaccine, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 26 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-record-funding-to-find-a-coronavirus-vaccine>.

products.<sup>482</sup> When combined with previous announcements, total UK commitments towards fighting COVID globally stood at GBP544 million, including GBP250 million to CEPI.<sup>483</sup>

On 12 April 2020, International Development Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan announced a package of GBP200 million towards UK charities and international organizations to bolster the capacity of healthcare systems in developing countries.<sup>484</sup> This included GBP65 million to the WHO, GBP50 million to the Red Cross, GBP20 million to non-governmental organizations, GBP20 million to UNICEF, GBP20 million to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, GBP15 million to the World Food Programme, GBP10 million to the UN Population Fund.<sup>485</sup> When combined with previous announcements, total UK commitments towards fighting COVID globally stood at GBP744 million.

On 17 April 2020, Secretary Sharma announced funding for 21 new coronavirus research projects to the tune of GBP14 million in government funding, which enabled 27 projects to receive the GBP25 million investment pool.<sup>486</sup>

On 29 April 2020, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) announced a new national clinical trial initiative, Accelerating COVID-19 Research and Development Platform (ACCORD), that would reduce the time taken to set up clinical studies for new therapies.<sup>487</sup> ACCORD was provided by NIHR and clinical research company IQVIA.<sup>488</sup>

On 17 May 2020, Secretary Sharma announced a GBP93 million investment to accelerate construction of the new Vaccines Manufacturing and Innovation Centre (VMIC), the UK's first not-for-profit organization established to develop and advance the mass production of vaccines.<sup>489</sup> In addition, Secretary Sharma announced an additional GBP38 million to establish a rapid deployment facility while VMIC is being built.<sup>490</sup>

On 17 May 2020, Secretary Sharma announced GBP84 million in new government funding for vaccine research, including GBP65.5 million for the University of Oxford and GBP18.5 million for Imperial College

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<sup>482</sup> PM announces record funding to find a coronavirus vaccine, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 26 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-record-funding-to-find-a-coronavirus-vaccine>.

<sup>483</sup> PM announces record funding to find a coronavirus vaccine, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 26 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-record-funding-to-find-a-coronavirus-vaccine>.

<sup>484</sup> UK leads global fight to prevent second wave of coronavirus, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 April 2020. Access Date 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-leads-global-fight-to-prevent-second-wave-of-coronavirus>.

<sup>485</sup> UK aid boost for charities fighting coronavirus, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-boost-for-charities-fighting-coronavirus>.

<sup>486</sup> Government launches Vaccine Taskforce to combat coronavirus, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-vaccine-taskforce-to-combat-coronavirus>.

<sup>487</sup> COVID-19 treatments could be fast-tracked through new national clinical trial initiative, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-treatments-could-be-fast-tracked-through-new-national-clinical-trial-initiative>.

<sup>488</sup> COVID-19 treatments could be fast-tracked through new national clinical trial initiative, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-treatments-could-be-fast-tracked-through-new-national-clinical-trial-initiative>.

<sup>489</sup> Vaccines Manufacturing and Innovation Centre to open 12 months ahead of schedule, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vaccines-manufacturing-and-innovation-centre-to-open-12-months-ahead-of-schedule>.

<sup>490</sup> Vaccines Manufacturing and Innovation Centre to open 12 months ahead of schedule, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vaccines-manufacturing-and-innovation-centre-to-open-12-months-ahead-of-schedule>.

London.<sup>491</sup> Oxford University and AstraZeneca signed a global licensing agreement to produce 100 million doses for the UK public.<sup>492</sup>

On 18 May 2020, the UK Department of International Trade announced it was working with healthcare company Vernacare to increase supply of infection control products to global healthcare providers, contributing to a 60 per cent rise in production.<sup>493</sup>

On 20 May 2020, the UK Department for International Development announced it will invest GBP20 million to the African Union's new "African Union Covid19 Response Fund" to train African health experts and deploy experts where needed.<sup>494</sup>

On 4 June 2020, the UK hosted the Global Vaccine Summit 2020, helping secure GBP6.64 billion to support global vaccine supply while launching the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) facility.<sup>495</sup> Existing UK-India collaboration confirmed at the time of the summit included a consortium comprising Serum Institute, Gates Foundation, and UK-based Spy Biotech working on a vaccine.<sup>496</sup> The Serum Institute partnered with Oxford University to manufacture the latter's vaccines, which may provide up to 1 billion people with vaccines across the developing world.<sup>497</sup>

On 20 July 2020, Secretary Sharma announced funding towards clinical studies costs and possible expansion of Valneva's Scottish facility, potentially boosting supply up to 100 million vaccines.<sup>498</sup>

On 23 July 2020, the UK Department for International Development announced it would match up to GBP10 million of public donations, after its call to donate towards the Disasters Emergency Committee Coronavirus Appeal.<sup>499</sup> Funds supported the work of 14 UK charities to bolster health resources in global refugee camps.<sup>500</sup>

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<sup>491</sup> Funding and manufacturing boost for UK vaccine programme, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-and-manufacturing-boost-for-uk-vaccine-programme>.

<sup>492</sup> Funding and manufacturing boost for UK vaccine programme, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-and-manufacturing-boost-for-uk-vaccine-programme>.

<sup>493</sup> Vernacare increases production by 60% to fight Coronavirus, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vernacare-increases-production-by-60-to-fight-coronavirus>.

<sup>494</sup> UK to work with African Union to slow spread of coronavirus in Africa, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-work-with-african-union-to-slow-spread-of-coronavirus-in-africa>.

<sup>495</sup> India joins UK's global vaccine mission, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/india-joins-uks-global-vaccine-mission>.

<sup>496</sup> India joins UK's global vaccine mission, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/india-joins-uks-global-vaccine-mission>.

<sup>497</sup> Foreign Secretary speech at India Global Week, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/foreign-secretary-speech-at-india-global-week>.

<sup>498</sup> UK government invests in Livingston facility to bolster vaccine manufacturing capacity, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 5 August 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-invests-in-livingston-facility-to-bolster-vaccine-manufacturing-capacity>.

<sup>499</sup> UK Government matches another £5 million of donations for coronavirus appeal after huge public response, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-matches-another-5-million-of-donations-for-coronavirus-appeal-after-huge-public-response>.

<sup>500</sup> UK Government matches another £5 million of donations for coronavirus appeal after huge public response, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-matches-another-5-million-of-donations-for-coronavirus-appeal-after-huge-public-response>.

On 23 July 2020, Secretary Sharma announced GBP104.7 million to fund the construction and staffing of a state-of-the-art Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult Manufacturing Innovation Centre to accelerate the mass production of a vaccine in the UK.<sup>501</sup>

On 28 August 2020, the UK Government announced an investment of GBP8.4 million to COVID-19 immunology research projects across the UK, including towards universities in Scotland.<sup>502</sup>

On 25 September 2020, Prime Minister Johnson announced a series of funding pledges at the UN General Assembly (UNGA).<sup>503</sup> This includes GBP340 million over the next four years to the WHO, GBP71 million into COVAX to secure purchase rights (which the government committed to as of 18 September), and GBP548 million to the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment (COVAX AMC) facility.<sup>504</sup> The UK announced it would match every USD4 pledged to the COVAX AMC by other donors with GBP1million, up to GBP250 million.<sup>505</sup>

On 30 September 2020, Foreign Minister Dominic Raab co-hosted a side-event at the UNGA, to champion and promote the COVAX facility.<sup>506</sup>

On 30 October 2020, the UK Government pledged GBP450,000 to support Ghana's pharmaceutical sector, which would go towards strengthening vaccine production and improving manufacturing practices.<sup>507</sup>

On 16 November 2020, DHSC announced GBP12.2 million for the COVID-19 Genomics UK Consortium, in order to expand whole genome sequencing of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.<sup>508</sup>

On 26 January 2021, Health Secretary Matt Hancock announced that UK genomics expertise and capacity will be offered worldwide via the "New Variant Assessment Platform," in order to identify new emerging

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<sup>501</sup> Over £100 million cash boost to manufacture millions of doses of COVID-19 vaccine, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-100-million-cash-boost-to-manufacture-millions-of-doses-of-covid-19-vaccine>.

<sup>502</sup> UK Government to fund COVID-19 research in Scotland, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 28 August 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-to-fund-covid-19-research-in-scotland>.

<sup>503</sup> Prime Minister: World must unite to defeat COVID and prevent future pandemics, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-world-must-unite-to-defeat-covid-and-prevent-future-pandemics>.

<sup>504</sup> UK and India to accelerate collaboration on vaccines to prevent future pandemics, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-india-to-accelerate-collaboration-on-vaccines-to-prevent-future-pandemics>.

<sup>505</sup> UK meets £250m match aid target into COVAX, the global vaccines facility, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 10 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-raises-1bn-so-vulnerable-countries-can-get-vaccine>.

<sup>506</sup> Vaccines trials in Chile and the UK's role to tackle the pandemic, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 10 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vaccines-trials-in-chile-and-the-uks-role-to-tackle-the-pandemic>.

<sup>507</sup> UK-Government supports Ghana's Pharmaceutical Sector, Government of the United Kingdom (Accra) 30 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-ghana-business-council-supports-ghanas-pharmaceutical-sector>.

<sup>508</sup> £12.2 million boost for genomic surveillance to help stop transmission of COVID-19, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 16 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/122-million-boost-for-genomic-surveillance-to-help-stop-transmission-of-covid-19>.

variants.<sup>509</sup> The UK carried out nearly half of all SARS-CoV-2 genome sequences submitted to the global database.<sup>510</sup>

On 4 February 2021, the UK Government announced GBP7 million in funding for a clinical trial researching the effects of alternating different COVID vaccines.<sup>511</sup>

On 13 February 2021, DHSC announced multi-million pound funding to expand the AGILE clinical trial platform to fast-track innovation treatments from Phase 1 clinical trials.<sup>512</sup>

On 17 February 2021, Secretary Raab proposed a new UN Security Council Resolution specifically calling for ceasefires to enable COVID vaccines to be carried out in badly affected areas.<sup>513</sup>

On 17 February 2021, the UK announced the first COVID-19 Human Challenge study, backed by GBP33.6 of government investment.<sup>514</sup>

On 19 February 2021, Prime Minister Johnson re-introduced his five-point plan to prevent future pandemics announced previously at the UNGA in September at the G7 virtual meeting.<sup>515</sup>

The United Kingdom has engaged in unparalleled efforts to coordinate with other governments, multilateral organizations, and private companies in order to boost vaccine research, increase the capacity of global health care systems, and ensure the worldwide availability and affordability of COVID-19 treatments.

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

*Analyst: Asbton Mathias*

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

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to act together to resolve the health risks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 27 March 2020, President Donald Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act announcing USD4.3 billion for domestic and global activities spearheaded by the Centers for

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<sup>509</sup> UK to support rest of the world to find COVID-19 virus variants, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-support-rest-of-the-world-to-find-covid-19-virus-variants>.

<sup>510</sup> UK to support rest of the world to find COVID-19 virus variants, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-support-rest-of-the-world-to-find-covid-19-virus-variants>.

<sup>511</sup> World-first COVID-19 alternating dose vaccine study launches in UK, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-first-covid-19-alternating-dose-vaccine-study-launches-in-uk>.

<sup>512</sup> Groundbreaking COVID-19 treatments to be fast-tracked through clinical trials, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 13 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/groundbreaking-covid-19-treatments-to-be-fast-tracked-through-clinical-trials>.

<sup>513</sup> Ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines in contexts affected by conflict and insecurity, Government of the United Kingdom (New York City) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/ensuring-equitable-access-to-covid-19-vaccines-in-contexts-affected-by-conflict-and-insecurity>.

<sup>514</sup> World's first coronavirus Human Challenge study receives ethics approval in the UK, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-first-coronavirus-human-challenge-study-receives-ethics-approval-in-the-uk>.

<sup>515</sup> Prime Minister to host virtual meeting of G7 leaders, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 13 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-to-host-virtual-meeting-of-g7-leaders>.



Disease Control and Prevention.<sup>516</sup> Division B, Title VII of the Act noted that USD500 million should be available for “Global Health Programs” and “International Disaster Assistance.”<sup>517</sup> Funding has been directed to regions of the world by percentages: 30 per cent to Africa, 17 per cent to Asia, 13 per cent to the Middle East and North Africa, 9 per cent to Latin America and the Caribbean, and 7 per cent to Europe and Eurasia.<sup>518</sup>

On 14 April 2020, President Trump announced the decision to suspend funding to the World Health Organization (WHO) with the support from members of Congress.<sup>519</sup>

On 13 May 2020, the United States Air Force Super Hercules C-130J dropped 15,000 kilograms of medical and other relief supplies, including KN-95 masks, COVID-19 test kits, and surgical gear to Italian cities between Milan and Rome.<sup>520</sup> The transportation of supplies was part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s (NATO) Rapid Air Mobility initiative.<sup>521</sup>

On 1 September 2020, President Trump announced that the United States will not join the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) facility, a global effort intended to develop and equitably distribute vaccines to all countries.<sup>522</sup> A spokesperson for the White House stated the decision is due to the WHO’s involvement in the COVAX process.<sup>523</sup>

On 12 November 2020, the U.S. Ambassador to Italy, Lewis Eisenberg, virtually met with four Italian companies which received US government grants through the USAID.<sup>524</sup> The U.S. Embassy and Consulate in Italy announced that USD30 million was donated to non-governmental organizations in Italy and USD20 million in equipment and supplies was donated to the country through the U.S. military and the United States Agency for International Development.<sup>525</sup>

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<sup>516</sup> CDC COVID-19 Global Response, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/budget/documents/covid-19/COVID-19-Global-Response-fact-sheet.pdf>.

<sup>517</sup> H. R. 6074 116th Congress: Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Act 2020, Congress of the United States (Washington, D.C.) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr6074/BILLS-116hr6074enr.pdf>

<sup>518</sup> U.S Global Funding for COVID-19 by Country and Region, Kaiser Family Foundation (San Francisco) 23 October 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.kff.org/global-health-policy/issue-brief/u-s-global-funding-for-covid-19-by-country-and-region/#footnote-490996-1>

<sup>519</sup> US Withdrawal from the World Health Organization: Process and Implications, Congressional Research Service (Washington, D.C.) 21 October 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R46575.pdf>

<sup>520</sup> Coronavirus response: United States transports aid in Italy using NATO’s Rapid Air Mobility initiative, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Brussels) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news\\_175784.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_175784.htm).

<sup>521</sup> Coronavirus response: United States transports aid in Italy using NATO’s Rapid Air Mobility initiative, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Brussels) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news\\_175784.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_175784.htm).

<sup>522</sup> US says it won’t join WHO-linked effort to develop, distribute coronavirus vaccine, The Washington Post (Washington, D.C.) 1 September 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/coronavirus-vaccine-trump/2020/09/01/b44b42be-e965-11ea-bf44-0d31c85838a5\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/coronavirus-vaccine-trump/2020/09/01/b44b42be-e965-11ea-bf44-0d31c85838a5_story.html)

<sup>523</sup> US says it won’t join WHO-linked effort to develop, distribute coronavirus vaccine, The Washington Post (Washington, D.C.) 1 September 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/coronavirus-vaccine-trump/2020/09/01/b44b42be-e965-11ea-bf44-0d31c85838a5\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/coronavirus-vaccine-trump/2020/09/01/b44b42be-e965-11ea-bf44-0d31c85838a5_story.html)

<sup>524</sup> US Government Support for the Italian Private Sector to Fight COVID-19, US Embassy and Consulates in Italy (Rome) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://it.usembassy.gov/u-s-government-support-for-the-italian-private-sector-to-fight-covid-19/>

<sup>525</sup> US Government Support for the Italian Private Sector to Fight COVID-19, US Embassy and Consulates in Italy (Rome) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://it.usembassy.gov/u-s-government-support-for-the-italian-private-sector-to-fight-covid-19/>

On 20 January 2021, President Joe Biden retracted the withdrawal of the US government from the WHO in a letter to the UN Secretary-General. The United States will remain a member of the WHO.<sup>526</sup>

On 18 February 2021, President Biden announced at the G7 that the US government will affirm its commitment “to global health security and advancing the Global Health Security Agenda.”<sup>527</sup> The White House also released statements of its intention to provide USD2 billion to the COVAX facility to secure vaccines for low- and middle-income economies.<sup>528</sup>

The United States has demonstrated efforts to resolve health risks by cooperating with other governments, multilateral organizations, and other actors, albeit inconsistently. Overall, however, it has contributed to global efforts.

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

*Analyst: Yasmine Nasereddin*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to act together to resolve the health risks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 17 March 2020, the members of the European Council discussed the EU actions in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, where European leaders agreed to place temporary restrictions on non-essential travel to the European Union for a period of 30 days.<sup>529</sup> They also focused on issues such as limiting the spread of the virus, the provision of medical equipment, with a particular focus on masks and respirators, promoting research, including research into a vaccine, tackling socio-economic consequences and helping citizens stranded in developing countries.<sup>530</sup>

On 9 April 2020, the finance ministers from the 19 Eurozone countries agreed to provide EUR240 billion in bailout funds to health systems, EUR100 billion for workers who have lost wages, and EUR200 billion in credit guarantees for the European Investment Bank.<sup>531</sup>

On 21 April 2020, the EU committed USD544,996 to the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and COVID-19 relief activities in Africa and elsewhere.<sup>532</sup>

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<sup>526</sup>Letter to His Excellency Antonio Guterres, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/01/20/letter-his-excellency-antonio-guterres/>.

<sup>527</sup> Fact Sheet: President Biden to Take Action on Global Health through Support of COVAX and Calling for Health Security Financing, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/18/fact-sheet-president-biden-to-take-action-on-global-health-through-support-of-covax-and-calling-for-health-security-financing/>.

<sup>528</sup> Fact Sheet: President Biden to Take Action on Global Health through Support of COVAX and Calling for Health Security Financing, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/18/fact-sheet-president-biden-to-take-action-on-global-health-through-support-of-covax-and-calling-for-health-security-financing/>.

<sup>529</sup> Video conference of the members of the European council, European Council (Brussels) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/european-council/2020/03/17>.

<sup>530</sup> Video conference of the members of the European council, European Council (Brussels) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/european-council/2020/03/17>.

<sup>531</sup> Report on the comprehensive economic policy response to the COVID-19 pandemic. 9 April 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021 <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/04/09/report-on-the-comprehensive-economic-policy-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic/>.

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>533</sup>

On 22 July 2020, the EU pledged an investment of EUR1 billion to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations in support of research and innovation programmes for COVID-19 prevention.<sup>534</sup>

On 19 February 2021, the European Commission committed USD363 million to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Advance Market Commitment, with the European Investment Bank committing an additional USD242 million in loan guarantees to help the Access to COVID-19 (ACT) Accelerator frontload future payments to expedite the COVID-19 response.<sup>535</sup>

On 25 February 2021, the European Council reaffirmed the need for working together and coordinating action to confront the COVID-19 pandemic, and reaffirmed support to COVAX and its goals of distributing vaccines to 92 low- and middle-income countries.<sup>536</sup> The Council also committed to contributing the EU's "fair share" to the ACT-Accelerator.

The EU has successfully coordinated and engaged in extensive efforts with other governments, multilateral organizations, and other actors to pursue new initiatives in an effort to resolve the health risks of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to ensure the worldwide availability and affordability of COVID-19 treatments.<sup>537</sup>

Thus, the EU receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Abishek Arul*

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<sup>532</sup> Donor Funding for the Global Novel Coronavirus Response, Kaiser Family Foundation (San Francisco) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/donor-funding-for-the-global-novel-coronavirus-response/>.

<sup>533</sup> European Commission, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 30 September 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/investing-gavi/funding/donor-profiles/european-commission>.

<sup>534</sup> Coronavirus: EU Supports Vaccine Research with additional EUR100 million, European Commission (Brussels) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 11 March 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>535</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: 11 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-02-2021-g7-leaders-commit-us-4.3-billion-to-finance-global-equitable-access-to-tests-treatments-and-vaccines-in-2021>.

<sup>536</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: 11 March 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/>.

<sup>537</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: 11 March 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/>.

### 3. Health: Protecting Health and Safety

“We will work hard to protect the health and safety of everyone in our countries.”

*G7 Leaders' Statement*

#### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+1.00 (100%)	

#### Background

Promoting inclusive and equitable protection of health and safety is fundamental to a comprehensive response to the spread of infectious diseases. The short-term and medium-term impacts of infectious diseases such as COVID-19 have especially harmful effects for vulnerable and disadvantaged segments of society and pose the “risk of compounding existing socio-economic divides.”<sup>538</sup> For example, UN Women examined the impact of COVID-19 on women and gender-based violence by including data that cases of domestic violence and demand for emergency shelter have increased since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak in Canada, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States.<sup>539</sup>

The World Health Organization (WHO) has released recommendations for policies in protection of the most vulnerable including the recommendations to work across sectors to ensure an enabling environment for vulnerable groups and to strengthen surveillance to adequately measure and monitor the intensity, pattern and adverse impact of COVID-19 spread in vulnerable populations.<sup>540</sup> The WHO encourages member-states to use these suggestions in their responses to COVID-19 to ensure inclusive health and safety protection for all.<sup>541</sup>

The 1996 Lyon Summit was the first time the G8 leaders made explicit reference to infectious diseases in their agenda for global health.

The 2000 Okinawa Summit created the Okinawa Infectious Diseases Initiative in which it claimed that “infectious and parasitic diseases take a particularly heavy toll on the poor.”<sup>542</sup> The initiative promoted measures against infectious and parasitic diseases such as partnership with civil society and international

<sup>538</sup> COVID-19: Protecting people and societies, OECD (Paris) 2020. Access Date: 5 November 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/inclusive-growth/resources/COVID-19-Protecting-people-and-societies.pdf>.

<sup>539</sup> The Shadow Pandemic: Violence Against Women and Girls and COVID-19, UN Women (New York) 2020. Access Date: 5 November 2020. <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/issue-brief-covid-19-and-ending-violence-against-women-and-girls-infographic-en.pdf?la=en&vs=5348>.

<sup>540</sup> Actions for consideration in the care and protection of vulnerable population groups from COVID-19, World Health Organization (Geneva) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 5 November 2020. <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/333043>.

<sup>541</sup> Actions for consideration in the care and protection of vulnerable population groups from COVID-19, World Health Organization (Geneva) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 5 November 2020. <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/333043>.

<sup>542</sup> Japan's Initiative in the Fight against Infectious and Parasitic Diseases on the occasion of the Kyushu-Okinawa G8 Summit ("Okinawa ID (Infectious diseases) Initiative"), G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2009. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/infectious.htm>.

organizations, strengthening developing countries' institutions in the health sector, and the support of international cooperation in conducting research activities.<sup>543</sup>

At the 2009 L'Aquila Summit, the G8 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to address the health needs of the most vulnerable, especially women and children. They urged the WHO to research and “monitor the impact of crisis on health and advise on actions to be taken at country and global level.”<sup>544</sup> The G8 leaders underlined the importance of helping the most vulnerable agreeing to address maternal, newborn, and child health in Sub-Saharan Africa by removing “barriers to [healthcare services] access for all women and children” and “accountability of results.”<sup>545</sup> The L'Aquila Summit also produced G8 Health Experts' Report called “Promoting Global Health” which identified “strengthening health systems to advance the goal of universal access to health services” as one of its four themes.<sup>546</sup>

At the 2014 Brussels Summit, the G7 leaders responded to the Ebola outbreak by “commit[ing] to work with partner countries to strengthen compliance with the WHO International Health Regulations and enhance health security around the world.”<sup>547</sup> The G7 leaders also committed to “working across sectors to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious diseases” and overall building the global capacity in preparing for threats of rising infectious diseases.<sup>548</sup>

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, the G7 leaders produced the G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health in which it committed to a range of actions in advancing global health with a particular focus on public health emergencies. The G7 leaders reaffirmed their support for the WHO in supporting countries in emergency preparedness, response and recovery and urged the WHO to implement reforms for outbreaks and health emergencies.<sup>549</sup> The G7 leaders referred to the outbreaks of Ebola and Zika viruses in emphasizing the “imperative to improve prevention of, detection of and response to public health emergencies.”<sup>550</sup> They also committed to ensuring equity in health systems and “focusing on the needs of vulnerable segments of society, including the poorest and most marginalized populations.”<sup>551</sup>

At the 2020 Virtual Summit, held on 16 March under the U.S. presidency to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, G7 leaders identified the global response as their “foremost priority” in their statement.<sup>552</sup> They committed to coordinating on necessary public health measures to protect people at risk from COVID-19, improve prevention strategies and mitigation measures, and “adhering to the principles of efficacy, safety, and

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<sup>543</sup> Japan's Initiative in the Fight against Infectious and Parasitic Diseases on the occasion of the Kyushu-Okinawa G8 Summit (“Okinawa ID (Infectious diseases) Initiative”), G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2009. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/infectious.htm>.

<sup>544</sup> Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2009. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-declaration.html>.

<sup>545</sup> Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2009. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-declaration.html>.

<sup>546</sup> Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2009. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-declaration.html>.

<sup>547</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

<sup>548</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

<sup>549</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/health.html>.

<sup>550</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/health.html>.

<sup>551</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/health.html>.

<sup>552</sup> G7 Leaders' Statement, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

accessibility.”<sup>553</sup> They committed to increasing the supply of medical equipment “where it is most needed.”<sup>554</sup> The G7 leaders also emphasized the coordination and cooperation of their efforts in delaying the spread of the virus, conducting research efforts, maximizing public access to official information, and providing monetary measures for economic stability.<sup>555</sup> At the time, they expected to meet again in three months at their regularly scheduled summit on 10-12 June 2020, which was later postponed indefinitely

### **Commitment Features**

In this commitment, there are two targets, one to protect the health of everyone in their countries and another to protect the safety of everyone in their countries. “Everyone” is understood to mean all people from every segment in society. The segments in society, in this context, will comprise the general populace and vulnerable groups namely 1) women, 2) children or youth, 3) the elderly, 4) people with disabilities, 5) people who are low income or homeless, and 6) migrants, refugees or undocumented peoples. Action protecting the health and/or safety for the general populace would be initiatives that do not require special consideration, customization, or resources for their needs 7) and others such as Black people, Indigenous peoples, people of colour, prison populations or people who are LGBTQ+.

“To protect” is understood to mean to cover or shield from exposure, injury, or damage.<sup>556</sup> Protection of the health relates to shielding infected and non-infected people from further injury or damage. The protection of safety, however, relates to covering or shielding people’s exposure to COVID-19.

“Health” is understood to mean a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being.<sup>557</sup> Health, in this context, refers to the well-being of people both infected and not infected with COVID-19. Examples of high levels of protection of everyone’s health include providing mental health services and counselling to those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, providing personal protective equipment for frontline workers in hospitals, distributing ventilators and other respiratory devices to hospitals, and providing economic support packages or financial support programs to the general populace.

Less than strong levels of protection of everyone’s health, which would merit a score of partial compliance is the allocation of money and personnel in support of protecting the health of citizens. Low levels of protection of everyone’s health, which would merit a score of partial compliance, are indirect actions that encourage self-conducted behavior of health such as verbal reference to the subject. An example of a low level of health protection is an information campaign on methods to protect mental health or on methods to self-administer health check-ups.

“Safety” is understood to mean the reduction of risk of unnecessary harm to an acceptable minimum.<sup>558</sup> The risk of unnecessary harm, in this context, refers to the risk of receiving and/or spreading COVID-19. Examples of high levels of protection of everyone’s safety include enforcing stay-at-home or quarantine orders, closing non-essential businesses, and administering regular sanitization in public settings.

Less than strong levels of protection of everyone’s health, which would merit a score of partial compliance is the allocation of money and personnel in support of protecting the safety of citizens. Low strong levels of

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<sup>553</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>554</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>555</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>556</sup> Protect, Merriam-Webster (Springfield). Access Date: 4 December 2019. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/protect>.

<sup>557</sup> Definitions of Key Concepts from the WHO Patient Safety Curriculum Guide (Geneva) 2011. Access Date: 4 December 2019. [https://www.who.int/patientsafety/education/curriculum/course1a\\_handout.pdf](https://www.who.int/patientsafety/education/curriculum/course1a_handout.pdf).

<sup>558</sup> Definitions of Key Concepts from the WHO Patient Safety Curriculum Guide (Geneva) 2011. Access Date: 4 December 2019. [https://www.who.int/patientsafety/education/curriculum/course1a\\_handout.pdf](https://www.who.int/patientsafety/education/curriculum/course1a_handout.pdf).

protection of everyone’s safety, which would merit a score of non-compliance, are indirect actions that encourage self-conducted safe behaviour such as verbal reference reaffirmation. Examples include running public information campaigns on care-seeking behaviour such as mask-wearing, hand-washing, and physical distancing.

Examples of action that protects the health or safety for the general populace include mask mandates, travel restrictions, and general COVID-19 information campaigns. The following are examples of protection of health or safety for each vulnerable segment of society: 1) resources including psychological support for gender-based violence victims; 2) providing emergency grants to students; 3) regular monitoring and follow up of the elderly and their caregivers; 4) health service accessibility to people with vision, hearing or cognitive impairments; 5) subsidization of medical services to low-income families; and 6) grants of safe access to healthcare for undocumented peoples.

A G7 member can achieve partial compliance for the first target by protecting the health of the general populace and one to three of the listed vulnerable groups of society. A G7 member can achieve full compliance for the first target by protecting the health of the general populace and four to seven of the listed vulnerable groups of society. A G7 member will receive a score of non-compliance if it only protects the health of the general populace or less.

A G7 member can achieve partial compliance for the second target by protecting the safety of the general populace and two to four of the listed vulnerable groups of society. A G7 member can achieve full compliance for the first target by protecting the safety of the general populace and five to seven of the listed vulnerable groups of society. A G7 member will receive a score of non-compliance if it protects the safety of the general populace and one listed vulnerable group of society or less.

Full compliance for this commitment is achieved by protecting the health and safety for everyone in their countries. For a score of partial compliance, the G7 member has either taken concrete actions to protect the health but not the safety of everyone in their countries or taken concrete actions to protect the safety but not the health of everyone in their countries. For a score of non-compliance, the G7 member has completed none of the aforementioned criteria.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	G7 member has NOT taken any steps to protect the health of everyone in its jurisdiction OR taken steps to protect the safety of everyone in their countries.
0	G7 member has either taken steps to protect the health of everyone in its jurisdiction OR has taken steps to protect the safety of everyone in its jurisdiction.
+1	G7 member has taken steps to protect the health of everyone in its jurisdiction AND has taken steps to protect the safety of everyone in its jurisdiction.

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### Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to protect the health and safety of everyone in its country.

On 16 March 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced border closures to foreign nationals of all nations but the United States, the redirection of international flights to four airports, and an increase in

screening measures at airports.<sup>559</sup> Travellers with any COVID-19 symptoms would be prevented from entering Canada despite their citizenship.<sup>560</sup>

On 18 March 2020, the Government of Canada announced that it will provide an additional CAD157.5 million to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness in Canada.<sup>561</sup> The Government of Canada also announced it will provide up to CAD50 million to help women's shelters, sexual assault centers and facilities in Indigenous communities with their capacity to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 20 March 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau outlined the Plan to Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19 with a goal to support domestic business production of essential health and safety supplies: personal protective equipment, sanitization products, diagnostic/testing products, and contact tracing technology to aid in the COVID-19 response.<sup>562</sup>

On 21 March 2020, the Government of Canada temporarily restricted non-essential travel across the U.S.-Canada land border.<sup>563</sup> These restrictions have been extended multiple times and were in effect until 21 March 2021.<sup>564</sup>

On 26 March 2020, Marc Miller, Minister of Indigenous Services, announced the Indigenous Community Support Fund (ICSF), consisting of CAD305 million to address immediate needs in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities, to support measures such as preventing COVID-19 community transmission, increasing access to mental health and emergency response services, lowering food insecurity, and supporting the wellbeing of children.<sup>565</sup>

On 29 March 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that the Government of Canada will provide CAD7.5 million in funding to Kids Help Phone to provide youth and children with additional mental health support.<sup>566</sup> Prime Minister Trudeau also announced that the Government of Canada will provide CAD9 million through United Way Canada for local organizations to provide services to seniors in Canada.<sup>567</sup>

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<sup>559</sup> Prime Minister announces new actions under Canada's COVID-19 response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/16/prime-minister-announces-new-actions-under-canadas-covid-19-response>.

<sup>560</sup> Prime Minister announces new actions under Canada's COVID-19 response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/16/prime-minister-announces-new-actions-under-canadas-covid-19-response>.

<sup>561</sup> Prime Minister announces support for vulnerable Canadians affected by COVID-19, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/29/prime-minister-announces-support-vulnerable-canadians-affected-covid>.

<sup>562</sup> Prime Minister announces Canada's Plan to Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/20/prime-minister-announces-canadas-plan-mobilize-industry-fight-covid>.

<sup>563</sup> Temporary Restriction of Travelers Crossing US-Canada and Mexico Land Borders for Non-Essential Purposes, U.S Customs and Border Protection (Washington D.C.) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [https://help.cbp.gov/s/article/Article-1596?language=en\\_US](https://help.cbp.gov/s/article/Article-1596?language=en_US).

<sup>564</sup> Temporary Restriction of Travelers Crossing US-Canada and Mexico Land Borders for Non-Essential Purposes, U.S Customs and Border Protection (Washington D.C.) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [https://help.cbp.gov/s/article/Article-1596?language=en\\_US](https://help.cbp.gov/s/article/Article-1596?language=en_US).

<sup>565</sup> Indigenous Community Support Fund, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/03/addressing-urgent-needs-in-indigenous-communities-related-to-covid-19.html>.

<sup>566</sup> Indigenous Community Support Fund, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/03/addressing-urgent-needs-in-indigenous-communities-related-to-covid-19.html>.

<sup>567</sup> Indigenous Community Support Fund, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/03/addressing-urgent-needs-in-indigenous-communities-related-to-covid-19.html>.



On 30 March 2020, Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health, approved the Interim Order Respecting Drugs, Medical Devices, and Foods for a Special Dietary Purpose to address the increased demand for medical devices to treat, diagnose and protect Canadians against COVID-19.<sup>568</sup>

On 7 April 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau issued a statement in the context of World Health Day.<sup>569</sup> In the statement, Prime Minister Trudeau stated that Canada is “working with the World Health Organization and other partners to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and protect those most vulnerable.”<sup>570</sup> He also stated that the government is working to ensure the health of Canadians by “putting more money in the pockets of people and businesses facing financial hardship, investing in health research, and purchasing essential medical equipment.”<sup>571</sup>

From 29 April 2020 until 29 August 2020, Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, announced the Canada Emergency Student Benefit.<sup>572</sup> This was a significant portion of the Government of Canada’s CAD9 billion initiative to support students.<sup>573</sup> The benefit ensured financial support of CAD1,250 per month for up to four months to post-secondary students and high school graduates unable to find work due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>574</sup> Individuals with a disability or dependents would receive a further CAD750 for each of the four weeks.<sup>575</sup>

On 29 June 2020, the Government of Canada published an online guide of providers of services for people experiencing homelessness in the context of COVID-19.<sup>576</sup> The guide provided information on the planning, response, and recovery from a COVID-19 outbreak relevant for providers of services for people experiencing homelessness. The guide also provided a list of public health authorities’ contact information.

On 16 July 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau announced the Safe Restart Agreement, a federal investment of CAD19 billion<sup>577</sup> into reopening the economy, increasing testing, supporting the healthcare system, providing mental health services, procuring personal protective equipment, and protecting the elderly population.<sup>578</sup>

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<sup>568</sup> Interim Order Respecting Drugs, Medical Devices and Foods for a Special Dietary Purpose in Relation to COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/compliance-enforcement/covid19-interim-order-drugs-medical-devices-special-foods.html>.

<sup>569</sup> Statement by the Prime Minister on World Health Day, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2020/04/07/statement-prime-minister-world-health-day>.

<sup>570</sup> Statement by the Prime Minister on World Health Day, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2020/04/07/statement-prime-minister-world-health-day>.

<sup>571</sup> Statement by the Prime Minister on World Health Day, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2020/04/07/statement-prime-minister-world-health-day>.

<sup>572</sup> Government of Canada introduces legislation to support students in need, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/04/government-of-canada-introduces-legislation-to-support-students-in-need.html>.

<sup>573</sup> Government of Canada introduces legislation to support students in need, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/04/government-of-canada-introduces-legislation-to-support-students-in-need.html>.

<sup>574</sup> Government of Canada introduces legislation to support students in need, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/04/government-of-canada-introduces-legislation-to-support-students-in-need.html>.

<sup>575</sup> Government of Canada introduces legislation to support students in need, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/04/government-of-canada-introduces-legislation-to-support-students-in-need.html>.

<sup>576</sup> Guidance for providers of services for people experiencing homelessness (in the context of COVID-19), Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/guidance-documents/homelessness.html#a5>.

<sup>577</sup> Safe Restart Agreement helps Canadian communities get back on their feet, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2020/07/safe-restart-agreement-helps-canadian-communities-get-back-on-their-feet.html>.

On 14 August 2020, Marco Mendicino, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced a temporary measure permitting a route to permanent residency for asylum claimants working on the front lines of the healthcare sector to provide direct care to patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>579</sup>

On 3 September 2020, member of Parliament for Mississauga Erin Mills and Ontario's Minister of Seniors Deb Schulte announced the Government of Canada will be supporting 1,000 new projects that will help seniors during the COVID-19 pandemic through an investment of CAD20 million.<sup>580</sup> The Government of Canada will provide CAD25,000 in funding to offer immediate COVID-19 relief to seniors.<sup>581</sup> The organizations will promote activities such as assisting seniors with essential activities, such as visits to the doctor, providing training on disease prevention and use of personal protective equipment, supporting the delivery of food and medication, and more.<sup>582</sup>

On 28 September 2020, the Canadian Government introduced legislation in Bill C-4, the COVID-19 Response Measures Act, to support Canadian workers' inability to work due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>583</sup> The act outlined three temporary recovery benefits: Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit, Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit, and Canada Recovery Benefit.<sup>584</sup>

On 20 October 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau introduced the Rapid Housing Initiative, consisting of CAD1 billion, to rapidly generate up to 3,000 housing units to be used as long-term shelters for the homeless population for the duration of and proceeding the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>585</sup>

On 31 January 2021, the Government of Canada enforced additional international travel restrictions by suspending flights to and from the Caribbean and Mexico until 30 April 2021.<sup>586</sup>

On 11 February 2021, the Government of Canada introduced the Feminist Response and Recovery Fund, an investment of CAD100 million to support women whose circumstances were worsened by the pandemic.<sup>587</sup>

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<sup>578</sup> Safe Restart Agreement helps Canadian communities get back on their feet, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2020/07/safe-restart-agreement-helps-canadian-communities-get-back-on-their-feet.html>.

<sup>579</sup> Pathway to permanent residency recognizes exceptional service of asylum claimants on front lines of COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 August 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2020/08/pathway-to-permanent-residency-recognizes-exceptional-service-of-asylum-claimants-on-front-lines-of-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

<sup>580</sup> The Government of Canada announces over 1,000 new projects in support of seniors impacted by COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/09/x.html>.

<sup>581</sup> The Government of Canada announces over 1,000 new projects in support of seniors impacted by COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/09/x.html>.

<sup>582</sup> The Government of Canada announces over 1,000 new projects in support of seniors impacted by COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/09/x.html>.

<sup>583</sup> Backgrounder: The COVID-19 Response Measures Act, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/10/backgrounder.html>.

<sup>584</sup> Backgrounder: The COVID-19 Response Measures Act, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/10/backgrounder.html>.

<sup>585</sup> New Rapid Housing Initiative to create up to 3,000 new homes for Canadians, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 27 October 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/10/27/new-rapid-housing-initiative-create-3000-new-homes-canadians>.

<sup>586</sup> Government of Canada introduces further restrictions on international travel, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2021/01/government-of-canada-introduces-further-restrictions-on-international-travel.html>.

<sup>587</sup> Government of Canada to Invest \$100 Million to Support Women Impacted by the Pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-invest-100-million-to-support-women-impacted-by-the-pandemic.html>.

This fund will prioritize the following: ending violence inflicted on women, improving women's economic security, increasing access to leadership roles, and widening the support network for vulnerable groups such as Indigenous women, black women, women of colour, LGBTQ2 people, women with disabilities, and women in rural communities.<sup>588</sup>

On 17 February 2021, the Government of Canada issued a statement to the United Nations Security Council open debate on ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines in contexts affected by conflict and insecurity.<sup>589</sup> In this statement, Canada stated that it “must support other countries in their fight against COVID-19 to protect the most vulnerable” and “work together to address the pandemic, to assist vulnerable populations, to support the continued flow of goods and services, and to develop and provide equitable global access to effective therapeutics, diagnostics, and vaccines.”<sup>590</sup>

On 21 February 2021, the Government of Canada introduced further measures for travelers entering Canada: evidence of a valid COVID-19 test taken 72 hours before departure, a COVID-19 test upon arrival, and a mandatory reservation in a Government of Canada-approved hotel room for three nights.<sup>591</sup>

Canada has taken numerous actions to protect both the health and safety of everyone in its country by providing numerous economic packages, effective border control, wide access to personal protective equipment and medical devices, and direct support for vulnerable populations such as youth, women, the elderly, LGBTQ2 people.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Sarah Rashi*

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

France has fully complied with its commitment to protect the health and safety of everyone in its country.

On 12 March 2020, the Government of France launched a national volunteering program called “Je veux aider.”<sup>592</sup> The platform focuses on distributing “food and hygienic products, exceptional childcare for health staff, maintenance of social relationships with isolated elderly, and practical help for fragile neighbours.”<sup>593</sup>

On 20 March 2020, the Ministry of Housing announced that France is opening two self-isolation centres in Paris to shelter homeless people infected with COVID-19. Each of the self-isolation centres will each house 150 homeless people.<sup>594</sup>

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<sup>588</sup> Government of Canada to Invest \$100 Million to Support Women Impacted by the Pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-to-invest-100-million-to-support-women-impacted-by-the-pandemic.html>.

<sup>589</sup> UN Security Council open debate on ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines in contexts affected by conflict and insecurity, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations-relations\\_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2021-02-17-vaccines-COVID-19-vaccins.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2021-02-17-vaccines-COVID-19-vaccins.aspx?lang=eng).

<sup>590</sup> UN Security Council open debate on ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines in contexts affected by conflict and insecurity, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations-relations\\_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2021-02-17-vaccines-COVID-19-vaccins.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2021-02-17-vaccines-COVID-19-vaccins.aspx?lang=eng).

<sup>591</sup> Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Current border measures and requirements, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/services/covid/menu-eng.html>.

<sup>592</sup> Launch of the jeuxaider.gouv.fr - Civic reserve COVID-19 platform, Ministry of National Education (Paris) 12 March 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/lancement-de-la-plateforme-jeuxaidergouvfr-reserve-civique-covid-19-303234>.

<sup>593</sup> Launch of the jeuxaider.gouv.fr - Civic reserve COVID-19 platform, Ministry of National Education (Paris) 12 March 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/lancement-de-la-plateforme-jeuxaidergouvfr-reserve-civique-covid-19-303234>.

On 31 March 2020, Minister of Gender Equality Marlene Schiappa announced that the Government of Canada will pay for 20,000 hotel nights for domestic violence victims in response to an increase of domestic violence rates during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>595</sup> Minister Schiappa also announced that the Government of France will also establish approximately 20 counseling centers across the country for women to seek assistance.<sup>596</sup> The Government of France also announced it will provide an additional EUR1 million to anti-domestic abuse organizations to help them respond to an increased demand for services due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>597</sup>

On 24 April 2020, the United Nations led by Secretary-General António Guterres, World Health Organization Director General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and President of France Emmanuel Macron launched a multilateral initiative to the COVID-19 pandemic in response to France and other members' calls for a more effective and equitable response.<sup>598</sup> The aim of this initiative is to coordinate an international response to expedite development and guarantee free, equal access to vaccines, treatments, and testing while strengthening the most vulnerable health systems worldwide.<sup>599</sup>

On 24 April 2020, France announced its support for the appeal by the Secretary-General Guterres for countries to prioritize children's education, food, health and safety amid the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>600</sup> In the announcement, France also "expressed [its] deep concern regarding the adverse effects that the COVID-19 pandemic is presently having and will continue to have on children's well-being, development and protection, including their access to education, food, safety and health, particularly those in vulnerable situations."<sup>601</sup>

On 18 May 2020, France expressed its support of the release of the United Nations Secretary-General's Policy Brief on "A Disability-Inclusive Response to COVID-19" as well as other UN relevant guidance by the World Health Organization.<sup>602</sup> In this statement, France acknowledged that "persons with disabilities have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, and [that they] need to ensure that they are not left behind and discriminated against in the course of the COVID-19 response and recovery."<sup>603</sup>

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<sup>594</sup> France opens self-isolation centres to shelter homeless with COVID-19, New Europe (Brussels) 20 March 2020. <https://www.neweurope.eu/article/france-opens-self-isolation-centres-to-shelter-homeless-with-covid-19/>.

<sup>595</sup> French Government to House Domestic Abuse Victims in Hotels as Cases Rise During Coronavirus Lockdown, Time (New York) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://time.com/5812990/france-domestic-violence-hotel-coronavirus/>.

<sup>596</sup> France to put domestic abuse victims in hotels after jump in numbers, Reuters (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-women-abuse-trfn-idUSKBN21H37P>.

<sup>597</sup> France to put domestic abuse victims in hotels after jump in numbers, Reuters (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-women-abuse-trfn-idUSKBN21H37P>.

<sup>598</sup> COVID19: launch of a global initiative on diagnostic testing, treatments and vaccine, Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations in New York (New York City) 25 April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/Nouvelle-traduction-Lutte-contre-le-COVID-19-Initiative-mondiale-sur-les>.

<sup>599</sup> COVID19: launch of a global initiative on diagnostic testing, treatments and vaccine, Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations in New York (New York City) 25 April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/Nouvelle-traduction-Lutte-contre-le-COVID-19-Initiative-mondiale-sur-les>.

<sup>600</sup> "Protect our Children" Response to the UN Secretary-General's Call on Countries to Prioritize Children's Education, Food, Health and Safety amid the COVID-19 Pandemic, Permanent mission of France to the United Nations in New York (New York) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/COVID-19-We-must-work-together-to-protect-all-children>.

<sup>601</sup> "Protect our Children" Response to the UN Secretary-General's Call on Countries to Prioritize Children's Education, Food, Health and Safety amid the COVID-19 Pandemic, Permanent mission of France to the United Nations in New York (New York) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/COVID-19-We-must-work-together-to-protect-all-children>.

<sup>602</sup> "Disability-inclusive response to COVID-19 – Towards a better future for all," Permanent mission of France to the United Nations in New York (New York) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/Disability-inclusive-response-to-COVID-19-Towards-a-better-future-for-all>.

<sup>603</sup> "Disability-inclusive response to COVID-19 – Towards a better future for all," Permanent mission of France to the United Nations in New York (New York) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/Disability-inclusive-response-to-COVID-19-Towards-a-better-future-for-all>.

On 16 June 2020, President Macron announced that the Government of France will provide EUR200 million to help domestic research and manufacturing of medicines related to COVID-19.<sup>604</sup> President Macron also stated the Government of France's plans to "bring back certain pharmaceutical production facilities to France."<sup>605</sup>

On 1 September 2020, the Government of France implemented a new national protocol to protect the health and safety of employees.<sup>606</sup> The national protocol states that all employees in France must comply with the health conditions or telework.<sup>607</sup> Measures to protect employees include: teleworking and practicing good hygiene (i.e. cleaning, hand hygiene, wearing masks) and social distancing.<sup>608</sup> Companies also have a role to play in the national screening strategy by accurately assessing employees prior to their arrival at work.<sup>609</sup>

On 30 October 2020, the Government of France initiated its enforcement of a nation-wide lockdown in response to a surge in COVID-19 cases.<sup>610</sup> Prime Minister Jean Castex announced that people are limited to being outside for one hour of exercise per day and no farther than one kilometre from their homes.<sup>611</sup> He also detailed that travel within France, including to holiday homes and visits to friends and family are also banned.<sup>612</sup>

On 7 January 2021, Prime Minister Jean Castex announced that the border between France and the United Kingdom will remain closed "until further notice." The announcement also included plans that France will be mobilising all laboratories to track the new variants of the coronavirus in France.<sup>613</sup>

On 18 January 2021, the Government of France announced that visitors outside the European Union must present a negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test, undergone 72 hours prior to travelling, before entering the country of France.<sup>614</sup>

On 24 January 2021, the Government of France announced that visitors from the European Union by air or sea must present a negative PCR test, undergone 72 hours prior to travelling, before entering the country of France.<sup>615</sup>

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<sup>604</sup> Macron pledges €200 million for French medical research to counter Covid-19, France 24 (Paris) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200616-macron-pledges-%E2%82%AC200-million-for-french-medical-research-to-counter-covid-19>.

<sup>605</sup> Macron pledges €200 million for French medical research to counter Covid-19, France 24 (Paris) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200616-macron-pledges-%E2%82%AC200-million-for-french-medical-research-to-counter-covid-19>.

<sup>606</sup> France - France: New national protocol to ensure health and safety of employees published, Lexology (London) September 2, 2020. Access Date: February 13, 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=9e607b09-f96d-45bb-ae4-fa449c9013fb>.

<sup>607</sup> France - France: New national protocol to ensure health and safety of employees published, Lexology (London) September 2, 2020. Access Date: February 13, 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=9e607b09-f96d-45bb-ae4-fa449c9013fb>.

<sup>608</sup> France - France: New national protocol to ensure health and safety of employees published, Lexology (London) September 2, 2020. Access Date: February 13, 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=9e607b09-f96d-45bb-ae4-fa449c9013fb>.

<sup>609</sup> France - France: New national protocol to ensure health and safety of employees published, Lexology (London) September 2, 2020. Access Date: February 13, 2021. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=9e607b09-f96d-45bb-ae4-fa449c9013fb>.

<sup>610</sup> France enters second Covid-19 lockdown as country's cases surge, France 24 (Paris) 30 October 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20201030-france-enters-second-covid-19-lockdown-as-country-s-cases-surge>.

<sup>611</sup> France enters second Covid-19 lockdown as country's cases surge, France 24 (Paris) 30 October 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20201030-france-enters-second-covid-19-lockdown-as-country-s-cases-surge>.

<sup>612</sup> France enters second Covid-19 lockdown as country's cases surge, France 24 (Paris) 30 October 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20201030-france-enters-second-covid-19-lockdown-as-country-s-cases-surge>.

<sup>613</sup> Covid-19: French PM says border with UK to stay shut, vows to speed up vaccines, France 24 (Paris) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 6 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210107-covid-19-french-pm-announces-closure-of-border-with-uk-vows-speedy-approval-of-more-vaccines>.

<sup>614</sup> France introduces tougher Covid-19 restrictions for non-EU travellers, France 24 (Paris) 24 January 2021. Access Date: 6 March 2021. <https://www.twobirds.com/en/news/articles/2020/france/covid19-guidance-for-employers-in-france>.

On 29 January 2021, Prime Minister Castex announced that France is closing its borders to visitors arriving from countries outside of the European Union in an effort to halt the spread of new variants of the COVID-19 virus.<sup>616</sup> Prime Minister Castex also announced that France will be closing all large shopping centers to stop the spread of the virus.<sup>617</sup>

On 4 March 2021, Prime Minister Jean Castex announced that the Government of France's plans to vaccinate at least 10 million people by mid-April of 2021 and a total of 30 million people by the summer.<sup>618</sup>

France has fully complied with its commitment to protect the health and safety of the general populace in their country by implementing actions such as travel restrictions, telework initiatives, and public health initiatives. France has also taken steps to protect the health and safety of vulnerable groups by providing specialized assistance to the elderly, youth, women, and people with disabilities.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Danielle Maragh*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to work hard to protect the health and safety of everyone in their country.

On 16 March 2020, Chancellor Angela Merkel ordered the closure of all non-essential businesses and schools.<sup>619</sup> Germany also limited all outgoing and incoming travel.<sup>620</sup> These measures aim to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.<sup>621</sup>

On 23 March 2020, Germany established various economic packages to assist citizens with the financial stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>622</sup> Germany also announced the KfW Special Programme 2020 which provides financial aid to small, medium, and large companies.<sup>623</sup>

On 25 March 2020, Finance Minister Olaf Scholz, added EUR122.5 billion to the federal budget through the Hospital Relief Act.<sup>624</sup> This funding will financially assist Germany with the implementation of COVID-19-related measures.<sup>625</sup>

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<sup>615</sup> France imposes new border controls in effort to curb Covid-19, France 24 (Paris) 24 January 2021. Access Date: 6 March 2021. <https://www.twobirds.com/en/news/articles/2020/france/covid19-guidance-for-employers-in-france>.

<sup>616</sup> France to avoid new lockdown but close borders to non-EU countries, France 24 (Paris) 29 January 2021.

<https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210129-france-to-avoid-new-lockdown-but-close-borders-to-non-eu-countries>.

<sup>617</sup> France to avoid new lockdown but close borders to non-EU countries, France 24 (Paris) 29 January 2021.

<https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210129-france-to-avoid-new-lockdown-but-close-borders-to-non-eu-countries>.

<sup>618</sup> France aims to vaccinate 30 million against Covid-19 by the summer, France 24 (Paris) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20210304-france-aims-to-vaccinate-30-million-against-covid-19-by-the-summer>.

<sup>619</sup> Merkel Says 'Let's Get Through This' as Shops, Bars and Churches Shut, US News (Berlin) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2020-03-16/germany-edges-closer-to-lockdown-with-church-shop-closures-bild>.

<sup>620</sup> Merkel Says 'Let's Get Through This' as Shops, Bars and Churches Shut, US News (Berlin) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2020-03-16/germany-edges-closer-to-lockdown-with-church-shop-closures-bild>.

<sup>621</sup> Merkel Says 'Let's Get Through This' as Shops, Bars and Churches Shut, US News (Berlin) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2020-03-16/germany-edges-closer-to-lockdown-with-church-shop-closures-bild>.

<sup>622</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>623</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

On 30 March 2020, Germany started an education campaign alongside the Robert Koch Institute to encourage people to practice hand hygiene and cover their coughs and sneezes to prevent the spread of COVID-19.<sup>626</sup>

On 5 April 2020, Minister Scholz announced all employees across Germany will receive a tax-free bonus of EUR1,500.<sup>627</sup> This bonus aims to assist workers with the financial stress caused by COVID-19.<sup>628</sup>

On 6 April 2020, Minister for Family Affairs Franziska Giffey acknowledged the increased risk of domestic violence the COVID-19 pandemic caused.<sup>629</sup> She encouraged people looking for support to use the nationwide domestic violence helplines.<sup>630</sup> The nationwide “not safe at home” program launched in April as a public campaign against domestic violence.<sup>631</sup> The program launched to reach out to women affected by violence during the restrictions imposed on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>632</sup>

On 7 April 2020, Germany announced new travel restrictions which require all travellers coming into Germany to quarantine for two weeks.<sup>633</sup> This measure aims to prevent COVID-19 transmission from those who may have contracted the virus abroad.<sup>634</sup>

On 16 April 2020, the Government of Germany dispatched German Armed Forces and NATO soldiers to assist with the response to COVID-19.<sup>635</sup> The Armed Forces transported patients, healthcare workers, and respiratory and medical equipment.<sup>636</sup>

On 27 April 2020, Germany launched the Protection against Infection Act which reimburses workers for any loss of wages caused by COVID-19.<sup>637</sup>

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<sup>624</sup> Federal Council approves legislative packages to support the health sector in coping with the corona epidemic, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (Bonn) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/1-quartal/corona-gesetzespaket-im-bundesrat.html>.

<sup>625</sup> Federal Council approves legislative packages to support the health sector in coping with the corona epidemic, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (Bonn) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/1-quartal/corona-gesetzespaket-im-bundesrat.html>.

<sup>626</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>627</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 5 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>628</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 5 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>629</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>630</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>631</sup> “Not Safe at Home?” Public Campaign Against Domestic Violence, Edelman (Berlin) 10 June 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.edelman.de/en/newsroom/zuhause-nicht-sicher-oeffentlichkeitsaktion-fuer-bmfsj>.

<sup>632</sup> “Not Safe at Home?” Public Campaign Against Domestic Violence, Edelman (Berlin) 10 June 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.edelman.de/en/newsroom/zuhause-nicht-sicher-oeffentlichkeitsaktion-fuer-bmfsj>.

<sup>633</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>634</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>635</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>636</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>637</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

On 27 April 2020, Minister of Health Jens Spahn revealed Germany's plan to implement a COVID-19 contact tracing app to identify people who may be infected and reduce potential outbreaks.<sup>638</sup>

On 28 April 2020, the Government of Germany, alongside the State of Hesse, earmarked EUR550 million to support Condor, the German charter company, and reduce the negative financial impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>639</sup>

On 29 April 2020, Minister Spahn introduced legislation with new measures to protect the population from COVID-19.<sup>640</sup> Some of the regulations include increased testing, especially for vulnerable populations, improved training for students in healthcare fields, increased hiring in outpatient areas, providing increased financial recognition for healthcare workers, improving the public health sector, offering more flexibility for those who do not have health insurance, and increased collaboration with other countries in Europe.<sup>641</sup>

On 1 May 2020, Minister of Education Anja Karliczek dedicated up to EUR1 billion to offer students interest-free loans.<sup>642</sup> The Ministry of Education and Research allocated EUR100 million for the German Student Union to support their emergency aid funding programs.<sup>643</sup> The minister acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic affects students' education and is causing financial problems for students.<sup>644</sup> This funding aims to support students to continue with their studies.<sup>645</sup>

On 12 May 2020, the Government of Germany pledged up to EUR750 million to cover vaccine development and production costs.<sup>646</sup> Germany also allocated EUR500 million to support vaccine research studies in Germany and EUR250 million to improve vaccine production capacities.<sup>647</sup>

On 15 May 2020, the Government of Germany pledged EUR550 million to establish a programme that aims to improve online learning.<sup>648</sup> Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, education is delivered virtually, and this funding aims to enhance school equipment for online learning and provide students with digital devices to use for school.<sup>649</sup>

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<sup>638</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>639</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>640</sup> Cabinet adopts draft second law to protect the population in an epidemic situation of national concern, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (Bonn) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/2-quartal/2-gesetz-zum-schutz-der-bevoelkerung.html>.

<sup>641</sup> Cabinet adopts draft second law to protect the population in an epidemic situation of national concern, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (Bonn) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/2-quartal/2-gesetz-zum-schutz-der-bevoelkerung.html>.

<sup>642</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>643</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>644</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>645</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>646</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>647</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>648</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>649</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.



On 21 May 2020, the Government of Germany increased wage continuation to 10 weeks for households with more than one parent and to 20 weeks for single parents.<sup>650</sup> This measure aims to support parents who are unable to work because they must look after their children.<sup>651</sup>

On 2 June 2020, the Government of Germany invested in domestic mask production by offering to cover up to 50 per cent of a company's purchase of production plants, products, and development work related to masks.<sup>652</sup>

On 4 June 2020, Germany announced a EUR130 billion economic stimulus package.<sup>653</sup> This funding covers a myriad of measures, including a bonus for families with children.<sup>654</sup> Parents will receive EUR300 per child and single parents will receive EUR600 per child.<sup>655</sup> This measure aims to assist families with the increased cost of various childcare needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>656</sup>

On 2 July 2020, Minister Spahn revealed Germany's Intensive Care and Rehabilitation Strengthening Act.<sup>657</sup> This act aims to improve the quality of intensive care in inpatient facilities and at home, insurance options, and establish new standards for ventilator use.<sup>658</sup>

On 3 July 2020, Minister Spahn announced the Patient Data Protection Act which allows data to be stored on an electronic patient record and outlines standards to maintain patient privacy.<sup>659</sup>

On 23 July 2020, Germany announced the official release of the Corona-Warn-App which is available for download on smartphones in German, English, and Turkish.<sup>660</sup>

On 24 July 2020, the European Commission, including Germany, pledged EUR100 million for Horizon 2020, a research and innovation programme for the European Union.<sup>661</sup> The goal of the program is to determine effective prevention and treatment methods for COVID-19 and work towards rapid vaccine production.<sup>662</sup>

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<sup>650</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>651</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>652</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 2 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>653</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>654</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>655</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>656</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>657</sup> Bundestag passes Intensive Care and Rehabilitation Strengthening Act, Bundesministerium fur Gesundheit (Bonn) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/3-quartal/ipreg-bundestag.html>.

<sup>658</sup> Bundestag passes Intensive Care and Rehabilitation Strengthening Act, Bundesministerium fur Gesundheit (Bonn) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/3-quartal/ipreg-bundestag.html>.

<sup>659</sup> Bundestag passes patient data protection law, Bundesministerium fur Gesundheit (Bonn) 3 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/3-quartal/pdsg-bundestag.html>.

<sup>660</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>661</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>662</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

The European Commission with international partners also earmarked EUR15.9 billion towards providing worldwide access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines.<sup>663</sup>

On 27 July 2020, all incoming travellers must present a negative COVID-19 test to enter the country.<sup>664</sup> This measure aims to reduce the spread of COVID-19.<sup>665</sup>

On 31 July 2020, the Government of Germany earmarked EUR750 million from their Special Programme for Vaccine Development to assist three pharmaceutical companies with their vaccine development initiatives.<sup>666</sup> The three companies are IDT Biologika, BioNTech, and CureVac.<sup>667</sup>

On 8 August 2020, the Government of Germany invested EUR100,000 in improving digital services that allow affected families to stay in contact with their children in hospitals.<sup>668</sup> This measure aims to help family members connect with terminally ill children.<sup>669</sup>

On 31 August 2020, the Government of Germany invested EUR100 million in an emergency programme to fund non-profit organizations that support children and their education.<sup>670</sup> This funding aims to mitigate the negative impact COVID-19 had on these organizations.<sup>671</sup>

On 7 September 2020, the Government of Germany announced nurses who were especially inconvenienced when caring for COVID-19 patients will receive a bonus of EUR1,000.<sup>672</sup> Germany earmarked EUR100 million for this initiative.<sup>673</sup>

On 8 September 2020, the Government of Germany revealed families will continue to receive EUR300 per child to assist with extra costs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>674</sup>

On 9 September 2020, the Government of Germany pledged an investment of EUR4 billion to enhance the country's health care system.<sup>675</sup> The funding aims to improve infrastructure and create new jobs.<sup>676</sup>

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<sup>663</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>664</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>665</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>666</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>667</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>668</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 8 August 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>669</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 8 August 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>670</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>671</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>672</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 7 September 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>673</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 7 September 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>674</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>675</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

On 23 September 2020, Minister Spahn announced Germany will finance the creation of 20,000 new nursing assistant jobs in geriatric care to reduce the burden on healthcare workers caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>677</sup>

On 24 September 2020, the Government of Germany pledged up to EUR500 million to subsidize the cost of upgrading the ventilation in public buildings to reduce the possibility of COVID-19 circulating in the building.<sup>678</sup>

On 10 October 2020, the Government of Germany approved the Hospital Future Act which will invest EUR3 billion in hospitals to improve and digitize care structures.<sup>679</sup>

On 6 November 2020, the Government of Germany implemented a new digital entry registration form which requires all travellers coming from a high-risk area to input necessary data so it can easily be sent to health authorities.<sup>680</sup>

On 12 November 2020, following the promising data for BioNTech and Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine candidate, Germany announced their earlier investment and contract with the company includes the purchase of 200 million vaccine doses.<sup>681</sup> Their contract also allows them to purchase an additional 100 million doses.<sup>682</sup>

On 18 November 2020, Minister Spahn revealed the Third Act for the Protection of the Population in an Epidemic Situation of National Consequence.<sup>683</sup> This law improves the way decision regarding COVID-19 are made, provides financial aid to healthcare facilities, prepares vaccination programs, provides free masks to vulnerable groups, improves support for parents, enhances infection tracking, increases number of COVID-19 tests, amends policies regarding loss of earnings, and supports development of COVID-19 surveillance technologies.<sup>684</sup>

On 21 December 2020, the Government of Germany approved the BioNTech and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and presented their initial vaccination strategy which prioritizes vulnerable groups.<sup>685</sup>

On 27 December 2020, the Government of Germany started their vaccination strategy and began inoculating the first group, which includes healthcare workers and older adults over the age of 80.<sup>686</sup>

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<sup>676</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>677</sup> Cabinet adopts law to improve healthcare, Bundesministerium fur Gesundheit (Bonn) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/3-quartal/versorgungsverbesserungsgesetz.html>.

<sup>678</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 24 September 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>679</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 10 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>680</sup> The digital entry registration states, Bundesministerium fur Gesundheit (Bonn) 6 November 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/dea.html>.

<sup>681</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>682</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>683</sup> The Bundestag and Bundesrat pass the Third Act on the Protection of the Population in the Event of an Epidemic Situation of National Concern, Bundesministerium fur Gesundheit (Bonn) 18 November 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/3-bevoelkerungsschutzgesetz.html>

<sup>684</sup> The Bundestag and Bundesrat pass the Third Act on the Protection of the Population in the Event of an Epidemic Situation of National Concern, Bundesministerium fur Gesundheit (Bonn) 18 November 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/3-bevoelkerungsschutzgesetz.html>

<sup>685</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

On 7 January 2021, the Government of Germany, alongside the European Commission, approved the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.<sup>687</sup>

On 9 January 2021, the Government of Germany ordered 50.5 million doses of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine through the European Union, which is set to receive a total of 300 million doses.<sup>688</sup>

On 13 January 2021, the Government of Germany announced all travelers entering the country need to provide a negative COVID-19 test result 48 hours before entry.<sup>689</sup>

On 18 January 2021, Minister Spahn revealed a new coronavirus surveillance regulation which promotes laboratories to collect genome sequence data.<sup>690</sup> This regulation aims to assist health officials learn more about the various virus variants in Germany.<sup>691</sup>

On 29 January 2021, the Government of Germany announced almost 5 million people will receive FFP2 masks for free through the Coronavirus Protective Mask Ordinance and will be available at pharmacies.<sup>692</sup>

Germany has taken steps to protect the health of vulnerable populations through their several initiatives addressing the needs of students, low-income families, older adults, and caregivers. Some examples are their actions of including providing free masks to vulnerable groups, offering economic support to healthcare workers and students, and providing flexibility to those without health insurance. Germany also took action to protect the safety of their population through multiple public health measures.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Areej Malik*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to work hard to protect the health and safety of everyone in their country.

On 17 March 2020, Italy implemented a decree to strengthen health systems and provide economic support in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>693</sup> The four aims of the decree are to strengthen the health system through funding and other measures, provide support for employers and workers, provide credit support for

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<sup>686</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 27 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>687</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>688</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 9 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>689</sup> Cabinet adopts new coronavirus entry regulation, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (Bonn) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/1-quartal/einreise-vo.html>.

<sup>690</sup> New coronavirus surveillance regulation of the Federal Ministry of Health, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (Bonn) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/1-quartal/coronavirus-surveillanceverordnung.html>.

<sup>691</sup> New coronavirus surveillance regulation of the Federal Ministry of Health, Bundesministerium für Gesundheit (Bonn) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2021/1-quartal/coronavirus-surveillanceverordnung.html>.

<sup>692</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Deutschland (Frankfurt) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>693</sup> "Cura Italia" decree: extraordinary measures for health, families and work, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4247](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4247).

businesses, and the deferral of tax obligations.<sup>694</sup> There are several measures included in this decree including adding EUR1.65 billion to the national emergency fund, designating EUR150 million for overtime for healthcare workers, increasing overtime funds for essential public servants, earmarking funding for the sanitation of schools and other environments, and many more.<sup>695</sup>

On 18 March 2020, Minister of Health Roberto Speranza, announced a mandatory 14-day quarantine period for anyone entering Italy.<sup>696</sup> Individuals who enter the country for business purposes and plan to stay for less than 72 hours are exempt from the mandatory quarantine period.<sup>697</sup> The aim of this isolation period was to curb further spread of the virus.<sup>698</sup>

On 18 May 2020, Italy joined the statement on “Disability-inclusive response to COVID-19” as a response to the Secretary-General’s Policy Brief on persons with disabilities.<sup>699</sup> The statement acknowledged that “any persons with disabilities are at higher risk of contracting the virus and developing severe complications or increased mortality for many reasons.”<sup>700</sup> The statement also acknowledged that “persons with disabilities have experienced greater attitudinal, environmental and institutional barriers and discrimination, exclusion from accessing health-care services and information, as well as faced serious disruption to their employment, education, and access to social protection and other support services.”<sup>701</sup>

On 19 March 2020, Italy launched a virtual rehabilitation clinic to assist patients who have difficulty accessing these services due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>702</sup> This free telemedicine service aims to help stop the spread of the virus and protect patients.<sup>703</sup>

On 20 March 2020, Minister Speranza revealed new public health restrictions to be implemented across Italy.<sup>704</sup> The goal of these restrictions was to contain the spread of COVID-19.<sup>705</sup> These restrictions include

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<sup>694</sup> “Cura Italia” decree: extraordinary measures for health, families and work, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4247](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4247).

<sup>695</sup> “Cura Italia” decree: extraordinary measures for health, families and work, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4247](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4247).

<sup>696</sup> Isolation for those entering Italy (except for work reasons for a maximum of 72 hours), Ministero della Salute (Rome) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4260](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4260).

<sup>697</sup> Isolation for those entering Italy (except for work reasons for a maximum of 72 hours), Ministero della Salute (Rome) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4260](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4260).

<sup>698</sup> Isolation for those entering Italy (except for work reasons for a maximum of 72 hours), Ministero della Salute (Rome) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4260](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4260).

<sup>699</sup> Italy joins the statement on “Disability-inclusive response to COVID-19 – Towards a better future for all” - A response to the Secretary-General’s Policy Brief, Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations (New York) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. [https://italyun.esteri.it/rappresentanza\\_onu/en/comunicazione/archivio-news/2020/05/l-italia-partecipa-al-comunicato\\_0.html](https://italyun.esteri.it/rappresentanza_onu/en/comunicazione/archivio-news/2020/05/l-italia-partecipa-al-comunicato_0.html).

<sup>700</sup> Italy joins the statement on “Disability-inclusive response to COVID-19 – Towards a better future for all” - A response to the Secretary-General’s Policy Brief, Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations (New York) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. [https://italyun.esteri.it/rappresentanza\\_onu/en/comunicazione/archivio-news/2020/05/l-italia-partecipa-al-comunicato\\_0.html](https://italyun.esteri.it/rappresentanza_onu/en/comunicazione/archivio-news/2020/05/l-italia-partecipa-al-comunicato_0.html).

<sup>701</sup> Italy joins the statement on “Disability-inclusive response to COVID-19 – Towards a better future for all” - A response to the Secretary-General’s Policy Brief, Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations (New York) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. [https://italyun.esteri.it/rappresentanza\\_onu/en/comunicazione/archivio-news/2020/05/l-italia-partecipa-al-comunicato\\_0.html](https://italyun.esteri.it/rappresentanza_onu/en/comunicazione/archivio-news/2020/05/l-italia-partecipa-al-comunicato_0.html).

<sup>702</sup> Rehabilitation: teleconsultation service to contain the virus, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4273](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4273).

<sup>703</sup> Rehabilitation: teleconsultation service to contain the virus, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4273](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4273).

banning the use of public parks and spaces, prohibiting outdoor recreational activities, closing restaurants, and limiting movement to one's main home.<sup>706</sup>

On 22 March 2020, Minister Speranza announced travel using public or private transportation outside of one's city was prohibited.<sup>707</sup>

On 22 March 2020, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte ordered all non-essential businesses and production activities to be closed to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.<sup>708</sup> He stated only essential businesses which provide necessities would be allowed to remain open.<sup>709</sup>

On 26 March 2020, the Government of Italy created a self-declaration form which citizens must use to keep track of their movements.<sup>710</sup> Individuals may leave their residence to go to their place of work or in the case of emergencies.<sup>711</sup>

On 26 March 2020, the Government of Italy announced noncompliance of social distancing and restrictive measures would result in punishments varying from monetary fines to possibility of imprisonment.<sup>712</sup> The aim of these sanctions was to encourage citizens to stay home to curb the spread of COVID-19.<sup>713</sup>

On 26 March 2020, Minister Speranza enacted a safety protocol to prioritize personal protective equipment and COVID-19 tests for healthcare workers.<sup>714</sup> The protocol also outlines contact tracing guidelines.<sup>715</sup>

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<sup>704</sup> Order of Minister Speranza with new restrictions to stop the infection, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4283](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4283).

<sup>705</sup> Order of Minister Speranza with new restrictions to stop the infection, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4283](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4283).

<sup>706</sup> Order of Minister Speranza with new restrictions to stop the infection, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

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<sup>707</sup> Covid-19, new ordinance on travel, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 22 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4296](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4296).

<sup>708</sup> Government decides to close non-essential or strategic production activities. Open grocery stores, pharmacies, shops for basic necessities and essential services, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 22 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4291](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4291).

<sup>709</sup> Government decides to close non-essential or strategic production activities. Open grocery stores, pharmacies, shops for basic necessities and essential services, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 22 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

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<sup>710</sup> Covid-19: new self-declaration form online on the Ministry of the Interior website, Ministero della Salute (Rome). 26 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4330](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4330).

<sup>711</sup> Covid-19: new self-declaration form online on the Ministry of the Interior website, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

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<sup>712</sup> More severe sanctions for those who do not respect the restrictive measures, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4324](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4324).

<sup>713</sup> More severe sanctions for those who do not respect the restrictive measures, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

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<sup>714</sup> Coronavirus, Healthcare workers safety protocol signed between Ministry of Health and trade unions, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4323](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4323).

<sup>715</sup> Coronavirus, Healthcare workers safety protocol signed between Ministry of Health and trade unions, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

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On 29 March 2020, the Extraordinary Commissioner for the Implementation of Health Measures to Contain the COVID-19 pandemic Domenico Arcuri organized the purchase of 798 respirators and 3.59 million masks to be distributed in healthcare facilities across Italy as needed.<sup>716</sup>

On 29 March 2020, Prime Minister Conte allocated EUR4.3 billion to cities across Italy to help them deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>717</sup> He earmarked an additional EUR400 million to be distributed to citizens in need of money to purchase groceries and other necessities.<sup>718</sup>

On 6 April 2020, the Government of Italy launched an information campaign to support female victims of domestic violence.<sup>719</sup> Pharmacies across Italy would provide informational materials to citizens and the campaign aims to draw attention to their 24-hour anti-violence helpline.<sup>720</sup>

On 8 April 2020, the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Defense worked together to establish a 120-bed COVID-19 hospital at a military base in Rome.<sup>721</sup> This hospital will be run with the assistance of the Italian Armed Forces and aims to ease the burden of COVID-19 on Italy's hospital system.<sup>722</sup>

On 9 April 2020, Italy created a helpline which the elderly can use for supportive listening.<sup>723</sup> This helpline aims to help the elderly improve their mental wellbeing, which may have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>724</sup>

On 17 April 2020, Italy launched a COVID-19 contact tracing app.<sup>725</sup> The free app aims to contain the spread of COVID-19 by detecting people who may have been infected and prevent potential outbreaks.<sup>726</sup>

On 21 April 2020, Italy assigned EUR900 million to assist with various COVID-19 related measures and interventions.<sup>727</sup>

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<sup>716</sup> Covid-19, Commissioner Arcuri: "Accelerates Italian production of masks", Ministero della Salute (Rome) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4353](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4353).

<sup>717</sup> Covid-19, Conte: 4.3 billion for municipalities and 400 million for spending, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

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<sup>718</sup> Covid-19, Conte: 4.3 billion for municipalities and 400 million for spending, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4350](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4350).

<sup>719</sup> #Liberapuoi, campaign for women victims of domestic violence. Call 1522. Information also in pharmacy, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4406](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4406).

<sup>720</sup> #Liberapuoi, campaign for women victims of domestic violence. Call 1522. Information also in pharmacy, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

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<sup>721</sup> The 120-seat Covid-Hospital Hub is born at the Celio military polyclinic in Rome, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

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<sup>722</sup> The 120-seat Covid-Hospital Hub is born at the Celio military polyclinic in Rome, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

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<sup>723</sup> From Senior Italia Federanziani the toll-free number for the elderly alone, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4426](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4426).

<sup>724</sup> From Senior Italia Federanziani the toll-free number for the elderly alone, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4426](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4426).

<sup>725</sup> Contact tracing: Arcuri signs ordinance for Italian app, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4513](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4513).

<sup>726</sup> Contact tracing: Arcuri signs ordinance for Italian app, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4513](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4513).

On 13 May 2020, Minister Speranza dedicated EUR3.25 billion to Italy's National Health Service through the Relaunch decree.<sup>728</sup> The funding will strengthen Italy's health system and assist with the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>729</sup>

On 13 June 2020, Minister Speranza signed a contract alongside the Ministers of Health for France, Germany, and the Netherlands to obtain up to 400 million doses of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine which will be shared between these four countries.<sup>730</sup> The vaccine will be provided to all citizens for free.<sup>731</sup>

On 21 September 2020, Minister Speranza declared all travellers coming from Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Corsica, Hauts-de-France, Île-de-France, New Aquitaine, Occitania and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur would require a negative COVID test.<sup>732</sup> This measure aims to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as these areas have increased incidence of the virus.<sup>733</sup>

On 8 October 2020, Minister Speranza declared all travellers from Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Spain, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom require a negative COVID test 14 days before they enter the country.<sup>734</sup> The aim of this ordinance is to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by ensuring travellers coming from countries with higher rates of COVID-19 do not have the virus.<sup>735</sup>

On 20 December 2020, Minister Speranza banned all flights leaving from or passing through Great Britain from entering Italy.<sup>736</sup> This measure aims to counter the spread of the COVID-19 variant found in the United Kingdom.<sup>737</sup>

On 30 December 2020, the Government of Italy implemented several measures such as issuing the Relaunch Decree to support families and people with disabilities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>738</sup>

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<sup>727</sup> The Council of Minister allocates another 900 million for the Covid-19 emergency, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

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<sup>728</sup> Relaunch decree, Hope: "Three billion and 250 million for the NHS", Ministero della Salute (Rome) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4749](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4749).

<sup>729</sup> Relaunch decree, Hope: "Three billion and 250 million for the NHS", Ministero della Salute (Rome) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4749](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4749).

<sup>730</sup> Covid-19 vaccine will be free, 1<sup>st</sup> doses in autumn says Hope, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4899](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4899).

<sup>731</sup> Covid-19 vaccine will be free, 1<sup>st</sup> doses in autumn says Hope, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4899](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4899).

<sup>732</sup> Covid-19, Hope: "Test for those arriving from Paris and other areas of France. Continue with the utmost caution", Ministero della Salute (Rome) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

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<sup>733</sup> Covid-19, Hope: "Test for those arriving from Paris and other areas of France. Continue with the utmost caution", Ministero della Salute (Rome) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

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<sup>734</sup> Covid-19, Speranza signs Ordinance on urgent measures to contain and manage health emergency, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

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<sup>735</sup> Covid-19, Speranza signs Ordinance on urgent measures to contain and manage health emergency, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

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<sup>736</sup> COVID-19, Hope: "Order to block flights from Great Britain signed", Ministero della Salute (Rome) 20 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5228](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5228).

<sup>737</sup> COVID-19, Hope: "Order to block flights from Great Britain signed", Ministero della Salute (Rome) 20 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

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Through the Relaunch Decree, the Government of Italy set aside EUR150 million to provide assistance, services, and projects for people with serious disabilities.<sup>739</sup> The Relaunch Decree also set aside EUR1 billion for their introduction of emergency income for families with disabled members.<sup>740</sup>

On 16 January 2021, Minister Speranza prohibited all flights leaving from or passing through Brazil from entering Italy.<sup>741</sup> This measure aims to curb the spread of the COVID-19 variant found in Brazil.<sup>742</sup>

Italy has fully complied with their commitment to protect the health of the general populace and vulnerable groups such as women and the elderly, through the establishment of helplines and education campaigns, distribution of ventilators, personal protective equipment, and other equipment for frontline workers, as well as by offering economic support packages. Italy also took steps to protect the safety of the general populace as well as vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children, and people with disabilities through their several ordinances and decrees outlining public health measures and COVID-related restrictions.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Areej Malik*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to work hard to protect the health and safety of everyone in their country.

On 9 June 2020, the Government of Japan contributed USD4,545,454 in funding to UN Women programmes to assist women and girls in the gender-specific challenges of COVID-19.<sup>743</sup> This funding will help UN Women implement several prevention and response programmes to COVID-19 with the following focus objectives: Development of research or knowledge products on gender and COVID-19, and provision of technical support on gender analysis; Evidence-based advocacy and campaigning to inform prevention, mitigation and response policies and plans; Promotion of protection mechanisms throughout the COVID-19 response, with a focus on access to gender-based violence and other relevant services; Promotion of women's access to emergency support through cash transfers and livelihood opportunities; and Promotion of leadership roles and participation of women in the response and recovery of COVID-19.<sup>744</sup>

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<sup>738</sup> The measures introduced by the Italian government to support families, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/covid-19/The-measures-introduced-by-the-Italian-government-to-support-families-00001/>

<sup>739</sup> The measures introduced by the Italian government to support families, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/covid-19/The-measures-introduced-by-the-Italian-government-to-support-families-00001/>

<sup>740</sup> The measures introduced by the Italian government to support families, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/covid-19/The-measures-introduced-by-the-Italian-government-to-support-families-00001/>

<sup>741</sup> Minister Speranza: "I signed a new ordinance to ban flights from Brazil and entry into Italy for those who have transited through Brazil in the last 14 days", Ministero della Salute (Rome) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5275](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5275)

<sup>742</sup> Minister Speranza: "I signed a new ordinance to ban flights from Brazil and entry into Italy for those who have transited through Brazil in the last 14 days", Ministero della Salute (Rome) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5275](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5275)

<sup>743</sup> Press release: The Government of Japan funds UN Women programmes to address the challenges of women and girls during COVID-19, UN Women Asia Pacific (Bangkok) 9 June 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2020/06/press-release-the-government-of-japan-funds-un-women-programmes-covid-19>

<sup>744</sup> Press release: The Government of Japan funds UN Women programmes to address the challenges of women and girls during COVID-19, UN Women Asia Pacific (Bangkok) 9 June 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2020/06/press-release-the-government-of-japan-funds-un-women-programmes-covid-19>

On 25 August 2020, the Cabinet of Japan approved the Cabinet Order for the Partial Revision of the Order for Enforcement of the Act on Emergency Measures for stabilizing Living Conditions of the Public.<sup>745</sup> The Act stipulates essential goods such as: face masks, antiseptic alcohol, etc. may be prohibited from travel if the transport of these goods produce a hindrance to the surrounding population.<sup>746</sup>

On 4 September 2020, the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) and the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (MHLW) began accepting applications from medical institutions for the official registration as institutions that are authorized to issue a certificate of a negative result of a COVID-19 test for overseas travellers.<sup>747</sup> The register will be shared with overseas governments if requested to allow business travellers and others to smoothly enter their destination countries.<sup>748</sup>

On 18 September 2020, METI launched its website for testing centres for overseas travellers. The website includes: the register for overseas travellers, as well as a Question & Answer section, and travel information.<sup>749</sup> Its goal is to protect the health and safety of Japanese citizens by providing them with pertinent information relating to travel of individuals entering the country.<sup>750</sup>

On 15 October 2020, MHLW announced that it provided rent support for 96,000 low-income households amid the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>751</sup> According to its data, it approved 88 per cent of the 109,000 applicants it received for rent support.<sup>752</sup>

On 30 October 2020, the Government of Japan asked citizens to wear masks when using public transportation and to refrain from travel unless necessary.<sup>753</sup>

On 7 January 2021, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga declared a state of emergency for the regions of Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, and Kanagawa which that was implemented from 8 January 2021 to 7 February 2021.<sup>754</sup> The state of emergency was implemented to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus which is confirmed to spread at a considerably higher ratio than seasonal influenza.<sup>755</sup>

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<sup>745</sup> Japan - Cabinet Decision on the Cabinet Order for the Partial Revision of the Order for Enforcement of the Act on Emergency Measures for Stabilizing Living Conditions of the Public, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 25 August 2020. Access Date: February 15, 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0825\\_003.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0825_003.html).

<sup>746</sup> Japan - Cabinet Decision on the Cabinet Order for the Partial Revision of the Order for Enforcement of the Act on Emergency Measures for Stabilizing Living Conditions of the Public, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 25 August 2020. Access Date: February 15, 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0825\\_003.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0825_003.html).

<sup>747</sup> Register of Medical Institutions Issuing COVID-19 Testing Certificates” for Overseas Travelers to be Updated, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 14 October 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1014\\_003.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1014_003.html).

<sup>748</sup> Register of Medical Institutions Issuing COVID-19 Testing Certificates” for Overseas Travelers to be Updated, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 14 October 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1014\\_003.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1014_003.html).

<sup>749</sup> Japan - Website Exclusively for COVID-19 Testing Center for Overseas travellers (TeCOT) to Open and “Register of Medical Institutions Issuing COVID-19 Testing Certificates” for Overseas Travelers to be Published, METI: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) September 18, 2020. Access Date: February 15, 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0918\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0918_002.html).

<sup>750</sup> Japan - Website Exclusively for COVID-19 Testing Center for Overseas travellers (TeCOT) to Open and “Register of Medical Institutions Issuing COVID-19 Testing Certificates” for Overseas Travelers to be Published, METI: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) September 18, 2020. Access Date: February 15, 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0918\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0918_002.html).

<sup>751</sup> Record 96,000 Japan households receive rent support amid pandemic, Japan Times (Tokyo) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/10/15/business/economy-business/japan-96000-households-rent-support/>.

<sup>752</sup> Record 96,000 Japan households receive rent support amid pandemic, Japan Times (Tokyo) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/10/15/business/economy-business/japan-96000-households-rent-support/>.

<sup>753</sup> Japan - Resumption of Cross-Border Travel and Other Measures, The Government of Japan - JapanGov (Tokyo) October 20, 2020. Access Date: February 15, 2020. <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/10900000/000691193.pdf>.

<sup>754</sup> Japan - [COVID-19] Declaration of a State of Emergency in Response to the Novel Coronavirus Disease, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 7 January 2020. Access Date: February 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/\\_00038.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/_00038.html).

<sup>755</sup> Japan - [COVID-19] Declaration of a State of Emergency in Response to the Novel Coronavirus Disease, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 7 January 2020. Access Date: February 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/\\_00038.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/_00038.html).

On 13 January 2021, the Government of Japan implemented new measures for border enforcement.<sup>756</sup> The new measures require those who enter Japan to refrain from using public transportation for 14 days, quarantine at home, and provide their location data to the health centres. Until the state of emergency is lifted, the operation of “Business Track” and “Residence Track” with all the countries/regions will be suspended.<sup>757</sup>

On 28 January 2021, MHLW released COVID-19 response guidelines for facilities providing services for people with disabilities.<sup>758</sup> The guidelines included information and recommendations on COVID-19 response processes such as the prevention of infection spread, securing staff, handling of equipment, and implementation of various training with the focus on protecting the health and safety of people with disabilities.

On 12 February 2021, the Government of Japan banned travellers from 152 countries from entering Japan.<sup>759</sup>

On 24 February 2021, Prime Minister Suga announced that Japan will initiate a nation-wide COVID-19 vaccination process for the elderly on 12 April 2021.<sup>760</sup>

Japan has fully complied with their commitments to protect the health and safety of the general populace and vulnerable groups such as women, people with disabilities, the elderly, and low-income households by putting in place travel restrictions, mandating mask-wearing protocols, and making important health information available to members of the public.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Danielle Maragh*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to work hard to protect the health and safety of everyone in their country.

On 17 March 2020, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak announced a GBP330 billion “package of emergency state support for business,” which is the biggest since the 2008 financial crisis.<sup>761</sup> Chancellor Sunak also stated that there would be “GBP20 billion in tax cuts and grants for companies threatened with collapse.”<sup>762</sup>

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<sup>756</sup> Japan - New Measures for Border Enforcement (Quarantine Enforcement and Suspension of “Business Trace” and “residence Track”), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 15 February 2021.

[https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000167.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000167.html).

<sup>757</sup> Japan - New Measures for Border Enforcement (Quarantine Enforcement and Suspension of “Business Trace” and “residence Track”), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 15 February 2021.

[https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000167.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000167.html).

<sup>758</sup> Response to new coronavirus infections at business establishments such as disability welfare services, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000121431\\_00097.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000121431_00097.html).

<sup>759</sup> Japan - Border Enforcement Measures to Prevent the Spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 15 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e\\_001053.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html).

<sup>760</sup> COVID-19 vaccinations for older residents to start on April 12, Japan Times (Tokyo) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/02/25/national/japan-older-vaccines/>.

<sup>761</sup> COVID-19 Timeline, British Foreign Policy Group (London) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://bfpgrp.co.uk/2020/04/covid-19-timeline/>.

<sup>762</sup> COVID-19 Timeline, British Foreign Policy Group (London) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://bfpgrp.co.uk/2020/04/covid-19-timeline/>.

On 26 March 2020, Chancellor Sunak revealed a financial support package to assist self-employed workers with earnings less than GBP50,000 who would be eligible to receive a taxable grant equivalent to 80 percent of their average profits.<sup>763</sup>

On 23 April 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom released an online guideline for migrants and asylum seekers looking for COVID-19-related support.<sup>764</sup> The guidelines include information on processes such as receiving medical treatment, self-isolating, applying for government support, and renting housing in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>765</sup> The guidelines detail that migrants do not have to pay for diagnosis or treatment of COVID-19 nor have their immigration status checked when seeking tests or treatments for COVID-19.<sup>766</sup>

On 14 May 2020, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government announced that it will provide GBP6 million of funding to assist frontline homelessness charitable organisations who are directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>767</sup> This funding will go towards both alleviating the financial impact of COVID-19 on the homelessness charities and providing new or adapted services to homeless people affected by COVID-19.<sup>768</sup>

On 22 May 2020, the Home Office opened applications for non-local charities that assist domestic-abuse victims in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>769</sup> The Government of the United Kingdom set aside GDP2 million for this initiative.<sup>770</sup>

On 18 June 2020, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab announced that the UK would allocate GBP75 million to the repatriation of 300,000 citizens located abroad and unable to come back due to border closure.<sup>771</sup>

On 26 June 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom published a list of 50 countries deemed as “low-risk,” meaning that travellers to these countries would not be subject to the 14-day quarantine rule upon their arrival to the UK.<sup>772</sup> With the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in Spain, the “UK government advises against all but essential travel to Spain and reimposes 14-day self-isolation for those returning from Spain.”<sup>773</sup>

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<sup>763</sup> Chancellor’s Statement on Coronavirus (COVID-19): 26 March 2020, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/chancellor-outlines-new-coronavirus-support-measures-for-the-self-employed>.

<sup>764</sup> Coronavirus (COVID-19): get support if you’re a migrant living in the UK, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-get-support-if-youre-a-migrant-living-in-the-uk>.

<sup>765</sup> Coronavirus (COVID-19): get support if you’re a migrant living in the UK, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-get-support-if-youre-a-migrant-living-in-the-uk>.

<sup>766</sup> Coronavirus (COVID-19): get support if you’re a migrant living in the UK, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-get-support-if-youre-a-migrant-living-in-the-uk>.

<sup>767</sup> Coronavirus (COVID-19): Homelessness response fund, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-homelessness-response-fund>.

<sup>768</sup> Coronavirus (COVID-19): Homelessness response fund, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-homelessness-response-fund>.

<sup>769</sup> COVID-19: Home Office extraordinary funding for domestic abuse support services, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-home-office-extraordinary-funding-for-domestic-abuse-support-services>.

<sup>770</sup> COVID-19: Home Office extraordinary funding for domestic abuse support services, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-home-office-extraordinary-funding-for-domestic-abuse-support-services>.

<sup>771</sup> UK announces £75m airlift plan to rescue Britons stranded abroad, The Guardian (London) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/30/uk-announces-75m-airlift-plan-to-rescue-britons-stranded-abroad>.

<sup>772</sup> Coronavirus: England’s Quarantine Scrapped for Arrivals from 50 ‘Low Risk’ Countries, BBC (London) 3 July 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-53273048>.

<sup>773</sup> COVID-19 Timeline, British Foreign Policy Group (London) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://bfpgrp.co.uk/2020/04/covid-19-timeline/>.

On 8 July 2020, the central bank of the United Kingdom, the Bank of England provided an additional GBP100 billion “stimulus package to aid economic recovery.”<sup>774</sup>

On 6 August 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom purchased 50 million masks for the National Health Service; however, they would not be used due to safety concerns.<sup>775</sup> While the UK was in possession of 5,900 ventilators at the beginning of the pandemic according to the Department of Health and Social Care, it was predicted that the number necessary to handle the situation once it exacerbated would be more than 20,000.<sup>776</sup>

On 14 August 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom announced failure to wear a mask would result in a fine of GBP3,200.<sup>777</sup> This was done in an effort to provide improved protection from transmitting and acquiring the novel coronavirus.<sup>778</sup>

On 15 August 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom announced that the 14-day quarantine rule would also apply to those travelling from France and the Netherlands.<sup>779</sup>

On 9 September 2020, in the effort to prevent a second wave, the Government of the United Kingdom imposed an order to stop gatherings of more than six people.<sup>780</sup> With the exacerbation of the situation and cases surpassing 1 million in the UK, the government implements a lockdown order for four weeks, closing non-essential business including restaurants. However, educational institutions and courts remain open.<sup>781</sup>

On 18 November 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom announced that it will provide GBP11 million in funding towards assisting domestic abuse organizations during the pandemic.<sup>782</sup> The Government of the United Kingdom also announced that GBP7 million in funding towards “a range of innovative programmes aimed at perpetrators – designed to prevent domestic abuse from happening in the first place.”<sup>783</sup> The announcement also stated that the funding is aimed to respond to a sharp increase in demand for services in domestic abuse charities during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>784</sup>

On 3 December 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom announced that it will provide an additional GBP68 million to help people with disabilities access grants to “make the adaptations they need to live safely

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<sup>774</sup> COVID-19 Timeline, British Foreign Policy Group (London) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://bfpgrp.co.uk/2020/04/covid-19-timeline/>.

<sup>775</sup> COVID-19 Timeline, British Foreign Policy Group (London) 6 August 2020. Access date: 25 February 2021.

<https://bfpgrp.co.uk/2020/04/covid-19-timeline/>.

<sup>776</sup> UK Government Sends Ventilator Blueprints to Major Manufacturers, The Guardian (London) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/mar/16/vauxhall-owner-psa-car-shuts-european-plants-amid-coronavirus-fears>.

<sup>777</sup> COVID-19 Timeline, British Foreign Policy Group (London) 14 August 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://bfpgrp.co.uk/2020/04/covid-19-timeline/>.

<sup>778</sup> COVID-19 Timeline, British Foreign Policy Group (London) 14 August 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://bfpgrp.co.uk/2020/04/covid-19-timeline/>.

<sup>779</sup> COVID-19 Timeline, British Foreign Policy Group (London) 15 August 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://bfpgrp.co.uk/2020/04/covid-19-timeline/>.

<sup>780</sup> COVID-19 Timeline, British Foreign Policy Group (London) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://bfpgrp.co.uk/2020/04/covid-19-timeline/>.

<sup>781</sup> COVID-19 Timeline, British Foreign Policy Group (London) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://bfpgrp.co.uk/2020/04/covid-19-timeline/>.

<sup>782</sup> Funding boost for rape and domestic abuse support, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 18 November 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-boost-for-rape-and-domestic-abuse-support>.

<sup>783</sup> Funding boost for rape and domestic abuse support, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 18 November 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-boost-for-rape-and-domestic-abuse-support>.

<sup>784</sup> Funding boost for rape and domestic abuse support, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 18 November 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-boost-for-rape-and-domestic-abuse-support>.

and independently in their own homes.” The Minister of State for Social Care Helen Whately acknowledged in this announcement how COVID-19 has been “incredibly difficult for disabled people in particular.”<sup>785</sup>

On 4 January 2021, the Government of the United Kingdom imposed its third national lockdown with “schools closed and people allowed to leave their homes once a day for exercise for the next six weeks.”<sup>786</sup> The quarantine measures imposed to protect the population’s safety expanded to include a mandatory quarantining period for people arriving from countries deemed as “high risk.”<sup>787</sup> Moreover, citizens seeking to travel abroad would be required to provide a written declaration demonstrating their need to leave the country.<sup>788</sup>

On 21 February 2021, the Government of the United Kingdom announced that “one in three adults in the UK have now received the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.”<sup>789</sup>

On 1 March 2021, the Government of the United Kingdom released an online guideline on COVID-19 vaccinations for all women of childbearing age, pregnant or breastfeeding.<sup>790</sup> The guideline includes current scientific evidence on the effects of the COVID-19 vaccine on pregnant women and the implications of COVID-19 vaccines on pregnant or breastfeeding women.<sup>791</sup>

On 5 March 2021, the Government of the United Kingdom announced that it will provide GBP79 million to expand mental health services for children and youth in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>792</sup> Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock stated that the government response to the pandemic “will not only treat the public health threat of coronavirus but ensure clinicians have the resources to respond to the long-term impact on people’s mental health.”<sup>793</sup>

The UK has fully complied to protect of health and safety of the general populace and vulnerable groups such as women, people experiencing homelessness, youth, migrants, and people with disabilities through the implementation of public policy and providing vaccination for healthcare workers, economic support packages, allocation of funds to protect the health of citizens, and continuous travel and stay-at-home orders.

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<sup>785</sup> More funding to support people with disabilities live independently, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-funding-to-support-people-with-disabilities-live-independently>.

<sup>786</sup> COVID-19 Timeline, British Foreign Policy Group (London) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://bfpgrp.co.uk/2020/04/covid-19-timeline/>.

<sup>787</sup> COVID-19 Timeline, British Foreign Policy Group (London) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://bfpgrp.co.uk/2020/04/covid-19-timeline/>.

<sup>788</sup> COVID-19 Timeline, British Foreign Policy Group (London) 4 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://bfpgrp.co.uk/2020/04/covid-19-timeline/>.

<sup>789</sup> COVID-19 Timeline, British Foreign Policy Group (London) 21 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://bfpgrp.co.uk/2020/04/covid-19-timeline/>.

<sup>790</sup> COVID-19 vaccination: a guide for all women of childbearing age, pregnant or breastfeeding, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-women-of-childbearing-age-currently-pregnant-planning-a-pregnancy-or-breastfeeding/covid-19-vaccination-a-guide-for-women-of-childbearing-age-pregnant-planning-a-pregnancy-or-breastfeeding>.

<sup>791</sup> COVID-19 vaccination: a guide for all women of childbearing age, pregnant or breastfeeding, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-women-of-childbearing-age-currently-pregnant-planning-a-pregnancy-or-breastfeeding/covid-19-vaccination-a-guide-for-women-of-childbearing-age-pregnant-planning-a-pregnancy-or-breastfeeding>.

<sup>792</sup> £79 million to boost mental health support for children and young people, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/79-million-to-boost-mental-health-support-for-children-and-young-people>.

<sup>793</sup> £79 million to boost mental health support for children and young people, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/79-million-to-boost-mental-health-support-for-children-and-young-people>.

Thus, the United Kingdom has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Tea Vasha*

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

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to work hard to protect the health and safety of everyone in the country, particularly vulnerable populations.

On 27 March 2020, the House of Representatives and President Donald Trump, signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.<sup>794</sup> This legislation is a USD2 trillion relief package which aims to provide relief from the economic hardship created by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>795</sup> Some of the key initiatives included in the bill are: a USD1,200 one-time cash payment to individuals earning less than USD75 000 annually, with an additional USD500 per child.<sup>796</sup> Also, unemployed individuals will receive an additional USD600 per week on top of existing unemployment benefits.<sup>797</sup> The Act also allowed USD5,250 in tax-free student loan repayment benefits and loan payment deferral until 30 September 2020.<sup>798</sup> In terms of nutrition of vulnerable populations, the CARES Act allocates USD8.8 billion to improve school meals for children, USD15.5 billion for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, with additional funding going to the Indigenous people, citizens of Puerto Rico, Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa, and USD450 million of funding for food banks and community food distribution programs.<sup>799</sup> There was also USD45 million in funding allocated to the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act funded programs, which aim to provide emergency shelter and support to victims of domestic violence.<sup>800</sup>

On 31 March 2020, the United States banned the entry of foreign nationals travelling from a list of countries including China, Iran, Austria, Germany, as well as closing the northern border with Canada to non-essential traffic.<sup>801</sup> Moreover, “US citizens or permanent residents who have visited a high-risk area must fly into one of the 13 international airports with enhanced screening capabilities.”<sup>802</sup> It is worth mentioning that the authority to impose quarantine or physical distance measures, as well as policy related to public health remains with states and localities as opposed to the federal government.<sup>803</sup>

On 2 April 2020, the Department of Housing and Urban Development received USD3.064 billion, of which USD955 million would be allocated to protect the interests of the homeless populations across the country.<sup>804</sup>

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<sup>794</sup> What's Inside The Senate's \$2 Trillion Coronavirus Aid Package, NPR (Washington D.C.) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/26/821457551/whats-inside-the-senate-s-2-trillion-coronavirus-aid-package>.

<sup>795</sup> What's Inside The Senate's \$2 Trillion Coronavirus Aid Package, NPR (Washington D.C.) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/26/821457551/whats-inside-the-senate-s-2-trillion-coronavirus-aid-package>.

<sup>796</sup> What's Inside The Senate's \$2 Trillion Coronavirus Aid Package, NPR (Washington D.C.) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/26/821457551/whats-inside-the-senate-s-2-trillion-coronavirus-aid-package>.

<sup>797</sup> What's Inside The Senate's \$2 Trillion Coronavirus Aid Package, NPR (Washington D.C.) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/26/821457551/whats-inside-the-senate-s-2-trillion-coronavirus-aid-package>.

<sup>798</sup> What's Inside The Senate's \$2 Trillion Coronavirus Aid Package, NPR (Washington D.C.) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/26/821457551/whats-inside-the-senate-s-2-trillion-coronavirus-aid-package>.

<sup>799</sup> What's Inside The Senate's \$2 Trillion Coronavirus Aid Package, NPR (Washington D.C.) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/26/821457551/whats-inside-the-senate-s-2-trillion-coronavirus-aid-package>.

<sup>800</sup> The Hotline Commends Passage of the CARES Act Urges Congress to Prioritize Needs of Survivors of Sexual & Domestic Violence in Fourth Stimulus Package, National Domestic Violence Hotline (Austin) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.thehotline.org/news/the-hotline-commends-passage-of-the-cares-act/>.

<sup>801</sup> Coronavirus: Travel restrictions, border shutdowns by country, Al Jazeera (Doha.) 3 June 2020. Access date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/6/3/coronavirus-travel-restrictions-border-shutdowns-by-country>.

<sup>802</sup> Coronavirus: Travel restrictions, border shutdowns by country, Al Jazeera (Doha.) 3 June 2020. Access date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/6/3/coronavirus-travel-restrictions-border-shutdowns-by-country>.

<sup>803</sup> Why There's No National Lockdown, The Atlantic (Washington D.C.) 31 March 2020. Access date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/03/why-theres-no-national-lockdown/609127/>.

<sup>804</sup> HUD Moves Quickly To Make \$3 Billion of COVID-19 Relief Funding Available to Communities Across the Nation, HUD (Washington D.C.) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. [https://www.hud.gov/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/HUD\\_No\\_20\\_049](https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_20_049).

These funds would go towards protecting those who are already homeless or preventing individuals from becoming homeless due to challenges associated with the COVID-19 crisis.<sup>805</sup> The remaining funds will go towards strengthening healthcare services in communities across the country.<sup>806</sup>

On 21 April 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced an additional USD1 billion in CARES Act grants which would go to supporting several particularly vulnerable populations including the elderly and those with disabilities.<sup>807</sup> This funding includes a substantial number of initiatives including USD20 million for nutrition and food-related services for Native Americans, particularly the elderly, USD480 million to provide home-delivered meals to the elderly, USD200 million for Home and Community Based Services to help older adults get the care they need at home, USD85 million for Centers for Independent Living which aims to help individuals with disabilities, and USD20 million to provide consumer advocacy services for residents of long-term care facilities.<sup>808</sup>

On 9 June 2020, the Department of Housing and Urban Development announced that an additional USD2.96 billion would be allocated to help communities with a substantial homeless population or at high risk of becoming homeless.<sup>809</sup> These funds originate from the Emergency Solutions Grant and can be used to build new emergency shelters, help provide support for existing homeless shelters, provide shelter for homeless individuals in hotels or motels, and also provide essential services such as food, mental health services, education, employment services, and substance abuse services.<sup>810</sup>

On 3 July 2020, the United States government announced that Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), HHS and the private sector have “coordinated the delivery of, or are currently shipping: 176.1 million N95 respirators, 719.7 million surgical masks, 29.4 million face shields, 318.3 million surgical gowns/coveralls and over 18.2 billion gloves.”<sup>811</sup> In addition, the federal government had 39,035 ventilators available in the Strategic National Stockpile.<sup>812</sup>

On 7 July 2020, FEMA and HHS committed to USD131.2 billion in response to COVID-19.<sup>813</sup> As part of federal funding, FEMA allocated USD7.8 billion to the following sectors: emergency food and shelter (USD200 million), temporary medical facilities (USD2.4 billion), personal protective equipment (USD2.4

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<sup>805</sup> HUD Moves Quickly To Make \$3 Billion of COVID-19 Relief Funding Available to Communities Across the Nation, HUD (Washington D.C) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. [https://www.hud.gov/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/HUD\\_No\\_20\\_049](https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_20_049).

<sup>806</sup> HUD Moves Quickly To Make \$3 Billion of COVID-19 Relief Funding Available to Communities Across the Nation, HUD (Washington D.C) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. [https://www.hud.gov/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/HUD\\_No\\_20\\_049](https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_20_049).

<sup>807</sup> HHS Announces Nearly \$1 Billion in CARES Act Grants to Support Older Adults and People with Disabilities in the Community During the COVID-19 Emergency, HHS (Washington D.C) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/21/hhs-announces-nearly-1-billion-cares-act-grants-support-older-adults-people-with-disabilities-community-during-covid-19-emergency.html>.

<sup>808</sup> HHS Announces Nearly \$1 Billion in CARES Act Grants to Support Older Adults and People with Disabilities in the Community During the COVID-19 Emergency, HHS (Washington D.C) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021.

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/21/hhs-announces-nearly-1-billion-cares-act-grants-support-older-adults-people-with-disabilities-community-during-covid-19-emergency.html>.

<sup>809</sup> HUD Provides Remaining \$2.96 billion in CARES Act Funding For Homeless Populations Amid Coronavirus Recovery, HUD (Washington D.C.) 9 June 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. [https://www.hud.gov/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/HUD\\_No\\_20\\_077](https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_20_077).

<sup>810</sup> HUD Provides Remaining \$2.96 billion in CARES Act Funding For Homeless Populations Amid Coronavirus Recovery, HUD (Washington D.C.) 9 June 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. [https://www.hud.gov/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/HUD\\_No\\_20\\_077](https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_20_077).

<sup>811</sup> Weekly Update: Coronavirus Pandemic Whole-of-America Response, FEMA (Washington D.C) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.usetinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ESF-15\\_WeeklyByTheNumbers\\_20200707-FINAL.pdf](https://www.usetinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ESF-15_WeeklyByTheNumbers_20200707-FINAL.pdf).

<sup>812</sup> Weekly Update: Coronavirus Pandemic Whole-of-America Response, FEMA (Washington D.C) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.usetinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ESF-15\\_WeeklyByTheNumbers\\_20200707-FINAL.pdf](https://www.usetinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ESF-15_WeeklyByTheNumbers_20200707-FINAL.pdf).

<sup>813</sup> Weekly Update: Coronavirus Pandemic Whole-of-America Response, FEMA (Washington D.C) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.usetinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ESF-15\\_WeeklyByTheNumbers\\_20200707-FINAL.pdf](https://www.usetinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ESF-15_WeeklyByTheNumbers_20200707-FINAL.pdf).



billion), National Guard (USD1.7 billion), public assistance emergency protective measures (USD1.2 billion), commodities (USD27 million) and crisis counseling (USD44 million).<sup>814</sup>

On 7 July 2020, the Government of the United States attributed additional support through the allocation of 2,303 FEMA employees to assist in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic out of its 20,605 employees.<sup>815</sup> The report also includes that as of 24 June 2020, “94 agencies across 29 states, the District of Columbia, three tribes and one US territory have sent a total of 311 alerts containing information on COVID-19 to cell phones and other wireless devices.”<sup>816</sup>

On 16 September 2020, the Department of Justice announced it would fund 50 projects up a value of USD4 million (USD100,000 each) for projects which address tribal needs in response to violence against women.<sup>817</sup> These projects can include better shelters for women, more COVID-19 testing and medical attention for victims of violence, and operate domestic violence court services online.<sup>818</sup>

On 20 December 2020, the Government of the United States reached a deal of USD900 billion economic relief package intended to assist businesses and individuals, as well as attributing funds to vaccine delivery nation-wide.<sup>819</sup> As part of this relief package, citizens without jobs would receive a USD300 per week supplemental jobless benefit and USD600 for citizens who qualify based on their income.<sup>820</sup> The bill also includes USD25 billion in emergency assistance to renters and prevents evictions based on an inability to pay rent until 31 January 2021.<sup>821</sup> There was also USD20 billion allocated to purchase more vaccines and USD8 billion approved to help distribute vaccines.<sup>822</sup> An additional USD10 billion was allocated for child-care assistance.<sup>823</sup> There was an additional USD26 billion of funding approved for nutrition assistance and agriculture and rural programs, of which USD13 billion will go towards helping food-insecure Americans.<sup>824</sup>

On 12 January 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in compliance with US federal law, announced that travellers would have to provide a negative COVID-19 test prior to their departure from

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<sup>814</sup> Weekly Update: Coronavirus Pandemic Whole-of-America Response, FEMA (Washington D.C) 7 July 2020. Access date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.usetinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ESF-15\\_WeeklyByTheNumbers\\_20200707-FINAL.pdf](https://www.usetinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ESF-15_WeeklyByTheNumbers_20200707-FINAL.pdf).

<sup>815</sup> Weekly Update: Coronavirus Pandemic Whole-of-America Response, FEMA (Washington D.C) 7 July 2020. Access date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.usetinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ESF-15\\_WeeklyByTheNumbers\\_20200707-FINAL.pdf](https://www.usetinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ESF-15_WeeklyByTheNumbers_20200707-FINAL.pdf).

<sup>816</sup> Weekly Update: Coronavirus Pandemic Whole-of-America Response, FEMA (Washington D.C) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.usetinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ESF-15\\_WeeklyByTheNumbers\\_20200707-FINAL.pdf](https://www.usetinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ESF-15_WeeklyByTheNumbers_20200707-FINAL.pdf).

<sup>817</sup> COVID-19/Violence Against Women Assistance to Tribes, Rural Health Information Hub (Grand Forks) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/funding/5027>.

<sup>818</sup> COVID-19/Violence Against Women Assistance to Tribes, Rural Health Information Hub (Grand Forks) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/funding/5027>.

<sup>819</sup> U.S. congressional leaders reach deal on COVID-19 relief package, CBC (Toronto.) 20 December 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/congress-covid-19-economic-relief-package-1.5849232>.

<sup>820</sup> U.S. congressional leaders reach deal on COVID-19 relief package, CBC (Toronto.) 20 December 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/congress-covid-19-economic-relief-package-1.5849232>.

<sup>821</sup> What Seniors Need To Know About The December Stimulus Package, Forbes (Jersey City) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/elenabotella/2021/12/29/what-seniors-need-to-know-about-the-december-stimulus-package/?sh=498aaf7d4144>.

<sup>822</sup> What Seniors Need To Know About The December Stimulus Package, Forbes (Jersey City) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/elenabotella/2021/12/29/what-seniors-need-to-know-about-the-december-stimulus-package/?sh=498aaf7d4144>.

<sup>823</sup> What Seniors Need To Know About The December Stimulus Package, Forbes (Jersey City) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/elenabotella/2021/12/29/what-seniors-need-to-know-about-the-december-stimulus-package/?sh=498aaf7d4144>.

<sup>824</sup> What Seniors Need To Know About The December Stimulus Package, Forbes (Jersey City) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/elenabotella/2021/12/29/what-seniors-need-to-know-about-the-december-stimulus-package/?sh=498aaf7d4144>.

the United States.<sup>825</sup> This order will remain in place until 31 May 2021.<sup>826</sup> Moreover, “current CDC travel guidance recommends seven days of self-quarantine following international travel, as well as acquiring a coronavirus test three to five days into the quarantine. If a traveler cannot acquire a coronavirus test, CDC guidance recommends 10 days in quarantine.” However, instructions on how these measures will be enforced remain unclear.<sup>827</sup>

On 20 January 2021, President Joseph Biden announced the launch of the American Rescue Plan to respond to the public health challenges of the COVID-19 crisis and “address the stark, intergenerational inequities that have worsened in the wake of COVID-19.”<sup>828</sup> The initiative will aim to establish community vaccination sites nationwide, increase testing and tracing, eliminate supply shortage issues, invest in COVID-19 treatments, and provide paid sick leave.<sup>829</sup> The American Rescue Plan will also aim to “protect vulnerable populations in congregate settings” and financially assist lower income families through one year expansions of key supports for families on an emergency basis.<sup>830</sup>

The United States has fully complied to protect the health and safety of all citizens including vulnerable groups such as children, people with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness, and the elderly through the implementation of public policy and providing vaccination for healthcare workers, economic support packages, allocation of funds to protect the health of citizens, and continuous travel and stay-at-home orders.

Thus, the United States has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Tea Vasha*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to protecting everyone’s health and safety in their country.

On 19 March 2020, the European Commission established the strategic RescEU Stockpile of medical equipment with a budget of EUR50 million.<sup>831</sup> The stockpile included ventilators, personal procurement equipment, and testing equipment.<sup>832</sup>

On 20 March 2020, all members of the European Commission, in conjunction with the European Committee for Standardization and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization made European standards for

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<sup>825</sup> Passenger Disclosure and Attestation to the United States of America, CDC (Atlanta) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/pdf/Fillable-Attestation-English-p.pdf>.

<sup>826</sup> Passenger Disclosure and Attestation to the United States of America, CDC (Atlanta) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/pdf/Fillable-Attestation-English-p.pdf>.

<sup>827</sup> U.S. arrivals will now have to quarantine. But officials haven’t said how they plan to enforce it, The Washington Post (Washington D.C.) 26 January 2021. Access date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/travel/2021/01/26/us-quarantine-international-arrivals-covid/>

<sup>828</sup> President Biden Announces American Rescue Plan, White House (Washington, D.C.) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/legislation/2021/01/20/president-biden-announces-american-rescue-plan/>.

<sup>829</sup> President Biden Announces American Rescue Plan, White House (Washington, D.C.) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/legislation/2021/01/20/president-biden-announces-american-rescue-plan/>.

<sup>830</sup> President Biden Announces American Rescue Plan, White House (Washington, D.C.) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/legislation/2021/01/20/president-biden-announces-american-rescue-plan/>.

<sup>831</sup> COVID-19: Commission creates first ever rescEU stockpile of medical equipment, European Commission (Brussels) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_476](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_476).

<sup>832</sup> COVID-19: Commission creates first ever rescEU stockpile of medical equipment, European Commission (Brussels) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_476](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_476).

medical devices and personal protective equipment publicly available.<sup>833</sup> This allowed for both the EU and third-country companies to rapidly manufacture these critical healthcare products for the internal market.<sup>834</sup>

On 27 March 2020, the budget for the RescEU stockpile increased to EUR80 million.<sup>835</sup>

On 30 March 2020, the European Commission implemented a temporary restriction on non-essential travel to the EU for all non-residents.<sup>836</sup>

On 1 April 2020, the European Commission launched the COVID- 19 EU Solidarity Fund to provide financial assistance to EU countries to “rapidly assist people affected by a major public health emergency caused by COVID-19” and “protect the public against the attendant risks.”<sup>837</sup> The fund also covers all types of assistance to the public such as “special assistance to vulnerable groups (the elderly, people with health problems, pregnant women, single working parents, etc.).”<sup>838</sup>

On 2 April 2020, the European Commission introduced the SURE instrument providing EUR100 billion to aid workers and businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>839</sup> The instrument includes rules and funds protecting the most deprived EU citizens and EU fishermen.<sup>840</sup> On 24 August 2020, the EU Commission proposed to allocate an additional EUR81.4 billion to 15 member states under SURE.<sup>841</sup>

On 14 April 2020, the European Commission approved EUR2.7 billion from the EU budget to support the EU healthcare sector through the Emergency Support Instrument to provide critical support.<sup>842</sup>

On 22 April 2020, the European Commission announced amendments to the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived under the Coronavirus Investment Initiative Plus to address the challenges generated by the global COVID-19 pandemic through increased flexibility and liquidity.<sup>843</sup> The proposed measures will help to protect the individuals and volunteers to help to deliver food and aid by providing them with the appropriate protective equipment and will aim to reach the most vulnerable across the EU safely for example by providing them with electronic food vouchers.<sup>844</sup>

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<sup>833</sup> Coronavirus: European standards for medical supplies made freely available to facilitate increase of production, European Commission (Brussels) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_502](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_502).

<sup>834</sup> Coronavirus: European standards for medical supplies made freely available to facilitate increase of production, European Commission (Brussels) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_502](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_502).

<sup>835</sup> Coronavirus: Commission boosts budget for repatriation flights and rescEU stockpile, European Commission (Brussels) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_535](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_535)

<sup>836</sup> Coronavirus: Commission presents practical guidance to ensure the free movement of critical workers, European Commission (Brussels) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_545](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_545).

<sup>837</sup> COVID-19 - EU Solidarity Fund, European Commission (Brussels) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/funding/solidarity-fund/covid-19/](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/solidarity-fund/covid-19/).

<sup>838</sup> COVID-19 - EU Solidarity Fund, European Commission (Brussels) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/funding/solidarity-fund/covid-19/](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/solidarity-fund/covid-19/).

<sup>839</sup> Coronavirus: the Commission mobilises all of its resources to protect lives and livelihoods, European Commission (Brussels) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_582](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_582).

<sup>840</sup> Coronavirus: the Commission mobilises all of its resources to protect lives and livelihoods, European Commission (Brussels) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_582](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_582).

<sup>841</sup> Coronavirus: Commission proposes to provide €81.4 billion in financial support for 15 Member States under SURE, European Commission (Brussels) 24 August 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_1496](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1496).

<sup>842</sup> Coronavirus: €2.7 billion from the EU budget to support the EU healthcare sector, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/mex\\_20\\_657](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/mex_20_657).

<sup>843</sup> Coronavirus: the FEAD to continue supporting people in need, European Commission (Brussels) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=9638&furtherNews=yes>.

<sup>844</sup> Coronavirus: the FEAD to continue supporting people in need, European Commission (Brussels) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=9638&furtherNews=yes>.

On 8 May 2020, the European Commission dispatched the initial 1.5 million masks from a total of 10 million masks purchased to support EU healthcare workers.<sup>845</sup>

On 18 May 2020, the European Union joined the United Nations joint statement on “Disability-inclusive response to COVID-19 –Towards a better future for all” which affirmed the signatories’ commitment to a disability-inclusive COVID-19 response and recovery measures.<sup>846</sup> High Representative Josep Borrell, Vice-President Jourová and Commissioner Helena Dalli also issued a separate statement that the COVID-19 pandemic has a “disproportionate impact on the rights of persons with disabilities such as in terms of equal access to health care, support services, and education.”<sup>847</sup>

On 28 May 2020, the European Commission proposed further amendments under the the Coronavirus Investment Initiative Plus to increase funding to the FEAD, European Social Fund, and European Regional Development Fund.<sup>848</sup> No specific monetary allocation was stated, but the funds will be obtained from the multiannual financial framework 2014-2020.<sup>849</sup> The funds will go towards improving access to food, basic needs, or social inclusion measures in EU member states.<sup>850</sup>

On 11 June 2020, the European Commission recommended that the Schengen member states and the Schengen associated states lift internal border controls by 15 June 2020 and extend the temporary restrictions on non-essential travel until 30 June 2020.<sup>851</sup>

On 16 June 2020, the European Commission presented an EU vaccine strategy to ensure the development, manufacturing, and deployment of vaccines within 12 to 18 months, to protect its people against COVID-19.<sup>852</sup>

On 18 June 2020, the European Commission permitted nations of the European Union to apply for additional funding via the Emergency Support Instrument to transport essential goods, deploy medical teams, and support patients affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>853</sup>

On 24 June 2020, the European Commission released online guidelines for migrants in the EU directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>854</sup> The online guidelines provide information on “outreach initiatives

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<sup>845</sup> Coronavirus: Commission delivers first batch of 1.5 million masks from 10 million purchased to support EU healthcare workers, European Commission (Brussels) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_819](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_819).

<sup>846</sup> United Nations: Joint statement by High Representative Borrell, Vice-President Jourová and Commissioner Dalli on the rights of persons with disabilities, European Commission (Brussels) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/STATEMENT\\_20\\_903](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/STATEMENT_20_903).

<sup>847</sup> United Nations: Joint statement by High Representative Borrell, Vice-President Jourová and Commissioner Dalli on the rights of persons with disabilities, European Commission (Brussels) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/STATEMENT\\_20\\_903](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/STATEMENT_20_903).

<sup>848</sup> FEAD: more resources to address the social impact of the Coronavirus crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 28 May 2020 Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1089&newsId=9690&furtherNews=yes>.

<sup>849</sup> FEAD: more resources to address the social impact of the Coronavirus crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 28 May 2020 Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1089&newsId=9690&furtherNews=yes>.

<sup>850</sup> FEAD: more resources to address the social impact of the Coronavirus crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 28 May 2020 Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1089&newsId=9690&furtherNews=yes>.

<sup>851</sup> Coronavirus: Commission recommends partial and gradual lifting of travel restrictions to the EU after 30 June, based on common coordinated approach, European Commission (Brussels) 11 June 2020. Access Date: 3 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1035](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1035).

<sup>852</sup> Coronavirus: Commission unveils EU vaccines strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1103](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1103).

<sup>853</sup> Coronavirus: EU funding for the transport of medical goods, medical teams and patients, European Commission (Brussels) 18 June 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_1118](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1118).

<sup>854</sup> COVID-19’s impact on migrant communities, European Commission (Brussels) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/covid-19s-impact-on-migrant-communities>.

meant to keep migrants informed, extraordinary administrative measures introduced by the member states, to funding opportunities meant to assist the civil society response.”<sup>855</sup>

On 8 October 2020, Vice President Suca outlined the REACT-EU extension (Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe) package targeted at long-term care homes and vulnerable groups such as migrants and prisoners severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>856</sup> The Commission announced coordination with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control to protect these vulnerable groups and introduced the joint report with the Social Protection Committee on improving the preparedness of long-term care systems to better address issues in long-term care homes.<sup>857</sup>

On 13 October 2020, the European Council adopted a Recommendation for a coordinated approach for travel measures.<sup>858</sup> In particular, this would tackle the restriction of free movement in response to the resurgence of COVID-19.<sup>859</sup> The Recommendation outlined four essential areas for the EU member states to coordinate their efforts. It also urged these nations to adopt numerous quarantine and testing measures to limit the spread of the COVID-19.<sup>860</sup>

On 10 November 2020, the European Parliament announced its new health program, EU4Health which is a proposed to strengthen health systems between 2021-2027.<sup>861</sup> The budget for this long-term initiative is EUR9.4 billion and among its aims is to lessen the burden caused by non-communicable diseases including mental health.<sup>862</sup>

On 24 November 2020, the European Parliament adopted a resolution to support an EU framework of national strategies on ending homelessness in the EU by 2030 and call on EU member states to decriminalise homeless and continue efforts and raising funding to end homelessness. The resolution included a series of recommendations to member states including “providing financial assistance to NGOs [non-governmental organizations] and supporting local authorities to secure safe spaces for those who are homeless and preventing evictions, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic,” “providing constant access to emergency

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<sup>855</sup> COVID-19’s impact on migrant communities, European Commission (Brussels) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/covid-19s-impact-on-migrant-communities>.

<sup>856</sup> Vice-President’s Suica’s speech at European Parliament plenary debate “Impact of COVID-19 outbreak on long-term care facilities,” European Commission (Brussels) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021 [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/suica/announcements/vice-presidents-suicas-speech-european-parliament-plenary-debate-impact-covid-19-outbreak-long-term\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/suica/announcements/vice-presidents-suicas-speech-european-parliament-plenary-debate-impact-covid-19-outbreak-long-term_en).

<sup>857</sup> Vice-President’s Suica’s speech at European Parliament plenary debate “Impact of COVID-19 outbreak on long-term care facilities,” European Commission (Brussels) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021 [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/suica/announcements/vice-presidents-suicas-speech-european-parliament-plenary-debate-impact-covid-19-outbreak-long-term\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/suica/announcements/vice-presidents-suicas-speech-european-parliament-plenary-debate-impact-covid-19-outbreak-long-term_en).

<sup>858</sup> COVID-19: Council adopts a recommendation to coordinate measures affecting free movement, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 30 October 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/10/13/covid-19-council-adopts-a-recommendation-to-coordinate-measures-affecting-free-movement/>.

<sup>859</sup> COVID-19: Council adopts a recommendation to coordinate measures affecting free movement, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 30 October 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/10/13/covid-19-council-adopts-a-recommendation-to-coordinate-measures-affecting-free-movement/>.

<sup>860</sup> COVID-19: Council adopts a recommendation to coordinate measures affecting free movement, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 30 October 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/10/13/covid-19-council-adopts-a-recommendation-to-coordinate-measures-affecting-free-movement/>.

<sup>861</sup> New EU programme EU4Health aims to strengthen Europe’s health systems to respond better to future major cross-border crises, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, ECHalliance (Belfast) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://echalliance.com/new-eu-programme-eu4health-aims-to-strengthen-europes-health-systems-to-respond-better-to-future-major-cross-border-crises-such-as-the-covid-19-pandemic/>.

<sup>862</sup> Questions and Answers on the New EU4Health Programme, European Commission (Brussels) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/QANDA\\_20\\_956](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/QANDA_20_956).

shelters, as a temporary solution” and “providing equal access to public services such as health care, education, and social services.”<sup>863</sup>

On 2 December 2020, the European Commission advocated a “Staying safe from COVID-19 during winter” strategy which updated hygiene, social distancing, and mask measures for the duration of the winter season.<sup>864</sup>

On 21 December 2020, the European Commission authorized the first vaccine for COVID-19 developed by BionNtech/Pfizer.<sup>865</sup>

On 6 January 2021, the European Commission authorized the second COVID-19 vaccine by Moderna.<sup>866</sup>

On 21 January 2021, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the gender perspective in the COVID-19 crisis and the post-crisis period.<sup>867</sup> The resolution called upon member states to “establish safe and flexible emergency warning systems and to offer new services to assist women in contacting the police directly by phone, email and text message.”<sup>868</sup> The European Parliament also called upon the European Commission to implement a protocol for violence against women in times of crises that includes providing services to victims.<sup>869</sup> The resolution also identified the intersecting discrimination of women and COVID-19 by stating that there are “older women in care homes that are now virus hotspots, women with disabilities unable to access their usual support networks or maintain physical distancing, migrant women that are more vulnerable to gender-based violence, but also rural, homeless and Roma women as well as members of the LGBTIQ+ community.”<sup>870</sup>

On 21 January 2021, the European Parliament adopted a resolution that called on EU member states to recognize access to decent and affordable housing as an enforceable human right and to push for measures to end homelessness by 2030.<sup>871</sup> The resolution also called on EU member states to adopt “exceptional measures to prevent homelessness and protect homeless people in the COVID-19 crisis should be maintained – particularly moratoria on evictions and on disconnection from energy supplies as well as the provision of temporary housing.”<sup>872</sup>

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<sup>863</sup> EU should set goal to end homelessness by 2030, European Parliament (Brussels) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201120IPR92124/eu-should-set-goal-to-end-homelessness-by-2030>.

<sup>864</sup> Coronavirus: Commission presents “Staying safe from COVID-19 during winter” strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_2254](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2254).

<sup>865</sup> European Commission authorises first safe and effective vaccine against COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_2466](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2466).

<sup>866</sup> European Commission authorises second safe and effective vaccine against COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_3](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3).

<sup>867</sup> Improving gender equality during and after the COVID-19 crisis, European Parliament (Brussels) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210115IPR95718/improving-gender-equality-during-and-after-the-covid-19-crisis>.

<sup>868</sup> Improving gender equality during and after the COVID-19 crisis, European Parliament (Brussels) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210115IPR95718/improving-gender-equality-during-and-after-the-covid-19-crisis>.

<sup>869</sup> Improving gender equality during and after the COVID-19 crisis, European Parliament (Brussels) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210115IPR95718/improving-gender-equality-during-and-after-the-covid-19-crisis>.

<sup>870</sup> Improving gender equality during and after the COVID-19 crisis, European Parliament (Brussels) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210115IPR95718/improving-gender-equality-during-and-after-the-covid-19-crisis>.

<sup>871</sup> MEPs: Access to adequate housing should be a fundamental European right, European Parliament (Brussels) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210114IPR95632/meps-access-to-adequate-housing-should-be-a-fundamental-european-right>.

<sup>872</sup> MEPs: Access to adequate housing should be a fundamental European right, European Parliament (Brussels) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210114IPR95632/meps-access-to-adequate-housing-should-be-a-fundamental-european-right>.

On 29 January 2021, the European Commission authorized the third vaccine developed by AstraZeneca.<sup>873</sup>

On 29 January 2021, the European Parliament and European Council reached a provisional agreement to implement the EU Social Fund+ (ESF+) for 2021-2027 that aims to support social inclusion, job opportunities and fight child and youth poverty.<sup>874</sup> The fund will be implemented as part of the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027 and will amount to EUR87 995 billion.<sup>875</sup> The ESF+ acknowledged that youth employment has been “aggravated by the COVID-19 crisis” and that EU member states “where the number of children at a high risk of poverty is above the EU average will have to spend a minimum of 5% of the ESF+ resources on actions that contribute to children’s equal access to free healthcare, free education, free childcare, decent housing and adequate nutrition.”<sup>876</sup>

The European Union has fully complied to protect the health and safety of all citizens including vulnerable groups such as children, people with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness, and women through the adoption of resolutions relating to vulnerable groups and implementation of nation-wide public health policies, economic support packages, and allocation of funds.

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

*Analyst: Sarah Rashid*

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<sup>873</sup>European Commission authorises third safe and effective vaccine against COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_306](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_306).

<sup>874</sup> Agreement reached on the European Social Fund+ for 2021-2027, European Parliament (Brussels) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210129IPR96701/agreement-reached-on-the-european-social-fund-for-2021-2027>.

<sup>875</sup> Agreement reached on the European Social Fund+ for 2021-2027, European Parliament (Brussels) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210129IPR96701/agreement-reached-on-the-european-social-fund-for-2021-2027>.

<sup>876</sup> Agreement reached on the European Social Fund+ for 2021-2027, European Parliament (Brussels) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210129IPR96701/agreement-reached-on-the-european-social-fund-for-2021-2027>.

## 4. Health: Strengthening Health Systems

“We will enhance our efforts to strengthen health systems in our countries and globally.”

*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

Since 1987, the G7 members have repeatedly emphasized the importance of international coordination of health systems and support for developing nations’ health systems. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, these past actions are now being tested, as health systems around the world are pushed to capacity. The United Nations noted that the pandemic exacerbated already large differences in countries’ abilities to handle health crises and that the UN Development Programme identified disparities in countries’ ability to recover from the current crisis.<sup>877</sup> Thus, the G7 members are faced with a looming health crisis in developing nations while also dealing with stressors on their own health systems.

Global health was first mentioned in a G7 statement at the 1987 Venice Summit. In this case, the heads of state of the G7 members affirmed that the heightening HIV/AIDS epidemic was “one of the biggest potential health problems in the world” and required international cooperation and coordination to prevent its further spread.<sup>878</sup> The statement mentioned the need for countries to cooperate with and support the AIDS-related programs of the World Health Organization (WHO) as well as increased public health advocacy and research.<sup>879</sup> This statement and its proposed actions set the stage for further discussion of health issues by the G7.

In 2000, members of the United Nations, including all G7 members, signed on to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of eight goals for international development by 2015.<sup>880</sup> Of these goals, MDG 5 “To improve maternal health” and MDG 6 “To combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases” became topics of focus for later meetings of the G7 health ministers.

At the 2000 Okinawa Summit, Japan released its initiative to fight infectious and parasitic diseases.<sup>881</sup> The Initiative focused on mobilizing health systems to break the cycle of poverty and poor health in the

<sup>877</sup> Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, United Nations (New York) 2020. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/>

<sup>878</sup> 1987 Venice Summit Chairman’s Statement on AIDS, G7 Research Group (Venice) 10 June 1987. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1987venice/aids.html>

<sup>879</sup> 1987 Venice Summit Chairman’s Statement on AIDS, G7 Research Group (Venice) 10 June 1987. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1987venice/aids.html>

<sup>880</sup> Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), World Health Organization (Geneva) September 2000. Access Date: 27 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/topics/millennium\\_development\\_goals/en/](https://www.who.int/topics/millennium_development_goals/en/)

<sup>881</sup> Japan’s Initiative in the Fight against Infectious and Parasitic Diseases on the occasion of the Kyushu-Okinawa G8 Summit, G7 Research Group (Okinawa) July 2000. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/infectious.htm>



developing world.<sup>882</sup> Of note in this summit, is the focus on the role of both local and global health systems in fighting disease. The statement notes that primary health care is the first line of defense against such diseases, and so investments in these systems in developing countries is necessary to achieve health goals.<sup>883</sup>

Resolutions at the 2000 Okinawa Summit and the 2001 Genoa Summit created the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.<sup>884</sup> This fund would help finance prevention, treatment and care programs for these diseases to help work towards the MDG 6. In the Genoa final communique, G8 members also noted the need to help countries in the provision of necessary drugs and treatment plans to fight this disease, especially in areas where people do not typically have access to such medical treatment.<sup>885</sup>

In 2001, the G7 members, Mexico and the WHO formed the Global Health Security Initiative in response to the September 11 terrorist attacks and then subsequent anthrax attacks.<sup>886</sup> The Initiative was formed to tackle health systems threats to global security. In 2009, the members met to discuss public health measures in response to the H1N1 pandemic.<sup>887</sup> The meeting stressed the importance of international coordination and common protocols to mitigate the spread and health impacts of the pandemic. Additionally, the importance of aid to other countries with less robust health infrastructure was emphasized, as the H1N1 pandemic was framed as a truly global health emergency.<sup>888</sup>

While 2002-2012 was called the “golden decade” of global health aid, efforts to strengthen global health systems seemed to die off for a few years.<sup>889</sup> The end of the MDGs and the signing of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in 2015 may have reinvigorated the global health efforts. SDG 3 “Good Health and Well-Being” added new motivation to increase primary health care, achieve universal health coverage and strengthen global health networks.<sup>890</sup> At the 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit, the health priorities focused on the Ebola epidemic, antimicrobial resistance and neglected tropical diseases.<sup>891</sup> Most recently, in 2019, the G7 Health Ministers’ Statement emphasized the importance of primary health coverage in achieving health-related sustainable development goals.<sup>892</sup> This meeting launched the G7 Primary Health Care Universal Knowledge Initiative, which would facilitate sharing of information across countries related to health systems.<sup>893</sup> This sharing of knowledge across health systems could help facilitate better and more appropriate health care and prevent unnecessary treatment and expenses.

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<sup>882</sup> Japan's Initiative in the Fight against Infectious and Parasitic Diseases on the occasion of the Kyushu-Okinawa G8 Summit, G7 Research Group (Okinawa) July 2000. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/infectious.htm>

<sup>883</sup> Japan's Initiative in the Fight against Infectious and Parasitic Diseases on the occasion of the Kyushu-Okinawa G8 Summit, G7 Research Group (Okinawa) July 2000. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/infectious.htm>

<sup>884</sup> 2001 Genoa Summit Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Genova) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommunique.html>

<sup>885</sup> 2001 Genoa Summit Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Genova) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommunique.html>

<sup>886</sup> Pandemic (H1N1) 2009: Commission hosts Global Health Security conference for G7 countries and Mexico, European Commission (Brussels) 11 September 2009. Access Date: 27 December 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_09\\_1306](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_09_1306)

<sup>887</sup> Pandemic (H1N1) 2009: Commission hosts Global Health Security conference for G7 countries and Mexico, European Commission (Brussels) 11 September 2009. Access Date: 27 December 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_09\\_1306](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_09_1306)

<sup>888</sup> Pandemic (H1N1) 2009: Commission hosts Global Health Security conference for G7 countries and Mexico, European Commission (Brussels) 11 September 2009. Access Date: 27 December 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_09\\_1306](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_09_1306)

<sup>889</sup> Germany, the G7, and global health, the BMJ (San Francisco) 5 March 2015. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <http://globalhealth2035.org/sites/default/files/policy-briefs/germany-g7-and-global-health-bmj.pdf>

<sup>890</sup> Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, United Nations (New York) 2020. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/>

<sup>891</sup> Germany, the G7, and global health, the BMJ (San Francisco) 5 March 2015. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <http://globalhealth2035.org/sites/default/files/policy-briefs/germany-g7-and-global-health-bmj.pdf>

<sup>892</sup> G7 Health Ministers Declaration: For an Inclusive, Evidence-Based and Sustainable G7 Action in Global Health, G7 Research Group (Paris) 17 May 2020. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/healthmins/2019-health.html>

<sup>893</sup> G7 Health Ministers Declaration: For an Inclusive, Evidence-Based and Sustainable G7 Action in Global Health, G7 Research Group (Paris) 17 May 2020. Access Date: 27 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/healthmins/2019-health.html>

On 16 March 2020, G7 leaders met virtually under the U.S. presidency to respond to the global COVID-19 pandemic that was rapidly spreading. At the time, they expected to meet again in three months at their regularly scheduled summit on 10-12 June 2020, which was later postponed indefinitely.

### **Commitment Features**

The G7 commitment is to “enhance our efforts to strengthen health systems in our countries and globally.”

“Enhance efforts” is understood as to heighten or intensify any action that strengthens health systems. This does not require members to create a new initiative, as they could increase their support of previous efforts. Examples of members enhancing their efforts include increasing aid allocated to a health-focused international organization, funding a vaccination program abroad, or increasing health coverage for its citizens.

The WHO has outlined six building blocks of a health system.<sup>894</sup> These are service delivery, health workforce, information, medical products, vaccines and technologies, financing, and leadership/governance.<sup>895</sup> Coming from these six building blocks, the WHO defines health system strengthening as “improving these six health system building blocks and managing their interactions in ways that achieve more equitable and sustained improvements across health services and health outcomes.”<sup>896</sup> Additionally, more emphasis has been placed on universal health coverage in pursuit of SDG 3.8 “Achieve Universal Health Coverage.” Universal health coverage is defined as all people having access to needed health services, when and where they need them, without financial hardship.<sup>897</sup>

“Service delivery” entails providing “effective, safe, quality personal and non-personal health interventions” to those who need them, when and where they need them.<sup>898</sup> A good workforce has sufficient numbers and mixes of staff which are well-distributed and competent in order to work in ways that are “responsive, fair and efficient.”<sup>899</sup> A good information system entails proper “production, analysis, dissemination and use” of health information within the health system.<sup>900</sup>

Equitable access to medical products, vaccines and technologies is another key component of health systems, and these products must be of assured quality, safety and cost-effectiveness.<sup>901</sup>

Healthcare financing ensures that adequate funds are raised so that people can use needed services and are protected from impoverishment from paying for these services.<sup>902</sup>

Leadership or governance in health systems includes proper policy frameworks as well as continued oversight, regulations, coalition-building and accountability.<sup>903</sup>

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<sup>894</sup> Everybody’s business - strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes: WHO’s framework for action, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2007. Access Date: 27 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys\\_business.pdf](https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys_business.pdf)

<sup>895</sup> Everybody’s business - strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes: WHO’s framework for action, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2007. Access Date: 27 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys\\_business.pdf](https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys_business.pdf)

<sup>896</sup> Everybody’s business - strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes: WHO’s framework for action, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2007. Access Date: 27 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys\\_business.pdf](https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys_business.pdf)

<sup>897</sup> Universal Health Coverage, World Health Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 27 December 2020.

[https://www.who.int/health-topics/universal-health-coverage#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/universal-health-coverage#tab=tab_1)

<sup>898</sup> Everybody’s business - strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes: WHO’s framework for action, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2007. Access Date: 27 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys\\_business.pdf](https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys_business.pdf)

<sup>899</sup> Everybody’s business - strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes: WHO’s framework for action, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2007. Access Date: 27 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys\\_business.pdf](https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys_business.pdf)

<sup>900</sup> Everybody’s business - strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes: WHO’s framework for action, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2007. Access Date: 27 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys\\_business.pdf](https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys_business.pdf)

<sup>901</sup> Everybody’s business - strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes: WHO’s framework for action, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2007. Access Date: 27 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys\\_business.pdf](https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys_business.pdf)

<sup>902</sup> Everybody’s business - strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes: WHO’s framework for action, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2007. Access Date: 27 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys\\_business.pdf](https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys_business.pdf)

In order to receive full compliance, members must take actions or enhance previous actions that strengthen their own health systems as well as other global health systems. A member will receive partial compliance if they have taken action or enhanced previous actions to strengthen either their domestic health system or other global health systems, but not both. Non-compliance will be given if a member does not take any action to strengthen their domestic or global health systems. Any efforts should fit within the WHO definition of strengthening health systems in addition to universal health coverage.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	G7 member does not enhance efforts to strengthen health systems domestically AND globally.
0	G7 member enhances efforts to strengthen health systems domestically OR globally.
+1	G7 member enhances efforts to strengthen health systems domestically AND globally.

*Compliance Director: Alby Johnston*

*Lead Analyst: Gurleen Mann*

### Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to enhance efforts to strengthen health systems domestically and globally.

