

19. Good Governance [167]

Commitment

“Recalling the Okinawa Charter on the Global Information Society and the Genoa G8 Action Plan for Digital Divide, we support further initiatives to narrow the digital gap to underpin institution-building, the modernization of public services and the strengthening of legislative and democratic processes.”

G8 Leaders Declaration: Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future

Assessment

Country	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Canada		0	
France	-1		
Germany		0	
Italy	-1		
Japan			+1
Russia			+1
United Kingdom		0	
United States		0	
European Union		0	
Average Score			0.00

Background

The Okinawa Charter on Global Information Society was adopted at the Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in 2000. Based on this charter, the Digital Opportunity Task Force (DOT Force) was established to propose strategies on how to use Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) to narrow the digital divide between the developed and developing countries.¹¹⁴² The Task Force was established as a forum, with its 43-member team consisting of G8 and developing countries, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector of the G8 countries, and international and multilateral organizations collaborating to generate an action plan that would be presented at the Genoa Summit in 2001.¹¹⁴³

At the Genoa Summit in 2001, the DOT Force introduced the report “Digital Opportunities for All: Meeting the Challenge,” which proposed a nine-point plan known as the Genoa Plan of Action.¹¹⁴⁴ The plan was developed to foster ICT-based social and economic development in the areas of access, governance, entrepreneurship, health and education. The G8 countries endorsed the Genoa Plan of Action, and committed to train teachers, strengthen education strategies, provide expertise, and mobilize resources.¹¹⁴⁵ Further affirmations were also made on the development of an Action Plan on e-

¹¹⁴² From Okinawa to Genoa: G8 Action based on the decisions of Okinawa (Okinawa) July 21-23 2000. Date of Access: 1 December 2009. www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/summit/2000/genoa.html.

¹¹⁴³ First Meeting of the Digital Opportunity Taskforce (Okinawa) 30 November 2000. Date of Access: 1 December 2009. www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/it/df0011.html.

¹¹⁴⁴ Digital Opportunities for All: Meeting the Challenge, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 11 May 2001. Date of Access: 3 December 2009. www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2001/genoa/dotforce1.html.

¹¹⁴⁵ Genoa Communiqué, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 11 May 2001. Date of Access: 3 December 2009. www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2001/genoa/finalcommuniqué.html.

Government, which would promote democracy and the rule of law, and ensure efficient delivery of public services.

The advances of the Genoa Plan of Action were presented at the Kananaskis Summit in 2002, in a document called DOT Force Report Card: Digital Opportunities for All.¹¹⁴⁶ This summit also adopted the Africa Action Plan, a new collaborative initiative between the African Leaders, which holds all countries accountable for good governance through the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), and the G8 states. This plan was implemented within the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), an African-led initiative first introduced at the Genoa Summit. The plan reemphasized the importance of strengthening institutions and governance, and the utilization of ICTs to advance African society in a social and economic context.¹¹⁴⁷

At the St. Petersburg Summit in 2006, the G8 reaffirmed their commitment to utilize ICTs to promote good governance, and to create opportunities to access educational resources.¹¹⁴⁸ A further commitment for the provision of good governance was made at the Heiligendamm Summit in 2007, and more African states were encouraged to join APRM.¹¹⁴⁹ Although the ICT agenda did not receive much attention at the Hokkaido Toyako Summit in 2008, the G8 states did affirm the need for government accountability through APRM, and the importance of inclusive governance mechanisms to ensure private sector led economic growth.¹¹⁵⁰ Furthermore, the matter of promoting sustainable development through participatory government, transparent policy making, and capacity building with the use of ICTs in Africa was more directly targeted at the L'Aquila Summit in 2009.¹¹⁵¹

Commitment Features

This commitment states that member countries will work to narrow the digital divide between developing and developed countries through information and communication technologies (ICT), which was previously stated in the Okinawa Charter on the Global Information Society, as well as in the Genoa G8 Action Plan for Digital Divide. In order to ensure ICT progress in the developing countries, the G8 states commit to supporting initiatives for universal and affordable access. This refers to: 1) empowerment of the general public through access to knowledge and information; and 2) building on participatory governance through new legal frameworks and government transparency. Support for the development of human capacity on IT, which is integral for the success of

¹¹⁴⁶ Digital Opportunities for All: Report Card, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) June 2002. Date of Access: 8 December 2009. www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2002kananaskis/dotforce_reportcard.pdf.