On 18 March 2020, Minister of Health Patty Hajdu signed an Interim Order to ensure quick access to medical devices, such as diagnostic kits for testing COVID-19, by allowing the importation and sale of such devices with greater flexibility of approval.<sup>904</sup>

On 20 March 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised CAD50 million to help developing countries prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by improving infection prevention, sanitation and hygiene, emergency care, and surveillance systems.<sup>905</sup> Of that sum, CAD8 million was an immediate provision to organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.<sup>906</sup>

On 5 April 2020, Minister of International Development Karina Gould announced the allocation of CAD159.5 million for international efforts against the pandemic, which includes the CAD50 million announced in March.<sup>907</sup> CAD84.5 million of this funding went to international humanitarian organizations such as the WHO and UNICEF, CAD40 million supported vaccine development through the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness, CAD30 million funded country-specific requests for assistance responding to COVID-19, and CAD5 million went to reinforcing global health-security capacity building.<sup>908</sup>

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<sup>903</sup> Everybody's business - strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes: WHO's framework for action, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2007. Access Date: 27 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys\\_business.pdf](https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys_business.pdf).

<sup>904</sup> Health Canada expedites access to COVID-19 diagnostic laboratory test kits and other medical devices, Health Canada (Ottawa) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/03/health-canada-expedites-access-to-covid-19-diagnostic-laboratory-test-kits-and-other-medical-devices.html>.

<sup>905</sup> Canada's humanitarian assistance to help developing countries prepare and respond to COVID-19, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/canadas-humanitarian-assistance-to-help-developing-countries-prepare-and-respond-to-covid-19.html>.

<sup>906</sup> Canada's humanitarian assistance to help developing countries prepare and respond to COVID-19, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/canadas-humanitarian-assistance-to-help-developing-countries-prepare-and-respond-to-covid-19.html>.

<sup>907</sup> Backgrounder - Canada provides funding to address COVID-19 pandemic, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/backgrounder---canada-provides-funding-to-address-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

<sup>908</sup> Backgrounder - Canada provides funding to address COVID-19 pandemic, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/backgrounder---canada-provides-funding-to-address-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

On 12 May 2020, Minister Gould announced support for international vaccination through increased funding for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.<sup>909</sup> This funding includes a promise of CAD600 million to Gavi over a multi-year replenishment period set to begin in June 2020 and ensures that routine vaccinations for other diseases can continue in low-income countries during the pandemic.<sup>910</sup>

On 15 June 2020, François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Harjit Sajjan, Minister of National Defence and Minister Gould announced that the Canadian Armed Forces would provide airlift support on behalf of the WHO and World Food Programme, in response to a United Nations request.<sup>911</sup> The airlift will transport medical and humanitarian supplies between hubs in Africa, the Middle East, and Europe to maintain supply chains in vulnerable countries.<sup>912</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau joined other world leaders in an online pledging event to launch the Coronavirus Global Response.<sup>913</sup> The initiative aimed to collect USD8 billion in funding to help researchers across the world develop solutions to the pandemic in the areas of diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines, and to strengthen health systems.<sup>914</sup>

On 27 June 2020, Minister Gould announced CAD120 million to support the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, which included CAD20 million going to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).<sup>915</sup>

On 16 July 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau announced a federal investment worth CAD19 billion through the Safe Restart Agreement to address a variety of healthcare system needs.<sup>916</sup> The funding targeted testing and contact tracing, personal protective equipment, mental health resources, and long-term care.<sup>917</sup>

On 27 July 2020, Health Canada announced CAD4.28 billion in funding to expand testing and contact tracing capacities.<sup>918</sup> The announcement also promised CAD7.5 billion for personal protective equipment.<sup>919</sup>

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<sup>909</sup> Minister Gould announces funding for global vaccinations, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/minister-gould-announces-funding-for-global-vaccinations.html>.

<sup>910</sup> Minister Gould announces funding for global vaccinations, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/minister-gould-announces-funding-for-global-vaccinations.html>.

<sup>911</sup> Canada's ongoing humanitarian efforts in response to COVID-19 pandemic, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/06/canadas-ongoing-humanitarian-efforts-in-response-to-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

<sup>912</sup> Canada's ongoing humanitarian efforts in response to COVID-19 pandemic, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/06/canadas-ongoing-humanitarian-efforts-in-response-to-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

<sup>913</sup> Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>.

<sup>914</sup> Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>.

<sup>915</sup> Canada announces support for equitable access to new COVID-19 medical solutions, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 27 June 2020. Access Date: 23 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>916</sup> More support for Canadians through the Safe Restart Agreement, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/07/16/more-support-canadians-through-safe-restart-agreement>.

<sup>917</sup> More support for Canadians through the Safe Restart Agreement, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/07/16/more-support-canadians-through-safe-restart-agreement>.

On 15 August 2020, Health Canada began a 60-day consultation to receive feedback on, and develop improvements for, the operation of supervised drug consumption sites which aim to prevent overdoses and refer users to health and social services.<sup>920</sup>

On 14 December 2020, Minister Gould announced CAD230 million in funding to help developing countries procure treatments and therapeutics for COVID-19.<sup>921</sup> Gould also announced an additional CAD255 million for the ACT-Accelerator to support the distribution of medical solutions to COVID-19 in developing countries through various channels such as the WHO, CEPI, and Gavi.<sup>922</sup> The contribution to Gavi included an investment in the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility.<sup>923</sup>

On 17 December 2020, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng announced that Canada and twelve other countries had presented the Trade and Health Initiative to the World Trade Organization (WTO) General Council for discussion.<sup>924</sup> The Initiative called for greater cooperation and trade facilitation among WTO members in order to strengthen supply chains for medical supplies, medicines, and vaccines, such as through tariff reduction on medical goods and reducing export restrictions.<sup>925</sup>

On 29 January 2021, Minister Hajdu announced a bilateral agreement between the federal and Yukon governments to provide CAD3.12 million in funding so the territory can expand provision of virtual healthcare services to its residents.<sup>926</sup>

On 5 February 2021, Minister Hajdu announced a bilateral agreement with the provincial government of British Columbia which will provide CAD18 million in federal funding for the development and expansion of virtual healthcare accessibility.<sup>927</sup>

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<sup>918</sup> The Government of Canada is investing to safely restart the economy, while protecting the health of Canadians, Health Canada (Ottawa) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/07/the-government-of-canada-is-investing-to-safely-restart-the-economy-while-protecting-the-health-of-canadians.html>.

<sup>919</sup> The Government of Canada is investing to safely restart the economy, while protecting the health of Canadians, Health Canada (Ottawa) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/07/the-government-of-canada-is-investing-to-safely-restart-the-economy-while-protecting-the-health-of-canadians.html>.

<sup>920</sup> Government of Canada begins consultation to better ensure the continuity of supervised consumption sites and services in Canada, Health Canada (Ottawa) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/08/government-of-canada-begins-consultation-to-better-ensure-the-continuity-of-supervised-consumption-sites-and-services-in-canada.html>.

<sup>921</sup> Canada announces additional support for equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-additional-support-for-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>.

<sup>922</sup> Canada announces additional support for equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-additional-support-for-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>.

<sup>923</sup> Canada announces additional support for equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-additional-support-for-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>.

<sup>924</sup> Minister Ng announces tabling of Ottawa Group's Trade and Health Initiative at WTO General Council, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/minister-ng-announces-tabling-of-ottawa-groups-trade-and-health-initiative-at-wto-general-council.html>.

<sup>925</sup> Minister Ng announces tabling of Ottawa Group's Trade and Health Initiative at WTO General Council, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/minister-ng-announces-tabling-of-ottawa-groups-trade-and-health-initiative-at-wto-general-council.html>.

<sup>926</sup> Government of Canada Invests More Than \$3 Million to Virtual Health Care Services in Yukon, Health Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/01/government-of-canada-invests-more-than-3-million-to-virtual-health-care-services-in-yukon.html>.

Canada has taken many actions and committed funds throughout the cycle, particularly in the first few months of the pandemic, to strengthen both its domestic health systems and the health infrastructure of foreign countries. Domestically, Canada has invested in contact tracing initiatives, mental health, long-term care, overdose reduction, and increased personal protective equipment. Globally, Canada contributed to the WHO, Gavi, COVAX, and ACT-Accelerator, in order to provide equitable test and vaccine access, as well as access to information.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jonathan Ku*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to enhance efforts to strengthen health systems domestically and globally.

On 2 April 2020, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) approved the EUR1.2 billion COVID-19 – Health in Common Initiative which includes EUR150 million in donations and EUR1 billion in the form of loans to support healthcare systems in African countries.<sup>928</sup> This initiative aims to contribute to African countries' COVID-19 response plans, support French actors such as non-governmental organizations in their response to COVID-19, support budgets for supporting healthcare systems, and maintain regional surveillance networks.<sup>929</sup>

On 16 April 2020, the Government of France brought together the leaders of the World Health Organization (WHO), the Global Fund, the World Bank, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), the Medicines Patent Pool, Unitaid, and the Gavi Alliance, as well as the Chair of the Analysis, Research and Expert Committee Française Barré-Sinoussi for a conference.<sup>930</sup> The goal was to strengthen international coordination and create a multilateral initiative in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>931</sup>

On 24 April 2020, the Government of France, along with global health stakeholders and its European and WHO partners, set in motion the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.<sup>932</sup> The three objectives of this global cooperation platform include speeding up the production of vaccines, guaranteeing universal and equitable access to these vaccines, and bringing healthcare systems together against COVID-19 as well as other diseases.<sup>933</sup>

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<sup>927</sup> Government of Canada Invests \$18 Million to Virtual Health Care Services in British Columbia, Health Canada (Ottawa) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-invests-18-million-to-virtual-health-care-services-in-british-columbia.html>.

<sup>928</sup> France launches, via AFD, the “Covid-19 – Health in Common” initiative to support African countries, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/france-launches-afd-covid-19-health-common-initiative-support-african-countries>.

<sup>929</sup> France launches, via AFD, the “Covid-19 – Health in Common” initiative to support African countries, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/france-launches-afd-covid-19-health-common-initiative-support-african-countries>.

<sup>930</sup> France pledges EUR500 million against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

<sup>931</sup> France pledges EUR500 million against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

<sup>932</sup> France pledges EUR500 million against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

<sup>933</sup> France pledges EUR500 million against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

On 4 May 2020, the European Commission called for contributions to support the three aims of the ACT-Accelerator. France pledged to be among the leading contributors.<sup>934</sup> This action will support the WHO, increase vaccine research, ensure just access to COVID-19 solutions, and generate support for healthcare countries in under-developed countries.<sup>935</sup>

On 12 May 2020, the AFD approved 16 projects to receive an amount of EUR60 million in grants for African countries per the COVID-19 – Health in Common Initiative.<sup>936</sup> The goal is to strengthen health systems, support medical research, increase patient testing and treatment, and enable use of epidemiological surveillance in African countries.<sup>937</sup>

On 25 May 2020, Prime Minister Édouard Philippe promised “massive investments” and “radical changes” in French hospitals and pledged to take on EUR10 billions of hospital debt.<sup>938</sup> The goal is to support healthcare workers and allow healthcare systems to accept new loans for investments.

On 13 June 2020, France, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands signed a contract with AstraZeneca to supply vaccines against coronavirus to European citizens. This will allow for 400 million doses of the vaccine.<sup>939</sup>

On 25 June 2020, the Government of France pledged EUR90 million to a WHO research centre located in Lyon, along with EUR50 million to the WHO.<sup>940</sup> This contribution aims to support the WHO against coronavirus.

On 30 June 2020, the AFD and the Rwandan government signed an agreement allowing for a EUR40 million budget loan to help Rwanda fight the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>941</sup> This loan aims to increase the number of tests and laboratory equipment, to prevent infections via better infrastructure and personal protective equipment, and to improve treatment of sick patients.<sup>942</sup>

On 4 July 2020, the Ministry of the Interior announced in a press release that the Government of France will be mobilizing personnel and personal protective equipment to Guyana.<sup>943</sup> The objective is to provide health support to expand and strengthen capacities of hospitals in Guyana.

On 12 August 2020, the Government of France created a EUR100 million call for projects that strengthen industrial independence.<sup>944</sup> The Government of France is prioritizing projects in various sectors, including

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<sup>934</sup> France pledges EUR500 million against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

<sup>935</sup> France pledges EUR500 million against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

<sup>936</sup> AFD’s response to the Covid-19 crisis, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 14 May 2020. Access date: 24 February 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/afds-response-covid-19-crisis>.

<sup>937</sup> AFD’s response to the Covid-19 crisis, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 14 May 2020. Access date: 24 February 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/afds-response-covid-19-crisis>.

<sup>938</sup> Covid-19: France’s health workers to get ‘significant’ pay rises, France24 (Paris) 25 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200525-france-s-health-workers-to-get-significant-pay-rises-after-coronavirus-pandemic>.

<sup>939</sup> Italy, Germany, France and the Netherlands sign contract with AstraZeneca for COVID vaccine, Reuters (Rome) 13 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-vaccines/italy-germany-france-and-netherlands-sign-contract-with-astrazeneca-for-covid-vaccine-idUKL8N2DQQA1>.

<sup>940</sup> Germany and France Promise New Financial Support to World Health Organization, NPR 25 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/06/25/883302474/germany-and-france-promise-new-financial-support-to-world-health-organization>.

<sup>941</sup> AFD returns to Rwanda to join in the fight against Covid-19, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 1 August 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/afd-returns-rwanda-join-fight-against-covid-19>.

<sup>942</sup> AFD returns to Rwanda to join in the fight against Covid-19, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 1 August 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/afd-returns-rwanda-join-fight-against-covid-19>.

<sup>943</sup> Soutien sanitaire à la situation épidémique en Guyane, Ministère de L’Intérieur (Paris) 5 July 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/Actualites/L-actu-du-Ministere/Soutien-sanitaire-a-la-situation-epidemie-en-Guyane>.

projects that serve to support the healthcare system. The goal is to decrease dependence on non-European suppliers and to strengthen production in France and in Europe, thus focusing on domestic and European production capacities to support healthcare systems and their responses to COVID-19.<sup>945</sup>

On 3 September 2020, the Government of France announced a EUR100 billion plan to relaunch the economy, in which EUR6 billion will be invested into the country's health-care system.<sup>946</sup>

On 23 September 2020, the AFD announced that it will provide EUR5.3 million to the Cuban Ministry of Public Health.<sup>947</sup> The goal of this funding is to help Cuba respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by providing resources such as ventilators, protective kits, and testing supplies.<sup>948</sup>

On 13 October 2020, France launched a flu vaccine campaign in which medical staff are told to reserve flu vaccines for priority patients, such as those over 65 years old, pregnant women, and people suffering from respiratory diseases and other illnesses.<sup>949</sup> This campaign is designed to address potential shortages of the flu vaccine, and to avoid confronting another epidemic peak.<sup>950</sup>

On 15 December 2020, the AFD announced that it will provide EUR2 million in emergency funding to the 12 Pacific Island countries and territories.<sup>951</sup> This funding aims to establish strong public health surveillance and access to a range of services to help monitor diseases.<sup>952</sup>

On 18 February 2021, France committed to donating five per cent of its COVID-19 vaccine supplies to poorer countries via the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility.<sup>953</sup>

France fully complied with its commitment to strengthening health systems domestically and globally. France invested in its own healthcare systems through taking on hospital debt and investing in its industrial independence, including in healthcare systems. It also invested in COVAX, and is a leading contributor to ACT-Accelerator, in addition to providing loans which aim to strengthen healthcare systems globally.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Pantéa Jamshidi Nouri*

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<sup>944</sup> Call for projects on creation of value in France and Europe, Gouvernement (Paris) 12 August 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/call-for-projects-on-creation-of-value-in-france-and-europe>.

<sup>945</sup> Call for projects on creation of value in France and Europe, Gouvernement (Paris) 12 August 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/call-for-projects-on-creation-of-value-in-france-and-europe>.

<sup>946</sup> France Reveals USD118 Billion Plan to Relaunch Economy, The Wall Street Journal (Paris) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/france-reveals-118-billion-plan-to-relaunch-economy-11599151784>.

<sup>947</sup> Cuba: Concrete actions against Covid-19, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/cuba-concrete-action-against-covid-19>.

<sup>948</sup> Cuba: Concrete actions against Covid-19, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/cuba-concrete-action-against-covid-19>.

<sup>949</sup> France launches flu vaccine campaign amid COVID-19 crisis, Associated Press (Paris) 13 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/virus-outbreak-pandemics-epidemics-flu-france-cba5c0b500dc87947e4c3da3c4711df2>.

<sup>950</sup> France launches flu vaccine campaign amid COVID-19 crisis, Associated Press (Paris) 13 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/virus-outbreak-pandemics-epidemics-flu-france-cba5c0b500dc87947e4c3da3c4711df2>.

<sup>951</sup> Emergency support to Pacific Island countries to contain Covid-19 and emerging diseases, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/emergency-support-pacific-island-countries-contain-covid-19-and-emerging-diseases>.

<sup>952</sup> Emergency support to Pacific Island countries to contain Covid-19 and emerging diseases, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/emergency-support-pacific-island-countries-contain-covid-19-and-emerging-diseases>.

<sup>953</sup> France to Donate 5% of Its Vaccine Doses to Poorer Countries, Bloomberg 18 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-18/france-to-donate-5-of-its-vaccine-doses-to-poorer-countries>.



## Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to enhance efforts to strengthen health systems domestically and globally.

On 19 March 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs Heiko Maas met with Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Toshimitsu Motegi via telephone to discuss strengthening their countries' partnership in aiding the global response to COVID-19.<sup>954</sup> Both countries expressed their intent to “work closely together ... in the exchange of information” to advance research and development projects for treatments and vaccines against the virus.<sup>955</sup>

On 25 March 2020, Minister Maas met virtually with his G7 counterparts and issued a statement which outlined the need for solidarity and cooperation among G7 members.<sup>956</sup> The ministers agreed that response to the pandemic needed to focus on “the immediate health-related consequences of the coronavirus and contain its spread through international cooperation in the development and provision of medicines and vaccines, and also through our support for the countries in the world that are the least well equipped to respond to the virus,” as well as managing the economic consequences of the pandemic.<sup>957</sup>

On 27 March 2020, the German Federal Council approved a two-fold legislative package that includes the COVID-19 Hospital Relief Act and the Civil Protection Act.<sup>958</sup> The COVID-19 Hospital Relief Act aims to ease the financial burdens of containing the virus on hospitals and other healthcare facilities through provision of EUR2.8 billion for 2020.<sup>959</sup> In addition to the efforts of the relief act, the Civil Protection Act grants the German Ministry of Health powers to make decisions regarding protection of health in moments of national crises; including the administration of restrictions to international travel and building short-term medical facilities.<sup>960</sup>

As of April 2020, the Government of Germany has collaborated with World Health Organization (WHO) members and global health partners in launching the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.<sup>961</sup> The ACT-Accelerator seeks to support coordination of global health initiatives that will guarantee accelerated, equitable, and safe deployment of COVID-19 testing kits and vaccines.<sup>962</sup> Since the launch, Germany has

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<sup>954</sup> Minister Maas and Minister Motegi Discuss COVID-19 Partnership, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Berlin) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/newsroom/maas-motegi/2321406>.

<sup>955</sup> Minister Maas and Minister Motegi Discuss COVID-19 Partnership, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Berlin) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/newsroom/maas-motegi/2321406>.

<sup>956</sup> Statement from Minister Maas Following G7 Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Berlin) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2328788>.

<sup>957</sup> Statement from Minister Maas Following G7 Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Berlin) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2328788>.

<sup>958</sup> Federal Council Approves COVID-19 Legislative Package, Ministry of Health (Berlin) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/1-quartal/corona-gesetzpaket-im-bundesrat.html>.

<sup>959</sup> Federal Council Approves COVID-19 Legislative Package, Ministry of Health (Berlin) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/1-quartal/corona-gesetzpaket-im-bundesrat.html>.

<sup>960</sup> Federal Council Approves “Civil Protections Act,” Ministry of Health (Berlin) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/1-quartal/corona-gesetzpaket-im-bundesrat.html>.

<sup>961</sup> G7 leaders commit US\$ 4.3 billion to finance global equitable access to tests, treatments and vaccines in 2021, WHO (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 20 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>962</sup> The ACT-Accelerator, WHO 24 April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator/about>.

committed USD1.8 billion in funding to support the ACT-Accelerator in areas including COVID-19 testing, treatments, vaccine development, and enhancements to global health networks.<sup>963</sup>

As of 6 June 2020, Germany has partnered with Latin America and the Caribbean to aid in regional response to the pandemic.<sup>964</sup> Ahead of a conference with Latin American and Caribbean foreign ministers on 3 June 2020, Minister Maas reiterated the significance of Germany's role in providing financial and institutional support to Latin American and Caribbean healthcare initiatives amid the ongoing pandemic.<sup>965</sup>

On 5 September 2020, Germany, along with fellow European Union members, participated as regional coordinators in the 13th annual Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), hosted by the Cambodian Minister of Foreign Affairs to discuss collaborations with ASEM partners in rectifying global health management disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>966</sup>

On 6 October 2020, Germany, along with other G7 and EU members, ratified financial pledges made in support of the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Advance Market Commitment (AMC); a financial aid mechanism that supports low- and middle-income economies in obtaining equitable access to vaccine resources.<sup>967</sup> Germany has fulfilled its commitment made at the 4 June 2020 Global Vaccine Summit, to provide EUR100 million towards the advancement of the COVAX AMC.<sup>968</sup>

On 12 November 2020, the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development in partnership with the Global Fund, signed an "additional contribution agreement," committing EUR150 million to the fund's COVID-19 Response Mechanism.<sup>969</sup> Germany's increased contribution furthers the efforts of the Response Mechanism in aiding low- and middle-income countries to alleviate impacts of COVID-19 on developing health systems.<sup>970</sup>

As of 5 January 2021, the Ministry of Health launched the "Alliance for Health Competence," in partnership with Bielefeld University and additional stakeholders, to enhance the general health literacy of German citizens.<sup>971</sup> This alliance will strengthen the population's ability to find, understand and use health

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<sup>963</sup> G7 leaders commit US\$ 4.3 billion to finance global equitable access to tests, treatments and vaccines in 2021, WHO (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 20 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>964</sup> Minister Maas Invites LAC Counterparts to Discuss Covid Responses, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Berlin) 3 June 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/newsroom/maas-lateinamerik-karibik-covid-19/2346676>.

<sup>965</sup> Minister Maas Invites LAC Counterparts to Discuss Covid Responses, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Berlin) 3 June 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/newsroom/maas-lateinamerik-karibik-covid-19/2346676>.

<sup>966</sup> Germany Participates in Declaration of the ASEM to the Coronavirus, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Berlin) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/newsroom/asem-coronavirus/2381540>.

<sup>967</sup> Germany Pledges Funding Towards COVAX AMC, The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/countries-pledge-nearly-us-1-billion-support-equitable-access-covid-19-vaccines>.

<sup>968</sup> Germany Pledges Funding Towards COVAX AMC, The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/countries-pledge-nearly-us-1-billion-support-equitable-access-covid-19-vaccines>.

<sup>969</sup> Germany Signs Additional Contribution Agreement, The Global Fund (Geneva) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 20 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>970</sup> Germany's Contribution to Response Mechanism, The Global Fund (Geneva) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 20 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>971</sup> Alliance for Health Competence, Ministry of Health (Berlin) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/gesundheitskompetenz/allianz-fuer-gesundheitskompetenz.html>.

information.<sup>972</sup> The central topics of the alliance are: digitalization, organizational health literacy, health literacy of vulnerable groups and communication of health professionals.<sup>973</sup>

As of February 2021, the WHO Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE) updated their annual report on funding contributions of members, citing that Germany has contributed a total of USD4,506,001 in 2020.<sup>974</sup> The CFE aids in the WHO's rapid response to emergencies pertaining to global health, and reinforces the organization's ability to adequately provide resources to contain and mitigate the impacts of infectious disease outbreak.<sup>975</sup>

Germany has taken measures to strengthen health systems both domestically and globally. Domestically, Germany has invested in health literacy, and easing financial burden on domestic health systems. Globally it has contributed significantly to ACT-Accelerator, Gavi, COVAX, and the WHO CFE, which ensures sustained contribution to global health systems improvement, as well as equitable access to tests, vaccines, and information.

Thus, Germany has received a compliance score of +1.

*Analyst: Theresa Jones*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to strengthening its healthcare system at home.

On 16 March 2020, the Italian government presented a EUR25 million package as a part of the “Cure Italy” Decree, intended to strengthen the health care system and support the economy.<sup>976</sup> Of this funding EUR3.2 billion was directed to strengthening the National Health System and the Civil Protection Department, which involved hiring additional medical staff and purchasing medical protection equipment.<sup>977</sup>

On 25 April 2020, Italy joined the United Nations and the World Health Organization in the global effort to develop a vaccine for the novel coronavirus.<sup>978</sup> The global coordination effort was formed to ensure the accelerated development and equitable allocation of coronavirus diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines.<sup>979</sup>

On 13 May 2020, the Italian government allocated EUR3.25 million to the National Health Service in their “relaunch decree.”<sup>980</sup> The funding from the decree is to be used to upgrade the hospital network, increasing emergency room beds, and freeing up funds for new hires in the medical field and specialization grants.<sup>981</sup>

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<sup>972</sup> Alliance for Health Competence, Ministry of Health (Berlin) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/gesundheitskompetenz/allianz-fuer-gesundheitskompetenz.html>.

<sup>973</sup> Alliance for Health Competence, Ministry of Health (Berlin) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/gesundheitskompetenz/allianz-fuer-gesundheitskompetenz.html>.

<sup>974</sup> Germany Contributes to CFE, CFE WHO 18 February 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/funding/contingency-fund-for-emergencies>.

<sup>975</sup> Germany Contributes to CFE, CFE WHO 18 February 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/funding/contingency-fund-for-emergencies>.

<sup>976</sup> Protect health, support the economy, preserve employment levels and incomes, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/Protect-health-support-the-economy-preserve-employment-levels-and-incomes-00001/>.

<sup>977</sup> Protect health, support the economy, preserve employment levels and incomes, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2020. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/Protect-health-support-the-economy-preserve-employment-levels-and-incomes-00001/>.

<sup>978</sup> UN and WHO launch international alliance to accelerate vaccine against Covid-19, Ministry of Health (Rome) 25 April 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4599](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4599).

<sup>979</sup> Commitment and call to action: Global collaboration to accelerate new COVID-19 health technologies, World Health Organization (Geneva) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/24-04-2020-commitment-and-call-to-action-global-collaboration-to-accelerate-new-covid-19-health-technologies>.

On 30 July 2020, Italy dispatched a team of seven units of doctors and nurses, as well as 500 thousand medical masks, to Albania to help support the country during their COVID-19 emergency.<sup>982</sup> The team of medical professionals were to carry out consultancy and assistance activities and provide training on specific health aspects of diagnosis and treatment for COVID-19.<sup>983</sup>

On 26 August 2020, the Italian government announced the “August Decree,” the third emergency funding measure to support the country during the coronavirus pandemic.<sup>984</sup> The Decree set aside an additional EUR25 billion in funding, parts of which were to go to the healthcare system to cut down waiting lists and pursue new research.<sup>985</sup> An additional EUR1 billion was allocated to help provide schools with extra resources to reopen safely.<sup>986</sup>

On 14 September 2020, the Ministry of Health announced the “Match at Home” project, intended to allow people to register as bone marrow donors from their homes by distributing at-home typing kits.<sup>987</sup> This new project was motivated by the 60 per cent decrease in the number of new bone marrow donors during the time of the pandemic.<sup>988</sup>

On 23 September 2020, the Italian Ministry of Health announced that it had distributed over 135 million surgical masks and over 600 thousand litres of sanitizing gel to schools to ensure a safe return to schools for children and teachers.<sup>989</sup>

On 28 October 2020, Italy formally joined the Coalition of Innovations for Disease Preparation and announced that they had made the first of two contributions of EUR5 million to support the coalition and

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<sup>980</sup> Relaunch decree, Speranza: “Three billion and 250 million for the NHS,” Ministry of Health (Rome) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4749](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4749).

<sup>981</sup> Relaunch decree, Speranza: “Three billion and 250 million for the NHS,” Ministry of Health (Rome) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4749](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4749).

<sup>982</sup> Coronavirus: a team of Italian doctors and nurses in Albania, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 30 July 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stamp/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/coronavirus-una-squadra-di-medici-e-infermieri-italiani-in-albania.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stamp/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/coronavirus-una-squadra-di-medici-e-infermieri-italiani-in-albania.html).

<sup>983</sup> Coronavirus: a team of Italian doctors and nurses in Albania, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 30 July 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stamp/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/coronavirus-una-squadra-di-medici-e-infermieri-italiani-in-albania.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stamp/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/coronavirus-una-squadra-di-medici-e-infermieri-italiani-in-albania.html).

<sup>984</sup> The ‘August’ Decree. Southern Italy, businesses and work: 25 billion to help Italy recover, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 26 August 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/The-AUGUST-Decree-00001.-Southern-Italy-businesses-and-work-25-billion-to-help-Italy-recover/>.

<sup>985</sup> The ‘August’ Decree. Southern Italy, businesses and work: 25 billion to help Italy recover, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 26 August 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/The-AUGUST-Decree-00001.-Southern-Italy-businesses-and-work-25-billion-to-help-Italy-recover/>.

<sup>986</sup> The ‘August’ Decree. Southern Italy, businesses and work: 25 billion to help Italy recover, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 26 August 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/The-AUGUST-Decree-00001.-Southern-Italy-businesses-and-work-25-billion-to-help-Italy-recover/>.

<sup>987</sup> “Match at Home” starts the project to become a bone marrow donor while staying at home, Ministry of Health (Rome) 14 September 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5055](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5055).

<sup>988</sup> “Match at Home” starts the project to become a bone marrow donor while staying at home, Ministry of Health (Rome) 14 September 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5055](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5055).

<sup>989</sup> Back to school, more than 135 million surgical masks and 600,000 liters of gel distributed, Ministry of Health (Rome) 23 September 2020. Access date: 15 March 2021. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5070](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5070).

the development of a COVID-19 vaccine.<sup>990</sup> This investment will help support investments in COVID-19 vaccine candidates and different vaccine technologies.

On 10 December 2020, the Government of Italy released the “Ristori Decree,” which involved EUR18 billion to help the country cope with new shutdowns associated with the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic.<sup>991</sup> As a part of this decree, additional funds were set aside for the health systems to help boost human resources in the health system, provide additional funds for the purchase and distribution of medicine, and publish monitoring results regarding data on COVID-19.<sup>992</sup>

Italy has taken action to strengthen health systems domestically and globally. Through the series of funding measures over the past year, the country has made sure that its health system continues to function throughout the coronavirus pandemic. Additionally, Italy’s participation in the COVAX initiative has helped to strengthen the global vaccination effort, putting the country in full compliance with their health commitment.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Avigail Rucker*

### **Japan +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to enhance efforts to strengthen health systems domestically and globally.

On 26 March 2020, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced the decision to establish a national headquarters for countermeasures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>993</sup> Additionally, each prefectural governor is required to set up a response headquarters in each prefecture, so that the government can work together in a more integrated manner to monitor the spread of COVID-19.<sup>994</sup>

On 27 March 2020, Prime Minister Abe announced that the Government of Japan has created a new healthcare and medical strategy that is focused on promoting the development of medical research and vaccines, developing private-sector services aimed at preventative care and promoting health, and promoting the Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative and the Africa Health and Wellbeing Initiative.<sup>995</sup>

On 27 March 2020, the Government of Japan secured a USD476 million contribution to the Global Fund.<sup>996</sup> This contribution enables the delivery of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test kits, personal protective equipment, and strengthens disease surveillance systems.<sup>997</sup>

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<sup>990</sup> Covid-19, towards the vaccine. Italy joins the Coalition of Innovations for Preparing for Epidemics, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021.

[https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stamp/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/10/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-alla-coalizione-delle-innovazioni-per-la-preparazione-alle-epidemie.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stamp/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/10/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-alla-coalizione-delle-innovazioni-per-la-preparazione-alle-epidemie.html).

<sup>991</sup> Italy’s ‘Ristori’ decrees: measures to help those in difficulty, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/covid-19/decreti-ristori.html>.

<sup>992</sup> Italy’s ‘Ristori’ decrees: measures to help those in difficulty, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/covid-19/decreti-ristori.html>.

<sup>993</sup> 23rd Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/202003/\\_00041.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202003/_00041.html).

<sup>994</sup> 23rd Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/202003/\\_00041.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202003/_00041.html).

<sup>995</sup> Headquarters for Healthcare Policy, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/202003/\\_00044.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202003/_00044.html).

<sup>996</sup> Japan Secures \$476 million Contribution to the Global Fund, The Global Fund (Tokyo) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/news/2020-03-27-japan-secures-usd476-million-contribution-to-the-global-fund/>.

On 31 March 2020, the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry sent a newly developed rapid virus detector “GeneSoC” to 16 medical institutions throughout the country.<sup>998</sup> The goal of deploying this detector create a screening system for COVID-19 and to confirm the effectiveness of GeneSoC.<sup>999</sup>

On 1 April 2020, Prime Minister Abe announced that 15 million surgical masks were distributed to medical institutions throughout the country, and that the Government of Japan will provide an additional 15 million masks by the next week.<sup>1000</sup>

On 6 April 2020, Prime Minister Abe announced that the Government of Japan will double PCR screening capacity to 20,000 each day, increase the number of hospital beds from 28,000 to 50,000, and secure 15,000 ventilators while further increasing production.<sup>1001</sup>

On 7 April 2020, the Government of Japan provided an emergency grant of USD1 million to countries with COVID-19 patients interested in expanding Japan’s clinical research on Avigan, an antiviral medication.<sup>1002</sup>

On 16 April 2020, Prime Minister Abe held a meeting with companies involved in the increased production of personal protective equipment and other supplies and announced that the Government of Japan has been delivering personal protective equipment, including 45 million surgical masks, to hospitals throughout Japan.<sup>1003</sup> The Prime Minister also announced that the Government of Japan has secured a budget of JPY250 billion to secure more personal protective equipment.<sup>1004</sup>

On 8 May 2020, the Government of Japan committed USD100 million in funding to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.<sup>1005</sup> The donation will help the immunization of 300 million children over the course of five years and will secure global, equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.<sup>1006</sup>

On 21 May 2020, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry supported seven research and development projects aimed at addressing the coronavirus.<sup>1007</sup>

On 4 June 2020, the Government of Japan attended the Global Vaccine Summit and pledged USD300 million to Gavi for 2021-2025 in order to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.<sup>1008</sup>

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<sup>997</sup> Japan Secures \$476 million Contribution to the Global Fund, The Global Fund (Tokyo) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/news/2020-03-27-japan-secures-usd476-million-contribution-to-the-global-fund/>.

<sup>998</sup> Rapid Virus Detector “GeneSoC” Introduced to 16 Medical Institutions Nationwide, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_002.html).

<sup>999</sup> Rapid Virus Detector “GeneSoC” Introduced to 16 Medical Institutions Nationwide, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0331_002.html).

<sup>1000</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/202004/\\_00001.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202004/_00001.html).

<sup>1001</sup> Japan to Raise PCR Test Capacity to 20,000 per Day: Abe, Nippon.com (Osaka) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yjj2020040600825/japan-to-raise-pcr-test-capacity-to-20-000-per-day-abe.html>.

<sup>1002</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: 24 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000149.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000149.html).

<sup>1003</sup> Second Meeting with Companies Contributing to the Increased Production of Personal Protective Equipment and Other Supplies (Tokyo) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/202004/\\_00023.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202004/_00023.html).

<sup>1004</sup> Second Meeting with Companies Contributing to the Increased Production of Personal Protective Equipment and Other Supplies (Tokyo) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/202004/\\_00023.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202004/_00023.html).

<sup>1005</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>1006</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>1007</sup> Measure for Supporting Organizations in Advancing Research and Development of Technologies for Addressing the Novel Coronavirus 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).

On 29 June 2020, the Government of Japan provided a USD4 million grant to Ethiopia to aid in Ethiopia's COVID-19 response.<sup>1009</sup> The assistance will provide critical supplies necessary to prevent infections, supply water and sanitation services, promote hygiene, raising public awareness about the coronavirus pandemic, and train health care workers.<sup>1010</sup>

On 28 August 2020, Prime Minister Abe held a meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters to announce that the Government of Japan will be amending government ordinances to ease the stress placed on public health centers and medical institutions, and to make certain that hospital beds are used more efficiently.<sup>1011</sup> The Government of Japan will also implement regular screening for those working at medical institutions in areas experiencing rapid spread of infections.<sup>1012</sup>

On 25 September 2020, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga announced that the Government of Japan will be securing approximately 200,000 tests per day at medical institutions in order to maintain medical treatment structures.<sup>1013</sup>

On 29 September 2020, the Government of Japan contributed approximately USD1.6 billion to support the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) COVID-19 emergency response to support healthcare workers during the pandemic.<sup>1014</sup> The donation will facilitate and increase delivery of personal protective equipment, train workers on infection prevention and disease control, and secure access to healthcare services.<sup>1015</sup>

On 8 October 2020, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Toshimitsu Motegi announced that Japan pledges a contribution of USD130 million to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Advance Market Commitment (AMC) to ensure that countries have equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.<sup>1016</sup>

On 4 December 2020, Prime Minister Suga announced the implementation of the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan of up to JPY500 billion over the course of two years to boost economic activity in developing countries.<sup>1017</sup>

On 22 January 2021, Prime Minister Suga announced that the Government of Japan signed contracts to receive 314 million doses of vaccines and urged local governments to prepare for swift vaccine rollouts.<sup>1018</sup>

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<sup>1008</sup> Japan, GAVI The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/investing-gavi/funding/donor-profiles/japan>.

<sup>1009</sup> Japan gives UNICEF over USD 4 million for its COVID-19 response in Ethiopia, UNICEF (Addis Ababa) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/ethiopia/press-releases/japan-gives-unicef-over-usd-4-million-its-covid-19-response-ethiopia>.

<sup>1010</sup> Japan gives UNICEF over USD 4 million for its COVID-19 response in Ethiopia, UNICEF (Addis Ababa) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/ethiopia/press-releases/japan-gives-unicef-over-usd-4-million-its-covid-19-response-ethiopia>.

<sup>1011</sup> 42<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 28 August 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/202008/\\_00016.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202008/_00016.html).

<sup>1012</sup> 42<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 28 August 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/202008/\\_00016.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202008/_00016.html).

<sup>1013</sup> 43<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99\\_suga/actions/202009/\\_00017.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202009/_00017.html).

<sup>1014</sup> Japan contributes nearly \$1.6 million to UNICEF's COVID-19 response in Egypt, UNICEF (Cairo) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/egypt/press-releases/japan-contributes-nearly-16-million-unicefs-covid-19-response-egypt>.

<sup>1015</sup> Japan contributes nearly \$1.6 million to UNICEF's COVID-19 response in Egypt, UNICEF (Cairo) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/egypt/press-releases/japan-contributes-nearly-16-million-unicefs-covid-19-response-egypt>.

<sup>1016</sup> Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu co-hosted Ministerial Meeting of Group of Friends of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002929.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002929.html).

<sup>1017</sup> Address by Prime Minister SUGA at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e\\_000292.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e_000292.html).

Japan fully complied with its commitment to strengthen health systems and did so domestically and globally. Japan invested in domestic health systems by instituting a national headquarters for COVID-19 countermeasures, by increasing hospital beds, ventilators, and personal protective equipment, as well as by ensuring efficient use of tests and equipment. Globally, Japan contributed to the UNICEF COVID-19 emergency response and Gavi, to support healthcare workers and promote equitable vaccine access, respectively.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Pantéa Jamshidi Nouri*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to enhance efforts to strengthen health systems domestically and globally.

On 17 March 2020, Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock announced plans for emergency measures that would reduce legislative and administrative barriers for workers and volunteers in the National Health Service (NHS) in order to improve staffing flexibility in COVID-19 response.<sup>1019</sup>

On 19 March 2020, the UK Government promised GBP2.9 billion in funding for the country's health services, with GBP1.6 billion going to local authorities to provide health services during COVID-19, while GBP1.3 billion went to enhancing the NHS discharge process in order to increase hospital capacity.<sup>1020</sup>

On 21 March 2020, the UK Government announced an initiative to communicate safety guidelines to 1.5 million individuals with health conditions which make them vulnerable to COVID-19, and to set up a Local Support System to ensure the accommodation of vulnerable self-isolating populations.<sup>1021</sup>

On 26 March 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced GBP210 million in funding for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness (CEPI), to accelerate the development of globally accessible vaccines.<sup>1022</sup>

On 2 April 2020, the Department of Health and Social Care pledged GBP300 million to community pharmacies to ensure continued supply of medicine and medical services.<sup>1023</sup>

On 12 April 2020, International Development Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan announced GBP200 million in support of developing countries' healthcare systems, to be distributed through UN agencies and the World Health Organization (WHO).<sup>1024</sup>

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<sup>1018</sup> 53<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 22 January 2021. Access Date 24 February 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99\\_suga/actions/202101/\\_00019.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202101/_00019.html).

<sup>1019</sup> Emergency bill to strengthen coronavirus (COVID-19) response plans, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/emergency-bill-to-strengthen-coronavirus-covid-19-response-plans>.

<sup>1020</sup> £2.9 billion funding to strengthen care for the vulnerable, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2-9-billion-funding-to-strengthen-care-for-the-vulnerable>.

<sup>1021</sup> Major new measures to protect people at highest risk from coronavirus, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-new-measures-to-protect-people-at-highest-risk-from-coronavirus>.

<sup>1022</sup> PM announces record funding to find a coronavirus vaccine, Department for International Development (London) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-record-funding-to-find-a-coronavirus-vaccine>.

<sup>1023</sup> £300 million announced for community pharmacies to support them during coronavirus outbreak, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/300-million-announced-for-community-pharmacies-to-support-them-during-coronavirus-outbreak>.



On 23 April 2020, the Department of Health and Social Care began a campaign to recruit new healthcare staff and improve the training of existing adult social care providers.<sup>1025</sup>

On 29 April 2020, Secretary Trevelyan announced a pledge of GBP330 million to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance per year for the next five years, which will ensure immunisation programs continue in developing countries.<sup>1026</sup>

On 5 May 2020, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab condemned cyberattacks which target global health facilities and advised domestic healthcare and medical research staff on cybersecurity strategies.<sup>1027</sup>

On 20 May 2020, the Department for International Development pledged GBP20 million to support the African Union COVID-19 Response Fund by recruiting African health experts.<sup>1028</sup>

On 26 May 2020, the UK Government announced deals with over one hundred global and domestic suppliers of personal protective equipment to meet heightened demand due to the pandemic.<sup>1029</sup>

On 2 June 2020, Secretary Raab announced a GBP160 million aid package to address humanitarian needs in Yemen by ensuring the supply of medical services and healthcare workers.<sup>1030</sup>

On 30 June 2020, the Department for International Development promised at least GBP300 million in funding to support vulnerable Syrians during the pandemic by training health workers and providing medical supplies in Syria.<sup>1031</sup>

On 10 August 2020, the UK Government announced GBP172 million to expand the hiring of healthcare providers, with up to two thousand new nursing apprenticeships annually for four years.<sup>1032</sup>

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<sup>1024</sup> UK leads global fight to prevent second wave of coronavirus, Department for International Development (London) 12 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-leads-global-fight-to-prevent-second-wave-of-coronavirus>.

<sup>1025</sup> Adult social care recruitment care campaign launched to boost workforce, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/adult-social-care-recruitment-care-campaign-launched-to-boost-workforce>.

<sup>1026</sup> UK leads global fight to protect up to 75 million children against deadly diseases, Department for International Development (London) 29 April 2020. Access Date 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-leads-global-fight-to-protect-up-to-75-million-children-against-deadly-diseases>.

<sup>1027</sup> UK condemns cyber actors seeking to benefit from global coronavirus pandemic, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-condemns-cyber-actors-seeking-to-benefit-from-global-coronavirus-pandemic>.

<sup>1028</sup> UK to work with African Union to slow spread of coronavirus in Africa, Department for International Development (London) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-work-with-african-union-to-slow-spread-of-coronavirus-in-africa>.

<sup>1029</sup> Government significantly boosts UK PPE supply with more than 100 new deals, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 26 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-significantly-boosts-uk-ppe-supply-with-more-than-100-new-deals>.

<sup>1030</sup> Yemen: new UK aid will help stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London) 2 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/yemen-new-uk-aid-will-help-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus>.

<sup>1031</sup> UK pledges support for Syrians facing twin threat of conflict and coronavirus, Department for International Development (London) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-pledges-support-for-syrians-facing-twin-threat-of-conflict-and-coronavirus>.

<sup>1032</sup> New funding to double nursing apprentices and help deliver 50,000 more nurses, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 August 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-funding-to-double-nursing-apprentices-and-help-deliver-50-000-more-nurses>.

On 18 August 2020, the UK Government began the creation of the National Institute for Health Protection, scheduled for introduction in spring of 2021, to combine existing health organizations under one leadership and streamline the response to COVID-19.<sup>1033</sup>

On 17 September 2020, the UK Government promised GBP546 million in funding for the country's Infection Control Fund, with the goal of limiting the spread of COVID-19 over the winter by supporting staff self-isolation and wages.<sup>1034</sup>

On 10 December 2020, the UK Government announced a GBP600 million investment plan for the maintenance and refurbishment of NHS facilities.<sup>1035</sup>

The United Kingdom has provided substantial sums to NGOs and foreign countries to strengthen health services and has also invested in its domestic healthcare sector. The UK has strengthened domestic health systems through investment in improved infrastructure in the NHS, increased staffing flexibility in the NHS, and the creation of the National Institute for Health Protection. Globally, it has contributed to Gavi and CEPI, and the African Union COVID-19 Response Fund, to ensure equitable vaccine and immunisation access, and recruit African health experts, respectively.

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

*Analyst: Jonathan Ku*

### **United States + 1**

The United States has fully complied with its commitments to enhance efforts to strengthen health systems domestically and globally.

On 18 March 2020, President Donald Trump signed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act which seeks to ensure advancement of free rapid COVID-19 testing, emergency sick-leave benefits, and supplemental food security resources for employed American citizens and veterans impacted by the virus.<sup>1036</sup>

On 27 March 2020, the United States Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act later enacted by President Trump, wherein approximately USD2 trillion in funding will be allocated to support efforts to economic recovery, public health systems, local governments, and citizens impacted throughout the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.<sup>1037</sup>

In April 2020, the U.S. pledged financial aid towards the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.<sup>1038</sup> The ACT-Accelerator seeks to support coordination of global health initiatives that will guarantee accelerated,

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<sup>1033</sup> Government creates new National Institute for Health Protection, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 18 August 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-creates-new-national-institute-for-health-protection>.

<sup>1034</sup> More than £500 million for social care to reduce coronavirus transmission over winter, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-than-500-million-for-social-care-to-reduce-coronavirus-transmission-over-winter>.

<sup>1035</sup> Build back better: £600 million to upgrade and refurbish NHS hospitals, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/build-back-better-600-million-to-upgrade-and-refurbish-nhs-hospitals>.

<sup>1036</sup> FFCRA, The United States Congress (Washington D.C.) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6201/text>.

<sup>1037</sup> CARES Act, The United States Congress (Washington D.C.) 27 March 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3548/text>.

<sup>1038</sup> G7 leaders commit US\$ 4.3 billion to finance global equitable access to tests, treatments and vaccines in 2021, WHO (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 20 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>.

equitable, and safe deployment of COVID-19 testing kits and vaccines.<sup>1039</sup> Since the launch, the United States has committed USD2 billion in funding to support both the ACT-Accelerator and the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Advance Market Commitment (AMC), in areas of COVID-19 testing, treatment, vaccine development, and enhancement to global health networks.<sup>1040</sup>

On 23 April 2020, U.S. Congress passed the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, which former President Donald Trump executively signed on 24 April 2020.<sup>1041</sup> This act pledges approximately USD500 billion to advance health systems funding in areas such as COVID-19 testing resources, reimbursements for healthcare workers, and increased wage subsidy loans for rural and minority small business owners.<sup>1042</sup>

On May 15, 2020, the Trump Administration announced the national vaccine development program, Operation Warp Speed, to secure “substantial quantities of a safe and effective vaccine available for Americans by January 2021.”<sup>1043</sup> This will be achieved through facilitating, “at an unprecedented pace, the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 countermeasures,” between the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institutes of Health, the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, the Department of Defense; private firms; and other federal agencies, including the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Veterans Affairs.<sup>1044</sup>

In July 2020, the US Government through HHS in coordination with the Department of Defense announced their partnership with U.S.-based pharmaceutical corporation Pfizer Inc. to secure the production and initial deployment of 100 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine nationally.<sup>1045</sup> Through this licensure, the U.S. Government is able to request an additional 500 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine, to further mitigate the impact of the coronavirus domestically, in compliance with its Operation Warp Speed commitments.<sup>1046</sup>

On 20 January 2021, President Joe Biden announced that the United States would return to being a member of the World Health Organization (WHO), reversing measures taken by President Trump to withdraw U.S. membership.<sup>1047</sup> In a letter addressed to Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres,

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<sup>1039</sup> The ACT-Accelerator, WHO 24 April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator/about>.

<sup>1040</sup> G7 leaders commit US\$ 4.3 billion to finance global equitable access to tests, treatments and vaccines in 2021, WHO (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 20 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>1041</sup> Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, The United States Congress (Washington D.C.) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/266>.

<sup>1042</sup> Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, The United States Congress (Washington D.C.) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/266>.

<sup>1043</sup> The Trump Administration Announces OWS, The Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/15/trump-administration-announces-framework-and-leadership-for-operation-warp-speed.html>.

<sup>1044</sup> The Trump Administration Announces OWS, The Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/15/trump-administration-announces-framework-and-leadership-for-operation-warp-speed.html>.

<sup>1045</sup> US Government Secures Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine, US Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/07/22/us-government-engages-pfizer-produce-millions-doses-covid-19-vaccine.html>.

<sup>1046</sup> US Government Secures Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine, US Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/07/22/us-government-engages-pfizer-produce-millions-doses-covid-19-vaccine.html>.

<sup>1047</sup> Biden restores ties with the WHO that were cut by Trump, The New York Times (New York City) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/20/world/biden-restores-who-ties.html>.

President Biden expressed that “The United States will continue to be a full participant and a global leader in confronting such threats [coronavirus] and advancing global health and health security.”<sup>1048</sup>

The United States has taken measures to strengthen health systems both domestically and globally. Domestically, the U.S. has invested in improving health systems funding for COVID-19 and reimbursements to healthcare workers, in addition to announcing a national vaccine development program. Globally, the US has restored its WHO membership, and has contributed to Gavi, COVAX, and the ACT-Accelerator, to promote equitable health systems access and improvement.

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

*Analyst: Theresa Jones*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to enhance and strengthen its health care systems at home and abroad.

On 26 March 2020, members of the European Council met to discuss the EU response to the coronavirus pandemic.<sup>1049</sup> Members resolved to work to achieve five overriding goals: containing virus spread, providing medical equipment supporting vaccine research, addressing economic concerns, and repatriate citizens to their country of residence.<sup>1050</sup>

On 8 May 2020, the European Commission announced that 1.5 million masks would be delivered to the 17 member states and the United Kingdom in order to protect healthcare workers from the coronavirus.<sup>1051</sup> This was part of a larger purchase of 10 million masks in the Emergency Support Instrument that provided pandemic support to member states.<sup>1052</sup>

On 4 June 2020, the European Commission pledged EUR300 million to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance to help immunize 300 million children globally and deploying the coronavirus vaccine.<sup>1053</sup>

On 31 August 2020, the European Commission confirmed that it would participate in the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility for equitable access to affordable COVID-19 vaccines around the world.<sup>1054</sup> As a part of this effort, the Commission announced that it would contribute EUR400 million in guarantees to support COVAX and its objectives.<sup>1055</sup>

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<sup>1048</sup> Biden restores ties with the WHO that were cut by Trump, The New York Times (New York City) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/20/world/biden-restores-who-ties.html>.

<sup>1049</sup> Video Conference of the Members of the European Council 26 March 2020, Council of the European Union 26 March 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/european-council/2020/03/26>.

<sup>1050</sup> Video Conference of the Members of the European Council 26 March 2020, Council of the European Union 26 March 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/european-council/2020/03/26>.

<sup>1051</sup> Coronavirus: Commission delivers first batch of 1.5 million masks from 10 million purchased to support EU healthcare workers, European Commission (Brussels) 8 May 2020. Access Date: March 15 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_819](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_819)

<sup>1052</sup> Coronavirus: Commission delivers first batch of 1.5 million masks from 10 million purchased to support EU healthcare workers, European Commission (Brussels) 8 May 2020. Access Date: March 15 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_819](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_819).

<sup>1053</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: European Commission pledges EUR300 million to Gavi, European Commission (Brussels) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_989](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_989).

<sup>1054</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: Commission joins the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX), European Commission (Brussels) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1540](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1540)

<sup>1055</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: Commission joins the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX), European Commission (Brussels) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1540](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1540).

On 11 November 2020, the European Commission and the Germany's Presidency of the Council of the EU announced their intention to use health data from the EU to create a European Health Data Space for better healthcare, better research and better health policy making.<sup>1056</sup>

On 25 November 2020, the European Commission adopted a Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe to ensure access to affordable medicines and to support the sustainability of the EU's pharmaceutical industry.<sup>1057</sup> This Strategy is intended to enable Europe to cover its pharmaceutical needs even in times of crisis by creating more robust supply chains.<sup>1058</sup>

On 2 December 2020, the Commission adopted a strategy for managing the pandemic over the winter months, emphasizing the increased risk of transmission during cold weather and the need for coordination between EU members.<sup>1059</sup>

On 7 December 2020, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) launched a partnership to scale up Africa's preparedness for health emergencies, involving facilitating harmonised surveillance and diseases intelligence and the implementation of the public health workforce strategy of Africa CDC.<sup>1060</sup> As well, the ECDC, through the European Development Fund, provided a contribution agreement of EUR9 million and a complementary grant of EUR1 million to cover staffing costs.<sup>1061</sup>

On 18 December 2020, the European Union established the Recovery and Resilience Task Force.<sup>1062</sup> The agreement pledges EUR672.5 billion to support EU member states in their efforts to improve health and resiliency within their own countries.<sup>1063</sup> Member states must propose recovery and resilience plans that outline frameworks for socio-economic recover that prioritizes environmental sustainability.<sup>1064</sup>

On 3 February 2021, the European Commission presented Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, which set out a new approach to cancer prevention, treatment and care.<sup>1065</sup> The Plan looks at the entire disease pathway and focuses efforts in areas that have the highest potential impacts, like reducing smoking in the EU.<sup>1066</sup>

On 19 February 2021, the EU pledged to double its donation to the COVAX, the vaccination arm of the World Health Organization's Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.<sup>1067</sup> The EU is one of the

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<sup>1056</sup> Commission and Germany's Presidency of the Council of the EU underline importance of the European Health Data Space, European Commission (Brussels) 11 November 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_2049](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2049).

<sup>1057</sup> Affordable, accessible and safe medicines for all: the Commission presents a Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_2173](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2173).

<sup>1058</sup> Affordable, accessible and safe medicines for all: the Commission presents a Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_2173](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2173).

<sup>1059</sup> Coronavirus: Commission presents "Staying safe from COVID-19 during winter" strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_2254](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2254).

<sup>1060</sup> European Union and African Union sign partnership to scale up preparedness for health emergencies, European Commission (Brussels) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_2320](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2320).

<sup>1061</sup> European Union and African Union sign partnership to scale up preparedness for health emergencies, European Commission (Brussels) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_2320](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2320).

<sup>1062</sup> Commission Welcomes Political Agreement on Recovery and Resilience Facility, European Commission (Brussels) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_2397](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2397).

<sup>1063</sup> Commission Welcomes Political Agreement on Recovery and Resilience Facility, European Commission (Brussels) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_2397](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2397).

<sup>1064</sup> Commission Welcomes Political Agreement on Recovery and Resilience Facility, European Commission (Brussels) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_2397](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2397).

<sup>1065</sup> Europe's Beating Cancer Plan: A new EU approach to prevention, treatment and care, European Commission (Brussels) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_342](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_342).

<sup>1066</sup> Europe's Beating Cancer Plan: A new EU approach to prevention, treatment and care, European Commission (Brussels) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_342](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_342).

missions leading donors and has pledged more than EUR2.2 billion towards the equitable and secure distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in low and middle-income nations.<sup>1068</sup>

On 9 March 2021, the European Parliament adopted the EU4Health program, which provided EUR5.1 billion to strengthen health systems and innovation in the health sector.<sup>1069</sup> The program is set to make a contribution to a post-COVID-19 recovery by fostering a healthier EU population, supporting the fight against cross-border health threats and boosting the EU's preparedness and ability to respond to future health crises.<sup>1070</sup>

The EU has undertaken efforts to improve the health care systems of member and non-member countries, especially through the production and distribution of vaccines and medical supplies seen through the EU4Health Program.

Thus, the EU receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Avigail Rucker*

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<sup>1067</sup>EU Doubles Contribution to 1 Billion to Ensure Safe and Effective Vaccines for Low and Middle Income Countries, European Commission (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 3 March 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_690](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_690).

<sup>1068</sup> EU Doubles Contribution to 1 Billion to Ensure Safe and Effective Vaccines for Low and Middle Income Countries, European Commission (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 3 March 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_690](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_690).

<sup>1069</sup> Commission Welcomes European Parliament adoption of EU4Health programme, European Commission (Brussels) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_1084](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1084).

<sup>1070</sup> Commission Welcomes European Parliament adoption of EU4Health programme, European Commission (Brussels) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_1084](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1084).

## 5. Health: Data Sharing

“We will pool epidemiologic and other data to better understand and fight the virus.”

*G7 Leaders’ Statement*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada		0	
France		0	
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan		0	
United Kingdom		0	
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+0.50 (75%)		

### Background

The United Nations has described COVID-19 as a global challenge requiring global solutions and international cooperation.<sup>1071</sup> By February 2021, there were over 100,000,000 million cases of COVID-19 and over 2,000,000 deaths.<sup>1072</sup> The commitment to pool epidemiologic and other data to better understand and fight the virus recognizes the need to take collective action, yet is not a new concept to the G7.

At the 1996 Lyon Summit, G7 members first recognized the need to promote international cooperation among researchers in order to search for remedies to infectious diseases, specifically in the context of HIV/AIDS.<sup>1073</sup> They called “for the extension of all forms of cooperation in the realms of research, prevention, accessible and affordable health care services and diagnostics in the treatment and control of these diseases.”<sup>1074</sup>

At the 1997 Denver Summit, the G7 once again emphasized the importance of an international response to the outbreak of infectious diseases and collaboration on scientific research.<sup>1075</sup> They encouraged the creation of global surveillance networks and creating capacity to detect and to respond to infectious diseases globally through organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO).<sup>1076</sup>

At the 1998 Birmingham Summit, G7 leaders stated it would enhance its collaborative efforts to combat infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, working together to develop vaccines and preventative programs.<sup>1077</sup>

At the 1999 Köln Summit, G7 leaders reaffirmed to continue their national and international efforts to develop a combined strategy of prevention, vaccine development, and therapy.<sup>1078</sup>

<sup>1071</sup> Global challenges require global solutions, chief tells German parliament, UN News (New York City) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 6 February 2021. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/12/1080372>.

<sup>1072</sup> WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard (Geneva). Access Date: 9 February 2021. <https://covid19.who.int/>.

<sup>1073</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1074</sup> Chairman’s Statement: Toward Greater Security and Stability in a More Cooperative World, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 1996. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1996lyon/chair.html>.

<sup>1075</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1076</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1077</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

At the 2000 Okinawa Summit, the G7 collaboratively introduced and implemented an ambitious plan to combat the spread of infectious diseases.<sup>1079</sup> They agreed to strengthen their collaboration with governments, the WHO, academics and non-governmental organizations.<sup>1080</sup> Additionally, they agreed to strengthen cooperation during research and development of drugs and vaccines.<sup>1081</sup>

At the 2001 Geneva Summit, G7 members launched the Global Fund. To fight infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, they committed USD1.3 billion to this fund for increased sharing of financing and expertise.<sup>1082</sup>

At the 2002 Kananaskis Summit, G7 members committed to strengthening their efforts to combat infectious diseases, particularly in Africa, and committed to supporting initiatives that improve technical capacity and disease surveillance.<sup>1083</sup> Moreover, they committed to supporting health research by “narrowing the research gap” by expanding health research networks.<sup>1084</sup>

At the 2003 Evian Summit, G7 leaders agreed to strengthen the Global Fund to fight infectious diseases and increase bilateral and multilateral efforts, and to encourage research on diseases, especially in developing countries.<sup>1085</sup> Furthermore, at this summit, the G7 stated they would “improve international cooperation against new epidemics such as SARS [severe acute respiratory syndrome].”<sup>1086</sup> Leaders stated they would help developing countries increase their own research and development on infectious diseases, as well as work closely with the WHO to combat SARS.<sup>1087</sup>

At the 2006 St. Petersburg Summit, the G7 leaders made 60 health-related commitments with special attention given to humanitarian health.<sup>1088</sup> Due to the avian influenza outbreak, there was also increased focus on creating epidemic preparedness and response mechanisms, such as the WHO Outbreak Alert and Response Network.<sup>1089</sup> They also committed to improve international cooperation on surveillance and monitoring of infectious diseases, build laboratory capacity and intensify scientific research and exchanges.<sup>1090</sup> Notably, the G7 stated they would build “full transparency by all nations in sharing, on a timely basis, virus

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<sup>1078</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1079</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1080</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1081</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1082</sup> Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommunique.html>.

<sup>1083</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1084</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1085</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1086</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1087</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1088</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1089</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1090</sup> Fight Against Infectious Diseases, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 July 2006. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2006stpetersburg/infdis.html>.



samples in accordance to national and international regulations and conventions, and other relevant information about the outbreaks of diseases.”<sup>1091</sup>

At the 2008 Toyako-Hokkaido Summit, G7 members reaffirmed their commitment to fighting infectious diseases, and set forth the Toyako Framework for Action.<sup>1092</sup> The framework includes “principles for action, and actions to be taken on health, drawing on the expertise of international institutions,” and also incorporated a monitoring mechanism to ensure their commitment was being met.<sup>1093</sup>

At the 2009 L’Aquila Summit, the G7 members reiterated their support of fighting infectious diseases, stating a commitment of USD60 billion to help strengthen systems by 2012.<sup>1094</sup>

At the 2010 Muskoka Summit, the G7 reaffirmed its support for universal access to prevention, treatment, support and care for HIV/AIDS.<sup>1095</sup> It also supported replenishing the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and called for national and private sector donations.<sup>1096</sup> Additionally, this summit marked the introduction of the G8 Muskoka Initiative on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.<sup>1097</sup> The goal of the initiative states that it is “focused on achieving significant progress on health system strengthening in developing countries facing high burdens of maternal and under-five child mortality.”<sup>1098</sup> It also emphasized it would work to combat infectious diseases.<sup>1099</sup> It stated its focus on improving coherence, coordination and harmonization of efforts, and support of the World Bank, Global Fund and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.<sup>1100</sup>

At the 2014 Brussels Summit, the G7 reaffirmed its commitment to the Muskoka Initiative, and called on the replenishment of Gavi while also reaffirming their commitment to the Global Fund.<sup>1101</sup> Further, they also expressed support for the Global Health Security Agenda and to work with countries to strengthen their adherence to the WHO’s International Health Regulations to enhance health security internationally.<sup>1102</sup> They stated their commitment to prevent, detect and respond to infectious diseases while also building a global capacity to better respond to these threats in light of the Ebola outbreak.<sup>1103</sup>

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<sup>1091</sup> Fight Against Infectious Diseases, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 July 2006. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2006stpetersburg/infdis.html>.

<sup>1092</sup> G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

<sup>1093</sup> G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

<sup>1094</sup> Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2009. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/>.

<sup>1095</sup> Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 June 2010. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html>.

<sup>1096</sup> Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 June 2010. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html>.

<sup>1097</sup> Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 June 2010. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html>.

<sup>1098</sup> Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 June 2010. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html>.

<sup>1099</sup> Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 June 2010. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html>.

<sup>1100</sup> Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 June 2010. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html>.

<sup>1101</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

<sup>1102</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

<sup>1103</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 4 February 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

At the 2015 Elmau Summit, the G7 leaders committed to fighting neglected tropical diseases.<sup>1104</sup> To do this, they committed to work collaboratively with the WHO Global Observatory on Health Research and Development and to “coordinat[e] research and development (R&D) efforts and make our data more available.”<sup>1105</sup>

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 members recognized that the “wisdom offered by a wide-range of experts across the globe, including the work of the UN High-Level Panel on Response to Health Crises ... that health systems need to be resilient and have the capacity to respond to, better prepare for and prevent global threats such as pandemics and other severe events.”<sup>1106</sup> To achieve this end, they recognized a need for WHO reforms, funding, coordinated implementation of action and better implementation of the International Health Regulations.<sup>1107</sup>

At the 2020 Virtual Summit, the G7 leaders stated that responding to the COVID-19 pandemic was their “foremost priority.”<sup>1108</sup> The leaders emphasized their commitment to “coordinate on necessary health measures to protect people at risk of COVID-19; restore confidence, growth and protect jobs; support global trade and investment; and encourage science, research, and technology cooperation.”<sup>1109</sup> A coordinated response entails the strengthening of national and international health systems, support for the WHO’s leadership through the encouragement of all countries, international organizations and private sectors to come together to support global efforts including the Global Preparedness and Response Plan.<sup>1110</sup> G7 leaders also stressed the importance of real-time information sharing of the latest intelligence in order to improve prevention and mitigation strategies, and to coordinate research efforts through the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation.<sup>1111</sup> At the time of the Virtual Summit, they expected to meet again in three months at their regularly scheduled summit on 10-12 June 2020, which was later postponed indefinitely.

### **Commitment Features**

For this commitment, the objective is to increase understanding of the virus in order to combat it. The G7 members have set out to achieve this by collectively pooling their knowledge on the topic; both epidemiological data and other data relevant to tackling COVID-19 and its ramifications.

“Will pool” is understood as the combination of resources in a common pool or effort.<sup>1112</sup> It can be further described as sharing information, knowledge and tools for the common purpose of creating a greater capacity to combat COVID-19. For G7 members to achieve compliance for this commitment, there must be examples of instances where they have contributed to the pooling of information or assisted in the process of pooling information. Examples of this include direct scientific or intellectual contribution or assisting in the pooling process, such as providing funds.

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<sup>1104</sup> Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 4 February 2021.

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

<sup>1105</sup> Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 4 February 2021.

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

<sup>1106</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date 4 February 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>1107</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date 4 February 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>1108</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>1109</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>1110</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>1111</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>1112</sup> Pool, Merriam-Webster (Springfield). Access Date: 4 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/pool>.

“Epidemiology” is defined as “the branch of medical science that deals with the incidence, distribution and control of a disease in a population.”<sup>1113</sup> It is further explained as a scientific and systematic study of the “distribution (frequency, pattern) and determinants (causes, risk factors) ... in specific populations.”<sup>1114</sup> Epidemiological data is used to “plan and evaluate strategies to prevent illness and as a guide to the management of patients.”<sup>1115</sup> Access to this information and detection of risk allows for increased preparedness and response. Therefore, epidemiologic data is the study and identification of patterns and trends, causes of outbreaks and assessment of risk. An example of this would be the identifying vulnerable communities or groups in order to find solutions to prevent cases or treat patients.

Examples of epidemiologic data sharing mechanisms include, but is not limited to, multilateral organizations such as the WHO. The WHO helps coordinate responses and supports countries to “prevent, mitigate and address the impacts of infectious diseases and epidemics.”<sup>1116</sup> This is done by means of its global research databases that aim to bring “the world’s scientists and global health professionals together to accelerate the research and development process, and develop new norms and standards to contain the spread of the coronavirus pandemic and help care for those affected.”<sup>1117</sup>

“Other data” will be understood as information that is not epidemiological in nature but still relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as understanding the adverse side-effects of the pandemic, effective policy approaches and best practices on how to create a greater capacity to mitigate these effects. An example of other data might be effectiveness of policy such as mask mandates.

“Better” will be considered an improvement in accuracy or performance.<sup>1118</sup> To “understand” is defined as having “thorough or technical acquaintance with or expertise in the practice of.”<sup>1119</sup> Combined, it means to create a greater expertise, and expand knowledge on COVID-19. This entails that the G7 will take actions to share information that improves the overall understanding.

To “fight” is understood as the “use of a lot of effort to defeat or achieve something, or to stop something happening.”<sup>1120</sup> In the context of this commitment, to “fight” means taking actions to halt the spread of COVID-19. Information shared therefore should pertain to prevention, preparedness, treatment of the virus and the mitigation of its effects.

The “virus” is in reference to the SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.<sup>1121</sup> In addition, the term shall also apply to new variants of the virus. Existing variants include the D614G mutation, the SARS-CoV-2 VOC 202012/01 or B.1.1.7, the 501Y.V2. However, consideration will also apply to any other variants that have yet to emerge.<sup>1122</sup>

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<sup>1113</sup> Epidemiology, Merriam-Webster (Springfield). Access Date: 4 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/epidemiologic>.

<sup>1114</sup> Epidemiology, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 9 February 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/careerpaths/k12teacherroadmap/epidemiology.html>.

<sup>1115</sup> Chapter 1. What is epidemiology?, The British Medical Journal (London). Access Date: 4 February 2021. <https://www.bmj.com/about-bmj/resources-readers/publications/epidemiology-uninitiated/1-what-epidemiology>.

<sup>1116</sup> International Day of Epidemic Preparedness, the United Nations (New York City) 27 December 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2021. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/epidemic-preparedness-day>.

<sup>1117</sup> Global research on coronavirus disease (COVID-19), World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 7 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/global-research-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>.

<sup>1118</sup> Better, Merriam-Webster (Springfield). Access Date: 4 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/better>.

<sup>1119</sup> Understand, Merriam-Webster (Springfield). Access Date: 4 February 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/understand>.

<sup>1120</sup> Fight, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge). Access Date: 4 February 2021. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/fight>.

<sup>1121</sup> Coronavirus, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 7 February 2021. [https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1).

<sup>1122</sup> SARS-CoV-2 Variants, World Health Organization (Geneva) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/csr/don/31-december-2020-sars-cov-2-variants/en/>.

A score of non-compliance (-1) will be awarded to G7 members that have failed to demonstrate three or four actions of pooling epidemiologic data or other data to better understand and fight the virus.

A score of partial compliance (0) will be awarded to G7 members that have demonstrated three or four actions of pooling either epidemiologic data or other data to better understand and fight the virus.

A score of full compliance (+1) will be awarded to G7 members that have demonstrated three or four actions of pooling both epidemiologic and other data to better understand and fight the virus.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member has failed to demonstrate three or four actions of pooling epidemiologic data and other data to better understand and fight the virus.
0	The G7 member has demonstrated three or four actions of pooling EITHER epidemiologic data OR other data to better understand and fight the virus.
+1	The G7 member has demonstrated three to four actions of pooling BOTH epidemiologic AND other data to better understand and fight the virus.

*Compliance Director: Eunice Yong  
Lead Analyst: Gabrielle Regimbal*

### Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to pool epidemiologic and other data to better understand and fight the virus.

On 1 October 2020, the Public Health Agency of Canada released an annual report on Canada's state of public health in 2020.<sup>1123</sup> The report includes epidemiologic data that features the factors that may increase the likelihood of the infection risk and the severity of illness from the virus.<sup>1124</sup> The report also includes the factors' influence on the conditions of different groups in Canada.<sup>1125</sup>

On 28 October 2020, Statistics Canada released an article on the virus' mortality rates in visible minority communities.<sup>1126</sup> The data showed higher mortality rates for neighbourhoods with a higher proportion of visible minorities.<sup>1127</sup> The data also revealed regional variations in the mortality rates of specific visible minority groups. Canada seeks to use these findings to improve efforts to protect visible minorities during the pandemic.<sup>1128</sup>

On 16 November 2020, Statistics Canada released an article to identify the most common conditions associated with COVID-19 deaths using the Canadian Vital Statistics Database (CVSD).<sup>1129</sup> The article's data

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<sup>1123</sup> From risk to resilience: An equity approach to COVID-19, Public Health Agency of Canada (Ottawa) October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/corporate/publications/chief-public-health-officer-reports-state-public-health-canada/from-risk-resilience-equity-approach-covid-19.html>.

<sup>1124</sup> From risk to resilience: An equity approach to COVID-19, Public Health Agency of Canada (Ottawa) October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/corporate/publications/chief-public-health-officer-reports-state-public-health-canada/from-risk-resilience-equity-approach-covid-19.html>.

<sup>1125</sup> From risk to resilience: An equity approach to COVID-19, Public Health Agency of Canada (Ottawa) October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/corporate/publications/chief-public-health-officer-reports-state-public-health-canada/from-risk-resilience-equity-approach-covid-19.html>.

<sup>1126</sup> COVID-19 mortality rates in Canada's ethno-cultural neighbourhoods, Statistics Canada (Ottawa) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00079-eng.htm>.

<sup>1127</sup> COVID-19 mortality rates in Canada's ethno-cultural neighbourhoods, Statistics Canada (Ottawa) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00079-eng.htm>.

<sup>1128</sup> COVID-19 mortality rates in Canada's ethno-cultural neighbourhoods, Statistics Canada (Ottawa) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00079-eng.htm>.

<sup>1129</sup> COVID-19 mortality rates in Canada's ethno-cultural neighbourhoods, Statistics Canada (Ottawa) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00079-eng.htm>.

highlights the most common “chronic and acute conditions, diseases, disorders, and complications linked to the deaths.<sup>1130</sup> The data shows that regardless of the condition, 92 per cent of COVID-19-associated deaths show the virus as the underlying cause of death.<sup>1131</sup> This is the first time Canada can accurately estimate the prevalence of comorbidities in COVID-19 deaths and age.<sup>1132</sup> Statistics Canada plans show the linkage between the virus and other factors by linking the CVSD to other data sources.<sup>1133</sup>

On 14 December 2020, Statistics Canada released data on private sector businesses’ need for personal protective equipment (PPE) during the second wave of the virus.<sup>1134</sup> The article reports the negative effects that public health restrictions have on businesses.<sup>1135</sup> The data shows that in October 2020, businesses experienced PPE shortages due to the lack of availability from PPE suppliers.<sup>1136</sup>

Canada has demonstrated some efforts to comply with its commitment to pool epidemiologic and other data to understand and fight the virus.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Adedjoja Akande*

### **France: 0**

France has partially complied with its commitment to pool epidemiologic and other data to better understand and fight the virus

On 16 April 2020, France convened a conference call with other international organizations and governments to discuss strategies to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and support international data pooling.<sup>1137</sup> Together, they agreed to coordinate an efficient and equitable multilateral initiative.<sup>1138</sup>

On 24 April 2020, France participated in the launch of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator. The ACT-Accelerator is a global cooperation platform. It has been reported that its goal was to “consolidate healthcare systems against COVID-19.”<sup>1139</sup>

On 4 May 2020, France pledged EUR500 million in support of the ACT-Accelerator.<sup>1140</sup> It was reported that France pledged this money with the goal to help to “consolidate healthcare systems against COVID-19.”<sup>1141</sup>

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<sup>1130</sup> COVID-19 mortality rates in Canada’s ethno-cultural neighbourhoods, Statistics Canada (Ottawa) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00079-eng.htm>.

<sup>1131</sup> COVID-19 mortality rates in Canada’s ethno-cultural neighbourhoods, Statistics Canada (Ottawa) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00079-eng.htm>.

<sup>1132</sup> COVID-19 mortality rates in Canada’s ethno-cultural neighbourhoods, Statistics Canada (Ottawa) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00079-eng.htm>.

<sup>1133</sup> COVID-19 mortality rates in Canada’s ethno-cultural neighbourhoods, Statistics Canada (Ottawa) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00079-eng.htm>.

<sup>1134</sup> Navigating the second wave: Trends in businesses’ needs for personal protective equipment since August, Statistics Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00094-eng.htm>.

<sup>1135</sup> Navigating the second wave: Trends in businesses’ needs for personal protective equipment since August, Statistics Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00094-eng.htm>.

<sup>1136</sup> Navigating the second wave: Trends in businesses’ needs for personal protective equipment since August, Statistics Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00094-eng.htm>.

<sup>1137</sup> France pledges '500m against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

<sup>1138</sup> France pledges '500m against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

<sup>1139</sup> France pledges '500m against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

On 11 May 2020, French data firms began to pool scientific data with scientists and disease specialists.<sup>1142</sup>

On 29 June 2020, the European Virus Archive (EVA) in Marseille shared data with scientists in many countries. EVA also provides testing kits to many countries.<sup>1143</sup>

On 5 July 2020, the Prudential Control and Resolution Authority requested data from French insurance companies to assess the risk of business insurance interruption due to the Pandemic.<sup>1144</sup>

On 8 February 2021, the French government and representatives from the World Health Organization met at the annual statutory meeting of partners of its Lyon Office to discuss future data sharing between scientific organizations and government agencies.<sup>1145</sup>

France has demonstrated its commitment to sharing COVID-19 related data with other countries and international organizations to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and produce a vaccine. The French government has given monetary donations in favour of pooling COVID-19 data and has also directly supported and participated in the pooling of COVID-19 data.

The French government has not concretely demonstrated actions to comply with the second portion of the commitment to pool other types of data.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Ana Brinkerhoff*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to pool epidemiologic and other data to better understand and fight the virus.

On 20 April 2020, the German Alliance for Global Health Research (GLOHRA), sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Education, launched its Global Health Research Directory.<sup>1146</sup> GLOHRA “seeks to foster exchange and forge new mechanisms of cooperation across institutions, disciplines, sectors and countries” by establishing this database of readily accessible public health research.<sup>1147</sup> GLOHRA creates an environment of data and research sharing, which is key in better understanding and fighting the virus, and addresses other public health concerns.

On 23 April 2020, Germany presented the Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme, stating that “we will either beat the pandemic worldwide or not at all,” reinforcing the centrality of communal action in

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<sup>1140</sup> France pledges '500m against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

<sup>1141</sup> France pledges '500m against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

<sup>1142</sup> French CoData Do Tank: pooling skills to respond to the Covid-19 crisis, Ekimetrics (Paris) 11 May 2020. Access date: 15 February 2021. <https://ekimetrics.com/news-and-events/french-codata-do-tank-pooling-skills-to-respond-to-the-covid-19-crisis/>.

<sup>1143</sup> The European projects pooling data to defeat Covid-19, Euro News (Lyon) 6 July 2020. Access date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2020/06/29/the-european-projects-pooling-data-to-defeat-covid-19>.

<sup>1144</sup> Responding to the Covid-19 and pandemic protection gap in insurance, OECD (Paris) 5 July 2020. Access date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/responding-to-the-covid-19-and-pandemic-protection-gap-in-insurance-35e74736/>.

<sup>1145</sup> France and WHO: a strategic partnership for global health security, WHO (Lyon) 8 February 2021. Access date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/08-02-2021-france-and-who-a-strategic-partnership-for-global-health-security>.

<sup>1146</sup> GLOHRA Milestones in 2020, German Alliance for Global Health Research (Berlin) 12 September 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2020. <https://globalhealth.de/news/view/glohra-2020-in-review.html>.

<sup>1147</sup> About, German Alliance for Global Health Research (Berlin). Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://globalhealth.de/about.html>.

understanding and fighting the virus.<sup>1148</sup> This action plan, as presented by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, pledged EUR one-billion to assist developing countries in fighting the virus by reinforcing cooperation measures and strengthening capacity for international action from the European Union.<sup>1149</sup>

On 18 May 2020, Germany contributed EUR70 million to the World Health Organization (WHO) to support programmatic work, the WHO COVID-19 response, and global vaccine distribution.<sup>1150</sup> Germany further contributed EUR160 million to WHO to advance the development of COVID-19 technologies and ensure equitable access to safe COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines to better understand and respond to the virus.<sup>1151</sup>

On 1 July 2020, Germany took over the presidency of the Council of the European Union. As president, Germany prioritizes cooperation and coordination within the EU as it relates to health policy.<sup>1152</sup> The German Council Presidency focuses specifically on the strengthening of the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control, securing supply access to medical equipment within the EU, and establishing a European health data room to reinforce collaborative health efforts within the EU.<sup>1153</sup> Germany prioritizes a joint management approach to the COVID-19 pandemic and solidarity in strengthening collective ability to react to health crises.<sup>1154</sup> The sharing of data through these mechanisms allows for a better understanding of COVID-19, and is central to the German presidency.

In September 2020, Germany announced a commitment of EUR100 million to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, towards its initial COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Advanced Market Commitment (AMC) plan.<sup>1155</sup> This furthered its standing commitment of EUR600 million for 2021-2025 COVAX, supporting fair and equitable vaccine access and distribution globally.<sup>1156</sup>

On 19 October 2020, Germany released the Global Health Strategy of the German Federal Government; a government-wide health strategy for 2020-2030 outlining Germany's commitments to the advancement of global health measures.<sup>1157</sup> A key principle within this agenda is to "leave no one behind" in the research and promotion of global health.<sup>1158</sup> Germany committed to advancing research and innovation by contributing resources for interdisciplinary research and collaborating internationally with global health researchers.

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<sup>1148</sup> Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. [https://www.bmz.de/en/zentrales\\_downloadarchiv/Presse/bmz\\_corona\\_paket\\_EN.pdf](https://www.bmz.de/en/zentrales_downloadarchiv/Presse/bmz_corona_paket_EN.pdf).

<sup>1149</sup> Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. [https://www.bmz.de/en/zentrales\\_downloadarchiv/Presse/bmz\\_corona\\_paket\\_EN.pdf](https://www.bmz.de/en/zentrales_downloadarchiv/Presse/bmz_corona_paket_EN.pdf).

<sup>1150</sup> Germany: Partner in Global Health, World Health Organization (Geneva) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/about/funding/contributors/deu>.

<sup>1151</sup> Germany: Partner in Global Health, World Health Organization (Geneva) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/about/funding/contributors/deu>.

<sup>1152</sup> German EU Council Presidency 2020, Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/eu2020/deutsche-eu-ratspraesidentschaft.html>.

<sup>1153</sup> German EU Council Presidency 2020, Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/eu2020/deutsche-eu-ratspraesidentschaft.html>.

<sup>1154</sup> German EU Council Presidency 2020, Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/eu2020/deutsche-eu-ratspraesidentschaft.html>.

<sup>1155</sup> Germany, Gavi: the Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 30 September 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2020. <https://www.gavi.org/investing-gavi/funding/donor-profiles/germany>.

<sup>1156</sup> Germany, Gavi: the Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 30 September 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2020. <https://www.gavi.org/investing-gavi/funding/donor-profiles/germany>.

<sup>1157</sup> Global Health Strategy of the German Federal Government, Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) October 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. [https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/5\\_Publikationen/Gesundheit/Broschueren/Global\\_Health\\_Strategy.pdf](https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/5_Publikationen/Gesundheit/Broschueren/Global_Health_Strategy.pdf).

<sup>1158</sup> Global Health Strategy of the German Federal Government, Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) October 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. [https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/5\\_Publikationen/Gesundheit/Broschueren/Global\\_Health\\_Strategy.pdf](https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/5_Publikationen/Gesundheit/Broschueren/Global_Health_Strategy.pdf).

Germany proposed shared digital platforms and registries to make “comprehensive, up-to-date, and high-quality data” accessible to scientists, research and development professionals, and the general public, while protecting and maintaining personal data security.<sup>1159</sup> Germany supported the development of a transparent “joint research, economic, and data space” within the European Union through the Global Health Strategy.<sup>1160</sup>

On 19 February 2021, Germany committed EUR1.5 billion of funding to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-Accelerator) The ACT-Accelerator is a partnership launched by WHO that prioritizes “diagnostics, treatment, vaccines and health system strengthening.”<sup>1161</sup> Germany’s financial contributions primarily support the acting COVAX initiative, providing global, equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine for countries who have limited access due to financial and other constraints.<sup>1162</sup>

Germany encourages and participates in the pooling of epidemiologic data and other data to better help understand the virus through financial support of global organizations (such as WHO, Gavi, and the Global Fund) extensive federal health and outreach programs, and focus on multilateral relationships. Germany prioritizes these initiatives in its policies.

Due to their coordinated national and international action towards public health measures and the distribution of epidemiologic data for understanding COVID-19, Germany has fully complied.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Rebecca Campbell-Martin*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to pool epidemiologic and other data to better understand and fight the virus.

On 30 April 2020, the Ministry of Health released weekly reports of infection rates in specific regions.<sup>1163</sup> The epidemiologic data tracks the date of symptom onset and diagnosis, as well as the risk percentage associated with the regions.<sup>1164</sup> The article also compares its current data to the previous week and states the interventions used to mitigate the risk of infection.<sup>1165</sup>

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<sup>1159</sup> Global Health Strategy of the German Federal Government, Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) October 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. [https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/5\\_Publikationen/Gesundheit/Broschueren/Global\\_Health\\_Strategy.pdf](https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/5_Publikationen/Gesundheit/Broschueren/Global_Health_Strategy.pdf).

<sup>1160</sup> Global Health Strategy of the German Federal Government, Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) October 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. [https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/5\\_Publikationen/Gesundheit/Broschueren/Global\\_Health\\_Strategy.pdf](https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fileadmin/Dateien/5_Publikationen/Gesundheit/Broschueren/Global_Health_Strategy.pdf).

<sup>1161</sup> The Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, World Health Organization (Geneva) April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator>.

<sup>1162</sup> COVAX: Working for global equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, COVAX (Geneva) April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator/covax>.

<sup>1163</sup> Covid-19 weekly monitoring, report February 8 – 14, 2021, Ministry of Health (Rome) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=5342>.

<sup>1164</sup> Covid-19 weekly monitoring, report February 8 – 14, 2021, Ministry of Health (Rome) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=5342>.

<sup>1165</sup> Covid-19 weekly monitoring, report February 8 – 14, 2021, Ministry of Health (Rome) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=5342>.



On 15 October 2020, the Italian National Institute of Health (INIH) released mental health data related to the virus.<sup>1166</sup> The article reveals that the population experienced higher levels of anxiety and depression during lockdown.<sup>1167</sup> The INIH promoted programs that ensure the care for people with psychiatric disorders and perinatal depression.<sup>1168</sup> The INIH is working with the Ministry of Health to verify if mental health patients are receiving continuous care.<sup>1169</sup>

On 27 January 2021, the INIH released a report on the characteristics of deceased COVID-19 patients.<sup>1170</sup> The data comes from the National Institute of Statistics, and it is also used for epidemiologic and viral monitoring of COVID-19 cases.<sup>1171</sup> The data discloses the cause of death, comorbid conditions, symptoms, and treatments used during the patients' hospitalization.<sup>1172</sup>

Italy has demonstrated national efforts to fully comply with its commitment to pool epidemiologic and other data to better understand and fight the virus by gathering information on the overall population, the deceased patients, and its effects on mental health.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Adedoja Akande*

### **Japan: 0**

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to pool epidemiologic and other data to better understand the virus.

On 15 May 2020, Japan committed USD2.7 million through the leadership of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to help less developed countries in the Americas improve their responses to COVID-19.<sup>1173</sup> This contribution seeks to assist the countries to detect, respond and combat the virus including through the creation and sharing of data.<sup>1174</sup>

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<sup>1166</sup> The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health: the commitment to the ISS, National Institute of Health (Rome) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.epicentro.iss.it/coronavirus/sars-cov-2-salute-mentale>.

<sup>1167</sup> The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health: the commitment to the ISS, National Institute of Health (Rome) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.epicentro.iss.it/coronavirus/sars-cov-2-salute-mentale>.

<sup>1168</sup> The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health: the commitment to the ISS, National Institute of Health (Rome) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.epicentro.iss.it/coronavirus/sars-cov-2-salute-mentale>.

<sup>1169</sup> The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health: the commitment to the ISS, National Institute of Health (Rome) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.epicentro.iss.it/coronavirus/sars-cov-2-salute-mentale>.

<sup>1170</sup> Characteristics of SARS-CoV-2 patients dying in Italy Report based on available data on January 27th, 2021, National Institute of Health (Rome) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 1 March 2021. [https://www.epicentro.iss.it/en/coronavirus/bollettino/Report-COVID-2019\\_27\\_january\\_2021.pdf](https://www.epicentro.iss.it/en/coronavirus/bollettino/Report-COVID-2019_27_january_2021.pdf).

<sup>1171</sup> Characteristics of SARS-CoV-2 patients dying in Italy Report based on available data on January 27th, 2021, National Institute of Health (Rome) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 1 March 2021. [https://www.epicentro.iss.it/en/coronavirus/bollettino/Report-COVID-2019\\_27\\_january\\_2021.pdf](https://www.epicentro.iss.it/en/coronavirus/bollettino/Report-COVID-2019_27_january_2021.pdf)

<sup>1172</sup> Characteristics of SARS-CoV-2 patients dying in Italy Report based on available data on January 27th, 2021, National Institute of Health (Rome) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 1 March 2021. [https://www.epicentro.iss.it/en/coronavirus/bollettino/Report-COVID-2019\\_27\\_january\\_2021.pdf](https://www.epicentro.iss.it/en/coronavirus/bollettino/Report-COVID-2019_27_january_2021.pdf)

<sup>1173</sup> Government of Japan contributes \$2.7 m to scale up COVID-19 response in nine countries of the Americas, Pan American Health Organization (Washington) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/15-5-2020-government-japan-contributes-27-m-scale-covid-19-response-nine-countries-americas>

<sup>1174</sup> Japan contributes millions to help WHO/PAHO's fight against COVID-19 in the Americas, World Health Organization (Geneva) 15 May 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/japan-contributes-millions-to-help-who-paho-s-fight-against-covid-19-in-the-americas>

On 5 October 2020, Japan's Research Center for Open Science and Data Platform (RCOS) at the National Institute of Informatics released the COVID-19 Data Portal JAPAN.<sup>1175</sup> The RCOS portal “integrates and provides data and services to support research” into COVID-19.<sup>1176</sup> The portal uses JAIRO Cloud infrastructure in collaboration with the European COVID-19 Portal to make the research data publicly available.<sup>1177</sup> The portal contains accessible “genomic and protein structural data” and pathological and statistical data about the COVID-19.<sup>1178</sup>

Japan has demonstrated efforts to better understand the virus through research and development primarily at the national level, with some initiatives to contribute to the global understanding of the virus. They have partially complied in the commitment to pool epidemiologic and other data to better understand and fight the virus by privileging national dissemination and making minimal effort at furthering international health initiatives.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Rebecca Campbell-Martin*

### **United Kingdom: 0**

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to pool epidemiologic and other data to better understand the virus.

On 25 March 2020, the Health Data Research United Kingdom (HDR UK), the partnership between the Government of the United Kingdom and the National Health Service (NHS), released the UK COVID-19 Strategy. This strategy outlines strict measures and standards to regulate the types and quality of data that is being shared between scientists and organizations.<sup>1179</sup>

On 26 June 2020, HDR UK partnered with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to create the International Covid-19 Data Alliance.<sup>1180</sup> This data alliance encourages the sharing of international COVID-19 data between governments, private-sector organs, and independent researchers and scientists to further scientific developments concerning the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 21 July 2020, the United Kingdom data firm Elixir joined the international COVID-19 Data Portal to share scientific discoveries about the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1181</sup>

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<sup>1175</sup> Accelerating research through data sharing, COVID-19 Data Portal JAPAN (Tokyo) 5 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2020. <https://covid19dataportal.jp/en/> 22 Accelerating research through data sharing, COVID-19 Data Portal JAPAN (Tokyo) 5 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2020. <https://covid19dataportal.jp/en/>

<sup>1176</sup> Accelerating research through data sharing, COVID-19 Data Portal JAPAN (Tokyo) 5 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2020. <https://covid19dataportal.jp/en/> 22 Accelerating research through data sharing, COVID-19 Data Portal JAPAN (Tokyo) 5 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2020. <https://covid19dataportal.jp/en/>.

<sup>1177</sup> Accelerating research through data sharing, COVID-19 Data Portal JAPAN (Tokyo) 5 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2020. <https://covid19dataportal.jp/en/> 22 Accelerating research through data sharing, COVID-19 Data Portal JAPAN (Tokyo) 5 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2020. <https://covid19dataportal.jp/en/>.

<sup>1178</sup> Accelerating research through data sharing, COVID-19 Data Portal JAPAN (Tokyo) 5 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2020. <https://covid19dataportal.jp/en/> 22 Accelerating research through data sharing, COVID-19 Data Portal JAPAN (Tokyo) 5 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2020. <https://covid19dataportal.jp/en/>.

<sup>1179</sup> HDR UK Covid-19 strategy, Health Data Research UK (London) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 15 February 2021. [https://www.hdr.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/200323-HDR-UK-COVID-19-Strategy-v-1.1\\_MLB.pdf](https://www.hdr.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/200323-HDR-UK-COVID-19-Strategy-v-1.1_MLB.pdf).

<sup>1180</sup> Health Data Research UK establishes International Covid-19 Alliance, UK Research and Innovation (London) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 15 February 2021. <https://www.ukri.org/our-work/tackling-the-impact-of-covid-19/vaccines-and-treatments/health-data-research-uk-establishes-international-covid-19-data-research-alliance-and-workbench/>.

<sup>1181</sup> Sharing data, exchanging expertise and coordinating tools for an effective Covid-19 response, CORDIS European Commission (Luxembourg) 21 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://cordis.europa.eu/article/id/421598-sharing-data-exchanging-expertise-and-coordinating-tools-for-an-effective-covid-19-response>.

On 9 September 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom passed the National Data Strategy to optimize data sharing among intergovernmental organizations and private sector organizations.<sup>1182</sup> The strategy prioritizes the pooling and sharing of both COVID-19- and economic-related information.

On 14 December 2020, the United Kingdom shared with the World Health Organization that the government had identified a new COVID-19 variant, SARS-CoV-2 VUI 202012/01 (Variant Under Investigation, year 2020, month 12, variant 01).<sup>1183</sup> This was important as scientists found that this new variant was highly contagious.

On 22 February 2021, the United Kingdom BioBank, a non-profit research organization, committed to sharing openly its empirical findings of a COVID-19 antibody study which will end in March 2021.<sup>1184</sup>

The United Kingdom has demonstrated its partial commitment to sharing COVID-19 data with other organizations. The actions of creating a UK COVID-19 strategy, the Covid-19 International Data Alliance, and the National Data Strategy further imply the United Kingdom's commitment to openly sharing COVID-19 data. However, the Government of the United Kingdom did sign controversial contracts with American data firms that included sharing confidential patient information. In addition, the United Kingdom did not comply with the second part of the commitment to commit to sharing frequently other types of data.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Ana Brinkerhoff*

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

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to pool epidemiologic and other data to better understand the virus.

In March 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and several other government agencies published the Conduct of Clinical Trials of Medical Products During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.<sup>1185</sup> It provided several considerations for ongoing trials on the topic of ensuring the safety of trial participants.<sup>1186</sup> This included determining if in-person visits are necessary to fully assure the safety of trial participants and the importance of following protocol during the implementation of alternative processes.<sup>1187</sup>

On 17 April 2020, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases announced the Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines.<sup>1188</sup> This public-private partnership aims to develop a coordinated research strategy for prioritizing and speeding development of the most promising treatments and vaccines.<sup>1189</sup>

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<sup>1182</sup> National Data Strategy, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-national-data-strategy/national-data-strategy>

<sup>1183</sup> SARS-CoV-2 Variant – United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, World Health Organization (Geneva) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 16 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/csr/don/21-december-2020-sars-cov2-variant-united-kingdom/en/>.

<sup>1184</sup> Coronavirus self-test antibody study: Phase 1, UK BioBank (Stockport) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.ukbiobank.ac.uk/explore-your-participation/contribute-further/coronavirus-self-test-antibody-study-phase-1>.

<sup>1185</sup> Conduct of Clinical Trials of Medical Products During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency [PDF], U.S. Department of Health and Human Services et al. (Washington, D.C.) March 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.fda.gov/media/136238/download>.

<sup>1186</sup> Conduct of Clinical Trials of Medical Products During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency [PDF], U.S. Department of Health and Human Services et al. (Washington, D.C.) March 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.fda.gov/media/136238/download>.

<sup>1187</sup> Conduct of Clinical Trials of Medical Products During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency [PDF], U.S. Department of Health and Human Services et al. (Washington, D.C.) March 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.fda.gov/media/136238/download>.

<sup>1188</sup> COVID-19 Clinical Research, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, (Bethesda) 2 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021 <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/diseases-conditions/covid-19-clinical-research>.

<sup>1189</sup> COVID-19 Clinical Research, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, (Bethesda) 2 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021 <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/diseases-conditions/covid-19-clinical-research>.

On 23 October 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided an Interim Guidance for Use of Pooling Procedures in SARS-CoV-2 Diagnostic, Screening, and Surveillance Testing.<sup>1190</sup> This document provides guidance on the appropriate use of testing as well as regulatory requirements for pooling of diagnostic or screening testing.<sup>1191</sup>

On 6 January 2021, HHS announced two upcoming actions by the CDC to provide more than USD22 billion in funding to states, localities, and territories in support of the nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as directed by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act.<sup>1192</sup> More than USD19 billion will be allocated to jurisdictions through the existing CDC Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity cooperative agreement. These awards will help monitor and suppress the spread of COVID-19.<sup>1193</sup>

On 21 January 2021, the White House released a "National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness."<sup>1194</sup> President Joe Biden issued an Executive Order Ensuring a Data-Driven Response to COVID-19 and publicly shared data around key response indicators.<sup>1195</sup> The document also stated that the government will use data to effectively communicate the state of the pandemic and drive the policy response.<sup>1196</sup> These metrics and recommendations will be readily accessible for all local and state leaders, as well as the general public.<sup>1197</sup> This data will include a range of information such as cases, testing, contact tracing, and hospitalizations to make real-time information readily usable by policymakers at different levels of government.<sup>1198</sup>

In examining their national and international actions towards public health measures and the distribution of epidemiologic data for understanding COVID-19, the United States has fully complied.

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1

*Analyst: Eisha Khan*

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<sup>1190</sup> Interim Guidance for Use of Pooling Procedures in SARS-COV-2 Diagnostic, Screening, and Surveillance Testing, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta) 23 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/pooling-procedures.html>.

<sup>1191</sup> Interim Guidance for Use of Pooling Procedures in SARS-COV-2 Diagnostic, Screening, and Surveillance Testing, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta) 23 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/pooling-procedures.html>.

<sup>1192</sup> HHS Announces \$22 billion in Funding to Support Expanded Testing, Vaccination Distribution, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0107-covid-19-funding.html>.

<sup>1193</sup> HHS Announces \$22 billion in Funding to Support Expanded Testing, Vaccination Distribution, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0107-covid-19-funding.html>.

<sup>1194</sup> National Strategy For The COVID-19 Response And Pandemic Preparedness [PDF], the White House (Washington, D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/National-Strategy-for-the-COVID-19-Response-and-Pandemic-Preparedness.pdf>.

<sup>1195</sup> National Strategy For The COVID-19 Response And Pandemic Preparedness [PDF], the White House (Washington, D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/National-Strategy-for-the-COVID-19-Response-and-Pandemic-Preparedness.pdf>.

<sup>1196</sup> National Strategy For The COVID-19 Response And Pandemic Preparedness [PDF], the White House (Washington, D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/National-Strategy-for-the-COVID-19-Response-and-Pandemic-Preparedness.pdf>.

<sup>1197</sup> National Strategy For The COVID-19 Response And Pandemic Preparedness [PDF], the White House (Washington, D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/National-Strategy-for-the-COVID-19-Response-and-Pandemic-Preparedness.pdf>.

<sup>1198</sup> National Strategy For The COVID-19 Response And Pandemic Preparedness [PDF], the White House (Washington, D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/National-Strategy-for-the-COVID-19-Response-and-Pandemic-Preparedness.pdf>.

## European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to pool epidemiologic and other data to better understand and fight the virus.

On 16 March 2020, the European Medicines Agency called to pool EU research resources into large-scale, multi-centre, multi-arm clinical trials against COVID-19.<sup>1199</sup> The Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use stated that it is critical to generate robust and interpretable evidence that would allow prompt definition of which investigational or repurposed medicinal products are effective and safe for the treatment of COVID-19.<sup>1200</sup>

On 16 March 2020, the EU-funded a Multidisciplinary European network for research, prevention and control of the COVID-19 Pandemic called I-MOVE-COVID-19.<sup>1201</sup> The project aims to obtain epidemiological, clinical, and virological information on coronavirus and infected patients through the I-MOVE surveillance network. The project is an expansion on the existing Europe-wide influenza monitoring vaccine effectiveness network to include studies on COVID-19.<sup>1202</sup> It hopes to contribute to the clinical management of patients, improve public health preparedness and response to COVID-19, and evaluate COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness once the vaccine is available.<sup>1203</sup> This ongoing project is set to be completed by 15 June 2022.<sup>1204</sup>

On 7 April 2020, European Union leaders unveiled the first “ERAvsCORONA” Action Plan. This plan consisted of 10 priority actions which covers first short-term coordinated actions only.<sup>1205</sup> It sets out key measures the Commission services and the member states are activating to coordinate, share and jointly increase support for research and innovation, in line with the objectives and tools of the European Research Area.<sup>1206</sup> This first Action Plan will be updated regularly by the Commission services and national administrations that can be taken in the short, medium and longer term.<sup>1207</sup> The results of the plan were posted three months later on 26 June 2020. This includes closer coordination of actions taken by the member states and the Commission, joining forces in providing financial support, creating new funding opportunities, refocusing existing projects, sharing data, and setting mechanisms to match great ideas with market opportunities.<sup>1208</sup>

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<sup>1199</sup> A Call to Pool EU Research Resources into Large-Scale, Multi-Centre, Multi-Arm Clinical Trials against COVID-19, Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (Amsterdam) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 14 March, 2021. [https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/documents/other/call-pool-eu-research-resources-large-scale-multi-centre-multi-arm-clinical-trials-against-covid-19\\_en.pdf](https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/documents/other/call-pool-eu-research-resources-large-scale-multi-centre-multi-arm-clinical-trials-against-covid-19_en.pdf).

<sup>1200</sup> A Call to Pool EU Research Resources into Large-Scale, Multi-Centre, Multi-Arm Clinical Trials against COVID-19, Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (Amsterdam) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 14 March, 2021. [https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/documents/other/call-pool-eu-research-resources-large-scale-multi-centre-multi-arm-clinical-trials-against-covid-19\\_en.pdf](https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/documents/other/call-pool-eu-research-resources-large-scale-multi-centre-multi-arm-clinical-trials-against-covid-19_en.pdf).

<sup>1201</sup> Preparedness and Response, European Commission - European Commission (Brussels) February 19, 2021. Access Date: 1 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/research-area/health-research-and-innovation/coronavirus-research-and-innovation/preparedness-and-response\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/research-area/health-research-and-innovation/coronavirus-research-and-innovation/preparedness-and-response_en).

<sup>1202</sup> Multidisciplinary European network for research, prevention and control of the COVID-19 Pandemic, European Commission (Paris) 6 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101003673>.

<sup>1203</sup> Multidisciplinary European network for research, prevention and control of the COVID-19 Pandemic, European Commission (Paris) 6 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101003673>.

<sup>1204</sup> Multidisciplinary European network for research, prevention and control of the COVID-19 Pandemic, European Commission (Paris) 6 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101003673>.

<sup>1205</sup> FIRST “ERAvsCORONA’ ACTION PLAN,” European Union (Brussels) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/covid-firsteravscorona\\_actions.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/covid-firsteravscorona_actions.pdf).

<sup>1206</sup> FIRST “ERAvsCORONA’ ACTION PLAN,” European Union (Brussels) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/covid-firsteravscorona\\_actions.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/covid-firsteravscorona_actions.pdf).

<sup>1207</sup> FIRST “ERAvsCORONA’ ACTION PLAN,” European Union (Brussels) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/covid-firsteravscorona\\_actions.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/covid-firsteravscorona_actions.pdf).

<sup>1208</sup> FIRST “ERAvsCORONA’ ACTION PLAN,” European Union (Brussels) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/covid-firsteravscorona\\_actions.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/covid-firsteravscorona_actions.pdf).

On 20 April 2020, the European Commission launched a European COVID-19 Data Platform to begin rapid collection and sharing of available research data.<sup>1209</sup> This platform was a part of the “ERAvsCORONA” Action Plan released earlier in the month. The new platform will provide an open, trusted, and scalable European and global environment where researchers can store and share datasets as well as epidemiological data.<sup>1210</sup> It marks another effort made by the European Union to support researchers in Europe and around the world in the fight against the coronavirus outbreak.<sup>1211</sup>

On 12 August 2020, the European Commission provided EUR128 million of funding to 23 new COVID-19 health and research projects.<sup>1212</sup> This was made available under the EU’s research and innovation programme, which is also part of the Commission’s EUR1.4 billion pledge to the Coronavirus Global Response initiative that was launched in May.<sup>1213</sup> The Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, stated that the “emergency funding from Horizon 2020 will enable researchers to rapidly develop solutions with and for patients, care workers, hospitals, local communities and companies.”<sup>1214</sup>

On 16 November 2020, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) provided detailed epidemiological information by country and for the EU and the European Economic Area as well as the UK overall, including age- and age-sex specific risk of hospitalization, severe hospitalization and death and the proportion of cases with reported underlying health conditions.<sup>1215</sup> This was reported through the European Surveillance System and published in ECDC’s weekly COVID-19 surveillance report.<sup>1216</sup> This report also provides more research regarding the pandemic.

On 24 February 2021, the European Commission signed a grant to provide funding for European Clinical Research Alliance on Infectious Diseases (ECRAID).<sup>1217</sup> As a European clinical research network, ECRAID-Base will generate rigorous evidence to improve diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of infections and to better respond to these threats.<sup>1218</sup> The network will focus on six perpetual studies that will begin on 1 March 2021.<sup>1219</sup>

In examining their national and international actions towards public health measures and the distribution of epidemiologic data for understanding COVID-19, the European Union has fully complied.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1

*Analyst: Eisha Khan*

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<sup>1209</sup> Coronavirus: Commission launches data sharing platform for researchers, European Commission (Brussels) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_680](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_680).

<sup>1210</sup> Coronavirus: Commission launches data sharing platform for researchers, European Commission (Brussels) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_680](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_680).

<sup>1211</sup> Coronavirus: Commission launches data sharing platform for researchers, European Commission (Brussels) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_680](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_680).

<sup>1212</sup> COVID-19 projects to receive EUR128m in EU funding, Health Europa (Congleton) 12 August 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.healtheuropa.eu/covid-19-projects-to-receive-e128m-in-eu-funding/102073/>.

<sup>1213</sup> COVID-19 projects to receive EUR128m in EU funding, Health Europa (Congleton) 12 August 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.healtheuropa.eu/covid-19-projects-to-receive-e128m-in-eu-funding/102073/>.

<sup>1214</sup> COVID-19 projects to receive EUR128m in EU funding, Health Europa (Congleton) 12 August 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.healtheuropa.eu/covid-19-projects-to-receive-e128m-in-eu-funding/102073/>.

<sup>1215</sup> Risk factors and risk groups, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (Solna) 16 November 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19/latest-evidence/epidemiology>.

<sup>1216</sup> Risk factors and risk groups, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (Solna) 16 November 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19/latest-evidence/epidemiology>.

<sup>1217</sup> Press Release: ECRAID-base launches European clinical Research Alliance, European Commission (Brussels) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 1 March 2021. from <https://www.recover-europe.eu/ecraid-base-launches-european-clinical-research-alliance/>.

<sup>1218</sup> European Clinical Research Alliance on Infectious Diseases, European Commission (Brussels) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/96531>.

<sup>1219</sup> European Clinical Research Alliance on Infectious Diseases, European Commission (Brussels) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/96531>.

## 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>1220</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>1221</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>1222</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>1223</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>1224</sup>

<sup>1220</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>1221</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>1222</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>1223</sup> Why we exist, CEPI (Oslo). Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://cepi.net/about/whyweexist/>.

<sup>1224</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>1225</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>1226</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>1227</sup> They reiterated that “[c]ooperation among scientists and governments in the developed and developing world and international agencies will be critical.”<sup>1228</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>1229</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>1230</sup> Among other objectives, the Fund aims to promote improved coordination among donors and provide incentives for private sector research and development.<sup>1231</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>1232</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>1233</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>1234</sup> Again, they reiterated calls to promote investment in the research,

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<sup>1225</sup> COVAX: CEPI's response to COVID-19, CEPI (Oslo). Access Date: 16 December 2020.

<sup>1226</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>1227</sup> Communiqué, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 June 1997. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1997denver/g8final.htm>.

<sup>1228</sup> Communiqué, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 June 1997. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1997denver/g8final.htm>.

<sup>1229</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>1230</sup> Communiqué, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommunique.html>.

<sup>1231</sup> Communiqué, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommunique.html>.

<sup>1232</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>1233</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>1234</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>1235</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>1236</sup> They committed to helping coordinate research and development efforts, as well as directly supporting research on NTDs.<sup>1237</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>1238</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>1239</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>1240</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>1241</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>1242</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>1243</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>1244</sup>

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<sup>1235</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>1236</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>1237</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>1238</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>1239</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>1240</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>1241</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>1242</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>1243</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>1244</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>1245</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>1246</sup>

“Support” is understood to mean assist (financially and through other means) and promote the cause and interests of an initiative.<sup>1247</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>1248</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>1249</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>1250</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>1245</sup> Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/coordinate>.

<sup>1246</sup> Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/voluntary>.

<sup>1247</sup> Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/support>.

<sup>1248</sup> Why we exist, CEPI (Oslo). Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://cepi.net/about/whyweexist/>.

<sup>1249</sup> COVAX: CEPI's response to COVID-19, CEPI (Oslo). Access Date: 16 December 2020.

<sup>1250</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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Compliance Director: Ninar Fawal*

#### 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>1251</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>1252</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>1253</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>1254</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>1255</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>1256</sup>

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<sup>1251</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>1252</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>1253</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>1254</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>1255</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>1256</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>1257</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>1258</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>1259</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>1260</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>1261</sup>

On 19 February 2021, at a G7 virtual leaders meeting, Prime Minister Trudeau pledged an additional CAD75 million to the COVAX initiative.<sup>1262</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).

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

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<sup>1257</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>1258</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>1259</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>1260</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>1261</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>1262</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>.

also prepare the country for future epidemics.<sup>1263</sup> Of this funding, EUR50 million will be released as part of an emergency fund for research on COVID-19.<sup>1264</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>1265</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>1266</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>1267</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>1268</sup>

On 4 May 2020, President Emmanuel Macron pledged EUR500 million to the ACT-Accelerator, effectively making France one of its leading contributors.<sup>1269</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>1270</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>1271</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>1272</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>1273</sup>

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<sup>1263</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>1264</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>1265</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>1266</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>1267</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>1268</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>1269</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>1270</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>1271</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>1272</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>.

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>1274</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>1275</sup>

On 4 June 2020, Chancellor Merkel committed EUR100 million to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance to help contain the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1276</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>1277</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>1278</sup>

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>1279</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>1280</sup>

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<sup>1273</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>1274</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>1275</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>1276</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>1277</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>1278</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>.

<sup>1279</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).

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>1281</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>1282</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>1283</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>1284</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>1285</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>1286</sup> Minister of Health Roberto Speranza said this initiative would encourage inter-institutional collaborations between the Ministry of Health and the medical and scientific communities.<sup>1287</sup> Ten projects among 91 were selected for funding.<sup>1288</sup>

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<sup>1280</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>1281</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>1282</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>1283</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>1284</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>1285</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>1286</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>1287</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>1288</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).

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>1289</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>1290</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>1291</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>1292</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>1293</sup>

On 4 June 2020, Prime Minister Conte pledged EUR120 million at the Global Vaccine Summit for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.<sup>1294</sup> Of these funds, Italy will contribute USD103 million to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Advance Market Commitment initiative.<sup>1295</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>1296</sup> CEPI's goal is to develop at least three COVID-19 vaccine candidates.<sup>1297</sup>

On 26 January 2021, Italy committed EUR5 million to the International Finance Facility for Immunisation to hasten funding for the CEPI.<sup>1298</sup>

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<sup>1289</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>1290</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>1291</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>1292</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>1293</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>1294</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>1295</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>1296</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>1297</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>1298</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>.



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>1299</sup> This Consortium involves collaboration between the Government of Italy and other actors such as the Italian Society for Virology.<sup>1300</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 Yih*

### **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>1301</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>1302</sup> This will also entail the procurement and transport of Avigan tablets to beneficiary countries with COVID-19 patients.<sup>1303</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 COVID-19 and infectious diseases.<sup>1304</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>1305</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>1306</sup> This memorandum supports

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<sup>1299</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>1300</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>1301</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>1302</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>1303</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>1304</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>1305</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>1306</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\\_pagineArea\\_4258\\_2\\_file.pdf](http://www.salute.gov.it/imgs/C_17_pagineArea_4258_2_file.pdf).

collaborative efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19 and to identify appropriate treatments and vaccines against the virus.<sup>1307</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>1308</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>1309</sup> Japanese universities, corporations and other non-governmental actors with support from the METI will lead the research efforts.<sup>1310</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>1311</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>1312</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>1313</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>1314</sup>

On 19 February 2021, Japan pledged an additional USD70 million in funding for the COVAX AMC.<sup>1315</sup>

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<sup>1307</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\\_stamp/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_stamp/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/05/memorandum-di-cooperazione-in-campo-sanitario-italia-giappone-firmato-oggi-tra-i-due-ministeri-della-salute.html).

<sup>1308</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>1309</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>1310</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>1311</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>1312</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>.

<sup>1313</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>1314</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>.

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>1316</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>1317</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>1318</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>1319</sup>

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>1320</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>1321</sup> and meet CEPI's February call for USD2 billion to

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<sup>1315</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>1316</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>1317</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>1318</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>1319</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>1320</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>1321</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/).

support vaccine development.<sup>1322</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>1323</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>1324</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>1325</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>1326</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>1327</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*

### **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>1328</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

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<sup>1322</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>1323</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>1324</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>1325</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>1326</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>1327</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>1328</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/).

East respiratory syndrome, Nipah virus, Lassa fever, and Rift Valley Fever.<sup>1329</sup> The funding will go towards vaccine developments against these “priority diseases” as well as unknown pathogens, known as “Disease X.”<sup>1330</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>1331</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>1332</sup>

On 4 June 2020, the United States at the Global Vaccine Summit pledged USD1.16 billion to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.<sup>1333</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>1334</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>1335</sup>

On 24 February 2021, the National Institutes of Health published its findings on a study of detectable antibodies against SARS-CoV-2.<sup>1336</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>1337</sup>

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*

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<sup>1329</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>1330</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>1331</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>1332</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>1333</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>1334</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>1335</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>1336</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>.

<sup>1337</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>.

## 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>1338</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>1339</sup> This contribution marks a 50 per cent increase in the Commission's contribution relative to the previous period.<sup>1340</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>1341</sup> Half this investment was already expected but was doubled after the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>1342</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>1343</sup>

On 19 February 2021, the European Commission committed USD363 million to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Advance Market Commitment.<sup>1344</sup> Further, the European Investment Bank, the 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>1345</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>1346</sup>

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<sup>1338</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>1339</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>1340</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>1341</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>1342</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>1343</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>1344</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>1345</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>1346</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/>.

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*

## 7. Health: Joint Research Projects

“We will support the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources, and the sharing of facilities, towards rapid development, manufacture and distribution of treatments and a vaccine, adhering to the principles of efficacy, safety, and accessibility.”

*G7 Leaders’ Declaration*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

### Background

On 16 March 2020, the G7 Leaders’ Declaration was issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on the global economy, specifically “support[ing] the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources, and the sharing of facilities, towards rapid development, manufacture and distribution of treatments and a vaccine, adhering to the principles of efficacy, safety, and accessibility.”<sup>1347</sup> The G7 has a long history of making broad commitments to support global health. Health as a feature was first mentioned at the 1980 Venice Summit in relation to the well-being of the public and the disposal of nuclear waste and production of nuclear energy.<sup>1348</sup> The 1983 Williamsburg Summit handed down the first commitment by the G7 to scientific health research.<sup>1349</sup>

The 1987 Venice Summit marked a major turning point. For the first time, separate health-related statements focused on global health crises were released by the G7. The first of these declarations “affirm[ed] that AIDS is one of the biggest potential health problems in the world” and laid out a pledge by G7 members to “intensif[y] and ma[k]e more effective ... international cooperation and concerted campaigns to prevent AIDS from spreading further.”<sup>1350</sup> Also prominent are the first mentions of both the World Health Organization (WHO) and supporting the research and development of “a successful vaccine” by the scientific communities of the G7 members.<sup>1351</sup> The second release confirmed that a “drug abuse problem” that had “affect[ed] people all over the world, especially the young and their families” and noted the G7 had taken

<sup>1347</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, The White House [Washington D.C.], 16 March 2020. Access Date: 16 December 2020.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/g7-leaders-statement/>

<sup>1348</sup> G7 Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 23 June 1980. Access Date: 16 December 2020.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1980venice/communique/energy.html>.

<sup>1349</sup> Declaration on Economic Recovery, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 30 May 1983. Access Date: 16 December 2020.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1983williamsburg/communique.html>.

<sup>1350</sup> Chairman’s Statement on AIDS, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 10 June 1987. Access Date: 16 December 2020.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1987venice/aids.html>.

<sup>1351</sup> Chairman’s Statement on AIDS, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 10 June 1987. Access Date: 16 December 2020.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1987venice/aids.html>.



“multilateral” action to “fight against illegal production and distribution of [said] drugs.”<sup>1352</sup> Within the text of this statement by the G7, the first mentions of pediatric and family health emerges.

The 1991 London Summit included the first health-related mentions dedicated to specifically “improving health” of the poor in “developing countries” and G7 members.<sup>1353</sup> The 1993 Tokyo Summit produced the first commitment to increasing the accessibility “of the health care systems” and “medical services” of G7 members; also, elderly health was first mentioned, here.<sup>1354</sup> In the 1994 Naples Summit Communiqué, the first mention of the use of “private capital flows” to provide increased “resources” for global health.<sup>1355</sup> The 1996 Lyon Summit Chairman’s Statement generated the first pledge to tackle multiple “infectious diseases” and “epidemics,” simultaneously.<sup>1356</sup> The 1996 Lyon Summit was the first to acknowledge the negative impacts of environmental degradation on human health.<sup>1357</sup> The communiqué of the 1997 Denver Summit first pledged the G7 members to promoting therapies and therapeutics to fight infectious diseases.<sup>1358</sup>

The 2000 Okinawa Summit was the first G7 meeting to sponsor the use of “information and communications technologies” to increase the efficiency and efficacy of health systems.<sup>1359</sup> During the 2003 Evian Summit, the G7 members pledged to confront the – at the time – pressing SARS epidemic sweeping across the globe.<sup>1360</sup> The 2004 Sea Island Summit’s Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise was a key initiative in the history of the G7 and global health. For the first time, the G7 laid out a “strategic plan” for dealing with an infectious disease; concomitantly, the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise was also the first mention of sharing of facilities, phrased as “coordinated global HIV Vaccine Development Centers,” by the G7.<sup>1361</sup>

The 2010 Muskoka Summit marks another major accessibility milestone, the prioritization of women’s health in the Muskoka Initiative on Maternal, Newborn and Under-Five Child Health.<sup>1362</sup> The 2014 Brussels Summit was the first to address the “Ebola outbreak in West Africa” in light of its rapid spread in that region.<sup>1363</sup> The 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit explicitly prioritized the fight against Ebola and neglected tropical diseases, along with being the first declaration which seeks to “prevent future outbreaks from becoming epidemics” or pandemics instead of merely attempting to fight or contain infectious diseases.<sup>1364</sup>

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<sup>1352</sup> Chairman’s Statement on Drugs, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 10 June 1987. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1987venice/drug.html>.

<sup>1353</sup> Economic Declaration: Build World Partnership, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 17 July 1991. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1991london/communique/index.html>.

<sup>1354</sup> G7 Finance Ministers’ Report to the Tokyo Summit, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 8 July 1993. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1993tokyo/employ.html>.

<sup>1355</sup> Naples Summit Communiqué, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 9 July 1994. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1994naples/communique/index.html>.

<sup>1356</sup> Chairman’s Statement: Toward Greater Security and Stability in a More Cooperative World, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 29 June 1996. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1996lyon/chair.html>.

<sup>1357</sup> Chairman’s Statement: Toward Greater Security and Stability in a More Cooperative World, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 29 June 1996. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1996lyon/chair.html>.

<sup>1358</sup> Communiqué, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 22 June 1997. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1997denver/g8final.htm>.

<sup>1359</sup> Okinawa Charter on Global Information Society, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 22 July 2000. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/gis.htm>.

<sup>1360</sup> Health: A G8 Action Plan, G7 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>1361</sup> G8 Action to Endorse and Establish a Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 10 June 2004. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2004seaisland/hiv.html>.

<sup>1362</sup> Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 26 June 2010. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html#annex1>.

<sup>1363</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 5 June 2014. Access Date: 22 January 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

<sup>1364</sup> Leader’s Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 8 June 2015. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

On 31 December 2019, the WHO first alerted the world of the new SARS-CoV-2 virus, following a report of a new viral pneumonia emerging in the People's Republic of China.<sup>1365</sup> The virus quickly spread across the world and forcing the world economy to slow as the countries experienced mass lockdowns. In response, on 3 February 2020, G7 health ministers held a conference call to discuss COVID-19.<sup>1366</sup> On 16 March, under the U.S. presidency, G7 leaders met virtually and made commitments on vaccines as well as in the areas of medical equipment, public access to virus-related information, weekly governmental coordination, epidemiological data sharing, improving virus containment, and a strong international approach.<sup>1367</sup> At the time, they expected to meet again in three months at their regularly scheduled summit on 10-12 June 2020, which was later postponed indefinitely.

### Commitment Features

The G7 commitment is to “support the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources, and the sharing of facilities, towards rapid development, manufacture and distribution of treatments and a vaccine, adhering to the principles of efficacy, safety, and accessibility.” There are two components to this commitment: 1) support[ing] the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources, including sharing of facilities; and 2) by sharing of facilities.

Thus, it is understood that funding for joint research projects needs to be derived from both the G7 member and a private organization's resource pools to be counted for full compliance. It is also clear that a G7 member must share facilities with another member to count for full compliance.

Actions need to be related to the “launch of joint research projects ... and the sharing of facilities,” and, the “development, manufacture, and distribution of treatments and a vaccine,” wherein support refers to “the action, or act of providing aid, assistance, or backing up an initiative, or entity.”<sup>1368</sup>

“Launch,” implies that joint research projects and the sharing of facilities are “put into operation or set in motion.”<sup>1369</sup> “Joint” is “common to two or more: such as involving the united activity of two or more.”<sup>1370</sup> “Research” is defined as a “to search or investigate exhaustively.”<sup>1371</sup> “Project” is seen as “a planned undertaking: such as a large usually government-supported” task.<sup>1372</sup> Therefore, a “joint research project” is defined as a united activity common to two or more entities, wherein a planned search or exhaustive investigation is undertaken by a government or government-supported entity.

“Resources” are “a source of supply or support: an available means” to a specified end.<sup>1373</sup> “Public” denotes “of, relating to, or being in the service of the community or nation.”<sup>1374</sup> “Private” designates “belonging to or concerning an individual person, company, or interest.”<sup>1375</sup> “Public resources” are a source of supply, source of support, and/or an available means being used in the service of the community or nation to support the launch of joint research projects or the sharing of facilities by two or more governments or government-

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<sup>1365</sup> Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), What is COVID-19?, World Health Organisation [Geneva], 12 October 2020. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/question-and-answers-hub/q-a-detail/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>.

<sup>1366</sup> The Road to the United States' 2020 G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 13 October 2020. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/road.html>.

<sup>1367</sup> G7 Leaders' Statement, The White House [Washington D.C.], 16 March 2020. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/g7-leaders-statement/>

<sup>1368</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 6 August 2019. Access Date: 16 December 2020. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2019.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2019.pdf).

<sup>1369</sup> Launch, Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/launch>.

<sup>1370</sup> Joint, Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/joint>.

<sup>1371</sup> Research, Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/research>.

<sup>1372</sup> Project, Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/project>.

<sup>1373</sup> Resource, Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/resource>.

<sup>1374</sup> Public, Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/public>.

<sup>1375</sup> Private, Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/private>.

supported entities. “Private resources” are a source of supply, source of support, and/or an available means belonging to or concerning an individual person, company, or interest being used to support the launch of joint research projects or the sharing of facilities by two or more governments or government-supported entities.

“Sharing” is to “partake of, use, experience, occupy, or enjoy with others” or “to grant or give share in” something.<sup>1376</sup> “Facilities” are places or things “built, installed, or established to serve a particular purpose.”<sup>1377</sup> In the context of this commitment, “sharing of facilities” can be noted as the use or occupation of built, installed, or established places or things by two or more governments or government-supported entities in pursuit of the launch of joint research projects. Concurrently, “sharing of facilities” is the granting of use of purpose built, installed, or established places or things by two or more governments or government-supported entities in pursuit of the launch of joint research projects.

For full compliance, G7 members must take action on both components of this commitment. G7 members must support the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources and participate in the sharing of facilities. Joint research projects can include, but are not limited to, the WHO’s COVAX, COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund, and Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, and the United Nations’ COVID-19 Supply Chain Task Force. To receive a score of partial compliance, or 0, G7 members must have taken action towards supporting the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources, or participating in the sharing of facilities, but not both. A score of -1, or no compliance, will be assigned if the G7 member exemplifies no demonstrable compliance towards supporting the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources, or participating in the sharing of facilities.

**Scoring Guidelines**

-1	G7 member has NOT taken any action towards supporting the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources OR participated in the sharing of facilities.
0	G7 member has taken actions toward EITHER supporting the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources OR participating in the sharing of facilities.
+1	G7 member has taken actions toward supporting the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources AND participating in the sharing of facilities.

*Compliance Director: Ben Holt  
Lead Analyst: Annie Ding*

**Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to support the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources and participate in the sharing of facilities.

On 2 April 2020, Canada increased its investment in COVID-19 research to CAD54.2 million, supporting 99 private and public research teams across the country.<sup>1378</sup>

On 17 June 2020, the Canadian government launched the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), an initiative co-created with France and housed in a shared facility in Paris.<sup>1379</sup> During the pandemic, the GPAI will focus all research on the use of artificial intelligence for battling COVID-19.<sup>1380</sup>

<sup>1376</sup> Share, Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/sharing>.

<sup>1377</sup> Facility, Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/facilities>.

<sup>1378</sup> Government of Canada Funds Additional 49 COVID-19 Research Projects - Details of the Funded Projects, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 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>1379</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>.

On 25 June 2020, Minister of Health Patty Hajdu announced an investment of CAD109 million in COVID-19 research through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the International Development Research Centre, supporting 139 research teams in both domestic and international clinical trials.<sup>1381</sup>

On 18 December 2020, the World Health Organization announced Canada's pledge of CAD75 million to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Advance Market Commitment to assist the delivery of COVID-19 vaccines in low-income countries.<sup>1382</sup> A part of this pledge is CAD5 million that will be invested toward the development of an equitable mechanism for vaccine reallocation through the COVAX facility by donation or exchange.<sup>1383</sup>

On 19 February 2021, Canada increased its investment in the COVAX facility by pledging an additional CAD75 million to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator with funds allocated for vaccine delivery in low- and middle-income countries.<sup>1384</sup>

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to support the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources and participate in the sharing of facilities.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Sian Persad*

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

France has fully complied with its commitment to support the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources and participate in the sharing of facilities.

On 2 April 2020, the Minister of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation released a fund of EUR50 million to the Ministry of Solidarity and Health to be allocated to applied COVID-19 research efforts.<sup>1385</sup> The French government also requested free access to publications and data from COVID-19 research in France in an open database.<sup>1386</sup>

On 9 April 2020, the Agence française de développement announced a EUR1.2 billion initiative with African partner countries to fund, among other initiatives, research bodies in Africa.<sup>1387</sup> As of 6 May 2020, EUR43

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<sup>1380</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>.

<sup>1381</sup> Government of Canada and Provincial Partners Invest More Than \$109M in COVID-19 Research, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Ottawa) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/institutes-health-research/news/2020/06/government-of-canada-and-provincial-partners-invest-more-than-109m-in-covid-19-research.html>.

<sup>1382</sup> COVAX Announces Additional Deals to Access Promising COVID-19 Vaccine Candidates; Plans Global Rollout Starting Q1 2021, World Health Organization (Geneva/Oslo) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/18-12-2020-covax-announces-additional-deals-to-access-promising-covid-19-vaccine-candidates-plans-global-rollout-starting-q1-2021>.

<sup>1383</sup> COVAX Announces Additional Deals to Access Promising COVID-19 Vaccine Candidates; Plans Global Rollout Starting Q1 2021, World Health Organization (Geneva/Oslo) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/18-12-2020-covax-announces-additional-deals-to-access-promising-covid-19-vaccine-candidates-plans-global-rollout-starting-q1-2021>.

<sup>1384</sup> Canada Tops Up COVAX Funding by \$75M as G7 Leaders Renew Global Vaccine Efforts, Global News (Toronto) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7650052/g7-trudeau-johnson-covax-vaccine/>.

<sup>1385</sup> Open Science Moves Forward in France in the Wake of COVID-19, EOSC-Pillar (Pisa) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.eosc-pillar.eu/news/open-science-france-covid-19>.

<sup>1386</sup> Open Science Moves Forward in France in the Wake of COVID-19, EOSC-Pillar (Pisa) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.eosc-pillar.eu/news/open-science-france-covid-19>.

<sup>1387</sup> France Launches, Via Afd, the "Covid-19 – Health in Common" Initiative to Support African Countries, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/france-launches-afd-covid-19-health-common-initiative-support-african-countries>.

million in these grants had already gone to projects led by organizations connected to the French government and non-governmental organizations.<sup>1388</sup>

On 24 April 2020, France launched the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT) with European and international partners, the World Health Organization, and global health stakeholders.<sup>1389</sup> The ACT-Accelerator uses shared facilities and funding to develop and distribute COVID-19 vaccines around the world.<sup>1390</sup>

On 4 May 2020, France contributed EUR500 million in support of the ACT-Accelerator during an international conference it co-sponsored.<sup>1391</sup>

On 18 June 2020, the French government announced that the European Innovation Council would be funding eight French health projects for up to EUR57.4 million.<sup>1392</sup>

On 17 June 2020, the French government launched the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), an initiative co-created with Canada and housed in a shared facility in Paris.<sup>1393</sup> During the pandemic, the GPAI will focus all research on the use of artificial intelligence for battling COVID-19.<sup>1394</sup>

France has fully complied with its commitment to support the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources and participate in the sharing of facilities.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Shauna McLean*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to support the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources and participate in the sharing of facilities.

On 4 May 2020, Germany attended a European Union-organized COVID-19 summit and contributed approximately EUR500 million for COVID-19 research.<sup>1395</sup>

As of 10 July 2020, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft was funding multiple international COVID-19 research projects, including partnerships with the Peruvian government and with the Government of

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<sup>1388</sup> France Pledges €500m Against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

<sup>1389</sup> France Pledges €500m Against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

<sup>1390</sup> France Pledges €500m Against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

<sup>1391</sup> France Pledges €500m Against Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>.

<sup>1392</sup> Reshoring the Health Industries in Europe, Government of France (Paris) 18 June 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/reshoring-the-health-industries-in-europe>.

<sup>1393</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>.

<sup>1394</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>.

<sup>1395</sup> World Leaders Pledge €7.4bn to Research Covid-19 Vaccine, The Guardian (London) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/04/world-leaders-pledge-74bn-euros-to-research-covid-19-vaccine>.

India.<sup>1396</sup> The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft is 69 per cent funded by the German government through the Ministry of Education and Research.<sup>1397</sup>

As of 27 October 2020, 97 COVID-19 studies were registered in Germany facilities, almost half of which were international studies sharing German resources.<sup>1398</sup>

On 19 February 2021, the German government announced that it will be providing the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator with EUR1.5 billion in 2021, in addition to previous contributions totalling EUR600 million.<sup>1399</sup> This funding will go primarily to the shared COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility to provide more vaccines and support COVID-19 research.<sup>1400</sup>

On 19 February 2021, Germany announced an additional EUR900 million in funding for COVAX in partnership with other European Union member states and Team Europe.<sup>1401</sup>

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to support the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources and participate in the sharing of facilities.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Shauna McLean*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to support the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources and participate in the sharing of facilities.

On 4 June 2020, Italy pledged USD79 million to the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) Advanced Market Commitment (AMC) initiative at the Global Vaccine Summit; the COVAX AMC initiative finances the COVAX facility.<sup>1402</sup> This contribution supports 92 low- and middle-income countries' access to COVID-19 vaccines.<sup>1403</sup>

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<sup>1396</sup> In an International Context: The Coronavirus Pandemic and International Research, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (Bonn) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.dfg.de/en/research\\_funding/corona\\_information/international\\_context/index.html](https://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/corona_information/international_context/index.html).

<sup>1397</sup> Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Bonn) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.research-in-germany.org/en/research-funding/funding-organisations/deutsche-forschungsgemeinschaft-\(dfg\).html](https://www.research-in-germany.org/en/research-funding/funding-organisations/deutsche-forschungsgemeinschaft-(dfg).html).

<sup>1398</sup> Covid-19: Clinical Research in Germany, Germany Trade and Invest (Berlin) 27 October 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.gtai.de/gtai-en/invest/industries/life-sciences/covid-19-clinical-research-in-germany-523902>.

<sup>1399</sup> Fighting COVID-19 Together in a Spirit of Solidarity: Germany is Contributing a Further 1.5 Billion Euro to Global Efforts to Fight the Pandemic, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/gesundheit/covax/2396914>.

<sup>1400</sup> Fighting COVID-19 Together in a Spirit of Solidarity: Germany is Contributing a Further 1.5 Billion Euro to Global Efforts to Fight the Pandemic, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/gesundheit/covax/2396914>.

<sup>1401</sup> EU Doubles Contribution to COVAX to €1 Billion to Ensure Safe and Effective Vaccines for Low and Middle-Income Countries, European Commission (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_690](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_690).

<sup>1402</sup> Countries pledge nearly US\$ 1 billion to support equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/countries-pledge-nearly-us-1-billion-support-equitable-access-covid-19-vaccines>.

<sup>1403</sup> Countries pledge nearly US\$ 1 billion to support equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/countries-pledge-nearly-us-1-billion-support-equitable-access-covid-19-vaccines>.

On 10 September 2020, Italy, along with heads of state and ministers from 30 other states, released a joint statement on the first meeting of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator Facilitation Council.<sup>1404</sup> The statement committed to providing sustained political leadership to galvanize support for the ACT-Accelerator, advocating in support of the ACT-Accelerator Investment Case, and honouring and realizing a shared commitment to leave no one behind in this crisis.<sup>1405</sup>

On 2 October 2020, Italian private resources under the ownership of Vismederi, a Siena-based clinical sample testing laboratory partnered with the publicly funded University of Siena, joined the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovation's (CEPI) new Centralised Lab Network to reliably assess and compare the immunological responses generated by COVID-19 vaccine candidates; partner laboratories include the United Kingdom Department of Health's Public Health England, Nexelis of Canada, Viroclinics-DDL of the Netherlands, the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research of Bangladesh, and the Indian Ministry of Science and Technology's Translational Health Science and Technology Institute.<sup>1406</sup>

On 6 October 2020, Italy pledged an additional EUR20 million to the COVAX AMC initiative.<sup>1407</sup> This contribution raises Italy's total contribution to the COVAX AMC initiative to USD102 million.<sup>1408</sup>

On 28 October 2020, Italy formally joined CEPI with an initial donation of EUR5 million out of a committed EUR10 million pledge.<sup>1409</sup>

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to support the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources and participate in the sharing of facilities.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Ben Holt*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to support the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources and participate in the sharing of facilities.

On 8 October 2020, the Japanese Government announced that it was pledging USD130 million to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Advance Market Commitment; the COVAX AMC initiative finances the COVAX facility.<sup>1410</sup>

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<sup>1404</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: Access to COVID-19 Tools-Accelerator Facilitation Council holds inaugural meeting, World Health Organization (Geneva) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/10-09-2020-coronavirus-global-response-access-to-covid-19-tools-accelerator-facilitation-council-holds-inaugural-meeting>.

<sup>1405</sup> Statement from the first ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council meeting, World Health Organization (Geneva) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/10-09-2020-statement-from-the-first-act-accelerator-facilitation-council-meeting>.

<sup>1406</sup> CEPI establishes global network of laboratories to centralise assessment of COVID-19 vaccine candidates, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovation (Oslo) 2 October 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. [https://cepi.net/news\\_cepi/cepi-establishes-global-network-of-laboratories-to-centralise-assessment-of-covid-19-vaccine-candidates/](https://cepi.net/news_cepi/cepi-establishes-global-network-of-laboratories-to-centralise-assessment-of-covid-19-vaccine-candidates/).

<sup>1407</sup> Countries pledge nearly US\$ 1 billion to support equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/countries-pledge-nearly-us-1-billion-support-equitable-access-covid-19-vaccines>.

<sup>1408</sup> Countries pledge nearly US\$ 1 billion to support equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/countries-pledge-nearly-us-1-billion-support-equitable-access-covid-19-vaccines>.

<sup>1409</sup> Italy pledges first EUR 5 million funding to CEPI to advance COVID-19 vaccine development efforts, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovation (Oslo) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. [https://cepi.net/news\\_cepi/italy-pledges-first-eur-5-million-funding-to-cepi-to-advance-covid-19-vaccine-development-efforts/](https://cepi.net/news_cepi/italy-pledges-first-eur-5-million-funding-to-cepi-to-advance-covid-19-vaccine-development-efforts/).

On 9 February 2021, at the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator 4th Facilitation Council, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Motegi Toshimitsu, announced that Japan would increase its contribution to the COVAX Advance Market Commitment to a total of USD200 million.<sup>1411</sup> COVAX aims to accelerate the development and manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines, while also guaranteeing fair and equitable access of the vaccine for every country in the world.<sup>1412</sup>

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to support the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources and participate in the sharing of facilities.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Maryam Rehman*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to support the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources and participate in the sharing of facilities.

On 23 March 2020, the United Kingdom invested GBP20 million to launch genome research in tandem with the National Health Service and various academic institutions to map the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1413</sup> This funding will supplement six research projects across the United Kingdom, including vaccination trials.<sup>1414</sup>

On 23 March 2020, the United Kingdom launched a technology challenge promising funding of up to GBP500,000 for companies developing methods to optimize care, volunteerism and support for people during the pandemic.<sup>1415</sup>

On 29 May 2020, the United Kingdom announced an investment of GBP5 million in community research projects that address mental health issues during the COVID-19 pandemic, funding grassroots organizations working to create access to resources and guidelines for surviving the pandemic.<sup>1416</sup>

On 25 September 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced during a speech to the United Nations General Assembly that the United Kingdom would become the World Health Organization's largest state

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<sup>1410</sup> Japan pledges US\$ 130 million to support global access to COVID-19 vaccines, Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/japan-pledges-us-130-million-support-global-access-covid-19-vaccines>.

<sup>1411</sup> Video Message by Minister for Foreign Affairs Motegi at the ACT Accelerator 4th Facilitation Council, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002974.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002974.html).

<sup>1412</sup> Video Message by Minister for Foreign Affairs Motegi at the ACT Accelerator 4th Facilitation Council, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002974.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002974.html).

<sup>1413</sup> UK Launches Whole Genome Sequence Alliance to Map Spread of Coronavirus, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-launches-whole-genome-sequence-alliance-to-map-spread-of-coronavirus>.

<sup>1414</sup> Vaccine Trials Among Recipients of £20 Million Coronavirus Research Investment, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vaccine-trials-among-recipients-of-20-million-coronavirus-research-investment>.

<sup>1415</sup> New Technology Challenge to Support People Who are Isolating, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-technology-challenge-to-support-people-who-are-isolating>.

<sup>1416</sup> £5 Million Funding Given to Mental Health Community Projects, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 29 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/5-million-funding-given-to-mental-health-community-projects>.



donor with an increase in funding by 30 per cent.<sup>1417</sup> The prime minister also pledged GBP500 million to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Advance Market Commitment.<sup>1418</sup>

On 2 October 2020, the United Kingdom Department of Health's Public Health England joined the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovation's new Centralised Lab Network to reliably assess and compare the immunological responses generated by COVID-19 vaccine candidates; partner laboratories include Vismederi of Italy, Nexelis of Canada, Viroclinics-DDL of the Netherlands, the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research of Bangladesh, and the Indian Ministry of Science and Technology's Translational Health Science and Technology Institute.<sup>1419</sup>

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to support the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources and participate in the sharing of facilities.

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

*Analyst: Sian Persad*

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

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to support the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources and participate in the sharing of facilities.

On 21 May 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services' Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) announced a partnership with AstraZeneca to support and expedite the development of a COVID-19 vaccine.<sup>1420</sup> Under the terms of the partnership, BARDA agreed to provide AstraZeneca with up to USD1.2 billion in funding.<sup>1421</sup>

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<sup>1417</sup> Prime Minister's speech to United Nations General Assembly: 26 September 2020, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street (London) 26 September 2020. Access Date: 6 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-speech-to-un-general-assembly-26-september-2020>; UK to Become WHO's Largest State Donor with 30% Funding Increase, The Guardian (London) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/sep/25/uk-to-become-whos-largest-state-donor-with-30-funding-increase>.

<sup>1418</sup> Prime Minister's speech to United Nations General Assembly: 26 September 2020, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street (London) 26 September 2020. Access Date: 6 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-speech-to-un-general-assembly-26-september-2020>; UK to Become WHO's Largest State Donor with 30% Funding Increase, The Guardian (London) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/sep/25/uk-to-become-whos-largest-state-donor-with-30-funding-increase>.

<sup>1419</sup> CEPI establishes global network of laboratories to centralise assessment of COVID-19 vaccine candidates, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovation (Oslo) 2 October 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. [https://cepi.net/news\\_cepi/cepi-establishes-global-network-of-laboratories-to-centralise-assessment-of-covid-19-vaccine-candidates/](https://cepi.net/news_cepi/cepi-establishes-global-network-of-laboratories-to-centralise-assessment-of-covid-19-vaccine-candidates/).

<sup>1420</sup> Trump Administration's Operation Warp Speed Accelerates AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine to be Available Beginning in October, Department of Health and Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://public3.pagefreezer.com/content/HHS.gov/31-12-2020T08:51/https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/21/trump-administration-accelerates-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine-to-be-available-beginning-in-october.html>.

<sup>1421</sup> Trump Administration's Operation Warp Speed Accelerates AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine to be Available Beginning in October, Department of Health and Human Services (Washington, D.C.) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://public3.pagefreezer.com/content/HHS.gov/31-12-2020T08:51/https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/21/trump-administration-accelerates-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine-to-be-available-beginning-in-october.html>.

On 21 January 2021, President Joseph Biden issued a National Security Memorandum in part expressing the United States' plans to assist the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator and join the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility, which facilitates the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines worldwide.<sup>1422</sup>

On 19 February 2021, the United States pledged an initial USD2 billion in funding at a virtual G7 leaders meeting for the COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC), which finances the COVAX Facility.<sup>1423</sup> The United States also announced an additional contribution of USD2 billion to COVAX AMC for 2021 and 2022.<sup>1424</sup> The first USD500 million of the additional contribution will be released when existing donor pledges are satisfied, and initial doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are provided to AMC countries.<sup>1425</sup>

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to support the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources and participate in the sharing of facilities.

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

*Analyst: Annie Ding*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to support the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources and participate in the sharing of facilities.

On 20 April 2020, the European Union launched a European COVID-19 Data Platform to facilitate the collection and sharing of research data on COVID-19.<sup>1426</sup> As part of the ERAvsCorona Action Plan, the platform was a milestone in the European Union's efforts to support researchers in Europe and worldwide in the fight against COVID-19.<sup>1427</sup> The platform boosts research discovery, allowing for an effective response to COVID-19, and constitutes a sharing of European Union facilities in an online space.<sup>1428</sup>

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<sup>1422</sup> National Security Memorandum on United States Global Leadership to Strengthen the International COVID-19 Response and to Advance Global Health Security and Biological Preparedness, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/01/21/national-security-directive-united-states-global-leadership-to-strengthen-the-international-covid-19-response-and-to-advance-global-health-security-and-biological-preparedness/>.

<sup>1423</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: 11 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-02-2021-g7-leaders-commit-us-4.3-billion-to-finance-global-equitable-access-to-tests-treatments-and-vaccines-in-2021>; Fact Sheet: President Biden to Take Action on Global Health through Support of COVAX and Calling for Health Security Financing, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/18/fact-sheet-president-biden-to-take-action-on-global-health-through-support-of-covax-and-calling-for-health-security-financing/>.

<sup>1424</sup> Fact Sheet: President Biden to Take Action on Global Health through Support of COVAX and Calling for Health Security Financing, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/18/fact-sheet-president-biden-to-take-action-on-global-health-through-support-of-covax-and-calling-for-health-security-financing/>.

<sup>1425</sup> Fact Sheet: President Biden to Take Action on Global Health through Support of COVAX and Calling for Health Security Financing, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/18/fact-sheet-president-biden-to-take-action-on-global-health-through-support-of-covax-and-calling-for-health-security-financing/>.

<sup>1426</sup> Coronavirus: Commission Launches Data Sharing Platform for Researchers, European Commission (Brussels) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_680](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_680).

<sup>1427</sup> Coronavirus: Commission Launches Data Sharing Platform for Researchers, European Commission (Brussels) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_680](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_680).

<sup>1428</sup> Coronavirus: Commission Launches Data Sharing Platform for Researchers, European Commission (Brussels) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_680](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_680).

On 18 June 2020, the European Innovation Council announced that it would be funding eight French government-sponsored health projects for up to EUR57.4 million.<sup>1429</sup>

On 11 August 2020, the European Union distributed EUR128 million in funding to 23 new research projects working on COVID-19 treatments and responses.<sup>1430</sup> These efforts support the development of diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines for COVID-19.<sup>1431</sup>

On 12 November 2020, the European Union increased its total contribution to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility to EUR500 million by providing an additional EUR100 million.<sup>1432</sup> COVAX is a pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator.<sup>1433</sup>

On 15 December 2020, the European Investment Bank agreed to provide EUR400 million in financing for COVAX to support the initiative's goal of ensuring fair and equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine worldwide.<sup>1434</sup> The European Commission also contributed a EUR100 million grant to COVAX Advance Market Commitment.<sup>1435</sup>

On 19 February 2021, the European Union announced that it had doubled its contribution to the COVAX Facility from EUR500 million to EUR1billion to support the initiative in its efforts to distribute COVID-19 vaccines around the world.<sup>1436</sup>

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to support the launch of joint research projects funded by both public and private resources and participate in the sharing of facilities.

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

*Analyst: Maryam Rehman*

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<sup>1429</sup> Reshoring the Health Industries in Europe, Government of France (Paris) 18 June 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/reshoring-the-health-industries-in-europe>.

<sup>1430</sup> Coronavirus: 23 New Research Projects to Receive €128 Million in EU Funding, European Commission (Brussels) 11 August 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1460](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1460).

<sup>1431</sup> Coronavirus: 23 New Research Projects to Receive €128 Million in EU Funding, European Commission (Brussels) 11 August 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1460](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1460).

<sup>1432</sup> EU Increases Its Contribution to COVAX to €500 Million to Secure COVID-19 Vaccines for Low and Middle-Income Countries, European Commission (Brussels) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_2075](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2075).

<sup>1433</sup> EU Increases Its Contribution to COVAX to €500 Million to Secure COVID-19 Vaccines for Low and Middle-Income Countries, European Commission (Brussels) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_2075](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2075).

<sup>1434</sup> Team Europe Contributes €500 Million to COVAX Initiative to Provide One Billion COVID-19 Vaccine Doses for Low and Middle Income Countries, European Commission (Brussels) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_2262](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2262).

<sup>1435</sup> Team Europe Contributes €500 Million to COVAX Initiative to Provide One Billion COVID-19 Vaccine Doses for Low and Middle Income Countries, European Commission (Brussels) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_2262](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2262).

<sup>1436</sup> EU Doubles Contribution to COVAX to €1 Billion to Ensure Safe and Effective Vaccines for Low and Middle-Income Countries, European Commission (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_690](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_690).

## 8. Health: Medical Equipment

“We will make efforts to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed.”

*G7 Leaders’ Statement*

### Assessment

Member	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	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

On 31 December 2019, the China Country Office of the World Health Organization (WHO) reported cases of “pneumonia of unknown etiology ... detected in Wuhan City.”<sup>1437</sup> The virus would later be known as COVID-19.

On 23 January 2020, the Chinese government imposed a lockdown across Hubei province, including the city of Wuhan, in an attempt to contain the virus and limit its spread.<sup>1438</sup>

On 23 January 2020, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, convened a meeting of the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee “regarding the outbreak of novel coronavirus.”<sup>1439</sup> The committee did not recommend the Director-General to declare a Public Health Emergency of International Concern but expressed support of the “ongoing efforts through a WHO international multidisciplinary mission ... to investigate the animal source of the outbreak, the extent of human-to-human transmission, the screening efforts in other provinces of China, the enhancement of surveillance for severe acute respiratory infections in these regions, and to reinforce containment and mitigation measures.”<sup>1440</sup>

On 30 January 2020, Dr. Tedros on the advice of the Emergency Committee declared “that the outbreak constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.”<sup>1441</sup> As of that date, there were 7,834

<sup>1437</sup> Pneumonia of unknown cause – China, World Health Organization (Geneva) 5 January 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/csr/don/05-january-2020-pneumonia-of-unkown-cause-china/en/>.

<sup>1438</sup> China virus death toll rises to 41, more than 1,300 infected worldwide, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/01/24/chinas-hubei-province-confirms-15-more-deaths-due-to-coronavirus.html>.

<sup>1439</sup> Statement on the first meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), World Health Organization (Geneva) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/news/item/23-01-2020-statement-on-the-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)](https://www.who.int/news/item/23-01-2020-statement-on-the-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)).

<sup>1440</sup> Statement on the first meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), World Health Organization (Geneva) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/news/item/23-01-2020-statement-on-the-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)](https://www.who.int/news/item/23-01-2020-statement-on-the-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)).

<sup>1441</sup> WHO Director-General’s statement on IHR Emergency Committee on Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), World Health Organization (Geneva) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-statement-on-ih-er-emergency-committee-on-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)](https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-statement-on-ih-er-emergency-committee-on-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)).

confirmed cases in 19 countries.<sup>1442</sup> Dr. Tedros issued seven recommendations including an advice against “limiting trade and movement” and a call on the international community to “support countries with weaker health systems.”<sup>1443</sup>

On 3 February 2020, the G7 health ministers held a conference call on the COVID-19. The ministers agreed to “coordinate their approach on travel regulations and precautions, research into the new virus and cooperation with the WHO, the EU, and China.”<sup>1444</sup>

On 4 February 2020, the WHO issued a Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan that “outlines the public health measures that the international community stands ready to provide to support all countries to prepare for and respond to COVID-19.”<sup>1445</sup> Among other recommendations, the document stated that “measures that restrict the movement of people may prove temporarily useful at the beginning of an outbreak to allow time to implement preparedness activities, and to limit the international spread of potentially highly infectious cases.”<sup>1446</sup> Dr. Tedros also asked UN Secretary-General António Guterres “to activate the UN crisis management policy.”<sup>1447</sup>

As of 5 February 2020, more than 20 countries, including Japan, Germany, Britain, France, and Italy, and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) have donated “epidemic prevention and control supplies to China.”<sup>1448</sup>

On 3 March 2020, the WHO issued a statement calling on “industry and governments” to increase production of personal protective equipment (PPE).<sup>1449</sup> The WHO underlined that shortages of PPE were “leaving doctors, nurses and other frontline workers dangerously ill-equipped to care for COVID-19 patients.”<sup>1450</sup>

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<sup>1442</sup> WHO Director-General's statement on IHR Emergency Committee on Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), World Health Organization (Geneva) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-statement-on-ih-er-emergency-committee-on-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)](https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-statement-on-ih-er-emergency-committee-on-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)).

<sup>1443</sup> Statement on the first meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), World Health Organization (Geneva) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/news/item/23-01-2020-statement-on-the-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)](https://www.who.int/news/item/23-01-2020-statement-on-the-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)).

<sup>1444</sup> G7 health ministers agree on coordinated approach to coronavirus – Germany, Reuters (Berlin) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.businessinsider.com/g7-health-ministers-agree-on-coordinated-approach-to-coronavirus-germany-2020-2>.

<sup>1445</sup> Strategic preparedness and response plan, World Health Organization (Geneva) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/strategic-preparedness-and-response-plan-for-the-new-coronavirus>.

<sup>1446</sup> Strategic preparedness and response plan, World Health Organization (Geneva) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/strategic-preparedness-and-response-plan-for-the-new-coronavirus>.

<sup>1447</sup> Listings of WHO’s response to COVID-19, World Health Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/news/item/29-06-2020-covidtimeline>

<sup>1448</sup> 21 countries donate medical supplies to China: spokesperson, Xinhua (Beijing) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/06/c\\_138758854.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/06/c_138758854.htm).

<sup>1449</sup> Shortage of personal protective equipment endangering health workers worldwide, World Health Organization (Geneva) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/news/item/03-03-2020-shortage-of-personal-protective-equipment-endangering-health-workers-worldwide>.

<sup>1450</sup> Shortage of personal protective equipment endangering health workers worldwide, World Health Organization (Geneva) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/news/item/03-03-2020-shortage-of-personal-protective-equipment-endangering-health-workers-worldwide>.

On 7 March 2020, the number of confirmed cases reached 100,000.<sup>1451</sup> The WHO called on “all countries to continue efforts that have been effective in limiting the number of cases and slowing the spread of the virus.”<sup>1452</sup>

On 9 March 2020, the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board, which was co-founded by the World Bank and the WHO, called on G7 and G20 leaders “to mobilize resources to fill funding gaps” as the world faces “the unprecedented rapid global spread of the virus and the profound health, social and economic impact.”<sup>1453</sup>

On 11 March 2020, with the number of confirmed cases exceeding 180,000 and spreading across 114 countries, the WHO declared COVID a pandemic.<sup>1454</sup> COVID-19 pandemic is the first one “sparked by a coronavirus.”<sup>1455</sup> Dr. Tedros reiterated his call on “all countries ... to activate and scale up ... emergency response mechanisms.”<sup>1456</sup>

On 16 March 2020, the WHO and the UN Development Coordination Office started the COVID-19 Partners Platform that aims to provide a tool for “partners, donors and contributors to collaborate in the global COVID-19 response.”<sup>1457</sup>

On 16 March 2020, under the U.S. presidency G7 leaders held a videoconference to respond to COVID-19 pandemic and agreed to work collectively to “increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed.”<sup>1458</sup> At the time, they expected to meet again in three months at their regularly scheduled summit on 10-12 June 2020, which was later postponed indefinitely.

### **Commitment Features**

The commitment states that G7 members “will make efforts to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed.”<sup>1459</sup> There are several components to this commitment.

First, “increase the availability” is defined as taking measures to increase supply of medical equipment through supporting industry in increasing production, removing import and export barriers, simplifying

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<sup>1451</sup> WHO statement on the cases of COVID-19 surpassing 100 000, World Health Organization (Geneva) 7 March 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2018compliance-final/02-2018-G7-final-compliance-transparency.pdf>.

<sup>1452</sup> WHO statement on the cases of COVID-19 surpassing 100 000, World Health Organization (Geneva) 7 March 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2018compliance-final/02-2018-G7-final-compliance-transparency.pdf>.

<sup>1453</sup> Global Preparedness Monitoring Board calls on G7 and G20 leaders to support \$8bn call to scale-up global response to COVID-19, Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (Geneva) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. [https://apps.who.int/gpmb/assets/pdf/COVID\\_19\\_Press\\_Release\\_GPMB\\_9Mar.pdf](https://apps.who.int/gpmb/assets/pdf/COVID_19_Press_Release_GPMB_9Mar.pdf).

<sup>1454</sup> WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19, World Health Organization (Geneva) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-19---11-march-2020>.

<sup>1455</sup> WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19, World Health Organization (Geneva) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-19---11-march-2020>.

<sup>1456</sup> WHO statement on the cases of COVID-19 surpassing 100 000, World Health Organization (Geneva) 7 March 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2018compliance-final/02-2018-G7-final-compliance-transparency.pdf>.

<sup>1457</sup> Timelines: WHO's COVID-19 response, World Health Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/interactive-timeline#!>.

<sup>1458</sup> G7 Leaders' Statement, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>1459</sup> G7 Leaders' Statement, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

procurement procedures, and supporting an effective and efficient distribution of medical equipment.<sup>1460</sup> Examples of such measures are providing financial support to manufactures and removing tariffs for equipment import.

Second, “medical equipment” is defined as any medical tool or device used for “diagnostic, therapeutic, and protective” purposes related to COVID-19.<sup>1461</sup> Such devices include personal protective equipment, ventilators, equipment for conducting tests, etc.<sup>1462</sup>

Third, the commitment states that G7 members will work on making medical equipment more available “where it is most needed.”<sup>1463</sup> This portion of the commitment has domestic and international elements. Domestically, G7 members should take steps to increase the supply of medical equipment in regions most impacted by the virus and where there is a shortage of medical equipment. Internationally, G7 members should take steps to increase the availability of medical devices in countries at the epicentre of COVID-19 crisis (e.g. Italy and Spain in spring 2019) and in developing countries with weak health systems. Examples of such actions include donating medical equipment to other states and financing WHO or other international organizations’ programs that aim to increase the availability of medical equipment in developing states.

Thus, to achieve full compliance, a G7 member must take concrete actions to implement policies and programs designed to increase the supply of medical equipment domestically and support other countries experiencing a major COVID-19 crisis or having weak health systems. If a member makes efforts to increase availability of medical devices domestically but does not assist other countries directly or indirectly, a score of 0, or partial compliance will be assigned. Also, a score of 0 will be assigned to a G7 member that takes concrete steps to increase availability of medical devices domestically while only reaffirming its commitment increase availability internationally and vice versa.

A G7 member that takes no steps to “to increase the availability of medical equipment” neither domestically nor internationally will be assigned a score of -1, or no compliance.<sup>1464</sup>

**Scoring Guidelines**

-1	G7 member has NOT taken steps to increase the availability of medical equipment domestically OR assisted other countries where the equipment is most needed.
0	G7 member has taken steps to steps to increase the availability of medical equipment domestically OR to assist other countries where the equipment is most needed.
+1	G7 member has taken steps to steps to increase the availability of medical equipment domestically AND to assit other countries where the equipment is most needed.

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<sup>1460</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>1461</sup> Medical Device Shortages During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, US Food and Drug Administration (Silver Spring) 26 February 2012. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/medical-device-shortages-during-covid-19-public-health-emergency>

<sup>1462</sup> Medical Device Shortages During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, US Food and Drug Administration (Silver Spring) 26 February 2012. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/medical-device-shortages-during-covid-19-public-health-emergency>

<sup>1463</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>1464</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

**Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed.

On 18 March 2020, Minister of Health Patty Hajdu issued the Interim Order Respecting the Importation and Sale of Medical Devices for Use in Relation to COVID-19.<sup>1465</sup> The interim order creates expedited authorization pathways for COVID-19 medical equipment.<sup>1466</sup> This measure defines COVID-19 related medical equipment to include testing equipment, personal protective equipment, ventilators, sterilizers and decontaminators.<sup>1467</sup> The expedited authorization pathways allow for faster and greater availability of required medical equipment.<sup>1468</sup>

On 20 March 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Canada's Plan to Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19, which includes measures aiming to help industry "rapidly scale up production ... to develop products made in Canada that will help the fight against COVID-19."<sup>1469</sup> The measure prioritizes the "procurement of essential supplies" by implementing key measures: capacity building, innovative solutions, procurement, and working with Canadian industry.<sup>1470</sup>

On 30 March 2020, Minister Hajdu issued the Interim Order Respecting Drugs, Medical Devices and Foods for a Special Dietary Purpose in Relation to COVID-19.<sup>1471</sup> It provides specific pathways to expedite the approval of COVID-19 medical equipment related to diet. This measure is aimed at meeting specific needs and shows intention to enable access to medical equipment where it is most needed.

On 31 March 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that the Government of Canada is investing CAD2 billion "to support diagnostic testing and to purchase ventilators and protective personal equipment."<sup>1472</sup> The announcement also stated that the government would partner with nearly 3,000 companies to meet its goal of

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<sup>1465</sup> Interim order respecting the importation and sale of medical devices for use in relation to COVID-19, Health Canada (Ottawa) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/announcements/interim-order-importation-sale-medical-devices-covid-19.htm>.

<sup>1466</sup> Expedited authorisation pathways for COVID-19 medical devices, Health Canada (Ottawa) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/announcements/interim-order-importation-sale-medical-devices-covid-19.html>.

<sup>1467</sup> Health Canada's regulatory response to COVID-19: Access to health products, Health Canada (Ottawa) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/announcements/interim-order-importation-sale-medical-devices-covid-19.html>.

<sup>1468</sup> Health Canada's regulatory response to COVID-19: Access to health products, Health Canada (Ottawa) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/announcements/interim-order-importation-sale-medical-devices-covid-19.html>.

<sup>1469</sup> Prime Minister announces Canada's Plan to Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/20/prime-minister-announces-canadas-plan-mobilize-industry-fight-covid>.

<sup>1470</sup> New Measures under Canada's Plan to Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2020/03/20/new-measures-under-canadas-plan-mobilize-industry-fight-covid-19>.

<sup>1471</sup> Interim Order Respecting Drugs, Medical Devices, and Foods for a Special Dietary Purpose in Relation to COVID-19, Health Canada (Ottawa) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/compliance-enforcement/covid19-interim-order-drugs-medical-devices-special-foods.html>.

<sup>1472</sup> Prime Minister announces new partnerships with Canadian industries to fight COVID-19, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/compliance-enforcement/covid19-interim-order-drugs-medical-devices-special-foods.html>.



making equipment available.<sup>1473</sup> This action is in line with the goal of increasing accessibility of medical equipment.

On 7 April 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau announced “further progress under Canada’s Plan to Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19” with the government working with 5,000 Canadian companies to build “a secure, domestic supply” of medical equipment and protective gear like medical gowns.<sup>1474</sup> The government was also working with companies outside of Canada that are “interested or able to sell to Canada” aiming “to secure contracts and deliveries as quickly as possible.”<sup>1475</sup> The prime minister also announced that the government is working with several Canadian companies such as Thornhill Medical, CAE, Ventilators for Canadians, and a group led by StarFish Medical to produce up to 30,000 ventilators.<sup>1476</sup>

On 5 May 2020, the Canadian government lifted custom duties on imported medical equipment citing “a sharp increase in domestic demand for medical supplies, including personal protective equipment (PPE).”<sup>1477</sup> This measure aims to “reduce the cost of imported medical supplies.”<sup>1478</sup>

On 23 May 2020, Minister Hajdu issued the Interim Order Respecting Clinical Trials for Medical Devices and Drugs Relating to COVID-19.<sup>1479</sup> It expedites the authorization of clinical trials and their results.<sup>1480</sup> This increases the availability of medical equipment that is being trialed.

On 9 June 2020, the Government of Canada launched an online portal, referred to as a “web hub to bring together available resources for organizations buying and selling personal protective equipment (PPE). As organizations re-open for business, they need reliable information on how to buy and sell the necessary supplies required to keep themselves and others safe.”<sup>1481</sup>

On 11 June 2020, the Government of Canada contributed CAD7.5 million to the Pan American Health Organization.<sup>1482</sup> The contribution aims to support the COVID-19 response in 15 Caribbean countries and

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<sup>1473</sup> Prime Minister announces new partnerships with Canadian industries to fight COVID-19, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/compliance-enforcement/covid19-interim-order-drugs-medical-devices-special-foods.html>.

<sup>1474</sup> Prime Minister announces production of more medical supplies and equipment in Canada, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/07/prime-minister-announces-production-more-medical-supplies-and>.

<sup>1475</sup> Prime Minister announces production of more medical supplies and equipment in Canada, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/07/prime-minister-announces-production-more-medical-supplies-and>.

<sup>1476</sup> Canada working to produce up to 30,000 ventilators domestically: Trudeau (Ottawa) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/ventilators-trudeau-1.5524581>.

<sup>1477</sup> Certain Goods Remission Order (COVID-19): SOR/2020-101, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 May 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://canadagazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2020/2020-05-27/html/sor-dors101-eng.html>.

<sup>1478</sup> Certain Goods Remission Order (COVID-19): SOR/2020-101, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 May 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://canadagazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2020/2020-05-27/html/sor-dors101-eng.html>.

<sup>1479</sup> Interim Order respecting clinical trials for medical devices and drugs relating to COVID-19, Health Canada (Ottawa) 23 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/interim-order-respecting-clinical-trials-medical-devices-drugs.html>.

<sup>1480</sup> Interim Order respecting clinical trials for medical devices and drugs relating to COVID-19, Health Canada (Ottawa) 23 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/interim-order-respecting-clinical-trials-medical-devices-drugs.html>.

<sup>1481</sup> Government of Canada creates a hub for organisations looking to find resources on buying and supplying personal protective equipment, Public Services and Procurement Canada (Ottawa) 9 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2020/06/government-of-canada-creates-a-hub-for-organizations-looking-to-find-resources-on-buying-and-supplying-personal-protective-equipment.html>.

<sup>1482</sup> Government of Canada contributes \$5.3 million to PAHO for response to COVID-19, Pan American Health Organisation (Washington, D.C.) 11 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/11-6-2020-government-canada-contributes-53-million-paho-response-covid-19>.

eight Central and South American countries.<sup>1483</sup> This goes towards increasing supplies of medical equipment in contexts outside of Canada.

On 24 June 2020, the International Coalition of Medical Regulatory Authorities, where Health Canada is an executive committee member, issued a statement on the importance of “global collaboration to facilitate and expedite the development and evaluation of diagnostics and therapeutics.”<sup>1484</sup> This emphasizes a commitment to common international regulation and collaboration.

On 29 June 2020, the Government of Canada donated CAD4 million worth of N95 and medical masks “or COVID-19 preventive and control measures” to members of the Association of South East Asian Nations and its secretariat.<sup>1485</sup>

On 21 August 2020, the federal government and the Government of Ontario announced a joint investment with 3M to expand its Brockville manufacturing facility for N95 respirators.<sup>1486</sup> This CAD70 million investment agreement will secure 50 million N95 respirators annually “to help health care workers, first responders and other essential workers with the equipment they need to continue their vital work.”<sup>1487</sup>

On 27 November 2020, Health Canada announced transition regulations regarding the Interim Order Respecting the Importation and Sale of Medical Devices (COVID-19).<sup>1488</sup> This is the Forward Regulatory Plan 2020-2022, which comprises a proposal for the medical equipment industry to ease out of the interim orders after fall 2021.<sup>1489</sup> It includes both international and domestic regulatory cooperation efforts in the meantime to make sure equipment is readily available, accounting for the impacts on different actors.<sup>1490</sup>

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed by working with the industry domestically, expediting the authorisation process, and speeding up the process with targeted interim orders. Canada has also assisted with increasing the availability of medical equipment abroad by donating equipment to other states directly or via international institutions.

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<sup>1483</sup> Government of Canada contributes \$5.3 million to PAHO for response to COVID-19, Pan American Health Organisation (Washington, D.C.) 11 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/11-6-2020-government-canada-contributes-53-million-paho-response-covid-19>.

<sup>1484</sup> ICMRA statement on clinical trials, International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (Ottawa) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [http://icmra.info/drupal/en/news/statement\\_on\\_clinical\\_trials](http://icmra.info/drupal/en/news/statement_on_clinical_trials).

<sup>1485</sup> Canada donates personal protective equipment to ASEAN for COVID-19 prevention, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Jakarta) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://asean.org/canada-donates-personal-protective-equipment-asean-covid-19-prevention/>.

<sup>1486</sup> New investment to secure made-in-Canada supply of N95 respirators to protect health care workers, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa). 21 August 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/08/21/new-investment-secure-made-canada-supply-n95-respirators-protect>.

<sup>1487</sup> New investment to secure made-in-Canada supply of N95 respirators to protect health care workers, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa). 21 August 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/08/21/new-investment-secure-made-canada-supply-n95-respirators-protect>.

<sup>1488</sup> Forward Regulatory Plan 2020-2022: Regulatory Proposal to Transition the Interim Order Respecting the Importation and Sale of Medical Devices, Health Canada (Ottawa) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/about-health-canada/legislation-guidelines/acts-regulations/forward-regulatory-plan/plan/regulatory-proposal-transition-interim-order-respecting-importation-sale-medical-devices.html>.

<sup>1489</sup> Forward Regulatory Plan 2020-2022: Regulatory Proposal to Transition the Interim Order Respecting the Importation and Sale of Medical Devices, Health Canada (Ottawa) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/about-health-canada/legislation-guidelines/acts-regulations/forward-regulatory-plan/plan/regulatory-proposal-transition-interim-order-respecting-importation-sale-medical-devices.html>.

<sup>1490</sup> Forward Regulatory Plan 2020-2022: Regulatory Proposal to Transition the Interim Order Respecting the Importation and Sale of Medical Devices, Health Canada (Ottawa) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/about-health-canada/legislation-guidelines/acts-regulations/forward-regulatory-plan/plan/regulatory-proposal-transition-interim-order-respecting-importation-sale-medical-devices.html>.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Stuti Roy*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed.

On 23 March 2020, the French government announced the order of 10,000 respirators, of which 1,500 were standard Monal T60 models and 8,500 were the emergency Osiris model.<sup>1491</sup> Combined with pre-existing supplies, this purchase was strategized to bring total capacity to exceed 30,000 ventilators by the end of June 2020 and is part of France's vision to mobilize medical equipment "for the benefit of France's partners abroad" once the domestic French supply is secured.<sup>1492</sup>

On 23 March 2020, the French government granted departmental prefects powers to requisition raw materials needed to manufacture protective face masks.<sup>1493</sup> This measure was repealed on 11 May 2020.<sup>1494</sup>

On 31 March 2020, President Emmanuel Macron stated that French priority is to increase production of protective equipment in France and in Europe, aiming to achieve full production independence by the end of 2020.<sup>1495</sup> The president also underlined that EUR4 billion were provide for the Public Health Authority to purchase additional equipment.<sup>1496</sup>

On 30 June 2020, the Agence du développement française (AFD) signed an agreement with Rwanda to provide a EUR40 million loan to support "tackling Covid-19."<sup>1497</sup> Part of this loan will be dedicated to increasing Rwanda's "diagnosis capacity (tests, laboratory equipment), infection prevention in health centers (setting up isolation centers, personal protective equipment)" and patients treatment.<sup>1498</sup>

On 4 July 2020, the Ministry of Solidarity and Health pledged to increase medical aid to the French overseas territory of Guiana to cope with epidemic progression, primarily by increasing the availability of diagnostic tests.<sup>1499</sup> This provision also pledges to provide resources to increase the capacity of large hospitals by

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<sup>1491</sup> Press Release: 10,000 respirators order, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/commande-de-10-000-respirateurs>.

<sup>1492</sup> Press Release: 10,000 respirators order, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/commande-de-10-000-respirateurs>.

<sup>1493</sup> Décret n° 2020-545 du 11 mai 2020 prescrivant les mesures générales nécessaires pour faire face à l'épidémie de covid-19 dans le cadre de l'état d'urgence sanitaire, Légifrance (Paris) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/LEGIARTI000041859140/2020-05-11#LEGIARTI000041859140>.

<sup>1494</sup> Décret n° 2020-545 du 11 mai 2020 prescrivant les mesures générales nécessaires pour faire face à l'épidémie de covid-19 dans le cadre de l'état d'urgence sanitaire, Légifrance (Paris) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/LEGIARTI000041859140/2020-05-11#LEGIARTI000041859140>.

<sup>1495</sup> Amid criticism, Macron vows to raise medical gear output to tackle coronavirus, Reuters (Paris) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-france-masks-idUSKBN21I1PU>.

<sup>1496</sup> Amid criticism, Macron vows to raise medical gear output to tackle coronavirus, Reuters (Paris) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-france-masks-idUSKBN21I1PU>.

<sup>1497</sup> AFD RETURNS TO RWANDA TO JOIN IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19, French Development Agency (Paris) 1 August 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/afd-returns-rwanda-join-fight-against-covid-19>.

<sup>1498</sup> AFD RETURNS TO RWANDA TO JOIN IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19, French Development Agency (Paris) 1 August 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/afd-returns-rwanda-join-fight-against-covid-19>.

<sup>1499</sup> Press Release: Health support for the epidemic situation in Guyana, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 4 July 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/soutien-sanitaire-a-la-situation-epidémique-en-guyane>.

providing tent beds.<sup>1500</sup> The state also pledged to uphold regular deliveries of personal protective equipment (PPE), although made no specific commitments to increasing quantity.<sup>1501</sup>

On 15 July 2020, the AFD announced the provision of emergency funding of EUR2 million for 12 Pacific Island countries and territories, funneled through the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network.<sup>1502</sup> In the short-term, these funds will be used for the acquisition of medical equipment that specifically targets COVID-19, including respirators, oxygen, and PPE for medical staff.<sup>1503</sup>

On 23 September 2020, the AFD announced that it will mobilize EUR5.3 million to assist Cuba with tackling the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1504</sup> Specifically, the funds will be used to provide “76 ventilators, 180,000 protective kits and supplies to develop diagnosis tests.”<sup>1505</sup>

On 8 December 2020, the French Senate approved a measure in the 2021 finance bill to reduce the value-added tax on all diagnostic medical devices including antigenic and nucleic acid COVID-19 tests and antibody detection tests.<sup>1506</sup> This measure reflects the French government’s efforts to mobilize in favour of developing diagnostic capabilities by removing economic barriers and will apply retroactively to all transactions from 15 October 2020 to 31 December 2022.<sup>1507</sup>

On 15 December 2020, the AFD announced that it would provide EUR2 million to 12 Pacific island countries and territories to assist them with responding to COVID-19 crises.<sup>1508</sup> Funding will be dedicated to providing “equipment to health facilities in the region” including respirators, oxygen, and PPE.<sup>1509</sup>

France has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed by purchasing and distributing medical equipment as well as removing financial barriers to said purchases. France has also assisted other countries through various AFD projects.

Thus, France has received a score of +1.

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<sup>1500</sup> Press Release: Health support for the epidemic situation in Guyana, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 4 July 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/soutien-sanitaire-a-la-situation-epidémique-en-guyane>.

<sup>1501</sup> Press Release: Health support for the epidemic situation in Guyana, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 4 July 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/soutien-sanitaire-a-la-situation-epidémique-en-guyane>.

<sup>1502</sup> Emergency Support to Pacific Island Countries to Contain COVID-19 and Emerging Diseases, French Development Agency (Paris) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/emergency-support-pacific-island-countries-contain-covid-19-and-emerging-diseases>.

<sup>1503</sup> Emergency Support to Pacific Island Countries to Contain COVID-19 and Emerging Diseases, French Development Agency (Paris) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/emergency-support-pacific-island-countries-contain-covid-19-and-emerging-diseases>.

<sup>1504</sup> Cuba: Concrete Action Against COVID-19, French Development Agency (Paris) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/cuba-concrete-action-against-covid-19?origin=/en/actualites>.

<sup>1505</sup> Cuba: Concrete Action Against COVID-19, French Development Agency (Paris) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/cuba-concrete-action-against-covid-19?origin=/en/actualites>.

<sup>1506</sup> Press Release: A 0% VAT rate on COVID-19 screening tests and vaccines, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/un-taux-de-tva-a-0-tests-de-depistages-covid-19-et-vaccins>.

<sup>1507</sup> Press Release: A 0% VAT rate on COVID-19 screening tests and vaccines, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/un-taux-de-tva-a-0-tests-de-depistages-covid-19-et-vaccins>.

<sup>1508</sup> Emergency Support to Pacific Island Countries to Contain COVID-19 and Emerging Diseases, French Development Agency (Paris) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/emergency-support-pacific-island-countries-contain-covid-19-and-emerging-diseases>.

<sup>1509</sup> Emergency Support to Pacific Island Countries to Contain COVID-19 and Emerging Diseases, French Development Agency (Paris) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/emergency-support-pacific-island-countries-contain-covid-19-and-emerging-diseases?origin=/en/actualites>.

*Analyst: Sophie Stojicevic*

## **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed.

On 19 March 2020, the Foreign Office announced lifting the national authorisation requirement for exports of personal protective equipment (PPE).<sup>1510</sup> This ensured that exports of PPE within the EU internal market are no longer subject to authorising.<sup>1511</sup>

On 21 April 2021, Minister of Health Jens Spahn announced that an additional EUR7.8 billion will be dedicated to procuring “masks, gloves and other protective gear for medical practices.”<sup>1512</sup>

On 7 May 2020, the federal government reported that since March it procured 114 million protective masks, bringing the overall stock of masks available for distribution to 152 million.<sup>1513</sup>

On 20 May 2020, the federal cabinet amended the Foreign Trade and Payment Regulation, expanding the “list of companies for which the acquisition of a stake by a purchaser from outside the European Union can be examined.”<sup>1514</sup> Included in the expanded list are companies that “are indispensable for the maintenance of a properly functioning health system in Germany, such as personal protective equipment (PPE), drugs and vaccines.”<sup>1515</sup>

On 22 June 2020, the German government issued a policy paper titled “An Effective International Response by Germany to COVID-19.”<sup>1516</sup> In the document, the federal government committed to “comply with requests from other states for assistance in the medical sphere, such as for protective clothing, medical equipment, testing or advisory services,” however, the document underlines that Germany would provide assistance while “taking into account German and European needs.”<sup>1517</sup>

On 20 September 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) delivered COVID-19 supplies, including PPE, to Libya.<sup>1518</sup> These supplies were procured and shipped “using funds provided by the Government of

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<sup>1510</sup> Federal Foreign Office on the lifting of the national authorisation requirement for exports of personal protective equipment, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2321960>.

<sup>1511</sup> Federal Foreign Office on the lifting of the national authorisation requirement for exports of personal protective equipment, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2321960>.

<sup>1512</sup> Policy responses for Germany, COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor (Copenhagen) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.covid19healthsystem.org/countries/germany/livinghit.aspx?Section=2.1%20Physical%20infrastructure&Type=Section>.

<sup>1513</sup> More protective masks for medical and nursing staff, The Federal Government (Berlin) 7 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/suche/beschaffung-schutztausruestung-1751334>.

<sup>1514</sup> Protection for the health system, The Federal Government (Berlin) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/service/aussenwirtschaftsverordnung-1754400>.

<sup>1515</sup> Protection for the health system, The Federal Government (Berlin) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/service/aussenwirtschaftsverordnung-1754400>.

<sup>1516</sup> An Effective International Response by Germany to COVID-19, The Federal Government (Berlin) 22 June 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/blob/2354916/4229a3d433f85aea39310bb1440a33ac/covid19-data.pdf>.

<sup>1517</sup> An Effective International Response by Germany to COVID-19, The Federal Government (Berlin) 22 June 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/blob/2354916/4229a3d433f85aea39310bb1440a33ac/covid19-data.pdf>.

<sup>1518</sup> Libya: supplies to protect frontline COVID-19 health workers with support from Germany, Italy, Gates Foundation and UN Central Emergency Response Fund, World Health Organization (Geneva) 20 September 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/libya-supplies-to-protect-frontline-covid-19-health-workers-with-support-from-germany-italy-gates-foundation-and-un-central-emergency-response-fund>.

Germany, the Government of Italy, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the UN Central Emergency Response Fund.”<sup>1519</sup>

On 16 December 2020, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy issued a funding directive to support companies creating new or expanding existing facilities for production of COVID-19 antigen tests.<sup>1520</sup> Under this EUR200 million plan, eligible companies will receive up to EUR30 million each.<sup>1521</sup>

On 30 December 2020, Germany delivered 84 ventilators and 100 pulse oximeters to the Ministry of Health of North Macedonia.<sup>1522</sup>

On 4 January 2021, representatives of Germany joined the local WHO office and handed over pulse oximeters to the Ministry of Health in Montenegro.<sup>1523</sup>

On 14 January 2021, Germany delivered 5,000 pulse oximeters and 200 ventilators to the Ministry of Health and the University Clinical Centre in Kosovo.<sup>1524</sup>

On 15 January 2021, Germany delivered 1,000 pulse oximeters to the Ministry of Health in Albania as well as 50 ventilators and 10,000 pulse oximeters to Bosnia and Herzegovina.<sup>1525</sup>

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed by supporting the industry domestically, reducing the barriers to accessing medical equipment within the European Union and in Germany, and providing equipment to countries where it is most needed.

Thus, Germany has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Nivaal Rehman*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed.

On 17 March 2020, the Government of Italy issued Law Decree 19 articles 15 and 16 that specified different types of derogation procedures to allow the production of surgical masks and personal protective equipment

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<sup>1519</sup> Libya: supplies to protect frontline COVID-19 health workers with support from Germany, Italy, Gates Foundation and UN Central Emergency Response Fund, World Health Organization (Geneva) 20 September 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/libya-supplies-to-protect-frontline-covid-19-health-workers-with-support-from-germany-italy-gates-foundation-and-un-central-emergency-response-fund>.

<sup>1520</sup> Federal government starts promoting the production of antigen tests, The Federal Government (Berlin) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/antigentest.html>.

<sup>1521</sup> Federal government starts promoting the production of antigen tests, The Federal Government (Berlin) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/presse/pressemitteilungen/2020/4-quartal/antigentest.html>.

<sup>1522</sup> The fight against COVID-19 – Medical equipment for Western Balkan countries, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/gesundheit/covid-19-equipment-for-western-balkan-countries/2439632>.

<sup>1523</sup> The fight against COVID-19 – Medical equipment for Western Balkan countries, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/gesundheit/covid-19-equipment-for-western-balkan-countries/2439632>.

<sup>1524</sup> The fight against COVID-19 – Medical equipment for Western Balkan countries, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/gesundheit/covid-19-equipment-for-western-balkan-countries/2439632>.

<sup>1525</sup> The fight against COVID-19 – Medical equipment for Western Balkan countries, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/gesundheit/covid-19-equipment-for-western-balkan-countries/2439632>.

(PPE).<sup>1526</sup> The procedures issued required companies to send a self-certification that describe the technical characteristics of the masks and declare that the masks meet all safety requirements.<sup>1527</sup>

On 23 March 2020, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Prime Minister's Office) issued Ordinance 4, Benefits of Companies During the COVID-19 Emergency, to enter into effect in Italy.<sup>1528</sup> The ordinance, which appropriated an initial amount of EUR50 million, was to provide aid to Italian companies that manufacture and supply medical devices and PPE.<sup>1529</sup>

On 26 March 2020, Minister of Health Roberto Speranza signed a Protocol for the prevention and safety of health workers from COVID-19 with three trade unions.<sup>1530</sup> The Protocol ensures health workers the “adequate quantity” and supply of PPE and medical tests to diagnose COVID-19.<sup>1531</sup>

On 19 May 2020, Law no.77/2020 came into force granting value-added tax (VAT) exemption “for the supply of goods necessary/useful to combat the COVID-19 pandemic” including PPE, test kits, and medical equipment.<sup>1532</sup> The law also provided for temporary VAT exemptions for goods “made for COVID-19 purposes” which are imported into the country on request of states, organizations, or charities.<sup>1533</sup>

On 30 July 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, with coordination of the Civil Protective Department, sent a team of seven doctors and nurses and a cargo of 500,000 masks to Tirana, Albania.<sup>1534</sup> This action demonstrates an effort to increase availability of PPE internationally.<sup>1535</sup>

On 20 September 2020, the World Health Organization delivered COVID-19 supplies, including PPE, to Libya.<sup>1536</sup> These supplies were procured and shipped “using funds provided by the Government of Germany,

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<sup>1526</sup> COVID-19: in Italy emergency supply of medical devices and personal protective equipment, Therma-Med (Italy) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.thema-med.com/en/covid-19-in-italy-emergency-supply-of-medical-devices-and-personal-protective-equipment/>.

<sup>1527</sup> COVID-19: in Italy emergency supply of medical devices and personal protective equipment, Therma-Med (Italy) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.thema-med.com/en/covid-19-in-italy-emergency-supply-of-medical-devices-and-personal-protective-equipment/>.

<sup>1528</sup> Presidency Council of Ministers: The Extraordinary Commission for the Implementation and Coordination of Measures to Contain and Fight the COVID-19 Epidemiological Emergency, Gazzetta Ufficiale (Italy) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/03/24/20A01824/sg>.

<sup>1529</sup> Presidency Council of Ministers: The Extraordinary Commission for the Implementation and Coordination of Measures to Contain and Fight the COVID-19 Epidemiological Emergency, Gazzetta Ufficiale (Italy) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/03/24/20A01824/sg>.

<sup>1530</sup> Coronavirus, Healthcare workers safety protocol signed between Ministry of Health and trade unions, Ministry of Health (Rome) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4323>.

<sup>1531</sup> Coronavirus, Healthcare workers safety protocol signed between Ministry of Health and trade unions, Ministry of Health (Rome) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4323>.

<sup>1532</sup> New VAT provisions for medical devices supplied during the COVID-19 emergency, BDO Tax News (Zaventem) October 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.bdo.global/en-gb/microsites/tax-newsletters/indirect-tax-news/issue-3-2020/italy-new-vat-provisions-for-medical-devices-supplied-during-the-covid-19-emergency>.

<sup>1533</sup> New VAT provisions for medical devices supplied during the COVID-19 emergency, BDO Tax News (Zaventem) October 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.bdo.global/en-gb/microsites/tax-newsletters/indirect-tax-news/issue-3-2020/italy-new-vat-provisions-for-medical-devices-supplied-during-the-covid-19-emergency>.

<sup>1534</sup> Coronavirus: an Italian medical team in Albania, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 30 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/2020/07/coronavirus-una-squadra-di-sanitari-italiani-in-albania.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/2020/07/coronavirus-una-squadra-di-sanitari-italiani-in-albania.html).

<sup>1535</sup> Coronavirus: an Italian medical team in Albania, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 30 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/2020/07/coronavirus-una-squadra-di-sanitari-italiani-in-albania.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/2020/07/coronavirus-una-squadra-di-sanitari-italiani-in-albania.html).

the Government of Italy, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the UN Central Emergency Response Fund.”<sup>1537</sup>

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed by specifying derogation procedures to increase domestic production of PPE and related medical equipment and by providing aid to Italian companies to manufacture medical equipment. Italy has done so domestically and internationally by providing PPE to Albania and Libya.

Thus, Italy has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Olivia Leung*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed.

On 13 April 2020, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) announced that it will proceed to secure and maximize the production of medical equipment.<sup>1538</sup> This includes the clarification of regulatory procedure for medical equipment such as the handling of drugs, medical devices, in-vitro diagnostic drugs, and respirators.<sup>1539</sup>

On 24 April 2020, the MHLW announced it will be prioritizing the distribution of medical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) secured by the government for medical staff.<sup>1540</sup> This provision was to protect medical staff from infection, ensure a medical care provision system, and comply to the high demand for medical supplies.<sup>1541</sup>

On 21 May 2020, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged to construct 2,000 new ventilators for coronavirus patients to build on the MHLW’s plan to ensure nationwide safety.<sup>1542</sup>

On 7 June 2020, the Government of Japan, under the terms of the Exchange of Note, extended to the Government of Maldives a grant of JPY600 million to improve health services at atolls and regional hospitals across the country and to strengthen their capacity to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1543</sup> The grant also

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<sup>1536</sup> Libya: supplies to protect frontline COVID-19 health workers with support from Germany, Italy, Gates Foundation and UN Central Emergency Response Fund, World Health Organization (Geneva) 20 September 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/libya-supplies-to-protect-frontline-covid-19-health-workers-with-support-from-germany-italy-gates-foundation-and-un-central-emergency-response-fund>.

<sup>1537</sup> Libya: supplies to protect frontline COVID-19 health workers with support from Germany, Italy, Gates Foundation and UN Central Emergency Response Fund, World Health Organization (Geneva) 20 September 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/libya-supplies-to-protect-frontline-covid-19-health-workers-with-support-from-germany-italy-gates-foundation-and-un-central-emergency-response-fund>.

<sup>1538</sup> Press Release: Clarified the regulatory procedures for medical devices including respirators, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Japan) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage\\_10836.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_10836.html).

<sup>1539</sup> Press Release: Clarified the regulatory procedures for medical devices including respirators, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Japan) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage\\_10836.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_10836.html).

<sup>1540</sup> Press Release: Emergency Response of medical supplies at medical institutions, etc., Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Japan) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage\\_11035.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_11035.html).

<sup>1541</sup> Press Release: Emergency Response of medical supplies at medical institutions, etc., Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Japan) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage\\_11035.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/newpage_11035.html).

<sup>1542</sup> Japan’s Abe wants to build ventilators that hospitals probably don’t need, Reuters (Tokyo) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-japan-ventilators/japans-abe-wants-to-build-ventilators-that-hospitals-probably-dont-need-idUSKBN22X0CT?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews>.

<sup>1543</sup> The Government of Japan provides medical equipment worth USD 5.6 million to strengthen health care sector of the Maldives, Embassy of Japan in Maldives (Maldives) 7 June 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.mv.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr\\_ja/11\\_000001\\_00087.html](https://www.mv.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/11_000001_00087.html).



included the procurement of medical equipment, including 10 bedside X-ray machines, 65 bedside monitors, 19 portable ultrasound diagnostic systems, 200 automated external defibrillators, and 160 syringe pumps.<sup>1544</sup>

On 16 July 2020, Ito Naoki, the ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh, and Fatima Yasmin, Bangladesh secretary of the Economic Relations Division in the Ministry of Finance, signed the Exchange of Notes on the JPY1 billion grant aid “Economic and Social Development Programme.”<sup>1545</sup> This grant aid provided medical equipment, such as computerized tomography scanners and X-ray machines, to strengthen hospitals and intensive care units treating COVID-19 patients in Bangladesh.<sup>1546</sup>

On 15 August 2020, the first shipment of medical equipment, purchased with Japan’s JPY2 billion grant, was delivered to Myanmar.<sup>1547</sup> Equipment shipped included “10 sets each of a ICU bed, Syringe pump and Suction pump.”<sup>1548</sup>

On 24 August 2020, the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the Government of Japan donated 367,580 “sets of personal protective equipment (PPE)” to the Ministry of Health of Kosovo.<sup>1549</sup>

On 12 February 2021, Ambassador Oka from the Government of Japan presented PPE to the National Disaster Management Agency through the Japan International Cooperation Agency.<sup>1550</sup> The PPE, which consists of 7,600 units of isolation gowns, 76,000 units of coveralls, 3,000 units of N95 masks, and 3,000 units of gloves, will be given to frontline workers such as the Royal Malaysian Police, Malaysia Armed Forces, and the People’s Volunteer Corps to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1551</sup>

On 25 February 2021, Ambassador of Japan Takashi Kuri handed over diagnostic equipment, including digital X-rays, to the Ukraine Deputy Minister of Defense Antoli Petrenko in a ceremony at the Military Medical Centre in Irpin.<sup>1552</sup> The purpose of this handover is to “ensure that the hospitals in Ukraine receive the best equipment possible.”<sup>1553</sup>

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<sup>1544</sup> The Government of Japan provides medical equipment worth USD 5.6 million to strengthen health care sector of the Maldives, Embassy of Japan in Maldives (Maldives) 7 June 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.mv.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr\\_ja/11\\_000001\\_00087.html](https://www.mv.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/11_000001_00087.html).

<sup>1545</sup> Japan provides medical equipment for Combating COVID-19, Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh (Bangladesh) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.bd.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr\\_en/press160720-2.html](https://www.bd.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/press160720-2.html).

<sup>1546</sup> Japan provides medical equipment for Combating COVID-19, Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh (Bangladesh) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.bd.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr\\_en/press160720-2.html](https://www.bd.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/press160720-2.html).

<sup>1547</sup> Provision of Medical equipment by the Government of Japan, Embassy of Japan in Myanmar (Yangon) 15 August 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.mm.emb-japan.go.jp/profile/english/press/20200815.html>.

<sup>1548</sup> Provision of Medical equipment by the Government of Japan, Embassy of Japan in Myanmar (Yangon) 15 August 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.mm.emb-japan.go.jp/profile/english/press/20200815.html>.

<sup>1549</sup> With the help of the Japanese Government, UNICEF provides the health workers with 367,580 sets of personal protective equipment, UNICEF (Pristina) 24 August 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/kosovoprogramme/press-releases/help-japanese-government-unicef-provides-health-workers-367580-sets-personal>.

<sup>1550</sup> Provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from the Government of Japan to NADMA through JICA, Embassy of Japan in Malaysia (Malaysia) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.my.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr\\_en/newinfo\\_11022021.html](https://www.my.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/newinfo_11022021.html).

<sup>1551</sup> Provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from the Government of Japan to NADMA through JICA, Embassy of Japan in Malaysia (Malaysia) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.my.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr\\_en/newinfo\\_11022021.html](https://www.my.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/newinfo_11022021.html).

<sup>1552</sup> Press Release: From the people of Japan: state of art medical equipment for the hospitals in Ukraine, United Nations Office for Project Services (Ukraine) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNOPS\\_PressRelease\\_Irpin\\_230221.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNOPS_PressRelease_Irpin_230221.pdf)

<sup>1553</sup> Press Release: From the people of Japan: state of art medical equipment for the hospitals in Ukraine, United Nations Office for Project Services (Ukraine) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNOPS\\_PressRelease\\_Irpin\\_230221.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNOPS_PressRelease_Irpin_230221.pdf)

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed by increasing domestic production of PPE and related medical equipment, as well as by introducing regulations to speed up the availability of related products. Japan has also demonstrated compliance by providing and extending the procurement of medical equipment and PPE internationally.

Thus, Japan has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Olivia Leung*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed.

On 30 March 2020, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency issued its expedited process for clinical investigations directly related to COVID-19.<sup>1554</sup> The updated regulatory guidance emphasises a “flexible and pragmatic approach to regulatory requirements for clinical investigations.”<sup>1555</sup> This action involved easing the authorisation process for medical equipment, making it more accessible to where it is most needed.

On 10 April 2020, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) released a three-step plan to ensure personal protective equipment (PPE) is distributed to where it is most needed.<sup>1556</sup> This builds on the “full, 24/7 military operation” to provide supplies with the PPE plan whose three stages include: guidance, distribution, and future supply management.<sup>1557</sup>

On 17 April 2020, the DHSC announced it would extend polymerase chain reaction testing to cover more frontline workers.<sup>1558</sup> Those eligible include National Health Service (NHS) and social care staff; police, fire and rescue services; local authority staff; defence staff; and frontline benefits workers.<sup>1559</sup> This measure provides diagnostic equipment where it is needed.

On 9 May 2020, the DHSC announced it had contracted over 200 potential manufacturers to produce over 25 million items of PPE which the NHS and social care workers would be set to receive.<sup>1560</sup> The UK

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<sup>1554</sup> MHRA regulatory flexibilities resulting from coronavirus (COVID-19), Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (London) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mhra-regulatory-flexibilities-resulting-from-coronavirus-covid-19#medical-devices>.

<sup>1555</sup> Medical Devices and clinical investigations during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (London) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/medical-devices-clinical-investigations-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>.

<sup>1556</sup> Government sets out plan for national effort on PPE, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-plan-for-national-effort-on-ppe>.

<sup>1557</sup> Coronavirus (COVID-19): Personal protective equipment (PPE) plan, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe-plan>.

<sup>1558</sup> Government to extend testing for coronavirus to more frontline workers, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-extend-testing-for-coronavirus-to-more-frontline-workers>.

<sup>1559</sup> Government to extend testing for coronavirus to more frontline workers, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-extend-testing-for-coronavirus-to-more-frontline-workers>.

<sup>1560</sup> Millions more items of PPE for frontline staff from new business partnerships, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-more-items-of-ppe-for-frontline-staff-from-new-business-partnerships>.

government's partnership with several companies and new collaborations allowed for this increased supply and distribution of medical equipment.<sup>1561</sup> This measure thus increases availability of medical equipment.

On 15 May 2020, the UK government allocated GBP35 million to Wales.<sup>1562</sup> The measure allows increased spending on medical equipment procurement and distribution in more remote parts of the country.<sup>1563</sup>

On 6 June 2020, the UK government announced four new partnerships with UK manufactures to produce PPE.<sup>1564</sup> Under these agreements "millions more visors, aprons and gowns will be delivered to frontline health and social care workers."<sup>1565</sup>

On 25 June 2020, the DHSC announced that two billion items of PPE had been delivered to the NHS and care services.<sup>1566</sup> This included 341 million masks, 313 million aprons, four million gowns and one billion gloves.<sup>1567</sup> The DHSC added that approximately 28 billion items had been ordered as part of a "herculean cross-government effort to future-proof supply chains."<sup>1568</sup>

On 28 September 2020, the UK government published a new PPE strategy and confirmed that "[h]ealth and social care workers treating COVID-19 patients have access to an uninterrupted supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)."<sup>1569</sup> It was also announced that because of the "unprecedented domestic production of PPE, for items such gowns and FFP3 facemasks, 70 per cent of the expected demand for PPE will be met by UK manufacturers from December."<sup>1570</sup>

On 14 December 2020, the UK government committed GBP1 million to aid Egypt's COVID-19 response via the World Health Organization.<sup>1571</sup> The funds are aimed towards infection prevention and control, which includes the procurement and distribution of PPE, disinfectants, sampling kits, and rapid testing.<sup>1572</sup> The two

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<sup>1561</sup> Millions more items of PPE for frontline staff from new business partnerships, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 9 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-more-items-of-ppe-for-frontline-staff-from-new-business-partnerships>.

<sup>1562</sup> Extra GBP35 Million for Wales in fight against coronavirus, Office of the Secretary of State of Wales (London) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-35m-for-wales-in-fight-against-coronavirus>.

<sup>1563</sup> Extra GBP35 Million for Wales in fight against coronavirus, Office of the Secretary of State of Wales (London) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-35m-for-wales-in-fight-against-coronavirus>.

<sup>1564</sup> New UK deals will bring millions more PPE items to frontline healthcare staff, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 6 June 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-deals-will-bring-millions-more-ppe-items-to-frontline-healthcare-staff>

<sup>1565</sup> New UK deals will bring millions more PPE items to frontline healthcare staff, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 6 June 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-deals-will-bring-millions-more-ppe-items-to-frontline-healthcare-staff>

<sup>1566</sup> Major milestone hit as 2 billion items of PPE delivered, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-milestone-hit-as-2-billion-items-of-ppe-delivered>.

<sup>1567</sup> Major milestone hit as 2 billion items of PPE delivered, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-milestone-hit-as-2-billion-items-of-ppe-delivered>.

<sup>1568</sup> Major milestone hit as 2 billion items of PPE delivered, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-milestone-hit-as-2-billion-items-of-ppe-delivered>.

<sup>1569</sup> Huge increase in UK personal protective equipment production, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 28 September 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/huge-increase-in-uk-personal-protective-equipment-production>.

<sup>1570</sup> Huge increase in UK personal protective equipment production, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 28 September 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/huge-increase-in-uk-personal-protective-equipment-production>.

<sup>1571</sup> WHO and UK commit GBP1 million to support Egypt in against COVID-19, British Embassy Cairo (Cairo) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/who-and-uk-commit-1m-to-support-egypt-in-against-covid-19>.

<sup>1572</sup> WHO and UK commit GBP1 million to support Egypt in against COVID-19, British Embassy Cairo (Cairo) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/who-and-uk-commit-1m-to-support-egypt-in-against-covid-19>.

governments said this was part of a shared fight against COVID-19 as well as maintaining trade relations.<sup>1573</sup> This action demonstrates an effort to increase availability of medical equipment internationally.

On 23 December 2020, the DHSC announced it would spend GBP149 million to increase care home testing.<sup>1574</sup> This measure includes care homes in tiers one, two, and three, to access the increased supply and involves two rapid tests every week.<sup>1575</sup> This increases the availability and reach of diagnostic medical equipment where it is most needed.

On 22 January 2021, the Ministry of Defence announced that Armed Forces are working in hospitals and testing in all four countries within the UK.<sup>1576</sup> Over 5,000 Armed Forces personnel were deployed, including 800 defence medics. Half of the military personnel deployed to support distribution efforts are in England.<sup>1577</sup> This action shows the mobilisation of resources to increase availability of medical equipment.

On 19 February 2021, the UK government donated “20 mechanical ventilators, 40 non-invasive ventilators and 40 monitors” to Peru to support Peru’s capacity to respond to COVID-19.<sup>1578</sup>

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed by expediting the authorisation process and speeding up the process with partnerships and mobilisation to where medical equipment is most needed. The United Kingdom has done so domestically and internationally by supporting access to medical equipment outside the country in Egypt and Peru.

Thus, the United Kingdom has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Stuti Roy*

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

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed.

On 27 March 2020, President Donald Trump issued a Presidential Memorandum “directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to use any and all authority available under the Defense Production Act to require General Motors to accept, perform, and prioritize Federal contracts for ventilators.”<sup>1579</sup> The

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<sup>1573</sup> WHO and UK commit GBP1 million to support Egypt in against COVID-19, British Embassy Cairo (Cairo) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/who-and-uk-commit-1m-to-support-egypt-in-against-covid-19>.

<sup>1574</sup> GBP149 million to support increased care home testing, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/149-million-to-support-increased-care-home-testing>.

<sup>1575</sup> GBP149 million to support increased care home testing, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 23 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/149-million-to-support-increased-care-home-testing>.

<sup>1576</sup> Armed Forces now working in hospitals, vaccine centers and testing across all four nations, Ministry of Defense (London) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/armed-forces-now-working-in-hospitals-vaccine-centres-and-testing-across-all-four-nations>.

<sup>1577</sup> Armed Forces now working in hospitals, vaccine centers and testing across all four nations, Ministry of Defense (London) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/armed-forces-now-working-in-hospitals-vaccine-centres-and-testing-across-all-four-nations>.

<sup>1578</sup> UK donates equipment to Peru to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-donates-equipment-to-peru-to-fight-the-covid-19-pandemic>.

<sup>1579</sup> Statement from the President Regarding the Defence Production Act, The White House (Washington DC) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefings-statements/statement-president-regarding-defense-production-act/>.

Memorandum was issued to “ensure the quick production of ventilators.”<sup>1580</sup> The president also signed an Executive Order on Delegating Additional Authority Under the Defence Production Act with Respect to Health and Medical Resources to Respond to the Spread of COVID-19. It states that it is the policy of the federal government to “expand domestic production of health and medical resources needed to respond to the spread of COVID-19, including personal protective equipment and ventilators.”<sup>1581</sup> It aimed, among other policy objectives, to “enable greater cooperation among private businesses in expanding production of and distributing such resources.”<sup>1582</sup>

On 2 April 2020, President Trump issued an Order Under the Defence Production Act Regarding the Purchase of Ventilators. The order authorizes the Secretary of Health “to use any and all authority under the [Defence Production] Act to facilitate the supply of materials to the appropriate subsidiary or affiliate of the following entities for the production of ventilators: General Electric Company; Hill-Rom Holdings, Inc.; Medtronic Public Limited Company; ResMed Inc.; Royal Philips N.V.; and Vyaire Medical, Inc.”<sup>1583</sup>

On 2 April 2020, President Trump issued a Memorandum on Order Under the Defense Production Act Regarding 3M Company. The document authorized the Secretary of Homeland Security “to acquire, from any appropriate subsidiary or affiliate of 3M Company, the number of N-95 respirators that the Administrator determines to be appropriate.”<sup>1584</sup>

On 3 April 2020, President Trump issued a Memorandum on Allocating Certain Scarce or Threatened Health and Medical Resources to Domestic Use. Under this Memorandum, the Secretary of Homeland Security was authorized “to allocate for domestic use ... scarce or threatened materials” including N-95 and other respirators, masks, and gloves.<sup>1585</sup>

On 10 April 2020, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued a temporary final rule, effective from 7 April to 10 August 2020, to prevent the export of “scarce or threatened materials” without the explicit approval from the agency. This measure includes respirators and personal protective equipment (PPE), which under this rule are allocated for domestic use to bolster supplies.<sup>1586</sup>

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<sup>1580</sup> Statement from the President Regarding the Defence Production Act, The White House (Washington DC) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefings-statements/statement-president-regarding-defense-production-act/>.

<sup>1581</sup> EO on Delegating Additional Authority Under the DPA with Respect to Health and Medical Resources to Respond to the Spread of COVID-19, The White House (Washington DC) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/presidential-actions/eo-delegating-additional-authority-dpa-respect-health-medical-resources-respond-spread-covid-19/>.

<sup>1582</sup> EO on Delegating Additional Authority Under the DPA with Respect to Health and Medical Resources to Respond to the Spread of COVID-19, The White House (Washington DC) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/presidential-actions/eo-delegating-additional-authority-dpa-respect-health-medical-resources-respond-spread-covid-19/>.

<sup>1583</sup> Memorandum on Order Under the Defence Production Act Regarding the Purchase of Ventilators, The White House (Washington DC) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/presidential-actions/memorandum-order-defense-production-act-regarding-purchase-ventilators/>.

<sup>1584</sup> Memorandum on Order Under the Defense Production Act Regarding 3M Company, The White House (Washington DC) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/presidential-actions/memorandum-order-defense-production-act-regarding-3m-company/>.

<sup>1585</sup> Memorandum on Allocating Certain Scarce or Threatened Health and Medical Resources to Domestic Use, The White House (Washington DC) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/presidential-actions/memorandum-allocating-certain-scarce-threatened-health-medical-resources-domestic-use/>.

<sup>1586</sup> Prioritization and Allocation of Certain Scarce or Threatened Health and Medical Resources for Domestic Use, Federal Emergency Management Agency (Washington, D.C.) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/04/10/2020-07659/prioritization-and-allocation-of-certain-scarce-or-threatened-health-and-medical-resources-for->

On 10 April 2020, President Trump issued a Memorandum on Providing COVID-19 Assistance to the Italian Republic. Under this document, members of the cabinet are ordered, among other things, to “assist with Italy’s urgent need for medical equipment and supplies to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak,” to “encourage United States suppliers to conduct commercial sales of items requested by Italian authorities or healthcare providers,” and “to make US Department of Defence personnel and facilities located in Italy “available to assist Italy in its response to COVID-19” including by “facilitating transport and set-up of field hospitals and response equipment provided by non-United States Government sources.”<sup>1587</sup>

On 15 May 2020, the United States donated 4,000 COVID-19 test kits and USD20,000 worth of PPE to Georgia.<sup>1588</sup>

On 20 May 2020, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) issued a press release on Customers Reform Project. Working with Timor-Leste custom authority, the project team created “a fast-track clearance list for COVID-19 supplies,” expediting the flow of medical supplies through Dili seaport.<sup>1589</sup>

On 22 July 2020, the United States government donated USD150,000 worth of PPE to the Maldives.<sup>1590</sup>

On 6 August 2020, a presidential Executive Order was released ordering that essential medicines, medical countermeasures, and critical inputs were produced domestically to combat public health emergencies.<sup>1591</sup> Under section one, this involves the development of the United States’ industrial base to ensure efficient long-term production and prevent shortages.<sup>1592</sup> Section one directs agencies and executive departments involved in procurement of medical supplies to create ways to maximize production and “increase domestic procurement.”<sup>1593</sup>

On 9 October 2020, the United States government donated 100 ventilators to Vietnam “to support its ongoing response to COVID-19.”<sup>1594</sup>

On 23 October 2020, USAID announced the issuance of a Temporary Final Rule amending regulations to allow USAID to waive certain rules “Source and Nationality” rules.<sup>1595</sup> USAID, in conjunction with the State

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<sup>1587</sup> Memorandum on Providing COVID-19 Assistance to the Italian Republic, The White House (Washington DC) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/presidential-actions/memorandum-providing-covid-19-assistance-italian-republic/>.

<sup>1588</sup> U.S. Embassy donates Test Kits and Personal Protection Equipment to the Ministry of Health of Georgia, U.S. Embassy in Georgia (Tbilisi) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://ge.usembassy.gov/us-embassy-dtra-donated-test-kits-and-personal-protection-equipment-to-the-ministry-of-health-of-georgia-may-15/>.

<sup>1589</sup> U.S. Government Helps Critical COVID-19 Medical Supplies Flow Easier Through Dili Seaport, USAID (Dili) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/timor-leste/press-releases/may-20-2020-us-government-helps-critical-covid-19-medical-supplies>.

<sup>1590</sup> United States Donates Equipment for Maldives’ Frontline Responders to COVID-19, U.S. Mission to Maldives (Colombo) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://mv.usmission.gov/united-states-donates-equipment-for-maldives-frontline-responders-to-covid-19/>.

<sup>1591</sup> Executive Order 13944, Executive Office of the President (Washington, D.C.) 14 August 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/08/14/2020-18012/combating-public-health-emergencies-and-strengthening-national-security-by-ensuring-essential>.

<sup>1592</sup> Executive Order 13944, Executive Office of the President (Washington, D.C.) 14 August 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/08/14/2020-18012/combating-public-health-emergencies-and-strengthening-national-security-by-ensuring-essential>.

<sup>1593</sup> Executive Order 13944, Executive Office of the President (Washington, D.C.) 14 August 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/08/14/2020-18012/combating-public-health-emergencies-and-strengthening-national-security-by-ensuring-essential>.

<sup>1594</sup> The United States Donates 100 Ventilators to Vietnam to Respond to COVID-19, USAID (Hanoi) 9 October 2020. Access Date: <https://www.usaid.gov/vietnam/program-updates/oct-2020-united-states-donates-100-ventilators-vietnam-respond-covid-19>.

Department, has established the Strategy for Supplemental Funding to Prevent, Prepare for, and Respond to Coronavirus Abroad, which includes the provision of essential medical supplies for overseas use that are expected to total up to USD137 million.<sup>1596</sup> This amendment is intended to allow for “increased flexibility, targeting, and speed of procurement” to deliver medical equipment to countries under the USAID program, which includes the World Bank list of developing countries.<sup>1597</sup>

On 11 November 2020, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced emergency authorization on the use of certain medical devices related to the COVID-19 health emergency.<sup>1598</sup> This includes emergency authorization for detection and diagnostic tests, personal respiratory devices, as well as “alternative products used as medical devices” given authorization by the FDA.<sup>1599</sup>

On 8 December 2020, FEMA issued a notice activating a Plan of Action to establish a National Strategy for the domestic manufacture, allocation, and distribution of PPE to respond to COVID-19.<sup>1600</sup> Under a Voluntary Agreement entered by private sector actors, companies will optimize the manufacture and distribution of PPE based on observed or projected requirements and taking into account geographic (access and needs-based) factors.<sup>1601</sup> This is aimed at increasing the United States’ domestic production capacity of PPE and engaging the private sector to meet urgent requirements for PPE across the nation equally.<sup>1602</sup>

On 20 January 2021, President Joe Biden issued an Executive Order on Organizing and Mobilizing the United States Government to Provide a Unified and Effective Response to Combat COVID-19 and to Provide United States Leadership on Global Health and Security. It established the positions Coordinator of the COVID-19 Response and Counselor to the President, and Deputy Coordinator. Among other duties, the Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator will be responsible for “coordinating the Federal Government’s efforts

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<sup>1595</sup> Procurement of Certain Essential Medical Supplies To Address the COVID-19 Pandemic, Agency for International Development (Washington, D.C.) 23 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/10/23/2020-16475/procurement-of-certain-essential-medical-supplies-to-address-the-covid-19-pandemic>.

<sup>1596</sup> Procurement of Certain Essential Medical Supplies To Address the COVID-19 Pandemic, Agency for International Development (Washington, D.C.) 23 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/10/23/2020-16475/procurement-of-certain-essential-medical-supplies-to-address-the-covid-19-pandemic>.

<sup>1597</sup> Procurement of Certain Essential Medical Supplies To Address the COVID-19 Pandemic; Correction, Agency for International Development (Washington, D.C.) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/12/16/2020-27766/procurement-of-certain-essential-medical-supplies-to-address-the-covid-19-pandemic-correction>.

<sup>1598</sup> Authorization of Emergency Use of Certain Medical Devices During COVID-19; Availability, Food and Drug Administration (Washington, D.C.) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/11/20/2020-25603/authorization-of-emergency-use-of-certain-medical-devices-during-covid-19-availability>.

<sup>1599</sup> Authorization of Emergency Use of Certain Medical Devices During COVID-19; Availability, Food and Drug Administration (Washington, D.C.) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/11/20/2020-25603/authorization-of-emergency-use-of-certain-medical-devices-during-covid-19-availability>.

<sup>1600</sup> Plan of Action To Establish a National Strategy for the Manufacture, Allocation, and Distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) To Respond to COVID-19, Federal Emergency Management Agency (Washington D.C.) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/12/08/2020-26986/plan-of-action-to-establish-a-national-strategy-for-the-manufacture-allocation-and-distribution-of>.

<sup>1601</sup> Plan of Action To Establish a National Strategy for the Manufacture, Allocation, and Distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) To Respond to COVID-19, Federal Emergency Management Agency (Washington D.C.) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/12/08/2020-26986/plan-of-action-to-establish-a-national-strategy-for-the-manufacture-allocation-and-distribution-of>.

<sup>1602</sup> Plan of Action To Establish a National Strategy for the Manufacture, Allocation, and Distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) To Respond to COVID-19, Federal Emergency Management Agency (Washington D.C.) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/12/08/2020-26986/plan-of-action-to-establish-a-national-strategy-for-the-manufacture-allocation-and-distribution-of>.

to produce, supply, and distribute personal protective equipment, vaccines, tests, and other supplies for the Nation's COVID-19 response, including through the use of the Defense Production Act.”<sup>1603</sup>

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed by increasing domestic production of PPE and related medical equipment, as well as by reducing regulations to speed up the availability of related products. The United States has also demonstrated compliance by reducing regulatory barriers to the USAID program to increase the delivery of medical equipment internationally and donating medical equipment to other countries.

Thus, the United States has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Sophie Stojicevic*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed.

On 19 March 2020, the European Commission announced creation of “a strategic rescEU stockpile of medical equipment such as ventilators and protective masks.”<sup>1604</sup> The stockpile would be used to “support Member States facing shortages of equipment needed to treat infected patients, protect health care workers and help slow the spread of the virus.”<sup>1605</sup>

On 20 March 2020, the European Committee for Standardization, the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization, and their members “agreed to immediately make available a number of European standards for certain medical devices and personal protective equipment.”<sup>1606</sup> This measure would “help both EU and third-country companies willing to manufacture these items to swiftly start production and place products on the internal market more easily while ensuring a high degree of safety.”<sup>1607</sup>

On 22 March 2020, the European Commission announced that EUR50 million will be provided to Italy to “support the production and supply of medical devices, such as ventilators, and personal protection equipment, such as masks, goggles, gowns, and safety suits.”<sup>1608</sup> These funds will be available as grants or repayable advances to companies which create new facilities, expand existing facilities, or repurpose existing production lines.<sup>1609</sup>

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<sup>1603</sup> Executive Order on Organizing and Mobilizing the United States Government to Provide a Unified and Effective Response to Combat COVID-19 and to Provide United States Leadership on Global Health and Security, The White House (Washington DC). 20 January 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-organizing-and-mobilizing-united-states-government-to-provide-unified-and-effective-response-to-combat-covid-19-and-to-provide-united-states-leadership-on-global-health-and-security/>.

<sup>1604</sup> COVID-19: Commission creates first ever rescEU stockpile of medical equipment, European Commission (Brussels) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_476](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_476)

<sup>1605</sup> COVID-19: Commission creates first ever rescEU stockpile of medical equipment, European Commission (Brussels) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_476](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_476).

<sup>1606</sup> Coronavirus: European standards for medical supplies made freely available to facilitate increase of production, European Commission (Brussels) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_502](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_502).

<sup>1607</sup> Coronavirus: European standards for medical supplies made freely available to facilitate increase of production, European Commission (Brussels) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_502](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_502).

<sup>1608</sup> State aid: Commission approves €50 million Italian support scheme for production and supply of medical equipment and masks during Coronavirus outbreak, European Commission (Brussels) 22 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_507](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_507).

<sup>1609</sup> State aid: Commission approves €50 million Italian support scheme for production and supply of medical equipment and masks during Coronavirus outbreak, European Commission (Brussels) 22 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_507](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_507).



On 30 March 2020, the European Commission announced that EUR38 million will be provided to the Western Balkans “to tackle the health emergency caused” by COVID-19.<sup>1610</sup> These funds will be directed to “supporting the supply of medical devices and personal equipment, such as ventilators, laboratory kits, masks, goggles, gowns, and safety suits.”<sup>1611</sup>

On 2 April 2020, the European Commission announced that it would mobilize EUR3 billion which would be channelled through the Emergency Support Instrument and rescEU medical equipment capacity.<sup>1612</sup> These funds would allow the European Commission “to directly purchase and produce emergency support on behalf of member states, as well as distribute medical supplies including masks and respirators,” as well as “financially support and coordinate the transportation of medical equipment.”<sup>1613</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the European Commission approved temporary waivers of “customs duties and VAT [value-added tax] on the import of medical devices, and protective equipment, from third countries in order to help in the fight against coronavirus.”<sup>1614</sup> Waivers will apply to “masks and protective equipment, as well as testing kits, ventilators and other medical equipment.”<sup>1615</sup>

On 8 April 2020, the European Commission published a Temporary Framework Communication to ensure businesses that produce critical medical goods can “cooperate and do it in line with the European Competition rules.”<sup>1616</sup> The new framework provided “antitrust guidance to companies willing to temporarily cooperate and coordinate their activities in order to increase production in the most effective way and optimise supply of” medical equipment.<sup>1617</sup>

On 8 May 2020, the European Commission announced that over 1.5 million medical masks will be delivered in the coming days to healthcare workers in member states and the United Kingdom.<sup>1618</sup>

On 21 May 2020, the European Union donated medical equipment worth EUR535,000 to Jamaica.<sup>1619</sup> The shipment included critical care electric beds, patient monitors, infusion pumps, defibrillators, transport patient monitors, and other equipment.<sup>1620</sup>

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<sup>1610</sup> EU mobilises immediate support for its Western Balkan partners to tackle coronavirus, European Commission (Brussels) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_561](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_561).

<sup>1611</sup> EU mobilises immediate support for its Western Balkan partners to tackle coronavirus, European Commission (Brussels) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_561](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_561).

<sup>1612</sup> Emergency Support Instrument for the healthcare sector, European Commission (Brussels) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/QANDA\\_20\\_577](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/QANDA_20_577).

<sup>1613</sup> Emergency Support Instrument for the healthcare sector, European Commission (Brussels) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/QANDA\\_20\\_577](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/QANDA_20_577).

<sup>1614</sup> Coronavirus: Commission waives customs duties and VAT on the import of medical equipment from non-EU countries, European Commission (Brussels) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_575](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_575).

<sup>1615</sup> Coronavirus: Commission waives customs duties and VAT on the import of medical equipment from non-EU countries, European Commission (Brussels) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_575](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_575).

<sup>1616</sup> Antitrust: Commission provides guidance on allowing limited cooperation among businesses, especially for critical hospital medicines during the coronavirus outbreak, European Commission (Brussels) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_618](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_618).

<sup>1617</sup> Antitrust: Commission provides guidance on allowing limited cooperation among businesses, especially for critical hospital medicines during the coronavirus outbreak, European Commission (Brussels) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_618](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_618).

<sup>1618</sup> Coronavirus: Commission delivers first batch of 1.5 million masks from 10 million purchased to support EU healthcare workers, European Commission (Brussels) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_819](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_819).

<sup>1619</sup> European Union delivers medical equipment worth \$80 million, Jamaica Information Service (Kingston) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://jis.gov.jm/jamaica-receives-80-million-donation-of-medical-supplies-from-eu/>.

<sup>1620</sup> European Union delivers medical equipment worth \$80 million, Jamaica Information Service (Kingston) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://jis.gov.jm/jamaica-receives-80-million-donation-of-medical-supplies-from-eu/>.

On 7 June 2020, the European Union donated medical protective supplies to Botswana to support the country's fight against COVID-19.<sup>1621</sup> The European Union donated 40,000 surgical masks, 1,500 gowns, 40,000 examination gloves, 1,500 face protective glasses, 6,250 respiratory N95 masks, infrared thermometers, disinfectants, and sanitizers.<sup>1622</sup>

On 17 June 2020, the European Union announced a EUR60 million package to support the COVID-19 response in the Horn of Africa.<sup>1623</sup> This program will focus on vulnerable groups and “deliver medical equipment, including more than 8.5 million items of personal protective equipment.”<sup>1624</sup>

On 29 July 2020, the European Union delivered 41 tonnes of medical equipment to South Sudan as a part of the EU Humanitarian Air Bridge initiative.<sup>1625</sup> Under this initiative, over 1,100 tons of medical equipment was delivered “to critical areas in Africa, Asia and the Americas” since May.<sup>1626</sup>

On 18 September 2020, the European Union announced that EUR150 million will be directed to support member states and the United Kingdom's effort to “transport essential medical items to Europe,” including personal protective equipment, medicines, and medical equipment.<sup>1627</sup>

On 22 October 2020, the European Union sent 30 ventilators from the rescEU reserve to Czechia.<sup>1628</sup>

On 20 December 2020, the European Union donated 500,000 face masks and gloves, 50,000 protective suits and special suits, as well as 5,500 goggles to Serbia.<sup>1629</sup>

On 24 December 2020, the European Union joined efforts with the World Health Organization to donate 1 million examination gloves, 52 patient monitors, 258 nasal oxygen cannula, 258 venturi masks, 123 pulse oximeters, and spare parts for medical equipment to Azerbaijan's Ministry of Health.<sup>1630</sup> This shipment was the fourth in a series of shipments of protective gear and medical equipment to frontline workers in Azerbaijan.<sup>1631</sup>

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<sup>1621</sup> EU donates medical supplies to Botswana to fight against COVID-19, Xinhua News Agency (Gaborone) 7 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-06/17/c\\_139146604.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-06/17/c_139146604.htm).

<sup>1622</sup> EU donates medical supplies to Botswana to fight against COVID-19, Xinhua News Agency (Gaborone) 7 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-06/17/c\\_139146604.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-06/17/c_139146604.htm).

<sup>1623</sup> Coronavirus: EU supports with €60 million a regional response to the pandemic in the Horn of Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1064](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1064).

<sup>1624</sup> Coronavirus: EU supports with €60 million a regional response to the pandemic in the Horn of Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1064](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1064).

<sup>1625</sup> Coronavirus global response: 45 EU Humanitarian Air Bridge flights deliver over 1,000 tonnes of medical aid, European Commission (Brussels) 29 July 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1424](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1424).

<sup>1626</sup> Coronavirus global response: 45 EU Humanitarian Air Bridge flights deliver over 1,000 tonnes of medical aid, European Commission (Brussels) 29 July 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1424](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1424).

<sup>1627</sup> Coronavirus: EU allocates €150 million for the transport of essential medical items, European Commission (Brussels) 18 September 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1671](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1671).

<sup>1628</sup> Coronavirus: first rescEU ventilators dispatched to Czechia, European Commission (Brussels) 22 October 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1971](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1971).

<sup>1629</sup> EU makes another donation in medical equipment to Serbia, N1 News Channel (Belgrade) 20 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://rs.n1info.com/english/news/a685661-eu-makes-another-donation-in-medical-equipment-to-serbia/>.

<sup>1630</sup> The European Union and WHO deliver medical supplies to the COVID-19 frontline in Azerbaijan, United Nations Azerbaijan (Baku) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://azerbaijan.un.org/en/106308-european-union-and-who-deliver-medical-supplies-covid-19-frontline-azerbaijan>.

<sup>1631</sup> The European Union and WHO deliver medical supplies to the COVID-19 frontline in Azerbaijan, United Nations Azerbaijan (Baku) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://azerbaijan.un.org/en/106308-european-union-and-who-deliver-medical-supplies-covid-19-frontline-azerbaijan>.

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to increase the availability of medical equipment where it is most needed by supplying medical equipment to countries across the European Union as well as internationally. Through its emergency fund and the donations done around the world, the European Union has fully complied with this commitment.

Thus, the European Union has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Nivaal Rehman*

## 9. Health: Online Platforms

“We will coordinate with online platforms to maximize public access to the latest correct and relevant official information, in recognition that millions of citizens receive information and news via social media.”

*G7 Leaders’ Statement*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

### Background

The global response to the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of leveraging all available measures to protect people at risk from COVID-19.<sup>1632</sup> This includes coordinating with online platforms and utilizing social media to provide citizens with the latest credible information on the pandemic.<sup>1633</sup> At previous G7/G8 summits, the importance of coordinating with online platforms and social media has been recognized to help promote an open, free and secure digital transformation.<sup>1634</sup>

At the 2011 Deauville Summit, the G8 leaders recognized that the Internet has become a valuable information and education source for citizens.<sup>1635</sup> They noted that Internet technologies can help improve government efficiency, the provision of services, and enhancing relations with citizens.<sup>1636</sup>

At the 2013 Lough Erne Summit, the G8 leaders adopted the G8 Open Data Charter in recognition of the global proliferation of technology, social media and information.<sup>1637</sup> They stated that this global movement “contains enormous potential to create more accountable, efficient, responsive, and effective governments and business, and to spur economic growth.”<sup>1638</sup> They committed to releasing open data on government and business operations, noting that citizens expect free access to information and services electronically.<sup>1639</sup>

<sup>1632</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>1633</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>1634</sup> Biarritz Strategy for an Open, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/biarritz-strategy-for-digital-transformation.html>.

<sup>1635</sup> Deauville Declaration: Internet, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 May 2011. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-internet-en.html>.

<sup>1636</sup> Deauville Declaration: Internet, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 May 2011. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-internet-en.html>.

<sup>1637</sup> G8 Open Data Charter, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 18 June 2013. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2013lougherne/lough-erne-open-data.html>.

<sup>1638</sup> G8 Open Data Charter, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 18 June 2013. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2013lougherne/lough-erne-open-data.html>.

<sup>1639</sup> G8 Open Data Charter, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 18 June 2013. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2013lougherne/lough-erne-open-data.html>.

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, the G7 leaders adopted the Charter for a Digitally Connected World, recognizing that the rapid evolution and spread of Internet technologies has created new opportunities for cooperation and addressing global challenges.<sup>1640</sup> They affirmed that the historic shift towards the digitally connected view requires promoting and protecting the free flow of information.<sup>1641</sup>

At the 2019 Biarritz Summit, the G7 leaders adopted the Biarritz Strategy for an Open, Free and Secure Digital Transformation.<sup>1642</sup> They recognized that the Internet and related technologies have “brought new ways of empowering all individuals and communities, and provided access to an unprecedented body of information and knowledge.”<sup>1643</sup>

On 16 March 2020, under the U.S. presidency, G7 leaders met virtually to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time, they expected to meet again in three months at their regularly scheduled summit on 10-12 June 2020, which was later postponed indefinitely.

### **Commitment Features**

The G7 members agreed to “coordinate with online platforms to maximize public access to the latest correct and relevant official information, in recognition that millions of citizens receive information and news via social media.”

The first component of the commitment is “coordinating with online platforms.” These coordination efforts must also “maximize public access to the latest correct and relevant official information.” “Coordinate” is defined as “to bring into a common action, movement, or condition.”<sup>1644</sup> An online platform is understood as “a digital service that facilitates interactions between two or more distinct but interdependent sets of users (whether firms or individuals) who interact through the service via the Internet.”<sup>1645</sup> To maximize is “to increase to a maximum,” or to increase to “the greatest quantity or value attainable.”<sup>1646</sup> Public access is understood as perceptible and exposed to a general view.<sup>1647</sup> Information is defined as “knowledge obtained from investigation, study or instruction” and may include intelligence, news, facts, or data.<sup>1648</sup> The information must also be official, correct, and relevant, meaning it is “authoritative” or “relating to an authority or public body and its duties, actions, and responsibilities.”<sup>1649</sup>

This commitment continues by stating that coordination efforts will be done in recognition that millions of citizens receive information and news via social media.” To recognize is to “acknowledge formally” and it

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<sup>1640</sup> Charter for the Digitally Connected World (Toronto) April 30 2016. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/ict/2016-ict-charter.html>.

<sup>1641</sup> Charter for the Digitally Connected World (Toronto) April 30 2016. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/ict/2016-ict-charter.html>.

<sup>1642</sup> Biarritz Strategy for an Open, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/biarritz-strategy-for-digital-transformation.html>.

<sup>1643</sup> Biarritz Strategy for an Open, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/biarritz-strategy-for-digital-transformation.html>.

<sup>1644</sup> Coordinate, Merriam Webster Dictionary (Massachusetts). Access Date: 21 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/coordinate>

<sup>1645</sup> An Introduction to Online Platforms and their Role in the Digital Transformation, OECD (Paris) May 13 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2020. [https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/science-and-technology/an-introduction-to-online-platforms-and-their-role-in-the-digital-transformation\\_53e5f593-en#page1](https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/science-and-technology/an-introduction-to-online-platforms-and-their-role-in-the-digital-transformation_53e5f593-en#page1).

<sup>1646</sup> Maximize, Merriam Webster Dictionary (Massachusetts). Access Date: 21 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/maximize>.

<sup>1647</sup> Public, Merriam Webster Dictionary (Massachusetts). Access Date: 21 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/public>.

<sup>1648</sup> Information, Merriam Webster Dictionary (Massachusetts). Access Date: 21 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/information>.

<sup>1649</sup> Official, Merriam Webster Dictionary (Massachusetts). Access Date: 21 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/official>.

should be interpreted to mean “explicit acknowledgment of something.”<sup>1650</sup> Social media is understood as “forms of electronic community (such as websites for social networking and microblogging) through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages and other content (such as videos).”<sup>1651</sup> Thus, while there are two parts to this commitment, the second part is connected to the first part by the conjunction “in recognition,” suggesting that the first more general part on coordinating with online platforms to maximize public access to information is the intended core of this commitment. Examples of compliance include distributing public information by working directly with online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, YouTube, TikTok, Google, and others. Actions may include hosting informal and formal meetings with such platforms, establishing memorandums of understanding, or creating joint policies and content strategies.

The extent to which a G7 member fulfills this commitment will be measured by a depth analysis. A G7 member “fully coordinating” with online platforms to maximize public access to the latest and correct relevant information will have publicly and directly engaged in coordinated efforts with online platforms in pursuit of this goal. A G7 member “partially coordinating” with online platforms may unilaterally launch online social media campaigns to provide public information, but not have coordinated directly with online platforms in pursuit of this goal. Examples of partial compliance include only unilaterally launching online marketing campaigns, new social media accounts with relevant information, creating online content such as videos, and launching new web portals.

To achieve full compliance, G7 members must take action according to both parts of the commitment by maximizing public access to the latest and relevant information in recognition that millions of citizens receive information and news via social media, while also coordinating directly with online platforms to achieve this goal.

Partial compliance will be awarded only if G7 members seek to maximize public access to information and news via online platforms and social media, but efforts do not cooperate directly with online platforms. A score of no compliance will be awarded only with no demonstrable compliance to any part of the commitment.

**Scoring Guidelines**

-1	G7 member does NOT take any efforts to coordinate with online platforms AND has not attempted to maximize public access to the latest correct and relevant official information via social media.
0	G7 member has taken efforts to maximize public access to the latest correct and relevant official information via social media, but HAS NOT coordinated with online platforms.
+1	G7 member has taken efforts to coordinate with online platforms AND has demonstrated efforts to maximize public access to the latest correct and relevant official information via online platforms.

*Compliance Director: Foti Veto  
Lead Analyst: Kiayla Amos-Flom*

**Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to coordinate with online platforms to maximize public access to the latest correct and relevant official information, in recognition that millions of citizens receive information and news via social media.

<sup>1650</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy Global Governance Program (Toronto) 6 August 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2020. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2019.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2019.pdf).

<sup>1651</sup> Social Media, Merriam Webster Dictionary (Massachusetts). Access Date: 21 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/social%20media>.

On 22 March 2020, the Government of Canada launched a CAD30 million ad campaign promoting methods to reduce the spread of COVID-19, including personal hygiene and social distancing, across print, television, radio, and federal social media accounts on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and LinkedIn.<sup>1652</sup>

On 28 April 2020, the Public Health Agency of Canada began an education video series on COVID-19 in collaboration with YouTube.<sup>1653</sup> The series featured four videos where some of Canada's top YouTube creators interviewed Deputy Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Howard Njoo.<sup>1654</sup>

On 31 July 2020, the Government of Canada rolled out COVID Alert, a digital app that aims to help mitigate the spread of the coronavirus in Canada.<sup>1655</sup> The app helps to notify a user should they have been exposed to another user who has COVID-19.<sup>1656</sup> First launched in the province of Ontario, the Canadian government aims to soon have it available across Canada.<sup>1657</sup> The Government of Canada's contemporary awareness of their citizens' usage of apps and social media has helped to increase public access to prevalent information as well as keep citizens safe and informed.<sup>1658</sup>

On 27 October 2020, the Government of Canada launched a second bilingual ad campaign featuring prominent health officers reminding citizens of basic health precautions and encouraging downloads of the federal "COVID Alert" app.<sup>1659</sup> This ad campaign was simultaneously distributed across online platforms and social media as well as on television and radio.<sup>1660</sup>

On November 2020, the Government of Canada launched a CAD850,000 ad campaign warning Canadians to stay home and avoid travelling abroad during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1661</sup> The campaign will run until March 2021 and targets "snowbirds" on Facebook, Twitter, travel websites, online magazines, and other digital platforms.<sup>1662</sup>

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<sup>1652</sup> Feds launch ad campaign urging social distancing, hygiene during COVID-19 crisis, CTV News (Ottawa) 22 March 2020. Access Date: 5 March 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/feds-launch-ad-campaign-urging-social-distancing-hygiene-during-covid-19-crisis-1.4863845>.

<sup>1653</sup> Dr. Howard Njoo answers COVID-19 questions in new YouTube series, Toronto Star (Toronto) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 5 March 2021. <https://www.thestar.com/entertainment/2020/04/28/dr-howard-njoo-answers-covid-19-questions-in-new-youtube-series.html>.

<sup>1654</sup> Dr. Howard Njoo answers COVID-19 questions in new YouTube series, Toronto Star (Toronto) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 5 March 2021. <https://www.thestar.com/entertainment/2020/04/28/dr-howard-njoo-answers-covid-19-questions-in-new-youtube-series.html>.

<sup>1655</sup> Canada launches COVID-19 tracking app — but only in Ontario, Global News (Toronto) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7239119/coronavirus-exposure-notification-app-covid-19-ontario/>.

<sup>1656</sup> Canada launches COVID-19 tracking app — but only in Ontario, Global News (Toronto) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7239119/coronavirus-exposure-notification-app-covid-19-ontario/>.

<sup>1657</sup> Canada launches COVID-19 tracking app — but only in Ontario, Global News (Toronto) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7239119/coronavirus-exposure-notification-app-covid-19-ontario/>.

<sup>1658</sup> Canada launches COVID-19 tracking app — but only in Ontario, Global News (Toronto) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7239119/coronavirus-exposure-notification-app-covid-19-ontario/>.

<sup>1659</sup> Feds launch new ad campaign reminding Canadians of COVID-19 basics, CTV News (Ottawa) 27 October 2020. Access Date: 5 March 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/feds-launch-new-ad-campaign-reminding-canadians-of-covid-19-basics-1.5163582>.

<sup>1660</sup> Feds launch new ad campaign reminding Canadians of COVID-19 basics, CTV News (Ottawa) 27 October 2020. Access Date: 5 March 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/feds-launch-new-ad-campaign-reminding-canadians-of-covid-19-basics-1.5163582>.

<sup>1661</sup> Ottawa launches \$850,000 ad campaign advising Canadians to stay home during COVID-19, CBC News (Toronto) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/travel-borders-federal-government-snowbirds-covid-19-1.5849599>.

<sup>1662</sup> Ottawa launches \$850,000 ad campaign advising Canadians to stay home during COVID-19, CBC News (Toronto) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 7 March 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/travel-borders-federal-government-snowbirds-covid-19-1.5849599>.

On 14 February 2021, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam recognized the role social media platforms have in keeping Canadians "safe, informed and connected."<sup>1663</sup> Dr. Tam underlined the importance however, in also "distinguish[ing] between misinformation" and fact on these platforms.<sup>1664</sup>

Canada has fully complied with this commitment though strong actions aimed at coordinating with online platforms to maximize public access to the latest correct and relevant official information, in recognition that millions of citizens receive information and news via social media."

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Khalil Khalifa*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to coordinate with online platforms to maximize public access to the latest correct and relevant official information, in recognition that millions of citizens receive information and news via social media.

On 18 March 2020, the Government of France<sup>1665</sup> and Public Health France<sup>1666</sup> began posting correct and relevant COVID-19 health information on social media platforms including Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

On 22 October 2020, the Government of France launched TousAntiCovid, a contact tracing application that also gives the user access to COVID-19 health information.<sup>1667</sup> TousAntiCovid is an updated version of the StopCovid application.<sup>1668</sup>

On 19 February 2021, Public Health France posted an epidemiological update on the surveillance of COVID-19, which presented a detailed analysis of the indicators put in place by Public Health France and its network of partners.<sup>1669</sup> The information is updated weekly.<sup>1670</sup>

On 24 February 2021, the Government of France updated its online COVID-19 information platform to show the new confirmed cases and new patients in intensive care.<sup>1671</sup> This information is updated on a daily

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<sup>1663</sup> Tam takes aim at COVID-19 'infodemic,' urges vigilance over misleading online content, CBC News (Toronto) 14 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/theresa-tam-covid-19-infodemic-1.5914178>.

<sup>1664</sup> Tam takes aim at COVID-19 'infodemic,' urges vigilance over misleading online content, CBC News (Toronto) 14 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/theresa-tam-covid-19-infodemic-1.5914178>.

<sup>1665</sup> Coronavirus Information, the Government of France (Paris) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/info-coronavirus>.

<sup>1666</sup> Public Health France (Paris). Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.santepubliquefrance.fr/>.

<sup>1667</sup> TousAntiCovid application, the Government of France (Paris) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/info-coronavirus/tousanticovid>.

<sup>1668</sup> TousAntiCovid application, the Government of France (Paris) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/info-coronavirus/tousanticovid>.

<sup>1669</sup> Covid-19 epidemiological update of February 25, 2021. Increase in contamination, predominance of variants: signs of a possible worsening of the epidemic, Public Health France (Paris) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.santepubliquefrance.fr/presse/2021/point-epidemiologique-covid-19-du-25-fevrier-2021.-augmentation-des-contaminations-predominance-des-variants-les-signes-d-une-possible-aggravati>.

<sup>1670</sup> Covid-19 epidemiological update of February 25, 2021. Increase in contamination, predominance of variants: signs of a possible worsening of the epidemic, Public Health France (Paris) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.santepubliquefrance.fr/presse/2021/point-epidemiologique-covid-19-du-25-fevrier-2021.-augmentation-des-contaminations-predominance-des-variants-les-signes-d-une-possible-aggravati>.

<sup>1671</sup> Coronavirus Information, the Government of France (Paris) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/info-coronavirus>.



basis.<sup>1672</sup> Other information, such as vaccine administration and positivity rate, is provided but updated less frequently.<sup>1673</sup>

France has fully complied with its commitment to maximize public access to online health information by taking efforts to coordinate with online platforms and by demonstrating efforts to provide correct and relevant health information, with many ways for the public to access government-provided health information.

Thus, France has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrew McFall*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to coordinate with online platforms to maximize public access to the latest correct and relevant official information, in recognition that millions of citizens receive information and news via social media.

On 20 March 2020, the Federal Chancellery, along with the Ministry for Education and Research, began their #WirVsVirus hackathon.<sup>1674</sup> This digital program brought together citizens, non-governmental organizations, and corporations to solve a variety of COVID-19 related social problems, including issues of online access to information. A number of organizations provided support for the implementation of digital solutions or project funding.<sup>1675</sup>

On 20 March 2020, the Government of Germany also began a social media campaign called #WirBleibenZuhause, which translates in English to #WeStayatHome.<sup>1676</sup> Health Minister Jens Spahn later personally involved himself in the production of video promotions for the campaign.<sup>1677</sup>

On 14 June 2020, the Government of Germany announced the launch of its own COVID-19 warning app, available for iOS and Android.<sup>1678</sup>

On 21 June 2020, Chancellor Angela Merkel promoted the app on her weekly podcast, which features up-to-date statistics and warns users of recent possible exposures.<sup>1679</sup> By 1 February 2021, the app had been

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<sup>1672</sup> Coronavirus Information, the Government of France (Paris) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/info-coronavirus>.

<sup>1673</sup> Coronavirus Information, the Government of France (Paris) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/info-coronavirus>.

<sup>1674</sup> The #WirVsVirus implementation program, WirVsVirus (Berlin) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

<https://wirvsvirus.org/umsetzungsprogramm/>.

<sup>1675</sup> Together against the virus: a unique digital project brings people together, Google (Mountain View) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://about.google/intl/ALL\\_de/stories/wirvsvirus/](https://about.google/intl/ALL_de/stories/wirvsvirus/).

<sup>1676</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>1677</sup> #WirBleibenZuhause, Zusammen gegen Corona, Health Ministry of Germany (Berlin) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.zusammengegencorona.de/wirbleibenzuhause/>.

<sup>1678</sup> Germany says coronavirus tracing app ready to go, Reuters (Berlin) 14 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-germany-app/germany-says-coronavirus-tracing-app-ready-to-go-idUSKBN23L0P5>.

<sup>1679</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

downloaded over 25 million times.<sup>1680</sup> The exposure-tracking technology for the app was developed in coordination with Google.<sup>1681</sup>

On 12 November 2020, Minister Spahn announced that internet searches on Google would return a highlighted Knowledge Panel containing links to the National Health Portal website, if certain medical keywords were used.<sup>1682</sup> This website offers current information on COVID-19, and Google Knowledge Panels also provide links to official information regarding 160 other diseases.<sup>1683</sup>

Germany has coordinated with online platforms such as Google to maximize public access to official health information, while also promoting its informational websites through its own social media accounts.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Daniel Parsons*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to coordinate with online platforms to maximize public access to the latest correct and relevant official information, in recognition that millions of citizens receive information and news via social media.

On 27 March 2020, the Ministry of Health launched a COVID-19 communication campaign featuring Amadeus, a famous television presenter, promoting simple precautions and to use the Health Ministry's website as a reputable source of COVID-19 information.<sup>1684</sup> The campaign was spread across television, radio, and the Ministry of Health's social media accounts.<sup>1685</sup>

On 6 October 2020, the Ministry of Health launched the app Immuni, to aid in contact tracing and to contain the spread of COVID-19.<sup>1686</sup> The app helps to notify a user should they have been exposed to another user who has COVID-19. A test of the contract-tracing app had previously been launched on 1 June 2020.<sup>1687</sup>

On 31 January 2021, the Italian Government last updated their website to provide detailed information on the COVID-19 Pandemic.<sup>1688</sup> The website provides information and updates on travel restrictions, vaccine rollout, symptoms of the virus, and containment measures.<sup>1689</sup>

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<sup>1680</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>1681</sup> COVID-19 Notifications: How We Help Health Authorities Control COVID-19 Through Technology, Google n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.google.com/intl/de\\_de/covid19/exposurenotifications/](https://www.google.com/intl/de_de/covid19/exposurenotifications/).

<sup>1682</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>1683</sup> The Federal Government informs about the corona crisis, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.deutschland.de/en/news/german-federal-government-informs-about-the-corona-crisis>.

<sup>1684</sup> "Let's help each other. Together we will make it", the commercial with Amadeus against the Coronavirus, Ministry of Health (Rome) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 5 March 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioCampagneNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=campagne&p=dacampagne&id=143>.

<sup>1685</sup> "Let's help each other. Together we will make it", the commercial with Amadeus against the Coronavirus, Ministry of Health (Rome) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 5 March 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioCampagneNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=campagne&p=dacampagne&id=143>.

<sup>1686</sup> App Immuni, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.governo.it/it/approfondimento/immuni/15336>.

<sup>1687</sup> App Immuni, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.governo.it/it/approfondimento/immuni/15336>.

<sup>1688</sup> FAQ - Covid-19, questions and answers, Ministry of Health (Rome) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioFaqNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&id=230>.

<sup>1689</sup> FAQ - Covid-19, questions and answers, Ministry of Health (Rome) 31 January 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioFaqNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&id=230>.

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to maximize public access to online health information by taking efforts to coordinate with online platforms and by demonstrating efforts to provide correct and relevant health information, with many ways for the public to access government-provided health information.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Khalil Khalifa*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to coordinate with online platforms to maximize public access to the latest correct and relevant official information, in recognition that millions of citizens receive information and news via social media.

On 3 April 2020, Opposition Member Kazuma Nakatani of the Constitutional Democratic Party submitted a question to the government in the National Diet.<sup>1690</sup> He argued that the government's informational websites were not effective enough in providing access to pandemic guidelines and asked if the government had plans to coordinate with social media platforms to improve public access to official health information.<sup>1691</sup>

On 14 April 2020, the Cabinet issued a written response which stated that the government was disseminating health guidelines by posting links to government websites on PMO social media accounts of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).<sup>1692</sup> The PMO continues to link the latest official health information to its social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

On 16 June 2020, the Government of Japan released its COVID-19 tracking app for iOS and Android, which it developed in coordination with an engineering team at Microsoft.<sup>1693,1694</sup> By 26 June, the app had 4 million downloads, and Health Ministry official Yasuyuki Sahara said that the government hoped for as many downloads as possible.<sup>1695</sup>

On 9 February 2021, Digital Transformation Minister Takuya Hirai joined other legislators for a public discussion on the new platform Clubhouse.<sup>1696</sup> They discussed how government officials can use online platforms to connect with voters.<sup>1697</sup>

Japan has coordinated with online platforms such as Microsoft to maximize public access to official health information, while also promoting its informational websites through its own social media accounts.

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<sup>1690</sup> 201<sup>st</sup> Session of the Diet, Question 157, "Letter of intent concerning the current state of infodemic about the novel coronavirus", Information on the progress of question answers, House of Representatives (Tokyo) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [http://www.shugiin.go.jp/internet/itdb\\_shitsumon.nsf/html/shitsumon/201157.htm](http://www.shugiin.go.jp/internet/itdb_shitsumon.nsf/html/shitsumon/201157.htm).

<sup>1691</sup> 201<sup>st</sup> Session of the Diet, Question 157, "Letter of intent concerning the current state of infodemic about the novel coronavirus" Question body information, House of Representatives (Tokyo) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [http://www.shugiin.go.jp/internet/itdb\\_shitsumon.nsf/html/shitsumon/a201157.htm](http://www.shugiin.go.jp/internet/itdb_shitsumon.nsf/html/shitsumon/a201157.htm).

<sup>1692</sup> 201<sup>st</sup> Session of the Diet, Question 157, "Letter of intent concerning the current state of infodemic about the novel coronavirus", Answer text information, House of Representatives (Tokyo) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [http://www.shugiin.go.jp/internet/itdb\\_shitsumon.nsf/html/shitsumon/b201157.htm](http://www.shugiin.go.jp/internet/itdb_shitsumon.nsf/html/shitsumon/b201157.htm).

<sup>1693</sup> Japan rolls out Microsoft-developed COVID-19 contact tracing app, The Verge 19 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.theverge.com/2020/6/19/21296603/japan-covid-19-contact-tracking-app-cocoa-released>.

<sup>1694</sup> Contact-tracing app set to debut in Japan this week, Nikkei Asia (Tokyo) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Coronavirus/Contact-tracing-app-set-to-debut-in-Japan-this-week>.

<sup>1695</sup> Japan's COVID-19 app hits 4 million downloads in 1st week, The Asahi Shimbun 26 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/13492591>.

<sup>1696</sup> Japan lawmakers join Clubhouse app to reach voters, Nikkei Asia (Tokyo) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Technology/Japan-lawmakers-join-Clubhouse-app-to-reach-voters>.

<sup>1697</sup> Japan lawmakers join Clubhouse app to reach voters, Nikkei Asia (Tokyo) 10 February 2021. Access Dates: 23 February 2021. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Technology/Japan-lawmakers-join-Clubhouse-app-to-reach-voters>.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Daniel Parsons*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to coordinate with online platforms to maximize public access to the latest correct and relevant official information, in recognition that millions of citizens receive information and news via social media.

On 16 March 2020, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) website began to upload daily news stories and health and safety documents, which are all available under the headline “Latest from the Department of Health and Social Care.”<sup>1698</sup> The DHSC has also shared health information to the public through Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, and email newsletters.<sup>1699</sup>

On 16 March 2020, the DHSC YouTube Channel created a playlist that informs of National Restrictions, COVID-19 information, and tracking updates.<sup>1700</sup> The playlist is continuously updated with new videos.<sup>1701</sup>

On 17 April 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom partnered with the online and print newspaper industry for a three-month COVID-19 ad campaign titled “All in, all together.”<sup>1702</sup> The campaign aims to help keep the public safe and the nation united throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1703</sup>

On 24 September 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom launched the National Health Service (NHS) COVID-19 contact-tracing app in England and Wales, with the additional purpose of ensuring easy access to information.<sup>1704</sup> The framework of the app was developed in collaboration with Apple and Google.<sup>1705</sup>

On 22 January 2021, the DHSC launched an ad called “Look into my eyes.”<sup>1706</sup> This video is a national campaign featuring hospital staff and COVID-19 patients urging people to stay home during the national lockdown.<sup>1707</sup>

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<sup>1698</sup> Department of Health and Social Care, (London) n.d. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care>

<sup>1699</sup> Department of Health and Social Care, (London) n.d. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care>

<sup>1700</sup> Coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care (London) n.d. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvaBZskxS7tzJPUDRAf8aGw2mEF9tvLg3>.

<sup>1701</sup> Coronavirus, Department of Health and Social Care (London) n.d. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvaBZskxS7tzJPUDRAf8aGw2mEF9tvLg3>.

<sup>1702</sup> “All in, all together”: UK government partners with newspaper industry on Covid-19 ad campaign, Society of Editors (Cambridge) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.societyofeditors.org/soe\\_news/all-in-all-together-uk-government-partners-with-newspaper-industry-on-covid-19-ad-campaign/](https://www.societyofeditors.org/soe_news/all-in-all-together-uk-government-partners-with-newspaper-industry-on-covid-19-ad-campaign/).

<sup>1703</sup> “All in, all together”: UK government partners with newspaper industry on Covid-19 ad campaign, Society of Editors (Cambridge) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.societyofeditors.org/soe\\_news/all-in-all-together-uk-government-partners-with-newspaper-industry-on-covid-19-ad-campaign/](https://www.societyofeditors.org/soe_news/all-in-all-together-uk-government-partners-with-newspaper-industry-on-covid-19-ad-campaign/).

<sup>1704</sup> NHS coronavirus app to launch in England and Wales on 24 September, The Guardian (London) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/sep/11/nhs-coronavirus-app-launch-england-wales-24-september>.

<sup>1705</sup> NHS coronavirus app to launch in England and Wales on 24 September, The Guardian (London) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/sep/11/nhs-coronavirus-app-launch-england-wales-24-september>.

<sup>1706</sup> ‘Look into my eyes’: UK government launches hard-hitting ‘stay at home’ advert, The Guardian (London) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ThkLdlwFdZA>.

<sup>1707</sup> New hard-hitting national TV ad urges the nation to stay at home, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-hard-hitting-national-tv-ad-urges-the-nation-to-stay-at-home>.

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitments to maximizing public access to health information, through its consistent efforts to disseminate the latest correct and relevant official information on social media platforms and partnerships with the newspaper and advertisement industries.

Thus, the United Kingdom has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Sher Yao*

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

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to coordinate with online platforms and demonstrates effort to maximize public access to the latest correct and relevant official information, in recognition that millions of citizens receive information and news via social media.

On 16 March 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Facebook page began posting daily updates on COVID-19.<sup>1708</sup> The CDC Instagram has created daily posts for credible health and safety updates.<sup>1709</sup>

On 16 March 2020, the Instagram page of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) began posting daily health information and added a story series titled “The President’s Coronavirus Guidelines for America” to its COVID-19 story highlight.<sup>1710</sup>

On 16 March 2020, the CDC began publishing ongoing news related to health through monthly press releases, media advisories, transcripts, and statements on their official website.<sup>1711</sup>

On 16 March 2020, the National Library of Medicine MedlinePlus Twitter account began creating daily posts related to the “latest news & info on health & medicine” available for the public.<sup>1712</sup>

On 16 March 2020, the HHS YouTube channel began posting weekly videos of virtual meetings and topics related to health.<sup>1713</sup>

On 27 March 2020, the White House Coronavirus Task Force and HHS, in partnership with Apple, released a COVID-19 screening app and website that guides Americans through a series of questions about their health and exposure to determine if they should seek care for COVID-19 symptoms.<sup>1714</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the CDC modified and re-launched existing surveillance system to track COVID-19 called “COVIDView.”<sup>1715</sup> The report, updated each Friday, summarizes and interprets key indicators, including

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<sup>1708</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Facebook (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://www.facebook.com/CDC>.

<sup>1709</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Instagram (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://www.instagram.com/cdcgov/?hl=en>.

<sup>1710</sup> United States Health and Human Services, Instagram (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://www.instagram.com/hhs.gov/?hl=en>.

<sup>1711</sup> 2020 News Releases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/archives.html>.

<sup>1712</sup> MedlinePlus.gov, Twitter (Bethesda) n.d. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

[https://twitter.com/medlineplus?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Eembeddedtimeline%7Ctwtterm%5Eprofile%3Amedlineplus&ref\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fmedlineplus.gov%2F](https://twitter.com/medlineplus?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Eembeddedtimeline%7Ctwtterm%5Eprofile%3Amedlineplus&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fmedlineplus.gov%2F).

<sup>1713</sup> United States Department of Health and Human Services, YouTube (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/HHS/videos?pbjreload=102>.

<sup>1714</sup> CDC Statement on COVID-19 Apple App, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Washington) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s0327-statement-covid-19-apple-app.html>.

<sup>1715</sup> CDC Launches New Weekly COVID-19 Surveillance Report, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Washington) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s0404-covid19-surveillance-report.html>.

information related to COVID-19 outpatient visits, emergency department visits, hospitalizations and deaths, as well as laboratory data.<sup>1716</sup>

Since 3 June 2020, the CDC Instagram account has also created a new COVID-19 story highlight and provides ongoing health information accessible to the public.<sup>1717</sup>

On 20 November 2020, the Online Guide to Government Information and Services updated its Health Information from the Government page. The page now includes COVID-19 information and the National Library of Medicine Medline Plus database to answer any medical questions.<sup>1718</sup>

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to maximize public access to health information through its consistent effort to disseminate the latest correct and relevant official information on social media platforms and coordinate with online platforms to produce screening websites and apps.

Thus, the United States has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Sher Yao*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to coordinate with online platforms and demonstrated efforts to maximize public access to the latest correct and relevant official information, in recognition that millions of citizens receive information and news via social media.

On 16 March 2020, the European Parliament, the European Commission, and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) began posting correct and relevant information on social media platforms including Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube.<sup>1719,1720,1721</sup>

On 19 October 2020, the European Commission set up an “EU wide system to ensure interoperability” between COVID-19 tracing apps across EU member states.<sup>1722</sup> The system allows for COVID-19 tracing apps to work across EU members states so users will only need to install one app, and if users travel to another participating European country, they will still benefit from contact tracing and receiving alerts.<sup>1723</sup>

On 17 December 2020, the ECDC switched to a weekly reporting schedule for COVID-19 updates worldwide, in the EU, and in the United Kingdom.<sup>1724</sup> The ECDC discontinued daily updates on 14 December 2020.<sup>1725</sup>

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<sup>1716</sup> CDC Launches New Weekly COVID-19 Surveillance Report, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Washington) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s0404-covid19-surveillance-report.html>.

<sup>1717</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Instagram (Washington) n.d. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://www.instagram.com/cdcgov/?hl=en>.

<sup>1718</sup> Health Information from the Government, Guide to Government Information and Services (Washington) 20 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.usa.gov/health-resources#item-214585>.

<sup>1719</sup> The Social Network at a Glance, European Parliament (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/external/html/socialmediaatagance/default\\_en.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/external/html/socialmediaatagance/default_en.html).

<sup>1720</sup> Social Networks, European Union (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://europa.eu/european-union/contact/social-networks\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/contact/social-networks_en).

<sup>1721</sup> ECDC in Social Media, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (Solna). Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/about-us/press-and-media/ecdc-social-media>.

<sup>1722</sup> Coronavirus: EU interoperability gateway goes live, first contact tracing and warning apps linked to the system, European Commission (Brussels) 19 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<sup>1723</sup> Coronavirus: EU interoperability gateway goes live, first contact tracing and warning apps linked to the system, European Commission (Brussels) 19 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<sup>1724</sup> COVID-19 situation update worldwide, as of week 7, updated 25 February 2021, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (Solna) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/geographical-distribution-2019-ncov-cases>.

On 5 February 2021, the European Ombudsman decided that there were no cases of maladministration in regard to the gathered and communicated information during the COVID-19 crisis.<sup>1726</sup> Decision 78 reports the ECDC publishes news articles on its website and communicates its work on social media channels (principally Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn).<sup>1727</sup>

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to health and online platforms by maximizing public access to correct and relevant official health information as well as by coordinating with online platforms.

Thus, the European Union has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrew McFall*

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<sup>1725</sup> COVID-19 situation update worldwide, as of week 7, updated 25 February 2021, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (Solna) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/geographical-distribution-2019-ncov-cases>.

<sup>1726</sup> Decision in strategic inquiry OI/3/2020/TE on how the ECDC gathered and communicated information during the COVID-19 crisis, European Ombudsman (Strasbourg) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/decision/en/137815>.

<sup>1727</sup> Decision in strategic inquiry OI/3/2020/TE on how the ECDC gathered and communicated information during the COVID-19 crisis, European Ombudsman (Strasbourg) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/decision/en/137815>.

## 10. Health: Supporting the World Health Organization

“We fully support the World Health Organization in its global mandate to lead on disease outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences, leaving no geographical vacuum.”

*G7 Leaders’ Statement*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

### Background

The World Health Organization (WHO) has been at the forefront of international efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1728</sup> As the body of the United Nations responsible for directing and coordinating health, the WHO has been monitoring the novel coronavirus since December 2019.<sup>1729</sup> In March 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic.<sup>1730</sup>

As a core international organization in the area of health, the WHO’s broad mandate includes promoting universal health coverage, responding to health emergencies, and prioritizing the health and well-being of all people.<sup>1731</sup> The WHO has over 150 country offices and six regional offices: one for Africa, the Americas, South-East Asia, Europe, the Eastern Mediterranean, and the West Pacific.<sup>1732</sup>

As the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting people across the world, the pandemic has disproportionately impacted developing countries with devastating impacts on human health.<sup>1733</sup> The most vulnerable countries are those with limited financial resources and fragile health systems.<sup>1734</sup> This disproportionate impact has

<sup>1728</sup> Listing of WHO’s response to COVID-19, World Health Organization (Geneva) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/news/item/29-06-2020-covidtimeline>.

<sup>1729</sup> Listing of WHO’s response to COVID-19, World Health Organization (Geneva) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/news/item/29-06-2020-covidtimeline>.

<sup>1730</sup> Listing of WHO’s response to COVID-19, World Health Organization (Geneva) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/news/item/29-06-2020-covidtimeline>.

<sup>1731</sup> What We Do, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 21 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/about/what-we-do>.

<sup>1732</sup> Regional Offices, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 21 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/about/who-we-are/regional-offices>.

<sup>1733</sup> World’s Most Vulnerable Countries Lack the Capacity to Respond to a Global Pandemic, United Nations (Geneva) 24 August 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <https://www.un.org/ohrlls/news/world’s-most-vulnerable-countries-lack-capacity-respond-global-pandemic-credit-mfdelyas-alwazir>.

<sup>1734</sup> World’s Most Vulnerable Countries Lack the Capacity to Respond to a Global Pandemic, United Nations (Geneva) 24 August 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <https://www.un.org/ohrlls/news/world’s-most-vulnerable-countries-lack-capacity-respond-global-pandemic-credit-mfdelyas-alwazir>.



presented an urgent challenge for the international community and advanced economies to support states with the least capacity to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1735</sup>

G7/G8 summits have identified the WHO as an integral international organization since first referencing it at the 1997 Denver Summit.<sup>1736</sup> Since 1997 to 2020, there have been 18 commitments made specific to working with the WHO.<sup>1737</sup>

At the 1997 Denver Summit, the G8 leaders committed to more effective coordination of international responses to disease outbreaks.<sup>1738</sup> This included the promotion of a global surveillance network and building public health capacity to prevent, detect, and control infectious diseases globally.<sup>1739</sup> They noted that “central to this work will be strengthening and linking existing activities in and among each of our countries, with developing countries, and in other fora, especially the World Health Organization.”<sup>1740</sup>

At the 1998 Birmingham Summit, the G8 leaders pledged to “enhance mutual cooperation on infectious and parasitic diseases and support the World Health Organisation’s efforts in those areas.”<sup>1741</sup> More specifically, they also pledged their support for the WHO’s Roll Back Malaria initiative.<sup>1742</sup>

At the 1999 Köln Summit, the G8 leaders reaffirmed their support to the WHO and its Roll Back Malaria and Stop TB initiatives.<sup>1743</sup>

At the 2000 Okinawa Summit, the G8 leaders made significant commitments to the WHO and global health.<sup>1744</sup> They committed to implementing a plan on infectious diseases, notably HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.<sup>1745</sup> The leaders committed to strengthening partnerships with the WHO and other international organizations, as well as governments, industry, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and civil society actors to meet UN health targets.<sup>1746</sup> They noted the importance of giving priority to the development of equitable and effective health systems and working to make health interventions “more universally available and affordable in developing countries.”<sup>1747</sup>

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<sup>1735</sup> World’s Most Vulnerable Countries Lack the Capacity to Respond to a Global Pandemic, United Nations (Geneva) 24 August 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <https://www.un.org/ohrlls/news/world’s-most-vulnerable-countries-lack-capacity-respond-global-pandemic-credit-mfdelyas-alwazir>.

<sup>1736</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1737</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1738</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1739</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1740</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1741</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1742</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1743</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1744</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1745</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1746</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1747</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

At the 2006 St. Petersburg Summit, the G8 leaders committed to intensifying global scientific research on infectious diseases, with a particular focus on involving scientists in developing countries in international scientific research programs.<sup>1748</sup> They pledged to support the efforts of “relevant international organizations” to respond to outbreaks of avian influenza and prepare for a possible human influenza pandemic. They also pledged to fulfill prior G8 commitments on the major infectious diseases, notably HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, polio, and measles.<sup>1749</sup> Moreover, the leaders committed to “continuing to support existing global networks under World Health Organization auspices, such as the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network.”<sup>1750</sup> This summit was also the first time G8 health ministers met, and the WHO was also in participation.<sup>1751</sup>

At the 2008 Hokkaido-Toyako Summit, the G8 leaders built on the St. Petersburg commitments to fight infectious diseases.<sup>1752</sup> They committed to increasing workforce coverage towards the WHO threshold of 2.3 health workers per 1,000 people.<sup>1753</sup> In addition, the leaders cited support for the WHO Plan to address neglected tropical diseases.<sup>1754</sup>

At the 2015 Elamu Summit, the G7 leaders affirmed their support for efforts to “reform and strengthen the WHO’s capacity to prepare for and respond to complex health crises while reaffirming the central role of the WHO for international health security.”<sup>1755</sup> They committed to implementing health interventions in close cooperation with the WHO and pledged support for the WHO Global Observatory on Health Research and Development.<sup>1756</sup>

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, the G7 leaders reaffirmed the WHO’s central role in coordinating responses to public health emergencies.<sup>1757</sup> They urged and supported the WHO to implement reforms to enable and support more swift and effective responses in light of recent outbreaks of Ebola and Zika.<sup>1758</sup> The leaders noted the pressing need for health systems strengthening in developing countries and committed to support country-led efforts to strengthen health systems in collaboration with the WHO.<sup>1759</sup>

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<sup>1748</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1749</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1750</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1751</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1752</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1753</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1754</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1755</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1756</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1757</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1758</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>1759</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, the G7 leaders did not mention the WHO specifically but committed to advancing global health security by “strengthening health systems, preparedness for, and a prompt, effective and coordinated response to public health emergencies.”<sup>1760</sup>

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, the G7 leaders did not mention the WHO specifically but reconfirmed their commitment to working with “partners” to eradicate polio.<sup>1761</sup>

At the 2019 Biarritz Summit, the G7 leaders did not mention the WHO specifically but reconfirmed their commitment to end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.<sup>1762</sup>

On 16 March 2020, under the U.S. presidency, G7 leaders met virtually to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time, they expected to meet again in three months at their regularly scheduled summit on 10-12 June 2020, which was later postponed indefinitely.

### **Commitment Features**

The G7 members agreed to “fully support the World Health Organization in its global mandate to lead on disease outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences, leaving no geographical vacuum.”

The first component of the commitment is to “fully support the World Health Organization and its global mandate to lead on disease outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences.” “Support” is understood as “the action, or act of providing aid, assistance, or backing up an initiative, or entity.”<sup>1763</sup> To “fully” support can be translated to support to a maximum.<sup>1764</sup> The WHO is the UN body responsible for directing and coordinating health.<sup>1765</sup> It has a global mandate to lead on disease outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences.<sup>1766</sup> A “disease outbreak” is defined as “the occurrence of disease cases in excess of normal expectancy.”<sup>1767</sup> Moreover, “the number of cases varies according to the disease-causing agent, and the size and type of previous and existing exposure to the agent.”<sup>1768</sup> An “emergency” is a term describing a state.<sup>1769</sup> As per the WHO, emergency “is a managerial term, demanding decision and follow-up in terms of extraordinary measures. A “state of emergency” demands to “be declared” or imposed by somebody in authority, who, at a certain moment, will also lift it. Thus, it is usually defined in time and space, it requires threshold values to be recognized, and it implies rules of engagement and an exit strategy.”<sup>1770</sup> These emergencies have

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<sup>1760</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders' Communiqué (G7 Information Centre) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 22 January 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

<sup>1761</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>

<sup>1762</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance, 1975-2020 (G7 Information Centre) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>

<sup>1763</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy Global Governance Program (Toronto) 6 August 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2020. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2019.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2019.pdf).

<sup>1764</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy Global Governance Program (Toronto) 6 August 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2020. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2019.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2019.pdf).

<sup>1765</sup> What We Do, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 21 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/about/what-we-do>.

<sup>1766</sup> What We Do, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 21 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/about/what-we-do>.

<sup>1767</sup> Disease Outbreaks, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 21 December 2020.

<https://www.who.int/teams/environment-climate-change-and-health/emergencies/disease-outbreaks/>.

<sup>1768</sup> Disease Outbreaks, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 21 December 2020.

<https://www.who.int/teams/environment-climate-change-and-health/emergencies/disease-outbreaks/>.

<sup>1769</sup> Definitions: Emergencies, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 21 December 2020.

<https://www.who.int/hac/about/definitions/en/>.

<sup>1770</sup> Definitions: Emergencies, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 21 December 2020.

<https://www.who.int/hac/about/definitions/en/>.

“health consequences” meaning “something produced by a cause”<sup>1771</sup> which affects one’s “state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”<sup>1772</sup>

This commitment continues by stating that efforts to support the WHO must “leave no geographical vacuum.” To “leave no geographical vacuum” is understood as taking explicit action to aid, assist, or back up initiatives in all countries in the world as defined by the UN, including developed economies, economies in transition, developing economies, and small island developing states.<sup>1773</sup> Examples of compliance include supporting WHO efforts to universally distribute guidelines, vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, preventative measures, and other international public health goods.

In scoring compliance greater weight will be given to the first part of the commitment. While there are two parts to this commitment, the second part is connected to the first part, suggesting that the first more general part on supporting the global mandate of the WHO is the intended core of this commitment. However, the second part of the commitment will be measured by a depth compliance. If the G7 member supports universal efforts across all countries to support the global mandate of the WHO, this will constitute as partially attempting to leave no geographical vacuum. If the G7 member supports universal efforts as well as efforts targeted towards hard-to-reach populations, developing economies, and small island developing states, this will constitute as fully attempting to leave no geographical vacuum.

To achieve full compliance, G7 members must take action according to both parts of the commitment by fully supporting the WHO in its global mandate to lead on disease outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences, while also aiming to leave no geographical vacuum through universal efforts and targeted efforts.

Partial compliance will be awarded only if the first part of the commitment is met but efforts to leave no geographical vacuum are only universal and not targeted. A score of no compliance will be awarded only with no demonstrable compliance to any part of the commitment.

**Scoring Guidelines**

-1	G7 member does NOT take any efforts to fully support the World Health Organization in its global mandate to lead on disease outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences AND has not aimed to leave no geographical vacuum.
0	G7 member has taken any efforts to fully support the World Health Organization in its global mandate to lead on disease outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences but HAS NOT aimed to leave no geographical vacuum.
+1	G7 member has taken efforts to fully support the World Health Organization in its global mandate to lead on disease outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences AND has aimed to leave no geographical vacuum.

*Compliance Director: Foti Veto  
Lead Analyst: Marjila Yousof*

**Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to support the global leadership mandate of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) on disease outbreaks and health emergencies, while leaving no geographical vacuum.

<sup>1771</sup> Consequence, Merriam Webster Dictionary (Massachusetts). Access Date: 21 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/consequence>.

<sup>1772</sup> Definitions: Emergencies, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 21 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/hac/about/definitions/en/>.

<sup>1773</sup> Country Classification, United Nations (Geneva) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 21 December 2020. [https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/WESP2020\\_FullReport\\_web.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/WESP2020_FullReport_web.pdf).

As of 19 February 2021, Canada has contributed over CAD2 billion towards international efforts against COVID-19.<sup>1774</sup> This includes CAD940 million for the WHO's Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, which is an "international partnership to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines."<sup>1775</sup> Canada's donations to the ACT-Accelerator include its contributions to COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX), "the only global initiative that is working with governments and manufacturers to ensure COVID-19 vaccines are available worldwide to both higher-income and lower-income countries."<sup>1776</sup> As of 23 February 2021, Canada is second in the world for total amount donated to the ACT-Accelerator.<sup>1777</sup>

On 7 April 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued a statement in recognition of World Health Day. Prime Minister Trudeau stated that "difficult times like these remind us of the importance of working together. Canada is working with the World Health Organization and other partners to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and protect those most vulnerable."<sup>1778</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Canada co-hosted the Coronavirus Global Response Initiative, an online pledging event which sought to "kick-start global cooperation between scientists and regulators, industry and governments, international organizations, foundations, and health care professionals; raise more than USD8 billion by the end of the pledging period to support the development of rapid coronavirus diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines; and work with the World Health Organization to coordinate and prioritize efforts to vulnerable countries."<sup>1779</sup> As part of this event, the Government of Canada contributed CAD850 million, which included funding to help "find a safe and effective treatment for COVID-19 through the World Health Organization Solidarity Trial."<sup>1780</sup> Regarding the event, Minister of International Development Karina Gould remarked that "COVID-19 is a threat that does not recognize borders and will only be overcome through coordinated global action. We need to continue working together as partners to make a future treatment or vaccine available, accessible, and affordable to all."<sup>1781</sup>

On 2 July 2020, the Government of Canada issued a statement to the United Nations Security Council during a videoconference on "Pandemics and Security."<sup>1782</sup> In its statement, Canada emphasized that it "deeply values the leadership and coordination role of the World Health Organization in the COVID-19 response.

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<sup>1774</sup> Prime Minister concludes productive G7 Leaders' meeting, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/02/19/prime-minister-concludes-productive-g7-leaders-meeting>.

<sup>1775</sup> Prime Minister concludes productive G7 Leaders' meeting, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/02/19/prime-minister-concludes-productive-g7-leaders-meeting>.

<sup>1776</sup> 172 countries and multiple candidate vaccines engaged in COVID-19 vaccine Global Access Facility, World Health Organization (Geneva) 24 August 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/24-08-2020-172-countries-and-multiple-candidate-vaccines-engaged-in-covid-19-vaccine-global-access-facility>.

<sup>1777</sup> The ACT Accelerator Funding Tracker, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator/funding-tracker>.

<sup>1778</sup> Statement by the Prime Minister on World Health Day, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2020/04/07/statement-prime-minister-world-health-day>.

<sup>1779</sup> Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>.

<sup>1780</sup> Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>.

<sup>1781</sup> Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>.

<sup>1782</sup> Canada National Statement United Nations Security Council Open VTC on Pandemics and Security, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations-relations\\_internationales/un-ONU/statements-declarations/2020-06-02-pandemics-pandemies.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/un-ONU/statements-declarations/2020-06-02-pandemics-pandemies.aspx?lang=eng).

The rules-based international system is essential to help us accomplish together what no country could accomplish alone. In responding to COVID-19, Canada remains fully committed to multilateralism and multi-sectoral global health-security cooperation to ensure our collective health, prosperity, and security.”<sup>1783</sup>

On 14 December 2020, the Government of Canada announced a contribution of CAD230 million to the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) for COVID-19 antibody therapeutics in developing countries.<sup>1784</sup> As with the COVAX facility, UNICEF is heavily involved with WHO’s efforts against COVID-19 due to its “expertise in procurement and logistics.”<sup>1785</sup> The contribution “will enable UNICEF to procure up to 3 million courses of novel COVID-19 antibody therapeutics as soon as clinical trials and regulatory approvals have been completed. The initiative builds on the important work done with the COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator via the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to secure manufacturing capacity for novel antibody therapeutics production dedicated to developing countries.”<sup>1786</sup>

On 17 February 2021, during a UN Security Council debate on COVID-19 vaccines in unstable and insecure countries, the Government of Canada stated that “all countries must work together to address the pandemic, to assist vulnerable populations, to support the continued flow of goods and services, and to develop and provide equitable global access to effective therapeutics, diagnostics, and vaccines.”<sup>1787</sup> Canada is fully committed to the ACT-Accelerator, including as a member of the COVAX facility, and supporter of the Advanced Market Commitment. Through COVAX, the Government of Canada is supporting rapid, fair, and equitable access to safe, effective, and high-quality vaccines for all participating countries.”<sup>1788</sup>

Through its consistent and vocal support of the WHO, as well as substantial funding of WHO affiliated initiatives that encompass a wide geographical expanse, Canada has fully supported WHO’s global mandate to lead on disease outbreaks and health emergencies, while leaving no geographical void.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jai Singh*

**France: +1**

France fully complied with its commitment to fully support the World Health Organization (WHO) in its global mandate to lead on disease outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences, leaving no geographical vacuum.

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<sup>1783</sup> Canada National Statement United Nations Security Council Open VTC on Pandemics and Security, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations-relations\\_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2020-06-02-pandemics-pandemies.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2020-06-02-pandemics-pandemies.aspx?lang=eng).

<sup>1784</sup> Canada promises \$1 billion for nutrition, COVID vaccines in poor countries, iPolitics (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://ipolitics.ca/2020/12/14/canada-promises-1-billion-for-nutrition-covid-vaccines-in-poor-countries/>.

<sup>1785</sup> Covid: WHO scheme Covax delivers first vaccines, BBC World News (London) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-56180161>.

<sup>1786</sup> Canada announces additional support for equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-additional-support-for-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>.

<sup>1787</sup> UN Security Council open debate on ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines in contexts affected by conflict and insecurity, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations-relations\\_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2021-02-17-vaccines-COVID-19-vaccins.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2021-02-17-vaccines-COVID-19-vaccins.aspx?lang=eng).

<sup>1788</sup> UN Security Council open debate on ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines in contexts affected by conflict and insecurity, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations-relations\\_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2021-02-17-vaccines-COVID-19-vaccins.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2021-02-17-vaccines-COVID-19-vaccins.aspx?lang=eng).

On 16 March 2020, France pledged to provide international assistance to help “emerging and developing economies, face the health and economic shock of COVID-19.”<sup>1789</sup> The finance minister was to work closely with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group to facilitate this process.<sup>1790</sup>

On 25 March 2020, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian participated in the G7 Foreign Ministers’ meeting.<sup>1791</sup> Minister Le Drian proposed that the G7 members should provide assistance to vulnerable countries, especially in Africa, and establish this as a priority at the next G20 meeting jointly.

On 9 April 2020, the French Development Agency launched “COVID-19 – Health in Common” to provide support for African countries in their fight against the health crisis.<sup>1792</sup> Funds, amounting to EUR1.2 billion, will be allocated to central governments, civil society organizations, public development banks, and private entities in the form of loans and donations.<sup>1793</sup>

On 16 April 2020, France issued a Joint Declaration of the Alliance for Multilateralism in support of United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres’ call for an immediate global ceasefire, remarking that “the focus must now be on the most immediate medical, political and economic challenges raised by the pandemic.”<sup>1794</sup>

On 18 May 2020, President Emmanuel Macron and Minister of Solidarity and Health Olivier Véran attended the World Health Assembly.<sup>1795</sup> During the event, President Macron reaffirmed France’s commitment in supporting the WHO, stressing the “country’s attachment to multilateralism and [call] for strengthened international coordination.”<sup>1796</sup> In addition, France welcomed a joint-initiative to share research and regulations with other EU member states, as per the recommendation of the Director-General of WHO.<sup>1797</sup>

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<sup>1789</sup> Coronavirus COVID-19: G7 Leaders’ Statement (16 Mar. 2020), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/coronavirus-statements/article/covid-19-communique-issued-by-m-jean-yves-le-drian-and-m-jean-baptiste-djebbari>.

<sup>1790</sup> Coronavirus COVID-19: G7 Leaders’ Statement (16 Mar. 2020), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/coronavirus-statements/article/covid-19-communique-issued-by-m-jean-yves-le-drian-and-m-jean-baptiste-djebbari>.

<sup>1791</sup> G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting – COVID-19 – Statement by Jean-Yves Le Drian, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/coronavirus-statements/article/g7-foreign-ministers-meeting-covid-19-statement-by-jean-yves-le-drian-minister>.

<sup>1792</sup> France Launches, via AFD, The “Covid-19 – Health in Common” Initiative to Support African Countries (9 April 2020), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2020/article/france-launches-via-afd-the-covid-19-health-in-common-initiative-to-support>.

<sup>1793</sup> France Launches, via AFD, The “Covid-19 – Health in Common” Initiative to Support African Countries (9 April 2020), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2020/article/france-launches-via-afd-the-covid-19-health-in-common-initiative-to-support>.

<sup>1794</sup> COVID-19 - Joint Declaration of the Alliance for Multilateralism (16 Apr. 2020), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/multilateralism-a-principle-of-action-for-france/alliance-for-multilateralism/news-about-the-alliance-for-multilateralism/article/covid-19-joint-declaration-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism-16-apr-2020>.

<sup>1795</sup> The World Health Assembly: a historic meeting in the context of the Covid-19 crisis, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/ministere/europe-et-international/actualites-europeennes-et-internationales/article/l-assemblee-mondiale-de-la-sante-un-rendez-vous-historique-dans-le-contexte-de>.

<sup>1796</sup> The World Health Assembly: a historic meeting in the context of the Covid-19 crisis, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/ministere/europe-et-international/actualites-europeennes-et-internationales/article/l-assemblee-mondiale-de-la-sante-un-rendez-vous-historique-dans-le-contexte-de>.

<sup>1797</sup> The World Health Assembly: a historic meeting in the context of the Covid-19 crisis, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/ministere/europe-et-international/actualites-europeennes-et-internationales/article/l-assemblee-mondiale-de-la-sante-un-rendez-vous-historique-dans-le-contexte-de>.

On 23 June 2020, the Government of France published a strategic guidance document on supporting developing countries disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1798</sup> The document outlines policies which intend to modernize and improve tax administrations to be implemented over a four-year period.<sup>1799</sup>

On 26 June 2020, France issued a joint statement with Germany expressing its support for the WHO's mandate in curbing the virus, pledging to strengthen health systems in the most vulnerable countries through donations.<sup>1800</sup> In addition, France committed to strengthening international health regulations as recommended by the WHO and to improve its health system to better notify the public of health risks.<sup>1801</sup>

On 10 July 2020, France pledged its support for “the States and populations of Latin America in their fight against the pandemic and its impact” and set up a three-pillar program to provide assistance.<sup>1802</sup> France sent EUR17.5 million to over 10 countries in order to help healthcare management.<sup>1803</sup> In addition, France set up an assistance and social transfer program in partnership with the World Bank Group and the Inter-American Development Bank.<sup>1804</sup>

On 10 September 2020, Minister Le Drian attended a meeting hosted by the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator. During the meeting, officials discussed how to deliver “equitable diagnostics, treatment, and vaccinations.”<sup>1805</sup> France stated that it “welcomes the leadership and coordination of the WHO” in developing policy measures to curb the spread of COVID-19.<sup>1806</sup>

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<sup>1798</sup> A French strategy on cooperation around domestic resource mobilization in developing economies (23 Jun. 20), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/photos-publications-and-graphics/publications/article/a-french-strategy-on-cooperation-around-domestic-resource-mobilization-in>.

<sup>1799</sup> A French strategy on cooperation around domestic resource mobilization in developing economies (23 Jun. 20), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/photos-publications-and-graphics/publications/article/a-french-strategy-on-cooperation-around-domestic-resource-mobilization-in>.

<sup>1800</sup> Ministerial meeting (26.06.20) - Joint statement by France and Germany: Strengthening the multilateral health architecture, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/news-and-events/news/news-2020/article/ministerial-meeting-26-06-20-joint-statement-by-france-and-germany>.

<sup>1801</sup> Ministerial meeting (26.06.20) - Joint statement by France and Germany: Strengthening the multilateral health architecture, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/news-and-events/news/news-2020/article/ministerial-meeting-26-06-20-joint-statement-by-france-and-germany>.

<sup>1802</sup> France's bilateral support to Latin America and the Caribbean in response to COVID-19, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/americas/news/article/france-s-bilateral-support-to-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-in-response-to>.

<sup>1803</sup> France's bilateral support to Latin America and the Caribbean in response to COVID-19, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/americas/news/article/france-s-bilateral-support-to-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-in-response-to>.

<sup>1804</sup> France's bilateral support to Latin America and the Caribbean in response to COVID-19, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/americas/news/article/france-s-bilateral-support-to-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-in-response-to>.

<sup>1805</sup> Global health – Participation of Clément Beaune in the first council meeting of the initiative Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) (10 Sept. 2020), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/coronavirus-statements/article/global-health-participation-of-clement-beaune-in-the-first-council-meeting-of>.

<sup>1806</sup> Global health – Participation of Clément Beaune in the first council meeting of the initiative Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) (10 Sept. 2020), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/coronavirus-statements/article/global-health-participation-of-clement-beaune-in-the-first-council-meeting-of>.



On 17 September 2020, Minister Véran delivered a statement at the G20 Summit underlining “the central role of WHO in coordinating the international response to the health crisis.”<sup>1807</sup>

On 12 October 2020, France launched an initiative in partnership with the European Commission and WHO to address the unavailability of essential drugs in France which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1808</sup>

On 11 November 2020, France held the third Paris Peace Forum which focused on “building a better world after the pandemic.”<sup>1809</sup> Topics discussed include the distribution of resources, implementation of joint-measures, and value chains.<sup>1810</sup>

On 21 November 2020, President Macron participated in the meeting of the G20 Health Expert Group and released a joint statement with the other heads of states in attendance the following day.<sup>1811</sup> In this statement, France jointly agreed to “provide assistance in particular to the most vulnerable.”<sup>1812</sup>

On 8 January 2021, French government delivered a statement on “European solidarity in the face of COVID-19,” verbally reaffirming its commitment in supporting the WHO.<sup>1813</sup>

France fully complied with its commitment to fully support the WHO in its global mandate to lead on disease outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences, leaving no geographical vacuum. France followed the recommendations of the WHO and coordinated its plans with other states through consultation. France provided assistance abroad in Africa and Latin America to help vulnerable populations sustain the health crisis.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Yana Sadeghi*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany fully complied with its commitment to fully support the World Health Organization (WHO) in its global mandate to lead on disease outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences, leaving no geographical vacuum.

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<sup>1807</sup> Joint Meeting of G20 Health and Finance Ministers, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/ministere/europe-et-international/actualites-europeennes-et-internationales/article/reunion-conjointe-des-ministres-de-la-sante-et-des-finances-du-g20>.

<sup>1808</sup> Guaranteeing the availability of antibiotics in human and veterinary medicine while preserving the environment: a government priority, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 12 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/garantir-la-disponibilité-des-antibiotiques-en-médecine-humaine-et-vétérinaire>.