¹¹⁴⁷ G8 Africa Action Plan (Kananaskis) 2002. Date of Access: 8 December 2009. www.auswaertiges-amt.de/diplo/en/Aussenpolitik/RegionaleSchwerpunkte/Afrika/G8AfrikaAktionsplan2002.pdf.

¹¹⁴⁸ Education for Innovative Societies in the 21st Century, G8 Russia (St. Petersburg) 16 July 2006. Date of Access: 9 December 2009. en.g8russia.ru/docs/12.html.

¹¹⁴⁹ Growth and Responsibility in Africa, G8 Germany (Heiligendamm) 8 June 2007. Date of Access: 8 December 2009. www.g-8.de/Content/DE/Artikel/G8Gipfel/Anlage/Abschlusserkl_C3_A4rungen/WV-afrika-en.templateId=raw_property=publicationFile.pdf/WV-afrika-en.pdf.

¹¹⁵⁰ G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders Declaration, G8 Japan (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Date of Access: 8 December 2009. www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/summit/2008/doc/doc080714_en.html.

¹¹⁵¹ Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, G8 Italy (L'Aquila) 8 July 2009. Date of Access: 9 December 2009. www.g8italia2009.it/static/G8_Allegato/G8_Declaration_08_07_09_final.0.pdf.

the commitment, can be considered as a tertiary support, but does not count towards compliance. In calling for further initiatives, the commitment indicates that G8 countries must take new actions during this compliance cycle.

Scoring

-1	Member does not support projects for the development of universal and affordable access to information and communication technologies (ICT), AND it does not support participatory governance and capacity building through regulatory policies and national e-strategies.
0	Member supports projects for the development of universal, affordable access to ICT, OR supports participatory governance and capacity building through regulatory policies and national e-strategies.
+1	Member supports projects for the development of universal and affordable access to ICT, AND supports participatory governance and capacity building through regulatory policies and national e-strategies.

Lead Analyst: Hana Bokshi

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to narrow the digital gap by supporting projects for the development of universal, affordable access to ICT. It has made funds available to the African Development Bank for this purpose, however, Canada has not contributed towards policy development or national e-strategies through ICTs during this compliance cycle.

On 24 September 2009, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced that Canada will contribute USD2.6 billion in additional lending room to the African Development Bank (ADB), stating that “Canada is the first country to have responded to a critical need of regional banks in this innovative way.”¹¹⁵² The ADB is a multinational organization whose intent it is to gather and allocate resources for its regional members, as well as to provide them with policy advice in order to support their development members. Members include 53 African countries and 24 non-regional members, including Canada.¹¹⁵³ The ADB supports initiatives in information and communication technology such as the Technical Assistance Project for the development of electronic banking and the East Africa Broadband Network that would install submarine fibre cables to bring cross border connectivity to Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.¹¹⁵⁴ These developments are related to the development of universal access to ICT.

¹¹⁵² Canada announces new support to the African Development Bank, Office of the Prime Minister (Pittsburgh) 24 September 2009. Date of Access: 4 December 2009. www.pm.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=2846.

¹¹⁵³ African Development Bank (AfDB); African Development Bank Group. Date of Access: 4 December 2009. www.afdb.org/en/about-us/african-development-bank-afdb/.

¹¹⁵⁴ Complementary Information; African Development Bank Group. Date of Access 16 December 2009. www.afdb.org/en/topics-sectors/sectors/information-communication-technology/complementary-information/.

There have been no additional announcements by the Government of Canada in regards to its pledge to fulfill its commitment to narrow the digital gap since the L'Aquila Summit.

Thus, Canada has received a score of 0 for its contribution to the African Development Bank.

Analyst: Irene Magharian

France: -1

France has not complied with its commitment to support further initiatives to narrow the digital gap to underpin institution building, modernize public services and strengthen legislative and democratic processes. While France continues to stress the importance of ICT development in the developing world and continues to support ICT distance education, it has not taken any action that would constitute compliance.

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs maintains that ICT development in the developing world is one of its top priorities and is an essential aspect of the global mission to reduce world poverty. The Ministry also stresses the need to promote universal ICT access and training, as well as the internationalization of technical Internet governance.¹¹⁵⁵ Both of these goals, if followed through, would constitute compliance.

On 24-25 September 2009, France attended the G20 Conference in Pittsburgh. The assembled representatives of the G20 nations reaffirmed their previous claim that universal access to technology must be instituted in the developing world as to combat poverty.¹¹⁵⁶

Finally, France continues to support the Colombbus programme, which provides access to distance education using ICTs in developing countries. This leads to capacity building in the participating nations. The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues to be a strong supporter of this programme,¹¹⁵⁷ however in the absence of new funding or program development, this does not count towards compliance.

While France continues to stress the importance of ICT development in the developing world and continues to support existing distance education programmes, it has not complied with this commitment, which specifies the creation of new programmes or commitments to development.

Analyst: Katie Andrews

¹¹⁵⁵ NICT for Development: Developing Digital Solidarity, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Paris) 2009. Date of Access: 1 December 2009. www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/france-priorities_1/internet-multimedia_2347/nict-for-development_2739/developing-digital-solidarity_3287.html?var_recherche=digital+divide.

¹¹⁵⁶ G20 in Pittsburgh: Leaders' Statement, Embassy of France in Washington (Washington) 25 September 2009. Date of Access: 2 December 2009. www.ambafrance-us.org/spip.php?article1437.

¹¹⁵⁷ Pouvoirs Publics et Organismes, Colombbus (Paris) 2009. Date of Access: 30 November 2009. www.colombbus.org/article96.html?lang=fr.

Germany: 0

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to Good Governance in working to narrow the digital divide between developing and developed countries through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). It has done so by increasing funding for governance in Afghanistan and Pakistan^{1158,1159} and by compiling a report outlining the importance of German ICT work in Africa, which makes governments more transparent and modernizes public services.

On 24 November 2009, the German government announced it would increase its development aid to Afghanistan by EUR52 million. The Ministry of Economic Development issued a statement announcing that Afghanistan would receive a total of around EUR144 million in 2009, to help “consistently fight corruption, improve governance and create additional jobs.”¹¹⁶⁰ The funds are to help extend a governance training-program and infrastructure projects, including the building of vocational schools.¹¹⁶¹ German Development Minister, Dirk Niebel, discussed how Afghanistan would only be able to become stable and develop if Pakistan does too. Thus, Minister Niebel committed an additional EUR10 million for governance improvement in Pakistan. Minister Niebel stated that: “in that way, we are making an effective contribution toward helping people to help themselves.”¹¹⁶²

In July 2009, a fact-sheet by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit/ Information and Communication Technologies for Development (GTZ), on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, stated that the GTZ has successfully supported the implementation of a digital monitoring system for water regulation authorities in Zambia, Tanzania, and Kenya to promote accountability and transparency in the water sector.¹¹⁶³

Therefore, Germany has been awarded a score of 0 for increasing its development aid in Afghanistan and Pakistan to improve governance through better infrastructure, training

¹¹⁵⁸ Germany boosts aid to Afghanistan, Pakistan for 'good governance', Earth Times, (Berlin) 24 November 2009. Date of Access: 1 December 2009: www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/296135_germany-boosts-aid-to-afghanistan-pakistan-for-good-governance.html.

¹¹⁵⁹ Additional funds for stabilization measures in Afghanistan and for fostering good governance in Pakistan, Relief Web, 3 December 2009. Date of Access: 3 December 2009. www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/SODA-7YDPL3?OpenDocument.