<sup>1809</sup> The Third Paris Peace Forum: building a better world after the pandemic, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 13 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/civil-society/paris-peace-forum/article/the-third-paris-peace-forum-building-a-better-world-after-the-pandemic>.

<sup>1810</sup> The Third Paris Peace Forum: building a better world after the pandemic, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 13 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/civil-society/paris-peace-forum/article/the-third-paris-peace-forum-building-a-better-world-after-the-pandemic>.

<sup>1811</sup> Meeting of the G20 health expert group, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/ministere/europe-et-international/actualites-europeennes-et-internationales/article/reunion-du-groupe-d-experts-sante-du-g20>.

<sup>1812</sup> Declaration of Heads of State and Government at the end of the G20 Summit in Riyadh, Élysée Palace (Paris) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.elysee.fr/emmanuel-macron/2020/11/22/sommet-g20-de-riyad>.

<sup>1813</sup> European solidarity in the face of COVID-19, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-solidarity-in-the-face-of-covid-19>.

On 25 March 2020, Germany attended the G7 virtual meeting to develop joint-plans to reduce the spread of COVID-19.<sup>1814</sup> Germany pledged to support countries in the world that are the least well equipped to respond to the virus by providing medicine and vaccines.<sup>1815</sup>

On 23 April 2020, the German government provided a verbal statement declaring its support for Africa in its fight against COVID-19.<sup>1816</sup> Germany announced its plan for targeting the virus in Africa which consists of multilateral action, such as the development of vaccines and medicines, and partnerships at the local level with African stakeholders.<sup>1817</sup>

On 27 April 2020, the Federal Foreign Office announced that it will donate EUR300 million in humanitarian aid as per the request of the United Nations.<sup>1818</sup> This funding is intended to ensure that “access can be gained to people in need despite the restrictions in place worldwide.”<sup>1819</sup>

On 19 May 2020, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas provided a statement in support of the WHO, stressing the importance of strengthening and cooperating with the organization.<sup>1820</sup>

On 25 May 2020, Germany issued a joint statement endorsing the WHO and promoting international cooperation.<sup>1821</sup> Germany pledged “to ensure adequate financing to contain the pandemic and protect people, with particular attention to the most vulnerable.”<sup>1822</sup>

On 1 June 2020, Minister Maas released a public statement discussing bilateral cooperation with the United States.<sup>1823</sup> Minister Mass informed that Germany will be holding meetings in Washington “to try to convince the United States government” to adopt the WHO’s recommendations.<sup>1824</sup>

On 7 September 2020, Minister Maas attended the 13th Asia-Europe Meeting to coordinate policies in reducing the spread of COVID-19.<sup>1825</sup> During the meeting, Minister Maas agreed to implement the measures outlined by the WHO, targeting vulnerable populations.<sup>1826</sup>

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<sup>1814</sup> Foreign Minister Maas following a virtual meeting of the G7 Foreign Ministers, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2328788>.

<sup>1815</sup> Foreign Minister Maas following a virtual meeting of the G7 Foreign Ministers, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2328788>.

<sup>1816</sup> Africa: Solidarity in the fight against Covid-19, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/regionaleschwerpunkte/afrika/covid-afrika/2336778>.

<sup>1817</sup> Africa: Solidarity in the fight against Covid-19, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/regionaleschwerpunkte/afrika/covid-afrika/2336778>.

<sup>1818</sup> Foreign Minister Maas on the Federal Foreign Office’s Covid-19-related humanitarian assistance, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-covid19/2337446>.

<sup>1819</sup> Foreign Minister Maas on the Federal Foreign Office’s Covid-19-related humanitarian assistance, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-covid19/2337446>.

<sup>1820</sup> Foreign Minister Maas on the World Health Assembly’s endorsement of the resolution on COVID-19, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-wha/2342968>.

<sup>1821</sup> We need strong global cooperation and solidarity to fight COVID-19, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 25 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/alliance-multilateralism-covid19/2333394>.

<sup>1822</sup> We need strong global cooperation and solidarity to fight COVID-19, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 25 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/alliance-multilateralism-covid19/2333394>.

<sup>1823</sup> “We still need functioning multilateralism in the 21st century,” Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 1 June 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-who/2346304>.

<sup>1824</sup> “We still need functioning multilateralism in the 21st century,” Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 1 June 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-who/2346304>.

<sup>1825</sup> Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Statement on Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 7 September 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/asem-coronavirus/2381556>.

<sup>1826</sup> Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Statement on Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 7 September 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/asem-coronavirus/2381556>.

On 25 September 2020, Germany participated in the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly, representing the country in the Alliance for Multilateralism.<sup>1827</sup> As part of the alliance, Germany “presented initiatives to promote access for all to vaccines.”<sup>1828</sup>

On 14 December 2020, Minister Maas hosted a meeting with countries from the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean to discuss multilateral affairs.<sup>1829</sup> During the meeting, the “ministers reaffirmed their determination to step up joint efforts to overcome ... challenges brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic” and developed strategic plans to help vulnerable states.<sup>1830</sup>

Germany fully complied with its commitment to fully support the WHO in its global mandate to lead on disease outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences, leaving no geographical vacuum. The government participated in multilateral institutions and coordinated its policies with other states, following the guidelines of the WHO. In addition, Germany provided foreign aid to curb the spread of the virus, targeting the most vulnerable populations.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Yana Sadeghi*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to fully support the World Health Organization (WHO) in its global mandate to lead on disease outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences, leaving no geographical vacuum.

On 15 April 2020, Vice Minister Emanuela Del Re attended a meeting with the Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and UN Emergency Aid Coordinator, Mark Lowcock, and the WHO Director Mike Ryan.<sup>1831</sup> During the meeting, the vice minister confirmed Italy’s commitment “to contribute to the global response to COVID-19 while continuing to dedicate itself to the humanitarian needs before this crisis.”<sup>1832</sup>

On 16 April 2020, Vice Minister Marina Sereni attended a videoconference with the France’s Foreign Minister Jean Yves Le Drian and Germany’s Foreign Minister Heiko Maas<sup>1833</sup> stressing Italy’s contribution to

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<sup>1827</sup> Press Statement of the Ministerial Meeting of the Alliance for Multilateralism, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/allianz-fuer-multilateralismus/2398070>.

<sup>1828</sup> Press Statement of the Ministerial Meeting of the Alliance for Multilateralism, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/allianz-fuer-multilateralismus/2398070>.

<sup>1829</sup> Joint Communiqué: EU27 - Latin America and Caribbean Informal Ministerial Meeting, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/eu-lac-communique/2426940>.

<sup>1830</sup> Joint Communiqué: EU27 - Latin America and Caribbean Informal Ministerial Meeting, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/eu-lac-communique/2426940>.

<sup>1831</sup> COVID-19 - Del Re: Italy contributes to UN global response, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-del-re-italia-contribuisce-a-risposta-onu.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-del-re-italia-contribuisce-a-risposta-onu.html).

<sup>1832</sup> COVID-19 - Del Re: Italy contributes to UN global response, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-del-re-italia-contribuisce-a-risposta-onu.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-del-re-italia-contribuisce-a-risposta-onu.html).

<sup>1833</sup> Coronavirus; Sereni, global alliance for drugs and vaccine, and Coalition for Food to prevent a health crisis from adding to a food crisis, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/04/coronavirus-sereni-alleanza-globale-per-farmaci-e-vaccino-e-coalition-for-food-per-evitare-che-crisi-sanitaria-si-sommi-a-una-alimentare.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/04/coronavirus-sereni-alleanza-globale-per-farmaci-e-vaccino-e-coalition-for-food-per-evitare-che-crisi-sanitaria-si-sommi-a-una-alimentare.html).

the “WHO Response Plan and announced that new contributions to vaccine research and distribution are being considered, which will require an inclusive global effort.”<sup>1834</sup>

On 24 April 2020, Italy co-founded and became a member of the COVID-19 Access Tool (ACT) Accelerator.<sup>1835</sup> The ACT-Accelerator aimed to speed up “the development of universally accessible vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, and the improvement of the necessary health systems.”<sup>1836</sup>

On 4 May 2020, the Government of Italy announced its commitment to provide funding the Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) during the Coronavirus Global Response Commitment Conference which was held by the European Union.<sup>1837</sup> Italy pledged EUR381 million “towards universal access to tests, treatments, and vaccines against coronavirus and for the global recovery.”<sup>1838</sup> The Italian government also reaffirmed its role as “a responsible and supportive actor, announcing a contribution of EUR140 million in favour of the ACT platform.”<sup>1839</sup>

On 4 June 2020, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte reaffirmed Italy’s support to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance during the Global Vaccine Summit held in London.<sup>1840</sup> Italy stated that it “will contribute EUR120 million, representing a 20% increase from their previous pledge.”<sup>1841</sup> With this pledge, Italy funded Gavi’s new COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Advanced Market Commitment (AMC) with USD103 million and deepened its commitment to the International Finance Facility for Immunization by extending its contribution until 2030 with a new pledge of EUR150 million.<sup>1842</sup>

On 27 June 2020, Italy reaffirmed its commitment “to support cooperative actions, international solidarity and the global response to defeat COVID-19” during the Global Goal: Unite for Our Future – The Summit alongside other G7 members.<sup>1843</sup>

On 28 October 2020, Italy formally joined CEPI. The Italian government pledged to contribute EUR5 million which is the “first part of a total commitment of EUR10 million.”<sup>1844</sup> The financial contribution was

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<sup>1834</sup> Coronavirus; Sereni, global alliance for drugs and vaccine, and Coalition for Food to prevent a health crisis from adding to a food crisis, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/04/coronavirus-sereni-alleanza-globale-per-farmaci-e-vaccino-e-coalition-for-food-per-evitare-che-crisi-sanitaria-si-sommi-a-una-alimentare.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/04/coronavirus-sereni-alleanza-globale-per-farmaci-e-vaccino-e-coalition-for-food-per-evitare-che-crisi-sanitaria-si-sommi-a-una-alimentare.html).

<sup>1835</sup> Covid-19, towards the vaccine. Italy joins the CEPI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-al-cepi.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-al-cepi.html),

<sup>1836</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: WHO and Commission launch the Facilitation Council to strengthen global collaboration, European Commission (Brussels) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_1581](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1581).

<sup>1837</sup> Covid-19, towards the vaccine. Italy joins the CEPI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-al-cepi.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-al-cepi.html).

<sup>1838</sup> Pledge: fund raised, European Commission (Brussels) 27 June 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://global-response.europa.eu/pledge\\_en](https://global-response.europa.eu/pledge_en).

<sup>1839</sup> Covid and Cooperation. An interview with the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Emanuela Claudia Del Re (L'Espresso), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/interviste/2020/05/del-re-covid-e-cooperazione-espresso-repubblica-it.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/interviste/2020/05/del-re-covid-e-cooperazione-espresso-repubblica-it.html).

<sup>1840</sup> Italy, Gavi The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/investing-gavi/funding/donor-profiles/italy>.

<sup>1841</sup> Italy, Gavi The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/investing-gavi/funding/donor-profiles/italy>.

<sup>1842</sup> Italy, Gavi The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/investing-gavi/funding/donor-profiles/italy>.

<sup>1843</sup> ‘Global Goal: Unite for Our Future,’ Global Citizen and The European Commission Mobilize \$1.5 Billion In Cash Grants, and \$5.4 Billion In Loans and Guarantees—For A Total Of \$6.9 Billion Pledged—To Combat the Disproportionate Impact of Covid-19 On Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Communities, Global Citizen (New York/Brussels) 27 June 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/enquiries/press/global-goal-unite-our-future-global-citizen-and-european-commiss/>.

carried out by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation.<sup>1845</sup> The funding aimed to “increase the chances of developing more safe and effective vaccines,”<sup>1846</sup> and furthered CEPI’s goal to “advance at least three COVID-19 vaccine candidates for licensing.”<sup>1847</sup> Italy has also joined the COVAX facility “a global initiative that brings together governments and manufacturers to ensure eventual COVID-19 vaccines reach those in greatest need, whoever they are and wherever they live.”<sup>1848</sup>

On 24 February 2021, Director General of the Treasury, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Alessandro Rivera said “Italy is glad to see that COVAX will begin its vaccine rollout in AMC-eligible countries in the coming days. This represents a landmark event, since we successfully allowed poorest countries to get access to safe and effective vaccine within months from their approval in high income countries.”<sup>1849</sup> He also restated Italy’s cooperation with COVAX AMC “since its inception in June 2020 and has pledged to date more than USD100 million.”<sup>1850</sup> With this pledge, Italy is one of the first countries to support the COVAX AMC, a COVAX financing mechanism that will support 92 low- and middle-income countries’ access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines.<sup>1851</sup>

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to fully support the WHO in its global mandate to lead on disease outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences, leaving no geographical vacuum. Italy has worked with WHO and other vaccines alliances to increase its efforts to push global distribution of vaccines, therapeutic services and preventive measures.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1

*Analyst: Tanmaya Ramprasad*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to support the global leadership mandate of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) on disease outbreaks and health emergencies, while leaving no geographical vacuum.

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<sup>1844</sup> Covid-19, towards the vaccine. Italy joins the CEPI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stamp/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-al-cepi.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stamp/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-al-cepi.html).

<sup>1845</sup> Covid-19, towards the vaccine. Italy joins the CEPI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stamp/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-al-cepi.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stamp/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-al-cepi.html).

<sup>1846</sup> Covid-19, towards the vaccine. Italy joins the CEPI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stamp/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-al-cepi.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stamp/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-al-cepi.html).

<sup>1847</sup> Covid-19, towards the vaccine. Italy joins the CEPI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stamp/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-al-cepi.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stamp/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-al-cepi.html).

<sup>1848</sup> Italy pledges first EUR 5 million funding to CEPI to advance COVID-19 vaccine development efforts, CEPI (Oslo) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://cepi.net/news\\_cepi/italy-pledges-first-eur-5-million-funding-to-cepi-to-advance-covid-19-vaccine-development-efforts/](https://cepi.net/news_cepi/italy-pledges-first-eur-5-million-funding-to-cepi-to-advance-covid-19-vaccine-development-efforts/).

<sup>1849</sup> COVID-19 vaccine doses shipped by the COVAX Facility head to Ghana, marking beginning of global rollout, World Health Organization (Geneva) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/24-02-2021-covid-19-vaccine-doses-shipped-by-the-covax-facility-head-to-ghana-marking-beginning-of-global-rollout>.

<sup>1850</sup> COVID-19 vaccine doses shipped by the COVAX Facility head to Ghana, marking beginning of global rollout, World Health Organization (Geneva) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/24-02-2021-covid-19-vaccine-doses-shipped-by-the-covax-facility-head-to-ghana-marking-beginning-of-global-rollout>.

<sup>1851</sup> Italy pledges first EUR 5 million funding to CEPI to advance COVID-19 vaccine development efforts, CEPI (Oslo) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://cepi.net/news\\_cepi/italy-pledges-first-eur-5-million-funding-to-cepi-to-advance-covid-19-vaccine-development-efforts/](https://cepi.net/news_cepi/italy-pledges-first-eur-5-million-funding-to-cepi-to-advance-covid-19-vaccine-development-efforts/).

On 10 December 2020, Japan's contribution towards international efforts against COVID-19 totalled more than USD1.54 billion.<sup>1852</sup> This includes supplying more than 89 developing countries with USD436 million worth of medical equipment and providing USD13 million worth of technical cooperation.<sup>1853</sup>

On 30 March 2020, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe spoke with Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the WHO.<sup>1854</sup> Prime Minister Abe "stated Japan's desire to continue to collaborate closely with the WHO, including through information exchange."<sup>1855</sup> In response, Dr. Tedros thanked Prime Minister Abe for his leadership in taking an effective whole-of-government approach to confronting COVID-19 and stated that "promoting Universal Health Coverage (UHC), for which Japan has shown global leadership, would be useful in implementing the novel coronavirus measures."<sup>1856</sup> Prime Minister Abe also stated that "Japan has led the global effort for international assistance and supported countries with weak health systems through the WHO/SPRP Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan with USD46 million and expressly asked Dr. Tedros to make this fund available for effective technical assistance to health workers and others in developing countries where the number of cases is rapidly increasing."<sup>1857</sup> Prime Minister Abe and Dr. Tedros "discussed the importance of international collaboration through G20 and other fora as well as the importance of leaving no geographical vacuum in addressing the novel coronavirus."<sup>1858</sup>

On 15 May 2020, Japan agreed to contribute over USD2.7 million to help nine countries in the Americas – Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela – scale up their response to the novel COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1859</sup> The contribution will support the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the WHO's Regional Office for the Americas, and their efforts to "mitigate the impact of the spread of virus and slow down the human-to-human transmission of COVID-19 in the Americas."<sup>1860</sup> The contribution will enable PAHO to "strengthen their readiness and response operations to save lives and protect the most vulnerable individuals, including healthcare workers, and to reduce the transmission of the virus among individuals, in an effort to slow the spread of the disease."<sup>1861</sup>

On 24 September 2020, PAHO announced that it has "supported Peru's COVID-19 response backed by funding from the Government of Japan. WHO, with Japan's support, will contribute to strengthening infection prevention and control programs and risk communications activities in five selected hospitals in Lima, Callao, La Libertad, Lambayeque and Piura. WHO's assistance included the delivery of a stock of personal protective equipment consisting of 5,000 masks, 5,000 pairs of gloves, 5,000 gowns, 5,000 pieces of

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<sup>1852</sup> Japan's Response to COVID-19 for Developing countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ap\\_m/page23e\\_000595.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ap_m/page23e_000595.html).

<sup>1853</sup> Japan's Response to COVID-19 for Developing countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ap\\_m/page23e\\_000595.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ap_m/page23e_000595.html).

<sup>1854</sup> Telephone Talk between Prime Minister ABE Shinzo and WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/page1e\\_000277.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/page1e_000277.html).

<sup>1855</sup> Telephone Talk between Prime Minister ABE Shinzo and WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/page1e\\_000277.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/page1e_000277.html).

<sup>1856</sup> Telephone Talk between Prime Minister ABE Shinzo and WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/page1e\\_000277.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/page1e_000277.html).

<sup>1857</sup> Telephone Talk between Prime Minister ABE Shinzo and WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/page1e\\_000277.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/page1e_000277.html).

<sup>1858</sup> Telephone Talk between Prime Minister ABE Shinzo and WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/page1e\\_000277.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/page1e_000277.html).

<sup>1859</sup> Government of Japan contributes \$2.7 m to scale up COVID-19 response in nine countries of the Americas, World Health Organization-Pan American Health Organization (Washington, D.C.) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/15-5-2020-government-japan-contributes-27-m-scale-covid-19-response-nine-countries-americas>.

<sup>1860</sup> Government of Japan contributes \$2.7 m to scale up COVID-19 response in nine countries of the Americas, World Health Organization-Pan American Health Organization (Washington, D.C.) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/15-5-2020-government-japan-contributes-27-m-scale-covid-19-response-nine-countries-americas>.

<sup>1861</sup> Government of Japan contributes \$2.7 m to scale up COVID-19 response in nine countries of the Americas, World Health Organization-Pan American Health Organization (Washington, D.C.) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/15-5-2020-government-japan-contributes-27-m-scale-covid-19-response-nine-countries-americas>.

head protection, 800 protective suits and 20 N95 respirators.”<sup>1862</sup> PAHO also stated that “Japan has provided valuable aid to the Americas throughout the pandemic.”<sup>1863</sup>

On 25 September 2020, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga addressed the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly.<sup>1864</sup> In his address, Prime Minister Suga stated that “Japan fully supports the development of therapeutics, vaccines and diagnostics, and works towards ensuring fair and equitable access for all, including those in developing countries. Japan also works with international organizations so that relevant international frameworks will be able to deliver results.”<sup>1865</sup> While Prime Minister Suga stated that “the WHO is key in our collective response to infectious diseases,” he also advocated for reform of the WHO and the UN as a whole, stating that “While I greatly respect the activities and efforts of the UN thus far, I would also like to emphasize that the Organization is in need of neutral and fair governance more than ever ... Through its review and reform, I believe the WHO will be able to make even better use of necessary expertise at the right time, in the right manner. With this conviction, Japan stands ready to cooperate in the review and reform process.”<sup>1866</sup>

On 8 October 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs Toshimitsu Motegi co-hosted the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).<sup>1867</sup> The Group of Friends of UHC is “an informal platform for UN Member States to build global momentum towards achieving UHC by 2030.”<sup>1868</sup> At this meeting, Minister Motegi outlined the “three pillars of Japan’s cooperation: (1) developing the countries’ capacity to tackle COVID-19, including ensuring equitable access to vaccines; (2) strengthening health systems in preparation against future health crises; (3) generating an enabling environment for health security.”<sup>1869</sup> Minister Motegi explained that Japan will continue to promote UHC and proactively lead international efforts with a focus on the above together with the international community.”<sup>1870</sup> Minister Motegi announced that Japan will contribute more than USD130 million to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Advance Market Commitment (AMC), in order to enable countries to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines. This contribution is a part of Japan’s pledge of USD300 million which was announced at the Global Vaccine Summit in June 2020.<sup>1871</sup>

On 4 December 2020, Prime Minister Suga addressed a Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in response to COVID-19. Prime Minister Suga commented on the WHO’s Access to COVID-19

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<sup>1862</sup> Peru: protective equipment and surveillance support with funding from Japan, World Health Organization (Geneva) 24 September 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/peru-protective-equipment-and-surveillance-support-with-funding-from-japan>.

<sup>1863</sup> Peru: protective equipment and surveillance support with funding from Japan, World Health Organization (Geneva) 24 September 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/peru-protective-equipment-and-surveillance-support-with-funding-from-japan>.

<sup>1864</sup> Address by Prime Minister Suga at the Seventy-Fifth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 26 September 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/foreign/press/unp\\_a/page4e\\_001095.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/foreign/press/unp_a/page4e_001095.html).

<sup>1865</sup> Address by Prime Minister Suga at the Seventy-Fifth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 26 September 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/foreign/press/unp\\_a/page4e\\_001095.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/foreign/press/unp_a/page4e_001095.html).

<sup>1866</sup> Address by Prime Minister Suga at the Seventy-Fifth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 26 September 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/foreign/press/unp\\_a/page4e\\_001095.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/foreign/press/unp_a/page4e_001095.html).

<sup>1867</sup> Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu co-hosted Ministerial Meeting of Group of Friends of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002929.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002929.html).

<sup>1868</sup> Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu co-hosted Ministerial Meeting of Group of Friends of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002929.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002929.html).

<sup>1869</sup> Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu co-hosted Ministerial Meeting of Group of Friends of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002929.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002929.html).

<sup>1870</sup> Minister Motegi Toshimitsu co-hosted Ministerial Meeting of Group of Friends of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002929.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002929.html).

<sup>1871</sup> Minister Motegi Toshimitsu co-hosted Ministerial Meeting of Group of Friends of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002929.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002929.html).

Tools (ACT) Accelerator, and stated that “to overcome the pandemic, multilateral cooperation schemes such as the ACT-Accelerator are of critical importance. Japan, as a founding donor of the ACT, responded rapidly to the call for contributions to the COVAX facility, and will promote the supply of therapeutics through voluntary licensing of patents.”<sup>1872</sup>

On 9 February 2021, Minister Motegi addressed the “Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator 4th Facilitation Council hosted by the WHO.”<sup>1873</sup> In this address, Minister Motegi “emphasized the importance of international cooperation in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic and achieving universal health coverage. Minister Motegi announced that Japan will increase its contribution to the COVAX Advance Market Commitment to a total of USD200 million.”<sup>1874</sup>

Through its consistent and vocal support of the WHO, as well as substantial funding of WHO affiliated initiatives that encompass a wide geographical expanse, Japan has fully supported WHO’s global mandate to lead on disease outbreaks and health emergencies, while leaving no geographical void.

Thus, Japan has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jai Singh*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to fully support the World Health Organization (WHO) in its global mandate to lead on disease outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences, while leaving no geographical vacuum.

On 26 March 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that the United Kingdom will provide GBP23 million to the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostic (FIND), a partnership between academic organizations and pharmaceutical companies to build rapid testing technology.<sup>1875</sup> FIND stated that the funds will be used to develop global diagnostic innovation and boost testing capacities in low- and middle-income countries.<sup>1876</sup>

On 29 March 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom committed GBP40 million to the COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator (CTA).<sup>1877</sup> The CTA is a philanthropic organization supported by the Wellcome Trust and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, that contributes to the research, development, and

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<sup>1872</sup> Address by Prime Minister SUGA at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e\\_000292.html#](https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e_000292.html#).

<sup>1873</sup> Video message by Minister for Foreign Affairs MOTEGI At the ACT Accelerator 4th Facilitation Council, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002974.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002974.html).

<sup>1874</sup> Video message by Minister for Foreign Affairs MOTEGI At the ACT Accelerator 4th Facilitation Council, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002974.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002974.html).

<sup>1875</sup> PM announced record funding to find a coronavirus vaccine, Government of the UK (London) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-record-funding-to-find-a-coronavirus-vaccine>.

<sup>1876</sup> UK Government Invests GPD23 Million for FIND to Drive Diagnostic Innovation and Boost Country Testing Capacity to Support COVID-19 Response, FIND (Geneva) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.finddx.org/newsroom/pr-27mar20/>.

<sup>1877</sup> COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator awards \$20 million in initial grants to fund clinical trials, Wellcome (London) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://wellcome.org/press-release/covid-19-therapeutics-accelerator-awards-20-million-initial-grants-fund-clinical>.



distribution of COVID-19 treatments.<sup>1878</sup> The funds aim to contribute to the CTA's development of anti-retrovirals and immunotherapies to aid patients in combating COVID-19.<sup>1879</sup>

On 12 April 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom sent GBP200 million to aid developing nations in battling COVID-19 to assist in mitigating the possibility of transmission that could lead to a second severe wave of the coronavirus.<sup>1880</sup> Of the total amount, GBP130 million will go to the United Nations agencies and GBP65 million will be delivered to the WHO to assist in coordinating the global response to the pandemic.<sup>1881</sup>

On 29 April 2020, Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Secretary of State for the Department for International Development (DIFD), announced a pledge of GBP330 million a year to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance partnership whose goal is to increase access to immunization in poorer countries.<sup>1882</sup> The pledge is set to be delivered annually for the upcoming five-year period of 2021 to 2025, totalling GBP1.65 billion for that period.<sup>1883</sup>

On 10 January 2021, the Government of the United Kingdom pledged GBP548 million to aid the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Advance Market Commitment (AMC), which aims to distribute one billion doses of coronavirus vaccines to 92 developing countries in 2021.<sup>1884</sup> The United Kingdom's contribution is combined with the remaining USD452 million raised for the COVAX AMC, bringing the total amount raised for the Committee to USD1 billion.<sup>1885</sup>

On 19 February 2021, Prime Minister Johnson announced that the United Kingdom will be donating its surplus vaccine supply to poorer countries. The United Kingdom has ordered more than 400 million doses of coronavirus vaccines.<sup>1886</sup>

The United Kingdom has complied with its commitment to support WHO in its global mandate to lead on disease outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences and has aimed to leave no geographical vacuum.

Thus, the United Kingdom has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Leila Koobi*

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<sup>1878</sup> Advancing research into accessible coronavirus treatments, Therapeutics Accelerator (London). Access Date: 28 February 2020. <https://www.therapeuticsaccelerator.org/>.

<sup>1879</sup> UK Pledges £250 million to find coronavirus vaccine, Government of the UK (London) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-pledges-544-million-to-find-coronavirus-vaccine>.

<sup>1880</sup> Coronavirus: UK gives £200 in aid to developing nations, BBC (London) 12 April 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52258449>.

<sup>1881</sup> Coronavirus: UK gives £200 in aid to developing nations, BBC (London) 12 April 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52258449>.

<sup>1882</sup> Gavi welcomes UK funding pledge, Gavi (Geneva) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/gavi-welcomes-uk-funding-pledge>.

<sup>1883</sup> The UK's work with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance-Information Note (June 2020), Independent Commission for Aid Impact (London), 4 June 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://reliefweb.int/report/united-kingdom-great-britain-and-northern-ireland/uk-s-work-gavi-vaccine-alliance-information>.

<sup>1884</sup> UK meets £250 million match aid target to COVAX, the global vaccines facility, Government of the UK (London) 10 January 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-raises-1bn-so-vulnerable-countries-can-get-vaccine>.

<sup>1885</sup> UK meets £250 million match aid target to COVAX, the global vaccines facility, Government of the UK (London) 10 January 2021. Access Date: 19 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-raises-1bn-so-vulnerable-countries-can-get-vaccine>.

<sup>1886</sup> Covid vaccines: Boris Johnson pledges surplus to poorer countries at G7, BBC (London) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-56117120>.

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

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to fully support the World Health Organization (WHO) in its global mandate to lead on disease outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences and has aimed to leave no geographical vacuum.

On 6 July 2020, President Donald Trump notified United Nations Secretary General António Guterres that the United States would be withdrawing from the WHO as of 6 July 2021.<sup>1887</sup> The withdrawal process would be official once the Secretary General confirms that the U.S. has met the qualifications of providing a one-year notice and fulfilling its current financial obligations.<sup>1888</sup>

On 28 December 2020, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance announced that it has approved the U.S. pledge of USD4 billion COVID-19 supplemental funding as part of a larger omnibus funding package.<sup>1889</sup> Gavi aims to utilize the funds to ensure lower-income economies have equitable access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines.

On 20 January 2021, President Joe Biden announced a recommitment to the WHO and its fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, retracting the decision made by former President Donald Trump to withdraw from WHO.<sup>1890</sup> The U.S. announced that Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, would head the United States delegation to the agency's executive board.<sup>1891</sup>

On 28 January 2021, the Department of State published its Congressional Budget Justification of Foreign Operations for the 2021 fiscal year announcing its USD290 million contribution to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance's immunization program as part of a USD1.16 billion pledge package.<sup>1892</sup> The funds will contribute to expanding Gavi's delivery of vaccines and assist in preventing child deaths.<sup>1893</sup>

On 9 February 2021, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus announced that the United States will be participating in the WHO-supported Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.<sup>1894</sup>

On 18 February 2021, the United States announced its pledge of USD200 million to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Advanced Market Commitment (AMC).<sup>1895</sup> The COVAX AMC aims to support the purchase and delivery of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines for 92 low- and middle-income

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<sup>1887</sup> Note to Correspondents in answer to the questions regarding the World Health Organization, United Nations Secretary General (Geneva) 7 July 2020. Date Accessed: 19 February 2021. <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2020-07-07/note-correspondents-answer-questions-regarding-the-world-health-organization>.

<sup>1888</sup> Trump Administration Signals Formal Withdrawal from the W.H.O., New York Times (New York) 7 July 2020. Date Accessed: 19 February 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/07/us/politics/coronavirus-trump-who.html>.

<sup>1889</sup> Gavi welcomes final approval of U.S. support for global immunisation in Year-End Omnibus and COVID Supplemental Package, Gavi (Geneva) 2020. Date Accessed: 19 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/gavi-welcomes-final-approval-us-support-global-immunisation-covid-supplemental-package>.

<sup>1890</sup> Letter to His Excellency António Guterres, White House (Washington, D.C.) 20 January 2021. Date Accessed: 19 February 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/01/20/letter-his-excellency-antonio-guterres/>.

<sup>1891</sup> Biden restores ties with the World Health Organization that were cut by Trump, New York Times (New York) 19 January 2021. Date Accessed: 19 February 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/20/world/biden-restores-who-ties.html>.

<sup>1892</sup> Congressional Budget Justification of Foreign Operations: Fiscal Year 2021, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 28 January 2021. Date Accessed: 26 February 2021. <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/FY21-CBJ-Appendix-2-FINAL-508-Version.pdf>.

<sup>1893</sup> Congressional Budget Justification of Foreign Operations: Fiscal Year 2021, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 28 January 2021. Date Accessed: 26 February 2021. <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/FY21-CBJ-Appendix-2-FINAL-508-Version.pdf>.

<sup>1894</sup> U.S. joins WHO programmed aimed at boosting COVID-19 fight, Reuters (London) 9 February 2021. Date Accessed: 26 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-who-act-us-idUSKBN2A91N2>.

<sup>1895</sup> Covax: How will Covid vaccines be shared around the world?, BBC (London) 24 February 2021. Date Accessed: 19 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-55795297>.

economies. The United States contribution seeks to support the delivery of vaccines for vulnerable and at-risk populations, including frontline health care workers.<sup>1896</sup>

On 19 February 2021, the ACT-Accelerator published a commitment tracker of funding commitments made in its ACT-Accelerator Pillar budgets to fund the program, which delivers COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines around the world.<sup>1897</sup> The report indicates that as of February 2021, the United States had contributed USD2.5 billion to the ACT-Accelerator, the second largest contribution behind Germany.<sup>1898</sup> The commitment tracker also indicated that the U.S. will provide an additional USD1.5 billion through 2021 and 2022.<sup>1899</sup>

The United States, despite setbacks in its contributions to the WHO due to its temporary withdrawal from the organization, has complied with its commitment to support WHO in its global mandate to lead on disease outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences and has aimed to leave no geographical vacuum.

Thus, the United States has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Leila Koobi*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to fully support the World Health Organization (WHO) in its global mandate to lead on disease outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences, leaving no geographical vacuum.

On 16 March 2020, the European Union along with the G7 members pledged to commit to work together to “coordinate on necessary public health measures to protect people at risk from COVID-19”<sup>1900</sup> among other commitments to trade, science and technological cooperation.<sup>1901</sup>

On 23 March 2020, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell acknowledged the need for international action against COVID-19 during a video conference with EU ministers of foreign affairs.<sup>1902</sup>

On 26 March 2020, the President of the European Council Charles Michel and the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen participated in the G20 video conference called by Saudi Arabia.<sup>1903</sup>

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<sup>1896</sup> The United States Announces a US\$4 billion Contribution to a Global Vaccine Initiative, U.S. Embassy in Barbados the Eastern Caribbean, and the OECS (Washington D.C.) 24 February 2021. Date Accessed: 27 February 2021. <https://bb.usembassy.gov/the-united-states-announces-a-us4-billion-contribution-to-a-global-vaccine-initiative/>.

<sup>1897</sup> Access to COVID-19 tools funding commitment tracker, World Health Organization (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Date Accessed: 28 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/access-to-covid-19-tools-tracker>.

<sup>1898</sup> Access to COVID-19 tools funding commitment tracker, World Health Organization (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Date Accessed: 28 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/access-to-covid-19-tools-tracker>.

<sup>1899</sup> Access to COVID-19 tools funding commitment tracker, World Health Organization (Geneva) 19 February 2021. Date Accessed: 28 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/access-to-covid-19-tools-tracker>.

<sup>1900</sup> Timeline - Council actions on COVID-19, European Council (Geneva) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/coronavirus/timeline/>.

<sup>1901</sup> Timeline - Council actions on COVID-19, European Council (Geneva) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/coronavirus/timeline/>.

<sup>1902</sup> Video conference of foreign affairs ministers, 23 March 2020, European Council (Brussels) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2020/03/23/>.

<sup>1903</sup> Statement by President Michel and President von der Leyen after the extraordinary G20 video conference on COVID-19, European Council (Geneva) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/03/26/statement-by-president-michel-and-president-von-der-leyen-after-the-g20-video-conference-on-covid-19/>.

During the conference the EU stated its commitment “to international cooperation in tackling this pandemic and will continue to assist vulnerable countries and communities around the world, especially in Africa.”<sup>1904</sup>

On 8 April 2020, EU development ministers held an informal meeting via videoconferencing to “discuss the implications of COVID-19 worldwide” and to “launch the “Team Europe” package to support partner countries in the fight against the pandemic and its consequences, with an overall financial support amounting to more than EUR20 billion from existing external action resources.”<sup>1905</sup> The Team Europe package is aimed to “help the most vulnerable countries” particularly in Africa, Asia, the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean.<sup>1906</sup> It is aimed to focus on “people most at risk including children, women, the elderly, disabled people, migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, and their host communities.”<sup>1907</sup>

On 4 May 2020, the European Commission registered EUR7.4 billion “in pledges from donors worldwide during the Coronavirus Global Response pledging event.”<sup>1908</sup> The pledging initiative was a response to the call from the WHO for “accelerated development, production and equitable global access to new coronavirus essential health technologies.”<sup>1909</sup> To help reach the objectives of the Coronavirus Global Response, the EU committed EUR1 billion in grants and EUR400 million in guarantees on loans through reprioritization of Horizon 2020 (EUR1 billion), RescEu (EUR80 million), the Emergency Support Instrument (EUR150 million) and external instruments (EUR170 million).<sup>1910</sup> The EU committed to donating EUR100 million to CEPI and EUR158 million to the World Health Organization.<sup>1911</sup>

On 20 May 2020, the European Council adopted a decision to fund EUR3 billion of “macro-financial assistance to 10 enlargement and neighbourhood partners to help them cope with the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.”<sup>1912</sup> The partners include Albania, Jordan, Kosovo and Ukraine, among others.<sup>1913</sup>

On 4 June 2020, the European Commission announced a pledge of EUR300 million to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, for the period of 2021-2025.<sup>1914</sup> The funding is aimed to help “immunize 300 million children around the world and finance vaccine stockpiles to shield against outbreaks of infectious diseases.”<sup>1915</sup>

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<sup>1904</sup> Statement by President Michel and President von der Leyen after the extraordinary G20 video conference on COVID-19, European Council (Geneva) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/03/26/statement-by-president-michel-and-president-von-der-leyen-after-the-g20-video-conference-on-covid-19/>.

<sup>1905</sup> Video conference of foreign affairs ministers (development), 8 April 2020, European Council (Brussels) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2020/04/08/>.

<sup>1906</sup> Video conference of foreign affairs ministers (development), 8 April 2020, European Council (Brussels) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2020/04/08/>.

<sup>1907</sup> Video conference of foreign affairs ministers (development), 8 April 2020, European Council (Brussels) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2020/04/08/>.

<sup>1908</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: €7.4 billion raised for universal access to vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_797](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_797).

<sup>1909</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: €7.4 billion raised for universal access to vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_797](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_797).

<sup>1910</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: €7.4 billion raised for universal access to vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 4 May 2020. Access date: 28 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_797](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_797).

<sup>1911</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: €7.4 billion raised for universal access to vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_797](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_797).

<sup>1912</sup> COVID-19: Council adopts €3 billion assistance package to support neighbouring partners, European Council (Brussels) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/05/20/covid-19-council-adopts-3-billion-assistance-package-to-support-neighbouring-partners/>.

<sup>1913</sup> COVID-19: Council adopts €3 billion assistance package to support neighbouring partners, European Council (Brussels) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/05/20/covid-19-council-adopts-3-billion-assistance-package-to-support-neighbouring-partners/>.

<sup>1914</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: European Commission pledges €300 million to Gavi, European Commission (Brussels) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_989](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_989).

<sup>1915</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: European Commission pledges €300 million to Gavi, European Commission (Brussels) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_989](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_989).

On 8 June 2020, EU development ministers discussed the progress “made in the implementation of the Team Europe Package.”<sup>1916</sup> The ministers welcomed the announcement that the package had now reached EUR36 billion with contributions from European Commission, EU member states, the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.<sup>1917</sup>

On 14 July 2020, the European Council adopted regulation that aimed to “speed up the development and the deployment of a vaccine against COVID-19 in the EU.”<sup>1918</sup> This regulation applied as long as COVID-19 was regarded as a pandemic by the WHO.<sup>1919</sup>

On 31 August 2020, the European Commission confirmed its interest to participate in the COVAX Facility.<sup>1920</sup> President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen said that “the commission is announcing a EUR400 million contribution to COVAX [COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access] for working together in purchasing future vaccines to the benefit of low- and middle-income countries.”<sup>1921</sup>

On 15 October 2020, the European Council stated its commitment to “furthering international debt relief for African countries within the relevant multilateral frameworks” to address the impact of COVID-19.<sup>1922</sup> The Council also committed to “strengthening EU support to health systems and the reinforcement of partners’ preparedness and response capacity.”<sup>1923</sup>

On 21-22 November 2020, during the G20 summit hosted by Saudi Arabia, the EU stressed on the need for multilateral cooperation to fight against the pandemic.<sup>1924</sup> The EU called on the G20 members to provide, before the end of 2020, “USD4.5 billion for mass procurement and delivery of COVID-19 tools. This amount is urgently needed for the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) and its COVAX facility.”<sup>1925</sup> The President of the European Council suggested the need for an “international treaty negotiated with all UN organizations and agencies, in particular the WHO.”<sup>1926</sup>

On 26 November 2020, President of the European Council Charles Michel, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen met with Australia’s Prime Minister Scott Morrison to reaffirm their commitment to “ensure universal, equitable and early access to safe, effective and affordable COVID-19

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<sup>1916</sup> Video conference of foreign affairs ministers (development), 8 June 2020, European Council (Brussels) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2020/06/08/>.

<sup>1917</sup> Video conference of foreign affairs ministers (development), 8 June 2020, European Council (Brussels) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2020/06/08/>.

<sup>1918</sup> Vaccine against COVID-19: Council adopts measures to facilitate swift development, European Council (Brussels) 14 July 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/07/14/vaccine-against-covid-19-council-adopts-measures-to-facilitate-swift-development/>.

<sup>1919</sup> Vaccine against COVID-19: Council adopts measures to facilitate swift development, European Council (Brussels) 14 July 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/07/14/vaccine-against-covid-19-council-adopts-measures-to-facilitate-swift-development/>.

<sup>1920</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: Commission joins the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX), European Commission (Brussels) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_1540](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1540).

<sup>1921</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: Commission joins the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX), European Commission (Brussels) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_1540](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1540).

<sup>1922</sup> European Council, 15-16 October 2020, European Council (Brussels) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/european-council/2020/10/15-16/>.

<sup>1923</sup> European Council, 15-16 October 2020, European Council (Brussels) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/european-council/2020/10/15-16/>.

<sup>1924</sup> G20 summit, 21-22 November 2020, European Council (Brussels) 21-22 November 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2020/11/21-22/>.

<sup>1925</sup> G20 summit, 21-22 November 2020, European Council (Brussels) 21-22 November 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2020/11/21-22/>.

<sup>1926</sup> G20 summit, 21-22 November 2020, European Council (Brussels) 21-22 November 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2020/11/21-22/>.

vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics.”<sup>1927</sup> The leaders stressed the importance of “continued international support for the Access to COVID-19 tools (ACT) Accelerator and its COVAX Facility.”<sup>1928</sup> The leaders agreed to “continue to work together to strengthen the World Health Organization and global preparedness and response to health emergencies.”<sup>1929</sup>

On 1 December 2020, the EU, as part of the Team Europe Package, announced a EUR20 million program “to support the preparedness and response capacities of our partners in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).”<sup>1930</sup> Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen said that the program “is part of the European Union’s EUR350 million solidarity response to support our ASEAN partners in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic.”<sup>1931</sup>

On 19 February 2021, the EU joined other G7 members in funding the ACT-Accelerator partnership.<sup>1932</sup> The funding is meant for the “development and equitable rollout of the tests, treatments and vaccines needed to end the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.”<sup>1933</sup> The European Commission committed USD363 million for the COVAX Advance Market Commitment.<sup>1934</sup> The European Investment bank provided “a further USD242 million in loan guarantees which will help the ACT-Accelerator partnership to frontload future payments to speed up the response.”<sup>1935</sup>

On 19 February 2021, the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen announced EUR100 million in humanitarian assistance to support the rollout of vaccination campaigns in Africa, spearheaded the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).<sup>1936</sup>

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to fully support the WHO in its global mandate to lead on disease outbreaks and emergencies with health consequences, leaving no geographical vacuum. Working closely with the WHO and EU members, the European Union has illustrated its efforts to increase global distribution of vaccines, financial and humanitarian aid.

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

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<sup>1927</sup> EU-Australia leaders' meeting via video conference, 26 November 2020, European Council (Brussels) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2020/11/26/>.

<sup>1928</sup> EU-Australia leaders' meeting via video conference, 26 November 2020, European Council (Brussels) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2020/11/26/>.

<sup>1929</sup> EU-Australia leaders' meeting via video conference, 26 November 2020, European Council (Brussels) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2020/11/26/>.

<sup>1930</sup> Team Europe COVID-19 response: EU announces €20 million to support health systems in ASEAN, European Commission (Brussels) 1 December 2020. Access date: 28 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/team-europe-covid-19-response-eu-announces-eu20-million-support-health-systems-asean\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/team-europe-covid-19-response-eu-announces-eu20-million-support-health-systems-asean_en).

<sup>1931</sup> Team Europe COVID-19 response: EU announces €20 million to support health systems in ASEAN, European Commission (Brussels) 1 December 2020. Access date: 28 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/team-europe-covid-19-response-eu-announces-eu20-million-support-health-systems-asean\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/team-europe-covid-19-response-eu-announces-eu20-million-support-health-systems-asean_en).

<sup>1932</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: 27 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>1933</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: 27 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>1934</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: 27 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>1935</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: 27 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>1936</sup> G7: EU to support COVID-19 vaccination strategies and capacity in Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 28 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_21\\_701](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_701).

## 11. Health: Delaying the Spread of COVID-19

“We will coordinate our efforts to delay the spread of the virus, including through appropriate border management measures.”

*G7 Leaders’ Statement*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

### Background

On 31 December 2019, the China Country Office of the World Health Organization (WHO) reported cases of “pneumonia of unknown etiology ... detected in Wuhan City.”<sup>1937</sup> The virus would later be known as COVID-19.

On 23 January 2020, the Chinese government imposed a lockdown across Hubei province, including the city of Wuhan, in an attempt to contain the virus and limit its spread.<sup>1938</sup>

On 23 January 2020, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, convened a meeting of the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee “regarding the outbreak of novel coronavirus.”<sup>1939</sup> The Committee did not recommend the Director-General to declare a Public Health Emergency of International Concern but expressed support of the “ongoing efforts through a WHO international multidisciplinary mission ... to investigate the animal source of the outbreak, the extent of human-to-human transmission, the screening efforts in other provinces of China, the enhancement of surveillance for severe acute respiratory infections in these regions, and to reinforce containment and mitigation measures.”<sup>1940</sup>

On 30 January 2020, Dr. Tedros, on the advice of the Emergency Committee declared “that the outbreak constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.”<sup>1941</sup> As of that date, there were 7834

<sup>1937</sup> Pneumonia of unknown cause – China, World Health Organization 5 January 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020.

<https://www.who.int/csr/don/05-january-2020-pneumonia-of-unknown-cause-china/en/>

<sup>1938</sup> China virus death toll rises to 41, more than 1,300 infected worldwide, CNBC 24 January 2020. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/01/24/chinas-hubei-province-confirms-15-more-deaths-due-to-coronavirus.html>.

<sup>1939</sup> Statement on the first meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), World Health Organization (Geneva) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/news/item/23-01-2020-statement-on-the-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)](https://www.who.int/news/item/23-01-2020-statement-on-the-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)).

<sup>1940</sup> Statement on the first meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), World Health Organization (Geneva) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/news/item/23-01-2020-statement-on-the-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)](https://www.who.int/news/item/23-01-2020-statement-on-the-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)).

<sup>1941</sup> WHO Director-General’s statement on IHR Emergency Committee on Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), World Health Organization (Geneva) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-statement-on-ih-er-emergency-committee-on-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)](https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-statement-on-ih-er-emergency-committee-on-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)).

confirmed cases in 19 countries.<sup>1942</sup> Dr. Tedros issued seven recommendations including an advice against “limiting trade and movement” and a call on the international community to “support countries with weaker health systems.”<sup>1943</sup>

On 3 February 2020, the G7 health ministers held a conference call on the COVID-19. The ministers agreed to “coordinate their approach on travel regulations and precautions, research into the new virus and cooperation with the WHO, the EU, and China.”<sup>1944</sup>

On 4 February 2020, the WHO issued a Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan that “outlines the public health measures that the international community stands ready to provide to support all countries to prepare for and respond to COVID-19.”<sup>1945</sup> Among other recommendations, the document stated that “measures that restrict the movement of people may prove temporarily useful at the beginning of an outbreak to allow time to implement preparedness activities, and to limit the international spread of potentially highly infectious cases.”<sup>1946</sup> Dr. Tedros also asked United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres “to activate the UN crisis management policy.”<sup>1947</sup>

On 29 February 2020, the WHO issued updated recommendations on international traffic. The recommendations stated that “WHO continues to advise against the application of travel or trade restrictions in countries experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks.”<sup>1948</sup> The WHO also advised that temperature screening for arriving and departing travels was “not an effective way to stop international spread.”<sup>1949</sup> Countries were reminded that countries that implement measures that “significantly interfere with international traffic” need to submit to the WHO “public health rationale and relevant scientific information” that justify such measures.<sup>1950</sup>

On 7 March 2020, the number of confirmed cases reached 100,000.<sup>1951</sup> The WHO called on “all countries to continue efforts that have been effective in limiting the number of cases and slowing the spread of the virus.”<sup>1952</sup>

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<sup>1942</sup> WHO Director-General's statement on IHR Emergency Committee on Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), World Health Organization (Geneva) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-statement-on-ih-er-emergency-committee-on-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)](https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-statement-on-ih-er-emergency-committee-on-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)).

<sup>1943</sup> Statement on the first meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), World Health Organization (Geneva) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. [https://www.who.int/news/item/23-01-2020-statement-on-the-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)](https://www.who.int/news/item/23-01-2020-statement-on-the-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov)).

<sup>1944</sup> G7 health ministers agree on coordinated approach to coronavirus – Germany, Reuters (Berlin) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.businessinsider.com/g7-health-ministers-agree-on-coordinated-approach-to-coronavirus-germany-2020-2>.

<sup>1945</sup> Strategic preparedness and response plan, World Health Organization (Geneva) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/strategic-preparedness-and-response-plan-for-the-new-coronavirus>.

<sup>1946</sup> Strategic preparedness and response plan, World Health Organization (Geneva) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/strategic-preparedness-and-response-plan-for-the-new-coronavirus>.

<sup>1947</sup> Listings of WHO's response to COVID-19, World Health Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/news/item/29-06-2020-covid-timeline>.

<sup>1948</sup> Updated WHO recommendations for international traffic in relation to COVID-19 outbreak, World Health Organization (Geneva) 29 February 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/updated-who-recommendations-for-international-traffic-in-relation-to-covid-19-outbreak/>.

<sup>1949</sup> Updated WHO recommendations for international traffic in relation to COVID-19 outbreak, World Health Organization (Geneva) 29 February 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/updated-who-recommendations-for-international-traffic-in-relation-to-covid-19-outbreak/>.

<sup>1950</sup> Updated WHO recommendations for international traffic in relation to COVID-19 outbreak, World Health Organization (Geneva) 29 February 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/updated-who-recommendations-for-international-traffic-in-relation-to-covid-19-outbreak/>.

<sup>1951</sup> WHO statement on the cases of COVID-19 surpassing 100 000, World Health Organization (Geneva) 7 March 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2018compliance-final/02-2018-G7-final-compliance-transparency.pdf>.



On 9 March 2020, the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board, which was co-founded by the World Bank and the WHO, called on G7 and G20 leaders “to mobilize resources to fill funding gaps” as the world faces “the unprecedented rapid global spread of the virus and the profound health, social and economic impact.”<sup>1953</sup>

On 11 March 2020, with the number of confirmed cases exceeding 180,000 and spreading across 114 countries, the WHO declared COVID a pandemic.<sup>1954</sup> COVID-19 pandemic is the first one “sparked by a coronavirus.”<sup>1955</sup> Dr. Tedros reiterated his call on “all countries ... to activate and scale up ... emergency response mechanisms.”<sup>1956</sup>

On 16 March 2020, the WHO and the UN Development Coordination Office started the COVID-19 Partners Platform that aims to provide a tool for “partners, donors and contributors to collaborate in the global COVID-19 response.”<sup>1957</sup>

On 16 March 2020, G7 leaders held a videoconference dedicated to COVID-19 pandemic and agreed to work collectively to “to resolve the health and economic risks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and set the stage for a strong recovery of strong, sustainable economic growth and prosperity.”<sup>1958</sup> At the time, they expected to meet again in three months at their regularly scheduled summit on 10-12 June 2020, which was later postponed indefinitely.

### **Commitment Features**

The commitment states that G7 members “will coordinate ... efforts to delay the spread of the virus, including through appropriate border management measures.”<sup>1959</sup>

“Will coordinate efforts” is defined as a commitment to coordinate policies and measures designed and implemented to delay the spread of the COVID-19 virus across the borders.<sup>1960</sup> Coordination can be achieved at bilateral and multilateral levels as well as with and through formal international institutions such as the WHO and the UN, and informal international institutions such as the G7 and the G20. To achieve full compliance a G7 member should not only demonstrate effort to coordinate policies with other states and international institutions but take concrete steps in implementing measures collectively agreed to. For example, a member can organize in ministerial meetings on COVID-19 and implement measures assented to.

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<sup>1952</sup> WHO statement on the cases of COVID-19 surpassing 100 000, World Health Organization (Geneva) 7 March 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2018compliance-final/02-2018-G7-final-compliance-transparency.pdf>.

<sup>1953</sup> Global Preparedness Monitoring Board calls on G7 and G20 leaders to support \$8bn call to scale-up global response to COVID-19, Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (Geneva) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. [https://apps.who.int/gpmb/assets/pdf/COVID\\_19\\_Press\\_Release\\_GPMB\\_9Mar.pdf](https://apps.who.int/gpmb/assets/pdf/COVID_19_Press_Release_GPMB_9Mar.pdf).

<sup>1954</sup> WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19, World Health Organization (Geneva) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-19---11-march-2020>.

<sup>1955</sup> WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19, World Health Organization (Geneva) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-19---11-march-2020>.

<sup>1956</sup> WHO statement on the cases of COVID-19 surpassing 100 000, World Health Organization (Geneva) 7 March 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2018compliance-final/02-2018-G7-final-compliance-transparency.pdf>.

<sup>1957</sup> Timelines: WHO's COVID-19 response, World Health Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 16 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/interactive-timeline#!>.

<sup>1958</sup> G7 Leaders' Statement, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>1959</sup> G7 Leaders' Statement, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>1960</sup> G7 Leaders' Statement, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

These efforts are designed to “delay the spread of the virus” that is interpreted as decreasing the virus transmission rate as compared to a transmission rate if no measures are taken.<sup>1961</sup> Examples of such measures include implementing social distancing rules, imposing lockdowns, and implementing additional controls on or restricting the movement of people and goods.

The commitment emphasizes “appropriate border management measures” as an important mechanism for delaying the spread of COVID-19.<sup>1962</sup> Border management measures relate to both cross-border travel and international trade and may range from temperature screening to travel ban and from additional “technical requirements for imported goods (e.g. labelling, certification)” to export and import restrictions.<sup>1963</sup> The measures are appropriate if they are supported by “public health rationale and relevant scientific information.”<sup>1964</sup>

Thus, to achieve full compliance, a G7 member must take actions to coordinate its policies aimed at slowing down the spread of COVID-19 with other states and international institutions, and implement the measures agreed to, including border management measures. If a member takes steps to coordinate measures but fails to implement them, such as simply attending a meeting or making a verbal reiteration of support, a score of 0, or partial compliance will be assigned. Additionally, due to the word “including” greater emphasis is placed on the border management criteria of this commitment. As such, the G7 member must take strong actions on border management for a score of +1. If the member takes action to delay the spread of the virus, but these do not include on border management this will count as partial compliance. Strong action is something tangible, it is understood here as implementation, rather than the aforementioned verbal statements or participation in meetings.

A G7 member that takes no steps to coordinate “effort to delay the spread” of COVID will be assigned a score of -1, or no compliance.<sup>1965</sup>

**Scoring Guidelines**

-1	G7 member has NOT taken steps to coordinate efforts to delay the spread of COVID-19 with other states and international institutions, including border management.
0	G7 member has taken some steps to coordinate efforts to delay the spread of COVID-19 with other states and international institutions BUT has not taken steps to implement the agreed to measures and/or did not take actions on border management.
+1	G7 member has taken steps to coordinate efforts to delay the spread of COVID-19 with other states and international institutions AND has taken efforts to implement the agreed to measures including border management measures.

*Compliance Director: Bogdan Stovba  
Lead Analyst: Nadiya Kovalenko*

**Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to coordinate its efforts to delay the spread of the virus with other states, including through appropriate border management measures.

<sup>1961</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>1962</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>1963</sup> Global coordination on cross-border travel and trade measures crucial to COVID-19 response, The Lancet (

<sup>1964</sup> Updated WHO recommendations for international traffic in relation to COVID-19 outbreak, World Health Organization (Geneva) 29 February 2020. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/updated-who-recommendations-for-international-traffic-in-relation-to-covid-19-outbreak/>.

<sup>1965</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

On 16 March 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau outlined actions being taken under the Government of Canada's whole-of-government response to COVID-19.<sup>1966</sup> The Prime Minister urged Canadians to avoid non-essential travel outside of the country and stated that the government would bar foreign nationals from all countries, except the United States, from entering Canada.<sup>1967</sup> The government also announced that airlines would prevent all travellers who present COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of their citizenship, from boarding international flights to Canada.<sup>1968</sup> The stated goal of this action was to delay the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health.<sup>1969</sup>

On 18 March 2020, the Canadian Border Service Agency established a joint Task Force with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to cooperate on border management and enforcement in the COVID-19 context.<sup>1970</sup> The stated goal of this action was to delay the spread of the virus, protect public health, and ensure that economic supply chains remain open across borders.<sup>1971</sup>

On 18 March 2020, Foreign Minister François-Philippe Champagne and Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi had a telephone call on COVID-19 situation. The ministers discussed measures implemented by Japan and Canada with regards to the virus and agreed, among other things, that "border measures conducted over an appropriate period are necessary to control the outbreak, and that in implementing border measures, coordination and information sharing among relevant countries is important."<sup>1972</sup>

On 20 March 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau outlined a U.S.-Canada joint initiative to temporarily restrict travellers from crossing the border between these two countries for non-essential purposes.<sup>1973</sup> The stated goal of this action was to delay the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health.<sup>1974</sup>

On 25 March 2020, Health Minister Patty Hajdu announced an Emergency Order under the Quarantine Act that requires any person entering Canada by air, sea, or land to self-isolate for 14 days whether or not they have symptoms of COVID-19, with the exception of certain persons who cross the border regularly to

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<sup>1966</sup> Prime Minister Announces New Actions Under Canada's COVID-19 Response, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/16/prime-minister-announces-new-actions-under-canadas-covid-19-response>.

<sup>1967</sup> Prime Minister Announces New Actions Under Canada's COVID-19 Response, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/16/prime-minister-announces-new-actions-under-canadas-covid-19-response>.

<sup>1968</sup> Prime Minister Announces New Actions Under Canada's COVID-19 Response, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/16/prime-minister-announces-new-actions-under-canadas-covid-19-response>.

<sup>1969</sup> Prime Minister Announces New Actions Under Canada's COVID-19 Response, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/16/prime-minister-announces-new-actions-under-canadas-covid-19-response>.

<sup>1970</sup> Measures to Support Economy and Trade, Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/trnsprnc/brfng-mtrls/prlmntry-bndrs/20200724/015/index-en.aspx>.

<sup>1971</sup> Measures to Support Economy and Trade, Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/trnsprnc/brfng-mtrls/prlmntry-bndrs/20200724/015/index-en.aspx>.

<sup>1972</sup> Japan-Canada Foreign Ministers' Telephone Talk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002790.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002790.html)

<sup>1973</sup> Statement from the Office of the Prime Minister on COVID-19, Canada Border Services Agency (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/agency-agence/pm-covid19-eng.html>.

<sup>1974</sup> Statement from the Office of the Prime Minister on COVID-19, Canada Border Services Agency (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/agency-agence/pm-covid19-eng.html>.

ensure the continued flow of goods and services.<sup>1975</sup> The stated goal of this action was to delay the spread of COVID-19, protect public health, and ensure that economic supply chains remain open across borders.<sup>1976</sup>

On 25 March 2020, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion, and International Trade Mary Ng committed to a joint-ministerial statement to facilitate the cross-border movement of goods, services, and people by maintaining open and connected supply chains throughout the pandemic.<sup>1977</sup> The stated goal of this action was to ensure economic supply chains remain open across borders to provide medical goods necessary to delay the spread of COVID-19.<sup>1978</sup>

On 25 March 2020, Minister Champagne participated in a G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting via a videoconference.<sup>1979</sup> The stated goal was to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on supply chains and the global economy, as well as to stress the importance of reinforcing multilateral commitment to strengthening the response of the United Nations and the World Health Organization's (WHO) to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.<sup>1980</sup>

On 26 March 2020, G20 leaders held an extraordinary summit on COVID-19. In the summit's statement, G20 leaders underlined that "the virus respects no borders" and committed, among other things, to "coordinate closely in support of the global efforts to counter the pandemic's impacts, including through proportionate border management measures in accordance with national regulations and to provide assistance where necessary to repatriate citizens."<sup>1981</sup>

On 5 April 2020, Minister of International Development Karina Gould, announced that Canada would provide CAD159.5 million to "support international efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic."<sup>1982</sup> Specifically, Canada aims to "support partners on the front lines who are working to prevent, detect and respond to COVID-19."<sup>1983</sup>

On 14 April 2020, Minister Champagne and the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell issued a joint statement with regards to international cooperation in

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<sup>1975</sup> New Order Makes Self-Isolation Mandatory for Individuals Entering Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada (Ottawa) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/03/new-order-makes-self-isolation-mandatory-for-individuals-entering-canada.html>.

<sup>1976</sup> New Order Makes Self-Isolation Mandatory for Individuals Entering Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada (Ottawa), 25 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/03/new-order-makes-self-isolation-mandatory-for-individuals-entering-canada.html>.

<sup>1977</sup> Statement on Joint International Effort to Ensure Supply Chain Connectivity Amid COVID-19 Pandemic, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/statement-on-joint-international-effort-to-ensure-supply-chain-connectivity-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

<sup>1978</sup> Statement on Joint International Effort to Ensure Supply Chain Connectivity Amid COVID-19 Pandemic, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/statement-on-joint-international-effort-to-ensure-supply-chain-connectivity-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

<sup>1979</sup> Readout: Minister Champagne Participates in G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/readout-minister-champagne-participates-in-g7-foreign-ministers-meeting.html>.

<sup>1980</sup> Readout: Minister Champagne Participates in G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/readout-minister-champagne-participates-in-g7-foreign-ministers-meeting.html>.

<sup>1981</sup> Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit: Statement on COVID-19, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-statement-0326.html>.

<sup>1982</sup> Canada's support for international efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2020. Access Date: <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/canadas-support-for-international-efforts-to-fight-the-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

<sup>1983</sup> Canada's support for international efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2020. Access Date: <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/canadas-support-for-international-efforts-to-fight-the-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

addressing COVID-19.<sup>1984</sup> The Minister and the High Representative stated that Canada and the EU would work together to protect the flow of vital supplies across borders to delay the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health.<sup>1985</sup>

On 16 April 2020, Minister Champagne agreed to the joint statement of the Alliance for Multilateralism, which outlined its commitment to support the UN, WHO, and other international organizations in their efforts to contain, counter and prevent the spread of COVID-19.<sup>1986</sup> The stated goals of this action included delaying and countering the spread of COVID-19 and minimizing disruptions to cross-border trade.<sup>1987</sup>

On 17 April 2020, the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 agreed on a joint declaration outlining a series of practical actions to delay and counter the spread of COVID-19 and strongly urged other countries to adopt a similar approach.<sup>1988</sup> The stated goals included endeavouring to coordinate a global health response, minimize disruptions to facilitate the return home of travellers who may be stranded, and ensure the necessary flow of goods and services between borders.<sup>1989</sup>

On 2 May 2020, Minister Ng issued a statement regarding the results of a virtual meeting from 30 April 2020 with counterparts from Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, and Korea.<sup>1990</sup> The delegations signed a joint statement supporting concrete actions to advance the commitments agreed upon by the G20 trade and investment ministers on 30 March 2020 and agreed to facilitate the cross-border movement of essential goods as well as to maintain open and connected supply chains throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1991</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that Canada and its international partners launched the Coronavirus Global Response.<sup>1992</sup> This initiative aims to raise funds to “researchers and innovators develop solutions to test, treat, and protect people, and to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.”<sup>1993</sup> Other

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<sup>1984</sup> Joint Statement by Canada’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and the European Union’s High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Regarding International Collaboration in Addressing COVID-19, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-by-canadas-minister-of-foreign-affairs-and-the-european-unions-high-representative-for-foreign-affairs-and-security-policy-regardin.html>.

<sup>1985</sup> Joint Statement by Canada’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and the European Union’s High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Regarding International Collaboration in Addressing COVID-19, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-by-canadas-minister-of-foreign-affairs-and-the-european-unions-high-representative-for-foreign-affairs-and-security-policy-regardin.html>.

<sup>1986</sup> Joint Statement of the Alliance for Multilateralism, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism.html>.

<sup>1987</sup> Joint Statement of the Alliance for Multilateralism, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism.html>.

<sup>1988</sup> Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 April 2020. Date Accessed: 25 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/declaration-of-the-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid19-covid19-on-maintaining-essential-global-links.html>.

<sup>1989</sup> Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 April 2020. Date Accessed: 25 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/declaration-of-the-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid19-covid19-on-maintaining-essential-global-links.html>.

<sup>1990</sup> Statement on Joint Action Plan to Facilitate the Flow of Goods, Services and Personnel Amid COVID-19, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 2 May 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/statement-on-joint-action-plan-to-facilitate-flow-of-goods-services-and-personnel-amid-covid-19.html>.

<sup>1991</sup> Statement on Joint Action Plan to Facilitate the Flow of Goods, Services and Personnel Amid COVID-19, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 2 May 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/statement-on-joint-action-plan-to-facilitate-flow-of-goods-services-and-personnel-amid-covid-19.html>.

<sup>1992</sup> Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>

<sup>1993</sup> Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>

participating countries are France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan, Italy, Spain, Norway, Saudi Arabia, and the EU.

On 18 September 2020, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Bill Blair, announced that Canada and the US have agreed to extend the temporary restriction of all non-essential travel across the Canada-US border.<sup>1994</sup> The stated goal of this measure was to protect public health, delay the spread of COVID-19, and, through exemptions, to ensure the flow of essential goods across the border.<sup>1995</sup>

On 3 November 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs, François-Philippe Champagne, hosted the 11th call of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19.<sup>1996</sup> The group reiterated their commitment to ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and to learning from each country's strategies on how to manage borders, international travel, testing, and contact tracing.<sup>1997</sup>

On 29 November 2020, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Bill Blair, and Minister of Health, Patty Hajdu, announced that Canada will extend the Mandatory Isolation Order and temporary travel restrictions for all travellers seeking entry into Canada from a country other than the US until 21 January 2021.<sup>1998</sup> The stated goal was to delay the spread of COVID-19 and to ensure Canadians remain healthy and safe.<sup>1999</sup>

On 17 December 2020, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion, and International Trade, Mary Ng, announced that the Ottawa Group Trade and Health Initiative was presented to the World Trade Organization (WTO) General Council for discussion.<sup>2000</sup> Minister Ng stated that Canada and the other twelve Ottawa Group member countries are calling for further cooperation among all WTO members to strengthen global supply chains and facilitate the frictionless movement of essential medical goods across borders amid the crisis.<sup>2001</sup> The stated goal was to delay the spread of COVID-19.<sup>2002</sup>

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<sup>1994</sup> Canada-US Extend Temporary Non-Essential Travel Restriction, Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) 18 September 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2020/09/canada-us-extend-temporary-non-essential-travel-restriction.html>.

<sup>1995</sup> Canada-US Extend Temporary Non-Essential Travel Restriction, Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) 18 September 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2020/09/canada-us-extend-temporary-non-essential-travel-restriction.html>.

<sup>1996</sup> Readout: Canada Continues to Lead Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 Responding to Global Challenges, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/11/readout-canada-continues-to-lead-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid-19-responding-to-global-challenges.html>.

<sup>1997</sup> Readout: Canada Continues to Lead Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 Responding to Global Challenges, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/11/readout-canada-continues-to-lead-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid-19-responding-to-global-challenges.html>.

<sup>1998</sup> Government of Canada Announces Extension of Travel Restrictions, Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) 29 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2020/11/government-of-canada-announces-extension-of-travel-restrictions.html>.

<sup>1999</sup> Government of Canada Announces Extension of Travel Restrictions, Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) 29 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2020/11/government-of-canada-announces-extension-of-travel-restrictions.html>.

<sup>2000</sup> Minister Ng Announces Tabling of Ottawa Group's Trade and Health Initiative at WTO General Council, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/minister-ng-announces-tabling-of-ottawa-groups-trade-and-health-initiative-at-wto-general-council.html>.

<sup>2001</sup> Minister Ng Announces Tabling of Ottawa Group's Trade and Health Initiative at WTO General Council, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/minister-ng-announces-tabling-of-ottawa-groups-trade-and-health-initiative-at-wto-general-council.html>.

On 20 December 2020, the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, convened a meeting of the Incident Response Group to discuss the new variant of COVID-19 identified in the United Kingdom.<sup>2003</sup> The government reiterated that all travel restrictions and border measures in place from March 2020, including mandatory quarantine measures, which require travellers to quarantine for 14 days immediately upon entry to Canada, will remain in place.<sup>2004</sup> The government additionally stated that passengers who arrive in Canada from the UK are subject to secondary screening and enhanced measures, including increased scrutiny of quarantine plans.<sup>2005</sup> The stated goals are to delay the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health.<sup>2006</sup>

On 29 January 2021, the Government of Canada announced new rules on international travel.<sup>2007</sup> The government suspended all flights to and from Mexico and Caribbean countries until April 30, 2021.<sup>2008</sup> Additionally, the government announced that all air travellers arriving in Canada, with very limited exceptions, must reserve a room in an approved hotel and take a COVID-19 molecular test on arrival.<sup>2009</sup> The Government of Canada will additionally introduce a 72-hour pre-arrival molecular testing requirement for travellers seeking entry in land mode.<sup>2010</sup> Finally, the Government of Canada pledged to continue collaborating with partners in the US to strengthen border measures and keep their countries safe.<sup>2011</sup>

On 12 February 2021, Minister of Health, Patty Hajdu, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Bill Blair, and Minister of Transport, Omar Alghabra, announced that, as of 15 February 2021, travellers arriving in Canada by land will be required to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 molecular test taken in the US within 72 hours of arrival or a positive test taken 14 to 90 days prior to arrival.<sup>2012</sup> In addition, as of 22 February 2021, travellers entering Canada at the land border will be required to take a COVID-19

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<sup>2002</sup> Minister Ng Announces Tabling of Ottawa Group's Trade and Health Initiative at WTO General Council, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/minister-ng-announces-tabling-of-ottawa-groups-trade-and-health-initiative-at-wto-general-council.html>.

<sup>2003</sup> Canada Suspends Flights from the United Kingdom for 72 Hours, Public Health Canada (Ottawa) 20 December 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/12/canada-suspends-flights-from-the-united-kingdom-for-72-hours.html>.

<sup>2004</sup> Canada Suspends Flights from the United Kingdom for 72 Hours, Public Health Canada (Ottawa) 20 December 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/12/canada-suspends-flights-from-the-united-kingdom-for-72-hours.html>.

<sup>2005</sup> Canada Suspends Flights from the United Kingdom for 72 Hours, Public Health Canada (Ottawa) 20 December 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/12/canada-suspends-flights-from-the-united-kingdom-for-72-hours.html>.

<sup>2006</sup> Canada Suspends Flights from the United Kingdom for 72 Hours, Public Health Canada (Ottawa) 20 December 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/12/canada-suspends-flights-from-the-united-kingdom-for-72-hours.html>.

<sup>2007</sup> Government of Canada Introduces Further Restrictions on International Travel, Transport Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2021/01/government-of-canada-introduces-further-restrictions-on-international-travel.html>.

<sup>2008</sup> Government of Canada Introduces Further Restrictions on International Travel, Transport Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2021/01/government-of-canada-introduces-further-restrictions-on-international-travel.html>.

<sup>2009</sup> Government of Canada Introduces Further Restrictions on International Travel, Transport Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2021/01/government-of-canada-introduces-further-restrictions-on-international-travel.html>.

<sup>2010</sup> Government of Canada Introduces Further Restrictions on International Travel, Transport Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2021/01/government-of-canada-introduces-further-restrictions-on-international-travel.html>.

<sup>2011</sup> Government of Canada Introduces Further Restrictions on International Travel, Transport Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2021/01/government-of-canada-introduces-further-restrictions-on-international-travel.html>.

<sup>2012</sup> Government of Canada Expands Restrictions to International Travel by Land and Air, Public Health Canada (Ottawa) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-expands-restrictions-to-international-travel-by-land-and-air.html>.

molecular test on arrival as well as toward the end of their 14-day quarantine.<sup>2013</sup> As of 22 February 2021, all travellers arriving in Canada by air, with some exceptions, will be required to take a COVID-19 molecular test when they arrive in Canada, before exiting the airport, and another toward the end of their 14-day quarantine period.<sup>2014</sup> With limited exceptions, air travellers will also be required to reserve, prior to departure to Canada, a three-night stay in a government-authorized hotel.<sup>2015</sup> The Government of Canada also announced that, on 22 February 2021, all travellers, whether arriving by land or air, will be required to electronically submit their travel and contact information, including a suitable quarantine plan, before crossing the border or boarding a flight.<sup>2016</sup> The stated goals are to delay and counter the spread of COVID-19, protect public health, and ensure that economic supply chains continue operating between Canada and the US.<sup>2017</sup>

Canada's multilateral coordination of travel restrictions, social distancing, self-isolation, and quarantine measures, as well as its management of supply chains across borders, demonstrates that Canada has fully complied with its commitment to coordinate its efforts to delay the spread of the virus with other states, including through appropriate border management measures.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Ayaz Syed*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to coordinate its policies aimed at slowing down the spread of COVID-19 with other states, and has implemented the measures agreed to, including border management measures.

On 16 March 2020, President Emmanuel Macron stated that “all trips between non-European countries and European Union countries will be suspended.”<sup>2018</sup> This measure was intended to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.<sup>2019</sup>

On 17 March 2020, the European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen, said that she would request all EU members to implement the measures described by President Macron.<sup>2020</sup> This action was intended to delay the spread of COVID-19.<sup>2021</sup>

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<sup>2013</sup> Government of Canada Expands Restrictions to International Travel by Land and Air, Public Health Canada (Ottawa) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-expands-restrictions-to-international-travel-by-land-and-air.html>.

<sup>2014</sup> Government of Canada Expands Restrictions to International Travel by Land and Air, Public Health Canada (Ottawa) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-expands-restrictions-to-international-travel-by-land-and-air.html>.

<sup>2015</sup> Government of Canada Expands Restrictions to International Travel by Land and Air, Public Health Canada (Ottawa) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-expands-restrictions-to-international-travel-by-land-and-air.html>.

<sup>2016</sup> Government of Canada Expands Restrictions to International Travel by Land and Air, Public Health Canada (Ottawa) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-expands-restrictions-to-international-travel-by-land-and-air.html>.

<sup>2017</sup> Government of Canada Expands Restrictions to International Travel by Land and Air, Public Health Canada (Ottawa) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-expands-restrictions-to-international-travel-by-land-and-air.html>.

<sup>2018</sup> Coronavirus: Europe Plans Full Border Closure in Virus Battle, BBC (London) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-51918596>.

<sup>2019</sup> Press Conference on the Application of Measures Against COVID-19, Government of France (Paris) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/partage/11776-conference-de-presse-sur-l-application-des-mesures-contre-la-covid-19>.

<sup>2020</sup> Coronavirus: Europe Plans Full Border Closure in Virus Battle, BBC (London) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-51918596>.



On 17 March 2020, France imposed a national lockdown, restricting travel to essential business only.<sup>2022</sup> This lockdown lasted until 11 May 2020.<sup>2023</sup> This measure was intended to help with hospital capacity and reduce transmission of COVID-19.<sup>2024</sup>

On 26 March 2020, G20 leaders held an extraordinary summit on COVID-19. In the summit's statement, G20 leaders underlined that "the virus respects no borders" and committed, among other things, to "coordinate closely in support of the global efforts to counter the pandemic's impacts, including through proportionate border management measures in accordance with national regulations and to provide assistance where necessary to repatriate citizens."<sup>2025</sup>

On 16 April 2020, Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian agreed to the joint statement of the Alliance for Multilateralism, which outlined its commitment to support the United Nations, World Health Organization, and other international organizations in their efforts to contain, counter and prevent the spread of COVID-19.<sup>2026</sup> The stated goals of this action included delaying and countering the spread of COVID-19 and minimizing disruptions to cross-border trade.<sup>2027</sup>

On 4 May 2020, France and its international partners launched the Coronavirus Global Response.<sup>2028</sup> This initiative aims to raise funds to "researchers and innovators develop solutions to test, treat, and protect people, and to prevent the further spread of COVID-19."<sup>2029</sup> Other participating countries are Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan, Italy, Spain, Norway, Saudi Arabia, and the EU.

On 15 October 2020, France imposed a second national lockdown that closed down most businesses and public venues.<sup>2030</sup> This measure was intended to slow down the growth rate of COVID-19.<sup>2031</sup>

On 10 December 2020, France announced that a curfew would be imposed from 8 pm to 8 am.<sup>2032</sup> This measure was intended to slow the spread of COVID-19.<sup>2033</sup>

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<sup>2021</sup> Press Conference on the Application of Measures Against COVID-19, Government of France (Paris) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/partage/11776-conference-de-presse-sur-l-application-des-mesures-contre-la-covid-19>.

<sup>2022</sup> 'You Could See It Was Really Serious': France's Lockdown, Six Months On, France 24 (Paris) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200917-you-could-see-it-was-really-serious-france-s-lockdown-six-months-on>.

<sup>2023</sup> 'You Could See It Was Really Serious': France's Lockdown, Six Months On, France 24 (Paris) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200917-you-could-see-it-was-really-serious-france-s-lockdown-six-months-on>.

<sup>2024</sup> Press Conference on the Application of Measures Against COVID-19, Government of France (Paris) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/partage/11776-conference-de-presse-sur-l-application-des-mesures-contre-la-covid-19>.

<sup>2025</sup> Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit: Statement on COVID-19, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-statement-0326.html>

<sup>2026</sup> Joint Statement of the Alliance for Multilateralism, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism.html>.

<sup>2027</sup> Joint Statement of the Alliance for Multilateralism, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism.html>.

<sup>2028</sup> Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>

<sup>2029</sup> Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>

<sup>2030</sup> Press Conference on the Application of Measures Against COVID-19, Government of France (Paris) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/partage/11776-conference-de-presse-sur-l-application-des-mesures-contre-la-covid-19>.

<sup>2031</sup> Press Conference on the Application of Measures Against COVID-19, Government of France (Paris) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/partage/11776-conference-de-presse-sur-l-application-des-mesures-contre-la-covid-19>.

On 3 November 2020, Minister Le Drian participated in 11th call of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19.<sup>2034</sup> The group reiterated their commitment to ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and to learning from each country's strategies on how to manage borders, international travel, testing, and contact tracing.<sup>2035</sup>

On 14 January 2020, France announced that any incoming travellers must present a negative COVID-19 test upon entry into the country.<sup>2036</sup> They must then quarantine for one week.<sup>2037</sup> Following this, another COVID-19 test needs to be taken.<sup>2038</sup> Travel to and from countries outside of the EU is also prohibited.<sup>2039</sup>

On 14 January 2020, France announced that the curfew hours would be changed from 8 p.m. – 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. – 8 a.m.<sup>2040</sup> People who are outside during curfew must have an exception certificate, and any found to be in violation of the curfew will be fined EUR135.<sup>2041</sup>

France's travel limitations, curfew, lockdown, and coordination with the European Commission and other partners demonstrate that it has fully complied with its commitment to coordinate and implement measures to delay the spread of COVID-19, especially with appropriate border measures.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Mark Edwards*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment efforts to delay the spread of the virus, including through appropriate border management measures.

On 16 March 2020, the German government implemented border controls to limit travel between Austria, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, and Switzerland “in an attempt to slow the spread of COVID-19”<sup>2042</sup> as per

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<sup>2032</sup> France Imposes 8 pm Curfew from December 15, Delays Reopening of Theatres, France 24 (Paris) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20201210-france-imposes-8pm-curfew-from-december-15-delays-planned-reopening-of-theatres>.

<sup>2033</sup> Press Conference on the Application of Measures Against COVID-19, Government of France (Paris) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/partage/11776-conference-de-presse-sur-l-application-des-mesures-contre-la-covid-19>.

<sup>2034</sup> Readout: Canada Continues to Lead Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 Responding to Global Challenges, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/11/readout-canada-continues-to-lead-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid-19-responding-to-global-challenges.html>.

<sup>2035</sup> Readout: Canada Continues to Lead Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 Responding to Global Challenges, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/11/readout-canada-continues-to-lead-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid-19-responding-to-global-challenges.html>.

<sup>2036</sup> Speech by the Prime Minister - Measures Against COVID-19 - 14.01.2021, Government of France (Paris) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/partage/12021-discours-du-premier-ministre-mesures-contre-la-covid-19-14012021>.

<sup>2037</sup> Speech by the Prime Minister - Measures Against COVID-19 - 14.01.2021, Government of France (Paris) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/partage/12021-discours-du-premier-ministre-mesures-contre-la-covid-19-14012021>.

<sup>2038</sup> Speech by the Prime Minister - Measures Against COVID-19 - 14.01.2021, Government of France (Paris) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/partage/12021-discours-du-premier-ministre-mesures-contre-la-covid-19-14012021>.

<sup>2039</sup> Coronavirus Advice for Foreign Nationals in France, Government of France (Paris) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/>.

<sup>2040</sup> Coronavirus Information: Leisure, Government of France (Paris) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/info-coronavirus/loisirs>.

<sup>2041</sup> Coronavirus Advice for Foreign Nationals, Government of France (Paris) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/>.

<sup>2042</sup> Coronavirus: Germany Partially Shuts Borders with 5 Countries, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/coronavirus-germany-partially-shuts-borders-with-5-countries/a-52789280>.

the recommendation of the European Commission.<sup>2043</sup> It should be noted that such border controls did not affect commuters and commerce.<sup>2044</sup>

On 19 March 2020, Minister of the Interior Horst Seehofer announced that the ministry will “continue checks at internal borders” with Austria, Denmark, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain, and Switzerland for an additional 20 days in an effort “to break the chains of infection.”<sup>2045</sup> Minister Seehofer informed the European Commission of his decision and noted that he welcomed other recommendations made by the commission to “extend restrictions.”<sup>2046</sup>

Effective 19 March 2020, the government expanded border controls “to include the airside borders” with Austria, Denmark, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain, and Switzerland.<sup>2047</sup> In addition, the controls were applied to sea travel with Denmark.<sup>2048</sup>

On 25 March 2020, the government installed measures prohibiting seasonal and harvest workers from entering Germany “to minimize the danger of infection from cross-border traffic.”<sup>2049</sup>

On 26 March 2020, G20 Leaders held an extraordinary summit on COVID-19. In the summit’s statement, G20 leaders underlined that “the virus respects no borders” and committed, among other things, to “coordinate closely in support of the global efforts to counter the pandemic’s impacts, including through proportionate border management measures in accordance with national regulations and to provide assistance where necessary to repatriate citizens.”<sup>2050</sup>

On 2 April 2020, Minister Seehofer and Minister of Agriculture Julia Klöckner presented a joint plan before the Federal Cabinet, recommending that it provide exemptions for seasonal and harvest workers, should they meet adequate health standards.<sup>2051</sup> This policy aims to tend to the needs of the agriculture sector while reducing the spread of COVID-19.<sup>2052</sup> This motion was adopted and scheduled to last through May.<sup>2053</sup>

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<sup>2043</sup> European Union Will Close External Borders for 30 Days to Slow Coronavirus Pandemic, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/17/coronavirus-european-union-leaders-agree-to-close-borders.html>.

<sup>2044</sup> Coronavirus: Germany Partially Shuts Borders with 5 Countries, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.dw.com/en/coronavirus-germany-partially-shuts-borders-with-5-countries/a-52789280>.

<sup>2045</sup> Corona: Temporary Checks at the Internal Borders to Continue Until 4 May, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2020/04/temporary-checks-at-internal-borders-continue-until-4-may.html>.

<sup>2046</sup> Corona: Temporary Checks at the Internal Borders to Continue Until 4 May, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2020/04/temporary-checks-at-internal-borders-continue-until-4-may.html>.

<sup>2047</sup> Germany Decides to Keep Internal Border Controls in Place Until May 4, Germany Visa (Berlin) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.germany-visa.org/news/germany-decides-to-keep-internal-border-controls-in-place-until-may-4>.

<sup>2048</sup> Germany Decides to Keep Internal Border Controls in Place Until May 4, Germany Visa (Berlin) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.germany-visa.org/news/germany-decides-to-keep-internal-border-controls-in-place-until-may-4>.

<sup>2049</sup> Restrictions on Entry for Seasonal and Harvest Workers, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2020. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2020/03/pm-seasonal-worker.html>.

<sup>2050</sup> Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit: Statement on COVID-19, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-statement-0326.html>

<sup>2051</sup> Klöckner/Seehofer: “Protecting Health and Guaranteeing the Harvest”, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2020/04/erntehelfer.html>.

<sup>2052</sup> Klöckner/Seehofer: “Protecting Health and Guaranteeing the Harvest”, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2020/04/erntehelfer.html>.

<sup>2053</sup> Klöckner/Seehofer: “Protecting Health and Guaranteeing the Harvest”, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2020/04/erntehelfer.html>.

On 6 April 2020, the “Corona Cabinet” implemented a mandatory two-week quarantine for all travellers, with exceptions for those travelling for professional reasons.<sup>2054</sup> This policy aims to limit the spread of COVID-19 through cross-border travel.<sup>2055</sup>

On 16 April 2020, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas agreed to the joint statement of the Alliance for Multilateralism, which outlined its commitment to support the United Nations, World Health Organization, and other international organizations in their efforts to contain, counter and prevent the spread of COVID-19.<sup>2056</sup> The stated goals of this action included delaying and countering the spread of COVID-19 and minimizing disruptions to cross-border trade.<sup>2057</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Germany and its international partners launched the Coronavirus Global Response.<sup>2058</sup> This initiative aims to raise funds to “researchers and innovators develop solutions to test, treat, and protect people, and to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.”<sup>2059</sup> Other participating countries are Canada, France, the United Kingdom, Japan, Italy, Spain, Norway, Saudi Arabia, and the EU.

On 5 May 2020, Minister Seehofer announced that border checks will be extended until 15 May 2020.<sup>2060</sup> This decision was made in line with the policies of Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, and Poland, all of which installed similar measures.<sup>2061</sup>

On 13 May 2020, Minister Seehofer announced that the government will loosen border restrictions given a low-infection rate.<sup>2062</sup> Temporary checks will only be conducted based on the level of risk, and “all cross-border traffic routes will be reopened.”<sup>2063</sup> However, travellers crossing airside borders will still be subject to checks until 15 June 2020.<sup>2064</sup>

On 17 July 2020, the Federal Government tightened its border controls, restricting entry from Montenegro to individuals who have important reasons for travel, as per the request of the Council of the European

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<sup>2054</sup> Cabinet Proposes Further Measures Aimed at Breaking the Chain of Infection, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2020/04/coronakabinett-decision.html>.

<sup>2055</sup> Cabinet Proposes Further Measures Aimed at Breaking the Chain of Infection, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2020/04/coronakabinett-decision.html>.

<sup>2056</sup> Joint Statement of the Alliance for Multilateralism, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism.html>.

<sup>2057</sup> Joint Statement of the Alliance for Multilateralism, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism.html>.

<sup>2058</sup> Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>

<sup>2059</sup> Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>

<sup>2060</sup> Border Checks Extended Until 15 May, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2020/05/border-checks-extended-15-may.html>.

<sup>2061</sup> Border Checks Extended Until 15 May, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2020/05/border-checks-extended-15-may.html>.

<sup>2062</sup> Changes in the Border Regime, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2020/05/changes-in-the-border-regime.html>.

<sup>2063</sup> Changes in the Border Regime, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2020/05/changes-in-the-border-regime.html>.

<sup>2064</sup> Changes in the Border Regime, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2020/05/changes-in-the-border-regime.html>.

Union.<sup>2065</sup> In addition, the government updated its list of third countries from which people can enter, limiting it to those with low-infection rates.<sup>2066</sup> This includes Australia, Canada, Georgia, New Zealand, Thailand, Tunisia, and Uruguay.<sup>2067</sup>

On 15 October 2020, Minister Seehofer extended border restrictions at the German-Austrian land border for another six months to slow down the spread of COVID-19 after consulting with Austrian officials.<sup>2068</sup>

Effective 15 October 2020, the government instituted an online entry application “available for worldwide use” to track travellers’ exposure to COVID-19 and “monitor compliance with the quarantine requirement.”<sup>2069</sup>

On 3 November 2020, Minister Maas participated in 11th call of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19.<sup>2070</sup> The group reiterated their commitment to ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and to learning from each country’s strategies on how to manage borders, international travel, testing, and contact tracing.<sup>2071</sup>

On 6 November 2020, the government announced that all travellers will be required to register their travel plans before entering Germany “from risk areas abroad,” effective 8 November 2020.<sup>2072</sup> This measure intends to detect the level of risk and limit the spread of COVID-19.<sup>2073</sup>

On 12 February 2021, the German government reintroduced temporary checks at Austrian and Czech borders which “have been designated as areas of virus variants of concern.”<sup>2074</sup> These measures came into effect 14 February 2021 and apply to “both commercial and individual travel.”<sup>2075</sup>

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<sup>2065</sup> Revised Entry Restrictions on Entry from Third Countries as of 17 July 2020, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2020/07/anpassung-einreisebschraenkungen-drittstaaten-en.html>.

<sup>2066</sup> Revised Entry Restrictions on Entry from Third Countries as of 17 July 2020, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2020/07/anpassung-einreisebschraenkungen-drittstaaten-en.html>.

<sup>2067</sup> Revised Entry Restrictions on Entry from Third Countries as of 17 July 2020, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2020/07/anpassung-einreisebschraenkungen-drittstaaten-en.html>.

<sup>2068</sup> Another Six Months of Internal Border Controls at the German-Austrian Land Border, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2020/10/binnengrenzkontrollen-deu-aut-en.html>.

<sup>2069</sup> The Online Entry Application Is Ready for Use, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2020/10/digitale-einreiseanmeldung-en.html>.

<sup>2070</sup> Readout: Canada Continues to Lead Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 Responding to Global Challenges, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/11/readout-canada-continues-to-lead-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid-19-responding-to-global-challenges.html>.

<sup>2071</sup> Readout: Canada Continues to Lead Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 Responding to Global Challenges, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/11/readout-canada-continues-to-lead-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid-19-responding-to-global-challenges.html>.

<sup>2072</sup> Digital Procedure for Registration Upon Entry Kicks Off, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 6 November 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2020/11/digitale-einreiseanmeldung-dea-en.html>.

<sup>2073</sup> Digital Procedure for Registration Upon Entry Kicks Off, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 6 November 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2020/11/digitale-einreiseanmeldung-dea-en.html>.

<sup>2074</sup> Checks at the Austrian and Czech Borders to Halt the Spread of Coronavirus Variants, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2021/02/checks-at-the-austrain-and-czech-border.html>.

On 15 February 2021, Minister Seehofer announced that the border checks will “[allow] exceptions for cross-border commuters” who are considered essential workers.<sup>2076</sup>

Germany’s efforts to closely monitor the spread of the virus, adjust border controls as necessary, as well as consult and act in tandem with other countries demonstrate full compliance with its commitment to delay the spread of COVID-19, including through appropriate border management measures.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Yana Sadeghi*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to coordinate its efforts to delay the spread of the virus with other states, including through appropriate border management measures.

On 18 March 2020, Minister of Health Roberto Speranza and Minister of Infrastructure and Transport Paola De Micheli introduced a decree in which all individuals entering Italy by land or air must immediately report their arrival to the Prevention Department of the competent local Health Authority and be required to self-isolate for 14 days.<sup>2077</sup> The goal of this policy was to ensure the health of the public and delay the spread of COVID-19.<sup>2078</sup>

On 25 March 2020, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte enacted Decree-Law of 25 March 2020, No. 19, following the WHO’s analysis of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2079</sup> Minister Speranza announced that all measures will remain in effect until 13 April 2020.<sup>2080</sup> The goal of this action was to delay the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health.<sup>2081</sup>

On 25 March 2020, the Associazione Ricreativa e Culturale Italiana in conjunction with the United Nations Human Rights Council and the UN Refugee Agency launched a website in 14 languages to provide information on the COVID-19 emergency to refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants seeking entry into

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<sup>2075</sup> Checks at the Austrian and Czech Borders to Halt the Spread of Coronavirus Variants, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

<sup>2076</sup> Despite COVID-19 Travel Restrictions, Cross-Border Commuters in System-Critical Occupations Can Still Enter Germany, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2021/02/travel-restrictions-exceptions.html>.

<sup>2077</sup> People Entering Italy Must Self Isolate, Ministry of Health (Rome) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dal ministero&id=4265>.

<sup>2078</sup> People Entering Italy Must Self Isolate, Ministry of Health (Rome) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dal ministero&id=4265>.

<sup>2079</sup> Decree-Law of 25 March 2020, No.19, Laws and Other Regulatory Acts (Rome) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.fao.org/3/ca8384en/ca8384en.pdf>.

<sup>2080</sup> Decree-Law of 25 March 2020, No.19, Laws and Other Regulatory Acts (Rome) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.fao.org/3/ca8384en/ca8384en.pdf>.

<sup>2081</sup> Decree-Law of 25 March 2020, No.19, Laws and Other Regulatory Acts (Rome) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.fao.org/3/ca8384en/ca8384en.pdf>.

Italy.<sup>2082</sup> The goal of this joint action was to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and ensure that asylum seekers can safely enter Italy.<sup>2083</sup>

On 26 March 2020, G20 leaders held an extraordinary summit on COVID-19. In the summit's statement, G20 leaders underlined that "the virus respects no borders" and committed, among other things, to "coordinate closely in support of the global efforts to counter the pandemic's impacts, including through proportionate border management measures in accordance with national regulations and to provide assistance where necessary to repatriate citizens."<sup>2084</sup>

On 26 March 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs Luigi Di Maio stated that Italian citizens repatriated from international flights must go into self-isolation for 14 days.<sup>2085</sup> The goal of this action was to delay the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health.<sup>2086</sup>

On 31 March 2020, Deputy Foreign Minister Emanuela Del Re outlined the prerequisites for repatriation into Italy and reiterated that anyone entering Italy via land or air must place themselves into self-quarantine.<sup>2087</sup> The goal of this action was to delay the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health.<sup>2088</sup>

On 9 April 2020, Minister Di Maio stated that border restrictions into Italy will remain in place and selective reopening will only occur after the government has completed a consultation with its scientific advisory panel.<sup>2089</sup> The goal of this action was to delay the spread of COVID-19 and continue to protect public health.<sup>2090</sup>

On 10 April 2020, Prime Minister Conte outlined restrictions on entering Italy by land or air and communicated the requirement for those eligible to enter the country to notify the Department of Prevention

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<sup>2082</sup> COVID-19 Information Website for Migrants, by UNHCR and the ARCI Association, Ministry of Health (Rome) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4317>.

<sup>2083</sup> COVID-19 Information Website for Migrants, by UNHCR and the ARCI Association, Ministry of Health (Rome) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4317>.

<sup>2084</sup> Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit: Statement on COVID-19, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-statement-0326.html>

<sup>2085</sup> Di Maio: Now an International Alliance to Develop the Vaccine, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/interviste/2020/03/di-maio-ora-un-alleanza-internazionale-per-mettere-a-punto-il-vaccino-corriere-della-sera.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/interviste/2020/03/di-maio-ora-un-alleanza-internazionale-per-mettere-a-punto-il-vaccino-corriere-della-sera.html).

<sup>2086</sup> Di Maio: Now an International Alliance to Develop the Vaccine, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/interviste/2020/03/di-maio-ora-un-alleanza-internazionale-per-mettere-a-punto-il-vaccino-corriere-della-sera.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/interviste/2020/03/di-maio-ora-un-alleanza-internazionale-per-mettere-a-punto-il-vaccino-corriere-della-sera.html).

<sup>2087</sup> Del Re: "For Coronavirus Emergency Already 30 Thousand Italians Repatriated", Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/interviste/2020/03/la-vice-ministra-del-re-a-fanpage-it-per-emergenza-coronavirus-rimpatriati-gia-30mila-italiani.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/interviste/2020/03/la-vice-ministra-del-re-a-fanpage-it-per-emergenza-coronavirus-rimpatriati-gia-30mila-italiani.html).

<sup>2088</sup> Del Re: "For Coronavirus Emergency Already 30 Thousand Italians Repatriated", Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/interviste/2020/03/la-vice-ministra-del-re-a-fanpage-it-per-emergenza-coronavirus-rimpatriati-gia-30mila-italiani.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/interviste/2020/03/la-vice-ministra-del-re-a-fanpage-it-per-emergenza-coronavirus-rimpatriati-gia-30mila-italiani.html).

<sup>2089</sup> Di Maio: "The Pandemic Puts Europe's Collective Future at Risk", Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 09 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/interviste/2020/04/italy-s-di-maio-pandemic-puts-europe-s-collective-future-at-risk-dpa-international.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/interviste/2020/04/italy-s-di-maio-pandemic-puts-europe-s-collective-future-at-risk-dpa-international.html).

<sup>2090</sup> Di Maio: "The Pandemic Puts Europe's Collective Future at Risk", Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 09 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/interviste/2020/04/italy-s-di-maio-pandemic-puts-europe-s-collective-future-at-risk-dpa-international.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/interviste/2020/04/italy-s-di-maio-pandemic-puts-europe-s-collective-future-at-risk-dpa-international.html).

of the local Health Authority and self-isolate.<sup>2091</sup> The goal of this action was to delay the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health.<sup>2092</sup>

On 11 April 2020, Prime Minister Conte announced that lockdown measures would continue to be enforced until 3 May 2020.<sup>2093</sup> The goal of this action was to ensure the delay of the virus and protect public health.<sup>2094</sup>

On 13 April 2020, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport in conjunction with the Ministry of Health put into effect a decree that stated that travellers entering Italy via air, sea, or land transportation must comply with the requirements laid down in the Ordinance of 28 March 2020.<sup>2095</sup> The goal of this action was to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health.<sup>2096</sup>

On 16 April 2020, Deputy Minister Marina Sereni participated by videoconference in the ministerial meeting of the Alliance for Multilateralism, organized by Jean-Yves Le Drian and Heiko Maas, the foreign ministers of France and Germany respectively, in order to discuss the need for a coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen the work of the United Nations and the World Health Organization.<sup>2097</sup> The goal of this action was to reinforce multilateral coordination to delay the spread of the virus and protect public health.<sup>2098</sup>

On 27 April 2020, Prime Minister Conte announced that lockdown measures would ease following 4 May 2020 with the signing of the Decree of 26 April 2020.<sup>2099</sup> The new lockdown measures prohibited travel outside of Italy.<sup>2100</sup> The goal of this action was to safely restart economic activities via a reduction of lockdown restrictions.<sup>2101</sup>

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<sup>2091</sup> Emergency Measures to Contain Infection Throughout the National Territory, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/en/XXX-0420-91/Decreto\\_10%20april\\_En.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/en/XXX-0420-91/Decreto_10%20april_En.pdf).

<sup>2092</sup> Emergency Measures to Contain Infection Throughout the National Territory, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/en/XXX-0420-91/Decreto\\_10%20april\\_En.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/en/XXX-0420-91/Decreto_10%20april_En.pdf).

<sup>2093</sup> Coronavirus Lockdown Extended Until May 3 Says Conte, Ministry of Health (Rome) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4449>.

<sup>2094</sup> Coronavirus Lockdown Extended Until May 3 Says Conte, Ministry of Health (Rome) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4449>.

<sup>2095</sup> Provisions Regarding Entry into Italy and Short-Term Stays, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.fao.org/3/ca8489en/ca8489en.pdf>.

<sup>2096</sup> Provisions Regarding Entry into Italy and Short-Term Stays, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.fao.org/3/ca8489en/ca8489en.pdf>.

<sup>2097</sup> Coronavirus; Sereni, Global Alliance for Drugs and Vaccine, and Coalition for Food to Prevent a Health Crisis from Adding to a Food Crisis, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 09 April 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/04/coronavirus-sereni-alleanza-globale-per-farmacie-vaccino-e-coalition-for-food-per-evitare-che-crisi-sanitaria-si-sommi-a-una-alimentare.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/04/coronavirus-sereni-alleanza-globale-per-farmacie-vaccino-e-coalition-for-food-per-evitare-che-crisi-sanitaria-si-sommi-a-una-alimentare.html).

<sup>2098</sup> Coronavirus; Sereni, Global Alliance for Drugs and Vaccine, and Coalition for Food to Prevent a Health Crisis from Adding to a Food Crisis, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 09 April 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/04/coronavirus-sereni-alleanza-globale-per-farmacie-vaccino-e-coalition-for-food-per-evitare-che-crisi-sanitaria-si-sommi-a-una-alimentare.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/04/coronavirus-sereni-alleanza-globale-per-farmacie-vaccino-e-coalition-for-food-per-evitare-che-crisi-sanitaria-si-sommi-a-una-alimentare.html).

<sup>2099</sup> Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers, Italy Gazette Ufficiale (Rome) 26 April 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/04/27/20A02352/sg>.

<sup>2100</sup> Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers, Italy Gazette Ufficiale (Rome) 26 April 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/04/27/20A02352/sg>.

<sup>2101</sup> Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers, Italy Gazette Ufficiale (Rome) 26 April 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/04/27/20A02352/sg>.



On 4 May 2020, Italy and its international partners launched the Coronavirus Global Response.<sup>2102</sup> This initiative aims to raise funds to “researchers and innovators develop solutions to test, treat, and protect people, and to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.”<sup>2103</sup> Other participating countries are Canada, France, the United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, Spain, Norway, Saudi Arabia, and the EU.

On 16 May 2020, Prime Minister Conte enacted Decree-Law of 16 May 2020, N. 33, which outlined the national framework for re-opening the country.<sup>2104</sup> The decree continued the prohibition of travel to and from foreign countries in order to delay the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health, while easing border restrictions for cross-border workers.<sup>2105</sup>

On 20 May 2020, Undersecretary Ivan Scalfarotto chaired a meeting with EU members to discuss travel between the UK, Italy, and other EU countries without quarantine or self-isolation demands upon arrival, starting 3 June 2020.<sup>2106</sup> The goal of the action was to transition into Italy’s second phase of its COVID-19 response and coordinate multilaterally.<sup>2107</sup>

On 1 July 2020, the Ministry of Health detailed an ordinance signed by Minister Speranza on the recommendation of the European Union Council to open borders for travellers from extra-Schengen countries.<sup>2108</sup> The goal of this action was to reinforce multilateral coordination and ease border restrictions for cross-border workers.<sup>2109</sup>

On 7 July 2020, Minister Speranza suspended flights from Bangladesh after a spike in coronavirus cases in that country.<sup>2110</sup> This action was aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19 and ensuring the protection of public health.<sup>2111</sup>

On 9 July 2020, Minister Speranza called for precautionary measures for arrivals from extra-Schengen and extra-EU areas in a letter sent to the European Health and Food Safety Commissioner Stella Kyriakides and

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<sup>2102</sup> Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>.

<sup>2103</sup> Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>.

<sup>2104</sup> Decree-Law 16 May 2020, N.33, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 16 May 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:decreto.legge:2020-05-16;33!vig=>.

<sup>2105</sup> Decree-Law 16 May 2020, N.33, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 16 May 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:decreto.legge:2020-05-16;33!vig=>.

<sup>2106</sup> Scalfarotto Meeting on Neighbouring Countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rome) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/05/scalfarotto-riunione-sui-paesiconfinanti.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/05/scalfarotto-riunione-sui-paesiconfinanti.html).

<sup>2107</sup> Scalfarotto Meeting on Neighbouring Countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rome) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/05/scalfarotto-riunione-sui-paesiconfinanti.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/05/scalfarotto-riunione-sui-paesiconfinanti.html).

<sup>2108</sup> Italy Opts for Prudence as Extra-Schengen Travel Continues, Ministry of Health (Rome) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4945>.

<sup>2109</sup> Italy Opts for Prudence as Extra-Schengen Travel Continues, Ministry of Health (Rome) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4945>.

<sup>2110</sup> Flights from Bangladesh Suspended After COVID-19 Cases, Ministry of Health (Rome) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4952>.

<sup>2111</sup> Flights from Bangladesh Suspended After COVID-19 Cases, Ministry of Health (Rome) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4952>.

German Health Minister Jens Spahn.<sup>2112</sup> The goal of this action was to delay the spread of COVID-19, ensure greater multilateral coordination, and protect public health.<sup>2113</sup>

On 10 July 2020, Minister Speranza signed an ordinance banning direct and indirect flights to and from the following countries: Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bosnia Herzegovina, Chile, Kuwait, North Macedonia, Moldova, Oman, Panama, Peru, and the Dominican Republic.<sup>2114</sup> Additionally, the ordinance prohibits entry into Italy for travellers who have visited the listed countries within 14 days.<sup>2115</sup> The goal of the action was to slow the spread of COVID-19 and ensure the protection of public health within the Italian borders.<sup>2116</sup>

On 16 July 2020, Minister Speranza issued a ban on air and land travel from Serbia, Montenegro, and Kosovo into Italy.<sup>2117</sup> The goal of this action was to slow the spread of COVID-19 and ensure public health protection.<sup>2118</sup>

On 27 July 2020, Minister Speranza signed an ordinance ordering quarantine for citizens who had previously stayed in Romania and Bulgaria within 14 days.<sup>2119</sup> The goal of the action was to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health.<sup>2120</sup>

On 12 August 2020, the Ministry of Health announced that the signing of Ministerial Decree on 7 August 2020 will extend COVID-19 precautionary measures until 7 September 2020.<sup>2121</sup> The purpose of this action was to counter and contain the spread of the virus and protect public health.<sup>2122</sup>

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<sup>2112</sup> COVID, Speranza Calls for 'Urgent EU Measures on External Arrivals', Ministry of Health (Rome) 9 July 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=4954>.

<sup>2113</sup> COVID, Speranza Calls for 'Urgent EU Measures on External Arrivals', Ministry of Health (Rome) 9 July 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=4954>.

<sup>2114</sup> COVID-19: Italy Banning Arrivals from 13 At-Risk Countries, Ministry of Health (Rome) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=4958>.

<sup>2115</sup> COVID-19: Italy Banning Arrivals from 13 At-Risk Countries, Ministry of Health (Rome) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=4958>.

<sup>2116</sup> COVID-19: Italy Banning Arrivals from 13 At-Risk Countries, Ministry of Health (Rome) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=4958>.

<sup>2117</sup> Travel Ban Extended to Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Ministry of Health (Rome) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=4970>.

<sup>2118</sup> Travel Ban Extended to Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Ministry of Health (Rome) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=4970>.

<sup>2119</sup> COVID-19: Speranza Adds Romania and Bulgaria to Quarantine List, Ministry of Health (Rome) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=4985>.

<sup>2120</sup> COVID-19: Speranza Adds Romania and Bulgaria to Quarantine List, Ministry of Health (Rome) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=4985>.

<sup>2121</sup> COVID-19 Containment Measures Extended Until 7 September 2020, Ministry of Health (Rome) 12 August 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=5016>.

<sup>2122</sup> COVID-19 Containment Measures Extended Until 7 September 2020, Ministry of Health (Rome) 12 August 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministro&id=5016>.

On 13 August 2020, Minister Speranza signed an ordinance requiring travellers entering into Italy after visiting Greece, Croatia, Spain, or Malta to undergo a swab in order to check for possible contagion.<sup>2123</sup> Additionally, the ordinance provided a ban on entry and transit from Colombia.<sup>2124</sup> The goal of this action was to delay the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health.<sup>2125</sup>

On 10 September 2020, Minister Speranza announced that provisions contained in the ordinances from August will remain in force until 7 October 2020.<sup>2126</sup> The goal of this action was to delay the spread of COVID-19 and ensure the protection of public health.<sup>2127</sup>

On 21 September 2020, Minister Speranza signed an ordinance extending the obligation of antigenic testing to citizens arriving from Paris and other areas of France with significant virus circulation.<sup>2128</sup> The goal of this action was to delay the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health.<sup>2129</sup>

On 7 October 2020, the Council of Ministers decided to extend the state of emergency to 31 January 2021 and approved, upon the proposal of Prime Minister Conte and Minister Speranza, a new Decree-Law, which called for the implementation of the EU Directive 2020/739.<sup>2130</sup> The goal of this action was to delay the spread of COVID-19 in line with the EU Directive.<sup>2131</sup>

On 8 October 2020, Minister Speranza signed an ordinance providing for mandatory antigenic testing for individuals from at-risk European countries in the 14 days prior to entry into Italy.<sup>2132</sup> The ordinance provided additional new requirements, including antigenic testing for travellers arriving from an updated list

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<sup>2123</sup> COVID-19: Compulsory Swabs for Travellers Returning from Malta, Croatia, Spain, and Greece, Ministry of Health (Rome) 13 August 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5019>.

<sup>2124</sup> COVID-19: Compulsory Swabs for Travellers Returning from Malta, Croatia, Spain, and Greece, Ministry of Health (Rome) 13 August 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5019>.

<sup>2125</sup> COVID-19: Compulsory Swabs for Travellers Returning from Malta, Croatia, Spain, and Greece, Ministry of Health (Rome) 13 August 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5019>.

<sup>2126</sup> COVID-19 Containment Measures Extended to October 7, Ministry of Health (Rome) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5051>.

<sup>2127</sup> COVID-19 Containment Measures Extended to October 7, Ministry of Health (Rome) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5051>.

<sup>2128</sup> COVID-19: Speranza: "Compulsory Tests for Those Arriving from Paris and Other Areas of France. Continue along the most cautious lines", Ministry of Health (Rome) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5065>.

<sup>2129</sup> COVID-19: Speranza: "Compulsory Tests for Those Arriving from Paris and Other Areas of France. Continue along the most cautious lines", Ministry of Health (Rome) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5065>.

<sup>2130</sup> COVID-19: Council of Ministers Extends State of Emergency. Decree Law with Measures to Fight Contagion Published on the Official Gazette, Ministry of Health (Rome) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5115>.

<sup>2131</sup> COVID-19: Council of Ministers Extends State of Emergency. Decree Law with Measures to Fight Contagion Published on the Official Gazette, Ministry of Health (Rome) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5115>.

<sup>2132</sup> COVID-19: Speranza Signs Ordinance on Urgent Measures to Contain and Manage Health Emergency, Health Ministry (Rome) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5108>.

of at risk-countries.<sup>2133</sup> This action was aimed at delaying the spread of COVID-19 and protecting public health.<sup>2134</sup>

On 3 November 2020, Minister Di Maio participated in 11th call of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19.<sup>2135</sup> The group reiterated their commitment to ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and to learning from each country's strategies on how to manage borders, international travel, testing, and contact tracing.<sup>2136</sup>

On 3 December 2020, the Italian government enacted a decree containing new travel, curfew, and isolation measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2137</sup> The decree prohibits movement between municipalities and requires mandatory quarantine for travellers arriving between 21 December 2020 and 6 January 2021.<sup>2138</sup> The goal of this decree was to delay the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health.<sup>2139</sup>

On 23 December 2020, Minister Speranza signed an ordinance banning flights from the UK to Italy, with measures for increased testing for travellers already having arrived in Italy.<sup>2140</sup> Minister Speranza additionally called for increased coordination in Europe with measures relating to the UK.<sup>2141</sup> The goal of this action was to delay the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health.<sup>2142</sup>

On 7 January 2021, the Council of Ministers approved a Decree-Law introducing urgent provisions on the containment and management of COVID-19.<sup>2143</sup> The goal of this action was to slow the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate public health risks.<sup>2144</sup>

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<sup>2133</sup> COVID-19: Speranza Signs Ordinance on Urgent Measures to Contain and Manage Health Emergency, Health Ministry (Rome) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5108>.

<sup>2134</sup> COVID-19: Speranza Signs Ordinance on Urgent Measures to Contain and Manage Health Emergency, Health Ministry (Rome) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5108>.

<sup>2135</sup> Readout: Canada Continues to Lead Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 Responding to Global Challenges, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/11/readout-canada-continues-to-lead-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid-19-responding-to-global-challenges.html>.

<sup>2136</sup> Readout: Canada Continues to Lead Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 Responding to Global Challenges, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/11/readout-canada-continues-to-lead-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid-19-responding-to-global-challenges.html>.

<sup>2137</sup> COVID-19: The Government's New DCPM to Counter the Spread of the Virus on the National Territory, Ministry of Health (Rome) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5211>.

<sup>2138</sup> COVID-19: The Government's New DCPM to Counter the Spread of the Virus on the National Territory, Ministry of Health (Rome) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5211>.

<sup>2139</sup> COVID-19: The Government's New DCPM to Counter the Spread of the Virus on the National Territory, Ministry of Health (Rome) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5211>.

<sup>2140</sup> COVID-19, Minister Speranza: "Ordinance signed to ban flights from the UK", Ministry of Health (Rome) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5236>.

<sup>2141</sup> COVID-19, Minister Speranza: "Ordinance signed to ban flights from the UK", Ministry of Health (Rome) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5236>.

<sup>2142</sup> COVID-19, Minister Speranza: "Ordinance signed to ban flights from the UK", Ministry of Health (Rome) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5236>.

<sup>2143</sup> COVID-19: New Government Measure on Containment and Management of Epidemiological Emergency, Ministry of Health (Rome) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5252>.

On 18 January 2021, Minister Speranza signed an ordinance to ban flights from Brazil and to restrict entry into Italy for those transiting through Brazil within 14 days due to the new variant of SARS-CoV-2 identified in Brazil.<sup>2145</sup> The goal of this action was to delay the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health.<sup>2146</sup>

On 2 February 2021, Minister Speranza signed an ordinance extending the ban on flights from Brazil and on entry into Italy for those who have transited through Brazil within 14 days.<sup>2147</sup> The ban was set to last until 15 February 2021.<sup>2148</sup> The goal of this action was to delay the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health.<sup>2149</sup>

On 13 February 2021, Minister Speranza signed an ordinance extending the restrictions on the entry of travellers from Brazil, allowing entrance only for those who have registered residence in Italy or have exceptional circumstances.<sup>2150</sup> Arrivals will have to undergo tests before departure and upon arrival, alongside a mandatory 14-day isolation and additional testing.<sup>2151</sup> The ordinance also introduced testing and isolation for travellers coming from Austria.<sup>2152</sup> The goal of this action was to delay the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health.<sup>2153</sup>

Italy's multilateral coordination of international and regional travel restrictions, social distancing, self-isolation, curfew, quarantine efforts, and border management measures demonstrates that it has fully complied with the commitment to coordinate its efforts to delay the spread of the virus with other states, including through appropriate border management measures.

Thus, Italy receives the score of +1.

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<sup>2144</sup> COVID-19: New Government Measure on Containment and Management of Epidemiological Emergency, Ministry of Health (Rome) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5252>.

<sup>2145</sup> Minister Speranza: "I Signed a New Ordinance to Ban Flights from Brazil and Entry into Italy for Those Who Have Transited Through Brazil in the Last 14 Days", Ministry of Health (Rome) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5275>.

<sup>2146</sup> Minister Speranza: "I Signed a New Ordinance to Ban Flights from Brazil and Entry into Italy for Those Who Have Transited Through Brazil in the Last 14 Days", Ministry of Health (Rome) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5275>.

<sup>2147</sup> COVID-19, Speranza Extends Ban on Flights Departing from Brazil and on Entry into Italy for Travellers Who Have Transited in Brazil in the Last 14 Days, Ministry of Health (Rome) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5305>.

<sup>2148</sup> COVID-19, Speranza Extends Ban on Flights Departing from Brazil and on Entry into Italy for Travellers Who Have Transited in Brazil in the Last 14 Days, Ministry of Health (Rome) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5305>.

<sup>2149</sup> COVID-19, Speranza Extends Ban on Flights Departing from Brazil and on Entry into Italy for Travellers Who Have Transited in Brazil in the Last 14 Days, Ministry of Health (Rome) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5305>.

<sup>2150</sup> Coronavirus Variants, Travel Restrictions Extended for Travellers Coming from Brazil. Testing and Isolation for Travellers Coming from Austria, Ministry of Health (Rome) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5330>.

<sup>2151</sup> Coronavirus Variants, Travel Restrictions Extended for Travellers Coming from Brazil. Testing and Isolation for Travellers Coming from Austria, Ministry of Health (Rome) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5330>.

<sup>2152</sup> Coronavirus Variants, Travel Restrictions Extended for Travellers Coming from Brazil. Testing and Isolation for Travellers Coming from Austria, Ministry of Health (Rome) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5330>.

<sup>2153</sup> Coronavirus Variants, Travel Restrictions Extended for Travellers Coming from Brazil. Testing and Isolation for Travellers Coming from Austria, Ministry of Health (Rome) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=5330>.

## Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to coordinate its efforts to delay the spread of the virus with other states, including through appropriate border management measures.

On 16 March 2020, the Japanese government announced additional entry restrictions to all citizens arriving from three areas in Spain, including Madrid, four areas in Italy, including the northern region of Liguria, Switzerland's Ticino region, and all of Iceland.<sup>2154</sup>

On 18 March 2020, Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and Canada's Foreign Minister François-Philippe Champagne had a telephone call on COVID-19 situation. The ministers discussed measures implemented by Japan and Canada with regards to the virus and agreed, among other things, that "border measures conducted over an appropriate period are necessary to control the outbreak, and that in implementing border measures, coordination and information sharing among relevant countries is important."<sup>2155</sup>

On 19 March 2020, Minister Motegi and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell had a telephone call to discuss COVID-19 situation. The Minister and the High Representative discussed, among other things, that "Temporary and appropriate border measures are conceivable for preventing the spread of the disease and it is important to share information with the relevant countries when taking such measures."<sup>2156</sup>

On 20 March 2020, Minister Motegi had a telephone call with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on COVID-19 situation. The Minister and the Secretary acknowledged that "border measures conducted over an appropriate period are necessary to control the outbreak, and that in implementing border measures, coordination and information sharing between both Japan and the U.S. as well as other relevant countries is important."<sup>2157</sup>

On 24 March 2020, the International Olympic Committee and Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games announced that the 2020 Summer Olympics would be postponed to next year.<sup>2158</sup>

On 26 March 2020, G20 leaders held an extraordinary summit on COVID-19. In the summit's statement, G20 leaders underlined that "the virus respects no borders" and committed, among other things, to "coordinate closely in support of the global efforts to counter the pandemic's impacts, including through proportionate border management measures in accordance with national regulations and to provide assistance where necessary to repatriate citizens."<sup>2159</sup>

On 26 March 2020, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held the meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters. It was decided, among other things, that "in light of the global spread of the novel coronavirus disease" Japan would "further strengthen border controls" by implementing entry bans for 21 European countries and Iran as well as "ensure PCR [polymerase chain reaction] screenings to be conducted, at the

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<sup>2154</sup> Japan to Expand Entry Ban to More European Regions, NHK-World Japan (Tokyo) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://web.archive.org/web/20200329034731/https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20200317\\_12/](https://web.archive.org/web/20200329034731/https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20200317_12/).

<sup>2155</sup> Japan-Canada Foreign Ministers' Telephone Talk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002790.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002790.html)

<sup>2156</sup> Telephone Talk between Foreign Minister Mr. MOTEGI Toshimitsu and European Union High Representative/ European Commission Vice-President Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000146.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000146.html).

<sup>2157</sup> Japan-U.S. Foreign Minister's Telephone Talk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002785.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002785.html)

<sup>2158</sup> Joint Statement from the International Olympic Committee and the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee, The International Olympic Committee (Lausanne) 24 March 2020. Access Date: 4 December 2021. <https://www.olympic.org/news/joint-statement-from-the-international-olympic-committee-and-the-tokyo-2020-organising-committee>.

<sup>2159</sup> Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit: Statement on COVID-19, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-statement-0326.html>.

airport, for all Japanese nationals returning to Japan from these areas.”<sup>2160</sup> It was also decided that it was “necessary to further strengthen the quarantine measures vis-à-vis Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.”<sup>2161</sup>

On 28 March 2020, Prime Minister Abe held the meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters. It was decided that one of the key objectives of the COVID response policy would be “controlling the speed at which the outbreak spreads, by containing clusters and other transmissions and reducing opportunities for people-to-people contact through communication and information-sharing, as well as measures to prevent the infections from spreading.”<sup>2162</sup>

On 1 April 2020, Prime Minister Abe held the meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters. It was announced that additional border control measures would be implemented “in light of the explosive spread of infections seen in countries overseas, primarily in Europe and the United States.”<sup>2163</sup> Effective 3 April 2020, an entry ban would be in place for citizens of 73 countries.<sup>2164</sup>

On 7 April 2020, Prime Minister Abe declared a state of emergency from 8 April 2020 to 6 May 2020 for Tokyo and the prefectures of Kanagawa, Saitama, Chiba, Osaka, Hyogo, and Fukuoka.<sup>2165</sup> However, Prime Minister Abe stated that there will be no lockdown and that public transportation and other services needed to keep the economy going will continue functioning.<sup>2166</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Japan and its international partners launched the Coronavirus Global Response.<sup>2167</sup> This initiative aims to raise funds to “researchers and innovators develop solutions to test, treat, and protect people, and to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.”<sup>2168</sup> Other participating countries are Canada, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, Spain, Norway, Saudi Arabia, and the EU.

On 14 May 2020, the Japanese government and the Prime Minister Abe decided to suspend the state of emergency in 39 prefectures, except for four prefectures in Kanto, three prefectures in Kinki, and Hokkaido.<sup>2169</sup>

On 25 May 2020, Prime Minister Abe announced that the government would further strengthen Japan’s border control by adding 11 countries, including India, to countries banned from entry into Japan.<sup>2170</sup> The

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<sup>2160</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/202003/\\_00041.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202003/_00041.html).

<sup>2161</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/202003/\\_00041.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202003/_00041.html).

<sup>2162</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/202004/\\_00001.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202004/_00001.html).

<sup>2163</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/202003/\\_00041.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202003/_00041.html).

<sup>2164</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/202003/\\_00041.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202003/_00041.html).

<sup>2165</sup> Abe Declares State of Emergency for 7 Prefectures, NHK-World Japan (Tokyo) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://web.archive.org/web/20200407111617/https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20200407\\_43/](https://web.archive.org/web/20200407111617/https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20200407_43/).

<sup>2166</sup> Abe Declares State of Emergency for 7 Prefectures, NHK-World Japan (Tokyo) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://web.archive.org/web/20200407111617/https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20200407\\_43/](https://web.archive.org/web/20200407111617/https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20200407_43/).

<sup>2167</sup> Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>.

<sup>2168</sup> Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>.

<sup>2169</sup> Japan Lifts Coronavirus Emergency Outside Tokyo, Osaka Regions, Kyodo News (Tokyo) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2020/05/8128172584ce-japan-may-lift-coronavirus-emergency-in-kyoto-38-other-prefectures.html>.

government also announced that existing border control measures would be extended until the end of June.<sup>2171</sup>

On 13 June 2020, the Japanese government continued to lift restrictions, including ones on Tokyo's nightlife.<sup>2172</sup> Venues that have been closed since early April began to open again, while workers at nightlife facilities were requested to keep a record of the customers' names and contact information as well as to follow social distancing rules.<sup>2173</sup>

On 18 June 2020, Prime Minister Abe announced that while the government would continue to work to "ensure thorough border controls so as to exert every possible effort to prevent the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) from spreading from overseas," it was "necessary to resume international movement of people partially and gradually."<sup>2174</sup> To this end, the government started consultations with Vietnam, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand "to allow some movement of people on an exceptional basis, while maintaining the existing border control measures."<sup>2175</sup>

On 11 July 2020, the Japanese government was planning to assess who was eligible to stay in Japan, including international students re-entering the country.<sup>2176</sup> The government announced that international students or functional trainees can re-enter the country if they receive a PCR test for COVID-19.<sup>2177</sup>

On 22 July 2020, Japan had reached its highest number of cases in one day, 795 new cases across Japan.<sup>2178</sup> The Japanese government introduced the "Go to Travel" project to promote tourism in Japan while there were growing cases of COVID-19.<sup>2179</sup> The project aimed to subsidize 50 per cent of domestic travel costs but excluded trips to or from Tokyo.<sup>2180</sup>

On 22 July 2020, Prime Minister Abe held the meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters. It was announced that, considering the growing cases globally and South American countries specifically, the government would "exert every possible effort to prevent infections from spreading from overseas, including extending the duration of existing border controls to the end of August, and making additions to the areas from which we will deny entry."<sup>2181</sup>

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<sup>2170</sup> 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 25 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/202005/\\_00021.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202005/_00021.html)

<sup>2171</sup> 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 25 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/202005/\\_00021.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202005/_00021.html)

<sup>2172</sup> Tokyo to Reopen Almost All Businesses, NHK-World Japan (Tokyo) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/backstories/1143/>.

<sup>2173</sup> Tokyo to Reopen Almost All Businesses, NHK-World Japan (Tokyo) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/backstories/1143/>.

<sup>2174</sup> 38<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 18 June 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/202006/\\_00019.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202006/_00019.html)

<sup>2175</sup> 38<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 18 June 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/202006/\\_00019.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202006/_00019.html)

<sup>2176</sup> Japan Allows Re-Entry of Returning International Students Prior to Arrival, International (Seoul) 12 July 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <http://www.segye.com/newsView/20200711510991>.

<sup>2177</sup> Japan Allows Re-Entry of Returning International Students Prior to Arrival, International (Seoul) 12 July 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <http://www.segye.com/newsView/20200711510991>.

<sup>2178</sup> Japan's First Day of 'Go to Travel', a Record Number of New Confirmed Cases of 795, Nate (Seoul) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://news.nate.com/view/20200723n00077>.

<sup>2179</sup> Japan's First Day of 'Go to Travel', a Record Number of New Confirmed Cases of 795, Nate (Seoul) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://news.nate.com/view/20200723n00077>.

<sup>2180</sup> Japan's First Day of 'Go to Travel', a Record Number of New Confirmed Cases of 795, Nate (Seoul) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://news.nate.com/view/20200723n00077>.

<sup>2181</sup> 41<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/202007/\\_00022.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202007/_00022.html).



On 24 November 2020, the Japanese government excluded Sapporo and the Osaka region from the “Go to Travel” project and strongly recommended for restaurants to shorten business hours for three weeks.<sup>2182</sup>

On 1 December 2020, the Liberal Democratic Party proposed extending the “Go to Travel” project through the end of the Golden Week holidays in early May.<sup>2183</sup>

On 13 January 2021, the Japanese government announced a state of emergency to 11 cities including Tochigi, Gifu, Aichi, Kyoto, Osaka, Hyogo, and Fukuoka.<sup>2184</sup>

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to delay the spread of the virus, including through appropriate border management measures. Japan assessed the global situation and took the necessary steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 while coordinating measures with other states.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Madison Skoblo*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to coordinate its efforts to delay the spread of the virus with other states, including through appropriate border management measures.

On 17 March 2020, the British government introduced an emergency bill which allowed “Border Force to temporarily suspend operations at airports or transport hubs” if they lack the resources for proper screenings.<sup>2185</sup> These measures were intended to reduce the cross-border spread of COVID-19.<sup>2186</sup>

On 26 March 2020, G20 leaders held an extraordinary summit on COVID-19. In the summit’s statement, G20 leaders underlined that “the virus respects no borders” and committed, among other things, to “coordinate closely in support of the global efforts to counter the pandemic’s impacts, including through proportionate border management measures in accordance with national regulations and to provide assistance where necessary to repatriate citizens.”<sup>2187</sup>

On 4 May 2020, the UK and its international partners launched the Coronavirus Global Response.<sup>2188</sup> This initiative aims to raise funds to “researchers and innovators develop solutions to test, treat, and protect

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<sup>2182</sup> Tokyo Again Asks Restaurants to Shorten Business Hours Amid Virus, Kyodo News (Tokyo) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 4 December 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2020/11/9ca3f218af70-urgent-tokyo-to-ask-restaurants-serving-alcohol-to-shorten-opening-hours.html>.

<sup>2183</sup> Japan’s LDP: Extend Travel Promotion Campaign Through End of Golden Week Holidays, The Japan News (Tokyo) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://the-japan-news.com/news/article/0006967161>.

<sup>2184</sup>A State of Emergency Has Been Issued to Prevent the Spread of the New Coronavirus Infection, Cabinet Secretariat (Tokyo) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://corona.go.jp/emergency/>.

<sup>2185</sup> Emergency Bill to Strengthen Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Plans, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/emergency-bill-to-strengthen-coronavirus-covid-19-response-plans>.

<sup>2186</sup> Emergency Bill to Strengthen Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Plans, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/emergency-bill-to-strengthen-coronavirus-covid-19-response-plans>.

<sup>2187</sup> Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit: Statement on COVID-19, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-statement-0326.html>

<sup>2188</sup> Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>.

people, and to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.”<sup>2189</sup> Other participating countries are Canada, France, Japan, Italy, Germany, Spain, Norway, Saudi Arabia, and the EU.

On 22 May 2020, Border Force Chief Paul Lincoln spoke at a press conference, explaining the border restrictions to be implemented in the UK effective the month of June.<sup>2190</sup> Travellers were required “to fill out an online locator contact form” and to complete a mandatory two-week quarantine.<sup>2191</sup> In addition, Border Force was to conduct random checks to enforce this policy.<sup>2192</sup>

On 6 July 2020, the UK government established travel corridors “through which passengers arriving in England from certain countries and territories [were to] be exempted from the requirement to self-isolate,” if they came from locations with a low risk of contracting COVID-19.<sup>2193</sup> This decision came after consultations between Public Health England and the Joint Biosecurity Centre.<sup>2194</sup>

On 9 September 2020, the British government announced that it will “take steps to improve compliance with border requirements” by simplifying the documentation process and “targeting enforcement efforts at the border.”<sup>2195</sup>

On 7 October 2020, the government launched the Global Travel Taskforce to coordinate public health measures with the travel industry.<sup>2196</sup> Transport Secretary Grant Shapps remarked that the “taskforce will not only help [the United Kingdom] move towards safer, smoother international travel as we continue to battle this virus but will also support global connectivity – helping facilitate more COVID secure travel whilst protecting the population from imported cases.”<sup>2197</sup>

On 3 November 2020, the UK Foreign Secretary participated in 11th call of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19.<sup>2198</sup> The group reiterated their commitment to ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and to learning from each country’s strategies on how to manage borders, international travel, testing, and contact tracing.<sup>2199</sup>

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<sup>2189</sup> Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>.

<sup>2190</sup> Coronavirus: Quarantine Plans for UK Arrivals Unveiled, BBC (London) 23 May 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52774854>.

<sup>2191</sup> Coronavirus: Quarantine Plans for UK Arrivals Unveiled, BBC (London) 23 May 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52774854>.

<sup>2192</sup> Coronavirus: Quarantine plans for UK arrivals unveiled, BBC (London) 23 May 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52774854>.

<sup>2193</sup> Travel Corridors, Department for Travel (London) 6 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/travel-corridors>.

<sup>2194</sup> Travel Corridors, Department for Travel (London) 6 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/travel-corridors>.

<sup>2195</sup> Coronavirus (COVID-19): What Has Changed – 9 September, Cabinet Office (London) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-what-has-changed-9-september>.

<sup>2196</sup> Taskforce for Safe Return to Global Travel Launched, Department for Transport (London) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/taskforce-for-safe-return-to-global-travel-launched>.

<sup>2197</sup> Taskforce for Safe Return to Global Travel Launched, Department for Transport (London) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/taskforce-for-safe-return-to-global-travel-launched>.

<sup>2198</sup> Readout: Canada Continues to Lead Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 Responding to Global Challenges, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/11/readout-canada-continues-to-lead-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid-19-responding-to-global-challenges.html>.

<sup>2199</sup> Readout: Canada Continues to Lead Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 Responding to Global Challenges, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/11/readout-canada-continues-to-lead-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid-19-responding-to-global-challenges.html>.

On 16 January 2021, the government implemented new measures requiring all international travellers “to present a negative COVID-19 test taken up to 72 hours prior to departure” in order to prevent new strands from spreading to local communities.<sup>2200</sup>

On 27 January 2021, the government introduced new travel restrictions to “reduce the risk of a new variant of the virus.”<sup>2201</sup> These measures included increased police checks to enforce isolation guidelines and mandatory documentation stating the reason for travel.<sup>2202</sup> Furthermore, travel exemptions were to be reviewed to ensure that only those in the most exceptional of circumstances travel.<sup>2203</sup>

On 15 February 2021, the British government implemented new measures which required travellers coming from high-risk destinations, as identified on the UK’s “red list,” to quarantine in a government-supervised facility.<sup>2204</sup>

While not without a considerable delay, the United Kingdom has implemented border control measures to delay the spread of the virus. The UK has also coordinated its response through the G20 and ministerial level coordination groups.

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

*Analyst: Yana Sadeghi*

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

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to coordinate its policies aimed at slowing down the spread of COVID-19 with other states, and has implemented the measures agreed to, including ones pertaining to border management.

On 16 March 2020, the White House presented the President’s Coronavirus Guidelines for America urging Americans to “stop unnecessary travel and avoid bars, restaurants and groups of more than 10 people.”<sup>2205</sup>

On 20 March 2020, the United States and Canada agreed to temporarily restrict all non-essential travel across the Canada-US border.<sup>2206</sup> The governments of also encouraged people of the two countries “to exercise caution by avoiding unnecessary contact with others.”<sup>2207</sup>

On 20 March 2020, the United States and Mexico agreed to temporarily restrict all non-essential travel across the Mexico-US border.<sup>2208</sup>

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<sup>2200</sup> Mandatory COVID-19 Testing Introduced to Bolster Border Measures, Department for Transport (London) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mandatory-covid-19-testing-introduced-to-bolster-border-measures>.

<sup>2201</sup> Tougher Border Controls to Protect Public Health, Home Office (London) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tougher-border-controls-to-protect-public-health>.

<sup>2202</sup> Tougher Border Controls to Protect Public Health, Home Office (London) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tougher-border-controls-to-protect-public-health>.

<sup>2203</sup> Tougher Border Controls to Protect Public Health, Home Office (London) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tougher-border-controls-to-protect-public-health>.

<sup>2204</sup> Robust Border Regime Comes into Force, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/robust-border-regime-comes-into-force>.

<sup>2205</sup> Trump Urges Limits Amid Pandemic, but Stops Short of National Mandates, The New York Times (New York City) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/16/us/politics/trump-coronavirus-guidelines.html>.

<sup>2206</sup> Joint Statement on US-Canada Joint Initiative: Temporary Restriction of Travelers Crossing the US-Canada Land Border for Non-Essential, Department of Homeland Security (Washington DC) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2020/03/20/joint-statement-us-canada-joint-initiative-temporary-restriction-travelers-crossing>.

<sup>2207</sup> Joint Statement on US-Canada Joint Initiative: Temporary Restriction of Travelers Crossing the US-Canada Land Border for Non-Essential, Department of Homeland Security (Washington DC) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2020/03/20/joint-statement-us-canada-joint-initiative-temporary-restriction-travelers-crossing>.

On 20 March 2020, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Toshimitsu Motegi had a telephone call with the Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on COVID-19 situation. The Minister and the Secretary acknowledged that “border measures conducted over an appropriate period are necessary to control the outbreak, and that in implementing border measures, coordination and information sharing between both Japan and the U.S. as well as other relevant countries is important.”<sup>2209</sup>

On 26 March 2020, G20 leaders held an extraordinary summit on COVID-19. In the summit’s statement, G20 leaders underlined that “the virus respects no borders” and committed, among other things, to “coordinate closely in support of the global efforts to counter the pandemic’s impacts, including through proportionate border management measures in accordance with national regulations and to provide assistance where necessary to repatriate citizens.”<sup>2210</sup>

On 27 May 2020, upon recommendation from the Department of Homeland Security, President Donald Trump expanded the list of countries for COVID travel restrictions by adding Brazil.<sup>2211</sup> This action was taken to “protect the public from further spread of the virus.”<sup>2212</sup>

On 20 January 2021, the U.S. government announced that, per Executive Order 13991 entitled “Protecting the Federal Workforce and Requiring Mask-Wearing,” all on-duty federal employees and contractors will have to wear masks and socially distance when on federal property.<sup>2213</sup> The stated goal of this action was to protect public health.<sup>2214</sup>

On 21 January 2021, the U.S. government, in Executive Order 13988 entitled “Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel,” stated that all travellers entering the US will have to quarantine per the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).<sup>2215</sup> This action is aimed at reducing the spread of COVID-19 and keeping people safe from harm.<sup>2216</sup>

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<sup>2208</sup> Joint Statement on US-Mexico Joint Initiative to Combat the COVID-19 Pandemic, Department of Homeland Security (Washington DC) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2020/03/20/joint-statement-us-mexico-joint-initiative-combat-covid-19-pandemic>.

<sup>2209</sup> Japan-U.S. Foreign Minister’s Telephone Talk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002785.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002785.html)

<sup>2210</sup> Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit: Statement on COVID-19, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-statement-0326.html>

<sup>2211</sup> Department of Homeland Security Adds Brazil to List of Countries for COVID-19 Travel Restrictions, Department of Homeland Security (Washington DC) 27 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2020/05/27/department-homeland-security-adds-brazil-list-countries-covid-19-travel-restrictions>.

<sup>2212</sup> Department of Homeland Security Adds Brazil to List of Countries for COVID-19 Travel Restrictions, Department of Homeland Security (Washington DC) 27 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2020/05/27/department-homeland-security-adds-brazil-list-countries-covid-19-travel-restrictions>.

<sup>2213</sup> Executive Order: Protecting the Federal Workforce and Requiring Mask Wearing, White House (Washington D.C.) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-protecting-the-federal-workforce-and-requiring-mask-wearing/>.

<sup>2214</sup> Executive Order: Protecting the Federal Workforce and Requiring Mask Wearing, White House (Washington D.C.) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-protecting-the-federal-workforce-and-requiring-mask-wearing/>.

<sup>2215</sup> Executive Order: Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel, White House (Washington D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/21/executive-order-promoting-covid-19-safety-in-domestic-and-international-travel/>.

<sup>2216</sup> Executive Order: Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel, White House (Washington D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/21/executive-order-promoting-covid-19-safety-in-domestic-and-international-travel/>.

On 21 January 2021, the United States announced that it would “commit to multilateralism in the international COVID-19 public health and humanitarian response.”<sup>2217</sup> The stated goal of this action is to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and keep people safe.<sup>2218</sup>

On 25 January 2021, the U.S. government announced in a press release that “all air passengers two years of age or older arriving to the US must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test or proof of recovery from COVID-19 before boarding. This order applies to both foreign nationals and US citizens.”<sup>2219</sup> The stated goal of this action is to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and preserve life.<sup>2220</sup>

On 25 January 2021, the U.S. government announced in Proclamation 10143 that any non-U.S. citizen who had been in the United Kingdom, European Union Schengen Area, Brazil, South Africa, or Ireland anytime in the 14 days prior to entering the United States would be barred, with limited exceptions.<sup>2221</sup> The stated goal of this action is to prevent the spread of the more transmissible COVID-19 strains.<sup>2222</sup>

On 29 January 2021, the CDC announced that all travellers would have to wear a mask when entering or travelling within the United States.<sup>2223</sup> This requirement also applies to transportation hubs, such as airports, bus terminals, seaports, as well as subway and train stations.<sup>2224</sup> The stated goal of this action is to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect passengers.<sup>2225</sup>

The United States has fully complied to this commitment to coordinate and implement measures to delay the spread of COVID-19 through its international travel restrictions, border management measures, mask requirement on public transit, and commitment to work with the international bodies.

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

*Analyst: Mark Edwards*

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<sup>2217</sup> National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness, White House (Washington D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/National-Strategy-for-the-COVID-19-Response-and-Pandemic-Preparedness.pdf>.

<sup>2218</sup> National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness, White House (Washington D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/National-Strategy-for-the-COVID-19-Response-and-Pandemic-Preparedness.pdf>.

<sup>2219</sup> Negative COVID-19 Test Required for Travel for Travel to the United States Beginning January 26, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.state.gov/negative-covid-19-test-required-for-travel-to-the-united-states-beginning-january-26/>.

<sup>2220</sup> Negative COVID-19 Test Required for Travel for Travel to the United States Beginning January 26, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.state.gov/negative-covid-19-test-required-for-travel-to-the-united-states-beginning-january-26/>.

<sup>2221</sup> Proclamation on the Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Non-Immigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting Coronavirus Disease, White House (Washington D.C.) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/25/proclamation-on-the-suspension-of-entry-as-immigrants-and-non-immigrants-of-certain-additional-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of-transmitting-coronavirus-disease/>.

<sup>2222</sup> Proclamation on the Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Non-Immigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting Coronavirus Disease, White House (Washington D.C.) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/25/proclamation-on-the-suspension-of-entry-as-immigrants-and-non-immigrants-of-certain-additional-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of-transmitting-coronavirus-disease/>.

<sup>2223</sup> Requirement for Persons to Wear Masks While on Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs, CDC (Atlanta GA) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/pdf/Mask-Order-CDC\\_GMTF\\_01-29-21-p.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/pdf/Mask-Order-CDC_GMTF_01-29-21-p.pdf).

<sup>2224</sup> Requirement for Persons to Wear Masks While on Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs, CDC (Atlanta GA) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/pdf/Mask-Order-CDC\\_GMTF\\_01-29-21-p.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/pdf/Mask-Order-CDC_GMTF_01-29-21-p.pdf).

<sup>2225</sup> Requirement for Persons to Wear Masks While on Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs, CDC (Atlanta GA) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/pdf/Mask-Order-CDC\\_GMTF\\_01-29-21-p.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/pdf/Mask-Order-CDC_GMTF_01-29-21-p.pdf).

## European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to coordinate its efforts to delay the spread of the virus with other states, including through appropriate border management measures.