¹¹⁶⁰ Additional funds for stabilization measures in Afghanistan and for fostering good governance in Pakistan, Relief Web, 3 December 2009. Date of Access: 3 December 2009. www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/SODA-7YDPL3?OpenDocument.

¹¹⁶¹ Germany boosts aid to Afghanistan, Pakistan for 'good governance', Earth Times, (Berlin) 24 November 2009. Date of Access: 1 December 2009: www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/296135_germany-boosts-aid-to-afghanistan-pakistan-for-good-governance.html.

¹¹⁶² Additional funds for stabilization measures in Afghanistan and for fostering good governance in Pakistan, Relief Web, 3 December 2009. Date of Access: 3 December 2009. www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/SODA-7YDPL3?OpenDocument.

¹¹⁶³ Fact sheet by the German Federal Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies for Development, (Eschborn) July 2009. Date of Access: 4 December 2009. www.gtz.de/de/dokumente/en-factsheet-ict-water.pdf

programs, as well as the implementation of digital systems in Africa, which promote transparency within government for the control of natural resources.

Analyst: Shiva Amiri

Italy: -1

Italy has not complied with its commitment to narrow the digital gap, promote participatory governance and support building capacity to further initiatives from the Okinawa Charter and the Genoa G8 Action Plan. Italy has played a leadership role in hosting a conference for the Africa Parliamentary Knowledge Network,¹¹⁶⁴ however, there is no evidence that Italy has complied with the commitment to work towards the provision of universal and accessible access to ICT since the L'Aquila Summit.

On 15-17 December 2009, Italy hosted a three-day workshop on “Strengthening the Cooperation among Parliamentary Libraries in the Framework of the Africa Parliamentary Knowledge Network (APKN),” which worked towards building “a platform, under APKN, for communication and exchange of information.”¹¹⁶⁵

APKN was the product of an international conference held in Egypt on 5 June 2008, and its mission is to create a sharing platform of ideas and experiences, as well as training for developing countries in the areas of legislative process, information research, ICT and communication and public information.¹¹⁶⁶ Africa Parliamentary Information Exchange (APEX) was also established to be used as a tool for better communication among national parliaments and to expand the knowledge base of parliamentary initiatives.¹¹⁶⁷ Furthermore, particular focus of this network includes capacity building through commitments of financial resources, and an emphasis on training and education. The APKN also seeks to share communication services and software applications.¹¹⁶⁸

Italy has assumed a leadership role in this area, hosting the APKN conference which addressed issues related to the implementation of national strategies, policy development and capacity building. However, in the absence of new funding, or the development of

¹¹⁶⁴ Workshop “Strengthening the Cooperation among Parliamentary Libraries in the Framework of the African Parliamentary Knowledge Network (APKN), Global Centre for Information and Communications Technology in Parliament (Rome) Accessed: 4 December 2009.

www.ictparliament.org/index.php/calendar-of-events/299-events-conferences-and-workshops-2009/445-workshop-qstrengthening-the-cooperation-among-parliamentary-libraries-in-the-framework-of-the-africa-parliamentary-knowledge-network-apknq.

¹¹⁶⁵ Workshop “Strengthening the Cooperation among Parliamentary Libraries in the Framework of the African Parliamentary Knowledge Network (APKN), Global Centre for Information and Communications Technology in Parliament (Rome) Accessed: 4 December 2009.

www.ictparliament.org/index.php/calendar-of-events/299-events-conferences-and-workshops-2009/445-workshop-qstrengthening-the-cooperation-among-parliamentary-libraries-in-the-framework-of-the-africa-parliamentary-knowledge-network-apknq.

¹¹⁶⁶ Background, African Parliamentary Knowledge Network. Accessed: 7 December 2009.
www.apkn.org/apkn-in-detail/context.

¹¹⁶⁷ African Parliamentary Knowledge Network. Accessed: 6 January 2010. apex.apkn.org/.

¹¹⁶⁸ Mission, African Parliamentary Knowledge Network. Accessed: 7 December 2009.
www.apkn.org/apkn-in-detail/mission.

concrete initiatives for improved IT access or capacity building, Italy has been awarded the score of -1.

Analyst: Irene Magharian

Japan: +1

Japan has complied with its commitment to support initiatives to narrow the digital gap by bolstering institution building, the modernization of public services and the strengthening of legislative and democratic processes primarily by working with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

On 16 October 2009 at the Information and Communications Ministry Assembly, the Japanese Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications, Kazuhiro Haraguchi, announced that Japan would contribute JPY100,000 to the ASEAN Information and Communications Technology Fund over the next year.¹¹⁶⁹ This ASEAN Information and Communications and Technology Fund was established in 2004 to provide funding for projects such as developing national information and communication technologies (ICT) and e-government plans, capacity building initiatives including training programmes, workshops and seminars related to ICT matters and initiating “policy studies, research/feasibility studies, strategic plans, e-readiness assessment and harmonization of legal and regulatory frameworks across borders.”¹¹⁷⁰ These activities undertaken by the ASEAN ICT Fund are in harmony with the overall goals of the Okinawa Charter on the Global Information Society and the Genoa G8 Action Plan for Digital Divide.

At the same Assembly, Japan also pledged to hold human resource development workshops and verification tests of ICT services in ASEAN countries.¹¹⁷¹ In addition, Japan has also stated its intention to begin research on using ICT for disaster management and environmental preservation.¹¹⁷²

On 24 October 2009, Japan participated in the 15th ASEAN Summit, and agreed to create a high level task force for the purpose of studying Southeast Asia’s internal and external connectivity. This ASEAN High Level Task Force is part of ASEAN’s plan to enhance “intra-regional connectivity” in terms of communications and other related topics, with

¹¹⁶⁹ Results of the Japan and ASEAN Information and Communications Ministry Assembly, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (Tokyo) 16 October 2009. Date of Access: 1 December 2009. www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/eng/Releases/Telecommunications/news091016_b.html.

¹¹⁷⁰ ICT ASEAN Fund, Thai-ASEAN Homeworkers – Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (Bangkok) 28 January 2009. Date of Access: 1 December 2009. www.thaiaseanhomeworkers.org/english/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=61:qict-asean-fundq&catid=36:articles&Itemid=55

¹¹⁷¹ Results of the Japan and ASEAN Information and Communications Ministry Assembly, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (Tokyo) 16 October 2009. Date of Access: 1 December 2009. www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/eng/Releases/Telecommunications/news091016_b.html.

¹¹⁷² Joint Media Statement of the 9th ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministers Meeting and its Related Meetings with Dialogue Partners, Association of Southeast Asian Nations Official Website (Jakarta) 16 October 2009. Date of Access: 1 December 2009. www.aseansec.org/TELMIN/JMS-TELMIN-9.pdf.

the goal of “significantly [narrowing] the development gap within ASEAN.”¹¹⁷³ Taking note of the significance of the Internet in business, education, and development, Japan and the other leaders at the Summit also agreed that it is necessary to complete the ASEAN ICT Masterplan in 2010 to enhance intra-regional information and communications technology linkages.¹¹⁷⁴

Japan has fully complied with the G8 commitment through its support of projects to develop universal and affordable access to ICT and participatory governance through regulatory policies and national e-strategies, as well as initiatives to build capacity to promote participation in the global information society. It has thus been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Ailsa Chau

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to narrow the digital gap between the developed and the developing countries.

On 29 October 2009, President of Russia Dmitry Medvedev and President of Ecuador Rafael Correa signed the Declaration on Strategic Partnership between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Ecuador. This declaration targets, among other priorities, information and technological exchange. According to the document, Russia will cooperate with Ecuador to enable capacity building and develop participatory governance through regulatory policies and national e-strategies. Both countries have expressed their intention to launch joint research projects with the use of the state-of-the-art information and communication technologies.¹¹⁷⁵ A memorandum on joint efforts was signed by the Russian State Corporation Russian Technology and the Ministry of Telecommunications of the Republic of Ecuador regarding the development of the G4 (fourth generation) communication and wireless data transmission Mobile WiMAX technology in Ecuador.¹¹⁷⁶ The signatories stressed the importance of the development of universal and affordable access to information,¹¹⁷⁷ and the need for human development and education in the area of IT and R&D. Ten Russian universities have already signed agreements with the National Secretary of Science and Technology of Ecuador.¹¹⁷⁸