On 16 March 2020, the EU offered EUR80 million of financial support to an innovative vaccine company, CureVac, to ramp up the development and production of a potential vaccine.<sup>2226</sup> In addition, the EU Commission presented guidelines to the member states on border management measures.<sup>2227</sup>

On 19 March 2020, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Toshiimitsu Motegi and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell had a telephone call to discuss COVID-19 situation. The Minister and the High Representative discussed, among other things, that “Temporary and appropriate border measures are conceivable for preventing the spread of the disease and it is important to share information with the relevant countries when taking such measures.”<sup>2228</sup>

On 19 March 2020, the EU Commission adopted a Temporary Framework to allow the member states to use the full flexibility foreseen under the rules of state aid to support their economies.<sup>2229</sup> Additionally, the EU Commission also introduced the first RescEU stockpile of medical equipment, such as ventilators and protective masks, to help the member states.<sup>2230</sup>

On 20 March 2020, the European Committee for Standardization and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization made available a number of European standards for medical devices and personal protective equipment.<sup>2231</sup> The goal was to provide support to companies to start production more easily.<sup>2232</sup> In addition, the Commission proposed the activation of the general escape clause of the Stability and Growth Pact, which would allow the member states to undertake measures to deal adequately with the crisis, while departing from the budgetary requirements.<sup>2233</sup>

On 26 March 2020, G20 leaders held an extraordinary summit on COVID-19. In the summit’s statement, G20 leaders underlined that “the virus respects no borders” and committed, among other things, to “coordinate closely in support of the global efforts to counter the pandemic’s impacts, including through proportionate border management measures in accordance with national regulations and to provide assistance where necessary to repatriate citizens.”<sup>2234</sup>

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<sup>2226</sup> Coronavirus: Commission Offers Financing to Innovative Vaccines Company CureVac, European Commission (Brussels) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_474](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_474).

<sup>2227</sup> COVID-19: Commission Presents Guidelines for Border Measures to Protect Health and Keep Goods and Essential Services Available, European Commission (Brussels) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_468](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_468).

<sup>2228</sup> Telephone Talk between Foreign Minister Mr. MOTEGI Toshiimitsu and European Union High Representative/ European Commission Vice-President Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000146.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000146.html).

<sup>2229</sup> Temporary Framework for State Aid Measures to Support the Economy in the Current COVID-19 Outbreak, European Commission (Brussels) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state\\_aid/what\\_is\\_new/sa\\_covid19\\_temporary-framework.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/what_is_new/sa_covid19_temporary-framework.pdf).

<sup>2230</sup> COVID-19: Commission Creates First Ever RescEU Stockpile of Medical Equipment, European Commission (Brussels) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_476](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_476).

<sup>2231</sup> Coronavirus: European Standards for Medical Supplies Made Freely Available to Facilitate Increase of Production, European Commission (Brussels) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_502](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_502).

<sup>2232</sup> Coronavirus: European Standards for Medical Supplies Made Freely Available to Facilitate Increase of Production, European Commission (Brussels) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_502](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_502).

<sup>2233</sup> Coronavirus: Commission Proposes to Activate Fiscal Framework’s General Escape Clause to Respond to Pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_499](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_499).

<sup>2234</sup> Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit: Statement on COVID-19, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-statement-0326.html>

On 30 March 2020, the EU enabled free movement of critical workers by issuing new practical advice to ensure that mobile workers within the EU could reach their workplace, which addressed the practical concerns of companies.<sup>2235</sup> In addition, the Commission allocated EUR140 million for the most pressing needs in Eastern Europe and allocated EUR38 million in immediate support for the Western Balkans.<sup>2236</sup>

On 14 April 2020, High Representative Borrell and Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs François-Philippe Champagne issued a joint statement with regards to international cooperation in addressing COVID-19.<sup>2237</sup> The goals of this statement included protecting the flow of vital supplies across borders to delay the spread of COVID-19 and protecting public health.<sup>2238</sup>

On 4 May 2020, the EU and its international partners launched the Coronavirus Global Response.<sup>2239</sup> This initiative aims to raise funds to “researchers and innovators develop solutions to test, treat, and protect people, and to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.”<sup>2240</sup> Other participating countries are Canada, France, Japan, Italy, Germany, Spain, Norway, Saudi Arabia, and the UK.

On 8 May 2020, the European Commission recommended member states to extend the restriction on non-essential travel to the EU until 15 June 2020.<sup>2241</sup> As underlined in the European Roadmap, the lifting of travel restrictions should be done in phases.<sup>2242</sup> The Commission also delivered 1.5 million masks to support healthcare workers.<sup>2243</sup> In addition, the EU set up a Humanitarian Air Bridge to transport humanitarian workers and supplies to some of the most critical areas around the world.<sup>2244</sup>

On 11 June 2020, the European Commission recommended gradual lifting of the travel restriction after 30 June 2020.<sup>2245</sup> Additionally, the European Investment Bank promised to provide BioNTech with EUR100 million for COVID-19 vaccine development.<sup>2246</sup>

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<sup>2235</sup>Coronavirus: Commission Presents Practical Guidance to Ensure the Free Movement of Critical Workers, European Commission (Brussels) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_545](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_545).

<sup>2236</sup> Coronavirus: The European Union Stands By Its Eastern Partners, European Commission (Brussels) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_562](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_562).

<sup>2237</sup> Joint Statement by Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs and the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Regarding International Collaboration in Addressing COVID-19, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-by-canadas-minister-of-foreign-affairs-and-the-european-unions-high-representative-for-foreign-affairs-and-security-policy-regardin.html>.

<sup>2238</sup> Joint Statement by Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs and the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Regarding International Collaboration in Addressing COVID-19, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-by-canadas-minister-of-foreign-affairs-and-the-european-unions-high-representative-for-foreign-affairs-and-security-policy-regardin.html>.

<sup>2239</sup> Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>.

<sup>2240</sup> Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>

<sup>2241</sup> Coronavirus: Commission Invites Member States to Extend Restriction on Non-Essential Travel to the EU Until 15 June, European Commission (Brussels) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_823](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_823).

<sup>2242</sup> Coronavirus: Commission Invites Member States to Extend Restriction on Non-Essential Travel to the EU Until 15 June, European Commission (Brussels) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_823](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_823).

<sup>2243</sup> Coronavirus: Commission delivers first batch of 1.5 million masks from 10 million purchased to support EU healthcare workers, EU Commission (Brussels) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_819](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_819).

<sup>2244</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: EU sets up a Humanitarian Air Bridge, EU Commission (Brussels) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_813](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_813).

<sup>2245</sup> Coronavirus: Commission Recommends Partial and Gradual Lifting of Travel Restrictions to the EU After 30 June, Based on Common Coordinated Approach, European Commission (Brussels) 11 June 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1035](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1035).

On 31 July 2020, the European Commission announced that the future coronavirus vaccine is secured for Europeans and purchased 300 million doses.<sup>2247</sup>

On 27 July 2020, the European Commission signed its first contract with AstraZeneca, which had been the first contract the European Commission had negotiated with a pharmaceutical company.<sup>2248</sup> In the contract, all member states would be allowed to purchase the vaccine.<sup>2249</sup>

On 28 October 2020, the European Commission introduced additional measures to help limit the spread of COVID-19 by improving understanding of the virus' spread, increasing testing, and implementing contract tracing.<sup>2250</sup>

On 21 December 2020, the European Commission authorized its first safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine developed by BioNTech and Pfizer based on a thorough assessment of the safety, effectiveness, and quality of the vaccine by the European Medicines Agency.<sup>2251</sup>

On 21 January 2021, the European Council held a video conference to “discuss coordination on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.”<sup>2252</sup> Council members reiterated their determination “to limit the spread of the virus by adopting similar measures among the Member states.” Council members agreed that “borders need to stay open to ensure the functioning of the Single market,” however, “Council may need to review its recommendations on intra-EU travel and non-essential travels into the EU in light of the risks posed by the new virus variants.”

On 29 January 2021, the European Commission authorized another safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine developed by AstraZeneca based on a thorough assessment of the safety, effectiveness, and quality of the vaccine by the European Medicines Agency.<sup>2253</sup>

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment efforts to delay the spread of the virus, including through appropriate border management measures. From the beginning, it prioritized cooperation and global support to tackle the spread of the coronavirus and coordinated the member states' border control measures.

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

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<sup>2246</sup> Investment Plan for Europe: European Investment Bank to Provide BioNTech with Up to €100 Million in Debt Financing for COVID-19 Vaccine Development and Manufacturing, European Commission (Brussels) 11 June 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1034](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1034).

<sup>2247</sup> Coronavirus: Commission Concludes Talks to Secure Future Coronavirus Vaccine for Europeans, European Commission (Brussels) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1439](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1439).

<sup>2248</sup> Coronavirus: The Commission Signs First Contract with AstraZeneca, European Commission (Brussels) 27 August 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1524](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1524).

<sup>2249</sup> Coronavirus: The Commission Signs First Contract with AstraZeneca, European Commission (Brussels) 27 August 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1524](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1524).

<sup>2250</sup> Coronavirus Resurgence: Commission Steps Up Action to Reinforce Preparedness and Response Measures Across the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1986](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1986).

<sup>2251</sup> European Commission Authorises First Safe and Effective Vaccine Against COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_2466](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2466).

<sup>2252</sup> Oral conclusions drawn by President Charles Michel following the video conference of the members of the European Council on 21 January 2021, European Council (Brussels) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/01/21/oral-conclusions-by-president-charles-michel-following-the-video-conference-of-the-members-of-the-european-council-on-21-january-2021/>

<sup>2253</sup> European Commission Authorises Third Safe and Effective Vaccine Against COVID-19, European Commission (Brussels) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_306](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_306).



## 12. International Cooperation: Global Response

“We are committed to doing whatever is necessary to ensure a strong global response through closer cooperation and enhanced coordination of our efforts.”

*G7 Leaders’ Statement*

### 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 COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the importance of international cooperation and coordination in the context of global health emergencies. The COVID-19 pandemic placed stress on the global political, economic, and social infrastructure, causing the international community to pursue cooperation and coordination on public health policies. Furthermore, the pandemic took a toll on all countries, but particularly on developing countries that have less prepared health systems and resources. The consequences of COVID-19 on developing countries have led the international community to also support a comprehensive and equitable global response in addition to their national public health policies and initiatives. On 23 March 2020, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres also emphasized the need for global cooperation and coordination by issuing an appeal for a “global ceasefire in all corners of the world to focus together on the true fight — defeating COVID-19.”<sup>2254</sup>

The 2000 Okinawa Summit was the first time the G8 leaders made explicit reference to infectious diseases in their agenda for global health. They committed to providing “substantial resources to fighting infectious and parasitic diseases,” especially HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.<sup>2255</sup> At this summit, the G8 leaders also committed to strengthening their partnership with governments, the World Health Organization (WHO), health industries, and other international organizations in order to reduce the number of infections and deaths of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.<sup>2256</sup> The 2000 Okinawa Summit also created the Okinawa Infectious Diseases Initiative. The initiative promoted measures against infectious and parasitic diseases such as partnership with civil society and international organizations, strengthening developing countries’ institutions in the health sector, and the support of international cooperation in conducting research activities.<sup>2257</sup>

<sup>2254</sup> Global Ceasefire, United Nations (New York) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 6 November 2020.

<https://www.un.org/en/globalceasefire>.

<sup>2255</sup> G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 July 2000. Access Date: 5 November 2020.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>.

<sup>2256</sup> G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 July 2000. Access Date: 5 November 2020.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>.

<sup>2257</sup> Japan’s Initiative in the Fight against Infectious and Parasitic Diseases on the occasion of the Kyushu-Okinawa G8 Summit (“Okinawa ID (Infectious diseases) Initiative”), G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2009. Access Date: 5 December 2020.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/infectious.htm>.

At the 2006 St. Petersburg Summit, the G8 Leaders presented a statement on infectious diseases, especially regarding HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and measles, called the “Fight Against Infectious Disease.”<sup>2258</sup> In this statement the G8 Leaders supported “improved international cooperation on the surveillance and monitoring of infectious diseases,” distributing resources “in cooperation with African countries to scale up action against malaria,” “cooperat[ing] in detecting such diseases and mounting an effective response.”<sup>2259</sup> They also committed to improving cooperation among international organizations and experts at the international level, and increasing “scientific cooperation with developing countries.”<sup>2260</sup> The G8 leaders also emphasized international coordination by acknowledging the need for enhanced coordination in a quick response to an outbreak and “increased coordination of preparedness, prevention, and response among nations.”<sup>2261</sup>

At the 2014 Brussels Summit, the G7 leaders responded to the Ebola outbreak by committing to work with partner countries in strengthening compliance with the WHO International Health Regulations.<sup>2262</sup> The G7 Leaders also agreed to build a global capacity in public health to be “better prepared for threats such as the recent Ebola outbreak ... in close cooperation with WHO, to develop a Global Action Plan on antimicrobial resistance.”<sup>2263</sup>

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, the G7 leaders produced the G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health in which it committed to a range of actions in advancing global health with a particular focus on public health emergencies.<sup>2264</sup> The G7 leaders agreed to coordinate on global public health emergencies by inviting the WHO to “strengthen and formalize coordination arrangements among the WHO, the UN and other relevant partners in global public health emergencies.”<sup>2265</sup> The G7 leaders also referred to the outbreaks of the Ebola and Zika viruses in their commitment to a “coordinated approach to offer concrete assistance to 76 countries and regions.”<sup>2266</sup> They also promoted the need to pursue international coordination in scientific research and development and supported “globally harmonized clinical trials” as well as “leverag[ing] existing global research coordination initiatives.”<sup>2267</sup>

On 16 March 2020 the Virtual Summit, under the U.S. presidency, focused on the G7’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic and their commitment to a coordinated global response. In their statement, leaders emphasized coordinated global response by committing to “coordinate [their] efforts to delay the spread of the virus,” and increasing coordinated research efforts.<sup>2268</sup> They also agreed to “coordinate with online

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<sup>2258</sup> Fight Against Infectious Disease, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2009. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2006stpetersburg/infdis.html>.

<sup>2259</sup> Fight Against Infectious Disease, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2009. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2006stpetersburg/infdis.html>.

<sup>2260</sup> Fight Against Infectious Disease, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2009. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2006stpetersburg/infdis.html>.

<sup>2261</sup> Fight Against Infectious Disease, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2009. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2006stpetersburg/infdis.html>.

<sup>2262</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

<sup>2263</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

<sup>2264</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/health.html>.

<sup>2265</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/health.html>.

<sup>2266</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/health.html>.

<sup>2267</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/health.html>.

<sup>2268</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

platforms to maximize public access to the latest correct and relevant official information,” coordinate “using all policy tools, to achieve strong growth in the G7 economies,” and support coordination among international organizations.<sup>2269</sup> The G7 leaders also encouraged cooperation in the science, research, and technology sectors to respond to COVID-19. At the time, they expected to meet again in three months at their regularly scheduled summit on 10-12 June 2020, which was later postponed indefinitely.

### **Commitment Features**

In this commitment, there are two targets, one to ensure a strong global response through closer cooperation and the other through enhanced coordination. “Global response” is understood to mean public health action relating to two or more countries in reaction to events relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. This definition implies that the G7 members have to demonstrate joint state action — rather than individual state policy that only affects the G7 members themselves — through cooperation and/or coordination in public health policies.

“Doing whatever necessary” is understood as the fullest extent to which governments are capable of implementing a certain process. Therefore, actions should be purposeful and demonstrate a commitment to encouraging the aforementioned targets.

A G7 member can contribute to “ensur[ing] a strong global response” through at least one out of two equally weighted methods. Firstly, it can improve the other countries or regions’ response to COVID-19. Examples of this method include distributing pandemic resources such as COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines to other countries, providing humanitarian assistance to other countries, or supporting the expansion of healthcare facilities and capacity building of health professionals in other countries. Secondly, a G7 member can also demonstrate a “strong global response” or a +1 score in their compliance by improving international flows or processes among countries in their reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic. Examples of this method include the coordination of cross-border management, removing trade restrictions, and establishment of international agreements on the allocation of vaccines.

A less than strong level of “global response,” which would merit a score of 0 or partial compliance are actions that include the allocation of budgetary resources or personnel in supporting international cooperation and coordination. Examples of a less than strong level of “global response” include creating a task force or department in support of international cooperation and coordination.

A score of noncompliance or -1 are actions that are statements or attendance in meetings that express or support the importance of cooperation and coordination. Examples of a low level of “global response” are statements made by the leader, officials, or ministers in support of international cooperation and coordination, a remark in a prepared speech during a conference in support of international cooperation and coordination.

“Cooperation” is understood to mean the action or process of working together to the same end.<sup>2270</sup> A G7 member can demonstrate “closer cooperation” by working with at least one other country in an international agreement or initiative or project to combat COVID-19. Examples of “cooperation” include distributing COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines to other countries, monitoring the global supply of certain medical equipment, forming an agreement of rules for international property rights, and procurement on vaccine approval, and forming an international agreement on the allocation and distribution of vaccines. Full compliance of this target must contribute to the outcomes of a “strong global response,” as outlined above. A G7 member can receive a score of non-compliance for this target by demonstrating a low level of “global response” through its cooperation.

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<sup>2269</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 5 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>2270</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 6 August 2019.

“Coordination” is understood to mean the process of organizing people or groups so that they work together properly and well.<sup>2271</sup> A G7 member can demonstrate “enhanced coordination” by aligning or synchronizing their state policies with other countries in their response to COVID-19. Examples of “coordination” include removal of trade restrictions on personal protective equipment and other pandemic equipment, coordination of protocols on temporary travel restrictions, coordination of cross-border management such as the management of legal-cross border movements of essential goods and persons, and the alignment of regulatory and manufacturing processes and quality standards on pandemic equipment. Full compliance of this target must contribute to the outcomes of a “strong global response,” as outlined above. A G7 member can receive a score of non-compliance for this target by demonstrating a low level of “global response” through its coordination.

Full compliance for this commitment is achieved by ensuring a strong global response through closer cooperation and through enhanced coordination. For a score of partial compliance, the G7 member has taken concrete actions to ensure a strong global response either through closer cooperation or through enhanced coordination. For a score of non-compliance, the G7 member has completed none of the aforementioned.

**Scoring Guidelines**

-1	G7 member has not taken any or has taken insufficient steps to ensure a strong global response through closer cooperation AND through enhanced coordination.
0	G7 member has taken strong steps to ensure a strong global response through closer cooperation OR through enhanced coordination, or has taken partial steps in both areas.
+1	G7 member has taken strong steps to ensure a strong global response closer cooperation AND enhanced coordination.

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Lead Analyst: Samantha Moura Novais de Quadros*

**Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to ensuring a strong global response, through closer cooperation and enhanced cooperation of their efforts.

On 5 April 2020, the Government of Canada announced that it will allocate CAD159.5 million in funding to support international institutions, initiatives, and collaborations that address the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2272</sup> CAD84.5 million of this amount will be distributed to international partners that support humanitarian appeals including the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme, UNICEF, International Committee of the Red Cross and more.<sup>2273</sup> CAD40 million will be used to support the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations for COVID-19 vaccine development that aims to increase coordinated vaccine research efforts.<sup>2274</sup> CAD30 million will be used to address country-specific requests for assistance and design tailored solutions and responses in

<sup>2271</sup> Coordination, Merriam-Webster (Springfield). Access Date: 4 December 2019. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/coordination>.

<sup>2272</sup> Backgrounder - Canada provides funding to address COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2020. Access Date: 5 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/backgrounder---canada-provides-funding-to-address-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

<sup>2273</sup> Backgrounder - Canada provides funding to address COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2020. Access Date: 5 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/backgrounder---canada-provides-funding-to-address-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

<sup>2274</sup> Backgrounder - Canada provides funding to address COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2020. Access Date: 5 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/backgrounder---canada-provides-funding-to-address-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

partnership with each requesting country.<sup>2275</sup> Lastly, CAD5 million will go towards global health security capacity building through Global Affairs Canada's Weapons Threat Reduction Program.<sup>2276</sup>

On 7 April 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued a statement regarding Canada's position on international cooperation in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.<sup>2277</sup> In the statement, Prime Minister Trudeau emphasized the "importance of working together" and stated that Canada is "working with the World Health Organization and other partners to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and protect those most vulnerable."<sup>2278</sup>

On 16 April 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs François-Philippe Champagne signed the Joint Declaration of the Alliance for Multilateralism.<sup>2279</sup> The Joint Declaration emphasized the importance of enhanced international cooperation and worldwide solidarity and called for a "co-operative, transparent, science-based and coordinated global response."<sup>2280</sup> The Joint Declaration also outlined the signatories' support for United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres for an immediate global ceasefire.<sup>2281</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Canada, the European Union, France, Germany, Spain, Norway, the United Kingdom, Japan and Saudi Arabia announced the launch of the Coronavirus Global Response.<sup>2282</sup> This global initiative aims to raise USD8 billion to aid researchers and innovators in preventing the further spread of the virus as well as help them with developing potential vaccines, testing for safe and effective treatments for COVID-19.<sup>2283</sup> In this announcement, the Government of Canada also stated that it has contributed more than CAD850 million to support the fundraising target in this global initiative.<sup>2284</sup> This funding will go towards providing COVID-19 diagnostic support to more than 20 partner countries, coordinating a COVID-19 viral and host genome sequencing project across Canada, supporting accelerated vaccine development, including through the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and more.<sup>2285</sup>

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<sup>2275</sup> Backgrounder - Canada provides funding to address COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2020. Access Date: 5 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/backgrounder---canada-provides-funding-to-address-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

<sup>2276</sup> Backgrounder - Canada provides funding to address COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2020. Access Date: 5 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/backgrounder---canada-provides-funding-to-address-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

<sup>2277</sup> Statement by the Prime Minister on World Health Day, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2020/04/07/statement-prime-minister-world-health-day>.

<sup>2278</sup> Statement by the Prime Minister on World Health Day, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2020/04/07/statement-prime-minister-world-health-day>.

<sup>2279</sup> Joint statement of the Alliance for multilateralism, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism.html>.

<sup>2280</sup> Joint statement of the Alliance for multilateralism, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism.html>.

<sup>2281</sup> Joint statement of the Alliance for multilateralism, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism.html>.

<sup>2282</sup> News release: Canada and international partners launch Coronavirus Global Response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>.

<sup>2283</sup> News release: Canada and international partners launch Coronavirus Global Response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>.

<sup>2284</sup> News release: Canada and international partners launch Coronavirus Global Response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>.

<sup>2285</sup> News release: Canada and international partners launch Coronavirus Global Response, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>.

On 4 May 2020, the Government of Canada announced that it has joined the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator Partnership as a “co-lead” in the framework’s three partnerships: vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics.<sup>2286</sup> Canada also announced that it provided CAD485 million in total for antibody treatments and other support in the ACT-Accelerator’s vaccine pillars.<sup>2287</sup>

On 28 May 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau met with Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica, and Secretary-General Guterres in the High-level Event on financing for development and COVID-19.<sup>2288</sup> The meeting focused on discussion on finding financing solutions to COVID-19 health and development emergencies for people around the world.<sup>2289</sup>

On 27 June 2020, Minister of International Development Karina Gould announced that Canada contributed CAD120 million for the ACT-Accelerator.<sup>2290</sup> This financial investment aims to “assist those countries whose economies are most at risk due to the pandemic and improve their resilience.”<sup>2291</sup> Minister Gould stated in this announcement that “Canada is committed to working with countries around the world to ensure everyone, everywhere has access to new solutions developed to test, treat and immunize against COVID-19.

On 7 July 2020, the Government of Canada issued a statement to the United Nations Security Council Open VTC [videoteleconference] on Pandemics and Security.<sup>2292</sup> In this statement, Canada expressed its support to “multi-sectoral global health-security cooperation.”<sup>2293</sup> Canada also affirmed its commitment to regularly host meetings with the Foreign Affairs Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 and co-leading a Development Ministers’ Contact Group with the United Kingdom to coordinate global health efforts as well as to “ensure coherence and impact of international assistance, and working together with international partners to maintain open supply chains and support global economic recovery.”<sup>2294</sup>

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<sup>2286</sup> Canada’s investments to support equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canadas-investments-to-support-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>.

<sup>2287</sup> Canada’s investments to support equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canadas-investments-to-support-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>.

<sup>2288</sup> High-level Event on financing for development and Covid-19, convened by Prime Ministers of Canada and Jamaica, Secretary-General, United Nations (New York) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 5 March 2021. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/financing/post-news/high-level-event-financing-development-and-covid-19-convened-prime-ministers-canada-and>.

<sup>2289</sup> High-level Event on financing for development and Covid-19, convened by Prime Ministers of Canada and Jamaica, Secretary-General, United Nations (New York) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 5 March 2021. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/financing/post-news/high-level-event-financing-development-and-covid-19-convened-prime-ministers-canada-and>.

<sup>2290</sup> Canada announces support for equitable access to new COVID-19 medical solutions, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 June 2020. Access Date: 5 March 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>2291</sup> Canada announces support for equitable access to new COVID-19 medical solutions, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 June 2020. Access Date: 5 March 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>2292</sup> Canada National Statement United Nations Security Council Open VTC on Pandemics and Security, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations\\_relations\\_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2020-06-02-pandemics-pandemies.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations_relations_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2020-06-02-pandemics-pandemies.aspx?lang=eng).

<sup>2293</sup> Canada National Statement United Nations Security Council Open VTC on Pandemics and Security, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations\\_relations\\_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2020-06-02-pandemics-pandemies.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations_relations_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2020-06-02-pandemics-pandemies.aspx?lang=eng).

<sup>2294</sup> Canada National Statement United Nations Security Council Open VTC on Pandemics and Security, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations\\_relations\\_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2020-06-02-pandemics-pandemies.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations_relations_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2020-06-02-pandemics-pandemies.aspx?lang=eng).

On 25 September 2020, the Government of Canada announced it will contribute CAD220 million to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Advance Market Commitment.<sup>2295</sup> This financial contribution will aim to support the procurement of vaccine doses for low- and middle-income countries.<sup>2296</sup>

On 10 September 2020, Minister Champagne hosted the 10th call of the Ministerial Coordination on COVID-19 with his counterparts from Australia, Brazil, Germany, Morocco, Peru, South Africa and the United Kingdom. The ministers provided each other with their countries' responses to COVID-19 and ongoing multilateral efforts on vaccines and supply chains. The ministers agreed on the importance of international cooperation and coordination in response to the economic effects of COVID-19 and the need to exchange information relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 29 September 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that the Government of Canada pledged an additional CAD400 million in development and humanitarian spending to non-government organisations fighting COVID-19.<sup>2297</sup> This funding was aimed to ensure “equitable access to vaccines” to several middle-income countries, including smaller states located in the Caribbean.<sup>2298</sup> Prime Minister Trudeau also stated that Canada will advocate for debt relief for developing countries and help strengthen the resources of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other international financial institutions.<sup>2299</sup>

On 3 November 2020, Minister Champagne co-hosted the 11th call of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID with his counterparts from Brazil, France, Germany, India, Italy, Singapore and the United Kingdom.<sup>2300</sup> In the meeting, the ministers discussed their domestic responses and noted that many of their countries are experiencing a second wave of COVID-19.<sup>2301</sup> The ministers reiterated their commitment to cooperating in ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and to “learn from each other on how to best manage borders, international travel, testing and contact tracing.”<sup>2302</sup>

On 17 February 2021, the Government of Canada issued a statement to the United Nations Security Council open debate on ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines in contexts affected by conflict and

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<sup>2295</sup> Canada's investments to support equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canadas-investments-to-support-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>.

<sup>2296</sup> Canada's investments to support equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canadas-investments-to-support-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>.

<sup>2297</sup> Trudeau pledges additional \$400 million in humanitarian aid to fight COVID-19, CP24 (Toronto) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.cp24.com/news/trudeau-pledges-additional-400-million-in-humanitarian-aid-to-fight-covid-19-1.5124571?cache=yes%3Fclipid%3D375756%3Fclipid%3D263414%3FautoPlay%3Dtrue>.

<sup>2298</sup> Trudeau pledges additional \$400 million in humanitarian aid to fight COVID-19, CP24 (Toronto) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.cp24.com/news/trudeau-pledges-additional-400-million-in-humanitarian-aid-to-fight-covid-19-1.5124571?cache=yes%3Fclipid%3D375756%3Fclipid%3D263414%3FautoPlay%3Dtrue>.

<sup>2299</sup> Trudeau pledges additional \$400 million in humanitarian aid to fight COVID-19, CP24 (Toronto) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.cp24.com/news/trudeau-pledges-additional-400-million-in-humanitarian-aid-to-fight-covid-19-1.5124571?cache=yes%3Fclipid%3D375756%3Fclipid%3D263414%3FautoPlay%3Dtrue>.

<sup>2300</sup> Readout: Canada continues to lead Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 responding to global challenges, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 November 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/11/readout-canada-continues-to-lead-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid-19-responding-to-global-challenges.html>.

<sup>2301</sup> Readout: Canada continues to lead Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 responding to global challenges, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 November 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/11/readout-canada-continues-to-lead-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid-19-responding-to-global-challenges.html>.

<sup>2302</sup> Readout: Canada continues to lead Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 responding to global challenges, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 November 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/11/readout-canada-continues-to-lead-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid-19-responding-to-global-challenges.html>.

insecurity.<sup>2303</sup> In this statement, Canada stated that it “must support other countries in their fight against COVID-19” and “work together to address the pandemic, to assist vulnerable populations, to support the continued flow of goods and services, and to develop and provide equitable global access to effective therapeutics, diagnostics, and vaccines.”<sup>2304</sup>

On 19 February 2021, the Government of Canada provided an additional USD59 million in funding to the ACT-Accelerator to “fund the development and equitable rollout of tests, treatments and vaccines needed to end the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.”<sup>2305</sup> Canada coordinated its investment with other G7 members such as the United States, Germany, the European Union, and the United Kingdom, which altogether provided USD4.3 billion of new investments in the ACT-Accelerator. The G7 coordinated investment aimed to fund initiatives that share additional vaccine surplus with developing countries and “support rapid reduction of virus transmission amongst some of the world’s most vulnerable and exposed populations.”<sup>2306</sup>

By providing humanitarian assistance, development aid, and investments in global COVID-19 response initiatives, Canada has fully complied with its commitment to ensuring a strong global response, through closer cooperation and enhanced cooperation of their efforts.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Nwal Anwar*

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

France has fully complied with its commitment to ensuring a strong global response, through closer cooperation and enhanced cooperation of their efforts.

On 25 March 2020, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian issued a statement in the G7 Foreign Ministers’ meeting.<sup>2307</sup> Minister Le Drian emphasized the “need to strengthen international cooperation to combat COVID-19” and the “need to coordinate [the G7 members’] efforts to allow [their] citizens who are temporarily overseas to return home.”<sup>2308</sup>

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<sup>2303</sup> UN Security Council open debate on ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines in contexts affected by conflict and insecurity, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021.

[https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations-relations\\_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2021-02-17-vaccines-COVID-19-vaccins.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2021-02-17-vaccines-COVID-19-vaccins.aspx?lang=eng).

<sup>2304</sup> UN Security Council open debate on ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines in contexts affected by conflict and insecurity, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021.

[https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations-relations\\_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2021-02-17-vaccines-COVID-19-vaccins.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/un-onu/statements-declarations/2021-02-17-vaccines-COVID-19-vaccins.aspx?lang=eng).

<sup>2305</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>2306</sup> 7 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>2307</sup> G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting – COVID-19 – Statement by Jean-Yves Le Drian, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/coronavirus-statements/article/g7-foreign-ministers-meeting-covid-19-statement-by-jean-yves-le-drian-minister>.

<sup>2308</sup> G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting – COVID-19 – Statement by Jean-Yves Le Drian, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/coronavirus-statements/article/g7-foreign-ministers-meeting-covid-19-statement-by-jean-yves-le-drian-minister>.



On 27 March 2020, Minister Le Drian discussed the situation of French nationals visiting Russia with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Sergey Lavrov.<sup>2309</sup> The two ministers agreed to cooperate by implementing the following steps: “firstly, the return of French nationals visiting Russia and Russian nationals visiting France and, secondly, flights over Russian airspace by planes bringing home French nationals who were visiting Asia.”<sup>2310</sup>

On 9 April 2020, the Agence Française du Développement (AFD) approved the “Covid-19 – Health in Common” initiative, which provides immediate access to funds and relief to combat the economic, social, and health effects of the Covid-19 pandemic in African nations.<sup>2311</sup> This initiative’s objectives are to support African countries’ responses to the pandemic and strengthen their healthcare systems and research systems by providing EUR150 million in donations and EUR1 billion in loans.<sup>2312</sup> The AFD coordinates with local stakeholders, such as research institutes, non-government organizations, and the private sector, to create solutions specific for those countries to boost long-term responsiveness.<sup>2313</sup>

On 16 April 2020, the Government of France signed onto the COVID-19 Joint Declaration of the Alliance for Multilateralism.<sup>2314</sup> The Joint Declaration emphasized the importance of enhanced international cooperation and worldwide solidarity and called for a “co-operative, transparent, science-based and coordinated global response.”<sup>2315</sup> The Joint Declaration also outlined the signatories’ support for United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for an immediate global ceasefire.<sup>2316</sup>

On 24 April 2020, the United Nations led by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, World Health Organization Director General Dr. Tedros and President Emmanuel Macron launched a multilateral initiative to the COVID-19 pandemic in response to France and other members’ calls for a more effective and equitable response.<sup>2317</sup> The aim of this initiative is to coordinate an international response to expedite

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<sup>2309</sup> Statement by M. Jean-Yves Le Drian, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/coronavirus-statements/article/covid-19-statement-by-m-jean-yves-le-drian-minister-for-europe-and-foreign>.

<sup>2310</sup> Statement by M. Jean-Yves Le Drian, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/coronavirus-statements/article/covid-19-statement-by-m-jean-yves-le-drian-minister-for-europe-and-foreign>.

<sup>2311</sup> France Launches, via AFD, the “Covid-19 – Health in Common” Initiative to Support African Countries, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2020/article/france-launches-via-afd-the-covid-19-health-in-common-initiative-to-support>.

<sup>2312</sup> France Launches, via AFD, The “Covid-19 – Health in Common” Initiative to Support African Countries, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2020/article/france-launches-via-afd-the-covid-19-health-in-common-initiative-to-support>.

<sup>2313</sup> The “Covid-19 – Health in Common” Initiative, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/covid-19-health-common-initiative>.

<sup>2314</sup> COVID-19 - Joint Declaration of the Alliance for Multilateralism (16 Apr. 2020), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/multilateralism-a-principle-of-action-for-france/alliance-for-multilateralism/news-about-the-alliance-for-multilateralism/article/covid-19-joint-declaration-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism-16-apr-2020>.

<sup>2315</sup> COVID-19 - Joint Declaration of the Alliance for Multilateralism (16 Apr. 2020), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/multilateralism-a-principle-of-action-for-france/alliance-for-multilateralism/news-about-the-alliance-for-multilateralism/article/covid-19-joint-declaration-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism-16-apr-2020>.

<sup>2316</sup> COVID-19 - Joint Declaration of the Alliance for Multilateralism (16 Apr. 2020), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/multilateralism-a-principle-of-action-for-france/alliance-for-multilateralism/news-about-the-alliance-for-multilateralism/article/covid-19-joint-declaration-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism-16-apr-2020>.

<sup>2317</sup> COVID19: launch of a global initiative on diagnostic testing, treatments and vaccine, Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations in New York (New York City) 25 April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/Nouvelle-traduction-Lutte-contre-le-COVID-19-Initiative-mondiale-sur-les>

development and guarantee free, equal access to vaccines, treatments, and testing while strengthening the most vulnerable health systems worldwide.<sup>2318</sup>

On 24 April 2020, stakeholders such as the Government of France the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator was formed as a framework for a global response by doctors, scientists, philanthropists, governments, businesses, and health organizations to accelerate the development and access to vaccines, testing, and treatment in an equitable manner worldwide.<sup>2319</sup> The ACT-Accelerator aims to end the pandemic as fast as possible, restore social and economic global activity, and control the spread of the disease.<sup>2320</sup> Access to the COVID-19 tools is determined by the Access and Allocation workstream, which ensures the tools are equitably allocated to the States who need them most.<sup>2321</sup>

On 4 May 2020, France along with the European Union, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Norway, Spain, and the United Kingdom co-convoked a pledging event to mobilize EUR7.5 million to serve the objectives of the ACT-Accelerator.<sup>2322</sup> The ACT-Accelerator is designed as a coordination structure to accelerate the development, production and equitable access to new diagnostics, therapies and vaccines against the Covid-19 pandemic.<sup>2323</sup>

On 18 May 2020, President Macron and Minister of Solidarity and Health Olivier Véran attended the World Health Assembly that focused on the COVID-19 crisis.<sup>2324</sup> During the session, President Macron expressed France's commitment to multilateralism and called for strengthened international coordination.<sup>2325</sup>

On 18 May 2020, President Macron and Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel presented a joint initiative to create a EUR500 billion recovery fund to provide assistance to countries and regions "hardest hit" by the coronavirus.<sup>2326</sup> The joint announcement detailed that financial assistance from the recovery fund will be in the form of grants and not loans.<sup>2327</sup>

On 27 May 2020, the European Commission established the Next Generation EU, based on a joint proposal from France and Germany to mitigate the economic and social effects of the pandemic in Europe.<sup>2328</sup> The

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<sup>2318</sup> COVID19: launch of a global initiative on diagnostic testing, treatments and vaccine, Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations in New York (New York City) 25 April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/Nouvelle-traduction-Lutte-contre-le-COVID-19-Initiative-mondiale-sur-les>

<sup>2319</sup> Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, World Health Organization (Geneva) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/access-to-covid-19-tools-\(act\)-accelerator](https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/access-to-covid-19-tools-(act)-accelerator).

<sup>2320</sup> The Access to Covid-19 Tools Accelerator, World Health Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 21 February 2020. <https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator>.

<sup>2321</sup> The ACT Accelerator Frequently Asked Questions, World Health Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator/faq>.

<sup>2322</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: €7.4 billion raised for universal access to vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_797](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_797).

<sup>2323</sup> The World Health Assembly: a historic meeting in the context of the Covid-19 crisis, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/ministere/europe-et-international/actualites-europeennes-et-internationales/article/l-assemblee-mondiale-de-la-sante-un-rendez-vous-historique-dans-le-contexte-de>.

<sup>2324</sup> The World Health Assembly: a historic meeting in the context of the Covid-19 crisis, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/ministere/europe-et-international/actualites-europeennes-et-internationales/article/l-assemblee-mondiale-de-la-sante-un-rendez-vous-historique-dans-le-contexte-de>.

<sup>2325</sup> The World Health Assembly: a historic meeting in the context of the Covid-19 crisis, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/ministere/europe-et-international/actualites-europeennes-et-internationales/article/l-assemblee-mondiale-de-la-sante-un-rendez-vous-historique-dans-le-contexte-de>.

<sup>2326</sup> Covid-19: France and Germany propose €500 billion EU recovery fund, France 24 (Paris) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200518-live-macron-and-merkel-present-joint-covid-19-recovery-plan-for-eu>.

<sup>2327</sup> Covid-19: France and Germany propose €500 billion EU recovery fund, France 24 (Paris) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200518-live-macron-and-merkel-present-joint-covid-19-recovery-plan-for-eu>.

<sup>2328</sup> European Solidarity in the face of COVID-19, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) n.d. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-solidarity-in-the-face-of-covid-19>.

2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework was adopted to establish a “joint-debt” and EUR750 billion economic recovery plan, signifying further integration and coordination of the European states in response to the pandemic.<sup>2329</sup> The European Union also coordinated its response by establishing a common reserve of medical equipment, increasing development and supply of personal protective equipment, and easing movement of people and goods across Europe.<sup>2330</sup>

On 23 June 2020, the Government of France announced the launch of a strategic investment development plan on cooperation by making plans to mobilize domestic resources to developing countries in the context of global warming and the COVID-19 crisis. The Government of France provided a four-year budget of more than EUR60,000 for the strategy period of 2020-2023. The plan aims to “bilateral and multilateral initiatives to increase the mobilization of domestic resources in sub-Saharan Africa.”<sup>2331</sup>

On 26 June 2020, France attended a ministerial meeting with Germany and issued a joint statement on strengthening their multilateral health architecture.<sup>2332</sup> In this joint statement, France and Germany agreed to support adoption by the 73rd session of the World Health Assembly of the resolution “Strengthening preparedness for health emergencies: application of the International Health Regulations (2005),” which requests WHO, in consultation with member states, “to warn the international community of the severity and / or scale of a public health emergency with a view to mobilizing essential aid and facilitating international cooperation.”<sup>2333</sup>

On 10 July 2020, Minister Le Drian and foreign ministers from other countries such as Germany and Italy issued a statement to reaffirm their commitment to international cooperation to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2334</sup> The statement emphasized the need to “pool [their] resources through detailed political dialogue in the spirit of solidarity and cooperation which fuels the relationship between our two regions.”<sup>2335</sup>

On 10 July 2020, the Government of France announced its financial initiative to assist Latin American and Caribbean countries in their responses to the COVID-19 crisis.<sup>2336</sup> France will provide grants and loans that amount to more than EUR800 million alongside the European Union and other European countries “to

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<sup>2329</sup> European Solidarity in the face of COVID-19, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) n.d. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-solidarity-in-the-face-of-covid-19>.

<sup>2330</sup> European Solidarity in the face of COVID-19, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) n.d. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-solidarity-in-the-face-of-covid-19>.

<sup>2331</sup> A French strategy on cooperation around domestic resource mobilization in developing economies (23 Jun. 20), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/photos-publications-and-graphics/publications/article/a-french-strategy-on-cooperation-around-domestic-resource-mobilization-in>.

<sup>2332</sup> Ministerial meeting (26.06.20) - Joint statement by France and Germany: Strengthening the multilateral health architecture, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/news-and-events/news/news-2020/article/ministerial-meeting-26-06-20-joint-statement-by-france-and-germany>.

<sup>2333</sup> Ministerial meeting (26.06.20) - Joint statement by France and Germany: Strengthening the multilateral health architecture, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/news-and-events/news/news-2020/article/ministerial-meeting-26-06-20-joint-statement-by-france-and-germany>.

<sup>2334</sup> Statement by the Foreign Ministers from 18 countries in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy – COVID-19 (10 July 2020), Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/americas/news/article/statement-by-the-foreign-ministers-from-18-countries-in-europe-latin-america>.

<sup>2335</sup> Statement by the Foreign Ministers from 18 countries in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy – COVID-19 (10 July 2020), Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/americas/news/article/statement-by-the-foreign-ministers-from-18-countries-in-europe-latin-america>.

<sup>2336</sup> France’s bilateral support to Latin America and the Caribbean in response to COVID-19, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/americas/news/article/france-s-bilateral-support-to-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-in-response-to>.

enhance cooperation in the public health field.”<sup>2337</sup> This assistance aims to provide healthcare support, social protection for the most vulnerable populations and economic consequences of the pandemic in Latin America.<sup>2338</sup> For example, France will provide EUR3.2 million in funding to Brazil for the “enabling equipment to be purchased, essential food and hygiene products to be distributed and training and awareness-raising activities” in order to “enhance French-Brazilian cooperation in the fight against the spread of the virus in regions near the border with French Guiana.”<sup>2339</sup>

On 15 December 2020, the Ministers of Health from France, Germany, Italy and other European countries agreed to coordinate the launch of their COVID-19 vaccination campaigns.<sup>2340</sup> The Ministers stated that in addition to coordinate the timing, they will also rapidly share information on the proceedings of the vaccination campaigns.<sup>2341</sup>

France has actively promoted a strong global response to the COVID-19 pandemic through international cooperation and coordination by providing financial assistance to developing countries, issuing joint statements on international cooperation, and mobilizing COVID-19 resources to other countries.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexandra Safarenitz*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to doing whatever is necessary to ensure a strong global response through closer cooperation and enhanced coordination of their efforts.

On 25 March 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs Heiko Maas issued a statement after attending a virtual meeting with his counterparts of the G7.<sup>2342</sup> He stated that the Ministers of Foreign Affairs agreed to “contain the spread [of COVID-19] through international cooperation in the development and provision of medicines and vaccines, and also through our support for the countries in the world that are the least well equipped to respond to the virus.”<sup>2343</sup>

On 16 April 2020, the Government of Germany signed onto the COVID-19 Joint Declaration of the Alliance for Multilateralism.<sup>2344</sup> The Joint Declaration emphasized the importance of enhanced international cooperation and worldwide solidarity and called for a “co-operative, transparent, science-based and

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<sup>2337</sup> France’s bilateral support to Latin America and the Caribbean in response to COVID-19, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/americas/news/article/france-s-bilateral-support-to-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-in-response-to>.

<sup>2338</sup> France’s bilateral support to Latin America and the Caribbean in response to COVID-19, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/americas/news/article/france-s-bilateral-support-to-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-in-response-to>.

<sup>2339</sup> France’s bilateral support to Latin America and the Caribbean in response to COVID-19, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/americas/news/article/france-s-bilateral-support-to-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-in-response-to>.

<sup>2340</sup> Large EU states commit to coordinated launch of COVID vaccinations, Reuters (Rome) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-europe-vaccination-idUSR1N2HO002>.

<sup>2341</sup> Large EU states commit to coordinated launch of COVID vaccinations, Reuters (Rome) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-europe-vaccination-idUSR1N2HO002>.

<sup>2342</sup> Foreign Minister Maas following a virtual meeting of the G7 Foreign Ministers, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2328788>.

<sup>2343</sup> Foreign Minister Maas following a virtual meeting of the G7 Foreign Ministers, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2328788>.

<sup>2344</sup> COVID-19 - Joint Declaration of the Alliance for Multilateralism (16 Apr. 2020), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/multilateralism-a-principle-of-action-for-france/alliance-for-multilateralism/news-about-the-alliance-for-multilateralism/article/covid-19-joint-declaration-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism-16-apr-2020>.

coordinated global response.”<sup>2345</sup> The Joint Declaration also outlined the signatories’ support for United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres for an immediate global ceasefire.<sup>2346</sup>

On 23 April 2020, the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development presented the Emergency COVID-19 Support Program, a worldwide fund aimed to provide COVID-19 relief for developing countries.<sup>2347</sup> The program directs EUR1.15 billion towards pandemic control, basic food services, stabilization of fragile regions affected by displacement, social protection, economic support for key enterprises, government liquidity and international cooperation.<sup>2348</sup> Minister of Development Gerd Muller said: “we either beat COVID-19 worldwide or we do not beat it at all.”<sup>2349</sup>

On 27 April 2020, the Foreign Office announced that Germany will fund EUR300 million to COVID-19 related humanitarian assistance around the world.<sup>2350</sup> The funds will finance international organizations that aim to “lessen the potentially disastrous impact of the COVID-19 pandemic” such as the World Food Programme, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF).<sup>2351</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Germany along with the European Union, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Norway, Spain, and the United Kingdom co-convoked a pledging event to mobilize EUR7.5 million to serve the objectives of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.<sup>2352</sup> The ACT-Accelerator is designed as a coordination structure to accelerate the development, production and equitable access to new diagnostics, therapies and vaccines against the Covid-19 pandemic.<sup>2353</sup>

On 31 May 2020, Minister Maas issued a statement regarding international cooperation and coordination in the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2354</sup> Maas emphasized the importance of a “united response in a spirit of solidarity from all countries” and stated that Germany will “will continue to hold intensive talks in Washington to try to convince the US Government of this approach.”<sup>2355</sup>

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<sup>2345</sup> COVID-19 - Joint Declaration of the Alliance for Multilateralism (16 Apr. 2020), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/multilateralism-a-principle-of-action-for-france/alliance-for-multilateralism/news-about-the-alliance-for-multilateralism/article/covid-19-joint-declaration-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism-16-apr-2020>.

<sup>2346</sup> COVID-19 - Joint Declaration of the Alliance for Multilateralism (16 Apr. 2020), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/multilateralism-a-principle-of-action-for-france/alliance-for-multilateralism/news-about-the-alliance-for-multilateralism/article/covid-19-joint-declaration-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism-16-apr-2020>.

<sup>2347</sup> Germany Development Ministry presents Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 23 April 2020. Date of Access: 24 February 2021. <http://www.bmz.de/20200423-1en>.

<sup>2348</sup> Germany Development Ministry presents Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 23 April 2020. Date of Access: 24 February 2021. <http://www.bmz.de/20200423-1en>.

<sup>2349</sup> Germany Development Ministry presents Emergency COVID-19 Support Programme, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 23 April 2020. Date of Access: 24 February 2021. <http://www.bmz.de/20200423-1en>.

<sup>2350</sup> Foreign Minister Maas on the Federal Foreign Office’s Covid-19-related humanitarian assistance, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-covid19/2337446>.

<sup>2351</sup> Foreign Minister Maas on the Federal Foreign Office’s Covid-19-related humanitarian assistance, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/maas-covid19/2337446>.

<sup>2352</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: €7.4 billion raised for universal access to vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_797](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_797).

<sup>2353</sup> The World Health Assembly: a historic meeting in the context of the Covid-19 crisis, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/ministere/europe-et-international/actualites-europeennes-et-internationales/article/l-assemblee-mondiale-de-la-sante-un-rendez-vous-historique-dans-le-contexte-de>.

<sup>2354</sup> We need strong global cooperation and solidarity to fight COVID-19, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 25 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/alliance-multilateralism-covid19/2333394>.

<sup>2355</sup> We need strong global cooperation and solidarity to fight COVID-19, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 25 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/alliance-multilateralism-covid19/2333394>.

On 26 June 2020, Germany attended a ministerial meeting with France and issued a joint statement on strengthening their multilateral health architecture.<sup>2356</sup> In this joint statement, Germany and France agreed to support adoption by the 73rd session of the World Health Assembly of the resolution “Strengthening preparedness for health emergencies: application of the International Health Regulations (2005),” which requests WHO, in consultation with member states, “to warn the international community of the severity and/or scale of a public health emergency with a view to mobilizing essential aid and facilitating international cooperation.”<sup>2357</sup>

On 10 July 2020, Minister Maas and foreign ministers of other countries such as France and Italy issued a statement to reaffirm their commitment to international cooperation to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2358</sup> The statement emphasized the need to “pool [their] resources through detailed political dialogue in the spirit of solidarity and cooperation which fuels the relationship between our two regions.”<sup>2359</sup>

On 29 July 2020, the German Epidemic Preparedness Team of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ) handed over 1.4 million COVID-19 laboratory and testing materials to the African Union (AU) as part of the BMZ’s Emergency COVID-19 Support Program.<sup>2360</sup> The Epidemic Preparedness Team aimed to provide laboratory materials, build laboratory capacity, and offer training and technical advice to members of the African Union.<sup>2361</sup>

On 14 December 2021, Minister Maas hosted an informal Ministerial Meeting with his counterparts in the European Union, Latin America, and the Caribbean.<sup>2362</sup> The ministers discussed their views on new initiatives for regional health cooperation such as establishing a transnational institute for infectious diseases and reinforced their commitment of cooperation with the Caribbean to ensure their participation in the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility.<sup>2363</sup> The ministers also emphasized the “importance of close coordination with the development priorities of the Latin American and Caribbean countries.”<sup>2364</sup>

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<sup>2356</sup> Ministerial meeting (26.06.20) - Joint statement by France and Germany: Strengthening the multilateral health architecture, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/news-and-events/news/news-2020/article/ministerial-meeting-26-06-20-joint-statement-by-france-and-germany>.

<sup>2357</sup> Ministerial meeting (26.06.20) - Joint statement by France and Germany: Strengthening the multilateral health architecture, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/news-and-events/news/news-2020/article/ministerial-meeting-26-06-20-joint-statement-by-france-and-germany>.

<sup>2358</sup> Statement by the Foreign Ministers from 18 countries in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy – COVID-19 (10 July 2020), Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/americas/news/article/statement-by-the-foreign-ministers-from-18-countries-in-europe-latin-america>.

<sup>2359</sup> Statement by the Foreign Ministers from 18 countries in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy – COVID-19 (10 July 2020), Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/americas/news/article/statement-by-the-foreign-ministers-from-18-countries-in-europe-latin-america>.

<sup>2360</sup> German Epidemic Preparedness Team hands over 1.4 million tests to the African Union, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 29 July 2020. Date of Access: 24 February 2021. <http://www.bmz.de/20200729-1en>

<sup>2361</sup> German Epidemic Preparedness Team hands over 1.4 million tests to the African Union, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 29 July 2020. Date of Access: 24 February 2021. <http://www.bmz.de/20200729-1en>.

<sup>2362</sup> Joint Communiqué: EU27 - Latin America and Caribbean Informal Ministerial Meeting, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/eu-lac-communique/2426940>.

<sup>2363</sup> Joint Communiqué: EU27 - Latin America and Caribbean Informal Ministerial Meeting, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/eu-lac-communique/2426940>.

<sup>2364</sup> Joint Communiqué: EU27 - Latin America and Caribbean Informal Ministerial Meeting, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/eu-lac-communique/2426940>.

On 15 December 2020, the ministers of health from Germany, France, Italy and other European countries agreed to coordinate the launch of their COVID-19 vaccination campaigns.<sup>2365</sup> The ministers stated that in addition to coordinate the timing, they will also rapidly share information on the proceedings of the vaccination campaigns.<sup>2366</sup>

On 2 February 2021, Minister Muller acknowledged the start of vaccination campaigns in 18 developing nations through the COVAX immunization alliance.<sup>2367</sup> COVAX is an initiative of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, of which Germany has been the fourth-largest official donor.<sup>2368</sup> The Ministry for Development (BMZ) pledged a further EUR 1.5 billion to COVAX.<sup>2369</sup>

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to doing whatever is necessary to ensure a strong global response through closer cooperation and enhanced coordination of their efforts by implementing joint statements, initiatives and funding with other countries and coordinating its vaccine campaign with other countries.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Debasmita Bhattacharya*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitments to doing whatever is necessary to ensure a strong global response through closer cooperation and enhanced coordination of their efforts.

On 8 April 2020, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Emanuela Del Re attended the Foreign Affairs – Development Council of the European Union meeting and affirmed Italy’s support for the European Commission’s Team Europe package.<sup>2370</sup> The Team Europe package was established to provide a cohesive response to help EU partner countries face the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2371</sup>

On 14 April 2020, Vice Minister Del Re affirmed Italy’s support for COVID-19 humanitarian response plans.<sup>2372</sup> She stated that Italy has contributed to the World Health Organization (WHO) response plan and intends to contribute to the United Nations global humanitarian appeal.<sup>2373</sup>

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<sup>2365</sup> Large EU states commit to coordinated launch of COVID vaccinations, Reuters (Rome) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-europe-vaccination-idUSR1N2HO002>.

<sup>2366</sup> Large EU states commit to coordinated launch of COVID vaccinations, Reuters (Rome) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-europe-vaccination-idUSR1N2HO002>.

<sup>2367</sup> Minister Muller welcomes start of vaccination campaigns in 18 developing countries through COVAX immunization alliance, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 4 February 2021. Date of Access: 24 February 2021. <http://www.bmz.de/20210204-1en>.

<sup>2368</sup> Minister Muller welcomes start of vaccination campaigns in 18 developing countries through COVAX immunization alliance, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 4 February 2021. Date of Access: 24 February 2021. <http://www.bmz.de/20210204-1en>.

<sup>2369</sup> Minister Muller welcomes start of vaccination campaigns in 18 developing countries through COVAX immunization alliance, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 4 February 2021. Date of Access: 24 February 2021. <http://www.bmz.de/20210204-1en>.

<sup>2370</sup> Coronavirus, Del Re to the EU: Global Alliance for Vaccine and Universal Immunisation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 8 April 2020. Access date: 19 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/04/coronavirus-del-re-alla-ue-alleanza-globale-per-vaccino-e-immunizzazione-universale.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/04/coronavirus-del-re-alla-ue-alleanza-globale-per-vaccino-e-immunizzazione-universale.html).

<sup>2371</sup> Coronavirus, Del Re to the EU: Global Alliance for Vaccine and Universal Immunisation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 8 April 2020. Access date: 19 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/04/coronavirus-del-re-alla-ue-alleanza-globale-per-vaccino-e-immunizzazione-universale.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/04/coronavirus-del-re-alla-ue-alleanza-globale-per-vaccino-e-immunizzazione-universale.html).

<sup>2372</sup> Del Re: "Development cooperation and Covid-19: working together to provide effective responses" (Agenzia S.I.R.), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 14 April 2020. Access date: 19 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/interviste/2020/04/del-re-cooperazione-allo-sviluppo-e-covid-19-lavorare-sinergicamente-per-dare-risposte-efficaci-agenzia-s-i-r.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/interviste/2020/04/del-re-cooperazione-allo-sviluppo-e-covid-19-lavorare-sinergicamente-per-dare-risposte-efficaci-agenzia-s-i-r.html).

On 15 April 2020, Vice Minister Re participated in the proposal of the Covid-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) with the other main donors from United Nations agencies.<sup>2374</sup> The GHRP is the collective response of UN agencies worth USD2 billion that seeks to help the most vulnerable populations through a coordinated global response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2375</sup>

On 16 April 2020, the Government of Italy signed onto the COVID-19 Joint Declaration of the Alliance for Multilateralism.<sup>2376</sup> The Joint Declaration emphasized the importance of enhanced international cooperation and worldwide solidarity and called for a “co-operative, transparent, science-based and coordinated global response.”<sup>2377</sup> The Joint Declaration also outlined the signatories’ support for United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres for an immediate global ceasefire.<sup>2378</sup>

On 4 May 2020, the European Commission partnered with Italy and other countries to launch the Coronavirus Global Response pledging marathon.<sup>2379</sup> The Coronavirus Global Response program has raised EUR15.9 billion in pledges since its launch on 4 May 2020, and Italy has pledged EUR381 million.<sup>2380</sup> The money raised from the Coronavirus Global Response program is put toward universal access to COVID-19 tests, treatment, and vaccines.<sup>2381</sup>

On 6 May 2020, the Government of Italy announced that it will provide EUR120 million in direct funding to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance in order to “support the vaccination of hundreds of millions of children against diseases ... as well as support universal access to a COVID-19 vaccine.”<sup>2382</sup> This funding is a new pledge to Italy’s previous five-year direct pledge of EUR100 million to Gavi for the 2016-2020 period.<sup>2383</sup> In the

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<sup>2373</sup> Del Re: "Development cooperation and Covid-19: working together to provide effective responses" (Agenzia S.I.R.), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 14 April 2020. Access date: 19 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/interviste/2020/04/del-re-cooperazione-allo-sviluppo-e-covid-19-lavorare-sinergicamente-per-dare-risposte-efficaci-agenzia-s-i-r.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/interviste/2020/04/del-re-cooperazione-allo-sviluppo-e-covid-19-lavorare-sinergicamente-per-dare-risposte-efficaci-agenzia-s-i-r.html).

<sup>2374</sup> Del Re: "Coronavirus, the international cooperation will save us" (Agenzia Dire), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 20 April 2020. Access date: 19 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/interviste/2020/04/del-re-coronavirus-ci-salvera-la-cooperazione-internazionale-agenzia-dire.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/interviste/2020/04/del-re-coronavirus-ci-salvera-la-cooperazione-internazionale-agenzia-dire.html).

<sup>2375</sup> Global Humanitarian Response Plan COVID-19, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (Geneva) 28 March 2020. Access date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/Global-Humanitarian-Response-Plan-COVID-19.pdf>.

<sup>2376</sup> COVID-19 - Joint Declaration of the Alliance for Multilateralism (16 Apr. 2020), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/multilateralism-a-principle-of-action-for-france/alliance-for-multilateralism/news-about-the-alliance-for-multilateralism/article/covid-19-joint-declaration-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism-16-apr-2020>.

<sup>2377</sup> COVID-19 - Joint Declaration of the Alliance for Multilateralism (16 Apr. 2020), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/multilateralism-a-principle-of-action-for-france/alliance-for-multilateralism/news-about-the-alliance-for-multilateralism/article/covid-19-joint-declaration-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism-16-apr-2020>.

<sup>2378</sup> COVID-19 - Joint Declaration of the Alliance for Multilateralism (16 Apr. 2020), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/multilateralism-a-principle-of-action-for-france/alliance-for-multilateralism/news-about-the-alliance-for-multilateralism/article/covid-19-joint-declaration-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism-16-apr-2020>.

<sup>2379</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: Pledge, European Union (Brussels) n.d. Access date: 19 February 2021. [https://global-response.europa.eu/pledge\\_it](https://global-response.europa.eu/pledge_it).

<sup>2380</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: Pledge, European Union (Brussels) n.d. Access date: 19 February 2021. [https://global-response.europa.eu/pledge\\_it](https://global-response.europa.eu/pledge_it).

<sup>2381</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: Pledge, European Union (Brussels) n.d. Access date: 19 February 2021. [https://global-response.europa.eu/pledge\\_it](https://global-response.europa.eu/pledge_it).

<sup>2382</sup> Italy pledges new support to Gavi, Gavi (Geneva) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/italy-pledges-new-support-gavi>.

<sup>2383</sup> Italy pledges new support to Gavi, Gavi (Geneva) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/italy-pledges-new-support-gavi>.



context of announcing this funding, Vice-Minister Del Re stated that “Italy confirms its strong commitment to global cooperation, effective multilateralism and global health.”<sup>2384</sup>

On 19 May 2020, Law Decree No. 34/2020 (the Rilancio Decree) came into effect in Italy.<sup>2385</sup> Under the Rilancio Decree, the import of all goods used to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, including personal protective equipment, COVID-19 test kits, thermometers, medical devices, and soap, were exempt from value-added tax until 31 December 2020.<sup>2386</sup> After 1 January 2020, all COVID-19 supplies were subject to a five per cent value-added tax.<sup>2387</sup>

On 1 June 2020, the Government of Italy announced it will provide EUR150 million in funding, to be paid in equal installments from 2026-2030, to Gavi’s financial tools, namely the International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm) and the Advance Market Commitment.<sup>2388</sup> In response to receiving the funding, Gavi stated that Italy’s new, long-term support provides IFFIm with the resources necessary to help Gavi extend life-saving vaccines to every child in the world and to take on the COVID-19 crisis.”<sup>2389</sup>

On 4 June 2020, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte attended the Global Vaccine Summit in London, England. He highlighted Italy’s support for Gavi’s mission to send donor-funded COVID-19 vaccines to lower-income countries.<sup>2390</sup> Italy pledged EUR120 million to help fund Gavi’s COVAX AMC initiative.<sup>2391</sup>

On 5 June 2020, the WHO and Central European Initiative (CEI) launched a joint task force to establish a coordinated regional response to the COVID-19 pandemic; Italy joined the task force along with the 16 other CEI member states.<sup>2392</sup> The task force is committed to exchanging relevant information and supports a coherent response to the consequences of the pandemic.<sup>2393</sup>

On 10 July 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs Luigi Di Maio and foreign ministers from other countries such as Germany and France issued a statement to reaffirm their commitment to international cooperation to

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<sup>2384</sup> Italy pledges new support to Gavi, Gavi (Geneva) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021.

<https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/italy-pledges-new-support-gavi>.

<sup>2385</sup> New VAT provisions for medical devices supplied during the COVID-19 emergency, BDO: Italy Indirect Tax News (Milan) n.d. Access date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.bdo.global/en-gb/microsites/tax-newsletters/indirect-tax-news/issue-3-2020/italy-new-vat-provisions-for-medical-devices-supplied-during-the-covid-19-emergency>.

<sup>2386</sup> New VAT provisions for medical devices supplied during the COVID-19 emergency, BDO: Italy Indirect Tax News (Milan) n.d. Access date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.bdo.global/en-gb/microsites/tax-newsletters/indirect-tax-news/issue-3-2020/italy-new-vat-provisions-for-medical-devices-supplied-during-the-covid-19-emergency>.

<sup>2387</sup> New VAT provisions for medical devices supplied during the COVID-19 emergency, BDO: Italy Indirect Tax News (Milan) n.d. Access date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.bdo.global/en-gb/microsites/tax-newsletters/indirect-tax-news/issue-3-2020/italy-new-vat-provisions-for-medical-devices-supplied-during-the-covid-19-emergency>.

<sup>2388</sup> Italy deepens support for Gavi with €150 million IFFIm pledge, Gavi (London) 1 June 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2020. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/italy-deepens-support-gavi-eu150-million-iffim-pledge>.

<sup>2389</sup> Italy deepens support for Gavi with €150 million IFFIm pledge, Gavi (London) 1 June 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2020. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/italy-deepens-support-gavi-eu150-million-iffim-pledge>.

<sup>2390</sup> Donor Profiles: Italy, Gavi: The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) n.d. Access date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/investing-gavi/funding/donor-profiles/italy>.

<sup>2391</sup> Donor Profiles: Italy, Gavi: The Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) n.d. Access date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/investing-gavi/funding/donor-profiles/italy>.

<sup>2392</sup> WHO joins forces with 17 central European countries to step up tailored COVID-19 response, World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (Copenhagen) 5 June 2020. Access date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/italy/news/news/2020/6/who-joins-forces-with-17-central-european-countries-to-step-up-tailored-covid-19-response>.

<sup>2393</sup> WHO joins forces with 17 central European countries to step up tailored COVID-19 response, World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (Copenhagen) 5 June 2020. Access date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/italy/news/news/2020/6/who-joins-forces-with-17-central-european-countries-to-step-up-tailored-covid-19-response>.

tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2394</sup> The statement emphasized the need to “pool [their] resources through detailed political dialogue in the spirit of solidarity and cooperation which fuels the relationship between our two regions.”<sup>2395</sup>

On 20 July 2020, Vice Minister Del Re participated in the presentation of the updated COVID-19 GHRP of the UN.<sup>2396</sup> She stated that Italy would intensify humanitarian efforts in response to the pandemic and highlighted that Italy has contributed to the GHRP logistics.<sup>2397</sup>

On 20 July 2020, the Italian National Council for Development Cooperation met and validated the Italian cooperation guidelines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in vulnerable countries.<sup>2398</sup> The guideline states that Italy is committed to a multilateral and coordinated response to the pandemic.<sup>2399</sup>

On 10 September 2020, Vice Minister Del Re attended the first Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator Facilitation Council meeting.<sup>2400</sup> The ACT-Accelerator is the international cooperation platform for the acceleration of COVID-19 research and vaccine development and distribution.<sup>2401</sup> Vice Minister Del Re stated that Italy has worked to ensure a coordinated global response to the pandemic and would continue to contribute to more equitable vaccine access, bringing Italy’s total contribution to over USD100 million.<sup>2402</sup>

On 28 October 2020, the Government of Italy formally joined the Coalition of Innovations for Disease Preparation (CEPI) and provided EUR5 million in its first investment to financially support the CEPI and the development of COVID-19 vaccine candidates.<sup>2403</sup> The funding will go towards advancing at least three

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<sup>2394</sup> Statement by the Foreign Ministers from 18 countries in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy – COVID-19 (10 July 2020), Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/americas/news/article/statement-by-the-foreign-ministers-from-18-countries-in-europe-latin-america>.

<sup>2395</sup> Statement by the Foreign Ministers from 18 countries in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy – COVID-19 (10 July 2020), Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/americas/news/article/statement-by-the-foreign-ministers-from-18-countries-in-europe-latin-america>.

<sup>2396</sup> Vice Minister Del Re participates in the presentation of the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan of the United Nations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 20 July 2020. Access date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/la-vice-ministra-del-re-partecipa-alla-presentazione-del-covid-19-global-humanitarian-response-plan-delle-nazioni-unite.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/la-vice-ministra-del-re-partecipa-alla-presentazione-del-covid-19-global-humanitarian-response-plan-delle-nazioni-unite.html).

<sup>2397</sup> Vice Minister Del Re participates in the presentation of the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan of the United Nations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 20 July 2020. Access date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/la-vice-ministra-del-re-partecipa-alla-presentazione-del-covid-19-global-humanitarian-response-plan-delle-nazioni-unite.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/la-vice-ministra-del-re-partecipa-alla-presentazione-del-covid-19-global-humanitarian-response-plan-delle-nazioni-unite.html).

<sup>2398</sup> Italy releases cooperation guidelines in response to COVID-19 crisis, Donor Tracker (Berlin) 20 July 2020. Access date: 22 February 2021. <https://donortracker.org/policy-updates/italy-releases-cooperation-guidelines-response-covid-19-crisis>.

<sup>2399</sup> Italy releases cooperation guidelines in response to COVID-19 crisis, Donor Tracker (Berlin) 20 July 2020. Access date: 22 February 2021. <https://donortracker.org/policy-updates/italy-releases-cooperation-guidelines-response-covid-19-crisis>.

<sup>2400</sup> VM Del Re: Italy promotes a coordinated global response to the pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 10 September 2020. Access date: 23 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/del-re-italia-promuove-risposta-globale-coordinata-alla-pandemia.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/del-re-italia-promuove-risposta-globale-coordinata-alla-pandemia.html).

<sup>2401</sup> VM Del Re: Italy promotes a coordinated global response to the pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 10 September 2020. Access date: 23 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/del-re-italia-promuove-risposta-globale-coordinata-alla-pandemia.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/del-re-italia-promuove-risposta-globale-coordinata-alla-pandemia.html).

<sup>2402</sup> VM Del Re: Italy promotes a coordinated global response to the pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 10 September 2020. Access date: 23 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/del-re-italia-promuove-risposta-globale-coordinata-alla-pandemia.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/del-re-italia-promuove-risposta-globale-coordinata-alla-pandemia.html).

<sup>2403</sup> Covid-19, towards the vaccine. Italy joins the CEPI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-al-cepi.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-al-cepi.html).

COVID-19 vaccine candidates for licensing and expanding the CEPI portfolio.<sup>2404</sup> In the announcement to join the CEPI, Vice Minister Del Re stated that Italy is “proud to join and contribute to the coalition” and believes that “only together can [they] accelerate action to overcome the pandemic.”<sup>2405</sup>

On 28 October 2020, Italy pledged EUR10 million to CEPI and contributed EUR5 million.<sup>2406</sup> Vice Minister Del Re stated that Italy is proud to join CEPI and contribute to the COVID-19 vaccine progress.<sup>2407</sup>

On 5 November 2020, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN launched the Italian-led Food Coalition to prevent a food supply chain crisis in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and renew efforts to eliminate hunger.<sup>2408</sup> The Food Coalition was proposed by Italy, and Italy pledged and delivered resources.<sup>2409</sup>

On 15 December 2020, the Ministers of Health from Italy, France, Germany and other European countries agreed to coordinate the launch of their COVID-19 vaccination campaigns.<sup>2410</sup> The Ministers stated that in addition to coordinate the timing, they will also rapidly share information on the proceedings of the vaccination campaigns.<sup>2411</sup>

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to ensure a strong global response through closer cooperation and enhanced coordination by providing humanitarian assistance and financial support for global COVID-19 related projects as well as cooperating and coordinating with other countries in joint funding, statements and in their vaccination campaigns.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexandra Nicu*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to ensuring a strong global response, through closer cooperation and enhanced cooperation of their efforts.

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<sup>2404</sup> Covid-19, towards the vaccine. Italy joins the CEPI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-al-cepi.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-al-cepi.html).

<sup>2405</sup> Covid-19, towards the vaccine. Italy joins the CEPI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-al-cepi.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-al-cepi.html).

<sup>2406</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: 23 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/10/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-alla-coalizione-delle-innovazioni-per-la-preparazione-alle-epidemie.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/10/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-alla-coalizione-delle-innovazioni-per-la-preparazione-alle-epidemie.html).

<sup>2407</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: 23 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/10/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-alla-coalizione-delle-innovazioni-per-la-preparazione-alle-epidemie.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/10/covid-19-verso-il-vaccino-l-italia-aderisce-alla-coalizione-delle-innovazioni-per-la-preparazione-alle-epidemie.html).

<sup>2408</sup> FAO launches Food Coalition to lift food access, sustainable agri-food systems, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 5 November 2020. Access date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1322089/icode/>.

<sup>2409</sup> FAO launches Food Coalition to lift food access, sustainable agri-food systems, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Rome) 5 November 2020. Access date: 24 February 2021. <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1322089/icode/>.

<sup>2410</sup> Large EU states commit to coordinated launch of COVID vaccinations, Reuters (Rome) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-europe-vaccination-idUSR1N2HO002>.

<sup>2411</sup> Large EU states commit to coordinated launch of COVID vaccinations, Reuters (Rome) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-europe-vaccination-idUSR1N2HO002>.

On 1 May 2020, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry signed an agreement with the Ministry of Trade and Economy of Singapore to pursue bilateral coordination to combat COVID-19.<sup>2412</sup> Japan and Singapore agreed to “refrain from imposing export prohibitions or restrictions with respect to essential goods, including medical supplies and agricultural food products.”<sup>2413</sup> The ministries also agreed to coordinate by agreeing to “expedite and facilitate the flow and transit of essential goods, including medical supplies and agricultural food products.”<sup>2414</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Japan and the G7 members hosted the Coronavirus Global Response Pledging Conference to begin accumulating funds for combatting COVID-19. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged that Japan would invest USD834 million, focusing on development and access to vaccines.<sup>2415</sup>

On 15 September 2020, Japan provided USD165 million towards the World Health Organization’s (WHO) COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX).<sup>2416</sup> This investment is intended to support a fair and equitable distribution of vaccines globally and prevent a monopolization of COVID-19 treatments.<sup>2417</sup>

On 24 September 2020, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and WHO stated that it recently supported Peru’s COVID-19 response with financial backing from the Government of Japan.<sup>2418</sup> Japan’s funding will assist the WHO’s and PAHO’s efforts to “strengthen infection prevention and control (IPC) programs and risk communications activities in five selected hospitals.”<sup>2419</sup> It will provide a stock of personal protective equipment (PPE) consisting of 5,000 masks, 5,000 pairs of gloves, 5,000 gowns, 5,000 pieces of head protection, 800 protective suits and 20 N95 respirators.<sup>2420</sup>

On 25 September 2020, Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide delivered a statement at the General Debate of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly.<sup>2421</sup> He called upon the General Assembly to “unite in solidarity so we can turn the current [COVID-19] crisis into an opportunity to reinforce our cooperation.”<sup>2422</sup>

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<sup>2412</sup> Singapore and Japan agree to deepen bilateral cooperation to combat COVID-19, Ministry of Trade and Industry Singapore (Singapore) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.mti.gov.sg/Newsroom/Press-Releases/2020/05/Singapore-and-Japan-agree-to-deepen-bilateral-cooperation-to-combat-COVID-19>.

<sup>2413</sup> Singapore and Japan agree to deepen bilateral cooperation to combat COVID-19, Ministry of Trade and Industry Singapore (Singapore) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.mti.gov.sg/Newsroom/Press-Releases/2020/05/Singapore-and-Japan-agree-to-deepen-bilateral-cooperation-to-combat-COVID-19>.

<sup>2414</sup> Singapore and Japan agree to deepen bilateral cooperation to combat COVID-19, Ministry of Trade and Industry Singapore (Singapore) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.mti.gov.sg/Newsroom/Press-Releases/2020/05/Singapore-and-Japan-agree-to-deepen-bilateral-cooperation-to-combat-COVID-19>.

<sup>2415</sup> Prime Minister Shinzo Abe Participates in the Coronavirus Global Response Pledging Conference, Friends of the Global Fund, Japan (Tokyo) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <http://fgf.jcie.or.jp/en/news/pm-shinzo-abe-covid-pledging-conference>.

<sup>2416</sup> Japan to participate in COVAX, Donor Tracker 1 (Berlin) 1 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://donortracker.org/policy-updates/japan-participate-covax>.

<sup>2417</sup> Japan to participate in COVAX, Donor Tracker 1 (Berlin) 1 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://donortracker.org/policy-updates/japan-participate-covax>.

<sup>2418</sup> Peru: protective equipment and surveillance support with funding from Japan, World Health Organization (Geneva) 24 September 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/peru-protective-equipment-and-surveillance-support-with-funding-from-japan>.

<sup>2419</sup> Peru: protective equipment and surveillance support with funding from Japan, World Health Organization (Geneva) 24 September 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/peru-protective-equipment-and-surveillance-support-with-funding-from-japan>.

<sup>2420</sup> Peru: protective equipment and surveillance support with funding from Japan, World Health Organization (Geneva) 24 September 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/peru-protective-equipment-and-surveillance-support-with-funding-from-japan>.

<sup>2421</sup> Address by Prime Minister Suga at the Seventy-Fifth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 26 September 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/unp\\_a/page4e\\_001095.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/unp_a/page4e_001095.html).

<sup>2422</sup> Address by Prime Minister Suga at the Seventy-Fifth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 26 September 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/unp\\_a/page4e\\_001095.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/unp_a/page4e_001095.html).

Prime Minister Suga also stated Japan's progress in working with international organizations and Japan's support for the "development of therapeutics, vaccines and diagnostics, and works towards ensuring fair and equitable access for all, including those in developing countries."<sup>2423</sup>

On 8 October 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs Toshimitsu Motegi pledged USD130 million to the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC), which aims to disseminate effective vaccines to developing countries.<sup>2424</sup> This enabled the GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance to reach USD1.8 billion and helped ensure that vaccines would be reserved for low to middle-income countries.<sup>2425</sup> Furthermore, in this statement, Minister Motegi also announced its global initiative to "Leave No One's Health Behind" and efforts to achieve universal health coverage.<sup>2426</sup>

On 4 December 2020, Prime Minister Suga delivered a statement at the General Debate of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2427</sup> He emphasized the importance of a "comprehensive, innovative and coordinated global response based on multilateral cooperation."<sup>2428</sup> He supported multilateral cooperation frameworks such as the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator and stated that Japan, as a founding donor, "responded rapidly to the call for contributions to the COVAX facility."<sup>2429</sup>

On 10 December 2020, Japan extended loans to the Philippines, Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, Maldives, Mongolia, and Cambodia in economic recovery efforts for developing countries.<sup>2430</sup> Japan pledged over USD1.54 billion in providing medical assistance through international organizations to more than 89 countries globally.<sup>2431</sup> Through multilateral healthcare systems, Japan assisted with the provision of sanitary goods, hygiene items, training of healthcare workers, and raising awareness of disease impacts through numerous international organizations such as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme, and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.<sup>2432</sup> Japan continued efforts in commitments toward the Tokyo International Conference of African Development, where they spent the past year strengthening Africa's ability to effectively respond to COVID-

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<sup>2423</sup> Address by Prime Minister Suga at the Seventy-Fifth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 26 September 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/unp\\_a/page4e\\_001095.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/unp_a/page4e_001095.html).

<sup>2424</sup> Japan pledges US\$130 million to support global access to COVID-19 vaccines, Gavi 8 (Geneva) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/japan-pledges-us-130-million-support-global-access-covid-19-vaccines>.

<sup>2425</sup> Japan pledges US\$130 million to support global access to COVID-19 vaccines, Gavi 8 (Geneva) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/japan-pledges-us-130-million-support-global-access-covid-19-vaccines>.

<sup>2426</sup> Japan pledges US\$130 million to support global access to COVID-19 vaccines, Gavi 8 (Geneva) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/japan-pledges-us-130-million-support-global-access-covid-19-vaccines>.

<sup>2427</sup> Address by Prime Minister SUGA at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e\\_000292.html#](https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e_000292.html#).

<sup>2428</sup> Address by Prime Minister SUGA at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e\\_000292.html#](https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e_000292.html#).

<sup>2429</sup> Address by Prime Minister SUGA at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e\\_000292.html#](https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e_000292.html#).

<sup>2430</sup> Japan's aid policies to COVID-19 for developing countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100098665.pdf>.

<sup>2431</sup> Japan's aid policies to COVID-19 for developing countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100098665.pdf>.

<sup>2432</sup> Japan's aid policies to COVID-19 for developing countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100098665.pdf>.

19 by providing medical equipment, training for health services and ensuring equitable access to vaccines through GAVI and Global Fund.<sup>2433</sup>

On 4 February 2021, the WHO with the financial backing of the Government of Japan worth over USD162,000 will establish a port health facility at the Juba International Airport in South Sudan.<sup>2434</sup> The Head of Development Cooperation of the Embassy of Japan Nobuhiro Kikuchi stated that he intends for the “facilities will be fully utilized by the Ministry of Public Health in response to COVID-19 to protect people of South Sudan from the pandemic.”<sup>2435</sup>

On 9 February 2021, Minister Motegi delivered a statement at the ACT-Accelerator 4th Facilitation Council. Minister Motegi underlined the importance of international cooperation in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic and achieving universal health coverage. He also announced that Japan will provide an additional USD200 million in funding to the COVAX Advance Market Commitment.<sup>2436</sup>

On 19 February 2021, Japan and the G7 members released the G7 Leaders’ Statement regarding their commitment to international cooperation in the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2437</sup> In this statement, Japan committed to cooperate with G7 members and international partners on securely carrying out the 2021 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo as a “symbol of global unity” in overcoming the global health crisis.<sup>2438</sup>

On 19 February 2021, Japan coordinated its investment with other G7 members in providing USD4.3 billion of new investments in the ACT-Accelerator.<sup>2439</sup> In this coordinated investment, Japan committed USD79 million for the COVAX AMC and UNTAID.<sup>2440</sup>

On 22 February 2021, Government of Japan and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) signed an Arrangement Letter to support a project titled “Developing Digital skills and Education for Sustainable Development through Distance Learning in Palestine – Phase I.”<sup>2441</sup> The goal of the project is to improve digital and sustainable development skills in general education in Palestine especially in the context of COVID-19.<sup>2442</sup> The Head of Office and UNESCO Representative Noha Bawazir

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<sup>2433</sup> Fight against COVID-19 Japan’s Distribution through the TICAD, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100124482.pdf>.

<sup>2434</sup> WHO with funding from the Government of Japan to establish port health facility in Juba International Airport, South Sudan, World Health Organization (Geneva) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.afro.who.int/news/who-funding-government-japan-establish-port-health-facility-juba-international-airport-south>.

<sup>2435</sup> WHO with funding from the Government of Japan to establish port health facility in Juba International Airport, South Sudan, World Health Organization (Geneva) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.afro.who.int/news/who-funding-government-japan-establish-port-health-facility-juba-international-airport-south>.

<sup>2436</sup> Video message by Minister for Foreign Affairs MOTEGI At the ACT Accelerator 4th Facilitation Council, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002974.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002974.html).

<sup>2437</sup> G7 Leaders’ statement, European Council (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/02/19/g7-february-leaders-statement/>.

<sup>2438</sup> G7 Leaders’ statement, European Council (Brussels) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/02/19/g7-february-leaders-statement/>.

<sup>2439</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>2440</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>2441</sup> UNESCO and Japan Sign a Milestone Agreement for the Benefit of Palestinian Youth during COVID-19, UNESCO (Ramallah) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-and-japan-sign-milestone-agreement-benefit-palestinian-youth-during-covid-19>.

<sup>2442</sup> UNESCO and Japan Sign a Milestone Agreement for the Benefit of Palestinian Youth during COVID-19, UNESCO (Ramallah) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-and-japan-sign-milestone-agreement-benefit-palestinian-youth-during-covid-19>.

stated that the project “is a milestone in the cooperation between UNESCO and the Government of Japan.”<sup>2443</sup>

Through its initiatives of financially assisting numerous international organizations, agreeing on bilateral and multilateral initiatives and agreements and aiming for equitable vaccine distribution in response to combating the COVID-19 pandemic, Japan has fully committed to ensuring enhanced cooperation and coordination with its international partners.

Thus, Japan has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Nwal Anwal*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to do whatever is necessary to ensure a strong global response through closer cooperation and enhanced coordination of their efforts.

On 26 March 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the United Kingdom will be providing GBP210 million of funding to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations in addition to its original investment of GBP40 million.<sup>2444</sup> The funding will aim to assist “scientists and researchers continue to lead global efforts to develop a workable coronavirus vaccine.”<sup>2445</sup> Prime Minister Johnson also announced new funding of GBP50 million in a joint campaign with Unilever to deliver information campaigns about the virus spread in developing countries and provide over 20 million hygiene and cleaning products.<sup>2446</sup> This announcement brought the total amount of United Kingdom COVID-19 related funding to GBP544 million.<sup>2447</sup>

On 12 April 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom announced it will provide GBP200 million in COVID-19 aid to developing countries.<sup>2448</sup> The funding will aim to help “install hand-washing stations and isolation and treatment centres in refugee camps, and increase access to clean water for those living in areas of armed conflict.”<sup>2449</sup> GBP130 million of the funding will go towards United Nations agencies and GBP50 million fund the Red Cross in their assistance to areas affected by armed conflict.<sup>2450</sup> International Development Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan stated that “boosting fragile health systems overseas would help prevent a “second wave” of infections hitting the UK.”<sup>2451</sup>

On 26 April 2020, the European Commission approved a bill to prohibit the export of medical personal protective equipment in an attempt to avoid supply shortages of masks, gloves and suits and to ensure

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<sup>2443</sup> UNESCO and Japan Sign a Milestone Agreement for the Benefit of Palestinian Youth during COVID-19, UNESCO (Ramallah) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-and-japan-sign-milestone-agreement-benefit-palestinian-youth-during-covid-19>.

<sup>2444</sup> PM announces record funding to find a coronavirus vaccine, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-record-funding-to-find-a-coronavirus-vaccine>.

<sup>2445</sup> PM announces record funding to find a coronavirus vaccine, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-record-funding-to-find-a-coronavirus-vaccine>.

<sup>2446</sup> PM announces record funding to find a coronavirus vaccine, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-record-funding-to-find-a-coronavirus-vaccine>.

<sup>2447</sup> PM announces record funding to find a coronavirus vaccine, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-record-funding-to-find-a-coronavirus-vaccine>.

<sup>2448</sup> Coronavirus: UK gives £200 in aid to developing nations, BBC (London) 12 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52258449>.

<sup>2449</sup> Coronavirus: UK gives £200 in aid to developing nations, BBC (London) 12 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52258449>.

<sup>2450</sup> Coronavirus: UK gives £200 in aid to developing nations, BBC (London) 12 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52258449>.

<sup>2451</sup> Coronavirus: UK gives £200 in aid to developing nations, BBC (London) 12 April 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52258449>.

adequate supply within the European Union, United Kingdom and the European Free Trade Association members.<sup>2452</sup> This bill was made to be repealed in 30 days from its time of implementation and was indeed repealed on 25 May 2020.<sup>2453</sup>

On 29 April 2020, International Development Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan announced that the United Kingdom will fund GBP330 million a year for the next five years to Gavi, the Vaccine, “which will help fund immunisation of 75 million children in the world’s poorest countries.”<sup>2454</sup> In the announcement, Trevelyan stated that “As coronavirus vaccine trials begin, we need to make sure any successful vaccine will be available to everyone.”<sup>2455</sup>

On 4 May 2020, the United Kingdom along with the European Union, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Norway, Spain, and France co-convened a pledging event to mobilize EUR7.5 million to serve the objectives of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.<sup>2456</sup> The ACT-Accelerator is designed as a coordination structure to accelerate the development, production and equitable access to new diagnostics, therapies and vaccines against the Covid-19 pandemic.<sup>2457</sup>

On 22 May 2020, the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development agreed to contribute USD3.8 million to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to help eight countries of the Caribbean mitigate the effects of COVID-19.<sup>2458</sup> The program aims to develop early detection measures and strengthen existing surveillance systems.<sup>2459</sup> In this announcement, PAHO stated that with the funds from the United Kingdom, it will “support a coherent public health response” and “ensure strong coordination and management.”<sup>2460</sup>

On 4 June 2020, the United Kingdom hosted the Global Vaccine Summit that gathered leaders from governments, foundations, the private sector and civil society around the world.<sup>2461</sup> The Global Vaccine Summit raised USD8.8 billion in pledges from 62 governments and 12 foundations corporations and

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<sup>2452</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/568 of 23 April 2020 making the exportation of certain products subject to the production of an export authorisation, Access to European Union Law (Brussels) 23 April 2020. Date of Access: 24 February 2021. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020R0568>.

<sup>2453</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/568 of 23 April 2020 making the exportation of certain products subject to the production of an export authorisation, Access to European Union Law (Brussels) 23 April 2020. Date of Access: 24 February 2021. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020R0568>.

<sup>2454</sup> UK leads global fight to protect up to 75 million children against deadly diseases, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-leads-global-fight-to-protect-up-to-75-million-children-against-deadly-diseases>.

<sup>2455</sup> UK leads global fight to protect up to 75 million children against deadly diseases, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-leads-global-fight-to-protect-up-to-75-million-children-against-deadly-diseases>.

<sup>2456</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: €7.4 billion raised for universal access to vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_797](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_797).

<sup>2457</sup> The World Health Assembly: a historic meeting in the context of the Covid-19 crisis, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/ministere/europe-et-international/actualites-europeennes-et-internationales/article/l-assemblee-mondiale-de-la-sante-un-rendez-vous-historique-dans-le-contexte-de>.

<sup>2458</sup> The United Kingdom contributes \$3.8m for COVID-19 response in the Caribbean, Pan American Health Organization (Washington) 22 May 2020. Date of Access: 24 February 2021. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/22-5-2020-united-kingdom-contributes-38m-covid-19-response-caribbean>.

<sup>2459</sup> The United Kingdom contributes \$3.8m for COVID-19 response in the Caribbean, Pan American Health Organization (Washington) 22 May 2020. Date of Access: 24 February 2021. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/22-5-2020-united-kingdom-contributes-38m-covid-19-response-caribbean>.

<sup>2460</sup> The United Kingdom contributes \$3.8m for COVID-19 response in the Caribbean, Pan American Health Organization (Washington) 22 May 2020. Date of Access: 24 February 2021. <https://www.paho.org/en/news/22-5-2020-united-kingdom-contributes-38m-covid-19-response-caribbean>.

<sup>2461</sup> Global Vaccine Summit, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/global-vaccine-summit-2020/about>.



organizations.<sup>2462</sup> The funding will assist Gavi “protect a further 300 million more children against infectious diseases like measles, typhoid and polio and save up to 8 million lives over the next five years.”<sup>2463</sup> The summit also announced the launch of a new Gavi fund called the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Advance Market Commitment (AMC) that aims to accelerate access to coronavirus vaccines in developing countries.<sup>2464</sup>

On 23 July 2020, the Department of Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs cut their foreign aid by EUR2.5 billion in lieu of the United Kingdom “experiencing a severe economic downturn as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.”<sup>2465</sup> Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said the UK would still meet its commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income on aid.<sup>2466</sup>

On 26 September 2020, Prime Minister Johnson pledged EUR500 million in aid to the COVAX vaccine procurement pool.<sup>2467</sup> The COVAX vaccine aims to provide vaccines to developing countries.<sup>2468</sup> The Prime Minister also pledged EUR340 million to the World Health Organization over the next four years.<sup>2469</sup> The United Kingdom also announced it would match every USD4 pledge to the COVAX AMC by other donors with GBP1 in funding.<sup>2470</sup>

On 10 January 2021, the Government of the United Kingdom provided an update to its initiative in September 2020 to match every USD4 pledge to the COVAX AMC by other donors with GBP1 in funding.<sup>2471</sup> The United Kingdom announced that it has contributed GBP548 million.<sup>2472</sup>

On 23 February 2021, Prime Minister Johnson announced that the United Kingdom will donate most of the United Kingdom’s surplus vaccine supply to developing countries in his speech to a virtual G7 meeting.<sup>2473</sup> In his statement, he also encouraged the other G7 attendees to support a 100-day target for developing new vaccines for future emerging diseases.<sup>2474</sup> Prime Minister Johnston stated that he wanted to “ensure that we

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<sup>2462</sup> Global Vaccine Summit, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/global-vaccine-summit-2020/about>.

<sup>2463</sup> Global Vaccine Summit, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/global-vaccine-summit-2020/about>.

<sup>2464</sup> Global Vaccine Summit, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/global-vaccine-summit-2020/about>.

<sup>2465</sup> Coronavirus: UK foreign aid spending cut by €2.5 bn amid economic downturn, BBC News UK Edition (London) 23 July 2020. Date of Access: 24 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-53508933>.

<sup>2466</sup> Coronavirus: UK foreign aid spending cut by €2.5 bn amid economic downturn, BBC News UK Edition (London) 23 July 2020. Date of Access: 24 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-53508933>.

<sup>2467</sup> Coronavirus: UK pledges €500m to global vaccine-sharing scheme, BBC News UK Edition (London) 26 September 2020. Date of Access: 24 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-54303061>.

<sup>2468</sup> Coronavirus: UK pledges €500m to global vaccine-sharing scheme, BBC News UK Edition (London) 26 September 2020. Date of Access: 24 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-54303061>.

<sup>2469</sup> Coronavirus: UK pledges €500m to global vaccine-sharing scheme, BBC News UK Edition (London) 26 September 2020. Date of Access: 24 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-54303061>.

<sup>2470</sup> UK meets £250 million match aid target to COVAX, the global vaccines facility, Government of the UK (London) 10 January 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-raises-1bn-so-vulnerable-countries-can-get-vaccine>.

<sup>2471</sup> UK meets £250 million match aid target to COVAX, the global vaccines facility, Government of the UK (London) 10 January 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-raises-1bn-so-vulnerable-countries-can-get-vaccine>.

<sup>2472</sup> UK meets £250 million match aid target to COVAX, the global vaccines facility, Government of the UK (London) 10 January 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-raises-1bn-so-vulnerable-countries-can-get-vaccine>.

<sup>2473</sup> Covid vaccines: Boris Johnson pledges surplus to poorer countries at G7, BBC (London) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-56117120>.

<sup>2474</sup> Covid vaccines: Boris Johnson pledges surplus to poorer countries at G7, BBC (London) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-56117120>.

distribute vaccines at cost around the world — make sure everybody gets the vaccines that they need so that the whole world can come through this pandemic together.”<sup>2475</sup>

On 23 February 2021, the United Kingdom published its international treaty with the European Union with regards to the United Kingdom’s exit out of the European Union.<sup>2476</sup> The treaty included an article on health security in which the United Kingdom and the European Union agreed to support “effective arrangements and information sharing between the UK and the EU in the event of a serious cross border threat to health, which is particularly important in the context of Covid-19.”<sup>2477</sup> This article allows the United Kingdom to request access to the European Union’s Early Warning and Response System so that the United Kingdom and the European Union can “coordinate measures to protect public health.”<sup>2478</sup>

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitments to doing whatever is necessary to ensure a strong global response through closer cooperation and enhanced coordination of their effort by demonstrating initiatives towards easing the distribution of COVID-19 materials and resources to other countries, pursuing coordinated initiatives and agreements, and funding international COVID-19 frameworks.

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

*Analyst: Debasmita Bhattacharya*

### **United States: 0**

The United States has partially complied with its commitments to doing whatever is necessary to ensure a strong global response through closer cooperation and enhanced coordination of their efforts

In 9 April 2020, the Government of the United States announced that it will provide USD2.3 million in funding to help mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus in the Pacific Islands region.<sup>2479</sup> In this announcement, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) stated that the United States will “coordinat[e] with the governments of 12 Pacific Island countries, namely Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu and other stakeholders to identify priority areas for investment.” USAID stated its intention to cooperate with the Pacific Islands region by aiming to “help governments prepare laboratory systems, implement infection prevention and control measures, strengthen port of entry screening, activate case-finding and event-based surveillance, and support rapid response and preparedness and more.”

On 6 July 2020, President Donald Trump provided its formal notification to the United Nations that the United States will withdraw from the World Health Organization (WHO).<sup>2480</sup> The WHO will aim to

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<sup>2475</sup> Covid vaccines: Boris Johnson pledges surplus to poorer countries at G7, BBC (London) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-56117120>.

<sup>2476</sup> International treaty Summary Explainer, Government of the UK (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agreements-reached-between-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-and-the-european-union/summary-explainer>.

<sup>2477</sup> International treaty Summary Explainer, Government of the UK (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agreements-reached-between-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-and-the-european-union/summary-explainer>.

<sup>2478</sup> International treaty Summary Explainer, Government of the UK (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agreements-reached-between-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-and-the-european-union/summary-explainer>.

<sup>2479</sup> United States Provides Assistance to the Pacific to Respond to COVID-19, United States Agency for International Development (New Delhi) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/pacific-islands/press-releases/apr-9-2020-united-states-provides-assistance-pacific-response-covid19>.

<sup>2480</sup> Note to Correspondents in answer to the questions regarding the World Health Organization, United Nations Secretary General (Geneva) 7 July 2020. Date Accessed: 11 March 2021. <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2020-07-07/note-correspondents-answer-questions-regarding-the-world-health-organization>.

“coordinat[e] clinical trials of treatments” and “manufacture and equitably distribute the [COVID-19] vaccines.”<sup>2481</sup>

On 18 September 2020, the United States announced that it has donated 200 ventilators to a stockpile of medical supplies that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has established in its response to the second wave of COVID-19.<sup>2482</sup> USAID delivered the ventilators to the NATO Support and Procurement Agency in Italy.<sup>2483</sup>

On 28 December 2020, the Government of the United States provided USD4 billion in funding for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.<sup>2484</sup> The funding will go towards ensuring that “will ensure that lower-income economies have equitable access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, helping to end the acute phase of the pandemic.”<sup>2485</sup> The United States also announced it will provide USD290 million for the next four years to Gavi’s core programs which will aim to strengthen routine immunisation in lower-income countries, protecting millions of children from vaccine-preventable diseases.<sup>2486</sup>

On 16 June 2020, USAID announced that it has donated a shipment of 100 new ventilators to India in their response to the COVID-19 crisis.<sup>2487</sup> USAID stated that in addition to the donation of ventilators, it will fund a package of support that includes “accompanying equipment and medical supplies, technical assistance, and service plans.”<sup>2488</sup> In the announcement, USAID also commented on its overall cooperation with India, stating that it is “working closely with the Government of India’s Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Indian Red Cross Society, and other relevant stakeholders in India and the United States to assist in the delivery, transportation, and placement of ventilators in select health care facilities throughout the country.”<sup>2489</sup>

On 20 January 2021, President Joe Biden announced that the United States will retract the former decision to withdraw from the WHO.<sup>2490</sup> In a letter to the United Nations Secretary-General, President Biden emphasized the importance of the WHO in leading international cooperation efforts against the COVID-19

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<sup>2481</sup> Note to Correspondents in answer to the questions regarding the World Health Organization, United Nations Secretary General (Geneva) 7 July 2020. Date Accessed: 11 March 2021. <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2020-07-07/note-correspondents-answer-questions-regarding-the-world-health-organization>.

<sup>2482</sup> Coronavirus response: United States delivers ventilators for NATO stockpile, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Brussels) 18 September 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news\\_178096.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_178096.htm).

<sup>2483</sup> Coronavirus response: United States delivers ventilators for NATO stockpile, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Brussels) 18 September 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news\\_178096.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_178096.htm).

<sup>2484</sup> Gavi welcomes final approval of U.S. support for global immunisation in Year-End Omnibus and COVID Supplemental Package, Gavi (Geneva) 2020. Date Accessed: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/gavi-welcomes-final-approval-us-support-global-immunisation-covid-supplemental-package>.

<sup>2485</sup> Gavi welcomes final approval of U.S. support for global immunisation in Year-End Omnibus and COVID Supplemental Package, Gavi (Geneva) 2020. Date Accessed: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/gavi-welcomes-final-approval-us-support-global-immunisation-covid-supplemental-package>.

<sup>2486</sup> Gavi welcomes final approval of U.S. support for global immunisation in Year-End Omnibus and COVID Supplemental Package, Gavi (Geneva) 2020. Date Accessed: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/gavi-welcomes-final-approval-us-support-global-immunisation-covid-supplemental-package>.

<sup>2487</sup> The United States provides ventilators to India to battle COVID-19, United States Agency for International Development (New Delhi) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/india/press-releases/jun-16-2020-united-states-provides-ventilators-india-battle-covid-19>.

<sup>2488</sup> The United States provides ventilators to India to battle COVID-19, United States Agency for International Development (New Delhi) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/india/press-releases/jun-16-2020-united-states-provides-ventilators-india-battle-covid-19>.

<sup>2489</sup> The United States provides ventilators to India to battle COVID-19, United States Agency for International Development (New Delhi) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.usaid.gov/india/press-releases/jun-16-2020-united-states-provides-ventilators-india-battle-covid-19>.

<sup>2490</sup> Biden restores ties with the World Health Organization that were cut by Trump, New York Times (New York) 19 January 2021. Date Accessed: 11 March 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/20/world/biden-restores-who-ties.html>.

pandemic by stating “The W.H.O. plays a crucial role in the world’s fight against the deadly Covid-19 pandemic as well as countless other threats to global health and health security.”<sup>2491</sup>

As of 20 January 2021, the Government of the United States announced that it has provided over USD1 billion in funding worldwide in emergency health, humanitarian, and development assistance.<sup>2492</sup> The United States stated that it provided nearly USD11 million for countries in the Western Hemisphere and over USD22 million for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico.<sup>2493</sup> The United States also emphasized its role in international coordination with other countries, stating that it “continues to partner with El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico to address the economic, security, and governance drivers of illegal immigration to the United States, particularly given the ongoing health crisis.”<sup>2494</sup>

On 18 February 2021, President Joe Biden announced that the United States will provide USD2 billion of funding to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility through 2021 and 2022.<sup>2495</sup> The funding will assist COVAX and Gavi to vaccinate vulnerable populations around the world.<sup>2496</sup>

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to doing whatever is necessary to ensure a strong global response through closer cooperation through providing funding to international COVID-19 initiatives and providing direct funding to countries and regions. However, it has not taken substantial steps to ensure a strong global response through closer coordination with other countries.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Nouran Saker*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitments to doing whatever is necessary to ensure a strong global response through closer cooperation and enhanced coordination of their efforts.

On 8 April 2020, European Union development ministers announced its Team Europe approach to the pandemic, committing EUR20 billion to support and bolster partner countries’ responses to the pandemic.<sup>2497</sup> The money supports countries that most need it and their most vulnerable populations with the end goal of

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<sup>2491</sup> Biden restores ties with the World Health Organization that were cut by Trump, New York Times (New York) 19 January 2021. Date Accessed: 11 March 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/20/world/biden-restores-who-ties.html>.

<sup>2492</sup> U.S. Government Support to El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico During the COVID-19 Pandemic, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-government-support-to-el-salvador-guatemala-honduras-and-mexico-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>.

<sup>2493</sup> U.S. Government Support to El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico During the COVID-19 Pandemic, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-government-support-to-el-salvador-guatemala-honduras-and-mexico-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>.

<sup>2494</sup> U.S. Government Support to El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico During the COVID-19 Pandemic, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-government-support-to-el-salvador-guatemala-honduras-and-mexico-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>.

<sup>2495</sup> Fact Sheet: President Biden to Take Action on Global Health through Support of COVAX and Calling for Health Security Financing, White House (Washington, D.C.) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/18/fact-sheet-president-biden-to-take-action-on-global-health-through-support-of-covax-and-calling-for-health-security-financing/>.

<sup>2496</sup> Fact Sheet: President Biden to Take Action on Global Health through Support of COVAX and Calling for Health Security Financing, White House (Washington, D.C.) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/18/fact-sheet-president-biden-to-take-action-on-global-health-through-support-of-covax-and-calling-for-health-security-financing/>.

<sup>2497</sup> Video conference of foreign affairs ministers (development), Council of the EU (Brussels) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2020/04/08/>

bolstering their health and sanitation systems, alleviate social and economic crises, and respond to immediate health and humanitarian needs.<sup>2498</sup>

On 8 April 2020, the EU released a report outlining further steps it is taking to ensure a strong global response in coordination with partner countries.<sup>2499</sup> These strategies include but are not limited to the following: (1) distribution of sanitation kits and protective equipment in Thailand; (2) promoting hygienic practices and providing hygienic products to refugees in Bangladesh; (3) budget support for agribusiness in Afghanistan; (4) financing ventilator procurement in Jamaica; (5) infection prevention education and supplying personal protective equipment in Lebanon; (6) providing funds to increase testing and treatment center capabilities in Ethiopia.<sup>2500</sup>

On 8 June 2020, the EU development ministers met virtually and reinforced their commitment to providing support for a strong response for their partner countries by bolstering healthcare systems, facilitating the flow of goods and services across borders, and increasing research for treatments and vaccines.<sup>2501</sup> It was also announced the amount Team Europe has provided to partner countries had increased to EUR36 billion.<sup>2502</sup>

On 26 November 2020, the EU and Australia announced intentions to cooperate further in responding to the pandemic by reaffirming commitments to securing equitable and affordable COVID-19 treatments and vaccines worldwide and supporting the most vulnerable countries in their response efforts.<sup>2503</sup> Further coordination of COVID-19-related research between the EU and Australia was announced, as well as their intentions to complete a free-trade agreement to further integrate their economies and facilitate the flow of goods and persons.<sup>2504</sup>

On 18 December 2020, the EU and World Health Organization (WHO) announced a joint, coordinated effort to strengthen and support the responses to the pandemic for southeast Asian countries.<sup>2505</sup> The EU is providing the funds to the WHO, which will use the money to strengthen healthcare systems, boost prevention practices and awareness, control outbreaks, minimize transmission of the virus, and improve treatments.<sup>2506</sup>

On 22 December 2020, the European Commission adopted a recommendation to support a EU coordinated approach to travel and transport in response to a new variant of coronavirus in the United Kingdom.<sup>2507</sup> The

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<sup>2498</sup> Video conference of foreign affairs ministers (development), Council of the EU (Brussels) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2020/04/08/>.

<sup>2499</sup> EU global response to coronavirus: supporting our partner countries, European Commission (Brussels) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/fs\\_20\\_607](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/fs_20_607).

<sup>2500</sup> EU global response to coronavirus: supporting our partner countries, European Commission (Brussels) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/fs\\_20\\_607](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/fs_20_607).

<sup>2501</sup> Video conference of foreign affairs ministers (development), Council of the EU (Brussels) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2020/06/08/>.

<sup>2502</sup> Video conference of foreign affairs ministers (development), Council of the EU (Brussels) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2020/06/08/>.

<sup>2503</sup> EU-Australia leaders meet via video conference, Council of the EU (Brussels) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2020/11/26/>.

<sup>2504</sup> EU-Australia leaders meet via video conference, Council of the EU (Brussels) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2020/11/26/>.

<sup>2505</sup> WHO and EU join together to support COVID-19 response and systems strengthening in Asia, World Health Organization (Geneva) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/news/detail/18-12-2020-who-and-eu-join-together-to-support-covid-19-response-and-systems-strengthening-in-asia>.

<sup>2506</sup> WHO and EU join together to support COVID-19 response and systems strengthening in Asia, World Health Organization (Geneva) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/news/detail/18-12-2020-who-and-eu-join-together-to-support-covid-19-response-and-systems-strengthening-in-asia>.

<sup>2507</sup> Commission adopts Recommendation on EU coordinated approach to travel and transport in response to new variant of coronavirus in the UK, European Commission (Brussels) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_2520](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2520).

European Commission recommended to EU member states that they “take coordinated action to discourage non-essential travel between the UK and the EU” and that “the restrictions are coordinated and provide for the necessary exemptions for citizens and residents returning home and other essential travellers.”<sup>2508</sup> The Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson stated that EU “actions must be coordinated and today we are facilitating swift action to address the new coronavirus variant while ensuring that essential journeys can still take place.”<sup>2509</sup>

As of 19 February 2021, Canada committed an additional USD59 million to the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator to “fund the development and equitable rollout of tests, treatments and vaccines needed to end the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.”<sup>2510</sup> Canada has, along with the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Germany, and Japan, committed to sharing additional vaccine surplus with developing countries and “support rapid reduction of virus transmission amongst some of the world’s most vulnerable and exposed populations.”<sup>2511</sup> Canada has made a total contribution of CAD 940 million to the ACT-Accelerator.<sup>2512</sup> Additionally, the country has also pledged CAD 220 million to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access facility to guarantee that low and middle-income countries have equitable access to medical treatments.<sup>2513</sup>

On 23 February 2021, the United Kingdom published its international treaty with the European Union with regards to the United Kingdom’s exit out of the European Union.<sup>2514</sup> The treaty included an article on health security in which the United Kingdom and the European Union agreed to support “effective arrangements and information sharing between the UK and the EU in the event of a serious cross border threat to health, which is particularly important in the context of Covid-19.”<sup>2515</sup> This article allows the United Kingdom to request access to the European Union’s Early Warning and Response System so that the United Kingdom and the European Union can “coordinate measures to protect public health.”<sup>2516</sup>

The European Union has taken steps to cooperate and coordinate with partner countries and organizations to ensure a strong global response to the COVID-19 pandemic by funding and strengthening health systems,

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<sup>2508</sup> Commission adopts Recommendation on EU coordinated approach to travel and transport in response to new variant of coronavirus in the UK, European Commission (Brussels) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_2520](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2520).

<sup>2509</sup> Commission adopts Recommendation on EU coordinated approach to travel and transport in response to new variant of coronavirus in the UK, European Commission (Brussels) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_2520](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2520).

<sup>2510</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>2511</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>2512</sup> CanWaCH and UNICEF Canada welcome Canada’s \$75M investment in the ACT Accelerator, Canadian Manufacturing (Toronto) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://www.canadianmanufacturing.com/manufacturing/canwach-and-unicef-canada-welcome-canadas-75m-investment-in-the-act-accelerator-267157/>.

<sup>2513</sup> Canada’s investments to support equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canadas-investments-to-support-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>.

<sup>2514</sup> International treaty Summary Explainer, Government of the UK (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agreements-reached-between-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-and-the-european-union/summary-explainer>.

<sup>2515</sup> International treaty Summary Explainer, Government of the UK (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agreements-reached-between-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-and-the-european-union/summary-explainer>.

<sup>2516</sup> International treaty Summary Explainer, Government of the UK (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agreements-reached-between-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-and-the-european-union/summary-explainer>.

promoting preventive and hygienic practices, supplying crucial supplies and equipment and making recommendations to EU members states to coordinate their cross-border management and anti-COVID-19 measures.

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

*Analyst: Alexandra Safarewitz*

### 13. International Cooperation: Science, Research and Technology

“We are committed to marshalling the full power of our governments to: Encourage science, research, and technology cooperation.”

*G7 Leaders’ Statement*

#### Assessment

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

#### Background

The current COVID-19 pandemic has brought a renewed focus on the need for global leaders to cooperate in the field of scientific research and technology for vaccine creation to combat COVID-19. The commitment to a global cooperation to fight infectious diseases is not new to G7 leadership. The first time that leaders acknowledged the need to work together to fight infectious diseases was at the 1996 Lyon Summit.<sup>2517</sup> Similarly, at the 1997 Denver Summit, leaders committed to enhanced cooperation to accelerate AIDS vaccine research in order to strengthen international scientific cooperation and collaboration.<sup>2518</sup> The G8 further cemented its commitment to encouraging enhanced international cooperation against infectious diseases at the 1998 Birmingham Summit.<sup>2519</sup> Leaders emphasized the need to continue efforts to fight against AIDS through vaccine development and continued support for UNAIDS.<sup>2520</sup> At the 1999 Koln Summit G8 leaders reaffirmed their support for international coordination of vaccine development for AIDS.<sup>2521</sup>

The leaders pledge to cooperate in the sharing of scientific research and technology to fight against infectious diseases was not brought up again until the 2002 Kananaskis Summit. At the Summit leaders committed to supporting health research on diseases prevalent in Africa, as well as expanding health research networks to focus specifically on health in Africa.<sup>2522</sup> In 2003, the severe acute respiratory syndrome pandemic surfaced and accordingly G8 leaders affirmed the need to address this issue multilaterally. At the 2003 Evian Summit, leaders committed to conducting infectious disease research at a high level with the aim of developing appropriate international cooperation.<sup>2523</sup> The following year, G8 leaders took a big step by enhancing

<sup>2517</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 January 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>2518</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 January 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>2519</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 January 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>2520</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 January 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>2521</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 January 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>2522</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 January 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>2523</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 January 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.



coordinated efforts of vaccine development. At the 2004 Sea Land Summit leaders endorsed the establishment of a Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise to facilitate global cooperation for the creation of a HIV vaccine.<sup>2524</sup>

The 2006 St. Petersburg Summit provided the groundwork for the importance of international cooperation in the realm of scientific knowledge sharing for the outbreak of infectious diseases and necessary response measures. At the summit, leaders pledged to intensify scientific research and international exchanges of information relating to infectious diseases, including virus samples, surveillance, and control.<sup>2525</sup>

Despite this big step, G8 members neglected to commit specifically to the need of enhanced international cooperation in scientific research and technology to fight against infectious diseases until the 2014 Brussels Summit following the Ebola outbreak. At the summit, leaders affirmed their commitment to building global capacity to ensure there are better response measures for epidemic outbreaks.<sup>2526</sup> In 2015, similar rhetoric continued at the Schloss Elmau Summit. G7 leaders committed to coordinating research and development efforts, including data access and vaccine creation.<sup>2527</sup> In early 2015, the Zika epidemic began to spread across the world. Accordingly, leaders at the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit reaffirmed the importance of immunization in fighting against future pandemics and pledged to continue global efforts to achieve targets that were established in the Global Vaccine Action Plan.<sup>2528</sup> They also committed to exploring the possibility of partnerships, such as the Vaccine Innovation for Pandemic Preparedness Partnership, to conduct coordinated vaccine research and development.<sup>2529</sup>

Despite the G7's emphasis on the necessity of coordinating science, research, and technology in response to past epidemics, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused over 2 million deaths worldwide since its start.<sup>2530</sup> Correspondingly, in the 2020 Virtual Summit, held on 16 March under the U.S. presidency to respond to the crisis, G7 leaders affirmed their commitment to encourage science, research, and technology cooperation in order to engage in the global fight against COVID-19.<sup>2531</sup> At the time, they expected to meet gain in three months at their regularly scheduled summit on 10-12 June 2020, which was later postponed indefinitely.

### **Commitment Features**

The G7 commitment states that “We are committed to marshalling the full power of our governments to: Encourage science, research, and technology cooperation.” In this commitment there are three targets. These are to encourage: 1) science cooperation; 2) research cooperation; and 3) technology cooperation. The instrument to achieve these targets is marshalling the full power of G7 members’ respective governments.

“Marshalling” is understood as organizing and directing in an effective manner. Therefore, actions must demonstrate a commitment to the aim of encouraging the aforementioned targets.

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<sup>2524</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 January 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>2525</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 January 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>2526</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 January 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>2527</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 January 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>2528</sup> Putting Humanitarian Health First: G7 Summit Health Performance 1975-2020, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 January 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/dobson-kirton-putting-humanitarian-health-first.pdf>.

<sup>2529</sup> 2003 Evian Final Compliance Report: Information and Communication Technology, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 31 May 2004. Access Date: 8 December 2020. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2003evian\\_comp\\_final/03-2003evian\\_ict.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2003evian_comp_final/03-2003evian_ict.pdf).

<sup>2530</sup> COVID-19 Dashboard by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at John Hopkins University, Johns Hopkins University and Medicine (Baltimore) 16 January 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2021. <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>.

<sup>2531</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 8 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

“Full power” is understood as the fullest extent to which governments are capable of implementing a certain process. Therefore, providing funding is understood as the fullest extent to which governments can act because it demonstrates a purposeful commitment to achieving cooperation in the target areas.

“Encourage” is understood as support that makes one more likely to follow suit. The term does not imply strong measurability; however, this is outweighed by the preceding sentence “marshalling the full power of our governments.”<sup>2532</sup> Consequently, in order to receive a score of +1 members must use their “full power.”

“Cooperation” is understood as the action or process of working together to the same objective.<sup>2533</sup> The same objective in this commitment is understood as the fight against COVID-19.

### **Encouraging Science, Research, and Technology Cooperation**

“Science cooperation” is understood as the process of working together in the scientific field to ensure a common effort to combat COVID-19. Examples include, but are not limited to, sharing a vaccine/antibody formula, or encouraging two countries’ separate labs to share scientific information for the joint goal of fighting COVID-19.

“Research cooperation” is understood as the process of working together in the research field to ensure a common effort to combat COVID-19. Examples include, but are not limited to, sharing research findings, allocating research funding, or endorsing a joint research institute.

“Technology cooperation” is understood as the process of working together in the technological field to ensure a common effort to combat COVID-19. Examples include, but are not limited to, financial support to help build infrastructure for vaccine production, supplying respiratory support equipment, or rapid testing kits.

Due to this commitment’s nature and the circumstances of the COVID-19 vaccine development alongside scientific research, all three areas of the commitment are ripe for overlap. For example, if members fund the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access facility that might count as an action in all three areas, or if a member is investing in vaccine research that may be considered scientific research in a new technology. Consequently, this compliance report groups together actions in science, research, and technology cooperation and uses a depth analysis, as per the Compliance Coding Manual, to distinguish whether a member receives full compliance.

For full compliance members must act to encourage science, research, and technology cooperation. Due to the commitments emphasis on “marshalling the full power” and “encourage,” a member must take strong action while also urging other G7 members to act for a +1. A strong action is defined as providing funding to any of the target areas (i.e science, research, and technology cooperation). For example, a member may act in only one of the target areas but if they take strong action and encourage other G7 members to follow suit then they will receive a +1. As a result, a member can receive full compliance even if they only act in one target area. Yet, due to the nature of this commitment it is likely that member actions will overlap target areas.

To achieve partial compliance, members must either only take strong action or only encourage G7 member to take part in science, research, or technological cooperation. For example, if a member only provides funding for a joint COVID-19 research institute without encouraging other countries to cooperate in the target areas then they will receive partial compliance. Additionally, if a member only encourages cooperation in the target areas through a verbal commitment then they will also receive partial compliance. Since the language used in this commitment emphasizes the importance of G7 members to “marshalling the full power” of their governments, verbal commitments to take strong action will count as encouraging action in the target areas.

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<sup>2532</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 May 2016. Access Date: 8 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

<sup>2533</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 May 2016. Access Date: 8 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/compliance-coding-manual-2016.pdf>.

This is because by verbally committing to take strong action, members are setting an example for others to follow, thus, encouraging action.

Lastly, inaction in any target area will be recognized as -1 compliance. In addition, actions taken against this commitment, such as if a member purposefully states that it does not want to share its research on COVID-19 with other G7 members or that it will not provide funding for a cooperative G7 COVID-19 venture, will also be recognized as a score of -1.

**Scoring Guidelines**

Score	Description
-1	G7 member takes no strong action AND does not encourage one of the following: 1) science cooperation; 2) research cooperation; or 3) technology cooperation.
0	G7 member takes strong action OR encourages at least one of the following: 1) science cooperation; 2) research cooperation; or 3) technology cooperation.
+1	G7 member takes strong action AND encourages at least one of the following: 1) science cooperation; 2) research cooperation; and 3) technology cooperation.

*Compliance Director: Isabel Davis  
Lead Analyst: Paul Huang*

**Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to marshalling the full power of government to encourage science, research, and technology cooperation.

On 23 March 2020, the Government of Canada released Canada’s Plan to Mobilize Science to Fight COVID-19, an agenda to mobilize its domestic scientific and technology sector. The plan directed CAD275 million in federal funding towards both current and future research projects, as well as towards securing a domestic supply of potential vaccines.”<sup>2534</sup> One action, the certification of a Good Manufacturing Practice facility in Montreal, intends to “ensure that any vaccines produced by the facility can be made available to ... people around the world.”<sup>2535</sup>

On 5 April 2020, the Government of Canada announced CAD159.5 million in funding for international efforts against the COVID-19 pandemic. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, François-Philippe Champagne, stated that “we recognize the need to invest in vaccine research while supporting developing countries and helping the most vulnerable as the crisis evolves around the world.”<sup>2536</sup>

On 17 April 2020, Canada endorsed the Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, encouraging the maintenance of global links and calling for the pooling of resources, research findings, towards the development of a COVID-19 vaccine, therapeutics, and enhanced testing kits to be available for all countries.<sup>2537</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that the Government of Canada is directing CAD850 million to various international research initiatives against COVID-19, including treatment trials

<sup>2534</sup> Canada’s Plan to Mobilize Science to Fight COVID-19, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/23/canadas-plan-mobilize-science-fight-covid-19>.

<sup>2535</sup> Canada’s Plan to Mobilize Science to Fight COVID-19, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/23/canadas-plan-mobilize-science-fight-covid-19>.

<sup>2536</sup> Canada’s Support for International Efforts to Fight the COVID-19 Pandemic, Department of Global Affairs (Ottawa) 5 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/canadas-support-for-international-efforts-to-fight-the-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

<sup>2537</sup> Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 on maintaining essential global links, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/declaration-of-the-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid19-covid19-on-maintaining-essential-global-links.html>.

organized by the World Health Organization.<sup>2538</sup> An additional target of this funding was the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, a global partnership targeted with accelerating the rate of vaccine development worldwide.<sup>2539</sup> The Canadian government expressed its commitment “to a robust global effort to stop COVID-19 and ... will work together with our partners to end this pandemic.”<sup>2540</sup>

On 12 May 2020, the Government of Canada directed CAD600 million to Gavi, Vaccine Alliance, to support vaccine distribution to the world’s poorest countries. With this funding, Gavi would be “well positioned to ensure the scale-up of manufacturing, access and allocation, along with timely delivery, of new vaccines in vulnerable countries.”<sup>2541</sup>

On 15 June 2020, the Government of Canada announced its membership in the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI). This multilateral initiative aims to encourage international scientific and technological collaboration to advance the development of artificial intelligence.<sup>2542</sup> A significant short-term task of the GPAI is to research how artificial intelligence can be mobilized and adapted to the fight against COVID-19.<sup>2543</sup>

On 14 September 2020, the Government of Canada expressed its concern regarding the security of its domestic research efforts and ordered its federal research funding agencies to evaluate their current security guidelines so Canadian researchers can effectively guard their research discoveries.<sup>2544</sup> In the same statement, the Canadian government reaffirmed its “strong commitment to Open Science and [its] support for a global research response to the COVID-19 pandemic.”<sup>2545</sup>

On 30 October 2020, the Government of Canada created the Pandemic Response Challenge program, an initiative intended to augment Canada’s contributions to the international fight against COVID-19. Minister of Innovation Navdeep Bains announced CAD796,000 in federal funding to the National Research Council,

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<sup>2538</sup> Canada and International Partners Launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>

<sup>2539</sup> Canada and International Partners Launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>.

<sup>2540</sup> Canada and International Partners Launch the Coronavirus Global Response, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/04/canada-and-international-partners-launch-coronavirus-global-response>.

<sup>2541</sup> Minister Gould Announces Funding for Global Vaccinations, Department of Global Affairs (Ottawa) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/minister-gould-announces-funding-for-global-vaccinations.html>.

<sup>2542</sup> The Governments of Canada and Quebec and the International Community Join Forces to Advance the Responsible Development of Artificial Intelligence, Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/06/the-governments-of-canada-and-quebec-and-the-international-community-join-forces-to-advance-the-responsible-development-of-artificial-intelligence.html>.

<sup>2543</sup> The Governments of Canada and Quebec and the International Community Join Forces to Advance the Responsible Development of Artificial Intelligence, Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/06/the-governments-of-canada-and-quebec-and-the-international-community-join-forces-to-advance-the-responsible-development-of-artificial-intelligence.html>.

<sup>2544</sup> Policy Statement on Research Security and COVID-19, Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (Ottawa) 14 September 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/09/policy-statement-on-research-security-and-covid-19.html>.

<sup>2545</sup> Policy Statement on Research Security and COVID-19, Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (Ottawa) 14 September 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/09/policy-statement-on-research-security-and-covid-19.html>.

which in turn is sponsoring projects uniting Canadian and international researchers to overcome key challenges in the COVID-19 response.<sup>2546</sup>

On 14 December 2020, the Government of Canada pledged a total CAD458 million to various partners of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator. This includes CAD230 million to “procure COVID-19 treatments for developing countries in response to urgent priorities.”<sup>2547</sup> Furthermore, the government of Canada announced an additional CAD255 million meant for the deployment of medical solutions against COVID-19 in developing countries; this investment allows for the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access facility to better administer the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines, treatments, and personal protective equipment.<sup>2548</sup>

Canada has taken strong action by investing in a collaborative approach to the research and the development of a COVID-19 vaccine and treatment and has worked to marshal collaboration and cooperation with other governments in the areas of research, science, and technology.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Timothy Tennant*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to marshalling the full power of government to encourage science, research, and technology cooperation.

On 14 April 2020, French pharmaceutical company Sanofi and British pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline struck a deal to combine resources to develop a vaccine collectively.<sup>2549</sup>

On 16 April 2020, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian co-signed a joint declaration urging all nations to adopt a multilateral approach to COVID-19. The declaration demonstrated the co-authors’ commitment to strengthen global health systems and ensure universal access to vaccines. The declaration also names various international actors and organizations that have contributed to global health efforts related to COVID-19, and strongly urges others to support these organizations in their work: “We ... call upon all countries, international organizations, the private sector, philanthropies, and individuals to contribute to these efforts.”<sup>2550</sup>

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<sup>2546</sup> Government of Canada Announces Funding for Research and Development to Address COVID-19 Gaps and Challenges, Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (Ottawa) 30 October 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/10/government-of-canada-announces-funding-for-research-and-development-to-address-covid-19-gaps-and-challenges.html>.

<sup>2547</sup> Canada Announces Additional Support for Equitable Access to COVID-19 Tests, Treatments and Vaccines, Department of Global Affairs (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-additional-support-for-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>.

<sup>2548</sup> Canada Announces Additional Support for Equitable Access to COVID-19 Tests, Treatments and Vaccines, Department of Global Affairs (Ottawa) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/canada-announces-additional-support-for-equitable-access-to-covid-19-tests-treatments-and-vaccines.html>.

<sup>2549</sup> GSK and Sanofi Join Forces to Work on Coronavirus Vaccine, The Guardian (London) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/apr/14/gsk-and-sanofi-join-forces-to-work-on-coronavirus-vaccine>.

<sup>2550</sup> Joint Declaration of the Alliance for Multiculturalism, French Ministry of Europe, and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/multilateralism-a-principle-of-action-for-france/alliance-for-multilateralism/news-about-the-alliance-for-multilateralism/article/covid-19-joint-declaration-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism-16-apr-2020>.

On 17 April 2020, as part of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, the French government committed to “pool scientific resources and efforts, promote research and share findings,” with the purpose of developing a vaccine, therapeutics, and enhanced testing kits to be made available to all countries.<sup>2551</sup>

On 21 April 2020, the French Development Agency, an arm of the French government, launched an initiative called “COVID-19 - Health In Common,” through which it provided EUR12 million to fight COVID-19 through improving monitoring, testing, research, and treatment methods in Sub Saharan Africa and the Indian Ocean. Countries involved in this initiative included Benin, Guinea, Senegal, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, and more.<sup>2552</sup>

On 24 April 2020, France, along with World Health Organization, the European Commission, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation launched the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, a global framework and partnership of health organizations, businesses, philanthropists, and scientists with the goal of facilitating the distribution of vaccines and treatments globally, most notably through the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access facility.<sup>2553</sup> France contributed EUR10 million to fund the ACT-Accelerator.<sup>2554</sup>

On 18 February 2021, Emmanuel Macron urged Europe and the United States to send 4-5 per cent of its vaccine supply to low-income nations.<sup>2555</sup>

France has taken strong action by investing in research and the development of a COVID-19 vaccine and treatment and has worked to marshal collaboration and cooperation with other governments in the areas of research, science, and technology.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Ciara McGarry*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to marshalling the full power of government to encourage science, research, and technology cooperation.

On 16 April 2020, Chancellor Angela Merkel urged at an hour-long conference call at the virtual G7 for a “coordinated international response” to the pandemic, in response to U.S President Donald Trump’s remarks about the World Health Organization (WHO).<sup>2556</sup>

On 16 April 2020, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas signed onto the Joint Declaration for the Alliance of Multilateralism, calling on all countries, international organizations, private and public actors alike to support the global COVID-19 response organized by the WHO.<sup>2557</sup>

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<sup>2551</sup> Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 on maintaining essential global links, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/declaration-of-the-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid19-covid19-on-maintaining-essential-global-links.html>.

<sup>2552</sup> Covid-19 – Health in Common Initiative: Financing the First Projects in Africa, French Development Agency (Paris) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/covid-19-health-common-initiative-financing-first-projects-africa>.

<sup>2553</sup> Act-Accelerator Frequently Asked Questions, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. Covid-19 – Health in Common Initiative: Financing the First Projects in Africa, French Development Agency (Paris) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/covid-19-health-common-initiative-financing-first-projects-africa>.

<sup>2554</sup> France and WHO: A Strategic Partnership, World Health Organization (Geneva) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/08-02-2021-france-and-who-a-strategic-partnership-for-global-health-security>.

<sup>2555</sup> Covid Vaccines: Macron Proposes Sending 4-5% of Doses to Poorer Nations, BBC News (London) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-56121062>.

<sup>2556</sup> G7 backing for WHO leaves Trump isolated at virtual summit, The Guardian (London) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/16/g7-backing-for-who-leaves-trump-isolated-at-virtual-summit>.

On 17 April 2020, as part of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, the German government committed to “pool scientific resources and efforts, promote research and share findings,” with the purpose of developing a vaccine, therapeutics, and enhanced testing kits to be made available to all countries.<sup>2558</sup>

On 22 June 2020, the German government called for the expansion of the global health crisis management system, including advocating for funding to strengthen the coordinating role of the WHO, ensuring its financial autonomy and financing its emergency fund.<sup>2559</sup>

On 1 December 2020, the Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in Germany announced EUR140 million for the international Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) a research alliance founded in 2015 alongside Japan, Norway, India, the World Economic Forum and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, to bridge the divide between public and private actors in global health research and development. The development of the COVID-19 vaccine has been fast-tracked due to the research activities done by CEPI into the Middle East respiratory syndrome and severe acute respiratory syndrome.<sup>2560</sup>

On 19 February 2021, Chancellor Merkel committed an additional EUR1.5 billion, on top of 600 million euros previously earmarked, to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, to support vaccine distribution worldwide through the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access facility, a global initiative by the WHO to provide equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine. It is stated that the contribution will also help support vaccine research for various mutations, provide support for COVID-19 treatment, and alleviate the cost of rapid tests for developing countries.<sup>2561</sup>

Germany has taken strong action by investing in a collaborative approach to research and the development of a COVID-19 vaccine and treatment and has worked to marshal collaboration and cooperation with other governments in the areas of research, science, and technology.

Thus, Germany has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Iman Ahmed*

## **Italy: 0**

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to marshalling the full power of government to encourage science, research, and technology cooperation.

On 31 March 2020, Italy funded 18 research projects on diagnosis and treatment focused on COVID-19. EUR90 million was put towards the Medical Innovation Initiative, and EUR80 million was initiated for the development and production of a vaccine.<sup>2562</sup>

On 21 April 2020, Italy took action to promote multilateral coordination mechanisms to respond to the crisis with the United Nations, European Union, G20, and G7. Priority areas included research, vaccine

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<sup>2557</sup> Declaration of Commitment to Multilateralism, The Federal Government (Berlin) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/alienz-fuer-multilateralismus-1744934>.

<sup>2558</sup> Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID19 on maintaining essential global links, The Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 18 April 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/ministerial-coordination-group-covid19/2333632>.

<sup>2559</sup> Policy Paper, The Federal Government (Berlin) June 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/blob/2354916/4229a3d433f85aea39310bb1440a33ac/covid19-data.pdf>.

<sup>2560</sup> Coronavirus: What the BMBF is doing, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Berlin) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.bmbf.de/en/coronavirus-what-the-bmbf-is-doing-11194.html>.

<sup>2561</sup> Fighting COVID-19 together in a spirit of solidarity: Germany is contributing a further 1.5 billion euro to global efforts to fight the pandemic, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/gesundheit/covax/2396914>.

<sup>2562</sup> DEF 2020 SECTION III - National Reform Program, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [http://www.dt.mef.gov.it/modules/documenti\\_en/analisi\\_progammazione/documenti\\_programmatici/def\\_2020/NRP\\_2020.pdf](http://www.dt.mef.gov.it/modules/documenti_en/analisi_progammazione/documenti_programmatici/def_2020/NRP_2020.pdf).

development and distribution, and food crisis prevention, as well as an emphasis on supporting fragile countries.<sup>2563</sup>

On 16 July 2020, Italy approved the “Rilancio” Decree, recognizing a network of microbiology and virology laboratories to aid in the fight against COVID-19.<sup>2564</sup>

On 14 August 2020, Italy’s National Emergency Fund was increased by EUR580 million for the year 2020 and EUR300 million for the year 2021, including: “one share of the aforementioned resources equal to 80 million for the year 2020 and 300 million for the year 2021 [that] is destined for the research, development the purchase of vaccines and monoclonal antibodies produced by industries of the sector, also through the acquisition of share capital market conditions.”<sup>2565</sup>

On 3 November 2020, Italy’s Regional Reference Laboratory stated that it was “involved in characterizing SARS-CoV-2 strains of regional clusters, whose sequences have been made available to the scientific community.”<sup>2566</sup>

On 29 January 2021, Italy authorized the export of vaccines related to the coronavirus that caused severe acute respiratory syndrome.<sup>2567</sup>

Italy has taken no strong action to invest in any of the target areas however they have verbally committed to collaboration and cooperation with other governments in the areas of research, science, and technology.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Anjali Rao*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to marshalling the full power of government to encourage science, research, and technology cooperation.

On 8 May 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs Toshimitsu Motegi held a telephone conversation with Spain’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union, and Cooperation of Spain Arancha González Laya.<sup>2568</sup> Both ministers desired to “continue working closely together through sharing information and collaboration to combat COVID-19.”<sup>2569</sup>

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<sup>2563</sup> DEF 2020 SECTION III - National Reform Program, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021.

[http://www.dt.mef.gov.it/modules/documenti\\_en/analisi\\_progammazione/documenti\\_programmatici/def\\_2020/NRP\\_2020.pdf](http://www.dt.mef.gov.it/modules/documenti_en/analisi_progammazione/documenti_programmatici/def_2020/NRP_2020.pdf).

<sup>2564</sup> Prevention and response to COVID-19: evolution of strategy and planning in the transition phase for the autumn winter season, Higher Institute of Health (Rome) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. [https://www.iss.it/documents/5430402/0/COVID+19\\_+strategy\\_ISS\\_MoH+%281%29.pdf/f0d91693-c7ce-880b-e554-643c049ea0f3?t=1604675600974](https://www.iss.it/documents/5430402/0/COVID+19_+strategy_ISS_MoH+%281%29.pdf/f0d91693-c7ce-880b-e554-643c049ea0f3?t=1604675600974).

<sup>2565</sup> DECREE-LAW, n. 104 Urgent measures to support and revive the economy, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 14 August 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/documenti-e-norme/normative/Documents/2020/DL-104-del-14082020-Misure-urgenti-per-sostegno-e-rilancio-economia.pdf>.

<sup>2566</sup> Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (Rome) 3 November 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/documenti-e-norme/normative/Documents/2020/DPCM-3-novembre-2020.pdf>.

<sup>2567</sup> SUBJECT: Authorization for export of SARS-related coronavirus vaccines (especially SARS-CoV) in application of the Implementing Regulation (EU), Excise, Customs, and Monopoly Agency (Rome) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.adm.gov.it/portale/documents/20182/6323589/20210201-34605RU+INFO+ASSOCAT\\_AUT+EXP+VACCINI+def.pdf/9fbf063f-8e49-423f-aa7f-7d5c5c3dedf6](https://www.adm.gov.it/portale/documents/20182/6323589/20210201-34605RU+INFO+ASSOCAT_AUT+EXP+VACCINI+def.pdf/9fbf063f-8e49-423f-aa7f-7d5c5c3dedf6).

<sup>2568</sup> Japan-Spain Foreign Minister’s Telephone Talk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002810.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002810.html).

<sup>2569</sup> Japan-Spain Foreign Minister’s Telephone Talk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002810.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002810.html).



On 8 October 2020, Japan announced that it will contribute more than USD130 million to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Advance Market Commitment to ensure countries gain equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.<sup>2570</sup>

On 25 November 2020, Japan pledged JPY229 million to the World Health Organization's Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator for vaccine development and distribution.<sup>2571</sup>

On 4 December 2020, Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide delivered a speech at the General Debate of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, promising multilateral cooperation schemes with other UNGA nations and the Japanese private sector.<sup>2572</sup>

On 11 December 2020, the Thirteenth Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting between Japan, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Korea discussed plans to strengthen information sharing and "encourage and support scientific research institutions to develop joint scientific research."<sup>2573</sup>

On 15 December 2020, Japan allocated JPY820.4 billion to "enhancing the testing system & developing the vaccine distribution system" as well as JPY144.4 billion to "International cooperation for containing the COVID-19."<sup>2574</sup>

On 31 December 2020, Japan provided over USD1.54 billion in medical and health assistance bilaterally, and through international organizations.<sup>2575</sup> Japan also provided USD13 million of technical cooperation to 45 countries.<sup>2576</sup> Furthermore, Japan provided medical equipment such as X-ray equipment, thermographic cameras, ambulances, etc. to more than 89 countries across the world, amounting to USD436 million.<sup>2577</sup> Finally, Japan provided "sanitary goods, training of health care workers on prevention and raising awareness about the risk of infections."<sup>2578</sup>

On 5 March 2021, Minister Motegi announced at a press conference that Japan, the United States, Australia, and India "discussed the necessity and importance of international cooperation for ensuring fair access to vaccines, including developing countries."<sup>2579</sup>

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<sup>2570</sup> Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu co-hosted Ministerial Meeting of Group of Friends of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002929.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002929.html).

<sup>2571</sup> Japan's Contribution to the Act-A Program, WHO (New York) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/act-accelerator/2020-japan-participation-in-the-act-a-program-11\\_26\\_2020.pdf](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/act-accelerator/2020-japan-participation-in-the-act-a-program-11_26_2020.pdf).

<sup>2572</sup> Address by Prime Minister SUGA at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e\\_000292.html#](https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ghp/page1e_000292.html#).

<sup>2573</sup> Joint Statement of the Thirteenth Tripartite Health Ministers' Meeting, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/10501000/000704834.pdf>.

<sup>2574</sup> Overview of the Third Supplementary Budget for FY2020, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.mof.go.jp/english/budget/budget/fy2020/05.pdf>.

<sup>2575</sup> Japan's aid policies to COVID-19 For Developing Countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100098665.pdf>.

<sup>2576</sup> Japan's aid policies to COVID-19 For Developing Countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100098665.pdf>.

<sup>2577</sup> Japan's aid policies to COVID-19 For Developing Countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100098665.pdf>.

<sup>2578</sup> Japan's aid policies to COVID-19 For Developing Countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100098665.pdf>.

<sup>2579</sup> Press Conference by Foreign Minister Motegi Toshimitsu, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/kaiken22e\\_000020.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/kaiken/kaiken22e_000020.html).

Japan has taken strong action by investing in a collaborative approach to research and the development of a COVID-19 vaccine and treatment and has worked to marshal collaboration and cooperation with other governments in the areas of research, science, and technology.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Anjali Rao and Paul Huang*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to marshalling the full power of government to encourage science, research, and technology cooperation.

On 13 April 2020, Jonathan Pearce, on behalf of United Kingdom Research and Innovation, a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy of the government of the United Kingdom, called for global cooperation on the development of a COVID-19 vaccine. As part of a joint declaration coordinated by the World Health Organization (WHO), Pearce was joined by representatives of numerous pharmaceutical companies, governments, and universities, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, in a pledge to strengthen “worldwide collaboration, cooperation and sharing of data.”<sup>2580</sup>

On 17 April 2020, the United Kingdom endorsed the Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, encouraging the maintenance of global links and calling for the pooling of resources, research findings, towards the development of a COVID-19 vaccine, therapeutics, and enhanced testing kits to be available for all countries.<sup>2581</sup>

On 29 April 2020, the Secretary of State for the UK Department for International Development Anne-Marie Trevelyan announced GBP330 million a year over the next five years to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance to immunise 75 million children and fund the reparation and rebuilding of health systems in the world’s poorest countries.<sup>2582</sup>

On 30 April 2020, Oxford University announced a partnership with the UK-based global biopharmaceutical company AstraZeneca to jointly manufacture and mass distribute the vaccine candidate developed by the University’s Jenner Institute. The deal requires AstraZeneca to work with global partners for international distribution and is supported by GBP20 million in government funding.<sup>2583</sup>

On 10 January 2020, the United Kingdom helped mobilize USD1 billion in funding for the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility, the global initiative for equitable COVID-19 vaccine access, launched in alliance with the WHO, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, with the UK itself contributing GBP548 million.<sup>2584</sup>

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<sup>2580</sup>Public statement for collaboration on COVID-19 vaccine development, The World Health Organization (Geneva) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.who.int/news/item/13-04-2020-public-statement-for-collaboration-on-covid-19-vaccine-development>.

<sup>2581</sup>Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 on maintaining essential global links, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/declaration-of-the-ministerial-coordination-group-on-covid19-covid19-on-maintaining-essential-global-links.html>.

<sup>2582</sup> UK leads global fight to protect up to 75 million children against deadly diseases, Department for International Development (London) 19 April 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-leads-global-fight-to-protect-up-to-75-million-children-against-deadly-diseases>.

<sup>2583</sup> Landmark partnership announced for development of COVID-19 vaccine, University of Oxford (Oxford) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2020-04-30-landmark-partnership-announced-development-covid-19-vaccine>.

<sup>2584</sup> UK meets £250m match aid target into COVAX, the global vaccines facility, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (London) 10 January 2021. Access Date: 8 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-raises-1bn-so-vulnerable-countries-can-get-vaccine>.

The United Kingdom has taken strong action by investing in a collaborative approach to research and the development of a COVID-19 vaccine and treatment and has worked to marshal collaboration and cooperation with other governments in the areas of research and science.

Thus, the United Kingdom has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Iman Ahmed*

**United States: +1**

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to marshalling the full power of government to encourage science, research, and technology cooperation.

On 26 March 2020, the United States government announced USD274 million in funding to 64 countries deemed most at-risk of the COVID-19 pandemic. This pledge included USD100 million in emergency health assistance, USD110 million in international disaster assistance, and USD64 million to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.<sup>2585</sup> Within the countries selected to receive aid, the United States provided funds to ensure the preparation of laboratory systems, the amelioration of water and sanitation systems, and supporting “technical experts for response and preparedness.”<sup>2586</sup>

On 8 April 2020, the United States government pledged an additional USD225 million in foreign aid, with the intention of “preparing and bolstering health systems, improving laboratories, training healthcare workers and more.”<sup>2587</sup> In the same announcement, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the United States would hold all critical medical items within its borders until “the demand at home is met.”<sup>2588</sup>

On 11 April 2020, the United States government authorized an assistance package to Italy in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. This aid included technical support as well as American military support. Secretary Pompeo stated that American military personnel in Italy would help in providing “telemedicine services [and] facilitating transport and assembly of field hospitals and equipment.”<sup>2589</sup>

On 15 April 2020, President Donald Trump announced that the United States was going to halt its funding to the World Health Organization (WHO). The president stated that the halting comes as “a review is conducted to assess the World Health Organization’s role in severely mismanaging and covering up the spread of the coronavirus.”<sup>2590</sup>

On 16 April 2020, the United States government released the U.S. Government Action Plan to Support the International Response to COVID-19. This initiated the “SAFER” package, which aims to share American

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<sup>2585</sup> U.S. Foreign Assistance in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Department of State (Washington) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/u-s-foreign-assistance-in-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic/index.html>.