On 9 November 2009, the Federal Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

¹¹⁷³ ASEAN Leaders’ Statement on ASEAN Connectivity, Association of Southeast Asian Nations Official Website (Jakarta) 24 October 2009. Date of Access: 1 December 2009. www.aseansec.org/23573.htm.

¹¹⁷⁴ ASEAN Leaders’ Statement on ASEAN Connectivity, Association of Southeast Asian Nations Official Website (Jakarta) 24 October 2009. Date of Access: 1 December 2009. www.aseansec.org/23573.htm.

¹¹⁷⁵ Declaration on strategic partnership between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Ecuador, President of Russia 29 October 2009. Date of access: 3 December 2009. news.kremlin.ru/ref_notes/356

¹¹⁷⁶ Dmitry Medvedev held talks with President of Ecuador Rafael Correa who is in Russia on an official visit, President of Russia 29 October 2009. Date of access: 3 December 2009. news.kremlin.ru/news/5855

¹¹⁷⁷ Declaration on strategic partnership between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Ecuador, President of Russia 29 October 2009. Date of access: 3 December 2009. news.kremlin.ru/ref_notes/356

¹¹⁷⁸ Press Statements following Russian-Ecuadorian Talks, President of Russia 29 October 2009. Date of access: 3 December 2009. news.kremlin.ru/transcripts/5857

on the Establishment and Operation of the Pamir-Chakaltai International Scientific Research Centre was signed. The joint Russian-Tajic project will establish a think tank to work towards enhanced knowledge and information exchange.¹¹⁷⁹ Given the international status of the Research Center, scientists from Bolivia, Brazil, Georgia and Uzbekistan were invited.¹¹⁸⁰

Russia's continued support of projects for the development of universal and affordable access to information and communication technologies and its participation in building capacity to promote integration into the global information society, and can be awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Polina Arkhipova

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to support further initiatives to narrow the digital gap to underpin institution building, the modernization of public services and the strengthening of legislative and democratic processes. The UK has announced its intention to launch a global challenge fund and support cell phone use in the developing world,¹¹⁸¹ as well as pledging funding to the EU Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund, which supports information communication technology (ICT) development in Sub-Saharan Africa¹¹⁸² and has stressed the importance of ICT development.¹¹⁸³

In July 2009, the Secretary of State for International Development, the Right Honourable Douglas Alexander, presented the Department of International Development's (DFID) whitepaper entitled "Eliminating World Poverty: Building our Common Future" to Parliament. Within this report, DFID announced its intention to launch a global challenge fund that will support cell phone and other technology use in the developing world. This fund will reduce the costs of communication technology making them more affordable and accessible to the poor, and spur economic development.¹¹⁸⁴

¹¹⁷⁹ The President signed the Federal Law On Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on the Establishment and Operation of the Pamir-Chakaltai International Scientific Research Centre, President of Russia 9 November 2009. Date of access: 1 December 2009. news.kremlin.ru/acts/5948

¹¹⁸⁰ Dmitry Medvedev signed the Federal Law On Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on the Establishment and Operation of the Pamir-Chakaltai International Scientific Research Centre, Prime-Tass 10 November 2009. Date of access: 4 December 2009. www.prime-tass.ru/news/0/per cent7B12671D02-9DBF-4396-8D05-51C3A5BC587B per cent7D.uif

¹¹⁸¹ Eliminating World Poverty: Building our Common Future, Department for International Development (London) July 2009. Date of Access: 29 November 2009. www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/whitepaper/building-our-common-future-print.pdf.

¹¹⁸² Eliminating World Poverty: Building our Common Future, Department for International Development (London) July 2009. Date of Access: 29 November 2009. www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/whitepaper/building-our-common-future-print.pdf.

¹¹⁸³ Future Challenges, Department for International Development (London). Date of Access: 27 November 2009. www.dfid.gov.uk/Global-Issues/Future-challenges/.

¹¹⁸⁴ Eliminating World Poverty: Building our Common Future, Department for International Development (London) July 2009. Date of Access: 29 November 2009. www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/whitepaper/building-our-common-future-print.pdf.

In the July 2009 DFID whitepaper, the United Kingdom also committed financial support to the EU Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund. This fund allows the European Investment Bank to finance several aspects of development in Sub-Saharan Africa, including communications technology.¹¹⁸⁵

On 28 September 2009, DFID announced that it would provide a three-year annual budget of GBP1.25 million to support the “International Health Links Funding Scheme.”¹¹⁸⁶ This programme uses ICTs to link health institutions in the United Kingdom with counterparts in developing countries. Health care professionals in the UK can instruct professionals in developing countries, thus fostering professional development in developing nations using information and communication technologies.¹¹⁸⁷ While this programme does promote capacity building through the use of ICTs, it does not constitute compliance because ICT distribution is confined to health care workers. The commitment emphasizes the importance of the development of universal access to ICTs, but nonetheless does not fulfill the requirements of compliance.

Therefore, the United Kingdom has been awarded a score of 0 for its intent to launch a global challenge fund to support mobile phone and technology distribution in the developing world and its support of the EU Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund.

Analyst: Katie Andrews

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to good governance in working to narrow the digital divide in developing and developed countries through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). It has committed to strengthen cyber-security and build a strong digital infrastructure with the E.U., as well as increase transparency through good governance in Sudan, Ghana, and the Middle East.

On 3 December 2009, The US Department of State announced that its Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) would make funds available in its local grant program for local members of civil society to undertake reform and democracy projects. Part of these funds will be allocated to promote good governance programs, including anti-corruption and transparency which falls under modernizing public services to enable data sharing between ministries and e-strategies that make the governments more transparent.¹¹⁸⁸

¹¹⁸⁵ Eliminating World Poverty: Building our Common Future, Department for International Development (London) July 2009. Date of Access: 29 November 2009.

www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/whitepaper/building-our-common-future-print.pdf.

¹¹⁸⁶ Life-saving links between UK and developing countries, Department for International Development (London) 28 September 2009. Date of Access: 6 January 2010. www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/News-Stories/2009/Life-saving-links-to-the-UK/.

¹¹⁸⁷ Life-saving links between UK and developing countries, Department for International Development (London) 28 September 2009. Date of Access: 30 November 2009. www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/News-Stories/2009/Life-saving-links-to-the-UK/.

¹¹⁸⁸ Middle East Partnerships Initiative of the United States Department of State (Washington). Date of Access: 4 December 2009. mepi.state.gov/documents/organization/80553.pdf.

On 3 November 2009, The US-E.U. Joint Declaration and Annexes stated they would work together to strengthen their cyber-security dialogue, and identify and prioritize areas where they can help build a reliable, resilient, trustworthy digital infrastructure for the future.¹¹⁸⁹

On 1 October 2009 Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton stated at the U.S.-Africa Business Summit that the United States continues to pursue strategies to improve infrastructure and provide better access to information, capital, and training in Africa.¹¹⁹⁰

On 9 July 2009, The President of United States Barack Obama stated in his remarks to the Ghanaian Parliament that there would be a commitment from his administration towards improving good governance. He stated that with good governance, Ghana could broaden prosperity through public-private partnerships that invest in better roads and electricity, train people to grow a business, and build on financial services that reach not just the cities, but also the poor and rural areas.¹¹⁹¹

On 19 October 2009, Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton accompanied by U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, announced a new Sudan Strategy where there will be focus on development, good governance, economic development, rule of law, and women's empowerment. The strategy outlines how the U.S. will work closely with international partners to provide assistance in 2010 elections and the 2011 referendum to promote improved governing capacity and greater transparency in Southern Sudan, which complies with the implementation of e-strategies that make the government more transparent.¹¹⁹²

Therefore, the United States has been awarded a score of 0 for their intention to improve ICT infrastructure in Africa and funding transparency studies in the Middle East, but has failed to address public access to ICT for this compliance cycle.