<sup>2586</sup> The United States Is Leading the Humanitarian and Health Assistance Response to COVID-19, Department of State (Washington) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/the-united-states-is-leading-the-humanitarian-and-health-assistance-response-to-covid-19/index.html>.

<sup>2587</sup> Continuing U.S. Leadership in the Global COVID-19 Response Through Additional U.S. Foreign Assistance, Department of State (Washington) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/continuing-u-s-leadership-in-the-global-covid-19-response-through-additional-u-s-foreign-assistance/index.html>.

<sup>2588</sup> Continuing U.S. Leadership in the Global COVID-19 Response Through Additional U.S. Foreign Assistance, Department of State (Washington) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/continuing-u-s-leadership-in-the-global-covid-19-response-through-additional-u-s-foreign-assistance/index.html>.

<sup>2589</sup> U.S. Assistance to Italy, Department of State (Washington) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/u-s-assistance-to-italy/index.html>.

<sup>2590</sup> Coronavirus: US to Halt Funding to WHO, says Trump, BBC News (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-52289056>.

health and scientific expertise to global partners.<sup>2591</sup> Assistance includes increasing laboratory capacity to test for COVID-19, strengthening epidemiological surveillance capacity, and supporting governments in the “procurement, distribution, and access to critical COVID-19 medical supplies.”<sup>2592</sup>

On 4 May 2020, the United States government called on other countries to contribute to scientific and technological efforts to end the COVID-19 pandemic. In its Whole-of-America Action Plan, the United States announced its partnership with the European Medicines Agency in the Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines initiative. This partnership pledged to develop “a collaborative framework to prioritize vaccine and drug candidates [and] streamline clinical trials.”<sup>2593</sup> Furthermore, the United States government announced two government-sponsored vaccine projects, one in partnership with the international Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations.<sup>2594</sup>

On 12 May 2020, the United States government reaffirmed its commitment to North American cooperation in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic. In this cooperation, the United States has collaborated with its North American allies on “efforts to develop vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics and once developed, make them available, accessible, and affordable to all.”<sup>2595</sup>

On 4 June 2020, the United States government announced USD194 million in foreign aid to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The statement directs USD180 million of this pledge to support ventilator purchase and acquisition worldwide. Secretary Pompeo expressed America’s involvement in the development of a high-flow respirator in Israel, as well as stated his desire for America’s partners to increase domestic production of personal protective equipment.<sup>2596</sup>

On 7 July 2020, the United States gave an official notification to the United Nations of its intention to withdraw from the WHO. In May 2020, President Trump justified his decision by stating that it had “failed to make the requested and greatly needed reforms” and that the United States will instead be “redirecting those funds to other worldwide and deserving urgent public health needs.”<sup>2597</sup> The withdrawal was set to take place on 6 July 2021.<sup>2598</sup>

On 15 July 2020, the United States government announced USD208 million in international aid to support countries during the COVID-19 pandemic. USD62 million of the funding is directed towards “the purchase

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<sup>2591</sup> Release of U.S. Government Action Plan to Support the International Response to COVID-19, Department of State (Washington) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/release-of-u-s-government-action-plan-to-support-the-international-response-to-covid-19/index.html>.

<sup>2592</sup> Release of U.S. Government Action Plan to Support the International Response to COVID-19, Department of State (Washington) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/release-of-u-s-government-action-plan-to-support-the-international-response-to-covid-19/index.html>.

<sup>2593</sup> The U.S. Is Leading the Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Developing a Vaccine, Department of State (Washington) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/the-u-s-is-leading-the-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic-and-developing-a-vaccine/index.html>.

<sup>2594</sup> The U.S. Is Leading the Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Developing a Vaccine, Department of State (Washington) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/the-u-s-is-leading-the-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic-and-developing-a-vaccine/index.html>.

<sup>2595</sup> North American Cooperation on COVID-19, Department of State (Washington) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/north-american-cooperation-on-covid-19/index.html>.

<sup>2596</sup> Fulfilling the President’s Generous Commitment to Provide Critical Medical Supplies Across the Globe, Department of State (Washington) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/fulfilling-the-presidents-generous-commitment-to-provide-critical-medical-supplies-across-the-globe/index.html>.

<sup>2597</sup> Trump Administration Gives Formal Notice of Withdrawal from WHO, NBC News (Washington) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/trump-administration-gives-formal-notice-withdrawal-who-n1233100>.

<sup>2598</sup> Update on U.S. Withdrawal from the World Health Organization, Department of State (Washington) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/update-on-u-s-withdrawal-from-the-world-health-organization/index.html>.

of ventilators for countries in need, enabling delivery of machines, training, equipment, and support measures.”<sup>2599</sup>

On 11 September 2020, the United States government organized an Innovation Roundtable hosted by the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs. The event brought the federal government and leaders from the “Smart Spaces/Smart Cities” technology industry to discuss international technological development and innovation meant to further the world’s recovery from COVID-19.<sup>2600</sup>

On 8 December 2020, President Trump signed the Executive Order on Ensuring Access to the United States Government COVID-19 Vaccines. This order aimed to ensure that American-made vaccines will be accessible on an international level.<sup>2601</sup>

On 20 January 2021, President Joe Biden reversed the decision of President Trump to leave the WHO. The following day, the United States government announced its intention to join the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access facility] and support Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator “to advance multilateral efforts for COVID-19 vaccine ... and research and development.”<sup>2602</sup>

The United States has taken strong action by investing in a collaborative approach to research and the development of a COVID-19 vaccine and treatment and has worked to marshal collaboration and cooperation with other governments in the areas of research, science, and technology.

Thus, the United States has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Timothy Tennant*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to marshalling the full power of government to encourage science, research, and technology cooperation.

On 20 April 2020, the European Commission launched a data sharing platform called the “European COVID-19 Data Platform” for the rapid collection and sharing of COVID-19 research data. The platform will allow European countries a global environment to share their findings.<sup>2603</sup>

On 24 April 2020, the European Commission, the executive branch of the European Union, along with WHO, France, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation launched the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, a global framework and partnership of health organizations, businesses, philanthropists, and scientists with the goal of facilitating the distribution of vaccines and treatments globally, most notably through the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access facility. The ACT-Accelerator was launched as a result of the

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<sup>2599</sup> New Humanitarian and Health Assistance Bolsters U.S. Leadership in Response to COVID-19, Department of State (Washington) 15 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/new-humanitarian-and-health-assistance-bolsters-u-s-leadership-in-response-to-covid-19/index.html>.

<sup>2600</sup> Innovation Roundtable: Smart Spaces and COVID-19 Recovery, Department of State (Washington) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/innovation-roundtable-smart-spaces-and-covid-19-recovery/index.html>.

<sup>2601</sup> President Trump’s Executive Order on Ensuring Access to United States Government COVID-19 Vaccines, Department of State (Washington) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://2017-2021.state.gov/president-trumps-executive-order-on-ensuring-access-to-united-states-government-covid-19-vaccines/index.html>.

<sup>2602</sup> U.S. Intends to Join COVAX and Remain WHO Member- Fauci, Reuters (Geneva) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-who-usa-idUSFWN2JV1AG>.

<sup>2603</sup> Coronavirus: Commission launches data sharing platform for researchers, European Commission (Brussels) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_680](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_680).

G20 Summit in March 2020, not the G7 Summit, but still meets the criteria for goals made at the G7 Summit.<sup>2604</sup>

On 4 May 2020, the European Commission announced that the Global Community had raised EUR74 billion for universal access to COVID-19 vaccines. This includes a pledge of EUR1.4 billion made by the European Commission. The event that this announcement was made at was co-convened by the European Union, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Norway, Spain, and the United Kingdom.<sup>2605</sup>

On 19 May 2020, the European Commission initiated EUR122 million from Horizon 2020 for research into the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding is a part of the Commission's EUR1.4 billion pledge to the Coronavirus Response Initiative.<sup>2606</sup>

On 4 June 2020, the European Commission announced a pledge of EUR300 million to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance for the period of 2021-2025. The funding will help immunise 300 million children across the world (including against COVID-19) and keep vaccine stockpiles for infectious diseases.<sup>2607</sup>

On 8 June 2020, the European Commission initiated EUR314 million through the European Innovation Council Accelerator Pilot to 36 companies to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The companies selected for support come from 16 countries, two EU member states, the UK and three associated countries.<sup>2608</sup>

On 10 June 2020, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation organized an international networking event in which various scientists from around the world presented their COVID-19-related findings, thus promoting information sharing. The event featured about three dozen research projects funded by the EU as well as a dozen international partners.<sup>2609</sup>

On 6 July 2020, the European Investment signed a EUR75 million loan agreement with CureVac for the development and production of vaccines. This includes CureVac's vaccine candidate against SARS-CoV-2.<sup>2610</sup>

On 11 August 2020, the European Commission initiated EUR128 million to fund 23 new research projects that aim to address the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences. The 23 research projects include 347 research teams from 40 countries and 34 participants from 16 countries outside of the EU. In specific the research projects will work to target the development of diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines for COVID-19.<sup>2611</sup>

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<sup>2604</sup> Act-Accelerator Frequently Asked Questions, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. Covid-19 – Health in Common Initiative: Financing the First Projects in Africa, French Development Agency (Paris) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/covid-19-health-common-initiative-financing-first-projects-africa>

<sup>2605</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: €7.4 billion raised for universal access to vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_797](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_797).

<sup>2606</sup> Coronavirus: Commission boosts urgently needed research and innovation with additional €122 million, European Commission (Brussels) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_887](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_887).

<sup>2607</sup> Coronavirus Global Response: European Commission pledges €300 million to Gavi, European Commission (Brussels) 4 June 2020. Access Date 8 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_989](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_989).

<sup>2608</sup> Coronavirus: EU grants €314 million to innovative companies to combat the virus and support recovery, European Commission (Brussels) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1007](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1007).

<sup>2609</sup> COVID-19 International Research Networking Event, European Commission (Brussels) 11 June 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/covid-19-international-research-and-innovation-networking-event-2020-jun-11\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/covid-19-international-research-and-innovation-networking-event-2020-jun-11_en).

<sup>2610</sup> Commission and EIB provide CureVac with a €75 million financing for vaccine development and expansion of manufacturing, European Commission (Brussels) 6 July 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1238](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1238).

<sup>2611</sup> Coronavirus: 23 new research projects to receive €128 million in EU funding, European Commission (Brussels) 11 August 2020. Access Date: 8 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1460](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1460).

The European Union has taken strong action by investing in a collaborative approach to research and the development of a COVID-19 vaccine and treatment and has worked to marshal collaboration and cooperation with other governments in the areas of research and science.

Thus, the European Union has received a score of +1.

*Analysts: Ciara McGarry and Isabel Davis*

## 14. Global Economy: Restoring Confidence and Growth

“We are committed to marshalling the full power of our governments to: Restore confidence, growth and protect jobs.”

*G7 Leaders’ Statement*

### Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Canada		0	
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.75 (88%)	

### Background

The G7 was first founded as a meeting of the finance ministers of the world’s largest economies in reaction to the oil crisis caused by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, the fall of the Bretton Woods monetary system and the ensuing recessions.<sup>2612</sup> The members of the G6, later to become the G7, realized they needed an expedient way to communicate and coordinate decisions and ideas about their economies. Thus, the global economy has been a topic of discussion at the G7 summits since the beginning, and the group has navigated several global recessions in the 45 years since its inception.

During the 1970s, the G7 members focused on anti-inflationary measures to counteract the extreme fluctuations in the global economy.<sup>2613</sup> Additionally, since many of these financial crises were due to drastic changes in oil supply and prices, the leaders emphasized the need for energy independence and free trade.

As the leaders entered the second cycle of the group, French President François Mitterrand shifted the path of economic policy at the 1982 Versailles Summit.<sup>2614</sup> There he presented the Report on Technology, Employment and Growth, which focused more on how to transition to a more technologically advanced society while still maintaining job growth and full employment. Instead of only emphasizing appropriate monetary and fiscal policy, President Mitterrand also highlighted the need to invest in the adaptation of knowledge, sustaining consumer demand and putting greater effort into professional training and mobility.<sup>2615</sup>

The new interest in sustainable growth and development continued on to future summits. The 1984 London Declaration discussed recovery from the previous recession through job training programs and strengthening

<sup>2612</sup> What are the G7 and the G8?, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 2 February 2016. Access Date: 22 January 2021.

[http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/what\\_is\\_g8.html](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/what_is_g8.html).

<sup>2613</sup> Declaration of Rambouillet, G7 Research Group (Rambouillet) 17 November 1975. Access Date: 22 January 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1975rambouillet/communique.html>.

<sup>2614</sup> Technology, Employment and Growth: Report by Mr. François Mitterrand, President of the French Republic at the Summit of the Industrialized Countries, G7 Research Group (Versailles) 5 June 1982. Access Date: 28 December 2020.

[http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1982versailles/report\\_english/draw.html](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1982versailles/report_english/draw.html).

<sup>2615</sup> Technology, Employment and Growth: Report by Mr. François Mitterrand, President of the French Republic at the Summit of the Industrialized Countries, G7 Research Group (Versailles) 5 June 1982. Access Date: 28 December 2020.

[http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1982versailles/report\\_english/draw.html](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1982versailles/report_english/draw.html).



the new international monetary system.<sup>2616</sup> In 1985, the Bonn Economic Declaration emphasized the need to focus on growth beyond non-inflation and gross domestic product (GDP) and instead shift towards sustained growth and higher employment.<sup>2617</sup> Again, training programs for young people were mentioned, along with promoting adaptability and flexibility within the labour force. As well, open trade was emphasized to increase market efficiencies and promote further global economic integration.<sup>2618</sup> While these general goals were agreed upon, the declaration also noted that each country needed to pursue their own individual policies that best fit their economies.

As these shifts towards a more holistic approach to growth were taking place, G7 leaders were also focused on strengthening and restoring confidence in the global monetary system, which was only a decade old at the time. In his 1983 Declaration on Economic Recovery, U.S. President Ronald Reagan emphasized responsible monetary policies and increasing the role of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in governing the global financial system.<sup>2619</sup> President Reagan's focus on prudent domestic monetary policies and increased support of financial international bodies was in part about creating a resilient and growth-minded global economy, but also these steps were taken to restore confidence in the global economy which was lost during the intense and turbulent shocks of the 1970s.

In the 1997 Denver Summit Statement by Seven, the members focused on policies to increase stable, non-inflationary growth, create jobs, restore sound public finances, and handle the issues of aging populations, which could increase pension and healthcare costs.<sup>2620</sup> Additionally, concerns about financial contagion were growing as the world economies were becoming increasingly globalized. Thus, sound finances and good fiscal policy once again became a concern, as financial instability could spread between countries due to their interdependence.<sup>2621</sup>

The focus on sustainable development and job growth continued through the beginning of the 21st century for the G7, and these trends were reflected in 2015 with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals with Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth.<sup>2622</sup> In the 2017 Taormina Action Plan and the 2018 Charlevoix Commitment on Equality and Economic Growth, more emphasis was made to people-centred growth and holistic measures for well-being and development.<sup>2623,2624</sup> The G7 members seemed to have reignited their interest in job growth and development, looking forward to future technological change and the shifting landscape of work.

The onset of the coronavirus pandemic swiftly changed this new job landscape. As the economies of the world came to a standstill at the beginning of 2020, millions lost their jobs and hours worked were

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<sup>2616</sup> The London Economic Declaration, G7 Research Group (London) 9 June 1984. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1984london/communique.html>.

<sup>2617</sup> The Bonn Economic Declaration: Towards Sustained Growth and Higher Employment, G7 Research Group (Bonn) 4 May 1985. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1985bonn/communique.html>.

<sup>2618</sup> The Bonn Economic Declaration: Towards Sustained Growth and Higher Employment, G7 Research Group (Bonn) 4 May 1985. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1985bonn/communique.html>.

<sup>2619</sup> Declaration on Economic Recovery, G7 Research Group (Williamsburg) 30 May 1983. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1983williamsburg/communique.html>.

<sup>2620</sup> Confronting Global Economic and Financial Challenges: Denver Summit Statement by Seven, G7 Research Group (Denver) 21 June 1997. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1997denver/confront.htm>.

<sup>2621</sup> Confronting Global Economic and Financial Challenges: Denver Summit Statement by Seven, G7 Research Group (Denver) 21 June 1997. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1997denver/confront.htm>.

<sup>2622</sup> The 17 Goals, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (New York) 2015. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal8>.

<sup>2623</sup> G7 People-Centred Action Plan on Innovation, Skills and Labour, G7 Research Group (Taormina) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/action-plan.html>.

<sup>2624</sup> Charlevoix Commitment on Equality and Economic Growth, G7 Research Group (La Malbaie) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/growth-commitment.html>.

dramatically reduced.<sup>2625</sup> In the second quarter of 2020, all G7 members were in a recession with some experiencing as much as 20 per cent decline in GDP in the second quarter.<sup>2626</sup> While economies bounced back as lockdown measures were gradually lifted, tourism in G7 members has dried up, both due to lack of funds and health risk of travel, eliminating large sources of income for countries like Italy and France.<sup>2627</sup> Additionally, concerns about the future of the pandemic, jobs and health have weighed on consumer spending; without the confidence of these consumers, the G7 economies will not fully recover. Concerns have also spread about the state of national balance sheets, as the “fiscal balance is set to deteriorate by 13.3 percentage points” as governments increase borrowing to fund their fiscal policies.<sup>2628</sup> Thus, most aspects of the G7 economies are currently under massive strain and suffering from uncertainty in the next year. This economic decline has hurt women and young people the most, and the loss of jobs and livelihood has disproportionately been seen in the service sector and informal economy.<sup>2629</sup>

The history of economic growth policy in the G7 is pertinent now, as the members will have to draw on lessons learned both in the past twenty years about jobs and development, but also through the monetary and fiscal struggles faced in the 1970s and 1980s. As lockdowns continue to go in and out of effect, economic activity may again be stalled again by measures taken during the second wave of the virus. Thus, economic recovery may be further delayed and slowed.

On 16 March 2020, when G7 leaders met virtually under the U.S. presidency to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, they expected to meet again in three months later at their regularly scheduled summit on 10-12 June 2020, which was later postponed indefinitely.

### **Commitment Features**

The G7 members are “[committed] to marshalling the full power of our governments to: Restore confidence, growth and protect jobs.”

“Commit” is understood as to do or perform, to pledge or bind (a person or organization) to a certain course of policy. Thus, G7 members must take direct actions to restore confidence, growth and protect jobs.

“Restore confidence” is understood as to bring back confidence, trust or belief in something. In this context, this means restoring trust in governments, financial systems and the global economy. As noted by the IMF, actions to restore confidence could include investing in infrastructure, enacting structural reforms, investing in global governance bodies (like the IMF) or strengthening crisis prevention and resolution frameworks.<sup>2630</sup>

“Growth” is understood as economic growth. This includes GDP growth or other measures like jobs added, hours worked, or the consumer confidence index. Policies that promote growth would stimulate the economy, like stimulus checks, infrastructure projects or investments in research and design. Actions like lowering the interest rate or negotiating a trade agreement may count towards restoring growth, but it would not count towards restoring confidence or protecting jobs.

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<sup>2625</sup> Employment Outlook 2020, OECD (Paris) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/employment-outlook/2020/#report>.

<sup>2626</sup> UK to plunge into deepest slump on record with worst GDP drop of G7, The Guardian (London) 9 August 2020. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/aug/09/uk-to-fall-into-deepest-slump-on-record-with-worst-fall-in-gdp-among-g7>.

<sup>2627</sup> G7 Economies In an uncertain recovery, Deloitte (India) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/insights/economy/impact-of-covid-19-g7-economies.html>.

<sup>2628</sup> G7 Economies In an uncertain recovery, Deloitte (India) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/insights/economy/impact-of-covid-19-g7-economies.html>.

<sup>2629</sup> Employment Outlook 2020, OECD (Paris) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <http://www.oecd.org/employment-outlook/2020/#report>.

<sup>2630</sup> Restoring Confidence in the Global Economy, International Monetary Fund (Washington, D.C.) 6 November 2002. Access Date: 28 December 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2015/09/28/04/54/vc110602>.

“Protect jobs” is understood as legal protections and rights that workers have to keep their jobs if they miss work because of illness, looking after a baby, strike, etc.<sup>2631</sup> In the context of the coronavirus pandemic, this could mean expanding paid time off and sick leave, or paid furlough. Additionally, this could mean actions taken to restore previous jobs or increase employment. Actions that protect jobs could include funding work training programs, expanding mandatory paid time off and stimulus money to companies to keep on employees.

This commitment has three components: restore confidence, growth, and protect jobs. Both, restoring confidence and protecting jobs can be actions taken in the pursuit of economic growth, although not all of these actions necessarily restore growth. Thus, many actions that fulfill restoring confidence or protecting jobs can also fulfill the commitment to growth. To receive full compliance, countries must enact specific policies to address confidence and job protection, not just restoring growth to their economies. For full compliance, the country would also have to take actions like expanding job training programs and creating an economic crisis response framework. Thus, to receive a score of +1, a member must strongly comply with two areas of the commitment and partially with one, or strongly comply with all three areas. To receive partial compliance, a score of 0, a member must comply with two areas of the commitment, strongly comply with one area and partially comply with another, or partially comply with all three areas of the commitment. In the case of non-compliance, a score of -1, a member has only partially complied with one aspect of the commitment or has taken no action at all.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	G7 member does NOT take actions to restore growth OR restore confidence OR protect jobs.
0	G7 member takes actions to restore growth AND confidence OR takes action to restore growth AND protect jobs.
+1	G7 member takes actions to restore growth AND confidence AND protect jobs.

*Compliance Director: Ally Johnston  
Lead Analyst: William Lloyd*

### Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to restore growth, restore confidence and protect jobs.

On 25 March 2020, the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act received Royal Assent.<sup>2632</sup> The Act guarantees the rapid administration and implementation of emergency measures to protect Canadians and to stabilize the Canadian economy.<sup>2633</sup> The Act provides direct relief to Canadian workers and an additional CAD55 billion through tax deferrals.<sup>2634</sup>

On 11 April 2020, the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act, No. 2 received Royal Assent.<sup>2635</sup> The Act provides incentives for employers to pay employees who are not working due to the lack of work in the

<sup>2631</sup> Job Protection, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) Access Date: 28 December 2020.

<sup>2632</sup> The COVID-19 Emergency Response Act Receives Royal Assent, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/the-covid-19-emergency-response-act-receives-royal-assent0.html/>.

<sup>2633</sup> The COVID-19 Emergency Response Act Receives Royal Assent, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/the-covid-19-emergency-response-act-receives-royal-assent0.html/>.

<sup>2634</sup> The COVID-19 Emergency Response Act Receives Royal Assent, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/the-covid-19-emergency-response-act-receives-royal-assent0.html/>.

<sup>2635</sup> COVID-19 Emergency Response Act, No. 2 receives Royal Assent, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/04/covid-19-emergency-response-act-no-2-receives-royal-assent-to-help-businesses-keep-canadians-in-their-jobs.html>.

pandemic.<sup>2636</sup> The Act will enable employers to continue to hold onto employees still on payroll and to rehire laid off employees.<sup>2637</sup>

On 5 May 2020, the Government of Canada announced the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy.<sup>2638</sup> The wage subsidy will cover up to 75 per cent for qualifying businesses.<sup>2639</sup> The subsidy will cover the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, aiming to protect Canadian jobs.<sup>2640</sup>

On 20 May 2020, Finance Minister Bill Morneau announced the Large Employer Emergency Finance Facility, which will support large employers in Canada whose needs extend beyond conventional financing.<sup>2641</sup>

Canada has taken steps to protect jobs and restore growth but has not taken any steps to restore confidence.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Ally Johnston*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to take actions to restore growth and confidence and protect jobs.

On 16 March 2020, President Emmanuel Macron announced a guarantee of up to EUR300 billion in bank loans to companies.<sup>2642</sup> The government also announced policies to allow for delays in payments for company's taxes, social security contributions and loan payments.<sup>2643</sup>

On 17 March 2020, Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire announced the mobilization of EUR45 billion to provide "first immediate economic assistance to companies and workers."<sup>2644</sup>

On 25 March 2020, the French government established a solidarity fund, in the light of lockdown measures taken at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2645</sup> The beneficiaries of the solidarity fund include "VSEs

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<sup>2636</sup> COVID-19 Emergency Response Act, No. 2 receives Royal Assent, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/04/covid-19-emergency-response-act-no-2-receives-royal-assent-to-help-businesses-keep-canadians-in-their-jobs.html>.

<sup>2637</sup> COVID-19 Emergency Response Act, No. 2 receives Royal Assent, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/04/covid-19-emergency-response-act-no-2-receives-royal-assent-to-help-businesses-keep-canadians-in-their-jobs.html>.

<sup>2638</sup> Government Announces Details of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 May 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/04/government-announces-details-of-the-canada-emergency-wage-subsidy-to-help-businesses-keep-canadians-in-their-jobs.html>.

<sup>2639</sup> Government Announces Details of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 May 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/04/government-announces-details-of-the-canada-emergency-wage-subsidy-to-help-businesses-keep-canadians-in-their-jobs.html>.

<sup>2640</sup> Government Announces Details of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 May 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/04/government-announces-details-of-the-canada-emergency-wage-subsidy-to-help-businesses-keep-canadians-in-their-jobs.html>.

<sup>2641</sup> Government announced support program for large employers is open for application, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/05/government-announces-support-program-for-large-employers-is-open-for-applications.html>.

<sup>2642</sup> France to Guarantee USD335 Billion of Bank Loans, Macron Says, Bloomberg (New York City) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-03-16/france-to-put-all-reforms-on-hold-to-focus-on-virus-macron-says>.

<sup>2643</sup> France to Guarantee USD335 Billion of Bank Loans, Macron Says, Bloomberg (New York City) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-03-16/france-to-put-all-reforms-on-hold-to-focus-on-virus-macron-says>.

<sup>2644</sup> France to mobilize 45 billion euros as economy slumps 1% in 2020, Reuters (Paris) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-france-economy-idUSKBN2140U2>.

[very small enterprises], self-employed, micro-entrepreneurs and liberal professions, with an economic activity and that are French tax residents,” with 10 or less employees, a turnover of less than EUR1 million for the last financial year, and an annual taxable profit of less than EUR60,000.<sup>2646</sup>

On 8 June 2020, Minister of Labour Muriel Pénicaud announced that the government would extend its “temporary unemployment” scheme for up to two years from date.<sup>2647</sup> Minister Pénicaud reported that, at the end of April, more than 8.6 million French citizens were benefiting for the scheme, and that the government would continue to provide the scheme for the foreseeable future.<sup>2648</sup>

On 25 August 2020, Minister Le Maire announced that the French government will guarantee EUR3 billion in quasi-equity long-term loans.<sup>2649</sup> This measure was aimed at small and medium-sized enterprises and are aimed at the loans that would be accounted for as equity for these firms, as a means to not add to currently existing debt burdens.<sup>2650</sup>

On 3 September 2020, France launched its economic stimulus plan titled “France Relance,” valued at EUR100 billion.<sup>2651</sup> The plan focuses on “a roadmap for the economic, social and ecological overhaul of the country.”<sup>2652</sup> The plan emphasizes the development of value-added activity in France, and job creation in order to make the French economy more competitive. Examples of programs include but not limited to lower production taxes, skills development and investment in future/green technology.<sup>2653</sup>

On 10 September 2020, Minister Pénicaud confirmed that the government will continue to maintain the support of long-term partial unemployment at 84 per cent of net salary until the summer of 2021.<sup>2654</sup> The program was initially expected to expire at the end of the 2020 calendar year. The scheme mainly targets businesses in the service sector.<sup>2655</sup>

On 19 October 2020, France expanded aid measures with a EUR20 billion scheme aimed to start in the first quarter of 2021.<sup>2656</sup> The scheme “aims to give small, unlisted companies financing options that would not entail taking on more pure debt, which could risk tripping them up as a recession bites.”<sup>2657</sup>

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<sup>2645</sup> French SME solidarity fund, Simmons & Simmons (London) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021.

<https://www.simmons-simmons.com/en/publications/ck9a6ustu13kr0982vumb5w6j/french-sme-solidarity-fund>.

<sup>2646</sup> French SME solidarity fund, Simmons & Simmons (London) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021.

<https://www.simmons-simmons.com/en/publications/ck9a6ustu13kr0982vumb5w6j/french-sme-solidarity-fund>.

<sup>2647</sup> France to extend crisis jobs scheme for up to two years, Financial Times (Paris) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021.

<https://www.ft.com/content/63b33ede-4463-4342-845a-26cf85a91d3d>.

<sup>2648</sup> France to extend crisis jobs scheme for up to two years, Financial Times (Paris) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021.

<https://www.ft.com/content/63b33ede-4463-4342-845a-26cf85a91d3d>.

<sup>2649</sup> France to guarantee 3 billion euros in quasi-equity loans for SMEs, Reuters (Paris) 25 August 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-economy-loans-idUSKBN25L0SM>.

<sup>2650</sup> France to guarantee 3 billion euros in quasi-equity loans for SMEs, Reuters (Paris) 25 August 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-economy-loans-idUSKBN25L0SM>.

<sup>2651</sup> France Relance, Government of France (Paris) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/france-relance>.

<sup>2652</sup> France Relance, Government of France (Paris) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/france-relance>.

<sup>2653</sup> France Relance, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021.

<https://www.entreprises.gouv.fr/fr/france-relance>.

<sup>2654</sup> Partial Long-Term Unemployment: Élisabeth Bourne Announces the Maintenance of the Device “Until Next Summer”, BFM TV (Paris) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. [https://www.bfmtv.com/economie/chomage-partiel-le-dispositif-maintenu-jusqu-a-l-ete-prochain-annonce-elisabeth-borne\\_AV-202009100061.html](https://www.bfmtv.com/economie/chomage-partiel-le-dispositif-maintenu-jusqu-a-l-ete-prochain-annonce-elisabeth-borne_AV-202009100061.html).

<sup>2655</sup> France extends programme to protect workers from further Covid-19 related job losses, RFI (Paris) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20200910-france-extends-programme-to-protect-workers-from-further-covid-19-related-job-losses>.

<sup>2656</sup> France adds USD23 Billion scheme to aid measures for company finances, Reuters (Paris) 19 October 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-economy-loans-idUSKBN2741FP>.

On 13 January 2021, the Bank of France announced its support for a government plan to partially guarantee equity loans to aid private investment, through the provision of a state guarantee bank credit that is equated to equity.<sup>2658</sup> As of 15 February 2021, the French government expects support from the European Commission for the loan program.<sup>2659</sup>

The French Government has taken actions to restore growth and confidence and protect jobs, through a variety of intervention measures in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus, France has received a score of +1

*Analyst: Adarsh Addepalli*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to restore confidence and growth and protect jobs.

On 23 March 2020, Germany launched the KfW Special Programme 2020 to provide loans to businesses of all sizes with lower interest rates and a simplified risk assessment procedure for amounts of up to EUR3 million.<sup>2660</sup>

On 3 April 2020, Germany adopted the Quick Loan Programme (KfW-Schnellkredit) to further support small and medium-sized firms with “instant loans.”<sup>2661</sup> These loans will provide banks with 100 per cent liability waivers that are backed up by government guarantees.<sup>2662</sup> KfW Chief Executive Officer Günther Braunig indicated that “we are making sure that businesses which have run into financial difficulty solely due to the pandemic can access credit swiftly.”<sup>2663</sup>

On 28 April 2020, the Ministry of Finance published the German Stability Programme 2020 and announced fiscal policy actions to fight against the crisis.<sup>2664</sup> In this program, the federal government would establish “an Economic Stabilisation Fund that provides large-scale assistance to protect businesses and jobs, with the aim of stabilising the real economy as a whole. The fund has EUR100 billion available for equity measures and

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<sup>2657</sup> France adds USD23 Billion scheme to aid measures for company finances, Reuters (Paris) 19 October 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-economy-loans-idUSKBN2741FP>.

<sup>2658</sup> Bank of France Gives its Blessing to Crisis-Fighting Credit Tool. Bloomberg (New York) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 28 February 2021. [bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-01-13/bank-of-france-gives-its-blessing-to-crisis-fighting-credit-tool](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-01-13/bank-of-france-gives-its-blessing-to-crisis-fighting-credit-tool).

<sup>2659</sup> France Expects Imminent EU backing for Corporate EU Backing for Corporate Recovery Plan, Bloomberg (New York) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 1 March 2021 <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-02-15/france-expects-eu-to-back-its-hybrid-loan-plan-in-coming-days>.

<sup>2660</sup> Additional KfW Special Programme 2020 for the Economy to be Launched Today, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/2020-03-23-KfW-special-programme.html>.

<sup>2661</sup> German Government Adopts a More Extensive Quick Loan Programme for Small and Medium-sized Businesses, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/2020-04-07-quick-loan-programme.html>.

<sup>2662</sup> German Government Adopts more Extensive Quick Loan Programme for Small and Medium-sized Businesses, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/2020-04-07-quick-loan-programme.html>.

<sup>2663</sup> German Government Adopts a More Extensive Quick Loan Programme for Small and Medium-sized Businesses, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/2020-04-07-quick-loan-programme.html>.

<sup>2664</sup> German Stability Programme 2020, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. [https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Press\\_Room/Publications/Brochures/2020-04-17-german-stability-programme-2020.html](https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Press_Room/Publications/Brochures/2020-04-17-german-stability-programme-2020.html).

EUR400 billion for guarantees. In addition, it has up to EUR100 billion at its disposal for refinancing of the KfW programmes.”<sup>2665</sup>

On 17 June 2020, Germany earmarked additional funding in its second supplementary budget to support its Economic Stimulus and Future Technologies Package that will provide effective economic impetus.<sup>2666</sup> With the second supplementary budget, investment spending would rise to EUR71.8 billion, including a “Digital Infrastructure” special fund and climate-friendly infrastructures.<sup>2667</sup>

On 24 June 2020, the Cabinet adopted the Structural Reinforcement Act for Mining Regions and began its structural change in the coal-mining regions.<sup>2668</sup> The Act puts the structural policy recommendations made by the Commission for “Growth, Structural Change and Employment” into practice to safeguard jobs locally and support these regions with further research, promotional programmes, and research infrastructure projects.<sup>2669</sup>

On 12 November 2020, the Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and the Ministry of Finance launched the November Assistance Programme to provide relief to companies, the self-employed, associations and establishments.<sup>2670</sup> As of 25 November 2020, this assistance had been extended until 20 December 2020.<sup>2671</sup>

On 5 February 2021, Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Peter Altmeier, Minister of Finance Olaf Scholz, and Commissioner for Culture and the Media Monika Grütters launched the New Start Assistance for the cultural sector within the scope of Bridging Assistance III to support short-term employees and freelancers in the cultural and arts sector.<sup>2672</sup>

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<sup>2665</sup> German Stability Programme 2020, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021.

[https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Press\\_Room/Publications/Brochures/2020-04-17-german-stability-programme-2020.html](https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Press_Room/Publications/Brochures/2020-04-17-german-stability-programme-2020.html).

<sup>2666</sup> We Have the Strength to Weather the Crisis Well, The Federal Government (Berlin) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/zweiter-nachtragshaushalt-1761564>.

<sup>2667</sup> We Have the Strength to Weather the Crisis Well, The Federal Government (Berlin) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/zweiter-nachtragshaushalt-1761564>.

<sup>2668</sup> Minister Altmaier: “We’re giving coal regions and local communities a clear prospect for the future and safeguarding jobs, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200624-minister-altmaier-we-are-giving-coal-regions-and-local-communities-a-clear-prospect-for-the-future-and-safeguarding-jobs.html>.

<sup>2669</sup> Minister Altmaier: “We’re giving coal regions and local communities a clear prospect for the future and safeguarding jobs, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200624-minister-altmaier-we-are-giving-coal-regions-and-local-communities-a-clear-prospect-for-the-future-and-safeguarding-jobs.html>.

<sup>2670</sup> November Assistance Programme: Procedure for Advance Payment Established, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/11/20201112-november-assistance-programme-procedure-for-advance-payment-established.html>.

<sup>2671</sup> Defying the Crisis: December Assistance Programme Begins Bridging Assistance Programme is Significantly Expanded and Extended, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/11/20201127-defying-the-crisis-december-assistance-programme-begins-bridging-assistance-programme-is-significantly-expanded-and-extended.html>.

<sup>2672</sup> Short-term Employees in the Performing Arts Sector to Receive New Start Assistance, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/02/20210205-short-term-employees-in-the-performing-arts-sector-to-receive-new-start-assistance.html>.

On 9 February 2021, the Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy reported that the Federal Government provided export credit guarantees to the amount of EUR16.7 billion in 2020 which improved the liquidity situation of exporters and importers in the current situation.<sup>2673</sup>

Germany has taken actions to restore confidence and growth and protect jobs.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Tianyang Qi*

### **Italy: 0**

Italy has complied with its commitment to restore growth and protect jobs but has taken insufficient actions to restore confidence.

On 21 July 2020, the European Union members agreed to a EUR750 billion recovery fund (the largest in the EU's history) to support countries heavily affected by COVID-19. Italy negotiated with France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, and Austria to receive the largest chunk of the fund, amounting to EUR209 billion.<sup>2674,2675</sup> Named Next Generation EU, the fund will help Italy undertake massive investment in technology, infrastructure, and green energy. The target is to rebalance Italy's failing economy and ensure growth for the foreseeable future.<sup>2676</sup>

On 30 November 2020, Italy approved an additional stimulus deal amounting to EUR8 billion, ensuring fiscal liquidity to the Italian population.<sup>2677</sup>

On 11 December 2020, Minister of Economic Development Stefano Patuanelli met with JSW Steel Italy in order to discuss a EUR60 million bailout ensured by both Next Generation EU and the ministry itself. Notably, the salaries of the several steelworkers employed by the company were also included in this generous bailout.<sup>2678</sup>

On the 26 January 2021, Italy reinforced protections for workers in the agricultural sector by passing a bill that ensures payment for workers through the incoming recovery fund. This move helped to ensure those workers' safety, as agriculture represents 10 per cent of Italy's exports abroad.<sup>2679</sup>

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<sup>2673</sup>Foreign Trade and Investment Promotion Instruments Successful During the Crisis--Federal Government Provides Export Credit Guarantees to the Amount of EUR16.7 Billion in 2020 with Application Volume for Investment Guarantees Doubling, Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/02/20210209-foreign-trade-and-investment-promotion-instruments-successful-during-the-crisis.html>.

<sup>2674</sup> The Frugal Four Advocate for a Responsible EU Budget, Financial Times (London) 16 February 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.ft.com/content/7faae690-4e65-11ea-95a0-43d18ec715f5>.

<sup>2675</sup> Italy Reverts to its Old Habits on EU Pandemic Fund, Bloomberg. 1 December 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2020-12-01/italy-reverts-to-its-bad-old-habits-on-eu-pandemic-fund>.

<sup>2676</sup> Italy Draghinomics FAQs, Euler Hermes. 5 February 2021. Access Date: 1 March 2021.

[https://www.eulerhermes.com/en\\_global/news-insights/economic-insights/Italy-Draghinomics-FAQ.html](https://www.eulerhermes.com/en_global/news-insights/economic-insights/Italy-Draghinomics-FAQ.html).

<sup>2677</sup> Italy Approves New Stimulus Package to Bolster Shrinking Economy, Bloomberg (New York City) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-11-30/italy-approves-new-stimulus-package-to-bolster-shrinking-economy>.

<sup>2678</sup> Verbale di incontro - JSW Steel Italy (11 dicembre 2020), Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 11 December 2020). Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/160-impresa/impresedifficolta/verbalidi/2041904-verbale-di-incontro-jsw-steel-italy-11-dicembre-2020>.

<sup>2679</sup> Su.Pr.Eme. Italia, una grande rete per contrastare il caporalato nelle cinque regioni del Sud, Ministry Of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Su-Pr-Eme-Italia-una-grande-rete-per-contrastare-il-Caporalato-nelle-cinque-regioni-del-Sud.aspx>.



On 26 February 2021, Italy passed a bill that ensures the same types of financial protection to the country's artisans, an ever-shrinking portion of the workforce that is strongly associated with the Italian national character.<sup>2680</sup>

In conclusion, the country succeeded in partially complying with its aforementioned commitments.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Valerio Greganti*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to marshal the full power of the government to restore confidence, growth, and protect jobs.

On 24 April 2020, Japan expanded the definition of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) targeted for financial assistance due to the crisis caused by COVID-19, expanding the scope of industries subject to the No. 5 Safety Net for Financing Guarantee.<sup>2681</sup> The Safety Net supports micro enterprises and SMEs whose sources of revenue are declining, by providing a guarantee of 80% of the loan amount.<sup>2682</sup> Japan has expanded the scope of industries to include industries such as Pachinko parlors and off-track betting sites for horse racing, which were previously excluded from financing or guarantees provided by governmental financial institutes or credit guarantee corporations.<sup>2683</sup>

On 1 May 2020, Japan began accepting requests for the Subsidy Program for Sustaining Businesses, a program created to provide subsidies for SMEs suffering from COVID-19 related losses.<sup>2684</sup> The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry announced the opening of a call center for consultations regarding the program.<sup>2685</sup> The call centre was created exclusively for the program in order to provide support for SMEs requiring consultation on the Subsidy Program for Sustaining Businesses.<sup>2686</sup>

On 5 June 2020, Japan opened over 500 physical sites called Sites for Supporting Filing Requests in order to assist businesses that are facing difficulties with electronic filing requests for the Subsidy Program for Sustaining Businesses.<sup>2687</sup>

On 8 December 2020, Japan announced a USD708 billion COVID-19 stimulus package for the economy, allocating roughly USD384 billion towards direct spending, USD19.2 billion towards carbon neutrality by

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<sup>2680</sup> Lavoro: Orlando, firma decreto che sblocca le risorse per pagamento Cig Covid per gli artigiani, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Lavoro-Orlando-firma-decreto-che-sblocca-risorse-per-pagamento-Cig-Covid-agli-artigiani.aspx>.

<sup>2681</sup> Scope of SMEs Targeted for Financial Assistance Due to Novel Coronavirus Expanded (Tokyo) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0424\\_003.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0424_003.html).

<sup>2682</sup> Scope of SMEs Targeted for Financial Assistance Due to Novel Coronavirus Expanded (Tokyo) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0424\\_003.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0424_003.html).

<sup>2683</sup> Scope of SMEs Targeted for Financial Assistance Due to Novel Coronavirus Expanded (Tokyo) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0424\\_003.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0424_003.html).

<sup>2684</sup> Announcement of Information on Consultation Counters for the Subsidy Program for Sustaining Businesses (Tokyo) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0501\\_006.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0501_006.html).

<sup>2685</sup> Announcement of Information on Consultation Counters for the Subsidy Program for Sustaining Businesses (Tokyo) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0501\\_006.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0501_006.html).

<sup>2686</sup> Announcement of Information on Consultation Counters for the Subsidy Program for Sustaining Businesses (Tokyo) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0501\\_006.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0501_006.html).

<sup>2687</sup> Framework for Supporting Filing Requests for the Subsidy Program for Sustaining Businesses to be Enhanced (Tokyo) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0605\\_003.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0605_003.html).

2050, USD9.6 billion towards digital transformation, and USD14.4 billion towards subsidies for restaurants affected by COVID-19 related losses.<sup>2688</sup>

On 5 February 2021, Japan announced a cabinet decision on the Bill for Partially Amending Industrial Competitiveness Enhancement Act and other related acts.<sup>2689</sup> This bill introduces new taxation systems and subsidies for capital investment in efforts toward de-carbonization, digital transformation, and business restructuring.<sup>2690</sup> This bill also includes measures to increase support for the expansion of SMEs, by adding a group of companies growing from SMEs to middle-ranking companies to targets for financial support for regional economic advancement projects.<sup>2691</sup>

On 12 February 2021, Japan announced the expansion of the eligibility criteria for receiving subsidies while participating in vocational training under the Support System for Job Seekers.<sup>2692</sup> The expansion of the eligibility criteria will allow a total of 200,000 people to benefit from vocational training.<sup>2693</sup>

Japan has taken active measures to marshal the full power of the government in order to restore confidence, growth, and protect jobs.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Lisa Hub*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to restore confidence, growth and project jobs.

On 9 September 2020, Chief Secretary to the Treasury Steve Barclay announced funding for locked down businesses.<sup>2694</sup> Businesses closed for operations due to ongoing lockdown restrictions are eligible for GBP1,500 every three weeks.<sup>2695</sup> This funding is in response to local lockdowns affecting businesses from the ability to remain in business.<sup>2696</sup>

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<sup>2688</sup> Japan announces new Covid-19 stimulus for the economy (Tokyo) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-55226200>.

<sup>2689</sup> Cabinet decision on the Bill for Partially Amending the Industrial Competitiveness Enhancement Act and other related acts (Tokyo) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0205\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0205_002.html).

<sup>2690</sup> Cabinet decision on the Bill for Partially Amending the Industrial Competitiveness Enhancement Act and other related acts (Tokyo) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0205\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0205_002.html).

<sup>2691</sup> Cabinet decision on the Bill for Partially Amending the Industrial Competitiveness Enhancement Act and other related acts (Tokyo) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0205\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0205_002.html).

<sup>2692</sup> 55th Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters (Tokyo) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99\\_suga/actions/202102/\\_00007.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202102/_00007.html).

<sup>2693</sup> 55th Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters (Tokyo) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99\\_suga/actions/202102/\\_00007.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202102/_00007.html).

<sup>2694</sup> Ministers announce new grants for businesses affected by local lockdowns, UK Treasury (London) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ministers-announce-new-grants-for-businesses-affected-by-local-lockdowns>.

<sup>2695</sup> Ministers announce new grants for businesses affected by local lockdowns, UK Treasury (London) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ministers-announce-new-grants-for-businesses-affected-by-local-lockdowns>.

<sup>2696</sup> Ministers announce new grants for businesses affected by local lockdowns, UK Treasury (London) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ministers-announce-new-grants-for-businesses-affected-by-local-lockdowns>.

On 9 October 2020, the United Kingdom government announced that the Covid Corporate Financing Facility (CCFF) has provided GBP30 billion of direct deposit to support the economy.<sup>2697</sup> The CCFF has provided funding for large UK businesses responsible for upwards of 2.5 million jobs in the UK.<sup>2698</sup>

On 22 October 2020, the United Kingdom government announced increased support to ensure job security across the UK for the winter months.<sup>2699</sup> Open businesses experiencing difficulty will be given extra government help to keep employing staff and paying wages.<sup>2700</sup> Business grants will be awarded to businesses to cover essential business expenses to project jobs in the economy.<sup>2701</sup> Grants for self-employed individuals will be increased to 40 per cent of previous income earnings.<sup>2702</sup>

On 30 October 2020, the United Kingdom treasury announced that millions of jobs will be supported over the winter through the Jobs Support Scheme starting 1 November 2020.<sup>2703</sup>

On 12 November 2020, the United Kingdom announced an extension to the GBP1 million tax break to stimulate investment in manufacturing.<sup>2704</sup> The GBP1 million cap on annual investment allowance is temporarily extended until 2022.<sup>2705</sup> This extension to boost confidence as UK manufacturing businesses to make it through the pandemic.<sup>2706</sup>

On 17 December 2020, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak announced an extension of furlough and loan schemes until the end of April 2021, with the government continuing to contribute 80 per cent towards wages.<sup>2707</sup> This extension allows businesses to continue to operate with job certainty for employees into 2021.<sup>2708</sup>

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<sup>2697</sup> Updates to the Covid Corporate Financing Facility, UK Treasury (London) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/updates-to-the-covid-corporate-financing-facility>.

<sup>2698</sup> Updates to the Covid Corporate Financing Facility, UK Treasury (London) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/updates-to-the-covid-corporate-financing-facility>.

<sup>2699</sup> Plan for Jobs: Chancellor increases financial support for businesses and workers, UK Treasury (London) 22 October 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plan-for-jobs-chancellor-increases-financial-support-for-businesses-and-workers>.

<sup>2700</sup> Plan for Jobs: Chancellor increases financial support for businesses and workers, UK Treasury (London) 22 October 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plan-for-jobs-chancellor-increases-financial-support-for-businesses-and-workers>.

<sup>2701</sup> Plan for Jobs: Chancellor increases financial support for businesses and workers, UK Treasury (London) 22 October 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plan-for-jobs-chancellor-increases-financial-support-for-businesses-and-workers>.

<sup>2702</sup> Plan for Jobs: Chancellor increases financial support for businesses and workers, UK Treasury (London) 22 October 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plan-for-jobs-chancellor-increases-financial-support-for-businesses-and-workers>.

<sup>2703</sup> Millions of jobs will continue to be supported as Job Support Scheme launches, UK Treasury (London) 30 October 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-of-jobs-will-continue-to-be-supported-as-job-support-scheme-launches>.

<sup>2704</sup> Government extends £1 million tax break to stimulate investment in UK manufacturing, UK Treasury (London) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-extends-1-million-tax-break-to-stimulate-investment-in-uk-manufacturing>.

<sup>2705</sup> Government extends £1 million tax break to stimulate investment in UK manufacturing, UK Treasury (London) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-extends-1-million-tax-break-to-stimulate-investment-in-uk-manufacturing>.

<sup>2706</sup> Government extends £1 million tax break to stimulate investment in UK manufacturing, UK Treasury (London) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-extends-1-million-tax-break-to-stimulate-investment-in-uk-manufacturing>.

<sup>2707</sup> Chancellor extends furlough and loan schemes, UK Treasury (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-extends-furlough-and-loan-schemes>.

<sup>2708</sup> Chancellor extends furlough and loan schemes, UK Treasury (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-extends-furlough-and-loan-schemes>.

On 5 January 2021, the Treasury announced GBP4.6 billion in grants to support businesses and jobs during the lockdown.<sup>2709</sup> The retail, hospitality and leisure industries are eligible for up to GBP9,000 grants to project jobs throughout the spring season.<sup>2710</sup> Of this fund, GBP594 million is allocated as discretionary funding for supporting other impacted businesses.<sup>2711</sup>

The United Kingdom has taken active measures to marshal the full power of the government in order to restore confidence, growth, and protect jobs.

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

*Analyst: Aly Johnston*

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

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to restore confidence and growth and protect jobs.

On 15 March 2020, the United States Federal Reserve issued a Federal Open Market Committee statement that it had lowered the target range for federal funds to 0 to 0.25 percent, which it intended to maintain until the economy recovers from the COVID-19 economic downturn.<sup>2712</sup> This move was meant to reduce the cost of borrowing on a variety of loans, such as for home equity or auto loans.<sup>2713</sup>

On 18 March 2020, President Donald Trump signed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.<sup>2714</sup> This legislation made it mandatory for qualifying employers to provide paid sick leave to employees who are unable to work due to reasons related to COVID-19.<sup>2715</sup> Specifically, up to 80 hours, or two weeks, of paid sick leave is to be provided at the employee's rate of pay.<sup>2716</sup>

On 26 March 2020, the United States Congress passed a USD2 trillion coronavirus aid bill.<sup>2717</sup> This is the largest economic stimulus package in American history, as Congress has set aside USD250 billion for direct USD1,200 checks to qualifying taxpayers.<sup>2718</sup> In addition to these direct payments, the bill also sets aside USD500 billion for struggling sectors such as the airline industry, USD350 billion for small businesses in the

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<sup>2709</sup> £4.6 billion in new lockdown grants to support businesses and protect jobs, UK Treasury (London) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/46-billion-in-new-lockdown-grants-to-support-businesses-and-protect-jobs>.

<sup>2710</sup> £4.6 billion in new lockdown grants to support businesses and protect jobs, UK Treasury (London) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/46-billion-in-new-lockdown-grants-to-support-businesses-and-protect-jobs>.

<sup>2711</sup> £4.6 billion in new lockdown grants to support businesses and protect jobs, UK Treasury (London) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/46-billion-in-new-lockdown-grants-to-support-businesses-and-protect-jobs>.

<sup>2712</sup> Federal Reserve issues FOMC statement, Federal Reserve Board (Washington, D.C.) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20200315a.htm>.

<sup>2713</sup> What's the Fed doing in response to the COVID-19 crisis, Brookings Institution (Washington, D.C.) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.brookings.edu/research/fed-response-to-covid19/>.

<sup>2714</sup> Trump signs coronavirus relief measure ensuring paid sick emergency leave, ABC News (New York City) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/mcconnell-urges-colleagues-support-coronavirus-economic-relief-bill/story?id=69664853>.

<sup>2715</sup> Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employee Paid Leave Rights, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington, D.C.) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave>.

<sup>2716</sup> Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employee Paid Leave Rights, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington, D.C.) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave>.

<sup>2717</sup> Coronavirus: US Senate passes \$2tn disaster aid bill, British Broadcasting Corporation (London) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-52033863>.

<sup>2718</sup> US coronavirus stimulus checks, The Guardian (London) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/26/us-coronavirus-stimulus-all-you-need-to-know>.

form of loans, USD100 billion for necessary healthcare infrastructure investments, and an expansion of unemployment aid to self-employed individuals.<sup>2719</sup>

On 1 July 2020, the United States House of Representatives passed the Moving Forward Act; legislation meant to improve the nation's infrastructure.<sup>2720</sup> It focuses on the decarbonization of transit, the modernization of the electrical power grid, the funding levels for energy efficiency programs, and on the research and development of low-emission fuels and technologies.<sup>2721</sup>

On 27 December 2020, President Trump signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act.<sup>2722</sup> This USD900 billion stimulus package created additional stimulus checks, improved federal unemployment benefits, and set aside funds for small businesses and vaccine distribution.<sup>2723</sup>

The United States has taken actions to restore confidence and growth and protect jobs.

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

*Analyst: Boris Kyrchenko*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to marshal the full power of the government to restore confidence, growth, and protect jobs.

On 26 March 2020, the Members of European Parliament adopted three crucial EU support measures.<sup>2724</sup> Of these, two pertain to this commitment. Firstly, the Corona Response Investment Initiative will see EUR37 billion in funds to be made available to citizens, regions and/or countries impacted the most by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2725</sup> This includes focus on healthcare, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the labour market. Secondly, the extension of the EU Solidarity Fund. EUR800 million will be made available for European countries in order to provide medical assistance and prevent the spread of COVID-19.<sup>2726</sup>

On 10 July 2020, the European Parliament adopted a resolution that aims to put “social inclusion and people's well being at the heart of EU economic policy, with equal priority given to social, environmental and economic objectives.”<sup>2727</sup> As part of their EU Employment Guidelines, members of European Parliament

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<sup>2719</sup> Coronavirus: US Senate passes \$2tn disaster aid bill, British Broadcasting Corporation (London) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-52033863>.

<sup>2720</sup> Moving Forward Act, The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. 1 July 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://transportation.house.gov/imo/media/doc/BILLS-116HR2-RCP116-54.pdf>.

<sup>2721</sup> House of Representatives Passes Sweeping Infrastructure Bill, The National Law Review (Western Springs) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/update-house-representatives-passes-sweeping-infrastructure-bill>.

<sup>2722</sup> Consolidated Appropriations Act, House Committee on Rules (Washington, DC) 21 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://rules.house.gov/sites/democrats.rules.house.gov/files/BILLS-116HR133SA-RCP-116-68.pdf>

<sup>2723</sup> Here's what's in the \$900 billion stimulus package, The Washington Post (Washington, D.C.) 27 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/12/20/stimulus-package-details/>.

<sup>2724</sup> COVID-19: Parliament approves crucial EU support measures, European Parliament (Brussels) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20200325IPR75811/covid-19-parliament-approves-crucial-eu-support-measures>.

<sup>2725</sup> COVID-19: Parliament approves crucial EU support measures, European Parliament (Brussels) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20200325IPR75811/covid-19-parliament-approves-crucial-eu-support-measures>.

<sup>2726</sup> COVID-19: Parliament approves crucial EU support measures, European Parliament (Brussels) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20200325IPR75811/covid-19-parliament-approves-crucial-eu-support-measures>.

<sup>2727</sup> EU must prioritise fight against youth unemployment, homelessness and poverty, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20200706IPR82730/eu-must-prioritise-fight-against-youth-unemployment-homelessness-and-poverty>.

have decided to increase efforts to close gender pay, pension and employment gaps, in light of COVID-19.<sup>2728</sup> Through the “General escape clause,” EU member states will have “unprecedented fiscal flexibility to protect employment and finance public health and social services.”<sup>2729</sup>

On 9 November 2020, the Members of European Parliament adopted the Recovery and Resilience Facility.<sup>2730</sup> It provides EUR67.5 billion in grants and loans to support EU countries over the course of four years, as a means of responding and recovering from COVID-19.<sup>2731</sup> In order to receive the funds, EU members states must respect the rule of law and the EU’s values.<sup>2732</sup> Additionally, recovery plans must be consistent with the six EU priorities: (1) green transition, (2) digital transformation, (3) economic cohesion and competitiveness, (4) social and territorial cohesion, (5) institutional crisis-reaction and crisis preparedness or (6) with the Next Generation EU policies, in order to be eligible for funding.<sup>2733</sup>

On 12 November 2020, the European Parliament and European Union ministers reached a provisional deal on the EU’s Erasmus+ Programme for 2021-2027.<sup>2734</sup> The programme is worth more than EUR26 million and the funds will be allocated towards training and education, and “specific measures to enable more people with fewer opportunities to participate,” such as those who may be disabled, impoverished, remote or migrants, to participate in the program.<sup>2735</sup>

On 8 December 2020, the European Parliament and Council reached a deal on the new InvestEU programme.<sup>2736</sup> The EU has committed EUR26 billion, which is predicted to increase to EUR400 billion in additional investments. Of this, 37.8 per cent or around EUR9.9 billion will be directed towards sustainable infrastructure; 25.1 per cent or around EUR6.6 billion will be directed towards research, innovation and digitalisation; 26.4 per cent or approximately EUR6.9 billion SMEs; and lastly, 10.6 per cent or EUR2.8

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<sup>2728</sup> EU must prioritise fight against youth unemployment, homelessness and poverty, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20200706IPR82730/eu-must-prioritise-fight-against-youth-unemployment-homelessness-and-poverty>.

<sup>2729</sup> EU must prioritise fight against youth unemployment, homelessness and poverty, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20200706IPR82730/eu-must-prioritise-fight-against-youth-unemployment-homelessness-and-poverty>.

<sup>2730</sup> COVID-19: first go-ahead given to the new Recovery and Resilience Facility, European Parliament (Brussels) 9 November 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201105IPR90912/covid-19-first-go-ahead-given-to-the-new-recovery-and-resilience-facility>.

<sup>2731</sup> COVID-19: first go-ahead given to the new Recovery and Resilience Facility, European Parliament (Brussels) 9 November 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201105IPR90912/covid-19-first-go-ahead-given-to-the-new-recovery-and-resilience-facility>.

<sup>2732</sup> COVID-19: first go-ahead given to the new Recovery and Resilience Facility, European Parliament (Brussels) 9 November 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201105IPR90912/covid-19-first-go-ahead-given-to-the-new-recovery-and-resilience-facility>.

<sup>2733</sup> COVID-19: first go-ahead given to the new Recovery and Resilience Facility, European Parliament (Brussels) 9 November 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201105IPR90912/covid-19-first-go-ahead-given-to-the-new-recovery-and-resilience-facility>.

<sup>2734</sup> EP and EU ministers agree on Erasmus+ programme for 2021-2027, European Parliament (Brussels) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201207IPR93204/ep-and-eu-ministers-agree-on-erasmus-programme-for-2021-2027>.

<sup>2735</sup> EP and EU ministers agree on Erasmus+ programme for 2021-2027, European Parliament (Brussels) 21 November 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201207IPR93204/ep-and-eu-ministers-agree-on-erasmus-programme-for-2021-2027>.

<sup>2736</sup> InvestEU Fund agreed: Boosting strategic, sustainable and innovative investments, European Parliament (Brussels) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201208IPR93301/investeu-fund-agreed-boosting-strategic-sustainable-and-innovative-investments>.

billion will be allocated towards social investments and skills.<sup>2737</sup> The InvestEU programme ultimately aims at “boosting strategic, sustainable and innovative investments.”<sup>2738</sup>

On 19 January 2021, the European Commission presented their new strategy to “foster the openness, strength and resilience of Europe’s economic and financial system.”<sup>2739</sup> The plan is comprised of three pillars: Firstly, “promoting a strong international role of the euro by reaching out to third-country partners to promote its use, supporting the development of euro-dominated instruments and benchmarks and fostering its status as an international reference currency in the energy commodities sectors, including for nascent energy carriers such as hydrogen,” as well as focusing on green finance and continue support for the European Central Bank.<sup>2740</sup> Secondly, “developing EU financial market infrastructures and improving their resilience, including towards the extraterritorial application of sanctions by third countries.”<sup>2741</sup> Lastly, “promoting the uniform implementation and enforcement of the EU’s own sanctions” by establishing the Sanctions Information Exchange Repository to better report and exchange information.<sup>2742</sup>

The European Union has taken measures to marshal the full power of the government in order to restore confidence, growth, and protect jobs.

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

*Analyst: Ally Johnston*

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<sup>2737</sup> InvestEU Fund agreed: Boosting strategic, sustainable and innovative investments, European Parliament (Brussels) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201208IPR93301/investeu-fund-agreed-boosting-strategic-sustainable-and-innovative-investments>.

<sup>2738</sup> InvestEU Fund agreed: Boosting strategic, sustainable and innovative investments, European Parliament (Brussels) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201208IPR93301/investeu-fund-agreed-boosting-strategic-sustainable-and-innovative-investments>.

<sup>2739</sup> Commission takes further steps to foster the openness, strength and resilience of Europe’s economic and financial system, European Commission (Brussels) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_108](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_108).

<sup>2740</sup> Commission takes further steps to foster the openness, strength and resilience of Europe’s economic and financial system, European Commission (Brussels) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_108](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_108).

<sup>2741</sup> Commission takes further steps to foster the openness, strength and resilience of Europe’s economic and financial system, European Commission (Brussels) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_108](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_108).

<sup>2742</sup> Commission takes further steps to foster the openness, strength and resilience of Europe’s economic and financial system, European Commission (Brussels) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_108](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_108).

## 15: Global Economy: Economic Growth

“We resolve to coordinate measures and do whatever it takes, using all policy tools, to achieve strong growth in the G7 economies.”

*G7 Leaders’ Statement*

### Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Canada		0	
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy	-1		
Japan		0	
United Kingdom		0	
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average	+0.25 (63%)		

### Background

The international community has emphasized the importance of economic growth through enhanced coordination and economic policy tools throughout the past decades. However, more recently this issue has been brought to the forefront due to the extreme impact of COVID-19 on the global economy. It is estimated by the World Bank that global growth could shrink by 8% in 2020.<sup>2743</sup> As a result, the international community has committed once again to ensuring strong growth in G7 members despite the unforeseen circumstances.

The first time leaders committed to fostering economic growth was during the 1993 G8 Tokyo Summit.<sup>2744</sup> Leaders first committed to the implementation of “prudent macroeconomic policies to promote noninflationary sustainable growth, and structural reforms to improve the efficiency of labor markets.”<sup>2745</sup> Similarly, at the 1997 G8 Denver Summit, leaders reiterated the importance of “a common commitment to a medium-term economic strategy” in order to promote economic growth. The medium-term economic strategy included: strengthening structural reform and implementing fiscal consolidation and anti-inflationary policies.<sup>2746</sup> Subsequent mentioning of the G8 commitment of fostering sustainable economic growth through cooperation and macroeconomic policy tools continued in the 1998 and 1999 G8 Summits.<sup>2747</sup>

Despite the G8’s reiteration in 1998 and 1999, the importance of coordinating economic policy responses to support economic growth was not brought up again until after the 2008 economic crisis. At the 2008 G8 Toyako-Hokkaido Summit, leaders claimed that they were committed to acting both individually and

<sup>2743</sup> The Global Economic Outlook During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Changed World, The World Bank (Washington) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 1 January 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2020/06/08/the-global-economic-outlook-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-a-changed-world>.

<sup>2744</sup> Economic Declaration: A strengthened Commitment to Jobs and Growth, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 July 1993. Access date: 8 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1993tokyo/communique/index.html>.

<sup>2745</sup> Economic Declaration: A strengthened Commitment to Jobs and Growth, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 July 1993. Access date: 8 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1993tokyo/communique/index.html>.

<sup>2746</sup> Economic Communique: Making a Success of Globalization for the Benefit of All, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 June 1996. Access date: 8 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1996lyon/communique.html>.

<sup>2747</sup> Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 May 1998. Access Date 12 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1998birmingham/finalcom.htm>; G7 Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 18 June 1999. Access Date: 12 December 2020. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1999koln/g7statement\\_june18.htm](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1999koln/g7statement_june18.htm).



collectively to ensure stability and growth in their economies.<sup>2748</sup> Further, at the 2011 G8 Deauville Summit, leaders reaffirmed their commitment to sustained economic growth through individual and collective policy action.<sup>2749</sup>

From the period of 2012-2015 leaders committed to fostering sustainable economic growth, however, this did not include pledges to coordinate measures until the 2016 G7 Ise-Shima Summit. At the summit, leaders declared the necessity to address global economic challenges and achieve growth for all while simultaneously responding in a cooperative matter and using “all policy tools – monetary, fiscal, and structural.”<sup>2750</sup> Furthermore, at the 2017 G7 Taormina Summit leaders emphasized economic growth as their priority.<sup>2751</sup> They also stated that they would use “all policy tools – monetary, fiscal, and structural – both individually and collectively” to achieve economic growth.<sup>2752</sup> A coordinated policy response to encourage economic growth was reaffirmed at the 2018 G7 Charlevoix Summit.<sup>2753</sup> Similar to the 2016 and 2017 G7 summits, leaders declared that they would use “all policy tools” to support strong economic growth.<sup>2754</sup>

The COVID-19 pandemic brought renewed instability to the global economy. Consequently, at the Virtual Summit on 16 March 2020 under the U.S. presidency, G7 leaders acknowledged that they would need to address the economic impact of the pandemic.<sup>2755</sup> They stated that all G7 members were committed to restoring the economic growth that occurred in their economies prior to the pandemic and that they would cooperate to build a foundation for a “stronger future growth.”<sup>2756</sup> At the time, the leaders expected to meet again in three months at their regularly scheduled summit on 10-12 June 2020, which was later postponed indefinitely.

### **Commitment Features**

The G7 commitment states that “We resolve to coordinate measures and do whatever it takes, using all policy tools, to achieve strong growth in the G7 economies.” The goal of achieving strong growth in the G7 economies can be accomplished through three coordinated policy tools: 1) using monetary; 2) fiscal; and 3) structural.

“Coordinate measures and do whatever it takes, using all policy tools” is understood as two separate acts, hence the use of the word “and.” Therefore, members must coordinate measures with other G7 member and use all policy tools with the goal of achieving strong economic growth. “Strong growth” is understood as improving the conditions of a G7 economy – whether that be through growth in gross national product or gross domestic product. While “whatever it takes” is understood as a concrete action (i.e., the implementation of a policy) since a country must demonstrate its dedication to achieving strong economic growth. Full

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<sup>2748</sup> G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 9 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

<sup>2749</sup> G8 Declaration: Renewed Commitment for Freedom and Democracy, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2011. Access Date: 8 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>2750</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 9 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html#initiative>.

<sup>2751</sup> G7 Taormina G7 Leaders’ Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 9 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

<sup>2752</sup> G7 Taormina G7 Leaders’ Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 9 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

<sup>2753</sup> The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 9 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

<sup>2754</sup> The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 9 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

<sup>2755</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 9 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>2756</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 9 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

compliance is only possible if countries take concrete actions to coordinate measures and use all policy tools to achieve strong economic growth.

“All policy tools” is understood as the monetary, fiscal, and structural economic policies.<sup>2757</sup> This understanding is based off of the 2016 Ise-Shima and 2017 Taormina Summit Leaders’ Declarations in which “all policy tools” are described as “fiscal, monetary, and structural.”<sup>2758</sup> Therefore, in order for full compliance to be achieved a country must use monetary, fiscal, and structural policy tools with the aim of promoting a strong economic growth in the G7 economies.

“G7 economies” is understood as any member’s economy. Therefore, members must; 1) coordinate measures with another G7 economy with the aim of a strong economic growth; or 2) use monetary, fiscal, and structural policy tools to promote strong growth in their own economy or another member’s economy. For example, if France implemented a macroeconomic policy in coordination with Canada this would count towards compliance. However, if France changed a portion of its own macroeconomic policy to ensure strong growth, this would also count towards compliance.

### **Achieving Strong Economic Growth through Coordinated Measures**

“Coordinated measures” is understood as members acting together through a shared policy response.

Full compliance is achieved by coordinating a policy response with at least one other G7 member with the goal of achieving strong economic growth. Examples include, but are not limited to, coordinating a multilateral fiscal policy response, or strengthening global financial institutions.

### **Part 1: Achieving Strong Economic Growth using Monetary Policy Tools**

“Monetary policy tools” is understood as actions taken by a member’s central bank to control money supply and achieve economic growth.

Full compliance within Part 1 is achieved if a member employs monetary policy tools with the goal of achieving strong economic growth. Examples include, but are not limited to, keeping the inflation rate low, creating incentives for lending in the real economy, or temporarily extending the use of the government’s overdraft account to provide a short-term source of additional liquidity to the government if necessary.

### **Part 2: Achieving Strong Economic Growth using Fiscal Policy Tools**

“Fiscal policy tools” is understood as the use of a government’s revenue collection and expenditure to achieve economic growth.

Full compliance within Part 2 is achieved if a member employs fiscal policy tools with the goal of achieving strong economic growth. Examples include, but are not limited to, stimulus packages that provide employment insurance for those who have lost their jobs, increased public spending on infrastructure (including on green projects such as retrofitting houses to improve energy efficiency), or wage subsidies so that businesses can afford to hire labour.

### **Part 3: Achieving Strong Economic Growth using Structural Policy Tools**

“Structural policy tools” is understood as the implementation of policies that aim to boost an economy’s competitiveness, growth potential and adjustment capacity in order to ensure strong growth.

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<sup>2757</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 9 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

<sup>2758</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 9 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html#initiative.>; G7 Taormina G7 Leaders’ Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 9 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

Full compliance within Part 3 is achieved if a member employs structural policy tools with the goal of achieving strong economic growth. Examples include, but are not limited to, making labour markets more adaptable and responsive or improving the overall business environment to allow for competition.

In order to differentiate between full and partial compliance, this report uses a breadth and depth analysis as per the Compliance Coding Manual. For full compliance, members must take a strong action towards ensuring strong economic growth in all three target areas by coordinating: 1) using monetary policy tools; 2) using fiscal policy tools; and 3) using structural policy tools. For partial compliance, countries must take a strong action in at least two of the target areas since the commitment emphasizes the importance of “coordinated measures” and the use of “all policy tools.” Therefore, awarding full compliance to a member that does not demonstrate this dual commitment would be unfair to those who do. Members that act only in one commitment area or do not act in any area will receive non-compliance since they are not fulfilling the coordinated nature of the commitment.

For this report, strong is defined as “effective; of a good quality or level and likely to be successful.” It is assumed that in the assessment of a strong action “whatever it takes” is considered. Therefore, when assessing a “less than strong action” the dedication of the members’ action is most important. Consequently, a “less than strong action” is an action without implementation. Examples of partial compliance would include a member’s verbal commitment to addressing a particular fiscal policy to promote economic growth, but with no concrete action (i.e. policy implementation) taken. While an example of full compliance would be a member’s implementation of a particular monetary policy to promote economic growth, or their verbal commitment followed by policy implementation.

This report acknowledges that actions in which a G7 member only demonstrates a verbal declaration will receive a score of 0 for partial compliance, since they are still demonstrating support for the aforementioned targets but are just lacking the dedication to policy implementation dictated by the “whatever it takes” character of the commitment. Lastly, actions taken against this commitment, such as implementing economic policies that go against the goal of economic growth or purposefully not coordinating measures, will also be recognized as a -1 for no compliance.

**Scoring Guidelines**

Score	Description
-1	G7 member takes no action or a strong action in only one target area to achieve strong economic growth in the G7 economies by: 1) coordinating measures; 2) using monetary policy tools; 3) using fiscal policy tools; or 4) using structural policy tools.
0	G7 member took a strong action to achieve strong economic growth in the G7 economies in at least two of the target areas by: 1) coordinating measures; 2) using monetary policy tools; 3) using fiscal policy tools; or 4) using structural policy tools.
+1	G7 member took strong action to achieve strong economic growth in the G7 economies in all target areas by: 1) coordinating measures; or 2) using monetary policy tools; 3) using fiscal policy tools; and 4) using structural policy tools.

*Compliance Director: Isabel Davis  
Lead Analyst: Matthew Remedios*

**Canada: 0**

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to “resolve to coordinate measures and use all policy tools to achieve strong growth in the G7 economies.”

On 18 March 2020, the Canadian government introduced a large set of fiscal stimulus measures aimed at stabilizing the Canadian economy in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2759</sup> The package provides CAD27 billion to directly support consumers and businesses and includes CAD55 billion to allow firms and individuals to defer tax payments, and to provide liquidity to support businesses. In total, the stimulus package equalled CAD82 billion or 3.5 percent of gross domestic product.<sup>2760</sup>

On 20 March 2020, the Bank of Canada, along with the Bank of England, the European Central Bank, the Bank of Japan, the U.S. Federal Reserve, and the Swiss National Bank announced a “coordinated attempt to enhance the provision of liquidity using the standing U.S. dollar liquidity swap line arrangements.”<sup>2761</sup> These monetary policy actions “serve as an important liquidity backstop to ease strains in global funding markets, thereby helping to mitigate the effects of such strains on the supply of credit to households and businesses, both domestically and abroad.”<sup>2762</sup>

On 20 March 2020, the Bank of Canada, along with the Bank of England, Bank of Japan, the European Central Bank, the Federal Reserve, and the Swiss National Bank announced a “coordinated attempt to enhance the provision of liquidity using the standing U.S. dollar liquidity swap line arrangements.”<sup>2763</sup> These monetary policy actions will serve as an important role as a liquidity backstop which will ease strings in global funding markets. More specifically, the action will help mitigate the effects of ease straining on the supply of credit to households and businesses.<sup>2764</sup>

On 27 March 2020, the Bank of Canada took a monetary policy action by lowering interest rates to 0.25 percent to support economic activity.<sup>2765</sup> The Bank of Canada stated that this action would help to stabilize and provide credit in the economy.<sup>2766</sup>

Between 13 March 2020 and 20 November 2020, the Canadian government made CAD240 billion in payments and transfers to individuals, businesses, and government entities, as a part of its fiscal policy response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2767</sup> The largest single expenditure program was the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, payments offered to unemployed Canadians.<sup>2768</sup>

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<sup>2759</sup> Canada deploys large fiscal stimulus, more to come, Deloitte (London) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2020. <https://www2.deloitte.com/ca/en/blog/economic-insights/2020/e-insight-snapshot-canada-deploys-large-fiscal-stimulus.html>.

<sup>2760</sup> Canada deploys large fiscal stimulus, more to come, Deloitte (London) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2020. <https://www2.deloitte.com/ca/en/blog/economic-insights/2020/e-insight-snapshot-canada-deploys-large-fiscal-stimulus.html>.

<sup>2761</sup> Bank of Canada: Coordinated Central Bank Action to Further Enhance the Provision of U.S. Dollar Liquidity (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2020 <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2020/03/coordinated-central-bank-action-further-enhance-provision-u-s-dollar/>.

<sup>2762</sup> Bank of Canada: Coordinated Central Bank Action to Further Enhance the Provision of U.S. Dollar Liquidity (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2020 <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2020/03/coordinated-central-bank-action-further-enhance-provision-u-s-dollar/>.

<sup>2763</sup> Coordinated Central Bank Action to Further Enhance the Provision of U.S. Dollar Liquidity, Bank of Canada (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2020. <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2020/03/coordinated-central-bank-action-further-enhance-provision-u-s-dollar/>.

<sup>2764</sup> Coordinated Central Bank Action to Further Enhance the Provision of U.S. Dollar Liquidity, Bank of Canada (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2020. <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2020/03/coordinated-central-bank-action-further-enhance-provision-u-s-dollar/>.

<sup>2765</sup> Bank of Canada lowers overnight rate target to ¼ percent, Bank of Canada (Ottawa) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2020. <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2020/03/press-release-2020-03-27/>.

<sup>2766</sup> Bank of Canada lowers overnight rate target to ¼ percent, Bank of Canada (Ottawa) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2020. <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2020/03/press-release-2020-03-27/>.

<sup>2767</sup> Ottawa has spent \$240B fighting COVID-19 in just 8 months, CBC (Toronto) 6 December 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2020. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/tracking-unprecedented-federal-coronavirus-spending-1.5827045>.

<sup>2768</sup> Ottawa has spent \$240B fighting COVID-19 in just 8 months, CBC (Toronto) 6 December 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2020. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/tracking-unprecedented-federal-coronavirus-spending-1.5827045>.

On 13 May 2020, the Canadian government initiated an additional CAD962 million to fund businesses and communities affected by the pandemic.<sup>2769</sup> The funding is part of is part of the Canadian government's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, which aims to initiate more than \$149 billion to support Canadians and businesses due to the unforeseen circumstances.<sup>2770</sup>

On 2 October 2020, the Government of Canada expanded the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund in order to provide further fiscal support for businesses.<sup>2771</sup> The Government of Canada initiated an additional \$600 million to support workers and businesses that are hit hard by the pandemic.<sup>2772</sup>

On 26 January 2021, the Minister of Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion, and International Trade announced the launch of the “Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program.”<sup>2773</sup> The program will work collaboratively with the Business Development Bank of Canada and some Canadian financial institutions to offer “government-guaranteed, low-interest loans of up to \$1 million.”<sup>2774</sup>

Canada took strong action by coordinating measures, using monetary policy tools, and using fiscal policy tools to achieve strong growth in the G7 economies. However, they did not use structural policy tools.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Elisabeth Iannucci*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment “to coordinate measures and do whatever it takes, using all policy tools, to achieve strong growth in the G7 economies.”

On 20 April 2020, Gérald Darmanin, Minister of Action and Public Accounts, announced the 2019 tax return campaign that included both fiscal and structural policies to ensure the financial safety of taxpayers during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2775</sup> These policies included: (1) longer income declaration periods, (2) the closure of

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<sup>2769</sup> COVID-19: \$962 million additional support fund now available to businesses and communities affected by the pandemic, Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/05/covid-19-962-million-additional-support-fund-now-available-to-businesses-and-communities-affected-by-the-pandemic.html>.

<sup>2770</sup> COVID-19: \$962 million additional support fund now available to businesses and communities affected by the pandemic, Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/05/covid-19-962-million-additional-support-fund-now-available-to-businesses-and-communities-affected-by-the-pandemic.html>.

<sup>2771</sup> Government of Canada expands Regional Relief and Recovery Fund to provide further support for businesses, Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development (Ottawa) 2 October 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/10/government-of-canada-expands-regional-relief-and-recovery-fund-to-provide-further-support-for-businesses.html>.

<sup>2772</sup> Government of Canada expands Regional Relief and Recovery Fund to provide further support for businesses, Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development (Ottawa) 2 October 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/10/government-of-canada-expands-regional-relief-and-recovery-fund-to-provide-further-support-for-businesses.html>.

<sup>2773</sup> Minister Ng announces launch of Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program, Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development (Ottawa) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/01/minister-ng-announces-launch-of-highly-affected-sectors-credit-availability-program.html>.

<sup>2774</sup> Minister Ng announces launch of Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program, Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development (Ottawa) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/01/minister-ng-announces-launch-of-highly-affected-sectors-credit-availability-program.html>.

<sup>2775</sup> Press Release: Gérald Darmanin opens 2020 Revenue Reporting Campaign, Ministry of Action and Public Accounts (Paris) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/default.aspx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=8643EDA7-266F-4745-BC03-CE0925EBB2D0](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.aspx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=8643EDA7-266F-4745-BC03-CE0925EBB2D0).

public finance centres in favour of new online government tax services, and (3) flexible withholding tax rates to account for dramatic changes in income.<sup>2776</sup>

On 22 April 2020, Bruno Le Maire, Minister of the Economy and Finance, announced the establishment of a task force set to develop a new fiscal corporate insurance program that would effectively meet the risks of future disasters, epidemics, and unforeseen crises.<sup>2777</sup> While the task force released a follow-up statement in June, no material action has been taken thus far.<sup>2778</sup>

On 29 April 2020, Olivier Véran, Minister for Solidarity and Health, and Minister Darmanin announced the renewal of their partial unemployment program for home-based employees.<sup>2779</sup> This fiscal policy action intends to further accommodate employers who are unable to afford the cost of scheduled labour and/or employees who are unable to attend work.<sup>2780</sup>

On 29 May 2020, Minister Darmanin announced the adoption of payment terms regarding staggered down payments on corporation taxes and added value taxes.<sup>2781</sup> This fiscal policy decision follows the one-month postponement of companies' tax deadlines with a particular focus on small businesses.<sup>2782</sup> He further states opportunities for tax exemptions for businesses experiencing additional difficulties.<sup>2783</sup>

On 4 June 2020, Minister Le Maire and Peter Altmaier, Germany's Minister for Economics and Energy, discussed the future launch of data network project GAIA-X and what the coordinated action means for the two countries' future prosperity in economic, scientific, and labour spheres. Minister Altmaier stated, "[Digital innovation] is important for competition and future jobs ... We invite all European and

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<sup>2776</sup> Press Release: Gérald Darmanin opens 2020 Revenue Reporting Campaign, Ministry of Action and Public Accounts (Paris) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=8643EDA7-266F-4745-BC03-CE0925EBB2D0](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=8643EDA7-266F-4745-BC03-CE0925EBB2D0).

<sup>2777</sup> Press Release: Installation of the working group on the development of insurance coverage for exceptional events, including pandemics, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=0596AAE8-FDCC-4BB6-A5FC-E0F8CFA6B411](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=0596AAE8-FDCC-4BB6-A5FC-E0F8CFA6B411).

<sup>2778</sup> Press Release: Installation of the working group on the development of insurance coverage for exceptional events, including pandemics, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=0596AAE8-FDCC-4BB6-A5FC-E0F8CFA6B411](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=0596AAE8-FDCC-4BB6-A5FC-E0F8CFA6B411).

<sup>2779</sup> Press Release: Olivier Véran and Gérald Darmanin announce that the exceptional measure of partial unemployment dedicated to home-based employees is renewed until the first of June, Government of France (Paris) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=45A74181-2657-4327-8C27-A2E16BEBAB21&filename=1022%20-%20CP%20Olivier%20VERAN%20et%20G%20C3%A9rald%20DARMANIN%20-%20chomage%20partiel%20salari%C3%A9s%20C3%A0%20domicile.pdf](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=45A74181-2657-4327-8C27-A2E16BEBAB21&filename=1022%20-%20CP%20Olivier%20VERAN%20et%20G%20C3%A9rald%20DARMANIN%20-%20chomage%20partiel%20salari%C3%A9s%20C3%A0%20domicile.pdf).

<sup>2780</sup> Press Release: Olivier Véran and Gérald Darmanin announce that the exceptional measure of partial unemployment dedicated to home-based employees is renewed until the first of June, Government of France (Paris) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=45A74181-2657-4327-8C27-A2E16BEBAB21&filename=1022%20-%20CP%20Olivier%20VERAN%20et%20G%20C3%A9rald%20DARMANIN%20-%20chomage%20partiel%20salari%C3%A9s%20C3%A0%20domicile.pdf](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=45A74181-2657-4327-8C27-A2E16BEBAB21&filename=1022%20-%20CP%20Olivier%20VERAN%20et%20G%20C3%A9rald%20DARMANIN%20-%20chomage%20partiel%20salari%C3%A9s%20C3%A0%20domicile.pdf).

<sup>2781</sup> Press Release: Gérald Darmanin, Minister of Action and Public Accounts, adapts the terms of payment of corporate tax (IS) and contribution deposits on the added value of companies (CVAE) in the context of a gradual resumption of activity, Ministry of Action and Public Accounts (Paris) 29 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=592B2004-95B4-433B-BABC-A088BCA87C3F](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=592B2004-95B4-433B-BABC-A088BCA87C3F).

<sup>2782</sup> Press Release: Gérald Darmanin, Minister of Action and Public Accounts, adapts the terms of payment of corporate tax (IS) and contribution deposits on the added value of companies (CVAE) in the context of a gradual resumption of activity, Ministry of Action and Public Accounts (Paris) 29 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=592B2004-95B4-433B-BABC-A088BCA87C3F](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=592B2004-95B4-433B-BABC-A088BCA87C3F).

<sup>2783</sup> Press Release: Gérald Darmanin, Minister of Action and Public Accounts, adapts the terms of payment of corporate tax (IS) and contribution deposits on the added value of companies (CVAE) in the context of a gradual resumption of activity, Ministry of Action and Public Accounts (Paris) 29 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=592B2004-95B4-433B-BABC-A088BCA87C3F](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=592B2004-95B4-433B-BABC-A088BCA87C3F).

international partners who share our principles [to] cooperate with us.” The GAIA-X system is still in its developing stages.<sup>2784</sup>

On 5 June 2020, Minister Le Maire and Cédric O, Minister of State for Digital Affairs, announced a short-term support package of investments, loans, and grants towards struggling French tech companies.<sup>2785</sup> These targeted fiscal increases in government expenditure are meant to foster innovation, growth, and competition within the sector.<sup>2786</sup> The goals of the support package focus heavily on structural changes within the tech industry and the flow of investments into current and potential projects in the industry – those of which are essential to France’s economic recovery.<sup>2787</sup>

On 8 June 2020, Brune Poirson, Secretary of State to the Minister for the Ecological Transition and Solidarity, and Agnès Pannier-Runacher, Secretary of State to the Minister of the Economy and Finance, engaged in a discussion with members of the Fashion and Luxury Sector Strategic Committee, in order to cultivate innovation and investments towards a sustainable and vibrant industrial recovery. This conversation involved developing fiscal and structural policy actions that would incentivize insourcing, rather than relying on their current unsustainable supply chain models.<sup>2788</sup>

On 10 June 2020, the Government of France approved fiscal measures to strengthen the tourism sector including full and partial benefit coverage to the industries and its employees for the full year, state-supported loan guarantees, and tax exemptions or postponements.<sup>2789</sup> On 10 August 2020, new businesses were added to this coverage plan like souvenir shops or retail stores in shopping malls.<sup>2790</sup>

On 11 June 2020, Minister Le Maire pronounced a new agreement between the French government and credit insurers that established a public reinsurance program for all outstanding credit insurance and maintenance of insured entities – the “CAP Relais” Program.<sup>2791</sup> This monetary policy agreement is desihned

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<sup>2784</sup> Joint Press Release: Under the leadership of Germany and France, Europe is taking its first step towards data infrastructure, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

[https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=455CDCF3-24F8-42BB-B9C7-8837AED20249](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=455CDCF3-24F8-42BB-B9C7-8837AED20249).

<sup>2785</sup> Press Release: Bruno Le Maire and Cédric O announce a short-term public support plan for tech companies, Ministry of the Economy and Finance, Investir L’avenir, and BPIFrance (Paris) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

[https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=89D97E6B-E1DC-4966-AB21-310E432F7D7E](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=89D97E6B-E1DC-4966-AB21-310E432F7D7E).

<sup>2786</sup> Press Release: Bruno Le Maire and Cédric O announce a short-term public support plan for tech companies, Ministry of the Economy and Finance, Investir L’avenir, and BPIFrance (Paris) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

[https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=89D97E6B-E1DC-4966-AB21-310E432F7D7E](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=89D97E6B-E1DC-4966-AB21-310E432F7D7E).

<sup>2787</sup> Press Release: Bruno Le Maire and Cédric O announce a short-term public support plan for tech companies, Ministry of the Economy and Finance, Investir L’avenir, and BPIFrance (Paris) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

[https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=89D97E6B-E1DC-4966-AB21-310E432F7D7E](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=89D97E6B-E1DC-4966-AB21-310E432F7D7E).

<sup>2788</sup> Press Release: Brune Poirson and Agnès Pannier-Runacher gathered the Committee of the “Fashion and Luxury” sector and entrusted Guillaume de Seynes with a mission for the development of a sustainable French textile industry, Government of France (Paris) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

[https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=592B2004-95B4-433B-BABC-A088BCA87C3F](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=592B2004-95B4-433B-BABC-A088BCA87C3F).

<sup>2789</sup> Press Release: The Government is strengthening the aid provided to the hotels, restaurants, cafes, tourism, sport, culture, Government of France (Paris) 10 June 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

[https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=B67DD1FC-AB54-4216-A7AD-6EAE6CD769C9](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=B67DD1FC-AB54-4216-A7AD-6EAE6CD769C9).

<sup>2790</sup> Press Release: Tourism Plan: new activities eligible for support measures, Minister of the Economy, Finances, and Recovery (Paris) 10 August 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

[https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=B6CC3DA5-1F61-4260-B4C4-33F15254C387](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=B6CC3DA5-1F61-4260-B4C4-33F15254C387).

<sup>2791</sup> Press Release: Strengthening support for credit insurance, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 11 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=EC12F4B9-C335-4258-A8C3-0076D232CD81](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=EC12F4B9-C335-4258-A8C3-0076D232CD81).

to secure corporate cash flow and inter-company credit for financing economic activity and deliver incentives for future insurance investments.<sup>2792</sup> This support system was recently announced to be extended into the first semester of 2021.<sup>2793</sup>

On 30 June 2020, the Banque de France announced its coordinated action with Germany's Deutsche Bundesbank and the European Union's European Central Bank under the expansion of the Bank for International Settlements' (BIS) Innovation Hubs.<sup>2794</sup> France and Germany agreed to host two of these new hubs in order to foster further collaboration and information exchange regarding innovation and economic development.<sup>2795</sup>

On 20 July 2020, the Banque de France announced the commencement of an experiment that will test the use of "central bank currency for interbank settlements" at eight different financial institutions and improve the French financial markets. This experiment will "explore new ways of exchanging different assets for central bank money, improve the delivery of cross-border payments, and upgrade the arrangements surrounding central bank money liquidity." This action is also an example of a coordinated measure taken by the BIS Innovation Hub run by the central banks of France, Germany, and the European Union.<sup>2796</sup>

On 3 September 2020, President Emmanuel Macron released the key features of France's EUR100 billion COVID-19 recovery plan and various coordinated measures with the European Union.<sup>2797</sup> The European Union has agreed to finance 40% of France's recovery plan, which will support investments into long-term productivity growth, energy transitions, and overall well-being of the economies throughout Europe and many G7 economies.<sup>2798</sup>

On 8 September 2020, Minister Le Maire and Alain Griset, Minister Delegate to the Minister of the Economy, Finance, and Recovery in charge of small and medium-sized enterprises, came to an agreement with the French Bank Federation's executive committee regarding the state-supported loan repayments for businesses.<sup>2799</sup> The committee renewed its long-term commitments made in previous loan negotiations, a

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<sup>2792</sup> Press Release: Strengthening support for credit insurance, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 11 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=EC12F4B9-C335-4258-A8C3-0076D232CD81](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=EC12F4B9-C335-4258-A8C3-0076D232CD81).

<sup>2793</sup> Press Release: Bruno Le Maire, Franck Riester and Alain Griset extend and strengthen the public credit support systems between companies for the first semester of 2021, Government of France (Paris) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=E990C682-7ACB-4DF2-94DF-234ADB73964F](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=E990C682-7ACB-4DF2-94DF-234ADB73964F).

<sup>2794</sup> Press Release: The Banque de France, part within the Eurosystem, of the BIS Innovation Hub, to accelerate the collaboration among central banks in innovative financial technologies, Banque de France (Paris) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.banque-france.fr/en/communique-de-presse/banque-de-france-part-within-eurosystem-bis-innovation-hub-accelerate-collaboration-among-central>.

<sup>2795</sup> Press Release: The Banque de France, part within the Eurosystem, of the BIS Innovation Hub, to accelerate the collaboration among central banks in innovative financial technologies, Banque de France (Paris) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.banque-france.fr/en/communique-de-presse/banque-de-france-part-within-eurosystem-bis-innovation-hub-accelerate-collaboration-among-central>.

<sup>2796</sup> Press Release: Banque de France Press Release – 20 July 2020, Banque de France (Paris) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.banque-france.fr/en/communique-de-presse/banque-de-france-press-release-20-july-2020>.

<sup>2797</sup> Report: European aspects of France's recovery plan, France Relance of the Government of France (Paris) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/european-aspects-of-france-s-recovery-plan>.

<sup>2798</sup> Report: European aspects of France's recovery plan, France Relance of the Government of France (Paris) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/european-aspects-of-france-s-recovery-plan>.

<sup>2799</sup> Press Release: Terms of repayment of the loan guaranteed by the State, Ministry of the Economy, Finance, and Recovery (Paris) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=EFABC670-767B-4E52-962B-198AAA4E5C89](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=EFABC670-767B-4E52-962B-198AAA4E5C89).



monetary policy agreement that Minister Le Maire believes will incentivize entrepreneurs to borrow from the banks and stimulate market activity.<sup>2800</sup>

On 19 January 2021, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) released an evaluation of France's response to the pandemic and commended their economic focus that adequately, quickly, and dynamically supported their people in times of need. Minister Le Maire commented on the IMF's analysis and reaffirmed their commitment to use fiscal and monetary policies to support high-risk businesses, promote a greener and more competitive economic recovery, and rebalance the financial markets. Furthermore, he ensured a future of expansion on these three goals, as laid out in their recovery plan.<sup>2801</sup>

On 1 March 2021, Minister Le Maire announced the Government of France's plan to reroute an additional EUR1 billion towards the industrial sector over the next two years.<sup>2802</sup> He explained that the French industrial sector struggles to be competitive and depends heavily on a limited assortment of industries; therefore, these additional funds are intended to incentivize firms to invest in digital technologies, physical capital, and insourced labour.<sup>2803</sup> Minister Le Maire announced France was on track to meet their economic growth target of EUR40 billion and 6 per cent in 2021, due to both this fiscal policy action and other existing aspects of the COVID-19 recovery plan.<sup>2804</sup>

France's took strong action through coordinated measures with Germany and the European Union and in monetary, fiscal, and structural policies which provides evidence of full compliance to their commitment of fostering strong growth in the G7 economies.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Angelina Zabajko*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment "to coordinate measures and do whatever it takes, using all policy tools, to achieve strong growth in the G7 economies."

On 23 March 2020, the German government announced EUR50 billion in aid for small businesses, self-employed individuals, and members of liberal professions.<sup>2805</sup>

On 6 April 2020, the German government adopted a more extensive Quick Loan Programme. The New Programme will allow small and medium-sized firms access to a "instant loan" as long as they are eligible and with certain restrictions.<sup>2806</sup>

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<sup>2800</sup> Press Release: Terms of repayment of the loan guaranteed by the State, Ministry of the Economy, Finance, and Recovery (Paris) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=EFABC670-767B-4E52-962B-198AAA4E5C89](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=EFABC670-767B-4E52-962B-198AAA4E5C89).

<sup>2801</sup> Press Release: IMF Annual Report on Economic Response released brought by France to the health crisis, Minister of the Economy, Finance, and Recovery (Paris) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=D416C985-B843-4DC5-A308-4638BBD01B98](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=D416C985-B843-4DC5-A308-4638BBD01B98).

<sup>2802</sup> France steps up economic stimulus rollout with more cash for industry, Reuters (Paris) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 3 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-economy-idUSKCN2AT25I>.

<sup>2803</sup> France steps up economic stimulus rollout with more cash for industry, Reuters (Paris) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 3 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-economy-idUSKCN2AT25I>.

<sup>2804</sup> France steps up economic stimulus rollout with more cash for industry, Reuters (Paris) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 3 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-economy-idUSKCN2AT25I>.

<sup>2805</sup> German government announces €50 billion in emergency aid for small businesses, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/2020-03-23-gemeinsame-pm.html>.

On 3 June 2020, the German government announced a EUR130 billion fiscal stimulus package to stabilize the economy by providing help to citizens, companies, and local authorities, as well as investments into green and digital technology.<sup>2807</sup>

On 4 June 2020, Peter Altmaier, Minister for Economics and Energy, and Bruno Le Maire, France's Minister of the Economy and Finance, discussed the future launch of data network project GAIA-X and what the coordinated action means for the two countries' future prosperity in economic, scientific, and labour spheres. Minister Altmaier stated, "[Digital innovation] is important for competition and future jobs ... We invite all European and international partners who share our principles [to] cooperate with us." The GAIA-X system is still in its developing stages.<sup>2808</sup>

On 15 June 2020, the German government announced a short time work benefit to keep employment stable during the financial crisis amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2809</sup> The program is designed to help employers reduce their amount of layoffs by reducing work hours with an additional government wage top up.<sup>2810</sup>

On 18 June 2020, Chancellor Angela Merkel proposed and urged the European Union to approve a EUR750 billion COVID-19 recovery plan that would provide unity and cohesion for Europe's economic recovery.<sup>2811</sup>

On 21 July 2020, the European Union passed the EUR750 billion coronavirus recovery funds, where Germany played a pivotal role in strengthening ties among and creating unified methods to address the crisis.<sup>2812</sup>

On 29 June 2020, the Deutsche Bundesbank announced the expansion of the Bank for International Settlements' Innovation Hubs.<sup>2813</sup> Germany and France agreed to host two of these new hubs in order to foster further collaboration and information exchange regarding innovation and economic development.<sup>2814</sup>

On 15 March 2021, the German government announced the launch of Zukunftsfonds, an equity fund for technologies of the future.<sup>2815</sup> The government will invest EUR10 billion into the initiative, aiming to mobilize EUR30 billion with further private and public partnerships.<sup>2816</sup>

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<sup>2806</sup> German government adopts more extensive Quick Loan Programme for small and medium-sized businesses, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021.

<https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/2020-04-07-quick-loan-programme.html>.

<sup>2807</sup> A stimulus package for everyone in Germany, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 3 June 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Web/EN/Issues/Priority-Issues/stimulus-package-for-everyone/stimulus-package-for-everyone.html>.

<sup>2808</sup> Joint Press Release: Under the leadership of Germany and France, Europe is taking its first step towards data infrastructure, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

[https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=455CDCF3-24F8-42BB-B9C7-8837AED20249](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=455CDCF3-24F8-42BB-B9C7-8837AED20249).

<sup>2809</sup> Kurzarbeit: Germany's Short Term Work Benefit, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/06/11/na061120-kurzarbeit-germanys-short-time-work-benefit>.

<sup>2810</sup> Kurzarbeit: Germany's Short Term Work Benefit, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/06/11/na061120-kurzarbeit-germanys-short-time-work-benefit>.

<sup>2811</sup> Merkel urges EU to agree on €750 billion recovery plan by end of July, France 24 (Paris) 18 June 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200618-merkel-urges-eu-to-agree-on-€750-billion-covid-19-recovery-plan-by-end-of-july>.

<sup>2812</sup> EU Leaders Reach Deal on €750 Billion COVID Recovery Fund, Investopedia (New York) 21 July 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.investopedia.com/eu-leaders-reach-historic-deal-on-eur750-billion-covid-recovery-fund-5071916>.

<sup>2813</sup> New BIS Innovation Hub Centre for global financial innovation to be set up jointly in Frankfurt and Paris, Deutsche Bundesbank (Frankfurt) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.bundesbank.de/en/press/press-releases/new-bis-innovation-hub-centre-for-global-financial-innovation-to-be-set-up-jointly-in-frankfurt-and-paris-835680>.

<sup>2814</sup> Press Release: The Banque de France, part within the Eurosystem, of the BIS Innovation Hub, to accelerate the collaboration among central banks in innovative financial technologies, Banque de France (Paris) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.banque-france.fr/en/communique-de-presse/banque-de-france-part-within-eurosystem-bis-innovation-hub-accelerate-collaboration-among-central>.

Germany took strong action too coordinate measures and in the areas of fiscal, structural and monetary policy to achieve strong growth in G7 economies.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: James Venlauskas*

### **Italy: -1**

Italy not complied with its commitment “to coordinate measures and do whatever it takes, using all policy tools, to achieve strong growth in the G7 economies.”

On 6 June 2020, the Italian government approved a EUR55 billion coronavirus spending package to assist families and firms to maneuver the economic downturn brought on by the pandemic.<sup>2817</sup>

On 27 October 2020, the Italian government implemented a EUR5.4 billion package which includes grants for self-employed workers, income support for families and quick relief to sectors hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2818</sup>

On 14 December 2020, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte stated that the Italian government would continue to implement strongly expansionary budgets to ensure economic certainty and increase the share of renewable energy sources.<sup>2819</sup>

On 15 January 2021, the Italian government approved another stimulus package of EUR32 billion which provides a deferral on tax payment deadlines and extends support for workers and businesses forced to close due to public health measures.<sup>2820</sup>

Italy took strong action in the area of fiscal policy to achieve strong growth in the G7 economies. However, they did not take strong action in the areas of monetary or structural policy nor to ensure coordinated measures with G7 economies.

Thus, Italy receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: James Venlauskas*

### **Japan: 0**

Japan has partially complied with its commitment “to coordinate measures and do whatever it takes, using all policy tools, to achieve strong growth in the G7 economies.”

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<sup>2815</sup> Launch of the Zukunftsfonds, German Federal Ministry of Finance (Munich) 25 March 2021. Access Date: April 30 2021. [https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Financial\\_markets/Articles/2021-03-25-launch-of-the-zukunftsfonds.html](https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Financial_markets/Articles/2021-03-25-launch-of-the-zukunftsfonds.html).

<sup>2816</sup> Launch of the Zukunftsfonds, German Federal Ministry of Finance (Munich) 25 March 2021. Access Date: April 30 2021. [https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Financial\\_markets/Articles/2021-03-25-launch-of-the-zukunftsfonds.html](https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Financial_markets/Articles/2021-03-25-launch-of-the-zukunftsfonds.html).

<sup>2817</sup> Italy's Coronavirus Economic Stimulus Package, Leaders League (Paris) 5 June 2022. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.leadersleague.com/en/news/italy-coronavirus-economic-package>.

<sup>2818</sup> Policy Response to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#>.

<sup>2819</sup> Conte Says Italy Will Stick With Its Expansionary Policy in 2021, Bloomberg News (New York) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-12-14/conte-says-italy-will-stick-with-its-expansionary-policy-in-2021>.

<sup>2820</sup> Italy approves new stimulus package, shunting up 2021 deficit, Reuters (London) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 28 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/italy-budget-stimulus/italy-approves-new-stimulus-package-shunting-up-2021-deficit-idINL8N2JQ1PA?edition-redirect=uk>.

On 20 March 2020, the Bank of Japan, along with the Bank of England, European Central Bank, the Bank of Canada, the U.S. Federal Reserve, and the Swiss National Bank announced a “coordinated attempt to enhance the provision of liquidity using the standing U.S. dollar liquidity swap line arrangements.”<sup>2821</sup> These monetary policy actions “serve as an important liquidity backstop to ease strains in global funding markets, thereby helping to mitigate the effects of such strains on the supply of credit to households and businesses, both domestically and abroad.”<sup>2822</sup>

On 20 April 2020, the Japanese government enacted a JPY117 trillion stimulus package in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2823</sup> This package allotted funds for the securing of zero interest loans, deferment of taxes, and cash payments to Japanese residents and businesses.<sup>2824</sup>

On 27 April 2020, the Bank of Japan made several amendments to its Special Funds-Supplying Operations to Facilitate Financing in Response to the Novel Coronavirus program.<sup>2825</sup> These amendments expanded access to low interest loans by financial institutions and further defined what was considered collateral for these loans.<sup>2826</sup>

On 27 May 2020, the Japanese government announced another round of economic stimulus, amounting to JPY117 trillion, to further alleviate COVID-19 related economic hardship.<sup>2827</sup>

On 15 November 2020, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, designed to boost intra-Asian economic ties, and stimulate economic growth.<sup>2828</sup>

On 7 December 2020, Prime Minister Suga announced a JPY75 trillion stimulus package to alleviate economic strains of the pandemic, with additional targeted investment in new growth areas.<sup>2829</sup>

On 18 December 2020, the Bank of Japan extended the Special Funds-Supplying Operations to Facilitate Financing in Response to the Novel Coronavirus program for an additional six months until September 2021.<sup>2830</sup>

Japan took strong action through fiscal policy and coordinated measures to achieve strong growth in the G7 economies. However, Japan has not taken strong action in the areas of structural or monetary policy.

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<sup>2821</sup> Bank of Canada: Coordinated Central Bank Action to Further Enhance the Provision of U.S. Dollar Liquidity (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2020 <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2020/03/coordinated-central-bank-action-further-enhance-provision-u-s-dollar/>.

<sup>2822</sup> Bank of Canada: Coordinated Central Bank Action to Further Enhance the Provision of U.S. Dollar Liquidity (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2020 <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2020/03/coordinated-central-bank-action-further-enhance-provision-u-s-dollar/>.

<sup>2823</sup> Emergency Economic Measures for Response to COVID-19 to protect the lives and lifestyles of the public and move toward economic recovery, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [http://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/\\_00019.html](http://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/_00019.html).

<sup>2824</sup> Emergency Economic Measures for Response to COVID-19 to protect the lives and lifestyles of the public and move toward economic recovery, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [http://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/\\_00019.htjml](http://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/_00019.htjml).

<sup>2825</sup> Strengthening of the Special Funds-Supplying Operations to Facilitate Financing in Response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Bank of Japan (Tokyo) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.boj.or.jp/en/mopo/measures/mkt\\_ope/ope\\_v/index.htm/](https://www.boj.or.jp/en/mopo/measures/mkt_ope/ope_v/index.htm/).

<sup>2826</sup> Strengthening of the Special Funds-Supplying Operations to Facilitate Financing in Response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Bank of Japan (Tokyo) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.boj.or.jp/en/mopo/measures/mkt\\_ope/ope\\_v/index.htm/](https://www.boj.or.jp/en/mopo/measures/mkt_ope/ope_v/index.htm/).

<sup>2827</sup> Japan approves fresh \$1.1 trillion stimulus to combat pandemic pain, Reuters (Toronto) 26 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-japan-stimulus-idUSKBN2323D3>.

<sup>2828</sup> The 4th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Summit and RCEP Agreement Signing Ceremony, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 15 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/fta/page1e\\_000291.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/fta/page1e_000291.html).

<sup>2829</sup> Japan unveils \$708 billion in fresh stimulus with eye on post-COVID growth, Reuters (Toronto) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-japan-economy-stimulus-idUSKBN28I02Y>.

<sup>2830</sup> Statement on Monetary Policy, Bank of Japan (Tokyo) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.boj.or.jp/en/mopo/mpmsche\\_minu/index.htm/](https://www.boj.or.jp/en/mopo/mpmsche_minu/index.htm/).

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Thomas Dellinger*

### **United Kingdom: 0**

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment “to resolve to coordinate measures and use all policy tools, to achieve strong growth in the G7 economies.”

On 20 March 2020, the Bank of England, along with the Bank of Canada, the European Central Bank, the Bank of Japan, the U.S. Federal Reserve, and the Swiss National Bank announced a “coordinated attempt to enhance the provision of liquidity using the standing U.S. dollar liquidity swap line arrangements.”<sup>2831</sup> These monetary policy actions “serve as an important liquidity backstop to ease strains in global funding markets, thereby helping to mitigate the effects of such strains on the supply of credit to households and businesses, both domestically and abroad.”<sup>2832</sup>

On 18 November 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson set out a GBP12 billion plan for a “green industrial revolution” which will create and support up to 250,000 highly skilled “green” jobs in the UK, and spur over three times as much private sector investment by 2030.<sup>2833</sup>

On 12 November 2020, Business Secretary Alok Sharma announced an extension of a COVID-19 grant for self-employed individuals to March 2021, cash grants of up to GBP3,000 per month for English businesses, and an additional GBP2.2 billion for local authorities to distribute to small businesses.<sup>2834</sup>

On 17 December 2020, the Bank of England set monetary policy to meet the 2 per cent inflation target to sustain economic growth and employment. The bank’s Monetary Policy Committee voted unanimously to maintain the bank rate at 0.1 per cent, continue with the programme of GBP100 billion UK government bond purchases, and to commence a previously announced programme of GBP150 billion UK government bond purchases.<sup>2835</sup>

On 17 December 2020, the British government passed the UK Internal Market Act that ensures there are no harmful new barriers to trade between the four nations in the UK.<sup>2836</sup>

On 19 February 2021, Prime Minister Johnson met with other G7 leaders and resolved to work together to make 2021 a turning point for multilateralism and to shape a recovery that promotes the health and prosperity of people and planet.<sup>2837</sup>

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<sup>2831</sup> Bank of Canada: Coordinated Central Bank Action to Further Enhance the Provision of U.S. Dollar Liquidity (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2020 <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2020/03/coordinated-central-bank-action-further-enhance-provision-u-s-dollar/>.

<sup>2832</sup> Bank of Canada: Coordinated Central Bank Action to Further Enhance the Provision of U.S. Dollar Liquidity (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2020 <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2020/03/coordinated-central-bank-action-further-enhance-provision-u-s-dollar/>.

<sup>2833</sup> Press Release: PM outlines his Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution for 250,000 jobs, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 18 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-outlines-his-ten-point-plan-for-a-green-industrial-revolution-for-250000-jobs>.

<sup>2834</sup> Business Secretary’s statement on coronavirus (COVID-19), Government of the United Kingdom (London) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/business-secretarys-statement-on-coronavirus-covid-19-12-november-2020>.

<sup>2835</sup> Bank Rate maintained at 0.1 per cent, Monetary Policy Summary and minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee meeting, Bank of England (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetary-policy-summary-and-minutes/2020/december-2020>.

<sup>2836</sup> Press Release: UK Internal Market Bill becomes law, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, Cabinet Office (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-internal-market-bill-becomes-law>.

<sup>2837</sup> Address by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/g7-leaders-statement-19-february-2021>.

The United Kingdom took strong action through coordinating measures and using monetary and fiscal policy tools to achieve strong growth in the G7 economies. However, the United Kingdom has not used structural policy tools.

Thus, the United Kingdom has received a score of 0.

*Analyst: Mike Zhao*

### **United States: 0**

The United States has partially complied with its commitment “to coordinate measures and use all policy tools, to achieve strong growth in the G7 economies.”

On 20 March 2020, the U.S. Federal Reserve, along with the Bank of England, European Central Bank, the Bank of Japan, the Bank of Canada, and the Swiss National Bank announced a “coordinated attempt to enhance the provision of liquidity using the standing U.S. dollar liquidity swap line arrangements.”<sup>2838</sup> These monetary policy actions “serve as an important liquidity backstop to ease strains in global funding markets, thereby helping to mitigate the effects of such strains on the supply of credit to households and businesses, both domestically and abroad.”<sup>2839</sup>

On 27 August 2020, the Federal Open Market Committee announced the unanimous approval of updates to its Statement on Longer-Run Goals and Monetary Policy Strategy, which articulates its approach to monetary policy and serves as the foundation for its policy actions.<sup>2840</sup>

On 22 January 2021, President Joseph Biden issued an executive order that launched “an interagency benefit coordination structure” to provide equitable emergency economic relief in the form of direct payments to working families, communities, and small businesses.<sup>2841</sup>

On 30 October 2020, the Federal Reserve Board adjusted the terms of the Main Street Lending Program in two important ways to better target support to small businesses. In particular, the minimum loan size for three Main Street facilities available to for-profit and non-profit borrowers has been reduced from USD250,000 to USD100,000 and the fees have been adjusted to encourage the provision of these smaller loans. The Board and Department of the Treasury also issued a new frequently asked question clarifying that “Paycheck Protection Program loans of up to USD2 million may be excluded for purposes of determining the maximum loan size.”<sup>2842</sup> To date, the Main Street program has made almost 400 loans totalling USD3.7 billion, providing support to businesses from a wide range of industries. The program was established with

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<sup>2838</sup> Bank of Canada: Coordinated Central Bank Action to Further Enhance the Provision of U.S. Dollar Liquidity (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2020 <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2020/03/coordinated-central-bank-action-further-enhance-provision-u-s-dollar/>.

<sup>2839</sup> Bank of Canada: Coordinated Central Bank Action to Further Enhance the Provision of U.S. Dollar Liquidity (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2020 <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2020/03/coordinated-central-bank-action-further-enhance-provision-u-s-dollar/>.

<sup>2840</sup> Press Release: The Federal Open Market Committee announced the unanimous approval of updates to its Statement on Longer-Run Goals and Monetary Policy Strategy, Federal Reserve (Washington) 27 August 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20200827a.htm>.

<sup>2841</sup> Press Release: Talking Points: January 22 Executive Orders-Economic Relief, White House (Washington) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/01/22/talking-points-january-22-executive-orders-economic-relief/>.

<sup>2842</sup> Press Release: Federal Reserve Board adjusts terms of Main Street Lending program to better target support to small businesses that employ millions of workers and are facing continued revenue shortfalls due to the pandemic, Federal Reserve (Washington) 30 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20201030a.htm>.

the approval of the Treasury Secretary and with USD75 billion in equity provided by the Treasury Department from the CARES Act.<sup>2843</sup>

The United States took strong action in the areas of monetary, fiscal, and structural policies to achieve strong growth in the G7 economies. However, it has not taken action to coordinate measures with either G7 member-states.

Thus, the United States has received a score of 0.

*Analyst: Mike Zhao*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment “to resolve to coordinate measures and use all policy tools, to achieve strong growth in the G7 economies.”

On 19 March 2020, the European Union set in motion a Temporary Framework on State Aid Rules to ensure that sufficient liquidity is available to European businesses to help sustain economic activity in Europe during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2844</sup> This framework includes both fiscal and monetary policy measures and allows member states to grant companies up to EUR800,000 to address their liquidity needs or grant loans with low interest rates.<sup>2845</sup>

On 20 March 2020, the European Central Bank, along with the Bank of England, Bank of Japan, the Bank of Canada, the U.S. Federal Reserve, and the Swiss National Bank announced a “coordinated attempt to enhance the provision of liquidity using the standing U.S. dollar liquidity swap line arrangements.”<sup>2846</sup> These monetary policy actions “serve as an important liquidity backstop to ease strains in global funding markets, thereby helping to mitigate the effects of such strains on the supply of credit to households and businesses, both domestically and abroad.”<sup>2847</sup>

On 6 April 2020, the European Commission used EUR1 billion from the European Fund for Strategic Investments to indirectly provide liquidity to at least 100,000 European small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) and small mid-cap companies that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2848</sup> This monetary policy initiative fulfills the Commission’s commitment made on 13 March to immediately support SMEs beginning in April.<sup>2849</sup>

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<sup>2843</sup> Press Release: Federal Reserve Board adjusts terms of Main Street Lending program to better target support to small businesses that employ millions of workers and are facing continued revenue shortfalls due to the pandemic, Federal Reserve (Washington) 30 October 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20201030a.htm>.

<sup>2844</sup> Press Release: State aid: Commission adopts Temporary Framework to enable Member States to further support the economy in the COVID-19 outbreak, European Commission (Brussels) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_496](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_496).

<sup>2845</sup> Press Release: State aid: Commission adopts Temporary Framework to enable Member States to further support the economy in the COVID-19 outbreak, European Commission (Brussels) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_496](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_496).

<sup>2846</sup> Bank of Canada: Coordinated Central Bank Action to Further Enhance the Provision of U.S. Dollar Liquidity (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2020 <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2020/03/coordinated-central-bank-action-further-enhance-provision-u-s-dollar/>.

<sup>2847</sup> Bank of Canada: Coordinated Central Bank Action to Further Enhance the Provision of U.S. Dollar Liquidity (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2020 <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2020/03/coordinated-central-bank-action-further-enhance-provision-u-s-dollar/>.

<sup>2848</sup> Press Release: Coronavirus: Commission and European Investment Fund (part of EIB Group) unlock €8 billion in finance for 100,000 small and medium-sized businesses, European Commission (Brussels) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_569](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_569).

<sup>2849</sup> Press Release: Coronavirus: Commission and European Investment Fund (part of EIB Group) unlock €8 billion in finance for 100,000 small and medium-sized businesses, European Commission (Brussels) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_569](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_569).

On 17 June 2020, the European Parliament called for structural economic policies to level the playing field for all businesses in order to prevent unfair competition from foreign companies that could distort the single market.<sup>2850</sup>

On 22 September 2020, the European Commission authorized “Support to Mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency,” a fiscal policy that would supplement member states’ national efforts to prevent unemployment.<sup>2851</sup> Under the programme, the EU will provide members with financial assistance, upon request, in the form of loans that are granted on favourable terms. Up to EUR100 billion is available to all member states.<sup>2852</sup> This assistance supports national short-time work schemes, unemployment benefits, and similar job protection measures.<sup>2853</sup>

On 10 December 2020, the European Central Bank extended the pandemic emergency long-term refinancing operations.<sup>2854</sup> It is stated that the action “will serve as a liquidity backstop to the euro area banking system and contribute to preserving the smooth functioning of money markets during the extended pandemic period.”<sup>2855</sup>

On 17 December 2020, the European Union approved a EUR1.8 trillion stimulus package that includes structural and fiscal policy measures.<sup>2856</sup> The package includes the EU’s long-term budget and Next Generation EU, a temporary recovery instrument aimed at repairing the social and economic damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2857</sup> Most of the package will promote modernization through research and innovation, environmental measures, and digital transformations. It also aims to make the European economy more resilient and prepared for disruptions.<sup>2858</sup>

The European Union has taken strong action through coordinated measures and the implementation of monetary, fiscal, and structural policies to achieve strong growth in the G7 economies.

Thus, the European Union has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Elisabeth Iannucci*

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<sup>2850</sup> Foreign takeovers in Covid-19 crisis: MEPs push for level-playing field, European Parliament News (Brussels) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/economy/20200618STO81512/foreign-takeovers-meps-push-for-level-playing-field>.

<sup>2851</sup> Foreign takeovers in Covid-19 crisis: MEPs push for level-playing field, European Parliament News (Brussels) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/economy/20200618STO81512/foreign-takeovers-meps-push-for-level-playing-field>.

<sup>2852</sup> Covid-19’s economic impact: €100 billion to keep people in jobs, European Parliament News (Brussels) 6 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/priorities/eu-response-to-coronavirus/20200416STO77205/covid-19-s-economic-impact-EU100-billion-to-keep-people-in-jobs>.

<sup>2853</sup> Covid-19’s economic impact: €100 billion to keep people in jobs, European Parliament News (Brussels) 6 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/priorities/eu-response-to-coronavirus/20200416STO77205/covid-19-s-economic-impact-EU100-billion-to-keep-people-in-jobs>.

<sup>2854</sup> ECB extends pandemic emergency longer-term refinancing operations, European Central Bank (Washington) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2020/html/ecb.pr201210~8acfa5026f.en.html>.

<sup>2855</sup> ECB extends pandemic emergency longer-term refinancing operations, European Central Bank (Washington) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 9 March 2021. <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2020/html/ecb.pr201210~8acfa5026f.en.html>.

<sup>2856</sup> EU leaders finally approve coronavirus stimulus package after Hungary and Poland lift their veto, CNBC (Brussels) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021 <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/12/10/eu-leaders-finally-approve-coronavirus-stimulus-package.html>.

<sup>2857</sup> Recovery plan for Europe, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/recovery-plan-europe\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/recovery-plan-europe_en).

<sup>2858</sup> Recovery plan for Europe, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/recovery-plan-europe\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/recovery-plan-europe_en).



## 16. Global Economy: Downside Risk

“We resolve to ... safeguard against downside risks.”

*G7 Leaders' Statement*

### Assessment

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

### Background

The global economy faces significant downside risk, or uncertain negative outcomes such as decline in economic growth or loss of asset returns relative to expected, as it recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2859,2860</sup> The June 2020 World Bank Global Economic Prospects, for example, predicted a 5.2 per cent reduction in global gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020 as a baseline but a downside scenario of nearly eight per cent.<sup>2861</sup> As early as March 2020, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Interim Economic Assessment predicted a downside GDP reduction scenario three times the base case prediction.<sup>2862</sup> In this context, on 3 March 2020, the G7 finance ministers and central bank governors reaffirmed their “commitment to use all appropriate policy tools to achieve strong, sustainable growth and safeguard against downside risks” in a statement in follow up to the 2020 Leaders’ Statement.<sup>2863</sup>

Downside risk has been addressed in G7 communiqués, declarations, and statements as early as 2008, often as context for global economy actions and commitments. On 8 July 2008, the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders’ Declaration introduced its commitments relating to global growth by stating that “the world economy continues to face uncertainty and downside risks persist.”<sup>2864</sup> Leaders expressed “strong concern about elevated commodity prices, especially of oil and food, since they pose a serious challenge to stable growth worldwide, have serious implications for the most vulnerable, and increase global inflationary

<sup>2859</sup> Policy Research Working Paper 2674: Measuring Economic Downside Risk and Severity - Growth at Risk, The World Bank (Washington DC) 30 September 2001. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/553431468741369627/measuring-economic-downside-risk-and-severity-growth-at-risk>.

<sup>2860</sup> Policy Research Working Paper 8947: A Novel Downside Risk Measure and Expected Returns, The World Bank (Washington DC) 29 July 2019. Date of Access 13 December 2020. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/32131/WPS8947.pdf?sequence=4&isAllowed=y>.

<sup>2861</sup> June 2020 Global Economic Prospects - Pandemic, Recession: The Global Economy in Crisis, The World Bank (Washington DC) 8 June 2020. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/global-economic-prospects>.

<sup>2862</sup> Interim Economic Assessment - Coronavirus: The world economy at risk, OECD (Paris) 2 March 2020. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/berlin/publikationen/Interim-Economic-Assessment-2-March-2020.pdf>.

<sup>2863</sup> Statement of G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 3 March 2020. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/finance/200303-coronavirus.html>.

<sup>2864</sup> G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 8 July 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

pressure.”<sup>2865</sup> On 14 June 2008, concerns of “uncertainty and downside risks” had been stated by finance ministers, who also stated that “further declines in housing prices in the United States and greater strains in the financial markets may adversely affect the global outlook.”<sup>2866</sup>

On 18 June 2013, the G8 Lough Erne Leaders Communiqué stated that “downside risks have reduced thanks in part to significant policy actions taken in the United States, euro area and Japan, and to the resilience of major developing and emerging market economies” before stating that there is “need for countries to press ahead with the necessary reforms to restore sustainable growth and jobs.”<sup>2867</sup>

On 5 June 2014, the G7 Brussels Summit Declaration again mentioned downside risk to introduce its global economy commitments, stating that “downside risks remain which will need to be managed carefully.”<sup>2868</sup> Immediate afterwards, it stated that “sustained growth is needed to bring down unemployment, particularly among young people and the long-term unemployed.”<sup>2869</sup>

On 27 May 2016, the G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration stated that “downside risks to the global outlook have increased” before observing that “weak demand and unaddressed structural problems are the key factors weighing on actual and potential growth.”<sup>2870</sup>

On 27 May 2017, the G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué identified a “balance of risks tilted to the downside” before stating that leaders’ “top priority is to raise global growth to deliver higher living standards and quality jobs.”<sup>2871</sup> Leaders then reaffirmed a commitment “to achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.”<sup>2872</sup>

While the G7 Charlevoix Summit Communiqué issued on 9 June 2018 did not explicitly address downside risk, it stated that “resilience against risk has improved among emerging market economies” immediate after an observation that the “global economic outlook continues to improve, but too few citizens have benefited from that economic growth.”<sup>2873</sup> This was again followed by a commitment to “continue ... to support strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth that generates widespread prosperity.”<sup>2874</sup>

On 18 July 2019, the Chair’s Summary of the G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors’ Meeting once again reaffirmed the combined “commitment to use all policy tools to achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth, and safeguard against downside risks.”<sup>2875</sup> Immediately following this, the

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<sup>2865</sup> G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 8 July 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

<sup>2866</sup> Statement of the G-8 Finance Ministers Meeting, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 14 June 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/finance/fm080614-statement.pdf>.

<sup>2867</sup> G8 Lough Erne Leaders Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 18 June 2013. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2013lougherne/lough-erne-communiqué.html>.

<sup>2868</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

<sup>2869</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

<sup>2870</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>2871</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communiqué.html>.

<sup>2872</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communiqué.html>.

<sup>2873</sup> The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqué.html>.

<sup>2874</sup> The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqué.html>.

<sup>2875</sup> Chair’s Summary: G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors’ Meeting, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 18 July 2019. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/finance/190718-summary.html>.

summary stated that “[f]iscal policy should be flexible and growth-friendly, while rebuilding buffers where needed and ensuring debt as a share of GDP is on a sustainable path.”<sup>2876</sup>

On 16 March 2020, under the U.S. presidency, G7 leaders met virtually to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time, they expected to meet again in three months at their regularly scheduled summit on 10-12 June 2020, which was later postponed indefinitely.

### **Commitment Features**

The commitment is to “safeguard against downside risks” where “downside risks” can refer to a variety of uncertain negative economic outcomes.<sup>2877,2878</sup> To “safeguard” is to protect, which, in the context of “risk,” commonly defined as the product of probability and impact of an uncertain outcome, may be understood as to reduce either the likelihood or the extent of downside risk.

Given the range of outcomes regarding which downside risk may be understood and the impracticality of assessing members’ performance in reducing the likelihood and significance of every uncertain negative economic outcome, variables relevant to the G7 may be identified from the context of downside risk in past commitments. In the past statements above, the principal recurrent areas of risk are “strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth” and employment. Recurrent objectives to be served by addressing downside risk include widespread prosperity (or prosperity shared by a wide range of citizens) and the wellbeing of “the most vulnerable,” or disadvantaged groups such as young people and the long-term unemployed. This is consistent with World Bank findings that downside risk particularly has “grave consequences for the poor.”<sup>2879</sup>

Given these areas of focus, the priority areas identified in the 16 March 2020 G7 Leaders’ Statement comment that “[t]his is particularly important for small and medium businesses and working families” shortly after making the commitment at hand are an effective proxy for compliance with this commitment as a whole.<sup>2880</sup> Small businesses and working families are examples of the disadvantaged groups historically connected with statements related to downside risk, and given their large numbers must be addressed for prosperity to be widespread or growth to be balanced and inclusive. They also account for both the supply and demand side of employment. Furthermore, ensuring the resilience of these groups may mitigate the likelihood of downside risk as well as its extent. Inequality reduces demand, a key factor of growth, and strengthening borrowers is a particularly effective policy to address downside risk in the housing sector, which was an industry particularly connected to downside risk concerns in the 2008 Statement of the G8 Finance Ministers Meeting.<sup>2881,2882,2883,2884</sup>

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<sup>2876</sup> Chair's Summary: G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 18 July 2019. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/finance/190718-summary.html>.

<sup>2877</sup> Policy Research Working Paper 2674: Measuring Economic Downside Risk and Severity - Growth at Risk, The World Bank (Washington DC) 30 September 2001. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/553431468741369627/measuring-economic-downside-risk-and-severity-growth-at-risk>.

<sup>2878</sup> Policy Research Working Paper 8947: A Novel Downside Risk Measure and Expected Returns, The World Bank (Washington DC) 29 July 2019. Date of Access 13 December 2020. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/32131/WPS8947.pdf?sequence=4&isAllowed=y>.

<sup>2879</sup> Policy Research Working Paper 2674: Measuring Economic Downside Risk and Severity - Growth at Risk, The World Bank (Washington DC) 30 September 2001. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/553431468741369627/measuring-economic-downside-risk-and-severity-growth-at-risk>.

<sup>2880</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>2881</sup> IAI Working Paper 17/15 - A Coordinated Approach to Foster Sustainable Growth and Financial Stability, Istituto Affari Internazionali (Rome) April 2017. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/conferences/2017/Saccomanni\\_Romano.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/conferences/2017/Saccomanni_Romano.pdf).

<sup>2882</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

For these reasons, the two components assessed of compliance with the commitment are action to improve the resilience of small and medium businesses in the case of a downside economic environment, and action to improve the resilience of working families in such a case. Such downside economic environments may include an extension in pandemic response measures such as lockdowns beyond expected, or lower aggregate economic activity as the world recovers. General policies that could address downside risk in these cases include those that foster stability or confidence, including by encouraging the expectation of stability.<sup>2885</sup> This could for example be done on the consumer side by strengthening the social safety net with more generous unemployment security. More specifically, steps to address small and medium businesses may include structural improvements such as greater tax fairness and government provision of needed services such as training, while steps to address working families may include stronger labour protections. Meanwhile, broad-based stimulus measures may not specifically protect businesses or families from uncertain future impacts of the pandemic, and do not constitute compliance if that is the case.

Examples of strong compliance include legislative or regulatory changes or the launch of new programs of expenditure, while examples of weak action include verbal affirmations of intention or assigning responsibilities to a certain government body. Negative action is also possible for both groups, as tax codes for example may be changed to further favour large companies and labour protections may be weakened, and this should be counted against members' compliance with the commitment.

Thus, to receive a score of +1, or full compliance, members must take strong action to improve the resilience of small and medium businesses as well as working families in the face of possible economic outcomes worse than baseline expectation, and not take action to weaken the resilience of either group. To receive a score of 0, or partial compliance, members may either take strong action to improve and not worsen the resilience of one of the two groups, and fail to do so for the other, or they may take only weak action to improve and not worsen the resilience of both groups. To receive a score of -1, or no compliance, members may take at most weak action to improve the resilience of at most one of the groups, and either take no action to improve, or take action to weaken, the resilience of the other group or both groups.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	G7 member does not take action to improve or takes action to weaken the resilience of small and medium businesses and working families, OR G7 member takes weak action to improve the resilience of only one group.
0	G7 member takes strong action to improve and does not take action to weaken the resilience of small and medium businesses or working families, but takes no action to improve or takes action to weaken the resilience of the other group; OR G7 member takes weak action to improve and does not take action to weaken the resilience of both groups.
+1	G7 member takes strong action to improve and does not take action to weaken the resilience of small and medium businesses and working families.

*Compliance Director: Zhenglin Liu  
Lead Analyst: Sofia Shatrova*

### Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to safeguard against downside risks by improving the resilience of small and medium businesses and working families.

<sup>2883</sup> April 2019 Global Financial Stability Report - Vulnerabilities in a Maturing Credit Cycle, International Monetary Fund (Washington DC) April 2019. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF082/25728-9781498302104/25728-9781498302104/ch02.xml>.

<sup>2884</sup> Statement of the G-8 Finance Ministers Meeting, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 14 June 2008. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/finance/fm080614-statement.pdf>.

<sup>2885</sup> IAI Working Paper 17/15 - A Coordinated Approach to Foster Sustainable Growth and Financial Stability, Istituto Affari Internazionali (Rome) April 2017. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/conferences/2017/Saccomanni\\_Romano.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/conferences/2017/Saccomanni_Romano.pdf).

On 18 March 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the introduction of new measures totalling CAD82 billion to support Canadian workers and businesses who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2886</sup> The economic package was split into CAD27 billion designated for direct support to Canadian workers and businesses, which includes the Emergency Care Benefit and the Emergency Support Benefit, and CAD55 billion for enabling tax deferrals to assist Canadians with meeting liquidity needs.<sup>2887</sup> On the same day, Finance Minister Bill Morneau announced a uniform extension of the deadline to file taxes to 1 June 2020, as well as a further extension — until 1 September 2020 — for workers and businesses who owe taxes after the June deadline.<sup>2888</sup>

On 25 March 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau held a press conference to announce the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), a new economic measure intended to address the crisis sparked by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2889</sup> The benefit replaced the direct measures announced on 18 March 2020 by implementing a four-month income replacement scheme for workers who have lost wages for a minimum of 14 days due to factors related to the pandemic.<sup>2890</sup> Later, on 25 March 2020, Minister Morneau specified that the CERB would not replace the Employment Insurance system, and that it was expected to total CAD52 billion in direct economic support.<sup>2891</sup>

On 27 March 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau introduced further measures to support small and medium sized businesses, including a 75 per cent wage subsidy and new government-backed loans known as Canada Emergency Business Accounts.<sup>2892</sup> Minister Morneau said that the supports would cost an estimated CAD120 billion.<sup>2893</sup>

On 11 May 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau announced the expansion of the Business Credit Availability Program to include medium-sized businesses.<sup>2894</sup> The program includes loans of up to CAD60 million and

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<sup>2886</sup> The latest developments on COVID-19 in Canada: 18 March 2020, The Canadian Press (Toronto) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.cp24.com/news/the-latest-developments-on-covid-19-in-canada-march-18-2020-1.4857891?cache=yes%3FclipId%3D89578>.

<sup>2887</sup> The latest developments on COVID-19 in Canada: 18 March 2020, The Canadian Press (Toronto) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.cp24.com/news/the-latest-developments-on-covid-19-in-canada-march-18-2020-1.4857891?cache=yes%3FclipId%3D89578>.

<sup>2888</sup> News release, Government introduces Canada Emergency Response Benefit to help workers and businesses, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/introduces-canada-emergency-response-benefit-to-help-workers-and-businesses.html>.

<sup>2889</sup> Trudeau and Morneau Announce Adjustments to COVID-19 Support Measures, TD Economics (Cherry Hill, NJ) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://economics.td.com/ca-morneau-adjustments>.

<sup>2890</sup> Trudeau and Morneau Announce Adjustments to COVID-19 Support Measures, TD Economics (Cherry Hill, NJ) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://economics.td.com/ca-morneau-adjustments>.

<sup>2891</sup> Trudeau and Morneau Announce Adjustments to COVID-19 Support Measures, TD Economics (Cherry Hill, NJ) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://economics.td.com/ca-morneau-adjustments>.

<sup>2892</sup> Additional Federal COVID-19 Response Measures, TD Economics (Cherry Hill, NJ) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://economics.td.com/additional-covid19-measures>.

<sup>2893</sup> Additional Federal COVID-19 Response Measures, TD Economics (Cherry Hill, NJ) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://economics.td.com/additional-covid19-measures>.

<sup>2894</sup> News release, Prime Minister announces additional support for businesses to help save Canadian jobs, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 11 May 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/11/prime-minister-announces-additional-support-businesses-help-save>.

guarantees of up to CAD80 million per company.<sup>2895</sup> While directly supporting medium-sized businesses, the program also seeks to act as a safeguard working families from losing jobs at the targeted companies.<sup>2896</sup>

On 13 May 2020, the Government of Canada launched the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF) as part of Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan.<sup>2897</sup> The RRRF allocates CAD962 million to help small businesses in sectors that support local economies retain their employees, pay rent, and cover other costs.<sup>2898</sup> It is specifically targeted toward businesses that may require additional help to recover from the pandemic but have been unable to access existing support measures.<sup>2899</sup>

On 11 June 2020, Minister of Indigenous Services Marc Miller introduced a new, two-stream Indigenous Community Business Fund totalling CAD117 million intended to support enterprises and microenterprises which do not qualify for existing economic measures announced by the Canadian government in response to the COVID-19 crisis.<sup>2900</sup>

On 27 September 2020, Employment and Social Development Canada announced the implementation of a simplified Employment Insurance program intended to support workers who are unable to work.<sup>2901</sup> The Government of Canada also announced a four-week extension of the CERB for qualifying workers.<sup>2902</sup>

On 26 January 2021, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion, and International Trade Mary Ng announced the introduction of the Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program intended to support businesses that have been "hardest hit by the pandemic."<sup>2903</sup>

The Canadian government's economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic safeguarded against downside risks by improving the resilience of small and medium-sized businesses and working families.

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<sup>2895</sup> News release, Prime Minister announces additional support for businesses to help save Canadian jobs, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 11 May 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/11/prime-minister-announces-additional-support-businesses-help-save>.

<sup>2896</sup> News release, Prime Minister announces additional support for businesses to help save Canadian jobs, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 11 May 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/11/prime-minister-announces-additional-support-businesses-help-save>.

<sup>2897</sup> COVID-19: \$962 million additional support fund now available to businesses and communities affected by the pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 12 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/05/covid-19-962-million-additional-support-fund-now-available-to-businesses-and-communities-affected-by-the-pandemic.html>.

<sup>2898</sup> Regional Relief and Recovery Fund: Overview, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 12 February 2021. [https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/icgc.nsf/eng/h\\_07682.html](https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/icgc.nsf/eng/h_07682.html).

<sup>2899</sup> COVID-19: \$962 million additional support fund now available to businesses and communities affected by the pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 12 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/05/covid-19-962-million-additional-support-fund-now-available-to-businesses-and-communities-affected-by-the-pandemic.html>.

<sup>2900</sup> COVID-19: Indigenous Community Business Fund (ICBF), First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission (Wendake, QC) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. [https://cdepnql.org/en/notre\\_blogue/covid-19-indigenous-community-business-fund-icbf/](https://cdepnql.org/en/notre_blogue/covid-19-indigenous-community-business-fund-icbf/).

<sup>2901</sup> Supporting Canadians through the next phase of the economy re-opening: Increased access to EI and recovery benefits, Government of Canada (Ottawa) N.D. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/08/supporting-canadians-through-the-next-phase-of-the-economy-re-opening-increased-access-to-ei-and-recovery-benefits.html>.

<sup>2902</sup> Supporting Canadians through the next phase of the economy re-opening: Increased access to EI and recovery benefits, Government of Canada (Ottawa) N.D. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/08/supporting-canadians-through-the-next-phase-of-the-economy-re-opening-increased-access-to-ei-and-recovery-benefits.html>.

<sup>2903</sup> News release, Minister Ng announces launch of Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/01/minister-ng-announces-launch-of-highly-affected-sectors-credit-availability-program.html>.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Maria Anna Staszkievicz*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to safeguard against downside risks by improving the resilience of small and medium businesses and working families.

On 23 March 2020, Prime Minister Jean Castex enacted three French State aid schemes aimed at supporting businesses of up to 5,000 employees with State guarantees on commercial loans and credit lines.<sup>2904</sup> The first of these two schemes motions for advanced increased guarantees on loans made by state-owned investment bank Bpifrance Financement S.A. to small and medium-sized firms.<sup>2905</sup> France outlined the conditions and eligibility of this scheme in an amendment to the 2020 finance act.<sup>2906</sup>

On 18 May 2020, the Government of France released a statement on a Franco-German plan to facilitate COVID-19 recovery. It announced its cooperation for a European Commission stimulus fund of EUR500 billion, to be enacted for “the most affected sectors and regions, on the basis of the EU’s budget programmes and in compliance with European priorities” as part of the Multiannual Financial Framework.<sup>2907</sup>

On 11 May 2020, France received approval from the European Commission, under EU State aid rules, for the French guarantee scheme specifically for “small and midsize companies” and aimed at “limiting the risk associated with issuing financing guarantees of those exporting companies that are most severely affected by the economic impact of the coronavirus outbreak.”<sup>2908</sup> The measure is accessible to all French exporting companies with annual turnovers below EUR1.5 billion and is expected to mobilise EUR200 million.<sup>2909</sup>

On 29 June 2020, France forwarded a EUR4.1 billion amendment, in line with the European Commission Temporary Framework, to the French wage subsidy scheme.<sup>2910</sup> When a company must reduce or suspend work due to the pandemic, it is eligible to receive state funding of 70 per cent of an employee’s gross salary.<sup>2911</sup>

France fully complied with its commitment to safeguard against downside risk, having taken strong fiscal action to improve and having not taken action to weaken the resilience of small to medium businesses and working families. France employed its State aid initiatives to provide small to medium firms advanced

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<sup>2904</sup> State aid: Commission approves French schemes to support economy in Coronavirus outbreak, European Commission (Brussels) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 22 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_503](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_503)

<sup>2905</sup> Covid 19: Bpifrance emergency plan, Bpifrance (Maisons-Alfort) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.bpifrance.com/news-insights/covid-19-bpifrance-emergency-plan>.

<sup>2906</sup> Updated - COVID-19 France: State Guarantee Scheme for New Money Loans, Shearman & Sterling (New York) 1 April 2020, updated 28 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.shearman.com/perspectives/2020/04/covid-19-france-state-guarantee-scheme-for-new-money-loans>.

<sup>2907</sup> France and Germany united for the sustainable recovery of the European Union, République Française (Paris) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-and-germany-united-for-the-sustainable-recovery-of-the-european-union>.

<sup>2908</sup> Details of France’s support measures to help citizens and companies during the significant economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) N.D. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/france\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/france_en).

<sup>2909</sup> Details of France’s support measures to help citizens and companies during the significant economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) N.D. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/france\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/france_en).

<sup>2910</sup> Details of France’s support measure to help citizens and companies during the significant economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, European Commission (Brussels) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/france\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/france_en).

<sup>2911</sup> The race to save jobs: European governments step in to pay wages, France 24 (Paris) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200325-the-race-to-save-jobs-european-governments-step-in-to-pay-wages>.

increased guarantees on loans. In cooperation with the European Commission, France increased spending into economic recovery by implementing the Franco-German plan. France supported small to medium-sized businesses and their workers with the wage subsidy.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Mirei Matsumoto*

### **Germany: 0**

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to safeguard against downside risks by improving the resilience of small and medium businesses and working families.

On 23 March 2020, the German government announced EUR50 billion in emergency aid for small businesses, including direct grants that do not have to be repaid.<sup>2912</sup> However, on the same day, the German government launched an Economic Stabilisation Fund targeted towards large companies.<sup>2913</sup> Set to provide large-scale assistance until the end of 2021, the fund thus disadvantages small and medium enterprises.<sup>2914</sup>

On 1 April 2020, the German government announced the largest assistance package in its history, which included health-related measures, support for families, and support for small businesses.<sup>2915</sup> As part of the package, lost earnings by families due to the closure of schools or childcare centres would be mostly covered.<sup>2916</sup>

On 3 June 2020, the German government announced a EUR130 billion stimulus package designed to restart the economy.<sup>2917</sup> The measures included a cut in value-added tax and a one-time EUR300 bonus payment for families with children.<sup>2918</sup> Families could also apply for a monthly payment of up to EUR185 per child.<sup>2919</sup>

On 15 June 2020, the German government announced a short time work benefit to keep employment stable during the financial crisis amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2920</sup> The program is designed to help employers reduce their amount of layoffs by reducing work hours with an additional government wage top up.<sup>2921</sup>

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<sup>2912</sup> German government announces €50 billion in emergency aid for small businesses, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

<https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/2020-03-23-gemeinsame-pm.html>

<sup>2913</sup> Large-scale federal assistance to protect businesses and jobs, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/2020-03-23-economic-stabilisation-fund.html>.