Analyst: Shiva Amiri

European Union: 0

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to support initiatives to narrow the digital gap to bolster institution building, enable the modernization of public services and the strengthen legislative and democratic processes. Despite supporting initiatives to promote participation in the global information society, the European Union

¹¹⁸⁹ U.S.-E.U. Joint Declaration and Annexes. The Press Office, White House, (Washington) 3 November 2009. Date of Access: 4 December 2009. www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/us-eu-joint-declaration-and-annexes.

¹¹⁹⁰ Remarks by Secretary Hilary Clinton at U.S.-African Business Summit (Washington) 2 October 2009. Date of Access: 8 December 2009. www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2009/October/20091002134802caifas4.294991e-03.html.

¹¹⁹¹ Remarks by the President to the Ghanaian Parliament. The Press Office, White House, (Washington) 9 July 2009. Date of Access: 4 December 2009. www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-the-President-to-the-Ghanaian-Parliament.

¹¹⁹² Department of State, Public Liaison E-News, (Washington) 19 October 2009. Date of Access: 4 December 2009 www.state.gov | Volume 3 Issue 17 | October 19, 2009. www.state.gov/documents/organization/132562.pdf.

has not supported projects for the development of universal and affordable access to ICT and participatory governance through regulatory policies and national e-strategies.

On 1 December 2009, the European Commission, under the European Union's 7th Framework Programme, awarded EUR93 million in funding to the new generation of GÉANT, GÉANT 3, a high-speed European communication network dedicated to research and education.¹¹⁹³ GÉANT is considered the "e-Infrastructure at the heart of the EU's European Research Area"¹¹⁹⁴ and contributes to global research networking by connecting with other regional networks such as The Research and Education Network for Asia-Pacific (TEIN3). These partnerships allow European researchers to collaborate with their international counterparts in areas such as e-learning to create a "global virtual research community that aims to bridge the digital divide."¹¹⁹⁵

On 21-23 October 2009, the European Commission supported the eChallenges e-2009 Conference to discuss ICT issues on an international stage. The conference provides a forum to "share knowledge and experience, lessons learnt and good practice in the areas of ICT for Networked Enterprise & RFID, eGovernment & eDemocracy, eHealth, Collaborative Working Environments, Living Labs, eInfrastructures; Technology Enhanced Learning and ICT Skills, Knowledge and Content Technologies."¹¹⁹⁶

Thus, the European Union is awarded a score of 0 for its efforts in promoting participation in the global information society.

Analyst: Ailsa Chau

¹¹⁹³ GÉANT Network Extends Global Reach Through Expanded South-East Asian Connection, European Commission Information Society and Media (Cambridge, UK) 1 December 2009. Date of Access: 1 December 2009.

www.geant.net/Media_Centre/PressReleases/Pages/GEANTNetworkextendsGlobalReach.aspx.

¹¹⁹⁴ GÉANT Network Extends Global Reach Through Expanded South-East Asian Connection, European Commission Information Society and Media (Cambridge, UK) 1 December 2009. Date of Access: 1 December 2009.

www.geant.net/Media_Centre/PressReleases/Pages/GEANTNetworkextendsGlobalReach.aspx.

¹¹⁹⁵ GÉANT Network Extends Global Reach Through Expanded South-East Asian Connection, European Commission Information Society and Media (Cambridge, UK) 1 December 2009. Date of Access: 1 December 2009.

www.geant.net/Media_Centre/PressReleases/Pages/GEANTNetworkextendsGlobalReach.aspx.

¹¹⁹⁶ eChallenges e-2009: Welcome, eChallenges e-2009 Secretariat (Dublin, Ireland) 10 July 2009. Date of Access: 1 December 2009. www.echallenges.org/e2009/default.asp?page=home.