<sup>2914</sup> Large-scale federal assistance to protect businesses and jobs, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/2020-03-23-economic-stabilisation-fund.html>.

<sup>2915</sup> Combating the coronavirus: Germany adopts the largest assistance package in its history, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Priority-Issues/Corona/2020-03-25-combating-the-corona-virus.html>.

<sup>2916</sup> Combating the coronavirus: Germany adopts the largest assistance package in its history, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Priority-Issues/Corona/2020-03-25-combating-the-corona-virus.html>.

<sup>2917</sup> German stimulus package hands families €300 for each child, BBC News (London) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-52920516>.

<sup>2918</sup> A stimulus package for everyone in Germany, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin). Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Web/EN/Issues/Priority-Issues/stimulus-package-for-everyone/stimulus-package-for-everyone.html>.

<sup>2919</sup> A stimulus package for everyone in Germany, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin). Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Web/EN/Issues/Priority-Issues/stimulus-package-for-everyone/stimulus-package-for-everyone.html>.

<sup>2920</sup> Kurzarbeit: Germany's Short Term Work Benefit, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/06/11/na061120-kurzarbeit-germanys-short-time-work-benefit>.



On 10 February 2021, The German government announced a child benefit for families in the Hospitality sector.<sup>2922</sup> The Kinderbonus includes a EUR150 bonus for each eligible child under the program and a reduced rate for value added tax until December 2022.<sup>2923</sup>

Germany having taken strong fiscal action to improve the resilience of small to medium businesses and working families, but has also taken action to comparatively weaken the resilience of small to medium businesses by targeting some relief only to large companies.

Thus, Germany receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Para Babuwaran*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to safeguard against downside risks by improving the resilience of small and medium businesses and working families.

On 17 March 2020, the Italian government issued Law Decree No. 18 (Cura Italia Decree), a EUR25 billion (1.4 per cent of gross domestic product) bill, to provide economic support for families, workers, and enterprises and strengthen the national health service. The decree made available new public schemes to grant support to all entrepreneurs operating within the Italian territory during the COVID-19 health emergency. Specific measures introduced to support small businesses and professionals include the deferral of taxes relating to wages and assimilated employment income, regional and municipal surcharge deductions, social security contributions, and mandatory insurance premiums.<sup>2924</sup>

On 25 March 2020, the Italian government issued a debt moratorium on a total volume of loans estimated at around EUR220 billion from banks to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) affected by the coronavirus outbreak. The debt moratorium includes the postponement of repayments of overdraft facilities, bank advances, bullet loans, mortgages, and leasing operations and aims to temporarily relieve the financial burden on SMEs that are severely affected by the economic impact of COVID-19 and ensure that they have enough liquidity to help safeguard operations.<sup>2925</sup>

On 8 April 2020, the Italian government issued the Law Decree No. 23 of April 8, 2020 (Liquidity Decree), implementing wide-ranging measures to mitigate the adverse economic impact of COVID-19. Measures introduced to support companies affected by COVID-19 include: (1) the granting of new financing to enterprises; (2) the extension of the Gasparirini Fund (to individual enterprises and artisans) and the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Fund (to professionals and companies with no more than 499 employees); (3) the temporary relief of certain transparency requirements between financial intermediaries and customers to reduce the operational burden and ease the completion of new transactions.<sup>2926</sup>

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<sup>2921</sup> Kurzarbeit: Germany's Short Term Work Benefit, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/06/11/na061120-kurzarbeit-germanys-short-time-work-benefit>.

<sup>2922</sup> Relieving the burden on families and the hospitality sector, Federal German Government (Munich) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/kinderbonus-mehrwertsteuer-1852786>.

<sup>2923</sup> Relieving the burden on families and the hospitality sector, Federal German Government (Munich) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/kinderbonus-mehrwertsteuer-1852786>.

<sup>2924</sup> COVID-19 and the Cura Italia Decree, The National Law Review (Rome) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/covid-19-and-cura-italia-decree>.

<sup>2925</sup> State aid: Commission approves Italian State guarantee scheme to support SMEs affected by coronavirus outbreak, European Commission (Brussels) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_530](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_530).

<sup>2926</sup> Liquidity Decree Enacted: Measures Relevant for the Financial System and Italian Enterprises, Jones Day (Cleveland) April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.jonesday.com/en/insights/2020/04/liquidity-decree-enacted-measures-relevant-for-the-financial-system-and-italian-enterprises>.

On 13 April 2020, the Italian government introduced a public scheme that would compensate self-employed workers and companies with less than 500 employees affected by the coronavirus outbreak. Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager states that the scheme “will enable Italy to support self-employed workers, SMEs, and mid-caps affected by the coronavirus outbreak through the provision of State guarantees,” which would help smaller businesses cover their immediate investment and working capital needs and ensure that they can continue their operations during and after the outbreak.<sup>2927</sup> Under this scheme, support will be granted in the form of (1) state guarantees on investment and working capital loans and (2) direct grants in the form of waiving applicable fees on the guarantees awarded.<sup>2928</sup>

On 8 July 2020, the European Union approved an Italian state aid measure that establishes a EUR6.2 billion grant scheme to support SMEs and self-employed individuals adversely impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. The support will take the form of non-repayable grants to undertakings and self-employed individuals, whose 2019 turnover or fees did not exceed EUR5 million.<sup>2929</sup>

On 11 November 2020, the European Investment Bank and the Italian public sector bank, Mediocredito Centrale, announced that they would provide EUR50 million to help Italian SMEs and mid-caps to face the COVID-19 crisis, with a specific focus on supporting smaller companies in southern Italy. The support includes the provision of financing for new investment projects with a maximum term of five years and working capital needs, which includes social security contributions, and administrative and other operational costs.<sup>2930</sup>

On 12 February 2021, the European Commission approved an Italian scheme to relieve liquidity shortages faced by micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises providing fuel distribution services on Italian motorways. The EUR4 million scheme is intended to dampen the impact of travel restrictions imposed by the Italian authorities to restrict the spread of the coronavirus.<sup>2931</sup>

Italy fully complied with its commitment to safeguard against downside risk, having taken strong fiscal action to improve the resilience of small to medium businesses through a number of measures, and having improved the resilience of working families through its Cura Italia Decree.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Naomi Shi*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to safeguard against downside risks by improving the resilience of small and medium businesses and working families.

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<sup>2927</sup> State aid: Commission approves Italian guarantee scheme to support self-employed workers, SMEs and mid-caps affected by coronavirus outbreak, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_656](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_656).

<sup>2928</sup> State aid: Commission approves Italian guarantee scheme to support self-employed workers, SMEs and mid-caps affected by coronavirus outbreak, European Commission (Brussels) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_656](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_656).

<sup>2929</sup> Italy: EC approves EUR 6.2 billion grant scheme for SMEs (COVID-19), Global Trade Alert, 8 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/46061/italy-ec-approves-eur-6-2-billion-grant-scheme-for-smes-covid-19>.

<sup>2930</sup> Italy: COVID-19 - EIB provides €50 million to MCC for SMEs and mid-caps in southern Italy, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg) 11 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-303-covid-19-eib-provides-eur50-million-to-mcc-for-smes-and-mid-caps-in-southern-italy>.

<sup>2931</sup> State aid cases: Italy, European Commission (Brussels) N.D. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/italy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/jobs-and-economy-during-coronavirus-pandemic/state-aid-cases/italy_en).

On 7 April 2020, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced the introduction of a stimulus package totalling JPY108 trillion, of which JPY39.5 trillion was designated for direct spending.<sup>2932</sup> In his statement, Prime Minister Abe emphasized that micro, small, and medium-sized businesses are a priority of the fiscal measures and will receive interest-free loans and no-penalty deferrals on tax payments.<sup>2933</sup> Moreover, Prime Minister Abe announced that families will receive payments of JPY300,000 per household and an additional JPY10,000 per child.<sup>2934</sup>

On 17 April 2020, Prime Minister Abe introduced the implementation of direct fiscal transfers of JPY100,000 to all Japanese citizens.<sup>2935</sup> Additionally, the terms of the JPY300,000 payment for households in need, which was announced on 7 April 2020, were amended to widen the scope of the program by expanding eligibility.<sup>2936</sup>

On 1 May 2020, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry opened the Subsidy Program for Sustaining Businesses intended to support companies impacted by COVID-19.<sup>2937</sup> The program continued accepting requests until 15 February and provided financing support for businesses.<sup>2938</sup>

Japan has taken strong fiscal action to improve the resilience of small and medium businesses as well as working families by offering transfers, loans, and tax deferrals that cushioned both groups from pandemic impacts.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Maria Anna Staszkievicz*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to safeguard against downside risks by improving the resilience of small and medium businesses and working families.

On 23 March 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom announced a three-month ban on evictions for commercial tenants who miss rent payments as part of the emergency Coronavirus Bill.<sup>2939</sup>

On 20 April 2020, the Treasury launched the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS), as part of a support package to protect jobs and businesses.<sup>2940</sup> The CJRS allowed businesses to claim up to GBP2,500 a month

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<sup>2932</sup> Address by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Office of the Prime Minister (Tokyo) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/statement/202004/\\_00001.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/statement/202004/_00001.html).

<sup>2933</sup> Address by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Office of the Prime Minister (Tokyo) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/statement/202004/\\_00001.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/statement/202004/_00001.html).

<sup>2934</sup> Address by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Office of the Prime Minister (Tokyo) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/statement/202004/\\_00001.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/statement/202004/_00001.html).

<sup>2935</sup> Address by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Office of the Prime Minister (Tokyo) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/statement/202004/\\_00002.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/statement/202004/_00002.html).

<sup>2936</sup> Address by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Office of the Prime Minister (Tokyo) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/statement/202004/\\_00002.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/statement/202004/_00002.html).

<sup>2937</sup> Acceptance of Requests for Subsidy Program for Sustaining Businesses Starts, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0501\\_001.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0501_001.html).

<sup>2938</sup> METI's Support Measures for Companies Concerning the Impacts of the Novel Coronavirus Disease, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) Undated. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.meti.go.jp/english/covid-19/index.html>.

<sup>2939</sup> Extra protection for businesses with ban on evictions for commercial tenants who miss rent payments, Her Majesty's Government (London) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-protection-for-businesses-with-ban-on-evictions-for-commercial-tenants-who-miss-rent-payments>.

<sup>2940</sup> Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme up and running, Her Majesty's Treasury (London) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-up-and-running>.

per worker towards staff wages.<sup>2941</sup> The CJRS was expected to benefit thousands of businesses and millions of people across the UK.<sup>2942</sup>

On 4 May 2020, the Treasury launched government-backed Bounce Back Loans for small businesses.<sup>2943</sup> Small businesses could apply for loans of up to GBP50,000.<sup>2944</sup>

On 11 June 2020, the Government confirmed GBP63 million for local authorities to help those struggling to afford food and other essentials due to coronavirus.<sup>2945</sup> The funding added to the GBP6.5 billion of extra support for the vulnerable through the welfare system.

On 1 November 2020, the Treasury launched the Job Support Scheme (JSS), which could be combined with the Job Retention Bonus to cover 95 per cent of the employment costs of the average previously furloughed employee until February 2021.<sup>2946</sup> The JSS aimed to support businesses that were either required to close due to coronavirus restrictions or facing lower demand while staying open.<sup>2947</sup>

On 13 November 2020, the Government announced grant schemes of GBP2.2 billion to be distributed to businesses across England by councils.<sup>2948</sup> The grants were aimed at businesses that were required to close due to coronavirus restrictions.<sup>2949</sup>

On 5 January 2021, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak announced GBP4.6 billion in grants for businesses affected by the lockdown.<sup>2950</sup> Businesses in the retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors would be offered a one-off grant of up to GBP9,000.<sup>2951</sup>

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to safeguard against downside risk. It improved the resilience of small to medium businesses through a number of fiscal measures targeted at a wide

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<sup>2941</sup> Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme up and running, Her Majesty's Treasury (London) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-up-and-running>.

<sup>2942</sup> Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme up and running, Her Majesty's Treasury (London) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-up-and-running>.

<sup>2943</sup> New Bounce Back Loans to launch today, Her Majesty's Treasury (London) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-bounce-back-loans-to-launch-today>.

<sup>2944</sup> New Bounce Back Loans to launch today, Her Majesty's Treasury (London) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-bounce-back-loans-to-launch-today>.

<sup>2945</sup> £63 million for local authorities to assist those struggling to afford food and other essentials, Her Majesty's Government (London) 11 June 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/63-million-for-local-authorities-to-assist-those-struggling-to-afford-food-and-other-essentials>.

<sup>2946</sup> Millions of jobs will continue to be supported as Job Support Scheme launches, Her Majesty's Treasury (London) 30 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-of-jobs-will-continue-to-be-supported-as-job-support-scheme-launches>.

<sup>2947</sup> Millions of jobs will continue to be supported as Job Support Scheme launches, Her Majesty's Treasury (London) 30 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-of-jobs-will-continue-to-be-supported-as-job-support-scheme-launches>.

<sup>2948</sup> Businesses in England to receive £2.2 billion to see them through national restrictions, Her Majesty's Government (London) 13 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/businesses-in-england-to-receive-22-billion-to-see-them-through-national-restrictions>.

<sup>2949</sup> Businesses in England to receive £2.2 billion to see them through national restrictions, Her Majesty's Government (London) 13 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/businesses-in-england-to-receive-22-billion-to-see-them-through-national-restrictions>.

<sup>2950</sup> £4.6 billion in new lockdown grants to support businesses and protect jobs, Her Majesty's Treasury (London) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/46-billion-in-new-lockdown-grants-to-support-businesses-and-protect-jobs>.

<sup>2951</sup> £4.6 billion in new lockdown grants to support businesses and protect jobs, Her Majesty's Treasury (London) 5 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/46-billion-in-new-lockdown-grants-to-support-businesses-and-protect-jobs>.

range of businesses and improved the resilience of working families through wage subsidies and increases to local authority funding.

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

*Analyst: Para Babubaran*

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

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to safeguard against downside risks by improving the resilience of small and medium businesses and working families.

On 18 March 2020, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) passed by the United States Congress made available USD100 billion to supply paid leave or expanded family and medical leave for employees for reasons related to COVID-19.<sup>2952</sup> Furthermore, the bill provided free testing for the virus, two weeks of paid sick leave, and supplementary paid sick leave for employees with children for up to three months.<sup>2953</sup>

On 23 March 2020, the Federal Reserve implemented a set of actions including support for critical market functioning; facilitating credit flow to employers, consumers, and businesses by creating programs that will provide USD300 billion in new financing; and establishing the Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility to support credit flow to consumers and businesses.<sup>2954</sup>

On 6 April 2020, the Wage and Hour Division and the Department of Labor issued a temporary rule to clarify the applicability of paid leave benefits which decreased worker eligibility, such as being inapplicable to workers furloughed from a business that remains open.<sup>2955</sup> The temporary rule exempts employers with “fewer than 50 employees from paid leave provisions if the employer deems compliance would “jeopardize the viability of the business as a going concern.”<sup>2956</sup> Thus, the Department estimates this would exempt 96 per cent of firms.<sup>2957</sup>

On 21 April 2020, the United States Senate passed a COVID-19 relief plan of USD484 billion to support small businesses and hospitals in expanding testing.<sup>2958</sup> It provides an additional USD310 billion to keep employees on small business payrolls.<sup>2959</sup>

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<sup>2952</sup> Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employee Paid Leave Rights, U. S. Wage and Hour Division (Washington D.C.) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave>.

<sup>2953</sup> Coronavirus (COVID-19): SME policy responses, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 15 July 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/coronavirus-covid-19-sme-policy-responses-04440101/#section-d1e22628>.

<sup>2954</sup> Federal Reserve announces extensive new measures to support the economy, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Washington D.C.) 23 March 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20200323b.htm>.

<sup>2955</sup> Paid Leave Under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, Federal Register (Washington D.C.) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/04/06/2020-07237/paid-leave-under-the-families-first-coronavirus-response-act#p-183>.

<sup>2956</sup> The Trump administration has weakened crucial worker protections needed to combat the coronavirus, Economic Policy Institute (Washington D.C.) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.epi.org/blog/the-trump-administration-has-weakened-crucial-worker-protections-needed-to-combat-the-coronavirus-agencies-tasked-with-protecting-workers-have-put-them-in-danger/>.

<sup>2957</sup> Paid Leave Under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, Federal Register (Washington D.C.) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/04/06/2020-07237/paid-leave-under-the-families-first-coronavirus-response-act#p-183>.

<sup>2958</sup> Senate passes \$484 billion coronavirus bill for small business and hospital relief, testing, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/04/21/coronavirus-senate-passes-484-billion-small-business-relief-bill.html>.

On 15 June 2020, the Federal Reserve launched its Main Street Lending Program to provide lending to small and medium-sized for-profit businesses and non-profit organizations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2960</sup> The Federal Reserve terminated the program on 8 January 2021.<sup>2961</sup>

On 11 September 2020, the Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division declared various revisions to the FFCRA regarding paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave provisions, including clarifications to workers' rights and legal protections for "millions of workers fully and fairly."<sup>2962</sup>

On 20 December 2020, the United States Congress announced additional support measures to unemployment benefits.<sup>2963</sup> The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 provides an additional USD300 per week to unemployed workers until 14 March 2021, USD100 per week for self-employed or gig workers, and eleven extra weeks of benefits.<sup>2964</sup>

On 30 December 2020, Internal Revenue Services issued USD600 Economic Impact stimulus checks to qualifying individuals through January 2021.<sup>2965</sup>

On 20 January 2021, President Joe Biden announced his American Rescue Plan, which included delivering immediate relief to working families affected by COVID-19 by "sending 1,400 per-person checks to households across America, providing direct housing and nutrition assistance, expanding access to safe and reliable childcare and affordable healthcare, increasing the minimum wage, extending unemployment insurance, and giving families with kids and childless workers an emergency boost this year."<sup>2966</sup>

The United States fully complied with its commitment to safeguard against downside risk, having taken strong fiscal action to improve and having not taken action to weaken the resilience of small to medium businesses and working families. It addressed small to medium businesses through institutions such as the Federal Reserve, and strengthened sick leave and unemployment benefits for workers, with measures specific to families.

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

*Analyst: Nina Maria Logvin*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to safeguard against downside risks by improving the resilience of small and medium businesses and working families.

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<sup>2959</sup> Senate passes \$484 billion coronavirus bill for small business and hospital relief, testing, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/04/21/coronavirus-senate-passes-484-billion-small-business-relief-bill.html>.

<sup>2960</sup> Main Street Lending Program, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Washington D.C.) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/monetarypolicy/mainstreetlending.htm>.

<sup>2961</sup> Main Street Lending Program, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Washington D.C.) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/monetarypolicy/mainstreetlending.htm>.

<sup>2962</sup> Temporary Rule: Paid Leave Under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, U. S. Wage and Hour Division (Washington D.C.) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/ffcra>.

<sup>2963</sup> Disaster Financial Assistance for Workers and Small Business Owners, USA.gov (Seattle) 20 December 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.usa.gov/disaster-help-workers-businesses>.

<sup>2964</sup> Disaster Financial Assistance for Workers and Small Business Owners, USA.gov (Seattle) 20 December 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.usa.gov/disaster-help-workers-businesses>.

<sup>2965</sup> Disaster Financial Assistance for Workers and Small Business Owners, USA.gov (Seattle) 20 December 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.usa.gov/disaster-help-workers-businesses>.

<sup>2966</sup> President Biden Announces American Rescue Plan, The White House (Washington D.C.) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/legislation/2021/01/20/president-biden-announces-american-rescue-plan/>.

On 4 April 2020, the European Commission secured an EUR1 billion fund from the European Fund for Strategic Investments as a guarantee to allow the European Investment Fund, a part of the European Investment Bank Group, to incentivise banks and lenders to provide liquidity to small European businesses.<sup>2967</sup> This incentive was expected to facilitate the provision of a total of EUR8 billion to at least 100,000 European small and mid-sized companies.<sup>2968</sup> European Commission Executive Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis stated that in this way, “[t]he EU is responding quickly to help cushion the blow and to help small and medium-sized companies, which are especially vulnerable.”<sup>2969</sup>

On 25 September 2020, the European Council approved the granting of EUR87.4 billion to 16 member states through the temporary Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency initiative.<sup>2970</sup> The initiative was set up to provide loans of up to EUR100 billion to member states to fund expenditures for preserving jobs, and made further disbursements through the months of October 2020 to February 2021.<sup>2971</sup>

The European Union has complied with its commitments to safeguard against downside risk through fiscal measures including a project dedicated to improving the resilience of small to medium-sized companies and funding to mitigate unemployment.

Thus, the EU receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Lydia Estreed*

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<sup>2967</sup> Coronavirus: Commission and European Investment Fund (part of EIB Group) unlock €8 billion in finance for 100,000 small and medium-sized businesses, European Commission (Brussels) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_569](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_569).

<sup>2968</sup> Coronavirus: Commission and European Investment Fund (part of EIB Group) unlock €8 billion in finance for 100,000 small and medium-sized businesses, European Commission (Brussels) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_569](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_569).

<sup>2969</sup> Coronavirus: Commission and European Investment Fund (part of EIB Group) unlock €8 billion in finance for 100,000 small and medium-sized businesses, European Commission (Brussels) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_569](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_569).

<sup>2970</sup> The European instrument for temporary Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE), European Commission (Brussels) N.D. Access Date: 12 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-and-fiscal-policy-coordination/financial-assistance-eu/funding-mechanisms-and-facilities/sure\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-and-fiscal-policy-coordination/financial-assistance-eu/funding-mechanisms-and-facilities/sure_en).

<sup>2971</sup> The European instrument for temporary Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE), European Commission (Brussels) N.D. Access Date: 12 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-and-fiscal-policy-coordination/financial-assistance-eu/funding-mechanisms-and-facilities/sure\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-and-fiscal-policy-coordination/financial-assistance-eu/funding-mechanisms-and-facilities/sure_en).

## 17. Global Economy: Restoring Growth

“In facing the economic challenge, we are determined not only to restore the level of growth anticipated before the COVID-19 pandemic[.]”

*G7 Leaders’ Statement*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada		0	
France		0	
Germany		0	
Italy		0	
Japan		0	
United Kingdom		0	
United States		0	
European Union		0	
Average		0 (50%)	

### Background

Economic growth has been on the agenda of the G7 since its inception in 1975, when leaders stated that “[t]he growth and stability of our economies will help the entire industrial world and developing countries to prosper.”<sup>2972</sup> Growth has never been as difficult since then as now, however, in light of projections that the COVID-19 pandemic will lead to a contraction of 5.2 per cent.<sup>2973</sup> This is in contrast to the International Monetary Fund (IMF)’s projections before the pandemic, which predicted in January 2020 a global growth rate of 3.3 per cent for 2020.<sup>2974</sup> Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought into greater light the deep inequalities in economic growth and prospects among countries around the world: according to the World Bank, in 2020, the pandemic is estimated to push 88 to 115 million people into extreme poverty (defined as living on less than USD1.90 daily) with that number potentially rising to 150 million by 2021.<sup>2975</sup>

Growth has been mentioned in a variety of contexts at recent G7 summits. On 8 June 2015, the Leaders’ Declaration at the G7 Schloss Elmau Summit stated a “pivotal goal of strong, sustainable and balanced growth as well as job creation,” which was to recur frequently at future summits.<sup>2976</sup> More specifically, leaders stated that they “will foster growth by promoting education and innovation, protecting intellectual property rights, supporting private investment with a business friendly climate especially for small and medium-sized enterprises, ensuring an appropriate level of public investment, promoting quality infrastructure investment to address shortfalls through effective resource mobilization in partnership with the private sector and increasing productivity by further implementing ambitious structural reforms.”<sup>2977</sup> Other drivers of growth

<sup>2972</sup> Declaration of Rambouillet, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 17 November 1975. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1975rambouillet/communique.html>.

<sup>2973</sup> June 2020 Global Economic Prospects - Pandemic, Recession: The Global Economy in Crisis, The World Bank (Washington DC) 8 June 2020. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/global-economic-prospects>.

<sup>2974</sup> January 2020 World Economic Outlook - Tentative Stabilization, Sluggish Recovery, International Monetary Fund (Washington DC) January 2020. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2020/01/20/weo-update-january2020>.

<sup>2975</sup> COVID-19 to Add as Many as 150 Million Extreme Poor by 2021, The World Bank (Washington) 7 October 2020. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/10/07/covid-19-to-add-as-many-as-150-million-extreme-poor-by-2021>.

<sup>2976</sup> Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>2977</sup> Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.



cited include “women’s economic participation[, which] reduces poverty and inequality,” “resource efficiency, which [leaders] consider crucial for the competitiveness of industries,” and trade and investment.<sup>2978</sup> Furthermore, leaders committed to putting “the protection of our climate, the promotion of health and the equal participation of all members of society ... at the centre of [their] growth agenda.”<sup>2979</sup>

On 27 May 2016, the G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration stated that its commitments across almost all areas in which commitments were made that year were “to contribute to achieve strong, sustainable and balanced growth.”<sup>2980</sup> With regards to specific measures, leaders committed under the Global Economy heading to “further investment in areas conducive to economic growth, such as environment, energy, digital economy, human resource development, education, science and technology,” stating that “monetary policy alone cannot lead to strong, sustainable and balanced growth.”<sup>2981</sup> Additionally, as part of their commitment “to advancing structural reforms to boost growth, productivity and potential output and to leading by example in addressing structural challenges,” leaders stated that they “commit to advancing labor market participation by women, the youth and the elderly.”<sup>2982</sup>

On 27 May 2017, the G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué stated a commitment in its preamble to “improve knowledge and competences across all sectors and regions of our countries, by fostering innovation and new skills, by investing in fields such as education and training, as well as health, with a view to boosting economic growth and to improving people’s quality of life.”<sup>2983</sup> Leaders stated that they “reaffirm [their] commitment to use all policy tools – monetary, fiscal and structural – individually and collectively to achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.”<sup>2984</sup> Specifically, they agreed to prioritize “high-quality investment, such as in infrastructures” as a way to use fiscal policy “flexibly to strengthen growth and job creation.”<sup>2985</sup> Furthermore, they noted that “excessive inequality, also at the global level, undermines confidence and limits future growth potential.”<sup>2986</sup> Trade, climate and energy, and innovation-related commitments were also connected to supporting growth.<sup>2987</sup> In particular, the G7 People-Centered Action Plan on Innovation, Skills and Labour discussed three pillars to foster growth in light of the Next Production Revolution, which were innovation in production, development of knowledge-based capital and enabling infrastructure, and the promotion of more productive and equitable labour practices.<sup>2988</sup>

On 9 June 2018, the G7 Charlevoix Summit Communiqué affirmed a “responsibility of working together to stimulate sustainable economic growth that benefits everyone and, in particular, those most at risk of being

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<sup>2978</sup> Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>2979</sup> Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>2980</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>2981</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>2982</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>2983</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

<sup>2984</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

<sup>2985</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

<sup>2986</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

<sup>2987</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

<sup>2988</sup> G7 People-Centered Action Plan on Innovation, Skills and Labor, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Date of Access: <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/action-plan.html>.

left behind.”<sup>2989</sup> The communiqué outlined three key areas of focus: the need for strong policy tools to support market developments, promotion of “smart, sustainable and high-quality investments,” and the removal of barriers that hinder the participation of citizens in the global economy, particularly for women and marginalized communities.<sup>2990</sup> The communiqué also presented the Charlevoix Commitment on Innovative Financing for Development, encouraging public and private investment to promote “economic growth in developing economies and foster greater equality of opportunity within and between countries.”<sup>2991</sup>

While growth was not mentioned in the 26 August 2019 G7 Leaders’ Declaration, the Chair’s Summary of the 18 July 2019 G7 finance ministers and central bank governors stated that ministers and governors discussed ways of “continuing to address current risks in the global economy and the financial system to support strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth that generates widespread prosperity” and of “ensuring that the benefits of growth are more widely shared, fighting inequalities within countries as well as between advanced and developing countries.”<sup>2992,2993</sup> More specifically, ministers and governors stated that “[f]iscal policy should be flexible and growth-friendly, while rebuilding buffers where needed and ensuring debt as a share of GDP [gross domestic product] is on a sustainable path” and “continued implementation of structural reforms will enhance our growth potential.”<sup>2994</sup>

On 3 March 2020, under the U.S. presidency, the G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors reaffirmed a “commitment to use all appropriate policy tools to achieve strong, sustainable growth.”<sup>2995</sup> On 16 March 2020, G7 leaders met virtually to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, expecting to meet again for their regular summit scheduled for 10-12 June, but later postponed indefinitely. On 24 March G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors committed to “do whatever is necessary to restore confidence and economic growth and to protect jobs, businesses, and the resilience of the financial system.”<sup>2996</sup> Ministers and bank governors stated in particular that “[t]he G7 is committed to deliver the fiscal effort necessary to help our economies rapidly recover and resume the path towards stronger and more sustainable economic growth.”<sup>2997</sup>

### Commitment Features

Elements of the commitment requiring interpretation include “not only,” “restore,” “growth” and “anticipated before the COVID-19 pandemic.” “Growth” is understood to refer to increase in economic activity measured by GDP, and to “restore” is here understood to mean to achieve or equal despite the challenging circumstances experienced, in line with the Merriam-Webster definition of “to bring back to or put back into a former or original state.” The phrase “not only” indicates that parties commit to related action beyond restoring growth to what was anticipated, in which context the clause that immediately follows the

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<sup>2989</sup> The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

<sup>2990</sup> The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

<sup>2991</sup> The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

<sup>2992</sup> G7 Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-of-leaders.html>.

<sup>2993</sup> Chair’s Summary: G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors’ Meeting, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 18 July 2019. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/finance/190718-summary.html>.

<sup>2994</sup> Chair’s Summary: G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors’ Meeting, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 18 July 2019. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/finance/190718-summary.html>.

<sup>2995</sup> Statement of G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 3 March 2020. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/finance/200303-coronavirus.html>.

<sup>2996</sup> Statement of G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 24 March 2020. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/finance/200324-statement.html>.

<sup>2997</sup> Statement of G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 24 March 2020. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/finance/200324-statement.html>.

commitment at hand is relevant, committing “also to build the foundation for stronger future growth.”<sup>2998</sup> This suggests addressing longer-term drivers of growth is the related action intended.

The measure of growth “anticipated before the COVID-19 pandemic” used for analysis, then, is the January 2020 IMF World Economic Outlook projection. As the G7 Leaders’ Statement did not specify a set of projections, these projections were chosen for its data granularity for developed countries compared to the World Bank Global Economic Prospects and for its recency compared to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s last set of projections before the pandemic, which were in November 2019. In line with the one-year summit cycle assessment approach of the G7 Research Group, the growth levels of interest are those projected for 2020, which are 1.8 per cent for Canada, 1.3 per cent for France, 1.1 per cent for Germany, 0.5 per cent for Italy, 0.7 per cent for Japan, 1.4 per cent for the United Kingdom, two per cent for the United States, and 1.3 per cent for the euro area as a proxy for the European Union.<sup>2999</sup>

The commitment thus has two main components: one of achieving the growth projected before the pandemic, and another of acting to “build the foundation for stronger future growth.” The former is assessed using measured GDP, while the latter must be assessed based on several indicative areas due to the wide range of ways the G7 addresses growth as evidenced by past statements. As parties have repeatedly committed to using “all policy tools,” full compliance requires that parties act in every indicative area.

The indicative areas chosen are (i) promoting clean technology and infrastructure and (ii) increasing economic inclusion, including by strengthening the participation of women and marginalized groups and by promoting education and innovation. These respectively reflect recent G7 statements’ reiterated goals that growth be “sustainable” and “balanced.” Area (i) also addresses mentions of environment, climate, energy, resource efficiency, and infrastructure as drivers of growth, and examples of eligible actions include renewable energy and building efficiency spending of the sort categorized by the International Institute for Sustainable Development Energy Policy Tracker, which constitute particularly effective economic stimulus.<sup>3000</sup> Area (ii) meanwhile addresses growth drivers such as digital economy, human resource development, education, science and technology, and labor market participation by women, the youth and the elderly.<sup>3001</sup> Eligible actions could include measures to provide innovative role models to school children and particularly girls, the particular effectiveness of which is borne out by much recent evidence.<sup>3002,3003</sup> As past G7 statements have generally emphasized fiscal policy and structural reforms as drivers of growth, and both are considered strong forms of compliance, only strong examples of compliance such as government expenditure and regulatory/legal reform are counted in scoring. Examples of weak action, meanwhile, would include verbal reaffirmations in government communication with no concrete accompanying action. Negative compliance is not taken into account as the fact that parties have taken action to address long-term drivers of growth is not changed by, for example, investments in polluting infrastructure or measures that reduce equity in education.

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<sup>2998</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Date of Access: 13 December 2020.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>.

<sup>2999</sup> January 2020 World Economic Outlook - Tentative Stabilization, Sluggish Recovery, International Monetary Fund (Washington DC) January 2020. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2020/01/20/weo-update-january2020>.

<sup>3000</sup> Working Paper 20-02 - Will COVID-19 fiscal recovery packages accelerate or retard progress on climate change, Oxford Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment (Oxford) 4 May 2020. Date of Access: 13 December 2020.

<https://www.smithschool.ox.ac.uk/publications/wpapers/workingpaper20-02.pdf>.

<sup>3001</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Date of Access: 13 December 2020.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>3002</sup> NBER Working Paper 25493 - Do Tax Cuts Produce More Einsteins? The Impacts of Financial Incentives vs. Exposure to Innovation on the Supply of Inventors, National Bureau of Economic Research (Cambridge MA) January 2019. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <https://www.nber.org/papers/w25493>.

<sup>3003</sup> IZA Discussion Paper No. 13163 - Do Female Role Models Reduce the Gender Gap in Science? Evidence from French High Schools, Institute of Labor Economics (Bonn) April 2020. Date of Access: 13 December 2020. <http://ftp.iza.org/dp13163.pdf>.

To receive a score of +1, or full compliance, parties must reach the level of 2020 GDP growth projected by the IMF in January 2020 as well as take strong action to bolster both clean technology or infrastructure and economic inclusion. To receive a score of 0, or partial compliance, parties must either reach the projected level of growth or take strong action to bolster both drivers of long-term growth. Parties that do not reach the projected growth and fail to strongly address both drivers receive a score of -1, or no compliance.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	G7 member does not reach the 2020 level of growth projected by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in January 2020 and has not taken strong action to promote clean technology/infrastructure and economic inclusion.
0	G7 member reaches the 2020 level of growth projected by the IMF in January 2020 OR has taken strong action to promote clean technology/infrastructure and economic inclusion.
+1	G7 member reaches the 2020 level of growth projected by the IMF in January 2020 AND has taken strong action to promote clean technology/infrastructure and economic inclusion.

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### Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to restore the level of growth anticipated before the COVID-19 pandemic and go beyond.

On 17 April 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau provided up to CAD750 million to create a new proposed Emissions Reduction Fund to address emissions in Canada’s oil and gas sector, focusing on reducing methane.<sup>3004</sup> Minister of Natural Resources Seamus O’Regan stated that “the Government of Canada continues to invest in emerging clean technologies that support the competitiveness of our forestry sector while creating a clean energy future.”<sup>3005</sup> The government further invested in clean technology in Alberta,<sup>3006</sup> Quebec,<sup>3007</sup> Prince Edward Island,<sup>3008</sup> British Columbia,<sup>3009</sup> Nunavut,<sup>3010</sup> Yukon,<sup>3011</sup> Nova Scotia,<sup>3012</sup> Saskatchewan,<sup>3013</sup> and Manitoba in the months that followed.<sup>3014</sup>

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<sup>3004</sup> Prime Minister Announces New Support to Protect Canadian Jobs, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/17/prime-minister-announces-new-support-protect-canadian-jobs>.

<sup>3005</sup> Canada Invests in Clean Technology Solutions in Quebec, Natural Resources Canada (Saguenay) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/09/canada-invests-in-clean-technology-solutions-in-quebec.html>.

<sup>3006</sup> Canada Invests in Clean Technology for Alberta’s Natural Resources Sectors, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/07/canada-invests-in-clean-technology-for-albertas-natural-resources-sectors.html>.

<sup>3007</sup> Canada Invests in Clean Technology Solutions in Quebec, Natural Resources Canada (Saguenay) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/09/canada-invests-in-clean-technology-solutions-in-quebec.html>.

<sup>3008</sup> Canada and Prince Edward Island Invest in New Transmission Line to Support Wind Energy Production, Infrastructure Canada (St. Louis) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2020/07/canada-and-prince-edward-island-invest-in-new-transmission-line-to-support-wind-energy-production.html>.

<sup>3009</sup> Canada and British Columbia Invest in Green Energy Solutions, Infrastructure Canada (Vancouver) 1 September 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2020/09/canada-and-british-columbia-invest-in-green-energy-solutions.html>.

<sup>3010</sup> Government of Canada Partners with Nunavut for Renewable and Energy-efficiency Projects, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Iqaluit) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/08/government-of-canada-partners-with-nunavut-for-renewable-and-energy-efficiency-projects.html>.

<sup>3011</sup> Government Invests in Clean Energy Initiatives in Yukon, Natural Resources Canada (Whitehorse) 22 September 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/09/government-invests-in-clean-energy-initiatives-in-yukon.html>.

On 18 June 2020, the Government of Canada invested CAD41.8 million in 10 Canadian clean technology small businesses through Sustainable Development Technology Canada, creating high-quality jobs to help Canada and the world tackle climate change.<sup>3015</sup> As Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry stated, cleantech companies “are helping to position Canada as a leader in an expanding market as investors and businesses seek sustainable growth.”<sup>3016</sup> The government continued to invest in cleantech innovation in the months followed, including investment in the Future of Youth with green jobs in the natural resources sectors,<sup>3017</sup> providing energy efficiency training for Canadians,<sup>3018</sup> implementing an infrastructure plan,<sup>3019</sup> supporting innovation and creating jobs in Quebec,<sup>3020</sup> and Alberta to fight climate change.<sup>3021</sup>

On 10 July 2020, the Government of Canada invested CAD770,000 to help Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro to build electric vehicle chargers across the province, in order to “create good, middle-class jobs and support Canada’s transition to a clean energy future by reducing pollution.”<sup>3022</sup> To reach the Government of Canada’s target of 100 per cent of passenger zero-emission vehicle sales by 2040, it invested in Oakville’s green public transit,<sup>3023</sup> British Columbia’s electric vehicle network,<sup>3024</sup> and built new electric vehicle chargers

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<sup>3012</sup> Canada Makes Historic Investments in Tidal Energy in Nova Scotia, Natural Resources Canada (Halifax) 5 November 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/11/canada-makes-historic-investments-in-tidal-energy-in-nova-scotia.html>.

<sup>3013</sup> Government of Canada Announces Support for Solar Projects in Two Saskatchewan First Nation Communities, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/12/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-solar-projects-in-two-saskatchewan-first-nation-communities.html>.

<sup>3014</sup> Government of Canada Announces Support for Manitoba Energy-efficiency Programs, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/01/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-manitoba-energy-efficiency-programs.html>.

<sup>3015</sup> Government of Canada Invests in Forward-looking Clean Technology Start-ups, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 18 June 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/06/government-of-canada-invests-in-forward-looking-clean-technology-start-ups.html>.

<sup>3016</sup> Government of Canada Invests in Forward-looking Clean Technology Start-ups, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 18 June 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/06/government-of-canada-invests-in-forward-looking-clean-technology-start-ups.html>.

<sup>3017</sup> Investing in the Future of Youth With Green Jobs in the Natural Resources Sectors, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/06/investing-in-the-future-of-youth-with-green-jobs-in-the-natural-resources-sectors.html>.

<sup>3018</sup> Government of Canada Invests in Energy Efficiency Training for Canadians, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/07/government-of-canada-invests-in-energy-efficiency-training-for-canadians.html>.

<sup>3019</sup> Prime Minister Announces Infrastructure Plan to Create Jobs and Grow the Economy, Canada Infrastructure Bank (Ottawa) 1 October 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://cib-bic.ca/en/the-canada-infrastructure-bank-announces-a-plan-to-create-jobs-and-grow-the-economy/>.

<sup>3020</sup> Supporting Innovation for a Stronger Quebec Economy, Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions (Montreal) 13 July 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-quebec-regions/news/2020/07/supporting-innovation-for-a-stronger-quebec-economy.html>.

<sup>3021</sup> Government of Canada Announces over \$100M to Spur Job Creation in Alberta and Fight Climate Change, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 2 November 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/11/government-of-canada-announces-over-100m-to-spur-job-creation-in-alberta-and-fight-climate-change.html>.

<sup>3022</sup> Canada Invests in Newfoundland and Labrador’s Electric Vehicle Network, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/07/canada-invests-in-newfoundland-and-labradors-electric-vehicle-network.html>.

<sup>3023</sup> Canada and Ontario Invest in Modern, Green Public Transit for Residents of Oakville, Infrastructure Canada (Oakville) 29 July 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2020/07/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-modern-green-public-transit-for-residents-of-oakville.html>.

<sup>3024</sup> Canada Invests in British Columbia’s Electric Vehicle Network, Natural Resources Canada (District of Summerland) 18 August 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/08/canada-invests-in-british-columbias-electric-vehicle-network.html>.

in certain regions of Ontario,<sup>3025,3026,3027</sup> Quebec,<sup>3028</sup> New Brunswick,<sup>3029</sup> Newfoundland and Labrador,<sup>3030</sup> and British Columbia.<sup>3031</sup>

On 15 July 2020, the Government of Canada invested CAD470,923 in remote Ontario First Nations communities in order to support and enhance Indigenous youth participation in Canada's clean energy transition.<sup>3032</sup>

On 14 September 2020, the Government of Canada and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities invested in green communities in Alberta through the Green Municipal Fund.<sup>3033</sup> In the months followed, the Government of Canada made similar investments in Quebec,<sup>3034</sup> Nova Scotia,<sup>3035</sup> New Brunswick,<sup>3036</sup> Prince Edward Island,<sup>3037</sup> British Columbia.<sup>3038</sup>

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<sup>3025</sup> New Electric Vehicle Chargers Coming to York Region, Natural Resources Canada (Toronto) 9 November 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/11/new-electric-vehicle-chargers-coming-to-york-region.html>.

<sup>3026</sup> New Electric Vehicle Chargers Coming to Durham Region, Natural Resources Canada (Whitby) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/11/new-electric-vehicle-chargers-coming-to-durham-region.html>.

<sup>3027</sup> New Electric Vehicle Chargers Coming to the Pembroke Area, Natural Resources Canada (Pembroke) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/12/new-electric-vehicle-chargers-coming-to-the-pembroke-area.html>.

<sup>3028</sup> New Electric Vehicle Chargers Coming to Quebec and New Brunswick, Natural Resources Canada (Montreal) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/11/new-electric-vehicle-chargers-coming-to-quebec-and-new-brunswick.html>.

<sup>3029</sup> New Electric Vehicle Chargers Coming to Quebec and New Brunswick, Natural Resources Canada (Montreal) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/11/new-electric-vehicle-chargers-coming-to-quebec-and-new-brunswick.html>.

<sup>3030</sup> Canada Raising Awareness for Electric Vehicles in Newfoundland and Labrador, Natural Resources Canada (St. John's) 13 January 2021. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/01/canada-raising-awareness-for-electric-vehicles-in-newfoundland-and-labrador.html>.

<sup>3031</sup> Canada and British Columbia invest in Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in Surrey, Infrastructure Canada (Surrey) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/01/canada-and-british-columbia-invest-in-electric-vehicle-charging-stations-in-surrey.html>.

<sup>3032</sup> Canada Supports Youth and Indigenous Participation in Canada's Clean Energy Transition, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 15 July 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/07/canada-supports-youth-and-indigenous-participation-in-canadas-clean-energy-transition.html>.

<sup>3033</sup> Sustainability Gets a Boost in Alberta with Federal Funding for Green Projects through FCM, Infrastructure Canada (Calgary) 14 September 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2020/09/sustainability-gets-a-boost-in-alberta-with-federal-funding-for-green-projects-through-fcm.html>.

<sup>3034</sup> Canada and FCM invest in Green Communities in the Outaouais Region, Infrastructure Canada (Wakefield) 15 September 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2020/09/canada-and-fcm-invest-in-green-communities-in-the-outaouais-region.html>.

<sup>3035</sup> Canada and FCM Invest in Green Communities in Nova Scotia, Infrastructure Canada (Kings County) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2020/09/canada-and-fcm-invest-in-green-communities-in-nova-scotia.html>.

<sup>3036</sup> Canada and FCM Invest in Green Communities in New Brunswick, Infrastructure Canada (New Brunswick) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2020/10/canada-and-fcm-invest-in-green-communities-in-new-brunswick.html>.

<sup>3037</sup> Canada and FCM Invest in Green Infrastructure in Prince Edward Island, Infrastructure Canada (Summerside) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2020/12/canada-and-fcm-invest-in-green-infrastructure-in-prince-edward-island.html>.

<sup>3038</sup> Canada and FCM Support Seven Green Infrastructure Projects in B.C., Infrastructure Canada (Vancouver) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2020/12/canada-and-fcm-support-seven-green-infrastructure-projects-in-bc.html>.

On 17 September 2020, the Government of Canada invested CAD1.6 million investment in innovative technology for the Canadian mining industry.<sup>3039</sup> The project will develop a technology to provide near real-time measurements of the active clay content in oil sands and mine tailings in order to create a more sustainable mining industry.<sup>3040</sup>

On 17 September 2020, the Government of Canada announced the new Climate Action and Awareness Fund, which will invest CAD206 million in projects to reduce emissions across the country. The Fund will strengthen Canada's capacity to take climate action by empowering youth and communities and boosting climate science and research.<sup>3041</sup> The Government of Canada took similar action to raise awareness of climate change by supporting not-for-profit and educational organizations.<sup>3042</sup>

On 12 November 2020, the Government of Canada announced its contribution of nearly CAD2 million in funding and the Government of Quebec resolved to add more than CAD300,000 towards seven projects to support clean economic growth in Quebec.<sup>3043</sup>

On 15 December 2020, the Government of Canada drafted legislative proposals to expand support to businesses using zero-emission vehicles.<sup>3044</sup>

On 16 December 2020, the Government of Canada launched the Hydrogen Strategy for Canada with a federal investment of CAD1.5 billion in a Low-carbon and Zero-emissions Fuels Fund to increase the production and use of low-carbon fuels, including hydrogen.<sup>3045</sup> The Strategy is designed to spur investment and partnerships to establish Canada as a global supplier of hydrogen, and to increase domestic production, which will transform Canada's energy sector.<sup>3046</sup>

On 21 January 2021, Canada was voted in as an official Member of Council for the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). It will serve a two-year term on the Council, ensuring cooperation and facilitating discussions on the global clean energy future among the 163 member countries. As Minister of Natural Resources Seamus O'Regan Jr. stated, "the Government of Canada is committed to a fair and inclusive clean-

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<sup>3039</sup> Canada Invests in Innovative Technology for the Canadian Mining Industry, Natural Resources Canada (Saskatoon) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/09/canada-invests-in-innovative-technology-for-the-canadian-mining-industry.html>.

<sup>3040</sup> Canada Invests in Innovative Technology for the Canadian Mining Industry, Natural Resources Canada (Saskatoon) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/09/canada-invests-in-innovative-technology-for-the-canadian-mining-industry.html>.

<sup>3041</sup> New \$206 million Climate Action and Awareness Fund to Support Youth, Scientists, and Researchers Across Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/09/new-206-million-climate-action-and-awareness-fund-to-support-youth-scientists-and-researchers-across-canada.html>.

<sup>3042</sup> Government of Canada Supports Climate Action by Not-for-profit and Educational Organizations, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/10/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-not-for-profit-and-educational-organizations.html>.

<sup>3043</sup> Government of Canada Announces Nearly \$2 Million in Funding for Projects to Adopt Clean Tech in Quebec's Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Quebec) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2020/11/government-of-canada-announces-nearly-2-million-in-funding-for-projects-to-adopt-clean-tech-in-quebecs-fisheries-and-aquaculture-sector.html>.

<sup>3044</sup> Government Publishes Draft Legislative Proposals Expanding Support to Businesses Using Zero-Emission Vehicles, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/12/government-publishes-draft-legislative-proposals-expanding-support-to-businesses-using-zero-emission-vehicles.html>.

<sup>3045</sup> Minister O'Regan Launches Hydrogen Strategy for Canada, Natural Resources Canada (St. John's) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/12/minister-oregan-launches-hydrogen-strategy-for-canada.html>.

<sup>3046</sup> Minister O'Regan Launches Hydrogen Strategy for Canada, Natural Resources Canada (St. John's) 16 December 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/12/minister-oregan-launches-hydrogen-strategy-for-canada.html>.

energy transition. Our mission remains aligned with IRENA's: a global economy that continues to grow, net-zero emissions by 2050 and an energy future that leaves no one behind."<sup>3047</sup>

On 2 February 2021, the Government of Canada launched an initiative named "The 50 – 30 Challenge: Your Diversity Advantage" to improve access for racialized persons, people who identify as LGBTQ2, people living with disabilities, as well as First Nations, Inuit and Métis to positions of influence and leadership on corporate boards and in senior management. The goal of the program is to challenge Canadian organizations to increase the representation and inclusion of diverse groups within their workplace.<sup>3048</sup>

On 3 February 2021, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Catherine McKenna wrote a Statement of Priorities and Accountabilities to Tamara Vrooman, Chairperson of the Board of the Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB). The statement called on the CIB to prioritize activities in five areas: public transit, green infrastructure, trade and transport, broadband, and clean power.<sup>3049</sup> The CIB implemented Growth Plan that aimed to invest CAD10 billion over the next three years in strategic initiatives that help grow the economy, create jobs and support Canada's climate goals. To support Indigenous communities, the Government set a target for CIB to invest at least CAD1 billion to develop infrastructure in Indigenous communities.<sup>3050</sup>

On 5 February 2021, the Government of Canada invested CAD24,000 in Bonduelle Canada Inc., to reduce energy costs and improve energy efficiency as part of the Government's efforts to advance a low-carbon energy future.<sup>3051</sup>

On 8 February 2021, the Government of Canada launched the engagement phase in the development of Canada's Blue Economy Strategy.<sup>3052</sup> As Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard Bernadette Jordan stated, "[t]he Blue Economy Strategy will help steer federal investments and actions, on all three coasts, across all ocean sectors, toward a single goal: to get more Canadians working on and in the water."<sup>3053</sup> The Blue Economy Strategy is to enhance sustainability in the commercial fishing industry, explore offshore renewable energy, encourage sustainable tourism in coastal regions, enhance international trade, and develop new green technologies in ocean-related fields.<sup>3054</sup>

On 9 February 2021, the Government of Canada announced a CAD95,000 investment to Aurora Research Institute, in association with Delta Enterprises, to study on biomass feedstock for converting used cardboard

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<sup>3047</sup> Canada Wins Two-Year Term on International Renewable Energy Agency Council, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/01/canada-wins-two-year-term-on-international-renewable-energy-agency-council.html>.

<sup>3048</sup> The 50 – 30 Challenge: Your Diversity Advantage, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 17 February 2021. <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/icgc.nsf/eng/07706.html>.

<sup>3049</sup> Minister McKenna Sets New Priorities for The Canada Infrastructure Bank, Infrastructure Canada (Ottawa) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/02/minister-mckenna-sets-new-priorities-for-the-canada-infrastructure-bank.html>.

<sup>3050</sup> Minister McKenna Sets New Priorities for The Canada Infrastructure Bank, Infrastructure Canada (Ottawa) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/02/minister-mckenna-sets-new-priorities-for-the-canada-infrastructure-bank.html>.

<sup>3051</sup> Canada Invests in Energy Efficiency for the Agri-Food Industry, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2021/02/canada-invests-in-energy-efficiency-for-the-agri-food-industry.html>.

<sup>3052</sup> Minister Jordan Launches Engagement on Canada's new Blue Economy Strategy, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/02/minister-jordan-launches-engagement-on-canadas-new-blue-economy-strategy.html>.

<sup>3053</sup> Minister Jordan Launches Engagement on Canada's new Blue Economy Strategy, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/02/minister-jordan-launches-engagement-on-canadas-new-blue-economy-strategy.html>.

<sup>3054</sup> Minister Jordan Launches Engagement on Canada's new Blue Economy Strategy, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 13 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/02/minister-jordan-launches-engagement-on-canadas-new-blue-economy-strategy.html>.



into pellets for heating.<sup>3055</sup> This investment will support northern biomass industry while creating local jobs and transitioning to clean energy.<sup>3056</sup>

On 11 February 2021, the Government of Canada announced a CAD1 million investment to support the creation of Stella Maris, a multi-user marine testing platform at the Centre for Ocean Ventures and Entrepreneurship.<sup>3057</sup> This project will help Canadian ocean sector develop, test and promote new marine sensor technologies more efficiently, and foster collaboration and data-sharing to support product development.<sup>3058</sup>

On 11 February 2021, the Government of Canada announced investments of CAD55.1 million in 20 clean technology companies across Canada to support more Canadian entrepreneurs in developing and commercializing clean technologies and promoting Canadian innovations worldwide.<sup>3059</sup>

Canada has taken strong actions to promote clean technology and infrastructure and economic inclusion. However, its 2020 real growth in gross domestic product, which is -5.5 per cent, does not reach the 1.8 per cent growth projected by the International Monetary Fund in January 2020.<sup>3060</sup>

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Wenxing Luo*

### **France: 0**

France has partially complied with its commitment to restore the level of growth anticipated before the COVID-19 pandemic and go beyond.

On 1 April 2020, the Global Partnership for Education, to which France is one of the biggest contributors, announced USD250 million to help developing countries mitigate the immediate and long-term disruptions to education being caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding focused on helping the most vulnerable and marginalized children, particularly girls, displaced children, and children from low-income families to continue their education.<sup>3061</sup>

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<sup>3055</sup> Government of Canada Supports Renewable Energy Alternatives in Indigenous and Northern Communities, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/crown-indigenous-relations-northern-affairs/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-supports-renewable-energy-alternatives-in-indigenous-and-northern-communities.html>.

<sup>3056</sup> Government of Canada Supports Renewable Energy Alternatives in Indigenous and Northern Communities, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/crown-indigenous-relations-northern-affairs/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-supports-renewable-energy-alternatives-in-indigenous-and-northern-communities.html>.

<sup>3057</sup> Strengthening Atlantic Canada's Blue Economy, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) (Dartmouth) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/atlasntic-canada-opportunities/news/2021/02/strengthening-atlantic-canadas-blue-economy.html>.

<sup>3058</sup> Strengthening Atlantic Canada's Blue Economy, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) (Dartmouth) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/atlasntic-canada-opportunities/news/2021/02/strengthening-atlantic-canadas-blue-economy.html>.

<sup>3059</sup> Government of Canada Invests in Canadian Clean Technology Innovations, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 11 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-invests-in-canadian-clean-technology-innovations.html>.

<sup>3060</sup> World Economic Outlook, January 2021 Update, International Monetary Fund (Washington DC) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/weo-database/2020/October>.

<sup>3061</sup> Education - The Global Partnership for Education Announces US\$250 Million for Low-income Countries Battling COVID-19, France Diplomacy (Paris) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2020/article/education-the-global-partnership-for-education-announces-us-250-million-for-low>.

On 18 May 2020, President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel defined a series of concrete actions designed to ensure the European Union's sustainable recovery, including accelerating ecological and digital transitions. The actions would coordinate an increase in the EU's 2030 emission reduction goals to avoid "carbon leakage," introduce a minimum carbon price in the EU's Emissions Trading Scheme for all sectors, and draft a roadmap for recovery with environmental considerations.<sup>3062</sup>

On 7 July 2020, France co-chaired the Generation Equality Forum with Mexico and announced the leaders of the Generation Equality Action Coalitions to achieve gender equality and all women's and girls' human rights. These coalitions aimed to achieve "tangible, measurable results" within five years on themes such as technology and innovation for gender equality, feminist movements and leadership.<sup>3063</sup>

On 3 September 2020, Prime Minister Jean Castex presented the France Relance plan and introduced the 4<sup>th</sup> Future Investment Program to amplify France's innovation efforts. The program is to be endowed with EUR20 billion over five years, with the objective of enabling the country to define its investment priority strategies through the program and to adapt to climate change and digital education. The strategic and priority investments aim to finance future technologies, where France invested EUR3.4 billion in developing green innovations and technologies such as decarbonized energy, with particular concern shown to hydrogen, recycling, bio-based products, and industrial biotechnology, contributing to an ecological and sustainable transition.<sup>3064</sup>

On 29 December 2020, the Government of France increased the rate of biofuel incorporation in fuels. As of 1 January 2021, biofuel blending rates for gasoline were to increase from an average rate of 8.2 per cent to 8.6 per cent. The traceability of biofuels was also to be strengthened.<sup>3065</sup>

France has taken a number of actions, some of them strong fiscal steps, to promote clean technology and infrastructure and economic inclusion. However, its 2020 real growth in gross domestic product, which is -9 per cent, does not reach the 1.3 per cent growth projected by the International Monetary Fund in January 2020.<sup>3066</sup>

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Wenxing Luo*

### **Germany: 0**

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to, in facing the global economic challenge be determined not only to restore the level of growth anticipated before the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 4 April 2020, Germany agreed to divert resources through the European Commission to vulnerable groups in Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo, in particular to support the marginalized

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<sup>3062</sup> France and Germany United for the Sustainable Recovery of the European Union, Government of France (Paris) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-and-germany-united-for-the-sustainable-recovery-of-the-european-union>.

<sup>3063</sup> Generation Equality Forum - Announcement of the Global Leaders of the Generation Equality Action Coalitions to Accelerate Gender Equality, France Diplomacy (Paris) 01 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/news-and-events/generation-equality-forum-2021/article/generation-equality-forum-announcement-of-the-global-leaders-of-the-generation>.

<sup>3064</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Future Investment Program: 20 billion euros for innovation, more than half of which is mobilized for economic recovery, Government of France (Paris) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/4eme-programme-d-investissements-d-avenir-20-milliards-d-euros-pour-l-innovation-dont-plus-de-la>.

<sup>3065</sup> Ce Qui Change à Partir du 1er Janvier 2021, Gouvernement de la République Française (Paris) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/changements-janvier-2021#e2>.

<sup>3066</sup> World Economic Outlook, January 2021 Update, International Monetary Fund (Washington DC) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/weo-database/2020/October>.

Roma people.<sup>3067</sup> Recognizing that many Roma communities are socially and economically excluded from wider society, the aid package includes funding towards “care packages containing basic foodstuffs as well as sanitary and hygiene products.”<sup>3068</sup>

On 28 April 2020, the Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) convened a conference of youth and family ministers for various jurisdictions within Germany to discuss the situation surrounding daycare and early childcare during the pandemic.<sup>3069</sup> Ministers announced that they were planning a gradual re-opening of centres, taking into special consideration the needs of single parents, impaired children, and the importance of maintaining adequate infrastructure and support systems for all families.<sup>3070</sup>

On 3 July 2021, the Bundestag and Bundesrat adopted legislation to phase out coal-fired electricity in Germany by 2038, passing the Act on the Phase-out of Coal-fired Power Plants and the Structural Reinforcement Act for Mining Regions.<sup>3071</sup> Instead, 65 per cent of gross electricity consumption is to be generated from renewables by 2030.<sup>3072</sup> Accordingly, Germany is providing EUR40 billion between now and 2038 to support structural development in coal-mining regions.<sup>3073</sup>

On 9 July 2020, Labour Minister Franziska Giffey announced new support measures totaling EUR1 billion “to invest in maintaining the social infrastructure for families, children, young people and social causes.”<sup>3074</sup> Key pillars of these measures included “support in the form of loans, support in the form of grants as part of the bridging aid and as part of the structural strengthening through a special program for child and youth welfare.”<sup>3075</sup>

On 17 July 2020, Labour Minister Hubertus Heil chaired a conference of EU employment and social policy ministers to discuss issues of social protection systems and occupational safety in light of the COVID-19

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<sup>3067</sup> Minister of State Roth on International Roma Day, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/roth-roma-day/2331948>.

<sup>3068</sup> Minister of State Roth on International Roma Day, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/roth-roma-day/2331948>.

<sup>3069</sup> Decision by JFMK and BMFSFJ recommends cautions and gradual re-entry into childcare, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/abschluss-von-jfmk-und-bmfsfj-empfehl-behutsamen-und-stufenweisen-wiedereinstieg-in-die-kindertagesbetreuung-155122>.

<sup>3070</sup> Decision by JFMK and BMFSFJ recommends cautions and gradual re-entry into childcare, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/abschluss-von-jfmk-und-bmfsfj-empfehl-behutsamen-und-stufenweisen-wiedereinstieg-in-die-kindertagesbetreuung-155122>.

<sup>3071</sup> Final decision to launch the coal-phase out – a project for a generation, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 3 July 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200703-final-decision-to-launch-the-coal-phase-out.html>.

<sup>3072</sup> Final decision to launch the coal-phase out – a project for a generation, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 3 July 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200703-final-decision-to-launch-the-coal-phase-out.html>.

<sup>3073</sup> Final decision to launch the coal-phase out – a project for a generation, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 3 July 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200703-final-decision-to-launch-the-coal-phase-out.html>.

<sup>3074</sup> Giffey: “Securing tried and tested social institutions and structures for families, children and young people in times of crisis”, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 9 July 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/giffey-bewaehrte-soziale-einrichtungen-und-strukturen-fuer-familien-kinder-und-jugendliche-in-der-krise-absichern--158438>.

<sup>3075</sup> Giffey: “Securing tried and tested social institutions and structures for families, children and young people in times of crisis”, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 9 July 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/giffey-bewaehrte-soziale-einrichtungen-und-strukturen-fuer-familien-kinder-und-jugendliche-in-der-krise-absichern--158438>.

pandemic.<sup>3076</sup> Three key areas of reform were identified for strengthening, including the “contribution of social protection systems to the recovery from the crisis,” “health and safety at work,” and “better enforcement of the rights of seasonal and mobile workers.”<sup>3077</sup>

On August 27 2020, Minister Giffey announced an EUR100 million program to disburse funding to non-profit organizations “for children and youth education, child and youth work.”<sup>3078</sup> These organizations would facilitate overnight trips, education experiences, and youth exchange, which are areas that had been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3079</sup>

On 7 September 2020, the BMFSFJ launched a project with the organization FAIR SHARE of Women Leaders eV to assess the proportion of women in leadership positions in the non-governmental sector and to guide organizations in making appropriate changes.<sup>3080</sup>

On 1 October 2020, the BMFSFJ announced funding up to EUR5 million for nationwide projects to strengthen “the participation of older people,” particularly in the labour market, and to counteract isolation and loneliness, especially for those with health problems and mobility restrictions.<sup>3081</sup>

On 2 December 2020, the Federal Cabinet passed a novel Children and Youth Employment Act in order to “strengthen participation and equal opportunities for young people who have special need for support,” particularly those with disabilities or learning impairments, and to assist in their social and economic integration.<sup>3082</sup>

On 8 December 2020, Germany announced funding for a new program, “Young People Remember International,” an initiative for youth to engage with German history.<sup>3083</sup> Core tenets of the program are to

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<sup>3076</sup> Hubertus Heil: “We want all people in the EU to be able to live their lives with security and dignity, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2020/federal-minister-heil-security-dignity-for-all-eu.html>.

<sup>3077</sup> Hubertus Heil: “We want all people in the EU to be able to live their lives with security and dignity, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2020/federal-minister-heil-security-dignity-for-all-eu.html>.

<sup>3078</sup> Minister Giffey gives the go-ahead for “100 million euro special program for children and youth education, child and youth work”, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 27 August 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerin-giffey-gibt-startschuss-fuer-100-millionen-euro-sonderprogramm-kinder-und-jugendbildung-kinder-und-jugendarbeit--160220>.

<sup>3079</sup> Minister Giffey gives the go-ahead for “100 million euro special program for children and youth education, child and youth work”, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 27 August 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerin-giffey-gibt-startschuss-fuer-100-millionen-euro-sonderprogramm-kinder-und-jugendbildung-kinder-und-jugendarbeit--160220>.

<sup>3080</sup> Increase women in leadership positions also in the civil society sector, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 7 September 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/frauen-in-fuehrungspositionen-auch-im-zivilgesellschaftlichen-sektor-steigern-160414>.

<sup>3081</sup> Five million euros against loneliness in old age, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 1 October 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/fuenf-millionen-euro-gegen-einsamkeit-im-alter-160866>.

<sup>3082</sup> Giffey: More participation and equal opportunities for children and young people in difficult life situations, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 2 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/giffey-mehr-teilhabe-und-chancengerechtigkeit-fuer-kinder-und-jugendliche-in-schwierigen-lebenslagen-162872>.

<sup>3083</sup> Minister of State Müntefering on the start of funding for the federal programme “Young People Remember International” promoted by the Federal Foreign Office and the Foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future”, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2424828>.

“foster bilateral and multilateral encounters among young people,” “strengthen the international exchange of ideas among experts,” and “develop digital formats for educational and remembrance work.”<sup>3084</sup>

On 11 December 2020, Germany announced a broad investment initiative to counter the impacts of COVID-19, allocating EUR55 billion in 2021 and about EUR48 billion a year until 2024. The planned investment is to lay the foundations for sustainable economic growth, including in areas such as digital infrastructure, climate action, and the use of artificial intelligence and novel telecommunications in the economy and education system.<sup>3085</sup>

On 2 February 2021, Germany announced funding of EUR100,000 to support a program entitled “Youth Budgets” that would see teenagers and young adults work together on solutions for global problems in fields such as diversity, the environment, education, and health.<sup>3086</sup>

Through stimulus and other fiscal programs targeted towards climate action, innovative technology, and groups such as youth and seniors, Germany has taken strong actions to promote clean technology and infrastructure and economic inclusion. However, its 2020 real growth in gross domestic product, which is -5.4 per cent, does not reach the 1.1 per cent growth projected by the International Monetary Fund in January 2020.<sup>3087</sup>

Thus, Germany receives a score of 0.

*Analysts: Anjali Roy and Malbaar Mobarir*

### **Italy: 0**

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to restore the level of growth anticipated before the COVID-19 pandemic and go beyond.

On 14 May 2020, the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance released its Decreto Rilancio or Relaunch Decree, allocating EUR155 billion to support economic recovery.<sup>3088</sup> Measure include establishing a fund for technology transfer to industry, particularly innovative startups, and offering tax deductions of 110 per cent on private sector energy efficiency investments between 1 2020 July and 31 December 2021.<sup>3089</sup>

On 5 June 2020, the Italian Representation to the United Nations organized an online meeting to discuss COVID-19 recovery plans specifically addressing the role of women.<sup>3090</sup> Vice Minister Marina Sereni stressed

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<sup>3084</sup> Minister of State Müntefering on the start of funding for the federal programme “Young People Remember International” promoted by the Federal Foreign Office and the Foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future”, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2424828>.

<sup>3085</sup> “A Successful Package” says Olaf Scholz, Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/bundestag-bundshaushalt-2021-1827270>.

<sup>3086</sup> Minister Giffey: One million euros for the best ideas for young people in Germany, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Seniors, Women and Youth (Berlin) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerin-giffey-eine-million-euro-fuer-die-besten-jugendideen-deutschlands-165622>.

<sup>3087</sup> World Economic Outlook, January 2021 Update, International Monetary Fund (Washington DC) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/weo-database/2020/October>.

<sup>3088</sup> Decreto Rilancio, le misure per rimettere in moto il Paese, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/focus/Decreto-Rilancio-le-misure-per-rimettere-in-moto-il-Paese/#cont4>.

<sup>3089</sup> Decreto Rilancio, le misure per rimettere in moto il Paese, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/focus/Decreto-Rilancio-le-misure-per-rimettere-in-moto-il-Paese/#cont4>.

<sup>3090</sup> Sereni at the UN meeting on the role of women in the fight against Covid-19, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stamp/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/06/sereni-al-meeting-onu-sul-ruolo-delle-donne-nella-lotta-a-covid-19.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stamp/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/06/sereni-al-meeting-onu-sul-ruolo-delle-donne-nella-lotta-a-covid-19.html).

that “[w]omen’s participation in the labour market, new services to families, in promotion of women’s leadership roles in the economy and society must be among the priorities of the Recovery Plans.”<sup>3091</sup>

On 16 June 2020, the Italian government announced it had strengthened the University Corridors Project, a program that provides post-secondary educational opportunities in Italy for students holding refugee status from Ethiopia.<sup>3092</sup> Partnerships with eleven universities were established to support students in courses and integration representing a relaunch of the program after a hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3093</sup>

On 25 June 2020, the Minister of Labour and Social Policies Nunzia Catalfo committed to introduce a bill on gender equality in wages in the Italian Parliament, stressing the importance of addressing the issues of working mothers who resigned the past year.<sup>3094</sup> She further reaffirmed Italy’s commitment to the Family Act, which has provided “single allowance and the enhancement of parental leave” as well as a share of the funds to be provided for predominantly female start-ups and small and medium enterprises.<sup>3095</sup>

On 3 July 2020, the first meeting of the Advisory Board of “Women in International Security” was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, aimed at promoting “national and international leadership and professional development of women in the promotion of peace and security.”<sup>3096</sup>

On 10 August 2020, the Ministry of Economic Development announced the implementation of a EUR600 million school and family voucher plan to promote ultra-broadband connectivity.<sup>3097</sup> The plan allocates EUR400 million to over 32,000 schools in Italy and EUR200 million to facilitate stronger internet connectivity for families, furthermore providing a voucher of EUR500 for each family for the purchase of a computer.<sup>3098</sup>

On 26 October 2020, Strategic Consultations between Italy and UNESCO were launched that stressed the importance of inclusive, equal and sustainable development in the post-COVID era.<sup>3099</sup> In particular, Vice Minister Sereni emphasized that the objectives of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were crucial to

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<sup>3091</sup> Sereni at the UN meeting on the role of women in the fight against Covid-19, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/06/sereni-al-meeting-onu-sul-ruolo-delle-donne-nella-lotta-a-covid-19.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/06/sereni-al-meeting-onu-sul-ruolo-delle-donne-nella-lotta-a-covid-19.html).

<sup>3092</sup> University corridors for refugee students, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/06/corridoio-universitari-per-studenti-rifugiati\\_0.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/06/corridoio-universitari-per-studenti-rifugiati_0.html).

<sup>3093</sup> University corridors for refugee students, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/06/corridoio-universitari-per-studenti-rifugiati\\_0.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/06/corridoio-universitari-per-studenti-rifugiati_0.html).

<sup>3094</sup> Lavoro, Catalfo: Government focused on interventions to protect working mothers, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Lavoro-Catalfo-Governo-concentrato-su-interventi-a-tutela-delle-lavoratrici-madri.aspx>.

<sup>3095</sup> Lavoro, Catalfo: Government focused on interventions to protect working mothers, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Lavoro-Catalfo-Governo-concentrato-su-interventi-a-tutela-delle-lavoratrici-madri.aspx>.

<sup>3096</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Board of “Women in International Security - Italy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 3 July 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/prima-riunione-dell-advisory-board-di-women-in-international-security-italy.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/prima-riunione-dell-advisory-board-di-women-in-international-security-italy.html).

<sup>3097</sup> Ultra-broadband, the implementation decrees signed for € 600 million in the “School Plan” and “Family Voucher Plan”, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 10 August 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/198-notizie-stampa/2041375-banda-ultralarga-firmati-i-decreti-attuativi-per-600-milioni-di-euro-nel-piano-scuola-e-nel-piano-voucher-famiglie>.

<sup>3098</sup> Ultra-broadband, the implementation decrees signed for € 600 million in the “School Plan” and “Family Voucher Plan”, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 10 August 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/198-notizie-stampa/2041375-banda-ultralarga-firmati-i-decreti-attuativi-per-600-milioni-di-euro-nel-piano-scuola-e-nel-piano-voucher-famiglie>.

<sup>3099</sup> Vice Minister Sereni to UNESCO. Post-Covid future must be focused on the fight against inequalities and sustainable development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 26 October 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/10/sereni-all-unesco-futuro-post-covid-sia-fondato-sulla-lotta-a-diseguaglianze-e-sviluppo-sostenibile.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/10/sereni-all-unesco-futuro-post-covid-sia-fondato-sulla-lotta-a-diseguaglianze-e-sviluppo-sostenibile.html).

embrace in order to reduce inequalities, especially gender-based, and committed to working with UNESCO towards greater preservation of the environment.<sup>3100</sup>

On 30 November 2020, Vice Minister Sereni served as a panelist for the Youth Forum Contest.<sup>3101</sup> Recognizing that 60 per cent of the population in the Mediterranean and Middle East region is under 30 and that pre-pandemic unemployment levels were around 27 per cent, the contest allowed youth “the chance to present innovative ideas and projects, during an important international event,” and discuss their solutions to issues “ranging from health assistance to education, from social entrepreneurship to civil commitment, from protection of the environment to food safety, and from robotics to urban innovation.”<sup>3102</sup>

On 30 November 2020, Italy affirmed its support for the International Telecommunication Union’s (ITU) World Conference on Telecommunications Development Youth Summit, entitled “Generation Connect.” The conference aims to bring together young Europeans to discuss “challenges related to digital technologies on a virtual platform.”<sup>3103</sup> The conference falls in line with the ITU Youth Strategy, which “aims to have a real impact on the lives of young people around the world to become key stakeholders” in the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.<sup>3104</sup>

On 18 December 2020, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Manlio Di Stefano chaired an inter-ministerial meeting on the topic of “Energy, Environment and Climate,” along with representatives from various energy corporations.<sup>3105</sup> During the meeting, Minister Di Stefano commented positively on the European Council’s decision to increase its emissions reduction ambition by committing to reduce at least 55 per cent of 1990 emissions by 2030.<sup>3106</sup>

On 11 January 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs Luigi di Maio participated in the “UN75 COP26 Roundtable on clean power transition,” along with the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, reaffirming Italy’s objective “to support the “green economy” for a sustainable recovery and the country’s determination towards a clean energy transition, based on the strategic link between energy, climate and technology.”<sup>3107</sup>

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<sup>3100</sup> Vice Minister Sereni to UNESCO. Post-Covid future must be focused on the fight against inequalities and sustainable development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 26 October 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/10/sereni-all-unesco-futuro-post-covid-sia-fondato-su-lotta-a-diseguaglianze-e-sviluppo-sostenibile.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/10/sereni-all-unesco-futuro-post-covid-sia-fondato-su-lotta-a-diseguaglianze-e-sviluppo-sostenibile.html).

<sup>3101</sup> MED Dialogues: Vice Minister Sereni, enhance the role of young people in the Mediterranean area, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/11/med-2020-sereni-valorizzare-giovani-nell-area-mediterranea.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/11/med-2020-sereni-valorizzare-giovani-nell-area-mediterranea.html).

<sup>3102</sup> MED Dialogues: Vice Minister Sereni, enhance the role of young people in the Mediterranean area, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/11/med-2020-sereni-valorizzare-giovani-nell-area-mediterranea.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/11/med-2020-sereni-valorizzare-giovani-nell-area-mediterranea.html).

<sup>3103</sup> Notice 30 November 2020 - ITU calls young people. Generation Connect, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/213-normativa/notifiche-e-avvisi/2041753-avviso-30-novembre-2020-l-itu-chiama-i-giovani-generation-connect>.

<sup>3104</sup> Notice 30 November 2020 - ITU calls young people. Generation Connect, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/213-normativa/notifiche-e-avvisi/2041753-avviso-30-novembre-2020-l-itu-chiama-i-giovani-generation-connect>.

<sup>3105</sup> Deputy Minister Di Stefano chairs the Inter-Ministerial “Energy, Environment, and Climate” Steering Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/di-stefano-presiede-la-cabina-di-regia-interministeriale-energia-ambiente-e-clima.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/di-stefano-presiede-la-cabina-di-regia-interministeriale-energia-ambiente-e-clima.html).

<sup>3106</sup> Deputy Minister Di Stefano chairs the Inter-Ministerial “Energy, Environment, and Climate” Steering Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/di-stefano-presiede-la-cabina-di-regia-interministeriale-energia-ambiente-e-clima.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/di-stefano-presiede-la-cabina-di-regia-interministeriale-energia-ambiente-e-clima.html).

<sup>3107</sup> Minister Di Maio participates in the “UN75 COP26 Roundtable on clean power transition”, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/01/il-ministro-di-maio-partecipa-alla-un75-cop26-roundtable-on-clean-power-transition.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/01/il-ministro-di-maio-partecipa-alla-un75-cop26-roundtable-on-clean-power-transition.html).

On 4 February 2020, the Italian government announced the 2021 Budget Law, which aims for “the transformation of the country, in the path of innovation, sustainability, cohesion, and equity.”<sup>3108</sup> The budget law addressed equality of gender in the workplace and education, including by lengthening parental leave and expanding nursery school funding to EUR100 million per year in 2022 and eventually to EUR300 million.<sup>3109</sup> The “Transition 4.0” tax credit was also extended to allocate in excess of EUR20 billion over the next five years to incentivize environmental and technological improvements by businesses.<sup>3110</sup>

Italy has taken strong actions to promote clean technology and infrastructure and economic inclusion. However, its 2020 real growth in gross domestic product, which is –9.2 per cent, does not reach the 0.5 per cent growth projected by the International Monetary Fund in January 2020.<sup>3111</sup>

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

*Analysts: Ching-Lin Chang and Malhaar Moharir*

### **Japan: 0**

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to restore the level of growth anticipated before the COVID-19 pandemic and go beyond.

On 7 April 2020, the Government of Japan adopted an Emergency Economic Package Against COVID-19, which totals JPY117.1 trillion.<sup>3112</sup> The economic package aims to protect employment and businesses, restore economic activity after pandemic containment, and rebuild a resilient economic structure.<sup>3113</sup> Measures of the package include supporting the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries industries, accelerating digital transformation by deploying remote technologies, and accelerating public works investments.<sup>3114</sup> Through the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the Government of Japan also rolled out programs to facilitate the reopening of schools, ensure children’s learning during school closures, assist institutions such as university hospitals in infectious disease research, and support students in situations of hardship.<sup>3115</sup>

On 24 April 2020, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry convened for the first time an expert Round Table for Infrastructure Systems Export.<sup>3116</sup> Participants held discussions on streamlining and verification of facts on exports of infrastructure systems, which were necessary in order to discuss related measures concerning the fields of energy and electricity.<sup>3117</sup>

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<sup>3108</sup> Minister Di Maio participates in the “UN75 COP26 Roundtable on clean power transition”, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 11 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/01/il-ministro-di-maio-partecipa-alla-un75-cop26-roundtable-on-clean-power-transition.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/01/il-ministro-di-maio-partecipa-alla-un75-cop26-roundtable-on-clean-power-transition.html).

<sup>3109</sup> The 2021 Budget Law, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-2021-Budget-Law-00001/>.

<sup>3110</sup> The 2021 Budget Law, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-2021-Budget-Law-00001/>.

<sup>3111</sup> World Economic Outlook, January 2021 Update, International Monetary Fund (Washington DC) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/weo-database/2020/October>.

<sup>3112</sup> Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#top>.

<sup>3113</sup> Policy Responses to COVID-19, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#top>.

<sup>3114</sup> Emergency Economic Measures to Cope with COVID-19, Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://www5.cao.go.jp/keizai1/keizaitaisaku/2020/20200420\\_economic\\_measures.pdf](https://www5.cao.go.jp/keizai1/keizaitaisaku/2020/20200420_economic_measures.pdf).

<sup>3115</sup> Package of Emergency Economic Measures MEXT, Ministry of Education, Sports, Science and Technology (Tokyo) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://www.mext.go.jp/en/content/20200722\\_mxt\\_kanseisk01-000008961\\_1.pdf](https://www.mext.go.jp/en/content/20200722_mxt_kanseisk01-000008961_1.pdf)

<sup>3116</sup> The Round Table for Infrastructure Systems Export Compiles Interim Report (Electricity and Energy), Ministry of Trade, Economy and Industry (Tokyo) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0521\\_003.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0521_003.html).

<sup>3117</sup> The Round Table for Infrastructure Systems Export Compiles Interim Report (Electricity and Energy), Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0521\\_003.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0521_003.html).



On 27 May 2020, the Government of Japan announced the second Emergency Economic Measure.<sup>3118</sup> Through MEXT, Japan pledged financial support to students facing financial difficulties.<sup>3119</sup> Japan also pledged support for ensuring children's learning, and to university hospitals and research labs.<sup>3120</sup>

On 12 June 2020, the National Diet enacted a JPY31.91 trillion supplementary budget for the 2020 fiscal year aimed to expand measures designed to offset the social and economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic to twice the previous level.<sup>3121</sup>

On 22 July 2020, the Government of Japan also participated in the G20 Digital Economy Ministers Meeting, where ministers recognized the importance of the digital economy as well and initiatives related to advancing digital connectivity infrastructure.<sup>3122</sup>

On 15 December 2020, the government proposed a third supplementary budget.<sup>3123</sup> The budget included a number of measures to promote digitization and green society, including JPY2 trillion in funding for innovative low carbon technology, JPY109.4 billion towards the establishment of a green housing point system, and JPY178.8 billion for digital infrastructure at the local level.<sup>3124</sup> On 28 January 2021, the National Diet enacted the supplementary budget.<sup>3125</sup>

On 2 February 2021, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry unveiled a Green Growth Strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050 through transforming industries and the broader economy.<sup>3126</sup>

The Government of Japan has implemented several stimulus packages targeting important sectors of the economy for recovery such as clean infrastructure, technology, and education, constituting strong action to promote clean technology and infrastructure and economic inclusion. However, Japan's 2020 real growth in gross domestic product, which is -5.1 per cent, does not reach the 0.7 per cent growth projected by the International Monetary Fund in January 2020.<sup>3127</sup>

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Christine Shea*

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<sup>3118</sup> Package of Emergency Economic Measure (2nd Package), Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Tokyo) 27 May 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://www.mext.go.jp/en/content/20200903\\_mxt\\_kanseisk01-000008961\\_1.pdf](https://www.mext.go.jp/en/content/20200903_mxt_kanseisk01-000008961_1.pdf).

<sup>3119</sup> Package of Emergency Economic Measure (2nd Package), Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Tokyo) 27 May 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://www.mext.go.jp/en/content/20200903\\_mxt\\_kanseisk01-000008961\\_1.pdf](https://www.mext.go.jp/en/content/20200903_mxt_kanseisk01-000008961_1.pdf).

<sup>3120</sup> Package of Emergency Economic Measure (2nd Package), Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Tokyo) 27 May 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. [https://www.mext.go.jp/en/content/20200903\\_mxt\\_kanseisk01-000008961\\_1.pdf](https://www.mext.go.jp/en/content/20200903_mxt_kanseisk01-000008961_1.pdf).

<sup>3121</sup> Japan enacts record extra budget to address pandemic fallout, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/06/12/national/extra-budget-coronavirus>.

<sup>3122</sup> Ministerial Declaration, G20 Digital Economy Ministers Meeting (Riyadh) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://www.meti.go.jp/press/2020/07/20200723001/20200723001-2.pdf>

<sup>3123</sup> Third Supplementary Budget, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://www.mof.go.jp/english/budget/budget/fy2020/05.pdf>.

<sup>3124</sup> Third Supplementary Budget, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://www.mof.go.jp/english/budget/budget/fy2020/05.pdf>.

<sup>3125</sup> Japan enacts 19 tril. yen extra budget to fight virus amid criticism, Kyodo News (Tokyo) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/01/c5e63041eae7-breaking-news-japan-enacts-1918-tril-yen-extra-budget-to-manage-pandemic.html>.

<sup>3126</sup> METI Unveils Green Growth Strategy to Support Japan's 2050 Carbon Neutral Goal, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 4 March 2021. <https://www.meti.go.jp/english/mobile/2021/20210208001en.html>

<sup>3127</sup> World Economic Outlook, January 2021 Update, International Monetary Fund (Washington DC) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/weo-database/2020/October>.

## United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to restore the level of growth anticipated before the COVID-19 pandemic and go beyond.

On 9 May 2020, Transport Secretary Grant Shapps announced the establishment of a GBP250 million emergency active travel fund to support local authorities in expanding cycling infrastructure such as new bike lanes and wider pavements.<sup>3128</sup>

On 21 May 2020, the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy launched a GBP40 million Clean Growth Fund to support UK-based green technology companies in sectors such as power, transport, waste, and building efficiency.<sup>3129</sup> The earmarked funding consists of GBP20 million from the Department and GBP20 million from charity investor CCLA, and up to GBP60 million is expected from private sector fundraising.<sup>3130</sup>

On 10 June 2020, the government of the United Kingdom announced the launch of a Future Tech Trade Strategy in the United Kingdom's tech industry.<sup>3131</sup> Measures within the strategy include a new Tech Exporting Academy of experts to support high-potential small and medium enterprises in a way that promotes women's participation, a platform to showcase UK tech globally, a network to grow international partnerships consisting of 25 "tech export champions" across England, and an expansion of the Department for International Trade's High Potential Opportunities program to drive foreign direct investment in emerging tech subsectors.<sup>3132</sup> Additionally, the government launched a GBP8 million Digital Trade Network to connect UK tech businesses to the Asia-Pacific,<sup>3133</sup> which aims to open opportunities for exporters in and inward investment into the UK.<sup>3134</sup>

On 16 June 2020, Transport Secretary Grant Shapps announced the rollout of green number plates for zero emission vehicles to facilitate local incentives for the adoption of such vehicles.<sup>3135</sup> The 17 June 2020 opening of a funding competition for up to GBP10 million to support zero emission vehicle research and development by the UK Innovation Funding Service complemented this.<sup>3136</sup>

On 30 June 2020, the government of the United Kingdom announced a number of economic recovery measures, including over GBP1 billion for school rebuilding, GBP760 million for school and college repairs and upgrades, GBP10 million for scaling up innovation in electric power technologies such as batteries and motors, GBP40 million for a Green Recovery Challenge Fund supporting local projects to promote

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<sup>3128</sup> £2 billion package to create new era for cycling and walking, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 May 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2-billion-package-to-create-new-era-for-cycling-and-walking>.

<sup>3129</sup> Government launches new £40 million Clean Growth Fund to supercharge green start-ups, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-40-million-clean-growth-fund-to-supercharge-green-start-ups>.

<sup>3130</sup> Government launches new £40 million Clean Growth Fund to supercharge green start-ups, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-40-million-clean-growth-fund-to-supercharge-green-start-ups>.

<sup>3131</sup> Liz Truss launches future trade strategy for UK tech industry, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 9 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/liz-truss-launches-future-trade-strategy-for-uk-tech-industry>.

<sup>3132</sup> Liz Truss launches future trade strategy for UK tech industry, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 9 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/liz-truss-launches-future-trade-strategy-for-uk-tech-industry>.

<sup>3133</sup> Future Tech Trade Strategy Launch, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 10 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/future-tech-trade-strategy-launch>

<sup>3134</sup> Liz Truss launches future trade strategy for UK tech industry, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 9 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/liz-truss-launches-future-trade-strategy-for-uk-tech-industry>

<sup>3135</sup> Green number plates get the green light for a zero-emission future, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 16 June 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/green-number-plates-get-the-green-light-for-a-zero-emission-future>.

<sup>3136</sup> Catalysing Green Innovation: strand 2: Securing the future of ZEV, Government of the United Kingdom (London), N.D. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/652/overview#summary>.

biodiversity and climate action, and up to GBP100 million for research and development in direct air capture of carbon dioxide emissions.<sup>3137</sup>

On 8 July 2020, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak announced a “Plan for Jobs,” which contained GBP8.8 billion of infrastructure creation or maintenance and emission reduction funding.<sup>3138</sup> Key programs included a GBP2 billion Green Homes Grant program to pay for residential energy efficiency improvements and a GBP1 billion program to improve the performance of public buildings such as schools and hospitals.<sup>3139</sup>

On 22 July 2020, the government of the United Kingdom announced GBP350 million in funding for emission reduction projects, including GBP139 million for the adoption of hydrogen power and scale-up of carbon capture and storage, GBP149 million for the reuse and recycling of materials in heavy industry, and GBP26 million to reduce emissions during the construction process.<sup>3140</sup> On the same day, Prime Minister Boris Johnson launched the first meeting of the Jet Zero Council, which aims to develop the first ever zero emission long-haul passenger plane.

On 1 September 2020, the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy began accepting applications from Asia and Latin America for a Green Recovery Challenge Fund delivered through the Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions initiative.<sup>3141,3142</sup> The initiative aims to disburse GBP12 million to emissions reduction projects in Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia.<sup>3143</sup>

On 18 November 2020, the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Prime Minister’s Office issued a Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution to reduce UK greenhouse gas emissions by 180MtCO<sub>2</sub>e between 2023 and 2032.<sup>3144</sup> The Plan earmarks GBP12 billion in government funding for actions including offshore wind, clean hydrogen, advanced nuclear power, zero emission vehicles, public transit and active transport, low-emission aviation and marine transport, green buildings, carbon capture, ecosystem protection, and sustainable finance.<sup>3145</sup> This builds on Chancellor Sunak’s 9 November 2020 Financial Services Statement announcement that disclosures consistent with the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures’ recommendations will be mandatory across the economy by 2025.<sup>3146</sup>

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<sup>3137</sup> PM: A New Deal for Britain, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-a-new-deal-for-britain>.

<sup>3138</sup> Chancellor’s Plan for Jobs to help the UK’s recovery, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/rishis-plan-for-jobs-will-help-britain-bounce-back>.

<sup>3139</sup> Chancellor’s Plan for Jobs to help the UK’s recovery, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/rishis-plan-for-jobs-will-help-britain-bounce-back>.

<sup>3140</sup> PM commits £350 million to fuel green recovery, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-commits-350-million-to-fuel-green-recovery>.

<sup>3141</sup> Do you have an innovative idea for Greening financial systems, UK PACT (London) 1 September 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.ukpact.co.uk/news/latam-greening-financial-systems>.

<sup>3142</sup> Ideas for Greening financial systems or Electrifying urban mobility, UK PACT (London) 1 September 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.ukpact.co.uk/news/greening-financial-systems-electrifying-urban-mobility-asia>.

<sup>3143</sup> Green Recovery Challenge Fund, UK PACT (London) N.D. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.ukpact.co.uk/green-recovery-challenge-fund>.

<sup>3144</sup> The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 18 November 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-ten-point-plan-for-a-green-industrial-revolution/title#introduction>.

<sup>3145</sup> The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 18 November 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-ten-point-plan-for-a-green-industrial-revolution/title#introduction>.

<sup>3146</sup> Chancellor sets out ambition for future of UK financial services, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 November 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-sets-out-ambition-for-future-of-uk-financial-services>.

On 23 January 2021, Secretary Shapps announced a GBP794 million investment package for a new phase of the East West Rail project to connect Oxford and Cambridge, and for reopening segments of the Northumberland rail line that had been closed since the 1960s.<sup>3147</sup> Work supported by this funding will include the construction of new stations and the enhancement of existing stations on the Bicester-Bletchley segment of East West Rail, and preparatory works on the Northumberland line.<sup>3148</sup>

The United Kingdom has taken strong actions to promote clean technology and innovation. However, its 2020 real growth in gross domestic product, which is -10 per cent, does not reach the 1.4 per cent growth projected by the International Monetary Fund in January 2020.<sup>3149</sup>

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Cindy Hub, Zhenglin Liu*

### **United States: 0**

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to restore the level of growth anticipated before the COVID-19 pandemic and go beyond.

On 27 March 2020, the U.S. government passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, which responded to “the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) outbreak and its impact on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses.”<sup>3150</sup> The act injected USD2.2 trillion into the U.S economy in order to support small businesses, struggling families, and local governments.<sup>3151</sup> Through it, the Federal Transit Administration under the Department of Transportation allocated USD25 billion in funding to support transit services across the nation towards both capital and operating expenses.<sup>3152</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced the Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program, which offers USD100 million in competitive funding for biofuels infrastructure.<sup>3153</sup> Funds will be disbursed directly to fueling and distribution facilities to subsidize the installation of fuel pumps and related infrastructure and equipment.<sup>3154</sup>

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<sup>3147</sup> Transport Secretary launches £794 million investment to boost rail links in north and south, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 23 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/transport-secretary-launches-794-million-investment-to-boost-rail-links-in-north-and-south>.

<sup>3148</sup> Transport Secretary launches £794 million investment to boost rail links in north and south, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 23 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/transport-secretary-launches-794-million-investment-to-boost-rail-links-in-north-and-south>.

<sup>3149</sup> World Economic Outlook, January 2021 Update, International Monetary Fund (Washington DC) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/weo-database/2020/October>.

<sup>3150</sup> H.R. 748 - CARES Act, United States Congress (Washington DC) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/748>

<sup>3151</sup> Trump signs \$2.2T stimulus after swift congressional votes, Associated Press (Washington DC) 28 March 2020. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://apnews.com/article/2099a53bb8adf2def7ee7329ea322f9d>

<sup>3152</sup> Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Federal Transit Administration (Washington DC) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.transit.dot.gov/cares-act>.

<sup>3153</sup> USDA Announces \$100 Million for American Biofuels Infrastructure, Department of Agriculture (Washington DC) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/05/04/usda-announces-100-million-american-biofuels-infrastructure>.

<sup>3154</sup> USDA Announces \$100 Million for American Biofuels Infrastructure, Department of Agriculture (Washington DC) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/05/04/usda-announces-100-million-american-biofuels-infrastructure>.

On 19 May 2020, the 5th American Workforce Policy Advisory Board Meeting was held to discuss the implementation of recent initiatives to address employment concerns both during and after the pandemic.<sup>3155</sup> Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross commended the “Multiple Pathways” initiatives aimed at ensuring that “all society can access digital learning and the digital economy by expanding broadband access.”<sup>3156</sup>

On 9 September 2020, the Department of Labor announced that it would provide up to USD4 million to strengthen workers’ rights in the Indo-Pacific region, with a particular emphasis on female workers.<sup>3157</sup> The grant would implement projects to “improve compliance with labor standards, including occupational safety and health standards, and to address wage inequality and workplace discrimination for women employees in targeted rural sectors.”<sup>3158</sup>

On 2 November 2020, the Department of Labor announced a Memorandum of Understanding with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which would add Department of Justice oversight to “coordinate in the effective and efficient enforcement of civil rights laws for the benefit of America’s workforce” and strengthen the enforcement of the commission.<sup>3159</sup>

On 22 December 2020, Secretary of Treasury Steven Mnuchin made a statement on the passage of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. He stated that the “bipartisan legislation will provide another round of Economic Impact Payments to eligible individuals and families, renew the Paycheck Protection Program to support small businesses and their employees, ensure needed access to unemployment benefits for Americans who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19, and provide additional funding for schools, vaccine distribution, and other important sectors of the economy.”<sup>3160</sup>

On 15 January 2021, the Department of Labor announced that it would provide USD40 million to strengthen community college training programs in the US “to build the capacity of community colleges to meet labor market demand for a skilled workforce.”<sup>3161</sup> The grant aims at strengthening training for critical industries including healthcare, logistics and cybersecurity as well as facilitating online-learning programs and expanding technology training for students.<sup>3162</sup>

On 19 January 2021, the Department of Labor announced USD145 million in investments to boost workforce training in key industries including information technology, advanced manufacturing and

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<sup>3155</sup> Remarks by Commerce Secretary Wilbur L. Ross at the 5th American Workforce Policy Advisory Board Meeting, Department of Commerce (Washington DC) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://2017-2021.commerce.gov/news/speeches/2020/05/remarks-commerce-secretary-wilbur-l-ross-5th-american-workforce-policy.html>

<sup>3156</sup> Remarks by Commerce Secretary Wilbur L. Ross at the 5th American Workforce Policy Advisory Board Meeting, Department of Commerce (Washington DC) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://2017-2021.commerce.gov/news/speeches/2020/05/remarks-commerce-secretary-wilbur-l-ross-5th-american-workforce-policy.html>

<sup>3157</sup> U.S. Department of Labor to Award \$4 Million Grant to Improve Worker Rights in Rural Sectors of the Indo-Pacific with a Focus on Women Workers, Department of Labor (Washington DC) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20200909>.

<sup>3158</sup> U.S. Department of Labor to Award \$4 Million Grant to Improve Worker Rights in Rural Sectors of the Indo-Pacific with a Focus on Women Workers, Department of Labor (Washington DC) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20200909>.

<sup>3159</sup> U.S. Department of Labor Revises Memorandum of Understanding on Coordination of Civil Rights Enforcement, Department of Labor (Washington DC) 2 November 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ofccp/ofccp20201102>.

<sup>3160</sup> Statement by Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin on Passage of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, United States Treasury (Washington DC) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm1221>.

<sup>3161</sup> U.S. Department of Labor Awards \$40 Million in Strengthening Community College Training Grants, Department of Labor (Washington DC) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210115-1>.

<sup>3162</sup> U.S. Department of Labor Awards \$40 Million in Strengthening Community College Training Grants, Department of Labor (Washington DC) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210115-1>.

transportation.<sup>3163</sup> Grant recipients would “focus on upskilling the current workforce and training the workforce of the future” in these specific areas, as well as developing training programs that would include both in-class and on-the-job experience for workers.<sup>3164</sup>

On 20 January 2021, the Treasury Department of the United States delivered the second round of Economic Impact Payments.<sup>3165</sup> With the broader eligibility to claim the payment, the Internal Revenue Service “urges taxpayers who did not receive a payment this year to review the eligibility criteria when they file their 2020 taxes; many people, including recent college graduates, may be eligible to claim it.”<sup>3166</sup>

On 28 January 2021, the Department of State announced that it was taking steps to appropriate USD32.5 million to support the United Nations Population Fund to promote the global safety and prosperity of women, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3167</sup> Furthermore, the United States announced that it would partner “with governments, the private sector, and international and non-governmental organizations ... to empower women and girls so that they could realize their full potential and drive social and economic development.”<sup>3168</sup>

By funding sustainable infrastructure and education as well as supporting employment equality domestically and abroad, the United States has taken strong actions to promote clean technology and infrastructure and economic inclusion. However, its 2020 real growth in gross domestic product, which is –3.4 per cent, does not reach the two per cent growth projected by the International Monetary Fund in January 2020.<sup>3169</sup>

Thus, The United States receives a score of 0.

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## **European Union: 0**

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to restore the level of growth anticipated before the COVID-19 pandemic and go beyond.

On 27 May 2020, the European Commission proposed a EUR2.4 trillion recovery plan to deliver a more sustainable, digital, inclusive, and fair Europe, integrated with its 2021-2027 long-term budget.<sup>3170</sup> Programs proposed include building retrofits and infrastructure refurbishment, renewable energy and hydrogen economy development, clean transport expansion—including by installing one million electric vehicle charging points, investments in 5G, and supporting technologies such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity,

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<sup>3163</sup> U.S. Department of Labor Announces \$145 Million to Invest in Workforce Training for Key U.S. Economic Sectors, Department of Labor (Washington DC) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210119>.

<sup>3164</sup> U.S. Department of Labor Announces \$145 Million to Invest in Workforce Training for Key U.S. Economic Sectors, Department of Labor (Washington DC) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210119>.

<sup>3165</sup> Your Money and Coronavirus: Resources for Financial Relief, United States Treasury (Washington DC) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/featured-stories/your-money-and-coronavirus-resources-for-financial-relief>.

<sup>3166</sup> Your Money and Coronavirus: Resources for Financial Relief, United States Treasury (Washington DC) 20 January 2021. Access Date: 2 March 2021. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/featured-stories/your-money-and-coronavirus-resources-for-financial-relief>.

<sup>3167</sup> Prioritizing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights in U.S. Foreign Policy, Department of State (Washington DC) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.state.gov/prioritizing-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-reproductive-rights-in-u-s-foreign-policy/>.

<sup>3168</sup> Prioritizing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights in U.S. Foreign Policy, Department of State (Washington DC) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.state.gov/prioritizing-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-reproductive-rights-in-u-s-foreign-policy/>.

<sup>3169</sup> World Economic Outlook, January 2021 Update, International Monetary Fund (Washington DC) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/weo-database/2020/October>.

<sup>3170</sup> Europe’s moment: Repair and prepare for the next generation, European Commission (Brussels) 27 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_940](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_940).

and cloud computing.<sup>3171</sup> The plan and multiannual budget were adopted by the European Council on 21 July 2020 and passed by the European Parliament on 17 December 2020.<sup>3172</sup> In its final form, the multiannual financial framework is worth EUR1.8 trillion for the period of 2021-2027, and EUR750 billions of this sum is to be made available to a COVID-19 recovery fund between 2021 and 2023.<sup>3173</sup> Futureproofing is a focus, as 30 per cent of spending is earmarked for climate-related action and digitalization, and the majority of the grants are to be allocated through the EU's Next Generation European Union program.<sup>3174</sup>

On 8 June 2020, the European Union announced that over EUR148 million in funding had been awarded to 36 companies through the European Innovation Council Accelerator Pilot to support their contributions to the EU recovery plan.<sup>3175</sup> Examples of projects funded include improved wind turbines constructed from wood, an organic fertilizer production system, and a sustainable recycling solution based on blockchain.<sup>3176</sup>

On 17 September 2020, the European Union set out guidelines for the implementation of the Next Generation European Union program's EUR672.5 billion Recovery and Resilience Facility, which aims to help build a digital and sustainable recovery, in its 2020 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy.<sup>3177</sup> Environmental sustainability, productivity, fairness, and macroeconomic stability remain guiding principles.<sup>3178</sup>

The European Union has taken strong actions to promote clean technology and infrastructure and economic inclusion. However, the Euro Area's 2020 real growth in gross domestic product, which is -7.2 per cent, does not reach the 1.3 per cent growth projected by the International Monetary Fund in January 2020.<sup>3179</sup>

Thus, the European Union receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Anjali Roy*

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<sup>3171</sup> Europe's moment: Repair and prepare for the next generation, European Commission (Brussels) 27 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_940](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_940).

<sup>3172</sup> Coronavirus Response Highlights March to August 2020, European Commission (Brussels), 21 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/highlights/march-august-2020\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/highlights/march-august-2020_en)

<sup>3173</sup> Long-term EU budget 2021-2027 and recovery package, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/the-eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget-2021-2027/>.

<sup>3174</sup> Long-term EU budget 2021-2027 and recovery package, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/the-eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget-2021-2027/>.

<sup>3175</sup> Coronavirus: EU grants €314 million to innovative companies to combat the virus and support recovery, European Commission (Brussels) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1007](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1007).

<sup>3176</sup> Coronavirus: EU grants €314 million to innovative companies to combat the virus and support recovery, European Commission (Brussels) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1007](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1007).

<sup>3177</sup> NextGenerationEU: Commission presents next steps for €672.5 billion Recovery and Resilience Facility in 2021 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1658](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1658).

<sup>3178</sup> NextGenerationEU: Commission presents next steps for €672.5 billion Recovery and Resilience Facility in 2021 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1658](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1658).

<sup>3179</sup> World Economic Outlook, January 2021 Update, International Monetary Fund (Washington DC) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/weo-database/2020/October>.

## 18. Trade: Supporting Trade and Investment

“We are committed to marshalling the full power of our governments to: Support trade and investment.”

*G7 Leaders’ Statement*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

### Background

On 16 March 2020, under the U.S. presidency, G7 leaders met virtually to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time, they expected to meet again in three months at their regularly scheduled summit on 10-12 June 2020, which was later postponed indefinitely.

The leaders’ statement from the Virtual Summit recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic “poses major risks for the world economy.”<sup>3180</sup> In response to the economic implication of the COVID-19 pandemic, the G7 leaders have expressed their ongoing commitment to the stability of the global economy, including the facilitation of international trade and investment.<sup>3181</sup>

The global trading system was established after the Second World War through the Bretton Woods system. The Bretton Woods system established a number of international organizations to facilitate international trade and reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers. For instance, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was a multilateral trade agreement with a purpose of reducing or eliminating trade barriers including tariffs and quotas.<sup>3182</sup>

On 1 January 1995, the World Trade Organization (WTO) was established in Geneva Switzerland as a revised version of the GATT.<sup>3183</sup> The WTO is a multilateral trade agreement that works to ensure that international rules and regulations surrounding trade are properly applied and enforced.<sup>3184</sup> The WTO agreements outline the principles of trade liberalization and broadly cover the trade of goods, services and intellectual properties.<sup>3185</sup> One of the fundamental principles of the WTO is to combat protectionist trade measures by reducing or eliminating trade barriers.<sup>3186</sup>

<sup>3180</sup> G7 Leaders’ Declaration, G7 France (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-of-leaders.html>.

<sup>3181</sup> G7 Leaders’ Declaration, G7 France (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-of-leaders.html>.

<sup>3182</sup> The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT 1947), World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 15 December 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/docs\\_e/legal\\_e/gatt47\\_01\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/gatt47_01_e.htm).

<sup>3183</sup> The WTO, World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 15 December 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/thewto\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/thewto_e.htm).

<sup>3184</sup> The WTO, World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 15 December 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/thewto\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/thewto_e.htm).

<sup>3185</sup> The WTO, World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 15 December 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/thewto\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/thewto_e.htm).

<sup>3186</sup> The WTO, World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 15 December 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/thewto\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/thewto_e.htm).



The facilitation of international trade has been a significant economic priority of the G7/8 since the 1980s. During that period, the G7/8 made broad commitments to encourage the development of free markets and to encourage the reduction of trade barriers. After the establishment of the WTO in 1995, the G7/8 included the multilateral trading framework in a number of its commitments.<sup>3187</sup> For instance, at the 1996 Lyon Summit, G7 leaders “[reaffirmed] the central role of the WTO and the preeminence of multilateral rules, which should serve as the framework for regional initiative.”<sup>3188</sup> Additionally, after the 1996 Summit the G7/8 members began to include investment and economic growth as an objective of the world trading system.<sup>3189</sup>

After the 2007-2008 financial crisis, G7/8 leaders focused on reinforcing the established trading system to facilitate barrier-free trade. For instance, at the 2014 Summit in Brussels, the G7 members reaffirmed their “commitment to keep our markets open and to fight all forms of protectionism including through standstill and rollback.”<sup>3190</sup> At the 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit and the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 leaders made similar commitments to liberalize their trade economies and improve international competitiveness.<sup>3191</sup>

At the 2017 Summit in Taormina, the G7 leaders reiterated their “commitment to keep our markets open and fight protectionism,” while also “acknowledging that trade has not always worked for the benefit of everyone.”<sup>3192</sup> The 2017 Taormina Summit was also the first summit in which US President Donald Trump attended. At the summit, President Trump expressed a desire to impose unilateral tariffs on Mexico and China.<sup>3193</sup>

At 2018 Charlevoix Summit, the G7 leaders “acknowledged that free, fair and mutually beneficial trade and investment, while creating reciprocal benefits are key engines for growth and job creation.”<sup>3194</sup> The leaders also “underlined the crucial role of a rules-based international trading system and continue to fight protectionism.”<sup>3195</sup> Then at the 2019 Biarritz Summit the G7 leaders declared that “the G7 is committed to open and fair trade and to the stability of the global economy.”<sup>3196</sup> The G7 also declared its desire to “overhaul the WTO to improve effectiveness with regard to intellectual property protection, to settle disputes more swiftly and to eliminate unfair trade practices.”<sup>3197</sup>

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<sup>3187</sup> Economic Communiqué: Making a Success of Globalization for the Benefit of All, G7 France (Lyon) 18 June 1996. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1996lyon/communique.html#eco2>.

<sup>3188</sup> Economic Communiqué: Making a Success of Globalization for the Benefit of All, G7 France (Lyon) 18 June 1996. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1996lyon/communique.html#eco2>.

<sup>3189</sup> Economic Communiqué: Making a Success of Globalization for the Benefit of All, G7 France (Lyon) 18 June 1996. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1996lyon/communique.html#eco2>.

<sup>3190</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Brussels (Brussels) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

<sup>3191</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Japan (Ise-Shima) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html#trade>.

<sup>3192</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 201 Italia (Taormina) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

<sup>3193</sup> G7 leaders divided on climate change, closer on trade issues, Reuters (Taormina) 25 May 2017. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-g7-summit/g7-leaders-divided-on-climate-change-closer-on-tradeissues-idUSKBN18L2ZU>.

<sup>3194</sup> The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 2018 Charlevoix (La Malbaie) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

<sup>3195</sup> The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 2018 Charlevoix (La Malbaie) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

<sup>3196</sup> G7 Leaders’ Declaration, G7 France (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-of-leaders.html>.

<sup>3197</sup> G7 Leaders’ Declaration, G7 France (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-of-leaders.html>.

## Commitment Features

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the significant economic challenges that the health crisis has created, the G7 members have agreed to “marshalling the full power of our governments to: Support trade and investment.”

The first component of the commitment is “marshalling the full power of [their] governments.” These efforts to marshal the power of their governments must “support trade and investment.” The term “marshalling” refers to the action of bringing together multiple components to achieve a certain goal.<sup>3198</sup> The term “support” refers to the action or process of assisting or aiding an initiative, or entity.<sup>3199</sup>

The term “trade” is defined as the trade of goods, services and intellectual properties between nations.<sup>3200</sup> Examples of actions that would demonstrate a strong commitment to facilitating trade include, but are not limited to, government actions that endorse an environment where companies and individuals can trade freely without limits, that reduce tariffs and taxes on imports to allow for unimpeded trade, that reduce the use of non-trade barriers and trade-distorting practices.

The term “investment” refers to the action or process of allocating capital funds or resources to an organization with the expectation that the investment will deliver defined outputs or outcomes.<sup>3201</sup> The most common form of investments are revenue funding or capital investments.<sup>3202</sup> Some examples of actions that strongly support investment include the establishment of investment funds, the creation of agencies that work to attract foreign investments, and the implementation of trade and investment agreements between parties. Given the significant economic challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has created, efforts to support trade and investment should be focused on enhancing economic recovery or responding to the global health crisis.

The extent to which a G7 member fulfills this commitment will be measured through a depth analysis. In order to achieve full compliance, the G7 member must strongly support both trade and investment to enhance economic recovery or respond to the global health crisis. Examples of actions that warrant full compliance include domestic and international actions such as launching programs to facilitate trade and investment, enforcing free-trade policies through legislative action, and directly supporting international institutions that facilitate trade and investment. Examples of actions that warrant partial compliance may include only supporting domestic efforts such as referencing components of the commitment in official state remarks, assigning budgetary resources to programs that support the commitment, or changing fiscal or monetary policies in an effort to support trade and investment.

To achieve full compliance, G7 members must take action according to both parts of the commitment by strongly supporting both trade and investment efforts. Partial compliance will be awarded if a G7 member only supports one of the commitment areas – either trade or investment. A G7 member will receive a score of no compliance if they have not demonstrated support for any part of the commitment.

## Scoring Guidelines

-1	G7 member has failed to take action to strongly support trade or investment.
0	G7 member has taken action to strongly support trade OR investment.

<sup>3198</sup> Marshal, Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Access Date: 21 January 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/marshal>.

<sup>3199</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 6 August 2019. Access Date: 1 January 2021. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mArZpxMjf-O9IXEjcf79Jvzvd97S-9Cs4xb0W4GyXg/edit>.

<sup>3200</sup> What We Stand For, World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 15 December 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/whatis\\_e/what\\_stand\\_for\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/what_stand_for_e.htm).

<sup>3201</sup> Social Investment and Social Enterprise, United Kingdom presidency of the G8 (Lough Erne) 3 June 2013. Access Date: 1 January 2021. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2013lougherne/factsheet\\_socialinvestment.html](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2013lougherne/factsheet_socialinvestment.html).

<sup>3202</sup> Social Investment and Social Enterprise, United Kingdom presidency of the G8 (Lough Erne) 3 June 2013. Access Date: 1 January 2021. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2013lougherne/factsheet\\_socialinvestment.html](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2013lougherne/factsheet_socialinvestment.html).

+1	G7 member has taken action to strongly support trade AND investment.
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*Compliance Director: Emma Day  
Lead Analyst: Matthew Kieffer*

**Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to support trade and investment.

On 5 May 2020, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng issued a statement on joint collaboration by members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum amid the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3203</sup> Minister Ng said, “it is imperative that trade remains open and predictable to facilitate the flow of essential goods and services, and to minimize disruptions to global supply chains.”<sup>3204</sup>

On 28 May 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, along with the Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica, and António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, launched the Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond Initiative to find innovative solutions to continue investing in international and domestic areas.<sup>3205</sup>

On 25 July 2020, Minister Ng participated in the virtual APEC trade ministers meeting to “discuss strengthening rules-based trade and upholding stable and predictable global supply chains.”<sup>3206</sup> During the meeting, Minister Ng announced that Canada would move to Phase II of the APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership which will help small businesses by reducing trade barriers.<sup>3207</sup> Minister Ng and her Asia-Pacific counterparts also signed onto a joint statement to reaffirm their commitment to collaborating on economic recovery actions amid the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3208</sup>

On 22 September 2020, Minister Ng participated in the G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting.<sup>3209</sup> During the meeting, Minister Ng committed to implementing the G20 Action Plan on Trade and Investment.<sup>3210</sup> The Action Plan was created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3211</sup>

<sup>3203</sup> Statement on joint collaboration by APEC members amid COVID-19 pandemic, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/statement-on-joint-collaboration-by-apec-members-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

<sup>3204</sup> Statement on joint collaboration by APEC members amid COVID-19 pandemic, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/statement-on-joint-collaboration-by-apec-members-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

<sup>3205</sup> The Secretary-General's press conference with the Prime Ministers of Canada and Jamaica on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond, United Nations Secretary General (Ottawa) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/press-encounter/2020-05-28/the-secretary-generals-press-conference-the-prime-ministers-of-canada-and-jamaica-financing-for-development-the-era-of-covid-19-and-beyond>.

<sup>3206</sup> Minister Ng participates in APEC trade ministers meeting and announces expansion of APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 25 July 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/07/minister-ng-participates-in-apec-trade-ministers-meeting-and-announces-expansion-of-apec-canada-growing-business-partnership.html>.

<sup>3207</sup> Minister Ng participates in APEC trade ministers meeting and announces expansion of APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 25 July 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/07/minister-ng-participates-in-apec-trade-ministers-meeting-and-announces-expansion-of-apec-canada-growing-business-partnership.html>.

<sup>3208</sup> Minister Ng participates in APEC trade ministers meeting and announces expansion of APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 25 July 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/07/minister-ng-participates-in-apec-trade-ministers-meeting-and-announces-expansion-of-apec-canada-growing-business-partnership.html>.

<sup>3209</sup> Canada's support of G20 world trade and investment response to COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 22 September 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations\\_relations\\_internationales/g20/2020-09-22-action\\_plan-plan\\_action.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations_relations_internationales/g20/2020-09-22-action_plan-plan_action.aspx?lang=eng).

On 17 December 2020, Minister Ng announced that the Canada-led Ottawa Group Trade and Health initiative was presented to the World Health Organization Council for discussion.<sup>3212</sup> The Trade and Health Initiative includes Canada and 12 other Ottawa Group member nations calling on enhanced cooperation among WTO members to strengthen global supply chains and facilitate the flow of essential medicines amid the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3213</sup>

On 11 January 2021, Minister Ng announced that it has started public consultations with Indonesia for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.<sup>3214</sup>

On 28 January 2021, Minister Ng spoke with Valdis Dombrovskis, European Commission Executive Vice-President and Commissioner for Trade, about the importance of sustaining vaccine and medical supply trade flows.<sup>3215</sup> Minister Ng and Mr. Dombrovskis also acknowledged their ongoing collaborative work on reforming the World Trade Organization (WTO) including participation in the Ottawa Group.<sup>3216</sup>

On 29 January 2021, Minister Ng participated in a virtual WTO meeting of fellow ministers.<sup>3217</sup> They discussed key priorities to “strengthen the rules-based multilateral trading system in support of an inclusive, sustainable and resilient global recovery.”<sup>3218</sup> During the meeting, Minister Ng highlighted the Ottawa Group’s efforts to keep markets open and to facilitate the distribution of vaccines.<sup>3219</sup>

Canada has taken action and has made collaborative efforts towards supporting both the trade and investment aspects of its commitment in creating strategies adapted to COVID-19.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Katherine Yarun*

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<sup>3210</sup> Canada’s support of G20 world trade and investment response to COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 22 September 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations-relations\\_internationales/g20/2020-09-22-action\\_plan-plan\\_action.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2020-09-22-action_plan-plan_action.aspx?lang=eng).

<sup>3211</sup> Canada’s support of G20 world trade and investment response to COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 22 September 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations-relations\\_internationales/g20/2020-09-22-action\\_plan-plan\\_action.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2020-09-22-action_plan-plan_action.aspx?lang=eng).

<sup>3212</sup> Minister Ng announces tabling of Ottawa Group’s Trade and Health Initiative at WTO General Council, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/minister-ng-announces-tabling-of-ottawa-groups-trade-and-health-initiative-at-wto-general-council.html>.

<sup>3213</sup> Minister Ng announces tabling of Ottawa Group’s Trade and Health Initiative at WTO General Council, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/minister-ng-announces-tabling-of-ottawa-groups-trade-and-health-initiative-at-wto-general-council.html>.

<sup>3214</sup> Consulting Canadians on a possible comprehensive economic partnership agreement with Indonesia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/consultations/consulting-indonesia-consultation-indonesie.aspx?lang=eng>.

<sup>3215</sup> Minister Ng speaks with European Commissioner for Trade Valdis Dombrovskis, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 28 January 2021, Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-speaks-with-european-commissioner-for-trade-valdis-dombrovskis.html>.

<sup>3216</sup> Minister Ng speaks with European Commissioner for Trade Valdis Dombrovskis, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 28 January 2021, Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-speaks-with-european-commissioner-for-trade-valdis-dombrovskis.html>.

<sup>3217</sup> Minister Ng Discusses global trade and economic recovery in WTO ministerial meeting, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-discusses-global-trade-and-economic-recovery-in-wto-ministerial-meeting.html>.

<sup>3218</sup> Minister Ng Discusses global trade and economic recovery in WTO ministerial meeting, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-discusses-global-trade-and-economic-recovery-in-wto-ministerial-meeting.html>.

<sup>3219</sup> Minister Ng Discusses global trade and economic recovery in WTO ministerial meeting, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-discusses-global-trade-and-economic-recovery-in-wto-ministerial-meeting.html>.

## France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to support trade and investment.

On 30 March 2020, Minister of State Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne participated in a meeting with the G20 Trade and Investment Ministers.<sup>3220</sup> The ministers discussed the use of coordinated trade policy measures to combat the economic challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. They agreed on a statement with the following commitments: 1) to ensure the continued flow of essential goods to combat the pandemic (e.g. medical supplies and agricultural goods), 2) to ensure that any export restrictions remain consistent with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, 3) to ensure an open, free, fair, non-discriminatory, and transparent trade system, 4) to monitor the impact of the epidemic on trade and investment.<sup>3221</sup>

On 3 September 2020, Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness Franck Riester spoke to Canada's Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng about how to strengthen their countries' economic ties through trade.<sup>3222</sup> Minister Riester and Minister Ng also discussed ways to promote new opportunities for Canadian and French businesses amid the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3223</sup>

On 3 September 2020, Prime Minister Jean Castex announced the key priorities of France's economic recovery plan.<sup>3224</sup> He announced that the European Union will contribute 40 percent of France's recovery plan and that the European funding will be "awarded to support investments and reforms which have a lasting effect on productivity, support and drive forward the energy and digital transition and facilitate the convergence of European economies."<sup>3225</sup>

On 1 March 2021, Minister Riester spoke with German Minister for the Economy and Energy Peter Altmaier about the new trade policy presented by the European Commission.<sup>3226</sup> The new trade policy aims to address a number of challenges including COVID-19 economic recovery and reforming the WTO.<sup>3227</sup>

France has demonstrated support for trade and investment in both international and domestic contexts.

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<sup>3220</sup> G20 - Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne's participation in the telephone meeting between the G20 trade and investment ministers (30 Mar. 20), France Diplomacy (Paris) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/g20-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-s-participation-in-the-telephone-meeting-between-the>.

<sup>3221</sup> G20 - Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne's participation in the telephone meeting between the G20 trade and investment ministers (30 Mar. 20), France Diplomacy (Paris) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/g20-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-s-participation-in-the-telephone-meeting-between-the>.

<sup>3222</sup> Readout: Minister Ng speaks with France's Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/09/readout-minister-ng-speaks-with-frances-minister-delegate-for-foreign-trade-and-economic-attractiveness.html>.

<sup>3223</sup> Readout: Minister Ng speaks with France's Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/09/readout-minister-ng-speaks-with-frances-minister-delegate-for-foreign-trade-and-economic-attractiveness.html>.

<sup>3224</sup> European aspects of France's recovery plan, Government of France (Paris) 3 September 2020. Access Date: Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/european-aspects-of-france-s-recovery-plan>.

<sup>3225</sup> European aspects of France's recovery plan, Government of France (Paris) 3 September 2020. Access Date: Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/european-aspects-of-france-s-recovery-plan>.

<sup>3226</sup> International trade – Conversation between Franck Riester and Germany's minister for the economy and energy (1 March 2021), France Diplomacy (Paris) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-trade-conversation-between-franck-riester-and-germany-s-minister>.

<sup>3227</sup> Questions and Answers: An open, sustainable and assertive trade policy, European Commission (Brussels) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda\\_21\\_645](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_645).

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Joy Fan*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to marshal the full power of its government to support trade and investment.

On 30 March 2020, the German government provided federal export credit guarantees in response to the global health crisis.<sup>3228</sup> This supported trade by preventing possible bottlenecks in the private export credit insurance market.<sup>3229</sup>

On 8 April 2020, the German cabinet amended the Foreign Trade Act to tighten rules on investment from non-EU countries.<sup>3230</sup> Transactions with implications on German security will now be provisionally put on hold pending final decision, and a review can be undertaken if there is assessed to be “likely harm” to the public system or security.<sup>3231</sup>

On 14 May 2020, Economic Affairs Minister Peter Altmaier and his colleagues adopted a number of short and long-term measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on global trade during the G20’s Trade and Investment Ministers conference.<sup>3232</sup> Minister Altmaier said “we need to work even more closely together at international level to jointly tackle the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on trade flows and investment.”<sup>3233</sup>

On 20 May 2020, the German cabinet approved new powers to veto foreign takeovers in the healthcare sector.<sup>3234</sup> This allows the German government to “block takeovers of makers of vaccines, precursor chemicals, medicines, protective equipment or medical machinery such as ventilators,” and allows it to examine the security implications of non-EU bids as soon as a buyer owns more than 10 percent of a healthcare company’s shares.<sup>3235</sup>

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<sup>3228</sup> Bund erweitert Möglichkeiten für Exportkreditgarantien als Reaktion auf Corona-Pandemie, BMWi (Berlin) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.bmw.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200330-bund-erweitert-moeglichkeiten-fuer-exportkreditgarantien-als-reaktion-auf-corona-pandemie.html>.

<sup>3229</sup> Bund erweitert Möglichkeiten für Exportkreditgarantien als Reaktion auf Corona-Pandemie, BMWi (Berlin) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.bmw.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200330-bund-erweitert-moeglichkeiten-fuer-exportkreditgarantien-als-reaktion-auf-corona-pandemie.html>.

<sup>3230</sup> Germany tightens rules on foreign takeovers, Reuters (Berlin) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-germany-mergers-idUSKBN21Q0VI>

<sup>3231</sup> Germany tightens rules on foreign takeovers, Reuters (Berlin) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-germany-mergers-idUSKBN21Q0VI>.

<sup>3232</sup> G20 Trade and Investment Ministers agree on international measures to tackle the coronavirus pandemic, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.bmw.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200515-g20-trade-and-investment-ministers-agree-on-international-measures-to-tackle-the-coronavirus-pandemic.html>.

<sup>3233</sup> G20 Trade and Investment Ministers agree on international measures to tackle the coronavirus pandemic, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.bmw.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200515-g20-trade-and-investment-ministers-agree-on-international-measures-to-tackle-the-coronavirus-pandemic.html>.

<sup>3234</sup> Germany approves new powers to block foreign takeovers in healthcare, Reuters (Berlin) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-germany-m-a/germany-approves-new-powers-to-block-foreign-takeovers-in-healthcare-idUKKBN22W14J>.

<sup>3235</sup> Germany approves new powers to block foreign takeovers in healthcare, Reuters (Berlin) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-germany-m-a/germany-approves-new-powers-to-block-foreign-takeovers-in-healthcare-idUKKBN22W14J>.

On 7 July 2020, the German government announced a five-point package of measures to support the export industry.<sup>3236</sup> The package supported exporters affected by the global health crisis by providing financing options and creating incentives abroad to import German goods and services.<sup>3237</sup>

On 25 August 2020, Germany agreed on an administrative agreement with Serbia.<sup>3238</sup> The agreement serves to strengthen supply chains, further connect Serbia to the EU internal market, and opens the door for future investments.<sup>3239</sup>

On October 7 2020, the German cabinet amended the Foreign Trade Ordinance in accordance with the EU-wide cooperation mechanism.<sup>3240</sup> This amendment strengthens cooperation among EU members regarding non-EU foreign investment.<sup>3241</sup>

On 14 October 2020, the German Development Ministry signed an agreement to invest in new digital systems and e-commerce platforms in developing countries and emerging economies in Africa.<sup>3242</sup> The scheme seeks to use “digital solutions to break down barriers to trade,” and will “act as a springboard for development.”<sup>3243</sup>

On 26 January 2021, Chancellor Angela Merkel gave a speech at the World Economic Forum’s Davos Dialogue.<sup>3244</sup> During her speech, Chancellor Merkel recognized the need to support and reinforce international trade structures outlined by the World Trade organization.<sup>3245</sup>

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<sup>3236</sup> Altmaier: Mit 5-Punkte Maßnahmenpaket unterstützen wir deutsche Exportwirtschaft als wichtigen Pfeiler unserer Wirtschaft, BMWi (Berlin) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200707-altmaier-mit-5-punkte-massnahmepaket-unterstuetzen-wir-deutsche-exportwirtschaft.html>.

<sup>3237</sup> Altmaier: Mit 5-Punkte Maßnahmenpaket unterstützen wir deutsche Exportwirtschaft als wichtigen Pfeiler unserer Wirtschaft, BMWi (Berlin) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200707-altmaier-mit-5-punkte-massnahmepaket-unterstuetzen-wir-deutsche-exportwirtschaft.html>.

<sup>3238</sup> Bundeswirtschaftsminister Altmaier und der serbische Staatspräsident Vučić vereinbaren Partnerschaft zur Verbesserung des Geschäftsumfeldes in Serbien, BMWi (Berlin) 25 August 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200825-bundeswirtschaftsminister-altmaier-und-der-serbische-staatspraesident-vucic-vereinbaren-partnerschaft-zur-verbesserung-des-geschaeftsumfeldes-in-serbien.html>

<sup>3239</sup> Bundeswirtschaftsminister Altmaier und der serbische Staatspräsident Vučić vereinbaren Partnerschaft zur Verbesserung des Geschäftsumfeldes in Serbien, BMWi (Berlin) 25 August 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200825-bundeswirtschaftsminister-altmaier-und-der-serbische-staatspraesident-vucic-vereinbaren-partnerschaft-zur-verbesserung-des-geschaeftsumfeldes-in-serbien.html>

<sup>3240</sup> Bundeskabinett verabschiedet novellierte Außenwirtschaftsverordnung zur Einführung des neuen EU-weiten Kooperationsmechanismus, BMWi (Berlin) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2020/10/20201007-bundeskabinett-verabschiedet-novellierte-aussenwirtschaftsverordnung.html>.

<sup>3241</sup> Bundeskabinett verabschiedet novellierte Außenwirtschaftsverordnung zur Einführung des neuen EU-weiten Kooperationsmechanismus, BMWi (Berlin) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2020/10/20201007-bundeskabinett-verabschiedet-novellierte-aussenwirtschaftsverordnung.html>.

<sup>3242</sup> Deutsche Post DHL Group and German Development Ministry will promote e-commerce in developing countries and emerging economies, BMZ (Berlin) 14 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. [https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/oktober/201014\\_pm\\_033\\_Achieving-prosperity-through-trade-Deutsche-Post-DHL-Group-and-German-Development-Ministry-will-promote-e-commerce-in-developing-countries-and-emerging-economies/index.html](https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/oktober/201014_pm_033_Achieving-prosperity-through-trade-Deutsche-Post-DHL-Group-and-German-Development-Ministry-will-promote-e-commerce-in-developing-countries-and-emerging-economies/index.html).

<sup>3243</sup> Deutsche Post DHL Group and German Development Ministry will promote e-commerce in developing countries and emerging economies, BMZ (Berlin) 14 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. [https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/oktober/201014\\_pm\\_033\\_Achieving-prosperity-through-trade-Deutsche-Post-DHL-Group-and-German-Development-Ministry-will-promote-e-commerce-in-developing-countries-and-emerging-economies/index.html](https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/oktober/201014_pm_033_Achieving-prosperity-through-trade-Deutsche-Post-DHL-Group-and-German-Development-Ministry-will-promote-e-commerce-in-developing-countries-and-emerging-economies/index.html).

<sup>3244</sup> Speech by Federal Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel at the World Economic Forum’s Davos Dialogue on 26 January 2021 (video conference), The Federal Government (Berlin) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/speech-by-federal-chancellor-dr-angela-merkel-at-the-world-economic-forum-s-davos-dialogue-on-26-january-2021-video-conference--1846772>.

Germany has demonstrated strong support for trade and investment to enhance economic recovery or respond to the global health crisis.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Erfan Ebsan*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to marshal the full power of its government to support trade and investment.

On 14 May 2020, Undersecretary Ivan Scalfarotto attended a meeting of the G20 Trade Ministers to discuss the response to the COVID-19 pandemic initiated by the Trade and Investment Working Group.<sup>3246</sup> The working group was tasked with identifying short and long-term collective initiatives to relaunch multilateral trade cooperation and to accelerate economic recovery.<sup>3247</sup>

On 20 July 2020, Undersecretary Scalfarotto met with his Spanish counterpart to discuss trade policy issues.<sup>3248</sup> At the meeting, Scalfarotto affirmed the importance of Airbus subsidy reform in line with the provisions of the World Trade Organization (WTO).<sup>3249</sup> Additionally, both undersecretaries agreed on the importance of European coordination for negotiations to the digital service tax and WTO reform.<sup>3250</sup>

On 19 November 2020, Deputy Minister Manilo Di Stefano attended the web making festival for digital and social innovation.<sup>3251</sup> The deputy minister encouraged investment in hydrogen, block chain, start-ups, and cloud technologies, announcing the expansion of the 394/81 Fund which provides subsidized loans for investments in internationalisation and digitisation projects.<sup>3252</sup>

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<sup>3245</sup> Speech by Federal Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel at the World Economic Forum's Davos Dialogue on 26 January 2021 (video conference), The Federal Government (Berlin) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/speech-by-federal-chancellor-dr-angela-merkel-at-the-world-economic-forum-s-davos-dialogue-on-26-january-2021-video-conference--1846772>.

<sup>3246</sup> Scalfarotto at the G20 Trade Ministers Meeting, Government of Italy (Rome) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/05/scalfarotto-alla-riunione-ministri-del-commercio-g20.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/05/scalfarotto-alla-riunione-ministri-del-commercio-g20.html).

<sup>3247</sup> Scalfarotto at the G20 Trade Ministers Meeting, Government of Italy (Rome) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/05/scalfarotto-alla-riunione-ministri-del-commercio-g20.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/05/scalfarotto-alla-riunione-ministri-del-commercio-g20.html).

<sup>3248</sup> Undersecretary Scalfarotto with the Spanish Secretary of State for Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/colloquio-del-sottosegretario-scalfarotto-con-la-sottosegretaria-di-stato-al-commercio-spagnola-xiana-mendez-bertolo.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/colloquio-del-sottosegretario-scalfarotto-con-la-sottosegretaria-di-stato-al-commercio-spagnola-xiana-mendez-bertolo.html).

<sup>3249</sup> Undersecretary Scalfarotto with the Spanish Secretary of State for Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/colloquio-del-sottosegretario-scalfarotto-con-la-sottosegretaria-di-stato-al-commercio-spagnola-xiana-mendez-bertolo.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/colloquio-del-sottosegretario-scalfarotto-con-la-sottosegretaria-di-stato-al-commercio-spagnola-xiana-mendez-bertolo.html).

<sup>3250</sup> Undersecretary Scalfarotto with the Spanish Secretary of State for Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/colloquio-del-sottosegretario-scalfarotto-con-la-sottosegretaria-di-stato-al-commercio-spagnola-xiana-mendez-bertolo.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/colloquio-del-sottosegretario-scalfarotto-con-la-sottosegretaria-di-stato-al-commercio-spagnola-xiana-mendez-bertolo.html).

<sup>3251</sup> Web Marketing Festival: investing on internationalisation and digitisation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 19 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/11/di-stefano-a-web-marketing-festival-investire-su-internazionalizzazione-e-digitalizzazione.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/11/di-stefano-a-web-marketing-festival-investire-su-internazionalizzazione-e-digitalizzazione.html).

<sup>3252</sup> Web Marketing Festival: investing on internationalisation and digitisation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 19 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/11/di-stefano-a-web-marketing-festival-investire-su-internazionalizzazione-e-digitalizzazione.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/11/di-stefano-a-web-marketing-festival-investire-su-internazionalizzazione-e-digitalizzazione.html).



On 10 December 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Luigi di Maio met with the Turkish minister of trade, Rushar Peckan for the Joint Italy-Turkey Economic and Trade Commission.<sup>3253</sup> The minister of foreign affairs recognized the importance of increasing the bilateral flow of investment, and the ministers signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Italian Trade Agency and its Turkish counterpart in order to “strengthen cooperation between the two agencies.”<sup>3254</sup>

On 15 January 2021, Deputy Minister Di Stefano met with the Foreign Investment Attraction Committee to discuss investment projects in the health sector and the creation of a legal framework more conducive to foreign direct investment.<sup>3255</sup>

Italy has demonstrated support for both trade and investment by implementing programs and seeking partnerships and remains committed to marshalling the full power of trade and investment.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1

*Analyst: Bianca Costantino*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to marshalling the full power of the government to support trade and investment.

On 8 May 2020, amendments made to Japan’s Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act came into effect. The changes lowered the threshold of screening of foreign direct investments from 10 percent to 1 per cent for certain sectors.<sup>3256</sup>

On 11 May 2020, Japan extended its time limits for customs procedures, and exempted, reduced, or refunded custom fees due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3257</sup>

On 13 May 2020, Japan signed a joint statement at the General Council Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organization (WTO).<sup>3258</sup> The statement included a call to “mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on agriculture trade and food security.”<sup>3259</sup> The statement also encouraged members of the WTO to “implement temporary working solutions to facilitate trade.”<sup>3260</sup>

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<sup>3253</sup> Italy-Turkey joint Economic and Trade Commission (JETCO) meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international cooperation (Rome) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

[https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/seconda-sessione-in-formato-virtuale-della-joint-economic-and-trade-commission-jetco-italia-turchia.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/seconda-sessione-in-formato-virtuale-della-joint-economic-and-trade-commission-jetco-italia-turchia.html).

<sup>3254</sup> Italy-Turkey joint Economic and Trade Commission (JETCO) meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international cooperation (Rome) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/seconda-sessione-in-formato-virtuale-della-joint-economic-and-trade-commission-jetco-italia-turchia.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/seconda-sessione-in-formato-virtuale-della-joint-economic-and-trade-commission-jetco-italia-turchia.html).

<sup>3255</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the forefront of the Foreign Investment Attraction Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 01 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/01/farnesina-in-prima-linea-al-comitato-attrazione-investimenti-esteri-caie.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/01/farnesina-in-prima-linea-al-comitato-attrazione-investimenti-esteri-caie.html).

<sup>3256</sup> Factors to be considered in authorities’ screening of foreign direct investment, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international\\_policy/fdi/gaitamehou\\_20200508.htm](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/fdi/gaitamehou_20200508.htm).

<sup>3257</sup> COVID-19 Temporary Trade Measures, International Trade Centre (Geneva) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://macmap.org/OfflineDocument/Covid19/COVID\\_FRA\\_1.pdf](https://macmap.org/OfflineDocument/Covid19/COVID_FRA_1.pdf).

<sup>3258</sup> Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/proposals\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm).

<sup>3259</sup> Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/proposals\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm).

<sup>3260</sup> Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/proposals\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm).

On 14 May 2020, Japan signed a joint statement at the WTO General Council highlighting the importance of small and medium-sized enterprises in economies.<sup>3261</sup> The statement reaffirmed the role of the WTO in international trade and committed the signatories to “work together to deliver a free, fair, predictable, and stable trade environment and to keep our markets open with a view to support the global recovery.”<sup>3262</sup>

On 28 May 2020, Japan signed a joint statement at the WTO General Council about COVID-19 and the multilateral trading system.<sup>3263</sup> As a signatory, Japan pledged to “refrain from raising new unjustified barriers to investment or to trade in goods and services.”<sup>3264</sup>

On 15 June 2020, the Ministry of Finance announced that the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act would be further expanded to include “manufacturing industries related to pharmaceuticals” and “manufacturing [industries] related to highly-controlled medical devices.”<sup>3265</sup>

On 23 October 2020, Japan signed the UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, designed to strengthen mutual trade between the two countries. The agreement includes a commitment from Japan to support the UK joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership.<sup>3266</sup>

On 26 October 2020, Japan signed a joint statement at WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation.<sup>3267</sup> The statement recognized that “Cross-border trade is a critical channel for getting essential products to those who need them” and “as WTO members, we are called to demonstrate leadership by ensuring the smooth and continuous trade in goods.”<sup>3268</sup> The statement also committed its signatories to accelerating the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3269</sup>

On 24 November 2020, Japan signed a joint statement at the WTO General Council about international trade and health.<sup>3270</sup> The statement included specific policy proposals relating to export restrictions, trade facilitation, technical regulations, tariffs, transparency, and review.<sup>3271</sup>

Japan has taken steps to strongly support trade and investment both domestically and internationally through its cooperation with multilateral organizations.

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<sup>3261</sup> Statement on highlighting the importance of MSMEs in the time of COVID-19, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/proposals\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm).

<sup>3262</sup> Statement on highlighting the importance of MSMEs in the time of COVID-19, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/proposals\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm).

<sup>3263</sup> Statement on COVID-19 and the multilateral trading system by ministers responsible for the WTO, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/proposals\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm).

<sup>3264</sup> Statement on COVID-19 and the multilateral trading system by ministers responsible for the WTO, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/proposals\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm).

<sup>3265</sup> Twenty-fourth Report on G20 Investment Measures, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (Paris) 18 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/g20\\_oecd\\_unctad\\_report\\_nov20\\_e.pdf](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/g20_oecd_unctad_report_nov20_e.pdf).

<sup>3266</sup> UK and Japan sign free trade agreement, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 23 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-sign-free-trade-agreement>.

<sup>3267</sup> Supporting the timely and efficient release of global goods through accelerated implementation of the WTO trade facilitation agreement, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 26 October 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/proposals\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm).

<sup>3268</sup> Supporting the timely and efficient release of global goods through accelerated implementation of the WTO trade facilitation agreement, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 26 October 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/proposals\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm).

<sup>3269</sup> Supporting the timely and efficient release of global goods through accelerated implementation of the WTO trade facilitation agreement, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 26 October 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/proposals\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm).

<sup>3270</sup> COVID-19 and Beyond: Trade and Health, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/proposals\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm).

<sup>3271</sup> COVID-19 and Beyond: Trade and Health, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/proposals\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm).

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Joy Fan*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to marshal the full power of its government to support trade and investment.

On 19 May 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom announced the UK Global Tariff.<sup>3272</sup> It aims to “scrap red tape and other unnecessary barriers to trade, reduce cost pressures and increase choice for consumers and back UK industries to compete on the global stage.”<sup>3273</sup>

On 21 May 2020, Minister for Exports Graham Stuart announced the UK’s commitment to support the development of the Solidarity Transport Hub, a major infrastructure project in Poland.<sup>3274</sup> The project will boost regional connectivity and enhance trade.<sup>3275</sup>

On 7 August 2020, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Michael Gove and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Brandon Lewis announced a new, free-to-use Trader Support Service to support traders in Northern Ireland.<sup>3276</sup> It will “provide vital support and guidance to traders” by completing digital processes on their behalf.<sup>3277</sup>

On 29 September 2020, the Department of International Trade launched a Trade Hub to support businesses in Scotland.<sup>3278</sup> The Trade Hub provides governmental support to ensure that businesses in Scotland can take full advantage of trade agreements with the UK.<sup>3279</sup>

On 7 October 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom outlined its plans for the creation of Freeports, set to open by the end of 2021.<sup>3280</sup> The Freeports are meant to “create national hubs for trade, innovation and commerce,” and “attract investment from around the world.”<sup>3281</sup>

On 8 October 2020, the UK signed a Political, Free Trade, and Strategic Partnership Agreement with Ukraine.<sup>3282</sup> The agreement will “strengthen the political and trade ties between the two countries.”<sup>3283</sup>

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<sup>3272</sup> UK Global Tariff backs UK businesses and consumers, Department for International Trade (London) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-global-tariff-backs-uk-businesses-and-consumers>.

<sup>3273</sup> UK Global Tariff backs UK businesses and consumers, Department for International Trade (London) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-global-tariff-backs-uk-businesses-and-consumers>.

<sup>3274</sup> UK-Poland agreement to deliver major infrastructure project, Department for International Trade (London) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-poland-agreement-to-deliver-major-infrastructure-project>.

<sup>3275</sup> UK-Poland agreement to deliver major infrastructure project, Department for International Trade (London) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-poland-agreement-to-deliver-major-infrastructure-project>.

<sup>3276</sup> Major £650 million investment for Northern Ireland, Cabinet Office (London) 7 August 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-650-million-investment-for-northern-ireland>.

<sup>3277</sup> Major £650 million investment for Northern Ireland, Cabinet Office (London) 7 August 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-650-million-investment-for-northern-ireland>.

<sup>3278</sup> UK Government Trade Hub launched to support Scottish businesses, Department for International Trade (London) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-trade-hub-launched-to-support-scottish-businesses>.

<sup>3279</sup> UK Government Trade Hub launched to support Scottish businesses, Department for International Trade (London) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-trade-hub-launched-to-support-scottish-businesses>.

<sup>3280</sup> Government outlines new plans for Freeports to turbo-charge post-Brexit trade, HM Treasury (London) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-outlines-new-plans-for-freeports-to-turbo-charge-post-brexit-trade>.

<sup>3281</sup> Government outlines new plans for Freeports to turbo-charge post-Brexit trade, HM Treasury (London) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-outlines-new-plans-for-freeports-to-turbo-charge-post-brexit-trade>.

On 9 October 2020, the Department for International Trade announced several new investment opportunities and programmes across the UK.<sup>3284</sup> The initiatives are designed to encourage foreign investment into the UK and “help the country build back better.”<sup>3285</sup>

On 15 October 2020, the UK signed an Economic Partnership Agreement with the Côte d’Ivoire.<sup>3286</sup> The agreement maintains existing trade agreements, and prevents additional barriers or tariffs.<sup>3287</sup>

On 22 October 2020, the UK signed the UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.<sup>3288</sup> This agreement goes beyond the EU-Japan deal, with enhancements in “areas such as digital and data, financial services, food and drink, and creative industries.”<sup>3289</sup>

On 9 November 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the new Office for Investment.<sup>3290</sup> The Office will connect the public and private sector and be “a major addition to the UK government’s ability to attract foreign investment.”<sup>3291</sup>

On 10 November 2020, International Trade Secretary Liz Truss announced that preferential tariffs would continue for developing countries.<sup>3292</sup> The trade preference scheme will support economic development by liberalizing trade.<sup>3293</sup>

On 24 November 2020, UK Export Finance signed a cooperation agreement with its counterpart in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Etihad Credit Insurance.<sup>3294</sup> The agreement will “strengthen trade cooperation and boost investment between the UK and UAE.”<sup>3295</sup>

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<sup>3282</sup> UK and Ukraine sign Political, Free Trade and Strategic Partnership Agreement, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-ukraine-sign-political-free-trade-and-strategic-partnership-agreement>.

<sup>3283</sup> UK and Ukraine sign Political, Free Trade and Strategic Partnership Agreement, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-ukraine-sign-political-free-trade-and-strategic-partnership-agreement>.

<sup>3284</sup> Regional investment projects announced to boost local economies, Department for International Trade (London) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/regional-investment-projects-announced-to-boost-local-economies>.

<sup>3285</sup> Regional investment projects announced to boost local economies, Department for International Trade (London) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/regional-investment-projects-announced-to-boost-local-economies>.

<sup>3286</sup> The United Kingdom and Côte d’Ivoire sign Economic Partnership Agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-united-kingdom-and-cote-divoire-sign-economic-partnership-agreement>.

<sup>3287</sup> The United Kingdom and Côte d’Ivoire sign Economic Partnership Agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-united-kingdom-and-cote-divoire-sign-economic-partnership-agreement>.

<sup>3288</sup> UK and Japan sign historic free trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 22 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-sign-historic-free-trade-agreement>.

<sup>3289</sup> UK and Japan sign historic free trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 22 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-sign-historic-free-trade-agreement>

<sup>3290</sup> New Office for Investment to drive foreign investment into the UK, Department for International Trade (London) 9 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-office-for-investment-to-drive-foreign-investment-into-the-uk>.

<sup>3291</sup> New Office for Investment to drive foreign investment into the UK, Department for International Trade (London) 9 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-office-for-investment-to-drive-foreign-investment-into-the-uk>.

<sup>3292</sup> Preferential tariffs continue for eligible developing countries, Department for International Trade (London) 10 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/preferential-tariffs-continue-for-eligible-developing-countries>.

<sup>3293</sup> Preferential tariffs continue for eligible developing countries, Department for International Trade (London) 10 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/preferential-tariffs-continue-for-eligible-developing-countries>.

<sup>3294</sup> UKEF signs new export partnership with the UAE, UK Export Finance (London) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-signs-new-export-partnership-with-the-uae>.

<sup>3295</sup> UKEF signs new export partnership with the UAE, UK Export Finance (London) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-signs-new-export-partnership-with-the-uae>.

On 3 December 2020, the British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert Chatterton Dickson formally proposed the establishment of a UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue.<sup>3296</sup> The Trade and Investment Dialogue will deepen the UK's "already strong trading relationship with Bangladesh by developing a trade partnership that builds on our shared trade and investment interests."<sup>3297</sup>

On 3 December 2020, the UK signed a Partnership, Trade, and Cooperation Agreement with North Macedonia.<sup>3298</sup> The agreement strengthens the "already substantial ties in trade and investment" between the countries.<sup>3299</sup>

On 5 December 2020, the UK signed an Association Agreement with Egypt.<sup>3300</sup> The agreement provides "tariff-free trade on industrial products, as well as liberalisation of trade in agriculture, agri-foods and fisheries."<sup>3301</sup>

On 7 December 2020, UK Export Finance launched the new General Export Facility.<sup>3302</sup> The scheme will support trade by giving "exporting SMEs [small and medium-sized enterprises] access to working capital they need to recover from COVID-19."<sup>3303</sup>

On 8 December 2020, the UK signed an Economic Partnership Agreement with Kenya.<sup>3304</sup> This trade agreement ensures the continuation of "duty-free access to the UK market."<sup>3305</sup>

On 8 December 2020, the UK signed a trade continuity agreement with Norway and Iceland.<sup>3306</sup> The agreement ensures tariff-free trade for 90 per cent of the goods traded with Iceland, and 95 per cent of the goods traded with Norway.<sup>3307</sup>

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<sup>3296</sup> UK proposes establishment of a UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue, British High Commission Dhaka (Dhaka) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-proposes-establishment-of-a-uk-bangladesh-trade-and-investment-dialogue>.

<sup>3297</sup> UK proposes establishment of a UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue, British High Commission Dhaka (Dhaka) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-proposes-establishment-of-a-uk-bangladesh-trade-and-investment-dialogue>.

<sup>3298</sup> North Macedonia and UK sign Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-macedonia-and-uk-sign-partnership-trade-and-cooperation-agreement>.

<sup>3299</sup> North Macedonia and UK sign Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-macedonia-and-uk-sign-partnership-trade-and-cooperation-agreement>.

<sup>3300</sup> UK and Egypt sign Association Agreement, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 5 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-egypt-sign-association-agreement>.

<sup>3301</sup> UK and Egypt sign Association Agreement, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 5 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-egypt-sign-association-agreement>.

<sup>3302</sup> Radical shake up to government export finance support for small businesses, UK Export Finance (London) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/radical-shake-up-to-government-export-finance-support-for-small-businesses>.

<sup>3303</sup> Radical shake up to government export finance support for small businesses, UK Export Finance (London) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/radical-shake-up-to-government-export-finance-support-for-small-businesses>.

<sup>3304</sup> UK and Kenya sign trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-kenya-sign-trade-agreement>.

<sup>3305</sup> UK and Kenya sign trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-kenya-sign-trade-agreement>.

<sup>3306</sup> United Kingdom, Norway and Iceland sign trade continuity agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/united-kingdom-norway-and-iceland-sign-trade-continuity-agreement>.

On 8 December 2020, the UK announced an independent approach to resolving EU-US trade conflicts around steel, aluminium, and aerospace tariffs.<sup>3308</sup> International Trade Secretary Liz Truss will roll over “tariffs in response to the unjustified ‘Section 232’ tariffs imposed by the US on aluminium and steel imports,” and suspend retaliatory tariffs resulting from the Boeing dispute.<sup>3309</sup> These actions are “part of the government’s strategy to de-escalate trade tensions so the US and UK can move forward to the next phase of their trading relationship.”<sup>3310</sup>

On 9 December 2020, the Deputy High Commissioner for Canada David Reed signed the UK-Canada Trade Continuity Agreement.<sup>3311</sup> The agreement reduces tariffs and “secures transatlantic trade.”<sup>3312</sup>

On 10 December 2020, the UK signed the UK-Singapore Free Trade Agreement.<sup>3313</sup> This agreement calls for tariff elimination on goods, reduction of non-tariff barriers, increased access to services and government procurement markets, and support for financial services trade and investment.<sup>3314</sup>

On 11 December 2020, the UK concluded the UK-Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement.<sup>3315</sup> This agreement will “liberalise goods and services trade” between the countries.<sup>3316</sup>

On 14 December 2020, the UK signed a Services Mobility Agreement with Switzerland.<sup>3317</sup> The agreement will “support trade in vital industries of the UK economy, including finance, legal services, consultancy, the tech sector and the creative industries.”<sup>3318</sup>

On 15 December 2020, the UK signed the UK-Mexico Trade Continuity Agreement.<sup>3319</sup> The agreement allows the two countries to “go much further in areas such as data, digital trade, investment, intellectual property and services.”<sup>3320</sup>

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<sup>3307</sup> United Kingdom, Norway and Iceland sign trade continuity agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/united-kingdom-norway-and-iceland-sign-trade-continuity-agreement>.

<sup>3308</sup> UK announces new approach on US tariffs, Department for International Trade (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-new-approach-on-us-tariffs>.

<sup>3309</sup> UK announces new approach on US tariffs, Department for International Trade (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-new-approach-on-us-tariffs>.

<sup>3310</sup> UK announces new approach on US tariffs, Department for International Trade (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-new-approach-on-us-tariffs>.

<sup>3311</sup> UK and Canada sign trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-canada-sign-trade-agreement>.

<sup>3312</sup> UK and Canada sign trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-canada-sign-trade-agreement>.

<sup>3313</sup> Joint statement by the UK and Singapore, Department for International Trade (London) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-by-the-uk-and-singapore>.

<sup>3314</sup> Joint statement by the UK and Singapore, Department for International Trade (London) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-by-the-uk-and-singapore>.

<sup>3315</sup> Joint statement by the UK and Viet Nam, Department for International Trade (London) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-by-the-uk-and-viet-nam>.

<sup>3316</sup> Joint statement by the UK and Viet Nam, Department for International Trade (London) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-by-the-uk-and-viet-nam>.

<sup>3317</sup> UK and Switzerland sign services agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-switzerland-sign-services-agreement>.

<sup>3318</sup> UK and Switzerland sign services agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-switzerland-sign-services-agreement>.

<sup>3319</sup> UK and Mexico sign trade deal, Department for International Trade (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-mexico-sign-trade-deal>.

<sup>3320</sup> UK and Mexico sign trade deal, Department for International Trade (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-mexico-sign-trade-deal>.

On 17 December 2020, the UK Internal Market bill passed into law.<sup>3321</sup> The law ensures no new barriers to trade across all four parts of the UK, and enables the government “to boost the UK’s economic recovery, increase investment across the whole country, create new jobs and emerge stronger from the pandemic.”<sup>3322</sup>

On 24 December 2020, the UK signed a Strategic Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement with Moldova.<sup>3323</sup> The agreement “provides stability to the trade between Britain and Moldova” and “creates a firm foundation for even more trade and investment in the future.”<sup>3324</sup>

On 29 December 2020, the UK signed the UK-Turkey Free Trade Agreement.<sup>3325</sup> The deal ensures “continued tariff-free flow of goods.”<sup>3326</sup>

On 30 December 2020, the UK secured an Economic Partnership Agreement with Cameroon.<sup>3327</sup> The deal allows for continued free trade without additional tariffs or barriers.<sup>3328</sup>

On 31 December 2020, the European Union (Future Relationship) bill was passed into law.<sup>3329</sup> This ratifies the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement.<sup>3330</sup>

On 18 January 2021, Prime Minister Johnson launched the Build Back Better Council.<sup>3331</sup> The Build Back Better Council will “unlock investment, boost job creation, promote Global Britain and level up the whole of the UK.”<sup>3332</sup>

On 1 February 2021, Secretary Truss formally requested to commence negotiations on UK accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.<sup>3333</sup> UK accession would “send a powerful signal about the importance placed on free trade.”<sup>3334</sup>

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<sup>3321</sup> UK Internal Market Bill becomes law, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-internal-market-bill-becomes-law>.

<sup>3322</sup> UK Internal Market Bill becomes law, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-internal-market-bill-becomes-law>.

<sup>3323</sup> UK and Moldova sign Strategic Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-moldova-sign-strategic-partnership-trade-and-cooperation-agreement>.

<sup>3324</sup> UK and Moldova sign Strategic Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-moldova-sign-strategic-partnership-trade-and-cooperation-agreement>.

<sup>3325</sup> UK and Turkey sign trade deal, Department for International Trade (London) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-turkey-sign-trade-deal>.

<sup>3326</sup> UK and Turkey sign trade deal, Department for International Trade (London) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-turkey-sign-trade-deal>.

<sup>3327</sup> United Kingdom and Cameroon secure Economic Partnership Agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/united-kingdom-and-cameroon-secure-economic-partnership-agreement>.

<sup>3328</sup> UK and Cameroon secure Economic Partnership Agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/united-kingdom-and-cameroon-secure-economic-partnership-agreement>.

<sup>3329</sup> Boris Johnson's post-Brexit trade deal passes into UK law, The Guardian (London) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/dec/31/post-brexit-trade-deal-boris-johnson-thanks-mps-and-peers-for-passing-bill>.

<sup>3330</sup> Boris Johnson's post-Brexit trade deal passes into UK law, The Guardian (London) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/dec/31/post-brexit-trade-deal-boris-johnson-thanks-mps-and-peers-for-passing-bill>.

<sup>3331</sup> Prime Minister and Chancellor launch new Business Council, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-and-chancellor-launch-new-business-council>.

<sup>3332</sup> Prime Minister and Chancellor launch new Business Council, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-and-chancellor-launch-new-business-council>.

<sup>3333</sup> Formal Request to Commence UK Accession Negotiations to CPTPP, Department for International Trade (London) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/formal-request-to-commence-uk-accession-negotiations-to-cptpp>.

On 4 February 2021, the UK and Ghana finalised negotiations on an Interim Ghana-UK Trade Partnership Agreement.<sup>3335</sup> The agreement provides “duty free and quota free access for Ghana to the UK market and preferential tariff reductions for UK exporters to the Ghanaian market.”<sup>3336</sup>

On 5 February 2021, the UK signed a Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement with Albania.<sup>3337</sup> The agreement allows the UK and Albania to “build on their trading relationship going forward.”<sup>3338</sup>

On 8 February 2021, the UK agreed to deepen its trading relationship with India through an Enhanced Trade Partnership.<sup>3339</sup> The partnership improves bilateral trade and investment and lays the groundwork for a future comprehensive Free Trade Agreement.<sup>3340</sup>

On 23 February 2021, UK Export Finance launched the Standard Buyer Loan Guarantee.<sup>3341</sup> The scheme supports trade by helping “importers of UK goods and services obtain the financing they need, unlocking trade and boosting exports.”<sup>3342</sup>

The United Kingdom has demonstrated strong support for trade and investment to enhance economic recovery or respond to the global health crisis.

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

*Analyst: Erfan Ehsan*

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

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to marshal the full power of its government to support trade and investment.

On 13 May 2020, the United States signed a joint statement at the General Council Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organization (WTO).<sup>3343</sup> The statement included a call to “mitigate the impact of

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<sup>3334</sup> Formal Request to Commence UK Accession Negotiations to CPTPP, Department for International Trade (London) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/formal-request-to-commence-uk-accession-negotiations-to-cptpp>.

<sup>3335</sup> Ghana-UK Joint Statement: Ghana-UK Trade Partnership Agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ghana-uk-joint-statement-ghana-uk-trade-partnership-agreement>.

<sup>3336</sup> Ghana-UK Joint Statement: Ghana-UK Trade Partnership Agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ghana-uk-joint-statement-ghana-uk-trade-partnership-agreement>.

<sup>3337</sup> UK and Albania sign Agreement to deepen economic relationship and political efforts to tackle serious organised crime, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-albania-sign-agreement-to-deepen-economic-relationship-and-political-efforts-to-tackle-serious-organised-crime>.

<sup>3338</sup> UK and Albania sign Agreement to deepen economic relationship and political efforts to tackle serious organised crime, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-albania-sign-agreement-to-deepen-economic-relationship-and-political-efforts-to-tackle-serious-organised-crime>.

<sup>3339</sup> Joint UK-India statement on Enhanced Trade Partnership progress, Department for International Trade (London) 8 February 2021.

Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-uk-india-statement-on-enhanced-trade-partnership-progress>.

<sup>3340</sup> Joint UK-India statement on Enhanced Trade Partnership progress, Department for International Trade (London) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-uk-india-statement-on-enhanced-trade-partnership-progress>.

<sup>3341</sup> UKEF overhauls buyer finance support to boost SME exports, UK Export Finance (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-overhauls-buyer-finance-support-to-boost-sme-exports>.

<sup>3342</sup> UKEF overhauls buyer finance support to boost SME exports, UK Export Finance (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-overhauls-buyer-finance-support-to-boost-sme-exports>.

<sup>3343</sup> Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/proposals\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm)



COVID-19 on agriculture trade and food security.”<sup>3344</sup> The statement also encouraged members of the WTO to “implement temporary working solutions to facilitate trade.”<sup>3345</sup>

On 26 October 2020, the United States signed a joint statement at the WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation.<sup>3346</sup> The statement recognized that “Cross-border trade is a critical channel for getting essential products to those who need them” and “as WTO members, we are called to demonstrate leadership by ensuring the smooth and continuous trade in goods.”<sup>3347</sup> The statement also committed its signatories to accelerating the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3348</sup>

On 24 February 2021, President Joseph R. Biden signed an executive order on America’s trade and supply chains.<sup>3349</sup> The order outlined necessary several actions including “reforms to domestic and international trade rules and agreements to support supply chain resilience, security, diversity, and strength.”<sup>3350</sup>

On 26 February 2021, Vice President Kamala Harris spoke with President Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.<sup>3351</sup> During their meeting, Vice President Harris and President Tshisekedi committed to work together to strengthen regional trade and investment.<sup>3352</sup>

On 5 March 2021, President Biden spoke with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen about US-EU economic relations.<sup>3353</sup> During the meeting, President Biden emphasized his commitment to “repair and revitalize the U.S.-EU partnership.”<sup>3354</sup> President Biden noted the leaders’ agreement to suspend tariffs

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<sup>3344</sup> Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/proposals\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm)

<sup>3345</sup> Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/proposals\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm).

<sup>3346</sup> Supporting the timely and efficient release of global goods through accelerated implementation of the WTO trade facilitation agreement, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 26 October 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/proposals\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm).

<sup>3347</sup> Supporting the timely and efficient release of global goods through accelerated implementation of the WTO trade facilitation agreement, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 26 October 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/proposals\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm).

<sup>3348</sup> Supporting the timely and efficient release of global goods through accelerated implementation of the WTO trade facilitation agreement, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 26 October 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/proposals\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm).

<sup>3349</sup> Executive Order on America’s Supply Chains, The White House, (Washington D.C.) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/02/24/executive-order-on-americas-supply-chains/>.

<sup>3350</sup> Executive Order on America’s Supply Chains, The White House, (Washington D.C.) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/02/24/executive-order-on-americas-supply-chains/>.

<sup>3351</sup> Readout of Vice President Kamala Harris Call with President Felix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, The White House (Washington D.C.) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/26/readout-of-vice-president-kamala-harris-call-with-president-felix-tshisekedi-of-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo/>.

<sup>3352</sup> Readout of Vice President Kamala Harris Call with President Felix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, The White House (Washington D.C.) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/26/readout-of-vice-president-kamala-harris-call-with-president-felix-tshisekedi-of-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo/>.

<sup>3353</sup> Readout of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Call with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, The White House (Washington D.C.) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/05/readout-of-president-joseph-r-biden-jr-call-with-european-commission-president-ursula-von-der-leyen/>.

<sup>3354</sup> Readout of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Call with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, The White House (Washington D.C.) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/05/readout-of-president-joseph-r-biden-jr-call-with-european-commission-president-ursula-von-der-leyen/>.

related to the WTO aircraft disputes and the desire to work toward resolving long running disputes at the WTO.<sup>3355</sup>

On 10 March 2021, United States Congress passed a USD 1 trillion relief package to boost the U.S. economy in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3356</sup> The economic relief package includes financial investment in education, social supports, and industry supports for small businesses and the transportation sector.<sup>3357</sup>

The United States has demonstrated strong support for trade and investment to enhance economic recovery or respond to the global health crisis.

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

*Analyst: Malgorzata Poweska*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to support trade and investment.

On 28 April 2020, the EU and Mexico finalized negotiations of their new trade agreement.<sup>3358</sup> The agreement removes duties on almost all goods traded between the EU and Mexico and marks the first time the EU and a Latin American country have reached an agreement on investment protection policies.<sup>3359</sup>

On 13 May 2020, the EU signed a joint statement at the General Council Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organization (WTO).<sup>3360</sup> The statement included a call to “mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on agriculture trade and food security.”<sup>3361</sup> The statement also encouraged members of the WTO to “implement temporary working solutions to facilitate trade.”<sup>3362</sup>

On 14 May 2020, the EU signed a joint statement at the WTO General Council highlighting the importance of small and medium-sized enterprises in economies.<sup>3363</sup> The statement reaffirmed the role of the WTO in international trade and committed the signatories to “work together to deliver a free, fair, predictable, and stable trade environment and to keep our markets open with a view to support the global recovery.”<sup>3364</sup>

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<sup>3355</sup> Readout of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Call with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, The White House (Washington D.C.) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/05/readout-of-president-joseph-r-biden-jr-call-with-european-commission-president-ursula-von-der-leyen/>.

<sup>3356</sup> Biden's \$1.9 Trillion Rescue Plan Set to Turbocharge U.S. Economy, NPR (Washington D.C.) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.npr.org/2021/03/10/975617565/bidens-1-9-trillion-rescue-plan-set-to-turbocharge-u-s-economy>.

<sup>3357</sup> Biden's \$1.9 Trillion Rescue Plan Set to Turbocharge U.S. Economy, NPR (Washington D.C.) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.npr.org/2021/03/10/975617565/bidens-1-9-trillion-rescue-plan-set-to-turbocharge-u-s-economy>

<sup>3358</sup> EU and Mexico conclude negotiations for new trade agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_756](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_756).

<sup>3359</sup> EU and Mexico conclude negotiations for new trade agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_756](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_756).

<sup>3360</sup> Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/proposals\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm).

<sup>3361</sup> Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/proposals\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm).

<sup>3362</sup> Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/proposals\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm).

<sup>3363</sup> Statement on highlighting the importance of MSMEs in the time of COVID-19, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/proposals\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm).

<sup>3364</sup> Statement on highlighting the importance of MSMEs in the time of COVID-19, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/proposals\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm).

On 31 July 2020, the EU-Vietnam free trade agreement and investment protection entered into force.<sup>3365</sup> The agreement removed duties on 99 per cent of goods traded between the two regions and ensures that European companies and local Vietnamese competitors will have an equal opportunity to compete for government contracts in Vietnam.<sup>3366</sup> The EU-Vietnam free trade agreement is the most comprehensive trade agreement between the EU and a developing country.<sup>3367</sup>

On 21 September 2020, the European Investment Bank (EIB) announced an expected EUR1 billion in support for investment in Ireland in response to COVID-19 and Brexit.<sup>3368</sup> Additionally, EIB advisory teams are working alongside Irish partners to enhance investment and support Ireland's National Recovery Plan.<sup>3369</sup>

On 24 November 2020, the EU signed a joint statement at the WTO General Council about international trade and health.<sup>3370</sup> The statement included specific policy proposals relating to export restrictions, trade facilitation, technical regulations, tariffs, transparency, and review.<sup>3371</sup>

On 15 December 2020, the EIB and Raiffeisenlandesbank Niederösterreich-Wien allocated EUR150 million each towards providing loans for small and medium-sized enterprises to invest in sustainable projects.<sup>3372</sup>

On 30 December 2020, negotiations on the EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment concluded, granting EU investors easier access to China's market.<sup>3373</sup> The agreement ensures fairer treatment for EU companies competing in China and includes rules on transparency.<sup>3374</sup>

On 31 December 2020, the EIB provided Banque Misr with a EUR425 million credit line to support Egyptian SMEs impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, designed to finance investment projects.<sup>3375</sup>

On 1 January 2021, the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement came into effect, establishing the economic partnership between the EU and UK following Brexit.<sup>3376</sup> The Free Trade Agreement component

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<sup>3365</sup> EU-Vietnam trade agreement enters into force, European Commission (Brussels) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_1412](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1412).

<sup>3366</sup> EU-Vietnam trade agreement enters into force, European Commission (Brussels) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_1412](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1412).

<sup>3367</sup> EU-Vietnam trade agreement enters into force, European Commission (Brussels) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_1412](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1412).

<sup>3368</sup> Irish Finance Minister welcomes expected EUR 1 billion EIB support for new investments, European Investment Bank (Krichberg) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-244-irish-finance-minister-welcomes-expected-eur-1-billion-eib-support-for-new-investment-in-2020-and-accelerated-support-for-covid-19-business-financing>.

<sup>3369</sup> Irish Finance Minister welcomes expected EUR 1 billion EIB support for new investments, European Investment Bank (Krichberg) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-244-irish-finance-minister-welcomes-expected-eur-1-billion-eib-support-for-new-investment-in-2020-and-accelerated-support-for-covid-19-business-financing>.

<sup>3370</sup> COVID-19 and Beyond: Trade and Health, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/proposals\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm).

<sup>3371</sup> COVID-19 and Beyond: Trade and Health, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/proposals\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm).

<sup>3372</sup> Austria: EIB and RLB NO-Wein promote environmental investments with EUR300 million, European Investment Bank (Krichberg) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-364-eib-and-rlb-no-wien-promote-environmental-investments-with-eur300-million>.

<sup>3373</sup> EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment, European Commission (Brussels) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/eu-china-agreement/>.

<sup>3374</sup> The EU-China agreement explained, European Commission (Brussels) 22 January 2021. Access date: 12 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/eu-china-agreement/agreement-explained/>.

<sup>3375</sup> Egypt: Team Europe - EIB and Banque Misr work together to support private businesses, European Investment Bank (Krichberg) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-409-team-europe-eib-and-banque-misr-work-together-to-support-private-businesses-and-speed-up-the-recovery-of-smes-from-covid-19-in-egypt#>.

<sup>3376</sup> The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/relations-united-kingdom/eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement\\_en#freetradeagreement](https://ec.europa.eu/info/relations-united-kingdom/eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement_en#freetradeagreement).

dictates zero tariffs and zero quotas on goods that “comply with the appropriate rules of origin.”<sup>3377</sup> The agreement ensures a level playing field, going beyond traditional free trade agreements.<sup>3378</sup>

On 11 March 2021, the Board of Directors of the EIB approved EUR2.4 billion for “business investment and ensuring economic resilience to COVID-19.”<sup>3379</sup>

The European Union has initiated several bilateral agreements that support both trade and investment in response to the global health crisis.

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

*Analyst: Erfan Ehsan*

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<sup>3377</sup> The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/relations-united-kingdom/eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement\\_en#freetradeagreement](https://ec.europa.eu/info/relations-united-kingdom/eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement_en#freetradeagreement).

<sup>3378</sup> The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/relations-united-kingdom/eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement\\_en#freetradeagreement](https://ec.europa.eu/info/relations-united-kingdom/eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement_en#freetradeagreement).

<sup>3379</sup> EIB backs EUR3.7 billion COVID-19 business support, European Investment Bank (Krichberg) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-092-eib-backs-eur-3-7-billion-covid-19-business-support-renewable-energy-internet-health-education-and-sustainable-urban-investment>.

## 19. Trade: Addressing International Supply Chains

“We will address disturbances to international supply chains.”

*G7 Leaders’ Statement*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

### Background

On 16 March 2020, under the U.S. presidency, G7 leaders met virtually to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time, they expected to meet again in three months at their regularly scheduled summit on 10-12 June 2020, which was later postponed indefinitely.

On 25 March 2020, the G7 Foreign Ministers convened over a virtual meeting to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3380</sup> At the meeting, the G7 members committed to “protecting global production and supply chains” and “reducing tariffs in medical supplies and pharmaceutical products in order to help those most at risk.”<sup>3381</sup>

Since its establishment in 1995, the World Trade Organization (WTO) has enjoyed considerable support and encouragement from the G7. The WTO outlines a code of good practice through the Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement to help other international bodies create environmental standards.<sup>3382</sup> The International Standardization Organization and the International Electrotechnical Commission both comply with WTO’s code of good practice.<sup>3383</sup> The G7 has also indicated its support for the application of environmental standards laid out by the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).<sup>3384</sup>

On 13 October 2015, the G7 employment and development ministers released a ministerial declaration entitled Action for Fair Production.<sup>3385</sup> The declaration states, “we must ... take concrete action with the aim to increase transparency, improve the management of risks, including to worker health and safety, and

<sup>3380</sup> International co-operation only way to get travellers home and beat coronavirus, says the Foreign Secretary, UK Foreign Secretary (London) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 1 January 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-cooperation-only-way-to-get-travellers-home-and-beat-coronavirus-says-the-foreign-secretary>.

<sup>3381</sup> International co-operation only way to get travellers home and beat coronavirus, says the Foreign Secretary, UK Foreign Secretary (London) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 1 January 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-cooperation-only-way-to-get-travellers-home-and-beat-coronavirus-says-the-foreign-secretary>.

<sup>3382</sup> Technical Information on Technical barriers to trade, World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 1 January 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/tbt\\_e/tbt\\_info\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/tbt_info_e.htm).

<sup>3383</sup> Technical Information on Technical barriers to trade, World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 1 January 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/tbt\\_e/tbt\\_info\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/tbt_info_e.htm).

<sup>3384</sup> Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Germany (Schloss Elmau) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 1 January 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>3385</sup> Action for Fair Production, G7 Germany (Berlin) 13 October 2015. Access Date: 1 January 2021. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/employment/G7\\_Ministerial\\_Declaration\\_Action\\_for\\_Fair\\_Production.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/employment/G7_Ministerial_Declaration_Action_for_Fair_Production.pdf).

strengthen access to remedy in global supply chains.”<sup>3386</sup> The declaration also recognizes the collective responsibility of creating sustainable supply chains and commits each member to collaborate with relevant international organizations and social partners to increase transparency, knowledge sharing, best practices, etc.<sup>3387</sup>

At the 2015 Elmau Summit, the G7 members recognized their responsibility to promote sustainable supply chains given their “prominent share in the globalization process.”<sup>3388</sup> The G7 members made commitments to “promote safe and sustainable supply chains” and to strive for the effective application of internationally recognized labour, social, and environmental standards.<sup>3389</sup> These commitments were influenced by the 2013 Rana Plaza disaster when a garment factory in Bangladesh collapsed killing 1,137 people.<sup>3390</sup> This tragic event sparked greater awareness about labour rights and working conditions in global supply chains.

### **Commitment Features**

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the significant risks that it poses to the global economy, the G7 members have made a commitment to “address disturbances to international supply chains.”<sup>3391</sup>

The term “address” refers to the action or process of attending to or dealing with a matter or problem.<sup>3392</sup> Additionally, “international supply chains” are global networks that exist for the purpose of sourcing and supplying goods and services.<sup>3393</sup> International supply chains involve facilitating the flow of information, processes and resources across to different consumer markets across the world.<sup>3394</sup>

Any sudden change or crisis that inhibits the procurement of products and services from global suppliers constitutes a “disturbance” to international supply chains.<sup>3395</sup> Examples of disturbances include, but are not limited to, transportation delays and failures, problems with the quality of the product at any stage of the supply chain, and an overall increase of consumer demand creating increased pressure on global suppliers to produce a product or service.

Establishing effective supply chain management techniques helps to increase the resiliency of supply chains and address supply chain disturbances. Some examples include enhancing the transparency of information in supply chains, monitoring the bottleneck capacity, adhering to international standards and regulations, and facilitating cooperation between supply chain partners.

The extent to which a G7 member fulfills this commitment will be measured through a depth analysis. In order to achieve full compliance, the G7 member must demonstrate strong support for efforts to address

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<sup>3386</sup> Action for Fair Production, G7 Germany (Berlin) 13 October 2015. Access Date: 1 January 2021.

[http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/employment/G7\\_Ministerial\\_Declaration\\_Action\\_for\\_Fair\\_Production.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/employment/G7_Ministerial_Declaration_Action_for_Fair_Production.pdf).

<sup>3387</sup> Action for Fair Production, G7 Germany (Berlin) 13 October 2015. Access Date: 1 January 2021.

[http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/employment/G7\\_Ministerial\\_Declaration\\_Action\\_for\\_Fair\\_Production.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/employment/G7_Ministerial_Declaration_Action_for_Fair_Production.pdf).

<sup>3388</sup> Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Germany (Schloss Elmau) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 1 January 2021.

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

<sup>3389</sup> Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Germany (Schloss Elmau) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 1 January 2021.

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

<sup>3390</sup> G7 leaders agree on new insurance fund after Rana Plaza disaster, The Guardian (London) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 1

January 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/08/g7-insurance-fund-rana-plaza-disaster>.

<sup>3391</sup> G7 Leaders’ Declaration, G7 France (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2020.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-of-leaders.html>.

<sup>3392</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 6 August 2019. Access Date: 1 January 2021. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mArZpxMjf-O9IXEXjcF79Jvzd97S-9Cs4xb0W4GyXg/edit>.

<sup>3393</sup> Global Supply Chains. Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (Spalding) Access Date: 1 January 2021.

<https://www.cips.org/knowledge/procurement-topics-and-skills/supply-chain-management/global-supply-chains/>.

<sup>3394</sup> Global Supply Chains. Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (Spalding) Access Date: 1 January 2021.

<https://www.cips.org/knowledge/procurement-topics-and-skills/supply-chain-management/global-supply-chains/>.

<sup>3395</sup> Managing Supply Chain Disturbances – Review and Synthesis of Existing Contributions. Springer (Berlin) 24 September 2014. Access Date: 1 January 2021. [https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-662-44736-9\\_32](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-662-44736-9_32).

disturbances to international supply chains. Examples of actions that warrant full compliance include domestic and international actions such as unilaterally launching programs to address supply chain disturbances, engaging in coordinated multilateral efforts to increase the resiliency of supply chains, and participating in international information sharing to spread knowledge about best practices with other international actors. Examples of actions that warrant partial compliance may include only supporting domestic efforts such as referencing components of the commitment in official state remarks, assigning budgetary resources to programs that support the commitment, or making policy changes to increase the resiliency of international supply chains.

A G7 member will receive a score of no compliance if they have not demonstrated support for any part of the commitment.

**Scoring Guidelines**

-1	The G7 member has not complied with the commitment feature by failing to address international supply chain disturbances.
0	The G7 member has partially complied with the commitment feature by addressing disturbances to international supply chains.
+1	The G7 has fully complied with the commitment feature by demonstrating strong support for efforts that addresses disturbances to international supply chains.

*Compliance Director: Emma Davy  
Lead Analyst: Emily Yu*

**Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to addresses disturbances to international supply chains.

On 25 March 2020, Canada released a joint statement of international effort to ensure that supply chains during the COVID-19 pandemic remained open and connected.<sup>3396</sup> The statement was issued by Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, and trade ministers from Australia, Brunei, Chile, Myanmar, New Zealand, and Singapore.<sup>3397</sup> The statement reaffirms the commitment of all eight countries to maintaining open trade and to not impose trade barriers that could disrupt supply chains.<sup>3398</sup>

On 1 May 2020, Canada published a joint statement with several G20 Trade and Investment ministers and ministers of guest invitees. The statement included action plans to ensure the continued international trade and distribution of goods, services, as well as the essential movement of people.<sup>3399</sup> The statement was signed by international trade ministers from Australia, New Zealand, Korea, and Singapore.<sup>3400</sup> The statement

<sup>3396</sup> Statement on joint international effort to ensure supply chain connectivity amid COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/statement-on-joint-international-effort-to-ensure-supply-chain-connectivity-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

<sup>3397</sup> Joint ministerial statement by Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, New Zealand and Singapore affirming commitment to ensuring supply chain connectivity amidst the COVID-19 situation, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/gac-amc/news-nouvelles/2020-03-25-joint-ministerial-statement-declaration-ministerielle-commune.aspx?lang=eng>.

<sup>3398</sup> Statement on joint international effort to ensure supply chain connectivity amid COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/statement-on-joint-international-effort-to-ensure-supply-chain-connectivity-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

<sup>3399</sup> Joint ministerial statement on action plans to facilitate the flow of goods and services as well as the essential movement of people, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/gac-amc/news-nouvelles/2020-05-02-joint-ministerial-statement-declaration-ministerielle-commune.aspx?lang=eng>.

<sup>3400</sup> Joint ministerial statement on action plans to facilitate the flow of goods and services as well as the essential movement of people, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/gac-amc/news-nouvelles/2020-05-02-joint-ministerial-statement-declaration-ministerielle-commune.aspx?lang=eng>.

emphasizes the need for minimizing face-to-face interactions while maintaining smooth logistics operations.<sup>3401</sup> The statement also highlights the need to develop plans for sustainable economic recoveries of global economies and share these plans with the other cooperative countries.<sup>3402</sup>

On 5 May 2020, Canada and the other 20 members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum released a statement of commitment to cooperatively mitigate the economic impacts of COVID-19. The statement included a plan for sustainable economic recovery and providing additional support to developing countries.<sup>3403</sup> The statement acknowledges the difficulties in maintaining robust global supply chains due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3404</sup> Despite these difficulties, the statement reaffirms the importance of cooperation and implores the APEC states to not create unnecessary trade barriers.<sup>3405</sup> The statement urges to work closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) on how to encourage safety in global supply chains.<sup>3406</sup> The statement further emphasizes the need to share information about trade and safety amongst the APEC members, and especially developing states, to encourage well-informed trade practices amongst regions.<sup>3407</sup>

On 14 May 2020, Canada met with its G20 counterparts and committed to an action plan to mitigate the effect of COVID-19 on global trade, while ensuring safety.<sup>3408</sup> The plan emphasizes transparency to keep global supply chains open, as well as promoting international investment and multilateral trading.<sup>3409</sup> Trade

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<sup>3401</sup> Joint ministerial statement on action plans to facilitate the flow of goods and services as well as the essential movement of people, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/gac-amc/news-nouvelles/2020-05-02-joint-ministerial-statement-declaration-ministerielle-commune.aspx?lang=eng>.

<sup>3402</sup> Joint ministerial statement on action plans to facilitate the flow of goods and services as well as the essential movement of people, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/gac-amc/news-nouvelles/2020-05-02-joint-ministerial-statement-declaration-ministerielle-commune.aspx?lang=eng>.

<sup>3403</sup> Statement on joint collaboration by APEC members amid COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/statement-on-joint-collaboration-by-apec-members-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

<sup>3404</sup> Statement on COVID-19 by APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations-relations\\_internationales/apec/declarations/apec-covid-19.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/apec/declarations/apec-covid-19.aspx?lang=eng); Statement on joint collaboration by APEC members amid COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/statement-on-joint-collaboration-by-apec-members-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>,

<sup>3405</sup> Statement on COVID-19 by APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations-relations\\_internationales/apec/declarations/apec-covid-19.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/apec/declarations/apec-covid-19.aspx?lang=eng); Statement on joint collaboration by APEC members amid COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/statement-on-joint-collaboration-by-apec-members-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>,

<sup>3406</sup> Statement on COVID-19 by APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations-relations\\_internationales/apec/declarations/apec-covid-19.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/apec/declarations/apec-covid-19.aspx?lang=eng); Statement on joint collaboration by APEC members amid COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/statement-on-joint-collaboration-by-apec-members-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>,

<sup>3407</sup> Statement on COVID-19 by APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations-relations\\_internationales/apec/declarations/apec-covid-19.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/apec/declarations/apec-covid-19.aspx?lang=eng).

<sup>3408</sup> Readout: Minister Ng meets virtually with G20 international trade counterparts to coordinate economic action plan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/readout-minister-ng-meets-virtually-with-g20-international-trade-counterparts-to-coordinate-economic-action-plan.html>.

<sup>3409</sup> Readout: Minister Ng meets virtually with G20 international trade counterparts to coordinate economic action plan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/readout-minister-ng-meets-virtually-with-g20-international-trade-counterparts-to-coordinate-economic-action-plan.html>.



barriers are discouraged and noted to be especially disruptive to the workings of medium and small-sized businesses.<sup>3410</sup>

On 1 July 2020, the new Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) came into effect.<sup>3411</sup> The agreement revises the 1997 North American Free Trade Agreement by adding 12 more chapters.<sup>3412</sup> CUSMA is meant to support Canadian businesses and supply chains by providing continued access to American and Mexican markets for goods and services providers.<sup>3413</sup> CUSMA updates the rules of trade amongst the three countries by streamlining customs and ensuring greater transparency regarding the origins of goods and services.<sup>3414</sup> The new agreement also establishes a Competitiveness Committee meant to support the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises in the North and South American market.<sup>3415</sup> CUSMA ensures that future laws will not add barriers to doing business.<sup>3416</sup>

On 25 July 2020, Canada met with its APEC partners to further discuss strengthening rules-based trade and upholding stable global supply chains, building upon commitments made in a prior meeting on 5 May 2020.<sup>3417</sup> A joint statement was signed affirming the commitment of Canada and the other APEC members to planning for a global post-pandemic economic recovery that is sustainable and transparent.<sup>3418</sup> Canada announced intentions to proceed to Phase II of the APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership.<sup>3419</sup> Phase II will help small businesses by reducing barriers to trade, emphasizing community outreach, and building economies that are diverse and inclusive.<sup>3420</sup>

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<sup>3410</sup> Readout: Minister Ng meets virtually with G20 international trade counterparts to coordinate economic action plan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/readout-minister-ng-meets-virtually-with-g20-international-trade-counterparts-to-coordinate-economic-action-plan.html>.

<sup>3411</sup> A new Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/agr-acc/cusma-aceum/index.aspx?lang=eng>.

<sup>3412</sup> Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement promises new opportunities for Canadian businesses, Trade Commissioner (Ottawa) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.tradecommissioner.gc.ca/canadexport/0004799.aspx?lang=eng>.

<sup>3413</sup> Learn about CUSMA benefits for SME, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. [https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/agr-acc/cusma-aceum/benefits-sme\\_avantages-pme.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/agr-acc/cusma-aceum/benefits-sme_avantages-pme.aspx?lang=eng).

<sup>3414</sup> Trump Signs Trade Deal With Canada and Mexico, The New York Times (New York City) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/29/business/economy/usmca-trump.html?searchResultPosition=2>

<sup>3415</sup> Learn about CUSMA benefits for SME, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. [https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/agr-acc/cusma-aceum/benefits-sme\\_avantages-pme.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/agr-acc/cusma-aceum/benefits-sme_avantages-pme.aspx?lang=eng).

<sup>3416</sup> Trump Signs Trade Deal With Canada and Mexico, The New York Times (New York City) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/29/business/economy/usmca-trump.html?searchResultPosition=2>.

<sup>3417</sup> Minister Ng participates in APEC trade ministers meeting and announces expansion of APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 July 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/07/minister-ng-participates-in-apec-trade-ministers-meeting-and-announces-expansion-of-apec-canada-growing-business-partnership.html>.

<sup>3418</sup> Minister Ng participates in APEC trade ministers meeting and announces expansion of APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 July 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/07/minister-ng-participates-in-apec-trade-ministers-meeting-and-announces-expansion-of-apec-canada-growing-business-partnership.html>.

<sup>3419</sup> Minister Ng participates in APEC trade ministers meeting and announces expansion of APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 July 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/07/minister-ng-participates-in-apec-trade-ministers-meeting-and-announces-expansion-of-apec-canada-growing-business-partnership.html>.

<sup>3420</sup> Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada Supports Phase II Expansion of APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership, Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada (Vancouver) 28 July 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.asiapacific.ca/media/news-releases/55212#:~:text=Canada's%20intention%20to%20move%20forward,July%2024%20by%20the%20Hon.&text=Phase%20II%20would%20help%20small,work%20for%20everyone%20%E2%80%93%20including%20women>.

On 15 February 2021, Canada released a joint statement with the United States, asking the European Union to reconsider the implementation of automatic COVID-19 vaccine export authorizations.<sup>3421</sup> The statement expresses that eliminating automatic vaccine distribution authorizations by the EU could prompt other countries to do the same, disrupting global access to vaccines, medical equipment, companies, and experts.<sup>3422</sup>

The government of Canada has made tangible efforts to address disturbances in international supply chains by making statements affirming their commitments to open markets, transparency of supply chains, and international cooperation.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Anna Lysenko*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to address disturbances to international supply chains.

On 10 April 2020, the French and German Ministers of Agriculture held extensive talks about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the agricultural supply chain.<sup>3423</sup> The ministers highlighted the importance of ensuring the resiliency of European farms to guarantee food supplies to customers.<sup>3424</sup> They also emphasized the need for a strong common agricultural policy for future supply chain stability.<sup>3425</sup>

On 24 April 2020, President Emmanuel Macron spearheaded the global collaboration termed the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator to develop, produce, and distribute COVID-19-related health products.<sup>3426</sup> France contributed EUR560 million to this collaborative effort.<sup>3427</sup> The ACT-Accelerator also promotes the sharing of data and licensing of intellectual property.<sup>3428</sup>

On 18 May 2020, France and Germany proposed an initiative for European recovery, which included a EUR750 billion recovery plan.<sup>3429</sup> This plan strives to support the exports of European economies by

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<sup>3421</sup> Transatlantic Trade | US and Europe – Week of February 15, 2021, The National Law Review (Chicago) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/transatlantic-trade-us-and-europe-week-february-15-2021>.

<sup>3422</sup> Transatlantic Trade | US and Europe – Week of February 15, 2021, The National Law Review (Chicago) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/transatlantic-trade-us-and-europe-week-february-15-2021>.

<sup>3423</sup> French and German ministers of agriculture confirm the need for a coordinated, Europe-wide approach to counter Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/french-and-german-ministers-of-agriculture-confirm-the-need-for-a-coordinated-europe-wide>.

<sup>3424</sup> French and German ministers of agriculture confirm the need for a coordinated, Europe-wide approach to counter Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/french-and-german-ministers-of-agriculture-confirm-the-need-for-a-coordinated-europe-wide>.

<sup>3425</sup> French and German ministers of agriculture confirm the need for a coordinated, Europe-wide approach to counter Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/french-and-german-ministers-of-agriculture-confirm-the-need-for-a-coordinated-europe-wide>.

<sup>3426</sup> What is the ACT-Accelerator, World Health Organization (Geneva) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator/about>.

<sup>3427</sup> Global health – Participation of Clément Beaune in the first council meeting of the initiative Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/coronavirus-statements/article/global-health-participation-of-clement-beaune-in-the-first-council-meeting-of>.

<sup>3428</sup> "Multilateral Cooperation for Global Recovery" – Joint article, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/article/multilateral-cooperation-for-global-recovery-joint-article-paris-3-feb-21>.

<sup>3429</sup> European solidarity in the face of COVID-19, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris). Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-solidarity-in-the-face-of-covid-19>

accelerating movement through priority corridors for supplying hospitals, shops, and factories, as well as the movement of people.<sup>3430</sup>

On 23 April 2020, Didier Guillaume, Minister of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, participated in the G20 Agriculture Ministers' Joint Statement. The Joint Statement emphasizes the importance of free movement of goods for access to food.<sup>3431</sup> It acknowledges that there have not been disruptions in supply chains thus far, but emergency measures must be considered.<sup>3432</sup>

On 3 February 2021, a joint call was made by President Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel for greater political and financial support for the ACT-Accelerator and affirming a commitment to global recovery.<sup>3433</sup> This international initiative calls for the expansion of access to treatments, vaccines, tests, and more.<sup>3434</sup>

On 9 June 2020, Minister of State Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne took part in a video conference with European Union Foreign Affairs Ministers to discuss trade issues and a draft initiative proposed by the European Commission to combat global shortages in critical medical supplies.<sup>3435</sup> France also supported a review of the European Union's trade policy, emphasizing the importance of building resilient and sustainable supply chains.<sup>3436</sup>

On 21 September 2020, Minister Riester, participated in the meeting of European Union trade ministers.<sup>3437</sup> The ministers addressed the need to reassess EU trade policy to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3438</sup> This included discussions on securing supply chains and responding to disruptions in the European market.<sup>3439</sup>

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<sup>3430</sup> European solidarity in the face of COVID-19, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris). Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-solidarity-in-the-face-of-covid-19>

<sup>3431</sup> G20 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting, Government of France (Paris) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/g20-agriculture-ministers-meeting>.

<sup>3432</sup> G20 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting, Government of France (Paris) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/g20-agriculture-ministers-meeting>.

<sup>3433</sup> "Multilateral Cooperation for Global Recovery" – Joint article, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/article/multilateral-cooperation-for-global-recovery-joint-article-paris-3-feb-21>.

<sup>3434</sup> "Multilateral Cooperation for Global Recovery" – Joint article, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/article/multilateral-cooperation-for-global-recovery-joint-article-paris-3-feb-21>.

<sup>3435</sup> European Union - Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne's participation in the video conference of EU foreign affairs ministers, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 9 June 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-s-participation-in-the-video-conference-of>.

<sup>3436</sup> European Union - Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne's participation in the video conference of EU foreign affairs ministers, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 9 June 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-s-participation-in-the-video-conference-of>.

<sup>3437</sup> EU - Franck Riester at the meeting of EU trade ministers, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/eu-franck-riester-at-the-meeting-of-eu-trade-ministers-21-09-20>.

<sup>3438</sup> EU - Franck Riester at the meeting of EU trade ministers, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/eu-franck-riester-at-the-meeting-of-eu-trade-ministers-21-09-20>.

<sup>3439</sup> EU - Franck Riester at the meeting of EU trade ministers, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/eu-franck-riester-at-the-meeting-of-eu-trade-ministers-21-09-20>.

France has taken action to add address disturbances to international supply chains. It also multilaterally launched the ACT-Accelerator with the World Health Organization and the European Commission.<sup>3440</sup> This combination of domestic and international efforts warrants full compliance.

*Analyst: Isabella Li*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to address disturbances to international supply chains.

On 30 March 2020, the Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, Peter Altmaier, attended the conference call of the G20 Ministers of Trade and adopted the joint statement of the G20 Ministers of Trade to guarantee the global transport of medical supplies, agricultural products, and other essential goods.<sup>3441</sup>

On 6 April 2020, the Foreign Office, Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure of Germany consulted with many partner countries, especially with those in Asia, to ensure that partner countries could exempt air cargo plane crews from local quarantine regulations to achieve seamless delivery of air cargo to the respective countries.<sup>3442</sup>

On 16 April 2020, the federal government set up a protective shield of EUR30 billion to secure supplier loans for German companies and protect suppliers against payment defaults in the event that a customer is unable or unwilling to pay.<sup>3443</sup> The Minister of Finance, Olaf Scholz, said that “In setting up a protective shield, we are safeguarding the trade in goods and are thus ensuring a smooth flow of goods, which we urgently need right now.”<sup>3444</sup>

On 18 April 2020, Germany joined the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, which was an initiative established by the Government of Canada that agreed to consult every two weeks on specific steps to respond to the impact of the pandemic, particularly in the field of maintaining international air and trade networks among countries.<sup>3445</sup>

On 25 May 2020, Germany partook in the joint declaration of the Alliance for Multilateralism, which promised that countries would work with public health authorities to ensure accessible and accurate information regarding the pandemic; and to provide an effective flow of medical supplies, agricultural

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<sup>3440</sup> World Health Organization – Telephone conversation between Jean-Yves Le Drian and Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 7 September 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/news-and-events/news/news-2020/article/world-health-organization-telephone-conversation-between-jean-yves-le-drian-and>

<sup>3441</sup> G20 Ministers of Trade adopt Joint Declaration on the coronavirus crisis, Department of Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy Office (Berlin) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200331-g20-ministers-of-trade-adopt-joint-declaration-on-the-coronavirus-crisis.html>

<sup>3442</sup> The German Government is committed to keeping international supply chains moving, Department of Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/ausseiwirtschaft/verkehr/international-supply-chains/2331382>.

<sup>3443</sup> Federal Government Safeguards Trade in Goods, Department of Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy Office (Berlin) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200416-federal-government-safeguards-trade-in-goods.html>

<sup>3444</sup> Federal Government Safeguards Trade in Goods, Department of Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy Office (Berlin) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200416-federal-government-safeguards-trade-in-goods.html>

<sup>3445</sup> Joint Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, Department of Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 18 April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/annex-covid19/2333774>

products and other goods and services across national borders to reduce the shocks of global supply chains, thereby enabling the global economic recovery.<sup>3446</sup>

On 3 June 2020, the Foreign Office launched a joint declaration with the foreign ministers of Latin American and Caribbean States, agreeing to enforce a rule-based free trade system and diversify supply chains to facilitate economic recovery and overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3447</sup>

On 1 July 2020, the Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community launched the Programme for Germany's Presidency of the Council of the European Union and committed to implement the European Union Action Plan by strengthening corporate social responsibility, ensuring transparency and promoting human rights, social and environmental standards in global supply chains.<sup>3448</sup> Germany reiterated its resolution to promote a high level of transparency, to diversify supply chains, and to ensure cooperation in expanding production of critical medicines.<sup>3449</sup>

On 7 July 2020, the federal government adopted a five-point package of measures to promote export financing and address supply chain disruptions and overseas project execution.<sup>3450</sup>

On 7 September 2020, Germany, as the regional coordinator of the European Group, launched the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Statement on Coronavirus Diseases at the 13th ASEM Summit to promote more resilient and diversified supply chains in order to cope with future strikes of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3451</sup> In particular, the ASEM Statement emphasized the uninterrupted flow of essential goods and services across national borders as well as proper global distribution.<sup>3452</sup> While adhering to the public health and safety consideration, Germany as the regional coordinator of the European group at the 13th ASEM Summit claimed that it was necessary to coordinate responses to ensure international traffic and critical transport infrastructure to ensure the continued flow of cargo and goods.<sup>3453</sup>

On 25 February 2021, Chancellor Angela Merkel met virtually with the heads of state and the government of the European Union to finalize an agreement on a common approach to combatting the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3454</sup> During the meeting, Chancellor Merkel explained that the European Commission must

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<sup>3446</sup> We need strong global cooperation and solidarity to fight COVID-19, Department of Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 25 May 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/alliance-multilateralism-covid19/2333394>.

<sup>3447</sup> Joint Declaration of the Foreign Ministers of the Latin American and Caribbean states and of Germany, Department of Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2347180>.

<sup>3448</sup> Programme for Germany's Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Department of Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020.

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/downloads/EN/eu-presidency/breg-programme-eu-rp-en.html>.

<sup>3449</sup> Programme for Germany's Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Department of Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020.

<https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/downloads/EN/eu-presidency/breg-programme-eu-rp-en.html>.

<sup>3450</sup> Minister Altmaier: We are supporting German exports as an important pillar of our economy based on a 5-point package of measures, Department of Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy Office (Berlin) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200707-altmaier-we-are-supporting-german-exports-as-an-important-pillar-of-our-economy-based-on-a-5-point-package-of-measures.html>.

<sup>3451</sup> Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Statement on Coronavirus diseases (COVID-19), Department of Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 7 September 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/asem-coronavirus/2381556>.

<sup>3452</sup> Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Statement on Coronavirus diseases (COVID-19), Department of Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 7 September 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/asem-coronavirus/2381556>.

<sup>3453</sup> Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Statement on Coronavirus diseases (COVID-19), Department of Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 7 September 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/asem-coronavirus/2381556>.

<sup>3454</sup> Common approach to the pandemic, The Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/europaeischer-rat-corona-1863996>.

establish a Task Force to find out “how production capacities along the entire supply chain could be established within the EU so as to be able to produce the vaccines here.”<sup>3455</sup>

Germany has demonstrated initiative to address disturbances to domestic and international supply chains.

Thus, Germany has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Tianyang (Victoria) Wang*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment of addressing disturbances to international supply chains.

On 1 July 2020, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Emanuela Del Re announced the presence of blockages in the food supply chain, which was caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3456</sup> Italy and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have launched an initiative to address this issue — the Food Coalition.<sup>3457</sup> This program aims to mobilize skilled personnel to implement targeted projects on the ground.<sup>3458</sup>

On 13 July 2020, Deputy Minister Del Re attended a video conference hosted by FAO that addresses food security and nutrition around the world.<sup>3459</sup> Deputy Minister Del Re stated Italy would aim to create resilient food systems and strengthen sustainable supply chains in light of renewed efforts required to solve hunger in the world.<sup>3460</sup>

On 19 October 2020, Italy’s Draft Budgetary Plan (DPP) for 2021 was approved.<sup>3461</sup> Inside the DPP included a reform action to support sectoral supply chains most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3462</sup> This action

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<sup>3455</sup> Common approach to the pandemic, The Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/europaeischer-rat-corona-1863996>.

<sup>3456</sup> Press Release: Del Re: Coronavirus, from the vaccine to inequalities between countries and within countries. Italy and Europe ready for the challenge of the future in order to “rebuild better” (Il Fatto Quotidiano), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/interviste/2020/07/del-re-coronavirus-dal-vaccino-alle-disuguaglianze-tra-paesi-e-nei-paesi-italia-ed-europa-pronte-alla-sfida-del-futuro-per-ricostruire-meglio-il-fatto-quotidiano.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/interviste/2020/07/del-re-coronavirus-dal-vaccino-alle-disuguaglianze-tra-paesi-e-nei-paesi-italia-ed-europa-pronte-alla-sfida-del-futuro-per-ricostruire-meglio-il-fatto-quotidiano.html).

<sup>3457</sup> Press Release: Del Re: Coronavirus, from the vaccine to inequalities between countries and within countries. Italy and Europe ready for the challenge of the future in order to “rebuild better” (Il Fatto Quotidiano), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021.

[https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/interviste/2020/07/del-re-coronavirus-dal-vaccino-alle-disuguaglianze-tra-paesi-e-nei-paesi-italia-ed-europa-pronte-alla-sfida-del-futuro-per-ricostruire-meglio-il-fatto-quotidiano.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/interviste/2020/07/del-re-coronavirus-dal-vaccino-alle-disuguaglianze-tra-paesi-e-nei-paesi-italia-ed-europa-pronte-alla-sfida-del-futuro-per-ricostruire-meglio-il-fatto-quotidiano.html).

<sup>3458</sup> Press Release: Del Re: Coronavirus, from the vaccine to inequalities between countries and within countries. Italy and Europe ready for the challenge of the future in order to “rebuild better” (Il Fatto Quotidiano), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021.

[https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/interviste/2020/07/del-re-coronavirus-dal-vaccino-alle-disuguaglianze-tra-paesi-e-nei-paesi-italia-ed-europa-pronte-alla-sfida-del-futuro-per-ricostruire-meglio-il-fatto-quotidiano.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/interviste/2020/07/del-re-coronavirus-dal-vaccino-alle-disuguaglianze-tra-paesi-e-nei-paesi-italia-ed-europa-pronte-alla-sfida-del-futuro-per-ricostruire-meglio-il-fatto-quotidiano.html).

<sup>3459</sup> Press Release: Ms Del Re at the launch of 2020 report on UN Food Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 13 July 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/2020/07/del-re-a-lancio-rapporto-2020-su-sicurezza-alimentare-onu.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/2020/07/del-re-a-lancio-rapporto-2020-su-sicurezza-alimentare-onu.html).

<sup>3460</sup> Press Release: Ms Del Re at the launch of 2020 report on UN Food Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 13 July 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/2020/07/del-re-a-lancio-rapporto-2020-su-sicurezza-alimentare-onu.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/2020/07/del-re-a-lancio-rapporto-2020-su-sicurezza-alimentare-onu.html).

<sup>3461</sup> Italy’s Draft Budgetary Plan 2021, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 19 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/documenti/2021\\_dbp\\_it\\_en\\_0.pdf](https://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/documenti/2021_dbp_it_en_0.pdf).

<sup>3462</sup> Italy’s Draft Budgetary Plan 2021, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 19 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/documenti/2021\\_dbp\\_it\\_en\\_0.pdf](https://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/documenti/2021_dbp_it_en_0.pdf).

involves the establishment of the ‘Emergency Fund for the protection of supply chains in crisis’ with an endowment of EUR500 million distributed to sectors in crisis.<sup>3463</sup>

On 9 November 2020, the 53rd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers’ Meeting granted Italy status as an ASEAN development partner.<sup>3464</sup> Minister of Foreign Affairs Luigi Di Maio stated the partnership will contribute to rebuilding global supply chains.<sup>3465</sup>

Italy has demonstrated initiative to address disturbances to domestic and international supply chains.

Thus, Italy has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Joseph MuQin Shen*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to address disturbances to international supply chains.

On 5 March 2020, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministers Responsible for Trade issued a joint statement suggesting that member economies should keep their markets open and work together to create a free, fair, and stable trade and investment environment and ensure that trade and investment continue to flow.<sup>3466</sup> It was also recommended that member economies should strengthen regional connectivity by intensifying their efforts to make global supply chains more resilient and less vulnerable to shocks.<sup>3467</sup>

On 28 August 2020, economic ministers from the 10 ASEAN members and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) met virtually for consultations.<sup>3468</sup> In the video conference meeting, the ministers reaffirmed their commitment to ensure supply chain connectivity, particularly regarding the flow of essential goods such as medical supplies, medicines, and food in compliance with World Trade Organization rules.<sup>3469</sup> They additionally resolved to refrain from introducing or maintaining measures (i.e. non-tariff barriers) that could disrupt the flow of essential goods and services necessary to address the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3470</sup>

On 19 November 2020, METI held a general meeting for the inauguration of the Supply Chain Cybersecurity Consortium (SC3).<sup>3471</sup> SC3 aims to encourage all industrial players to “unite in their efforts for promoting

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<sup>3463</sup> Italy’s Draft Budgetary Plan 2021, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 19 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/documenti/2021\\_dbp\\_it\\_en\\_0.pdf](https://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/documenti/2021_dbp_it_en_0.pdf).

<sup>3464</sup> Press Release: Di Maio: Italian-ASEAN friendship takes a major step ahead (Vietnam Investment Review Newspaper), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 9 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/interviste/2020/11/di-maio-italian-asean-friendship-takes-a-major-step-ahead-vietnam-investment-review-newspaper.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/interviste/2020/11/di-maio-italian-asean-friendship-takes-a-major-step-ahead-vietnam-investment-review-newspaper.html).

<sup>3465</sup> Press Release: Di Maio: Italian-ASEAN friendship takes a major step ahead (Vietnam Investment Review Newspaper), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 9 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/interviste/2020/11/di-maio-italian-asean-friendship-takes-a-major-step-ahead-vietnam-investment-review-newspaper.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/interviste/2020/11/di-maio-italian-asean-friendship-takes-a-major-step-ahead-vietnam-investment-review-newspaper.html).

<sup>3466</sup>APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Issue Joint Statement on COVID-19, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo). 5 May 2020. Date of Access: 20 February 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0505\\_001.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0505_001.html).

<sup>3467</sup>APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Issue Joint Statement on COVID-19, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo). 5 May 2020. Date of Access: 20 February 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0505\\_001.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0505_001.html).

<sup>3468</sup>Joint Ministerial Statement of The Twenty-sixth AEM-METI Consultations, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo). 28 August 2020. Date of Access: 21 February 2021. <https://www.meti.go.jp/press/2020/08/20200828013/20200828013-5.pdf>.

<sup>3469</sup>Joint Ministerial Statement of The Twenty-sixth AEM-METI Consultations, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo). 28 August 2020. Date of Access: 21 February 2021. <https://www.meti.go.jp/press/2020/08/20200828013/20200828013-5.pdf>.

<sup>3470</sup>Joint Ministerial Statement of The Twenty-sixth AEM-METI Consultations, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo). 28 August 2020. Date of Access: 21 February 2021. <https://www.meti.go.jp/press/2020/08/20200828013/20200828013-5.pdf>.

<sup>3471</sup> General Meeting for Inauguration of Supply Chain Cybersecurity Consortium (SC3) Held, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo). 19 November 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1119\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1119_002.html).

cybersecurity measures throughout supply chains.”<sup>3472</sup> One of its primary goals is to maintain and fortify trust in Japanese industries.<sup>3473</sup>

On 3 December 2020, Japan hosted the 30th meeting of the Japan-Canada Joint Economic Committee.<sup>3474</sup> The co-chairs committed to improving supply chain resilience as expressed in the G20 Riyadh Summit Leaders’ Declaration and in view of the vulnerabilities that the pandemic exposed.<sup>3475</sup>

On 15 January 2021, the Council on Measures for Supply Chains held a meeting to address the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on the aircraft industry.<sup>3476</sup> At the meeting, the council confirmed a policy to collaborate and support supply chains in the industry.<sup>3477</sup>

Japan has made efforts to address disturbances to international supply chains by actively collaborating with other countries and adopting measures to mitigate the adverse effect and challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Xinrui Wang*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to address disturbances to international supply chains.

On 23 March 2020, the UK government announced a ban on “parallel exports” of critical medicines to treat COVID-19 patients.<sup>3478</sup> This action was taken to ensure that there was “an uninterrupted supply of medicines for National Health Service (NHS) hospitals treating coronavirus patients.” and to prevent the reselling of medicines at higher prices in other countries.<sup>3479</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the United Kingdom Export Finance (UKEF) extended its Exports Insurance Policy to protect against non-payment for UK exporters when selling internationally.<sup>3480</sup> The scheme was extended for businesses operating in major international markets, including, but not limited to the European Union and United States.<sup>3481</sup>

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<sup>3472</sup> General Meeting for Inauguration of Supply Chain Cybersecurity Consortium (SC3) Held, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo). 19 November 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1119\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1119_002.html).

<sup>3473</sup> General Meeting for Inauguration of Supply Chain Cybersecurity Consortium (SC3) Held, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo). 19 November 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1119\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1119_002.html).

<sup>3474</sup>The 30th Meeting of the Japan - Canada Joint Economic Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo). 3 December 2020. Date of Access: 22 February 2021. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100130400.pdf>.

<sup>3475</sup>The 30th Meeting of the Japan - Canada Joint Economic Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo). 3 December 2020. Date of Access: 22 February 2021. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100130400.pdf>.

<sup>3476</sup> Council on Measures for Supply Chains in the Aircraft Industry Holds Meeting, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo). 15 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0115\\_004.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0115_004.html).

<sup>3477</sup> Council on Measures for Supply Chains in the Aircraft Industry Holds Meeting, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo). 15 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0115\\_004.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0115_004.html).

<sup>3478</sup> UK bans parallel exporting of crucial medicines to help COVID-19 patients, European Pharmaceutical Review (Kent) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.europeanpharmaceuticalreview.com/news/115637/uk-bans-parallel-exporting-of-crucial-medicines-to-help-covid-19-patients/>.

<sup>3479</sup> UK bans parallel exporting of crucial medicines to help COVID-19 patients, European Pharmaceutical Review (Kent) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.europeanpharmaceuticalreview.com/news/115637/uk-bans-parallel-exporting-of-crucial-medicines-to-help-covid-19-patients/>.

<sup>3480</sup> UKEF expands protection against non-payment for UK, UK Government (London) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-expands-protection-against-non-payment-for-uk-exporters>.

<sup>3481</sup> UKEF expands protection against non-payment for UK, UK Government (London) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-expands-protection-against-non-payment-for-uk-exporters>.



On 22 April 2020, the UK alongside several members of the World Trade Organization issued a joint statement that affirmed the maintenance of agricultural supply chains during the COVID-19 crisis.<sup>3482</sup> This statement also included an agreement against the imposition of restrictive measures on food exports and a commitment to “ensure that supply chains remain open and connected so that international markets can continue to function.”<sup>3483</sup>

On 22 June 2020, the Department for International Trade (DIT) and the Department for Environment announced a “bounce-back” international trade strategy for UK food and drink and agricultural industries.<sup>3484</sup> The strategy seeks to “capitalise on trade agreements being negotiated by DIT with Japan, US, Australia and New Zealand” and to enable expansion of international trade activity for these industries internationally.<sup>3485</sup>

On 14 August 2020, the UK introduced a program to support the workers of “high-street” businesses in developing nations during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3486</sup> This program includes investments targeted at maintaining “safe” and “secure” employment for vulnerable workers in associated supply chains.<sup>3487</sup> The UK contributed GBP4.85 million to this program.<sup>3488</sup>

On 8 September 2020, Exports Minister Graham Stuart announced the development of a bounce-back international trade strategy for consumer and retail industries.<sup>3489</sup> This strategy seeks to improve overseas exports by helping improve the industries’ knowledge of online retail and e-commerce within international marketplaces.<sup>3490</sup>

On 7 December 2020, UKEF launched the General Export Facility in collaboration with commercial banks to provide guarantees of working capital and capital expenditure for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) engaging in international trade.<sup>3491</sup> This includes an “80% guarantee on financial support from lenders to support general exporting costs, up to the value of GBP 25 million.”<sup>3492</sup>

On 10 January 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office announced that the UK has aided in raising over USD1 billion for the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Advance Market

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<sup>3482</sup> The COVID-19 pandemic and international trade, UK Government (London) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/2177/documents/20125/default/>.

<sup>3483</sup> The COVID-19 pandemic and international trade, UK Government (London) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/2177/documents/20125/default/>.

<sup>3484</sup> ‘Bounce back’ plan for agriculture, food and drink industry launched, UK Government (London) 22 June 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bounce-back-plan-for-agriculture-food-and-drink-industry-launched>.

<sup>3485</sup> ‘Bounce back’ plan for agriculture, food and drink industry launched, UK Government (London) 22 June 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bounce-back-plan-for-agriculture-food-and-drink-industry-launched>.

<sup>3486</sup> UK Aid to protect high street supply chains, UK Government (London) 14 August 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-protect-high-street-supply-chains>.

<sup>3487</sup> UK Aid to protect high street supply chains, UK Government (London) 14 August 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-protect-high-street-supply-chains>.

<sup>3488</sup> UK Aid to protect high street supply chains, UK Government (London) 14 August 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-protect-high-street-supply-chains>.

<sup>3489</sup> Bounce-back plans launched for consumer and retail industry, UK Government (London) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bounce-back-plans-launched-for-consumer-and-retail-industry>.

<sup>3490</sup> Bounce-back plans launched for consumer and retail industry, UK Government (London) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bounce-back-plans-launched-for-consumer-and-retail-industry>.

<sup>3491</sup> Radical shake up to government export finance support for small businesses, UK Government (London) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/radical-shake-up-to-government-export-finance-support-for-small-businesses>.

<sup>3492</sup> Radical shake up to government export finance support for small businesses, UK Government (London) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/radical-shake-up-to-government-export-finance-support-for-small-businesses>.

Commitment.<sup>3493</sup> Through a match-funding scheme, the UK pledged to aid GBP548 million to facilitate the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to “92 developing countries.”<sup>3494</sup>

On 19 January 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that up to 2,000 people “crucial to the continuity of the COVID-19 supply chain” will be offered vaccinations.<sup>3495</sup> The government deems these individuals critical to the delivery and offering of vaccine supplies, and thus, highlighting their vulnerability as part of the associated medical supply chain.<sup>3496</sup>

On 9 March 2021, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock spoke at the Global COVID-19 Vaccine Supply Chain and Manufacturing Summit. Secretary Hancock discussed the Vaccine Task Force created in partnership with Oxford University that helped establish vaccine supply chains throughout the UK.<sup>3497</sup>

From supporting SMEs in international trade markets to raising funds for vaccine dissemination in developing countries through the Vaccine Alliance Initiative, the UK has taken clear actions to address disturbances to international supply chains.

Thus, the UK received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Julian Lam*

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

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to address disturbances to international supply chains.

On 18 March 2020, President Donald Trump invoked the Defense Production Act to mass produce supplies needed to combat the COVID-19 pandemic on recommendation by Congress.<sup>3498</sup> The Defense Production Act would allow the President to influence domestic production to preferential goods, as well as provide emergency financial support to domestic producers.<sup>3499</sup> The need for this act stemmed from reports of challenges to meet demand for supplies from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.<sup>3500</sup>

On 11 April 2020, the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) announced that it would make applicable programs available to Italy to support their economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

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<sup>3493</sup> UK meets 250m match aid target into COVAX, the global vaccines facility, UK Government (London) 10 January 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-raises-1bn-so-vulnerable-countries-can-get-vaccine>.

<sup>3494</sup> UK meets 250m match aid target into COVAX, the global vaccines facility, UK Government (London) 10 January 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-raises-1bn-so-vulnerable-countries-can-get-vaccine>.

<sup>3495</sup> Supply chain workers crucial to vaccination programme to receive jabs, UK Government (London) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/supply-chain-workers-crucial-to-vaccination-programme-to-receive-jabs>.

<sup>3496</sup> Supply chain workers crucial to vaccination programme to receive jabs, UK Government (London) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/supply-chain-workers-crucial-to-vaccination-programme-to-receive-jabs>.

<sup>3497</sup> COVID-19 vaccine supply and manufacturing in the UK, UK Government (London) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/covid-19-vaccine-supply-and-manufacturing-in-the-uk>.

<sup>3498</sup> Trump invokes Defense Production Act to expand production of hospital masks and more, CNN (Atlanta) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/18/politics/trump-defense-production-act-coronavirus/index.html>.

<sup>3499</sup> Trump invokes Defense Production Act to expand production of hospital masks and more, CNN (Atlanta) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/18/politics/trump-defense-production-act-coronavirus/index.html>.

<sup>3500</sup> Letter from Congress of the United States to the President, Congress of the United States (Washington D.C.) 13 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021.

<https://andylevin.house.gov/sites/andylevin.house.gov/files/031320%20House%20to%20POTUS%20on%20DPA%20COVID-19.pdf>.

EXIM will provide financing tools that benefit American exporters and workers, and Italy.<sup>3501</sup> EXIM President and Chair Kimberly Reed reiterated a message made by former U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo underscoring the importance of global trade, supply chains and cooperation.<sup>3502</sup>

On 4 May 2020, EXIM increased coverage of its Supply Chain Finance Guarantee Program and Working Capital Guarantee Program to support a wider range of domestic suppliers and exporters affected by the pandemic.<sup>3503</sup>

On 22 October 2020, the EXIM Board voted to inform Congress of a potential USD500 million Supply Chain Guarantee Finance program.<sup>3504</sup> The guarantee would benefit 1,900 aviation jobs across the country and support the aircraft supply chain affected by COVID-19.<sup>3505</sup>

On 21 January 2021, President Joseph R. Biden signed an executive order on a sustainable public health supply chain.<sup>3506</sup> The executive order directed immediate action toward securing necessary supplies for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3507</sup> It ordered a review of the ability of critical materials, treatments, and supplies needed to combat COVID-19 (e.g. personal protective equipment).<sup>3508</sup> Moreover, it called for a review of the necessary resources to produce and distribute COVID-19 tests and vaccines.<sup>3509</sup>

On 17 February 2021, Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken announced that the U.S. will cooperate with international partners to expand manufacturing, distribution capacity, and increase access to COVID-19

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<sup>3501</sup> President Trump Underscores Role of EXIM in U.S. Government's Assistance to Italy in Fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic and Supporting the Recovery of the Italian Economy, Export-Import Bank of the United States (Washington D.C.) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.exim.gov/news/president-trump-underscores-role-exim-government%E2%80%99s-assistance-italy-fighting-covid-19-pandemic>.

<sup>3502</sup> President Trump Underscores Role of EXIM in U.S. Government's Assistance to Italy in Fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic and Supporting the Recovery of the Italian Economy, Export-Import Bank of the United States (Washington D.C.) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.exim.gov/news/president-trump-underscores-role-exim-government%E2%80%99s-assistance-italy-fighting-covid-19-pandemic>.

<sup>3503</sup> EXIM Increases U.S. Exporter Access to Capital and Supply Chain Financing During COVID-19 by Raising Lender Guarantee Coverage Option to 95 Percent, Export-Import Bank of the United States (Washington D.C.) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.exim.gov/news/exim-increases-exporter-access-capital-and-supply-chain-financing-during-covid-19-raising>.

<sup>3504</sup> EXIM Board Votes to Notify Congress of Potential \$500 Million Supply Chain Finance Guarantee Supporting an Estimated 1,900 Jobs Across the United States, Including in California, Florida, Kansas, New York, Texas, and Washington, Export-Import Bank of the United States (Washington D.C.) 22 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.exim.gov/news/exim-board-votes-notify-congress-potential-500-million-supply-chain-finance-guarantee>.

<sup>3505</sup> EXIM Board Votes to Notify Congress of Potential \$500 Million Supply Chain Finance Guarantee Supporting an Estimated 1,900 Jobs Across the United States, Including in California, Florida, Kansas, New York, Texas, and Washington, Export-Import Bank of the United States (Washington D.C.) 22 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.exim.gov/news/exim-board-votes-notify-congress-potential-500-million-supply-chain-finance-guarantee>.

<sup>3506</sup> Executive Order on a Sustainable Public Health Supply Chain, The White House, (Washington D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/21/executive-order-a-sustainable-public-health-supply-chain/>.

<sup>3507</sup> Executive Order on a Sustainable Public Health Supply Chain, The White House, (Washington D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/21/executive-order-a-sustainable-public-health-supply-chain/>.

<sup>3508</sup> Executive Order on a Sustainable Public Health Supply Chain, The White House, (Washington D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/21/executive-order-a-sustainable-public-health-supply-chain/>.

<sup>3509</sup> Executive Order on a Sustainable Public Health Supply Chain, The White House, (Washington D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/21/executive-order-a-sustainable-public-health-supply-chain/>.

vaccines.<sup>3510</sup> Secretary Blinken additionally promised a further contribution of USD200 million to the World Health Organization to support them in leading the global response to the pandemic.<sup>3511</sup>

On 24 February 2021, President Biden signed an executive order on America's supply chains.<sup>3512</sup> The executive order recognized the need for the United States to develop "resilient, diverse, and secure supply chains to ensure our economic prosperity and national security."<sup>3513</sup> The order outlined necessary actions that must be undertaken in order to strengthen the resilience of America's supply chain including coordination between executive branch actions, consulting outside stakeholders, and completing a review of supply chain risks.<sup>3514</sup>

The United States has demonstrated initiative to address disturbances to domestic and international supply chains.

Thus, the United States has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Joseph MuQin Shen*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to address disturbances to international supply chains.

On 26 May 2020, Charles Michel, President of the European Council; Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan; and Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, agreed to promote the cross-border flow of medical supplies, agricultural products and raw materials, while ensuring that the necessary emergency measures of tackling COVID-19 pandemic did not create unnecessary disruption to global supply chains.<sup>3515</sup>

On 8 June 2020, the European Union-Vietnam Investment Protection Agreement was approved by the Vietnamese National Assembly.<sup>3516</sup> The agreement will strengthen the international trade system by extending common rules and standards among the two areas, making it an important contribution by the European Union in protecting supply chains against future crises.<sup>3517</sup>

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<sup>3510</sup> Press Release: Secretary Antony J. Blinken Remarks to the UN Security Council Briefing on COVID-19 and Vaccine Access, United States Department of State (Washington D.C.) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021.

<https://www.state.gov/secretary-antony-j-blinken-remarks-to-the-un-security-council-briefing-on-covid-19-and-vaccine-access/>

<sup>3511</sup> Press Release: Secretary Antony J. Blinken Remarks to the UN Security Council Briefing on COVID-19 and Vaccine Access, United States Department of State (Washington D.C.) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021.

<https://www.state.gov/secretary-antony-j-blinken-remarks-to-the-un-security-council-briefing-on-covid-19-and-vaccine-access/>

<sup>3512</sup> Executive Order on America's Supply Chains, The White House, (Washington D.C.) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/02/24/executive-order-on-americas-supply-chains/>.

<sup>3513</sup> Executive Order on America's Supply Chains, The White House, (Washington D.C.) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/02/24/executive-order-on-americas-supply-chains/>.

<sup>3514</sup> Executive Order on America's Supply Chains, The White House, (Washington D.C.) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/02/24/executive-order-on-americas-supply-chains/>.

<sup>3515</sup> Joint Press release: Japan-EU Leaders' meeting, European Council (Brussel) 25 May 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/05/26/joint-press-release-japan-eu-leaders-meeting/>.

<sup>3516</sup> Signal of support for rules-based free trade in times of crisis: Vietnamese National Assembly paves the way for free trade agreement with the EU, Department of Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020.

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/vietnam-node/free-trade-agreement-viet-nam/2330220>.

<sup>3517</sup> Signal of support for rules-based free trade in times of crisis: Vietnamese National Assembly paves the way for free trade agreement with the EU, Department of Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020.

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/vietnam-node/free-trade-agreement-viet-nam/2330220>.

On 7 October 2020, the incoming Trade Commissioner of the European Union, Valdis Dombrovskis, announced plans to complete the ongoing EU Trade Policy Review and implement digital trade policies that will increase the resilience of global supply chains.<sup>3518</sup>

On 28 October 2020, the European Commission adopted new measures in taxation and customs to fight against the ongoing coronavirus, including temporarily lifting custom duties and value-added tax on the import of protective and medical equipment from non-European Union countries.<sup>3519</sup>

On 1 December 2020, the European Council approved conclusions calling on member states and the European Commission to promote human rights in global supply chains.<sup>3520</sup> The Council asked the Commission to launch an EU Action Plan to focus on shaping sustainable global supply chains and to promote human rights.<sup>3521</sup>

On 2 December 2020, European Union health ministers agreed at an informal video conference held by the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union to diversify and increase transparency in production and supply chains, which will encourage the production and investment of critical medicinal products in Europe and thereby reduce the vulnerability of and dependence on global supply chains.<sup>3522</sup>

On 3 December 2020, President Michel introduced an international treaty on the pandemic within the framework of the World Health Organization to improve the resilience of supply chains and secure the supply chains.<sup>3523</sup>

On 18 December 2020, the European Council approved a conclusion to ensure the supply of medicinal products throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3524</sup> The Council invited the European Commission to “reinforce the existing EU level tools in order to collect information on the whole supply chain, such as sources of supply, global manufacturing sites for active pharmaceutical ingredients and other pharmaceutical substances.”<sup>3525</sup> Moreover, the Council recognized the need for the European Health Data Space to

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<sup>3518</sup> The EU can set the pace worldwide with a forward-thinking digital trade strategy, EuroNews (France) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.euronews.com/2020/10/07/the-eu-can-set-the-pace-worldwide-with-a-forward-thinking-digital-trade-strategy-view>.

<sup>3519</sup> COVID-19: Commission puts forward taxation and customs measures to support access to more affordable equipment, vaccines and testing kits, European Commission (Brussels) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/news/covid-19-commission-puts-forward-taxation-and-customs-measures-support-access-more-affordable-equipment-vaccines-and-testing-kits\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/news/covid-19-commission-puts-forward-taxation-and-customs-measures-support-access-more-affordable-equipment-vaccines-and-testing-kits_en).

<sup>3520</sup> Human rights and decent work in global supply chains: the Council approves conclusions, European Council (Brussels) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/01/human-rights-and-decent-work-in-global-supply-chains-the-council-approves-conclusions/>.

<sup>3521</sup> Human rights and decent work in global supply chains: the Council approves conclusions, European Council (Brussels) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/01/human-rights-and-decent-work-in-global-supply-chains-the-council-approves-conclusions/>.

<sup>3522</sup> Informal Meeting of Health Ministers, Department of Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/eu2020/en/topics-and-documents/epsco.html>.

<sup>3523</sup> Press release by President Charles Michel on an International Treaty on Pandemics, European Council (Brussels) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/03/press-release-by-president-charles-michel-on-an-international-treaty-on-pandemics/>.

<sup>3524</sup> COVID-19 lessons learned in health: the Council approves conclusions, European Council (Brussels) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/18/covid-19-lessons-learned-in-health-the-council-approves-conclusions/>.

<sup>3525</sup> COVID-19 lessons learned in health: the Council approves conclusions, European Council (Brussels) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/18/covid-19-lessons-learned-in-health-the-council-approves-conclusions/>.

“contribute to the cross-border use and re-use of health data for better healthcare, better research, as well as better policy-making and regulatory activities in health.”<sup>3526</sup>

On 9 March 2021, the European Parliament endorsed the provisional agreement for the new EU4Health programme for 2021-2027.<sup>3527</sup> The primary goal of the programme is to prepare EU health systems for future health threats and pandemics.<sup>3528</sup> During the plenary debate, the Ministers of European Parliament “welcomed the establishment at EU level of a stockpile of essential health supplies and equipment.”<sup>3529</sup> This would help to temporarily resolve bottlenecks in the supply chain during times of emergency.<sup>3530</sup>

The European Union has initiated and engaged with multilateral efforts to address the disruptions in international supply chains.

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

*Analyst: Tianyang (Victoria) Wa*

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<sup>3526</sup> COVID-19 lessons learned in health: the Council approves conclusions, European Council (Brussels) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/18/covid-19-lessons-learned-in-health-the-council-approves-conclusions/>.

<sup>3527</sup> Parliament gives green light for new EU4Health programme, European Parliament (Brussels) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99207/parliament-gives-green-light-for-new-eu4health-programme>.

<sup>3528</sup> Parliament gives green light for new EU4Health programme, European Parliament (Brussels) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99207/parliament-gives-green-light-for-new-eu4health-programme>.

<sup>3529</sup> Parliament gives green light for new EU4Health programme, European Parliament (Brussels) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99207/parliament-gives-green-light-for-new-eu4health-programme>.

<sup>3530</sup> Parliament gives green light for new EU4Health programme, European Parliament (Brussels) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99207/parliament-gives-green-light-for-new-eu4health-programme>.

## 20. Trade: Facilitating International Trade

“[We will] ... continue our work to facilitate international trade.”

*G7 Leaders’ Declaration*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

### Background

On 16 March 2020, under the U.S. presidency, G7 leaders met virtually to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time, they expected to meet again in three months at their regularly scheduled summit on 10-12 June 2020, which was later postponed indefinitely.

The statement released at the Virtual Summit said that “[we will] ... continue our work to facilitate international trade.”<sup>3531</sup> The G7 has a long history of making broad commitments to support international trade. Trade as a commitment feature appeared at the first G7 summit – the 1975 Rambouillet Summit – in response to the rise in protectionism following the 1973-1975 Recession. In the Declaration of Rambouillet, G7 members pledged to create “new efforts in the areas of world trade,” “restore growth in the volume of world trade,” and “believe that ... multilateral trade negotiations should be accelerated.”<sup>3532</sup> As previously shown, the 1975 Rambouillet Summit was the first in which the G7 members undertook to facilitate international trade. Concurrently, the 1975 Rambouillet Summit is also the first time in which G7 members promise to take unilateral domestic action, like policy or legal changes, to facilitate international trade. The aforesaid is most evident wherein “there is a responsibility of all countries ... to pursue policies which will permit the expansion of world trade,” including the reduction of trade barrier like tariffs.<sup>3533</sup> The 1975 Rambouillet Summit also makes the first mention of the need “to assist the developing countries” in the reduction of their “large [trade] deficits.”<sup>3534</sup>

The 1977 London Summit marked the first of a long line of mentions, in which the G7 called upon renewing and expanding the scope of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.<sup>3535</sup> The 1986 Tokyo Economic Declaration marks the first positing of the “implement[ation of] effective structural adjustment policies” as a stimuli facilitating international trade.

<sup>3531</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, The White House [Washington D.C.], 16 March 2020. Access Date: 19 December 2020.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/g7-leaders-statement/>.

<sup>3532</sup> Declaration of Rambouillet, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 17 November 1975. Access Date: 19 December 2020.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1975rambouillet/communique.html>.

<sup>3533</sup> Declaration of Rambouillet, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 17 November 1975. Access Date: 19 December 2020.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1975rambouillet/communique.html>.

<sup>3534</sup> Declaration of Rambouillet, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 17 November 1975. Access Date: 19 December 2020.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1975rambouillet/communique.html>.

<sup>3535</sup> Declaration: Downing Street Summit Conference, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 8 May 1977. Access Date: 19 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1977london/communique.html>.

The 1992 Munich Summit followed the collapse of the Soviet Union and “stressed the need for the further opening of international markets to products from the new States;” was the first to call for increased international trade between the newly independent states and the world.<sup>3536</sup> The 1994 Naples Summit was the first to praise the creation of the World Trade Organization “as [an] important milestone in postwar trade liberalisation” in order to facilitate international trade.<sup>3537</sup> The 1996 Lyon Summit was the first to acknowledge “globalization” as the main facilitator of the “unprecedented expansion of investment and trade” of the 1980s and 1990s.<sup>3538</sup>

The 2000 Okinawa Summit was the first to pursue “facilitat[ion of] cross-border e-commerce by promoting further liberalisation” of international trade on information and communications technology.<sup>3539</sup> Also prioritized for the first time is the call for increased international trade to be used as a tool to reduce global poverty.<sup>3540</sup> The 2007 Heiligendamm Summit was the first to promote the facilitation of international trade through an increase in and increased enforcement of intellectual property rights<sup>3541</sup> The 2008 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Declaration forwarded the first linkage between facilitating international trade.<sup>3542</sup> In light of the 2008 global financial crisis, the 2009 L’Aquila Summit continued the G7 trend – in the face of economic recessions – to “reject protectionism of any kind.”<sup>3543</sup>

The 2013 Lough Erne Summit is the first to facilitate international trade through the reduction and “streamlining” of “trade bureaucracy.”<sup>3544</sup> The 2016 Ise-Shima Summit was the first to call for reductions of dumping, or “global excess capacity” of industrial sectors which “distort the market” and harm international trade.<sup>3545</sup> The 2017 Taormina Summit pushed for the first time for “the removal of ... discriminatory non-tariff barriers, forced technology transfers, subsidies, and other support by governments and related institutions that distort markets.”<sup>3546</sup>

On 31 December 2019, the World Health Organization first alerted the world of the new SARS-CoV-2 virus, following a report of a new viral pneumonia emerging in the People’s Republic of China.<sup>3547</sup> The virus quickly spread across the world, infecting 72 million and killing 1.6 million individuals as of 16 December 2020 and

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<sup>3536</sup> Economic Declaration: Working Together for Growth and a Safer World, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 8 July 1992. Access Date: 19 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1992munich/communique/index.html>.

<sup>3537</sup> Summit Communiqué, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 9 July 1994. Access Date: 19 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1994naples/communique/index.html>.

<sup>3538</sup> Economic Communiqué: Making a Success of Globalization for the Benefit of All, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 28 June 1996. Access Date: 19 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1996lyon/communique.html>.

<sup>3539</sup> Okinawa Charter on Global Information Society, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 22 July 2000. Access Date: 19 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/gis.htm>.

<sup>3540</sup> G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 23 July 2000. Access Date: 19 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>.

<sup>3541</sup> Growth and Responsibility in the World Economy, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 7 June 2007. Access Date: 19 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2007heilgendamm/g8-2007-economy.html>.

<sup>3542</sup> G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 8 July 2008. Access Date: 19 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>.

<sup>3543</sup> Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 8 July 2009. Access Date: 19 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-declaration.html#trade>.

<sup>3544</sup> G8 Lough Erne Leaders Communiqué, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 18 June 2013. Access Date: 19 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2013lougherne/lough-erne-communique.html#trade>.

<sup>3545</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 27 May 2016. Access Date: 19 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html#trade>.

<sup>3546</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 27 May 2017. Access Date: 19 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

<sup>3547</sup> Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), What is COVID-19?, World Health Organisation [Geneva], 12 October 2020. Access Date: 19 December 2020. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/question-and-answers-hub/q-a-detail/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>.



forcing the world economy to slow as the world entered a mass-lockdown.<sup>3548</sup> In response, the officials of G7 members first met on 3 February 2020, wherein the G7 health ministers discussed COVID-19.<sup>3549</sup> On 16 March, in addition to facilitating international trade, the G7 leaders made commitments in the areas of global investment, consumer confidence, economic growth, unemployment, and job protection.<sup>3550</sup>

### Commitment Features

The G7 commitment states that “[we will] ... continue our work to facilitate international trade.”<sup>3551</sup> There are two components to this commitment: 1) The facilitation of international trade through multilateral action; and 2) the facilitation of international trade by a G7 member through unilateral domestic action, like legal or policy acts.

Actions need to “continue our work to facilitate international trade,” wherein continue “refers to commitments that are established and implemented. It should be interpreted to mean new actions will be added to the already existing ones. It should not be interpreted to mean no new allocations.”<sup>3552</sup> In the text of the commitment, “work” is to “perform or carry through a task requiring sustained effort or continuous repeated operations.”<sup>3553</sup> “Facilitate” is “to make something possible or easier.”<sup>3554</sup> “International trade” are “economic transactions that are made between countries.”<sup>3555</sup> Thus, to “facilitate international trade” is to make economic transactions made between countries more possible or easier.

For full compliance, G7 members must take action on both components of this commitment. G7 members have to facilitate international trade through multilateral actions, and facilitate international trade through domestic action such as legal or policy acts. A G7 member must strongly comply with both aspects of this commitment, or strongly comply with one and partially with the other to receive full compliance. Strongly compliant actions include actions such as the passing of domestic policy or legal acts and monetary contributions to multilateral programs that directly facilitate international trade.

If the G7 member facilitates international trade through multilateral actions or domestic actions such as policy or legal acts, but not the other area, the G7 member will receive a score of partial compliance, or 0. A G7 member partially complies with both aspects of this commitment, or fully complies with one and not at all with the other to receive a score of partial compliance. Partially compliant or less than compliant actions include non-tangible support such as verbal support towards the facilitation of international trade.

A score of -1, or no compliance, will be assigned to the G7 member if it fails to take any efforts, multilateral or unilateral and domestic, to facilitate international trade; a G7 member must partially comply with only one aspect of this commitment, or with neither to receive a score of no compliance.

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<sup>3548</sup> WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard, World Health Organisation [Geneva], 16 December 2020. Access Date: 19 December 2020. <https://covid19.who.int>.

<sup>3549</sup> The Road to the United States’ 2020 G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 13 October 2020. Access Date: 19 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/road.html>.

<sup>3550</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, The White House [Washington D.C.], 16 March 2020. Access Date: 19 December 2020. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/g7-leaders-statement/>

<sup>3551</sup> G7 Leaders’ Statement, The White House [Washington D.C.], 16 March 2020. Access Date: 19 December 2020. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/g7-leaders-statement/>.

<sup>3552</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre [Toronto], 6 August 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2020. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2019.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2019.pdf).

<sup>3553</sup> Work, Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/work>.

<sup>3554</sup> Facilitate, Cambridge English Dictionary. Access Date: 18 December 2020. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/facilitate>.

<sup>3555</sup> International Trade, Encyclopaedia Britannica [Chicago], 11 November 2020. Date Accessed: 18 December 2020. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/international-trade>.

**Scoring Guidelines**

-1	G7 member does NOT made any efforts to facilitate international trade through multilateral action OR take any unilateral domestic actions such as policy or legal acts to facilitate international trade.
0	G7 member has made efforts to facilitate international trade through multilateral action OR has taken unilateral domestic action such as policy or legal acts to facilitate international trade.
+1	G7 member has taken efforts through multilateral action AND through unilateral domestic action such as policy or legal acts to facilitate international trade.

*Compliance Director: Ben Holt  
Lead Analyst: Justin O'Brien*

**Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate international trade through multilateral actions and unilateral domestic actions, such as legal or policy acts.

On 25 March 2020, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion, and International Trade Mary Ng published a statement affirming Canada's commitment to facilitate international movement of goods, services and people via open and connected supply chains amid the pandemic.<sup>3556</sup> The statement was made alongside Australia, Brunei, Chile, Myanmar, New Zealand and Singapore.<sup>3557</sup> Minister Ng emphasised coordination with its international partners as crucial to make sure Canadian businesses continue to provide essential goods to places that require them.<sup>3558</sup>

On 27 April 2020, Canada donated CAD450,000 to aid developing countries in engaging in farm trade.<sup>3559</sup> The donation was made to the Standards and Trade Development Facility, which aids developing countries get access to markets via enhancing sanitary and phytosanitary knowledge, promoting food, animal and plant health and safety.<sup>3560</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Canada donated CAD90,000 to aid trading capacities of developing countries.<sup>3561</sup> The donation was made to the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund to fund training workshops for government officials to deepen understandings of current trade issues.<sup>3562</sup>

On 5 May 2020, Minister Ng published a statement affirming joint commitment by Canada and WTO members to maintain rule-based and predictable international trade.<sup>3563</sup> Canada and 41 WTO members signed

<sup>3556</sup> Statement on joint international effort to ensure supply chain connectivity amid covid-19 pandemic, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 25 March 2020. Date of Access: 16 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/statement-on-joint-international-effort-to-ensure-supply-chain-connectivity-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

<sup>3557</sup> Statement on joint international effort to ensure supply chain connectivity amid covid-19 pandemic, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 25 March 2020. Date of Access: 16 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/statement-on-joint-international-effort-to-ensure-supply-chain-connectivity-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

<sup>3558</sup> Statement on joint international effort to ensure supply chain connectivity amid covid-19 pandemic, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 25 March 2020. Date of Access: 16 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/statement-on-joint-international-effort-to-ensure-supply-chain-connectivity-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

<sup>3559</sup> Canada gives CAD 450,000 to help developing countries take part in farm trade, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 April 2020. Date of Access: 16 February 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/pres20\\_e/pr856\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres20_e/pr856_e.htm).

<sup>3560</sup> Canada gives CAD 450,000 to help developing countries take part in farm trade, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 April 2020. Date of Access: 16 February 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/pres20\\_e/pr856\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres20_e/pr856_e.htm).

<sup>3561</sup> Canada donates CAD 90,000 to help developing countries participate in international trade, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 4 May 2020. Date of Access: 16 February 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/pres20\\_e/pr857\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres20_e/pr857_e.htm).

<sup>3562</sup> Canada donates CAD 90,000 to help developing countries participate in international trade, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 4 May 2020. Date of Access: 16 February 2021. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/pres20\\_e/pr857\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres20_e/pr857_e.htm).

<sup>3563</sup> Statement on joint commitment with WTO members to maintain predictable and rules-based trade at this critical time, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 5 May 2020. Date of Access: 16 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/statement-on-joint-commitment-with-wto-members-to-maintain-predictable-and-rules-based-trade-at-this-critical-time.html>.

a joint statement to affirm their commitment to support rule-based multilateral trade amid the global pandemic and not impose unnecessary barriers or export restrictions.<sup>3564</sup>

On 1 July 2020, Canada–United States–Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) entered into force.<sup>3565</sup> CUSMA strengthens the rules governing trade and investment and adds 21st-century trade issues and promotes opportunities for North Americans.<sup>3566</sup> The Government of Canada stated that CUSMA will “serve to reinforce Canada’s strong economic ties with the United States and Mexico.”<sup>3567</sup>

On 25 July 2020, Minister Ng attended an Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation–Canada meeting to discuss bolstering rule based trade and reinforcing stable and predictable global supply chains.<sup>3568</sup> Minister Ng declared Canada’s intention to proceed with Phase II of the partnership.<sup>3569</sup> Phase II focuses on helping small businesses by “reducing barriers to trade, giving back to their communities, and building economies that work for everyone — including women.”<sup>3570</sup> Minister Ng signed a joint statement reassuring the commitment to work collectively for a sustainable, inclusive and quick economic recovery for small businesses and citizens during the global pandemic.<sup>3571</sup>

On 18 September 2020, Canada and Finland reaffirmed their commitment towards a strong and stable trade relationship to grow their economies in an inclusive and sustainable manner.<sup>3572</sup>

On 9 December 2020, Canada and the United Kingdom signed a trade deal named Canada-United Kingdom Trade Continuity Agreement.<sup>3573</sup> The agreement continues the elimination of tariffs on 98 per cent of

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<sup>3564</sup> Statement on joint commitment with WTO members to maintain predictable and rules-based trade at this critical time, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 5 May 2020. Date of Access: 16 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/statement-on-joint-commitment-with-wto-members-to-maintain-predictable-and-rules-based-trade-at-this-critical-time.html>.

<sup>3565</sup> A new Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 1 July 2020. Date of Access: 16 February 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/agr-acc/cusma-aceum/index.aspx?lang=eng>.

<sup>3566</sup> A new Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 1 July 2020. Date of Access: 16 February 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/agr-acc/cusma-aceum/index.aspx?lang=eng>.

<sup>3567</sup> A new Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 1 July 2020. Date of Access: 16 February 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/agr-acc/cusma-aceum/index.aspx?lang=eng>.

<sup>3568</sup> Minister Ng participates in APEC trade ministers meeting and announces expansion of APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 25 July 2020. Date of Access: 16 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/07/minister-ng-participates-in-apec-trade-ministers-meeting-and-announces-expansion-of-apec-canada-growing-business-partnership.html>.

<sup>3569</sup> Minister Ng participates in APEC trade ministers meeting and announces expansion of APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 25 July 2020. Date of Access: 16 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/07/minister-ng-participates-in-apec-trade-ministers-meeting-and-announces-expansion-of-apec-canada-growing-business-partnership.html>.

<sup>3570</sup> Minister Ng participates in APEC trade ministers meeting and announces expansion of APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 25 July 2020. Date of Access: 16 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/07/minister-ng-participates-in-apec-trade-ministers-meeting-and-announces-expansion-of-apec-canada-growing-business-partnership.html>.

<sup>3571</sup> Minister Ng participates in APEC trade ministers meeting and announces expansion of APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 25 July 2020. Date of Access: 16 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/07/minister-ng-participates-in-apec-trade-ministers-meeting-and-announces-expansion-of-apec-canada-growing-business-partnership.html>.

<sup>3572</sup> Minister Ng speaks with Finland’s Minister for Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa), 18 September 2020. Date of Access: 16 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/09/readout-minister-ng-speaks-with-finlands-minister-for-development-cooperation-and-foreign-trade.html>.

<sup>3573</sup> Canada and Britain officially sign their new trade agreement, RCI (Ottawa) 10 December 2020. Date of Access: 16 February 2021. <https://www.rcinet.ca/en/2020/12/10/canada-and-britain-officially-ink-their-new-trade-agreement/>.

exported goods between the countries and allows for negotiations to take place for a permanent deal in 2021 which may include digital trade, environment and women's economic empowerment.<sup>3574</sup>

On 18 January 2021, Minister Ng spoke with Sweden's Minister Anna Hallberg to discuss continued open, rule-based trade relationship.<sup>3575</sup> Both ministers agreed that there is work to be done to promote mutual interests such as green mining and clean technology.<sup>3576</sup>

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate international trade through both multilateral actions and unilateral domestic actions, such as legal or policy acts.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Amisha Punja*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate international trade through both multilateral actions and unilateral domestic actions, such as legal or policy acts.

On 17 March 2020, President Emmanuel Macron pledged his full support on behalf of France regarding the four key points outlined by the European Council on COVID-19.<sup>3577</sup> The fourth point, which the Council emphasized, gave a "full endorsement of the Eurogroup's statement to do whatever it takes to support the economy."<sup>3578</sup> France has supported the single market of the European Union throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by promoting prior multilateral legislation, such as the EU Stability and Growth Pact from 1997.<sup>3579</sup>

On 31 March 2020, the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX) had its first transaction.<sup>3580</sup> The Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges is an agreement between France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Iran to "offer a sustainable, long-term solution to support legitimate trade between Europe and Iran."<sup>3581</sup> The first INSTEX export shipment from Europe to Iran contained medical supplies.<sup>3582</sup>

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<sup>3574</sup> Canada, U.K. strike transitional post-Brexit trade deal, CBC News (Ottawa) 21 November 2020. Date of Access: 16 February 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-uk-transitional-trade-agreement-1.5811269>.

<sup>3575</sup> Minister Ng speaks with Anna Hallberg, Sweden's Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 18 January 2021. Date of Access: 16 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-speaks-with-anna-hallberg-swedens-minister-for-foreign-trade-and-nordic-affairs.html>.

<sup>3576</sup> Minister Ng speaks with Anna Hallberg, Sweden's Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 18 January 2021. Date of Access: 16 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-speaks-with-anna-hallberg-swedens-minister-for-foreign-trade-and-nordic-affairs.html>.

<sup>3577</sup> Conseil Européen sur COVID-19, Gouvernement Français (Paris) 17 March 2020. Date of Access: 15 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/european-council-on-covid-19>.

<sup>3578</sup> Conclusions by the President of the European Council following the video conference with members of the European Council on Covid-19, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 17 March 2020. Date of Access: 15 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/03/17/conclusions-by-the-president-of-the-european-council-following-the-video-conference-with-members-of-the-european-council-on-covid-19/>.

<sup>3579</sup> Communication: Making the best use of the flexibility within the existing rules of the Stability and Growth Pact, European Commission (Brussels) 13 January 2015. Date of Access: 15 February 2021. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A52015DC0012>.

<sup>3580</sup> INSTEX successfully concludes first transaction, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 31 March 2020. Date of Access: 15 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/instex-successfully-concludes-first-transaction>.

<sup>3581</sup> Iran-INSTEX-Q&R-Extrait du point de presse (31.03.20), Ministère Français de l'Europe et des Affaires Étrangères (Paris) 31 March 2020. Date of Access: 15 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/iran/news/article/iran-instex-q-a-from-the-press-briefing-31-mar-20>.

<sup>3582</sup> EU Ramps Up Trade System With Iran Despite U.S. Threats, The Wall Street Journal (New York) 31 March 2020. Date of Access: 15 February 2021. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/eu-ramps-up-trade-system-with-iran-despite-u-s-threats-11585661594>.

On 10 April 2020, Minister of Agriculture and Food Didier Guillaume and Germany's Minister of Food and Agriculture Julia Klöckner emphasized the importance of fostering the revitalization of both the European internal and global agricultural trade markets “through transparent multilateral rules.”<sup>3583</sup>

On 18 May 2020, President Macron of France and Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany detailed a collection of definitive actions needed to foster the sustainable recovery of the European Union.<sup>3584</sup> Three critical actions listed in their joint proposal to increase trade within the EU single market were: (1) diversifying global value chains; (2) promoting a trade agenda that included health products; (3) encouraging foreign investments in the EU.<sup>3585</sup>

On 8 June 2020, Minister Guillaume and Singaporean Minister of Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing formalized a “joint declaration to facilitate agri-food trade” after the usual Singaporean supply chains were disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic.<sup>3586</sup> This declaration encouraged agri-food businesses involved in French and Singaporean import-export commerce to forge trade agreements and business partnerships for the future.<sup>3587</sup>

On 1 January 2021, the National Institute of Industrial Property and the Japan Patent Office initiated the Patent Prosecution Highway program.<sup>3588</sup> The program allows patent-holders of a state-party applying for secondary patents in another state-party to receive an accelerated examination based on their first application.<sup>3589</sup>

France has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate international trade through both multilateral actions and unilateral domestic actions, such as legal or policy acts.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Joseph Rosensitto*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to facilitating international trade through multilateral actions and unilateral domestic actions, such as legal or policy acts.

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<sup>3583</sup> Les ministres Français et Allemand de l'agriculture confirment la nécessité d'une approche coordonnée à l'échelle Européenne pour contrer le Covid-19, Gouvernement Français (Paris) 10 April 2020. Date of Access: 16 February 2021.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/french-and-german-ministers-of-agriculture-confirm-the-need-for-a-coordinated-europe-wide>.

<sup>3584</sup> Merkel and Macron propose €500bn EU rescue fund, The Guardian (London) 18 May 2020. Date of Access: 17 February 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/18/merkel-and-macron-propose-500bn-eu-rescue-fund>.

<sup>3585</sup> La France et l'Allemagne unies pour une relance durable de l'Union Européenne, Gouvernement Français (Paris) 18 May 2020. Date of Access: 17 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-and-germany-united-for-the-sustainable-recovery-of-the-european-union>.

<sup>3586</sup> Déclaration franco-singapourienne pour faciliter les échanges agroalimentaires en temps de pandémie covid-19, Ministère Français de l'Europe et des Affaires Étrangères (Paris) 08 June 2020. Date of Access: 17 February 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/singapore/events-2630/article/france-singapore-a-partnership-for-stronger-agri-food-exchanges-08-jun-20>.

<sup>3587</sup> Press Release: Singapore and France Affirm Intent to Maintain Supply Chain Connectivity for Essential Food Supplies Amidst Covid-19, Ministry of Trade and Industry (Singapore) 08 June 2020. Date of Access: 17 February 2021. <https://www.mti.gov.sg/-/media/MTI/Newsroom/Press-Releases/2020/06/MTI-Press-Release-on-the-Joint-Statement-and-MinTIs-meeting-with-French-Agriculture-and-Food-Ministe.pdf>.

<sup>3588</sup> Japan to Be France's First Partner for Patent Prosecution Highway Program, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 27 November 2020. Date of Access: 27 February 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1127\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1127_002.html)

<sup>3589</sup> Japan to Be France's First Partner for Patent Prosecution Highway Program, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 27 November 2020. Date of Access: 27 February 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1127\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1127_002.html)

On 31 March 2020, the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX) had its first transaction.<sup>3590</sup> The Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges is an agreement between Germany, France, the United Kingdom, and Iran to “offer a sustainable, long-term solution to support legitimate trade between Europe and Iran.”<sup>3591</sup> The first INSTEX export shipment from Europe to Iran contained medical supplies.<sup>3592</sup>

On 10 April 2020, Minister of Food and Agriculture Julia Klöckner and France’s Minister of Agriculture and Food Didier Guillaume emphasized the importance of fostering the revitalization of both the European internal and global agricultural trade markets “through transparent multilateral rules.”<sup>3593</sup>

On 11 April 2020, Development Minister Gerd Müller welcomed the new agreement drawn by the EU and 78 countries within the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions. The EU and the African signatories have committed to full cooperation on the African Continental Free Trade Area, which, Minister Müller indicated the “agreement will thus create new impetus for economic development and employment.”<sup>3594</sup> Minister Müller further notes that this initiative will facilitate fair trading relations on an equal footing, which is a substantial European interest.<sup>3595</sup>

On 15 April 2020, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) published a policy position paper which cited “improving the performance of multilateral organizations by making them more transparent, efficient, effective and coherent” as one of its main goals in order to foster equitable and free global trade systems.<sup>3596</sup>

On 21 June 2020, the German Government introduced an economic stimulus and future technologies package to encourage stronger private consumptions.<sup>3597</sup> This provision supports businesses by introducing tax relief and opportunities for setting off business procurements against taxable income, thereby increasing purchasing powers and revitalizing the domestic economy.<sup>3598</sup>

On 31 July 2020, the Government of Germany donated EUR150 thousand to the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), in order to encourage the participation of developing countries in agricultural

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<sup>3590</sup> INSTEX successfully concludes first transaction, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 31 March 2020. Date of Access: 15 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/instex-successfully-concludes-first-transaction>.

<sup>3591</sup> Iran-INSTEX-Q&R-Extrait du point de presse (31.03.20), Ministère Français de l’Europe et des Affaires Étrangères (Paris) 31 March 2020. Date of Access: 15 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/iran/news/article/iran-instex-q-a-from-the-press-briefing-31-mar-20>.

<sup>3592</sup> EU Ramps Up Trade System With Iran Despite U.S. Threats, The Wall Street Journal (New York) 31 March 2020. Date of Access: 15 February 2021. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/eu-ramps-up-trade-system-with-iran-despite-u-s-threats-11585661594>.

<sup>3593</sup> Les ministres Français et Allemand de l’agriculture confirment la nécessité d’une approche coordonnée à l’échelle Européenne pour contrer le Covid-19, Gouvernement Français (Paris) 10 April 2020. Date of Access: 16 February 2021.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/french-and-german-ministers-of-agriculture-confirm-the-need-for-a-coordinated-europe-wide>.

<sup>3594</sup> Minister Müller welcomes agreement on a new compact for the future between the EU and the ACP states, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 11 April 2020. Access Date: February 21.

[https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/dezember/201204\\_Minister-Mueller-welcomes-agreement-on-a-new-compact-for-the-future-between-the-EU-and-the-ACP-states/index.html](https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/dezember/201204_Minister-Mueller-welcomes-agreement-on-a-new-compact-for-the-future-between-the-EU-and-the-ACP-states/index.html).

<sup>3595</sup> Minister Müller welcomes agreement on a new compact for the future between the EU and the ACP states, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 11 April 2020. Access Date: February 22.

[https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/dezember/201204\\_Minister-Mueller-welcomes-agreement-on-a-new-compact-for-the-future-between-the-EU-and-the-ACP-states/index.html](https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/dezember/201204_Minister-Mueller-welcomes-agreement-on-a-new-compact-for-the-future-between-the-EU-and-the-ACP-states/index.html).

<sup>3596</sup> BMZ priorities for a strong European and multilateral development policy, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 15 April 2020. Access Date: February 21 2020.

[https://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type\\_of\\_publication/strategies/Strategiepapier510\\_01\\_2020.pdf](https://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type_of_publication/strategies/Strategiepapier510_01_2020.pdf)

<sup>3597</sup> Wirtschaft soll wieder in Schwung kommen - Bundesregierung, Press and Information Office of the Federal Government (Berlin) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/corona-steuerhilfegesetz-1760128>.

<sup>3598</sup> Wirtschaft soll wieder in Schwung kommen - Bundesregierung, Press and Information Office of the Federal Government (Berlin) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/corona-steuerhilfegesetz-1760128>.

trade.<sup>3599</sup> With the increase in resources, Germany thereby contributes to the fostering of international trade capacities and opportunities.

On 3 December 2020, Germany has pledged EUR800 thousand in addition to the EUR1.3 million committed on 17 December 2019, towards the Enhanced Integrated Framework in support of developing countries that are facing substantial challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3600</sup> This initiative serves to enhance agricultural and e-commerce trading capacities as a means for economic growth in developing countries.

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate international trade by taking multilateral actions and unilateral domestic actions, such as policy or legal acts.

Thus, Germany has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Kelly Sung*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate international trade through multilateral actions and unilateral domestic actions, like legal or policy acts.

On 8 April 2020, the Italian Parliament passed the Decreto Liquidità No. 23/2020.<sup>3601</sup> This decree intended to address two aspects of the Italian economic recession and international trade during the COVID-19 pandemic. First, the decree alleviated the suffering of domestic businesses and the Italian economy by “unlocking more than EUR750 billion in liquidity for households and businesses, combined with delaying payment terms for certain taxes and other dues.”<sup>3602</sup> Second, the decree protected Italian-owned businesses that exported critical goods in strategic “Golden Power” defense industries from foreign takeovers.<sup>3603</sup>

On 19 May 2020, the Decreto Rilancio No. 77/2020 was ratified in both the Italian Chamber of Deputies and the Council of Ministers, with a few compositional amendments.<sup>3604</sup> This decree strengthened both Italian businesses and international trade, while also improving the role of the Italian economy in both the European Union and global markets.<sup>3605</sup>

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<sup>3599</sup> Germany gives EUR 150,000 to enhance developing countries’ participation in farm trade, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/pres20\\_e/pr861\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres20_e/pr861_e.htm).

<sup>3600</sup> Germany, Estonia contribute to EIF to help poorest countries expand role in world trade, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/if\\_03dec20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/if_03dec20_e.htm).

<sup>3601</sup> International Policy Responses to Covid-19 ‘Italy’, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.) 05 February 2021. Date of Access: 22 February 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#>.

<sup>3602</sup> Annual Report for foreign governments and political subdivisions: Form 18-K Republic of Italy, The Securities and Exchange Commission (Washington D.C.) 14 October 2020. Date of Access: 22 February 2021. <https://sec.report/Document/0001341004-20-000395/>.

<sup>3603</sup> Annual Report for foreign governments and political subdivisions: Form 18-K Republic of Italy, The Securities and Exchange Commission (Washington D.C.) 14 October 2020. Date of Access: 22 February 2021. <https://sec.report/Document/0001341004-20-000395/>.

<sup>3604</sup> Decreto Rilancio, 155 miliardi di euro per la fase due dell’economia, Ministero dell’Economia e delle Finanze (Rome) 15 May 2020. Date of Access: 21 February 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/Relaunch-Decree-155-billion-for-Phase-two-of-the-Economy-00001/>.

<sup>3605</sup> Di Stefano: Decreto Rilancio, 400 milioni per il Fondo di Promozione integrata, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale (Rome) 20 May 2020. Date of Access: 21 February 2021. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stamp/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/05/di-stefano-decreto-rilancio-400-milioni-per-il-fondo-di-promozione-integrata.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stamp/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/05/di-stefano-decreto-rilancio-400-milioni-per-il-fondo-di-promozione-integrata.html).

On 08 July 2020, the European Commission presented an EU hydrogen strategy.<sup>3606</sup> Italy went on to draft a document called Strategia nazionale sull'idrogeno linee guida preliminari, which described how the Italian hydrogen strategy could generate up to EUR27 billion for domestic gross domestic product, and that hydrogen could be used to increase the efficiency of transporting international goods for trade.<sup>3607</sup>

On 11 January 2021, the Cabinet of Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte approved Il Piano di Recupero e Resilienza.<sup>3608</sup> This Recovery and Resiliency plan would increase Italian trade previously linked to other major European lines of communication and would strongly enhance the role of southern Italian ports in the Mediterranean shipping industry.<sup>3609</sup> The plan is currently awaiting a vote in the Parliament.<sup>3610</sup>

On 1 February 2021, Economic Minister Roberto Gualtieri engaged in a telephone conversation with United States Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen.<sup>3611</sup> During their conversation, Minister Gualtieri fully agreed with “the economic policy guidelines indicated by the Biden administration,” stressing the importance of Italian multilateralism and a renewed trade relationship with the European Union.<sup>3612</sup>

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate international trade through multilateral actions and unilateral domestic actions, like legal or policy acts.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Joseph Rosensitto*

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

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate international trade through multilateral action and unilateral domestic action, like policy or legal acts.

On 14 July 2020, Japan and the United States declared the growth of their organic equivalence arrangement to include livestock products.<sup>3613</sup> The agreement decreases costs and streamlines the process for organic livestock supply chain by only requiring one organic certification.<sup>3614</sup>

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<sup>3606</sup> Powering a climate-neutral economy: Commission sets out plans for the energy system of the future and clean hydrogen, European Commission (Brussels) 08 July 2020. Date of Access: 21 February 2021.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1259](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1259).

<sup>3607</sup> Italy Invests In Green Hydrogen, International Trade Administration (Washington D.C.) 04 January 2021. Date of Access: 21 February 2021. <https://www.trade.gov/market-intelligence/italy-invests-green-hydrogen>.

<sup>3608</sup> Italy's Conte redrafts recovery plan to avoid political crisis, Politico (Arlington) 12 January 2021. Date of Access: 20 February 2021. <https://www.politico.eu/article/italy-giuseppe-conte-redrafts-coronavirus-recovery-plan-political-crisis/>.

<sup>3609</sup> Il Piano di Recupero e Resilienza: Prossima generazione, Ministero dell'Economia e delle Finanze (Rome) 09 February 2021. Date of Access: 20 February 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/focus/The-Recovery-and-Resilience-Plan-Next-Generation-Italia/>.

<sup>3610</sup> Commission: European Parliament's approval of Recovery and Resilience Facility, European Commission (Brussels) 10 February 2021. Date of Access: 21 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_423](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_423).

<sup>3611</sup> Readout: Secretary of the Treasury Janet L. Yellen's Call with Italian Minister of Economy and Finance Roberto Gualtieri, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 01 February 2021. Date of Access: 20 February 2021.

<https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0010>.

<sup>3612</sup> Telefonata Gualtieri-Yellen: al centro del colloquio risposta alla pandemia, sostegno all'economia, contrasto alle disuguaglianze e ai cambiamenti, Ministero dell'Economia e delle Finanze (Rome) 01 February 2021. Date of Access: 20 February 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/2021/Telefonata-Gualtieri-Yellen-al-centro-del-colloquio-risposta-alla-pandemia-sostegno-alleconomia-contrasto-alle-disuguaglianze-e-ai-cambiamenti-climatici/>.

<sup>3613</sup> U.S., Japan Expand Organic Trade Opportunities Livestock Added to Trade Arrangement, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 14 July 2020. Date of Access: 19 February 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/july/us-japan-expand-organic-trade-opportunities-livestock-added-trade-arrangement>.

<sup>3614</sup> U.S., Japan Expand Organic Trade Opportunities Livestock Added to Trade Arrangement, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 14 July 2020. Date of Access: 19 February 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/july/us-japan-expand-organic-trade-opportunities-livestock-added-trade-arrangement>.



On 1 August 2020, the First Protocol to Amend the Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Partnership among Japan and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations came into force following ratification by the Government of Japan.<sup>3615</sup> The protocol establishes an economic partnership between Japan and the members of the Association to increase the trade in services and facilitate the free movement of citizens between both parties.<sup>3616</sup>

On 23 October 2020, Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi signed the United Kingdom–Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement in London.<sup>3617</sup> The agreement eliminates tariffs on all goods and services transiting both states-parties, and establishes a “stepwise” procedure to eliminate tariffs on Japanese passenger car exports to the United Kingdom by 2026.<sup>3618</sup> Additionally, the agreement establishes a mutual digital regulatory framework protecting companies from revealing “source codes, artificial intelligence algorithms and encryption keys.”<sup>3619</sup>

On 23 November 2020, the Government of Japan announced its intention to establish a programme to “quintuple agricultural exports” to JPY5 trillion by 2030.<sup>3620</sup> The program would “provide technical and financial support to help communities in developing consistent production to meet international demand” by designating certain production areas as exclusively intended for exportation.<sup>3621</sup> Additionally, it would establish export targets for governmental action and renew efforts by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry to lobby foreign nations for increased access to agricultural markets and the removal of non-tariff barriers.<sup>3622</sup>

On 1 January 2021, the Patent Office and France’s National Institute of Industrial Property commenced the Patent Prosecution Highway program.<sup>3623</sup> The program enables patent-holders of a state-party applying for secondary patents in another state-party to receive an accelerated examination based on their first application.<sup>3624</sup>

On 14 January 2021, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hiroshi Kajiyama signed the Memorandum of Cooperation on Fuel Ammonia and Carbon Recycling between Japan and the United Arab Emirates.<sup>3625</sup> The agreement establishes a partnership between states-parties to explore the development of fuel ammonia

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<sup>3615</sup> Entry into Force of the First Protocol to Amend the Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Partnership among Japan and Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 3 August 2020. Date of Access: 24 February 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0803\\_001.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0803_001.html).

<sup>3616</sup> Entry into Force of the First Protocol to Amend the Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Partnership among Japan and Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 3 August 2020. Date of Access: 24 February 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0803\\_001.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0803_001.html).

<sup>3617</sup> Japan ratifies UK trade deal to take effect Jan. 1, Nikkei Asia (Tokyo) 5 December 2020. Date of Access: 25 February 2021. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Trade/Japan-ratifies-UK-trade-deal-to-take-effect-Jan.-1>.

<sup>3618</sup> Japan ratifies UK trade deal to take effect Jan. 1, Nikkei Asia (Tokyo) 5 December 2020. Date of Access: 25 February 2021. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Trade/Japan-ratifies-UK-trade-deal-to-take-effect-Jan.-1>.

<sup>3619</sup> UK and Japan sign free trade agreement, Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Tokyo) 23 October 2020. Date of Access: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-sign-free-trade-agreement>.

<sup>3620</sup> Japan to nurture fruit exports, AsiaFruit (Hong Kong) 23 November 2020. Date of Access: 26 February 2021. <http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/183601/japan-to-nurture-fruit-exports>.

<sup>3621</sup> Japan to nurture fruit exports, AsiaFruit (Hong Kong) 23 November 2020. Date of Access: 26 February 2021. <http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/183601/japan-to-nurture-fruit-exports>.

<sup>3622</sup> Japan to nurture fruit exports, AsiaFruit (Hong Kong) 23 November 2020. Date of Access: 26 February 2021. <http://www.fruitnet.com/asiafruit/article/183601/japan-to-nurture-fruit-exports>.

<sup>3623</sup> Japan to Be France’s First Partner for Patent Prosecution Highway Program, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 27 November 2020. Date of Access: 27 February 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1127\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1127_002.html).

<sup>3624</sup> Japan to Be France’s First Partner for Patent Prosecution Highway Program, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 27 November 2020. Date of Access: 27 February 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1127\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1127_002.html).

<sup>3625</sup> Minister Kajiyama Holds Meeting with H.E. Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, CEO, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), and Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, UAE, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 14 January 2021. Date of Access: 26 February 2021. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0114\\_001.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0114_001.html).

production as Japan seeks to increase its consumption of fuel ammonia to 3 million metric tonnes per year by 2030.<sup>3626</sup>

On 27 February 2021, the Cabinet approved legislation to ratify Japan's entry into the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.<sup>3627</sup> The agreement will eliminate tariffs between states-parties on up to 91% of goods, and establish common regulatory standards for bilateral investment, intellectual property rights and e-commerce.<sup>3628</sup>

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate international trade through multilateral actions and unilateral domestic actions, such as policy or legal acts.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Arjun Singh*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate international trade through multilateral actions and unilateral domestic actions, such as policy or legal acts.

On 31 March 2020, the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX) had its first transaction.<sup>3629</sup> The Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges is an agreement between the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Iran to “offer a sustainable, long-term solution to support legitimate trade between Europe and Iran.”<sup>3630</sup> The first INSTEX export shipment from Europe to Iran contained medical supplies.<sup>3631</sup>

On 5 June 2020, Universities Minister Michelle Donelan identified supports for international students at universities in the UK. Given the challenges presented by the coronavirus crisis, Minister Donelan emphasized that universities remain open and offer flexibility to international students; education exports are valued at GBP21 billion and an important component of international cooperation and trade.<sup>3632</sup>

On 19 May 2020, the UK announced the UK Global Tariff to replace the European Union Common External Tariff. It is intended to support domestic firms by reducing barriers to import goods. It protects UK-based industries by maintaining import tariffs on agricultural products, cars and ceramic products while removing GBP30 million of duties on imports used in domestic supply chains.<sup>3633</sup>

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<sup>3626</sup> Japan strikes first fuel ammonia cooperation deal with Abu Dhabi's ADNOC, S&P Global Platts (Tokyo) 14 January 2021. Date of Access: 26 February 2021. <https://www.spglobal.com/platts/en/market-insights/latest-news/coal/011421-japan-strikes-first-fuel-ammonia-cooperation-deal-with-abu-dhabis-adnoc>.

<sup>3627</sup> Cabinet OKs bill to ratify RCEP trade deal including China, Japan Today (Tokyo) 27 February 2021. Date of Access: 27 February 2021. <https://japantoday.com/category/politics/japan-cabinet-oks-bill-to-ratify-rcep-trade-deal-including-china>.

<sup>3628</sup> Cabinet OKs bill to ratify RCEP trade deal including China, Japan Today (Tokyo) 27 February 2021. Date of Access: 27 February 2021. <https://japantoday.com/category/politics/japan-cabinet-oks-bill-to-ratify-rcep-trade-deal-including-china>.

<sup>3629</sup> INSTEX successfully concludes first transaction, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 31 March 2020. Date of Access: 15 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/instex-successfully-concludes-first-transaction>.

<sup>3630</sup> Iran-INSTEX-Q&R-Extrait du point de presse (31.03.20), Ministère Français de l'Europe et des Affaires Étrangères (Paris) 31 March 2020. Date of Access: 15 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/iran/news/article/iran-instex-q-a-from-the-press-briefing-31-mar-20>.

<sup>3631</sup> EU Ramps Up Trade System With Iran Despite U.S. Threats, The Wall Street Journal (New York) 31 March 2020. Date of Access: 15 February 2021. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/eu-ramps-up-trade-system-with-iran-despite-u-s-threats-11585661594>.

<sup>3632</sup> Universities Minister Sets out Support for International Students, Department for Education, Department for International Trade, British Council, (London) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/universities-minister-sets-out-support-for-international-students>.

<sup>3633</sup> UK Global Tariff backs UK businesses and consumers, Department for International Trade, HM Treasury (London) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-global-tariff-backs-uk-businesses-and-consumers>.

On 23 October 2020, the United Kingdom and Japan signed the United Kingdom–Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.<sup>3634</sup> The agreement eliminates tariffs on all goods and services establishes a process to eliminate tariffs on Japanese passenger car exports to the United Kingdom by 2026.<sup>3635</sup> Additionally, the agreement establishes a mutual digital regulatory framework protecting companies from revealing “source codes, artificial intelligence algorithms and encryption keys.”<sup>3636</sup>

On 9 December 2020, Canada and the UK signed the UK-Canada Trade Continuity Agreement. International Trade Secretary Liz Truss highlighted the friendship and commitment to GBP20 billion worth of free trade shared between the countries. The deal is estimated to save UK firms GBP42 million of tariffs on exports to Canada.<sup>3637</sup>

On 24 December 2020, the European Union and UK signed the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement, which came into effect on 1 January 2021. The agreement is the first non-tariff and non-quota deal reached between the EU and a trading partner. Provisions ensure many UK service suppliers and professionals do not face barriers when doing business in the EU or with EU firms.<sup>3638</sup>

On 29 December 2020, Turkey and the UK signed the UK-Turkey Free Trade Agreement, with ambitions indicated for a more comprehensive deal in the future. UK International Trade Secretary Liz Truss indicated its importance for “the manufacturing, automotive and steel industries.”<sup>3639</sup> It was reported to be worth GBP18.6 million and is the 61st post-Brexit agreement made by the UK.<sup>3640</sup>

On 30 January 2021, the UK applied to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership. The partnership, which includes Mexico, Malaysia, Vietnam, Canada and seven other countries, reduces tariffs and increases access to major industries and markets. Confederation of British Industry President Lord Karan Bilimoria claimed that membership to the bloc will contribute over GBP100 billion to the UK’s economy.<sup>3641</sup>

Through new agreements, partnerships, and ministerial statements, the UK remains committed to facilitating international trade through multilateral action and unilateral domestic action.

Thus, the United Kingdom has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Erik Mastalerz*

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

The United States has fully complied with its efforts to facilitate international trade through multilateral actions and unilateral domestic actions like policy or legal acts.

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<sup>3634</sup> Japan ratifies UK trade deal to take effect Jan. 1, Nikkei Asia (Tokyo) 5 December 2020. Date of Access: 25 February 2021.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Trade/Japan-ratifies-UK-trade-deal-to-take-effect-Jan.-1>.

<sup>3635</sup> Japan ratifies UK trade deal to take effect Jan. 1, Nikkei Asia (Tokyo) 5 December 2020. Date of Access: 25 February 2021.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Trade/Japan-ratifies-UK-trade-deal-to-take-effect-Jan.-1>.

<sup>3636</sup> UK and Japan sign free trade agreement, Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Tokyo) 23 October 2020. Date of Access: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-sign-free-trade-agreement>.

<sup>3637</sup> UK and Canada sign trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-canada-sign-trade-agreement>.

<sup>3638</sup> Agreements Reached Between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agreements-reached-between-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-and-the-european-union>.

<sup>3639</sup> UK and Turkey Sign Trade Deal, Department for International Trade (London) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-turkey-sign-trade-deal>.

<sup>3640</sup> UK and Turkey Sign Trade Deal, Department for International Trade (London) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-turkey-sign-trade-deal>.

<sup>3641</sup> UK Applies to Join Huge Pacific Free Trade Area CPTPP, Department for International Trade (London) 30 January 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-applies-to-join-huge-pacific-free-trade-area-cptpp>.

On 21 May 2020, the Department of Agriculture and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) announced progress in executing agriculture-related provisions of the U.S.-China Phase One Economic and Trade Agreement which entered into force on 14 February 2020.<sup>3642</sup> Blueberries, California Hass Avocados, almond meal pellets and cubes, and barley are among a few products eligible for export to China.<sup>3643</sup>

On 1 July 2020, the United States Mexico Canada Agreement came into force.<sup>3644</sup> USTR Robert Lighthizer said the agreement includes improvements that will deliver more jobs, stronger worker protections, expanded market access and greater opportunity for trade.<sup>3645</sup>

On 8 July 2020, USTR Lighthizer and Kenya's Cabinet Secretary of Trade Betty Maina began trade agreement negotiations between the United States and Kenya.<sup>3646</sup>

On 14 July 2020, the United States and Japan declared the growth of their organic equivalence arrangement to include livestock products.<sup>3647</sup> The agreement decreases costs and streamlines process for organic livestock supply chain by only requiring one organic certification.<sup>3648</sup>

On 21 August 2020, the United States and European Union agreed on a combination of tariff reductions aimed at increasing market access.<sup>3649</sup> The EU is set to eliminate tariffs on United States live and frozen lobster imports.<sup>3650</sup> The United States will reduce 50 per cent of its tariff rates on specific exported products to the EU such as prepared meals, crystal glassware, cigarette lighters and lighter parts.<sup>3651</sup>

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<sup>3642</sup> USDA and USTR Announce Continued Progress on Implementation of U.S.-China Phase One Agreement, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 21 May 2020. Date of Access: 19 February 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/may/usda-and-ustr-announce-continued-progress-implementation-us-china-phase-one-agreement>.

<sup>3643</sup> USDA and USTR Announce Continued Progress on Implementation of U.S.-China Phase One Agreement, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 21 May 2020. Date of Access: 19 February 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/may/usda-and-ustr-announce-continued-progress-implementation-us-china-phase-one-agreement>.

<sup>3644</sup> Ambassador Lighthizer Celebrates USMCA's Entry Into Force Today Landmark trade agreement fulfills core Trump promise to end job-killing NAFTA, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 1 July 2020. Date of Access: 19 February 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/june/ambassador-lighthizer-celebrates-usmcas-entry-force-today-landmark-trade-agreement-fulfills-core>.

<sup>3645</sup> Ambassador Lighthizer Celebrates USMCA's Entry Into Force Today Landmark trade agreement fulfills core Trump promise to end job-killing NAFTA, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 1 July 2020. Date of Access: 19 February 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/june/ambassador-lighthizer-celebrates-usmcas-entry-force-today-landmark-trade-agreement-fulfills-core>.

<sup>3646</sup> Kenya on the Launch of Negotiations Towards a Free Trade Agreement, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 8 July 2020. Date of Access: 19 February 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/july/joint-statement-between-united-states-and-kenya-launch-negotiations-towards-free-trade-agreement>.

<sup>3647</sup> U.S., Japan Expand Organic Trade Opportunities Livestock Added to Trade Arrangement, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 14 July 2020. Date of Access: 19 February 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/july/us-japan-expand-organic-trade-opportunities-livestock-added-trade-arrangement>.

<sup>3648</sup> U.S., Japan Expand Organic Trade Opportunities Livestock Added to Trade Arrangement, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 14 July 2020. Date of Access: 19 February 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/july/us-japan-expand-organic-trade-opportunities-livestock-added-trade-arrangement>.

<sup>3649</sup> Joint Statement of the United States and the European Union on a Tariff Agreement, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 21 August 2020. Date of Access: 19 February 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/august/joint-statement-united-states-and-european-union-tariff-agreement>.

<sup>3650</sup> Joint Statement of the United States and the European Union on a Tariff Agreement, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 21 August 2020. Date of Access: 19 February 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/august/joint-statement-united-states-and-european-union-tariff-agreement>.

<sup>3651</sup> Joint Statement of the United States and the European Union on a Tariff Agreement, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 21 August 2020. Date of Access: 19 February 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/august/joint-statement-united-states-and-european-union-tariff-agreement>.

On 19 October 2020, the United States and Brazil signed a new protocol updating the 2011 Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation with three new additions.<sup>3652</sup> These additions focus on Customs Administration and Trade Facilitation, Good Regulatory Practices, and Anticorruption. USTR Lighthizer stated that the new protocol establishes “common standards for the two countries on efficient customs procedures, transparent regulatory development, and robust anti-corruption policies that will create a strong foundation for closer economic ties between our two countries.”<sup>3653</sup>

On 8 December 2020, the United States and Ecuador signed a new protocol to update the U.S.- Ecuador Trade and Investment Council Agreement.<sup>3654</sup> The protocol includes four new additions on “Customs Administration and Trade Facilitation, Good Regulatory Practices, Anticorruption, and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises.”<sup>3655</sup>

The United States has fully complied with its efforts to facilitate international trade through multilateral action and unilateral domestic actions like policy or legal acts.

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

*Analyst: Amisha Punja*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate international trade through multilateral and unilateral domestic action, such as legal or policy acts.

On 11 April 2020, the European Union and 78 countries within the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions signed a new compact, wherein the EU and the African signatories have committed to full cooperation on the African Continental Free Trade Area, which indicated the “agreement will thus create new impetus for economic development and employment.”<sup>3656</sup> This initiative will facilitate fair trading relations on an equal footing, which is a substantial European interest.<sup>3657</sup>

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<sup>3652</sup> United States and Brazil Update Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation with New Protocol on Trade Rules and Transparency, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 19 October 2020. Date of Access: 19 February 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/october/united-states-and-brazil-update-agreement-trade-and-economic-cooperation-new-protocol-trade-rules>.

<sup>3653</sup> United States and Brazil Update Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation with New Protocol on Trade Rules and Transparency, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 19 October 2020. Date of Access: 19 February 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/october/united-states-and-brazil-update-agreement-trade-and-economic-cooperation-new-protocol-trade-rules>.

<sup>3654</sup> United States and Ecuador update Trade and Investment Council Agreement with New Protocol on Trade Rules and Transparency, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 8 December 2020. Date of Access: 19 February 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/december/united-states-and-ecuador-update-trade-and-investment-council-agreement-new-protocol-trade-rules-and>.

<sup>3655</sup> United States and Ecuador update Trade and Investment Council Agreement with New Protocol on Trade Rules and Transparency, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 8 December 2020. Date of Access: 19 February 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/december/united-states-and-ecuador-update-trade-and-investment-council-agreement-new-protocol-trade-rules-and>.

<sup>3656</sup> Minister Müller welcomes agreement on a new compact for the future between the EU and the ACP states, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 11 April 2020. Access Date: February 21. [https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/dezember/201204\\_Minister-Mueller-welcomes-agreement-on-a-new-compact-for-the-future-between-the-EU-and-the-ACP-states/index.html](https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/dezember/201204_Minister-Mueller-welcomes-agreement-on-a-new-compact-for-the-future-between-the-EU-and-the-ACP-states/index.html).

<sup>3657</sup> Minister Müller welcomes agreement on a new compact for the future between the EU and the ACP states, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Bonn) 11 April 2020. Access Date: February 22. [https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/dezember/201204\\_Minister-Mueller-welcomes-agreement-on-a-new-compact-for-the-future-between-the-EU-and-the-ACP-states/index.html](https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/dezember/201204_Minister-Mueller-welcomes-agreement-on-a-new-compact-for-the-future-between-the-EU-and-the-ACP-states/index.html).

On 21 August 2020, the European Union and United States agreed to reduce tariffs in order to increase market access.<sup>3658</sup> The EU is set to eliminate tariffs on American live and frozen lobster imports.<sup>3659</sup> The United States will reduce 50 per cent of its tariff rates on specific exported products to the EU such as prepared meals, crystal glassware, cigarette lighters and lighter parts.<sup>3660</sup>

On 12 June 2020, the EU ministers responsible for Industry and Internal Market released a joint statement on recovery from the coronavirus crisis. They highlighted the importance of the transition to the digital economy in the interest of short and long-term resiliency.<sup>3661</sup>

On 31 July 2020, the EU-Vietnam trade agreement entered into force. The duties on many pharmaceutical, chemical, and machinery products were eliminated and 99 per cent of all goods are to follow within the next 10 years. President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen emphasized the opportunity to restore strength following the coronavirus crisis and improvement to emerging markets facilitated by the agreement.<sup>3662</sup>

On 18 November 2020, the EU Council approved a mini tariff package with the United States. It removed customs duties on lobster imports from the US and reduced duties on certain EU exports. The package reduced EU-US tariffs for the first time in 20 years. President of the Trade Council Peter Altmaier characterized the package as an important step to reduce costs during the coronavirus crisis and deepen transatlantic cooperation.<sup>3663</sup>

On 24 December 2020, the EU announced the conclusion of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement. The agreement ensures a “level playing field and respect for fundamental rights,” providing a basis for friendship and cooperation following Brexit.<sup>3664</sup> It included a free trade agreement with zero tariffs and quotas on qualifying goods. The agreement does not match EU member state economic integration but goes beyond “traditional free trade agreements.”<sup>3665</sup>

On 30 December 2020, the EU and China made meaningful progress towards the Comprehensive Agreement on Investment. Current negotiations have committed China to fairer competition with EU firms and

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<sup>3658</sup> Joint Statement of the United States and the European Union on a Tariff Agreement, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 21 August 2020. Date of Access: 19 February 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/august/joint-statement-united-states-and-european-union-tariff-agreement>.

<sup>3659</sup> Joint Statement of the United States and the European Union on a Tariff Agreement, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 21 August 2020. Date of Access: 19 February 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/august/joint-statement-united-states-and-european-union-tariff-agreement>.

<sup>3660</sup> Joint Statement of the United States and the European Union on a Tariff Agreement, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 21 August 2020. Date of Access: 19 February 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/august/joint-statement-united-states-and-european-union-tariff-agreement>.

<sup>3661</sup> Joint statement of ministers responsible for the internal market and industry on the Recovery Plan for Europe, Council of the EU (Brussels) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/06/12/joint-statement-of-ministers-responsible-for-the-internal-market-and-industry-on-the-recovery-plan-for-europe/>.

<sup>3662</sup> EU-Vietnam Trade Agreement Enters into Force, European Commission, (Brussels) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_1412](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1412).

<sup>3663</sup> The Council green-lights mini tariff package with the US, Council of the EU (Brussels) 18 November 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/11/18/the-council-green-lights-mini-tariff-package-with-the-us/>.

<sup>3664</sup> The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/relations-united-kingdom/eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement\\_en#freetradeagreement](https://ec.europa.eu/info/relations-united-kingdom/eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement_en#freetradeagreement).

<sup>3665</sup> The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/relations-united-kingdom/eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement\\_en#freetradeagreement](https://ec.europa.eu/info/relations-united-kingdom/eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement_en#freetradeagreement).

increased investor access to Chinese markets. A two-year timeline was set to negotiate investment protection and resolve investment disputes upon the signature of the agreement.<sup>3666</sup>

On 17 February 2021, the EU Commission and High Representative of the Union for Foreign and Security Policy Josep Borrell laid out a proposal to “use of all tools at the EU’s disposal” for rules-based multilateralism. High Representative Borrell outlined the EU’s commitment to “build stronger, more diverse and inclusive partnerships.”<sup>3667</sup>

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to facilitate international trade through multilateral and unilateral domestic action, such as legal or policy acts.

Thus, the European Union has received a score of +1.

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<sup>3666</sup> EU and China reach agreement in principle on investment, European Commission (Brussels) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/eu-china-agreement/>.

<sup>3667</sup> A Renewed Multilateralism Fit for the 21st Century: The EU's Agenda, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_21\\_622](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_622).