



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

## **2014 Brussels G7 Summit Final Compliance Report**

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## 12. Health: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights [89]

“In addition we are committed to ensuring sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights”

*Brussels G7 Summit Declaration*

### Assessment

Country	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 Score	+1		

### Background

During the late 1990s and early 2000s, the efforts of the G8 regarding health were largely focused on the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases and supporting the improvement of national health systems.<sup>738</sup> While undertakings like the fight against HIV/AIDS contributed towards sexual health, the protection of reproductive health and rights was not a stated goal of the summits.

Between 2005 and 2007, however, the fifth Millennium Development Goal (MDG) regarding the improvement of maternal health was enlarged to include the aim of achieving “universal access to reproductive health,” in addition to the reduction of the maternal mortality ratio.<sup>739</sup>

At the 2007 Heiligendamm Summit, the G8 also expanded its health focus and took steps to address reproductive health care and rights in the context of attaining the MDGs. In addition to committing to “scale up efforts to reduce the gaps, in the area of maternal and child health care and voluntary family planning,”<sup>740</sup> the G8 also agreed to encourage programs meant to inform girls about reproductive health.<sup>741</sup>

But while the L’Aquila G8 Health Experts’ Report acknowledged achievements in the area of combatting infectious diseases, it argued that there was a need to “make more rapid progress towards the achievement of the MDGs concerned with maternal health” because, “the health-related MDGs are mutually linked and interdependent.”<sup>742</sup> At this time, they agreed to take steps to promote

<sup>738</sup> G8 Commitments on Health, 1975-2009, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 December 2009. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/g8-commitments-health-to-2009.html>.

<sup>739</sup> Universal Access to Reproductive Health, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2011. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2011/WHO\\_RHR\\_HRP\\_11.02\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2011/WHO_RHR_HRP_11.02_eng.pdf).

<sup>740</sup> Growth and Responsibility in Africa, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2007. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2007heiligendamm/g8-2007-africa.html>.

<sup>741</sup> Growth and Responsibility in Africa, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2007. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2007heiligendamm/g8-2007-africa.html>.

<sup>742</sup> Promoting Global Health, L’Aquila G8 Health Experts’ Report, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 July 2009. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/>.

maternal health “including through sexual and reproductive health care and services and voluntary family planning.”<sup>743</sup>

Nevertheless, in 2010 the United Nations Secretary General released a report stating that MDG five was in danger of not being met.<sup>744</sup> At least partially in response to this, the G8 launched the Muskoka Initiative in 2010. Aimed at reducing both maternal and child mortality, the program’s goals include the provision of “sexual and reproductive health care and services, including voluntary family planning.”<sup>745</sup>

The G8 reiterated its support for the Muskoka Initiative at both the Deauville Summit,<sup>746</sup> and at the Camp David Summit.<sup>747</sup> The G8 also produced accountability reports tracking the implementation of this program in 2011, 2012, and 2013.

### **Commitment Features**

Full compliance with this commitment requires that countries take steps to both protect reproductive rights and to provide services and/or information that promote sexual and reproductive health.

While the commitment does not define the aforementioned terms, the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development’s (ICPD) Programme of Action can provide guidance on this matter. Each state in the G7 participated in the ICPD, and adopted the final document. Furthermore, the European Commission stated in 2002 that, “All Member States of the Union endorsed the Programme of Action.”<sup>748</sup>

In this document, reproductive rights are defined as: (1) “the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so,” and; (2) “the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health.”<sup>749</sup>

The report then went on to define reproductive health in the following manner:

Reproductive health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes. Reproductive health therefore implies that

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<sup>743</sup> G8 Leaders Declaration: Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future. G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2009. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-declaration.html>.

<sup>744</sup> Keeping the Promise: A Forward-Looking Review to Promote an Agreed Action Agenda to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, United Nations General Assembly (New York) 12 February 2010. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/64/665](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/64/665).

<sup>745</sup> G8 Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings. G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 25-26 June 2010. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html>.

<sup>746</sup> G8 Declaration: Renewed Commitment for Freedom and Democracy. G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2011. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>747</sup> Camp David Declaration. G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 May 2012. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2012campdavid/g8-declaration.html>.

<sup>748</sup> Question No 86 by Dana Rosemary Scallon, Annex – Questions to the Commission, European Parliament (Strasbourg), 24 October 2002. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=CRE&reference=20021024&secondRef=ANN-01&language=EN&detail=H-2002-0670&query=QUESTION>.

<sup>749</sup> Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population Development: 20th Anniversary Edition, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/ICPD%20PoA%20English.pdf>.

people are able to have a satisfying and safe sex life and that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so.<sup>750</sup>

It also classifies having access to both family planning services and reproductive health care facilities as requirements for the maintenance of reproductive health.<sup>751</sup>

Since this interpretation of reproductive health includes part one of the definition of reproductive rights, fulfillment of this commitment can be condensed to taking concrete steps to ensure reproductive and sexual health.

The ICPD defines sexual health as “the enhancement of life and personal relations, and not merely counselling and care related to reproduction and sexually transmitted diseases.”<sup>752</sup> The World Health Organization (WHO) provides greater detail by noting that “sexual health is a state of physical, mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality. It requires a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination, and violence.”<sup>753</sup> This definition is important because it focuses on the link between sexual violence and a reduction in sexual health. Thus, efforts to prevent and combat sexual violence can be viewed as an effort to ensure sexual health.

### Scoring Guidelines

- 1	Member has not taken concrete actions to ensure sexual health AND reproductive health and rights.
0	Member has taken concrete action to ensure either sexual health OR reproductive health and reproductive rights.
+1	Member has taken concrete action to ensure both sexual health AND reproductive health and rights.

*Lead Analyst: Sarah Beard*

### Canada: +1

Canada has taken concrete action to ensure sexual health and reproductive health and rights.

On 12 June 2014, John Baird, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, participated in the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict.<sup>754</sup> This conference was hosted by the United Kingdom (UK) and brought together representatives from governments, non-governmental organizations, amongst others, to discuss this issue.<sup>755</sup> In particular, the Summit focused on both the need to ensure that

<sup>750</sup> Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population Development: 20th Anniversary Edition, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/ICPD%20PoA%20English.pdf>.

<sup>751</sup> Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population Development: 20th Anniversary Edition, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/ICPD%20PoA%20English.pdf>.

<sup>752</sup> Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population Development: 20th Anniversary Edition, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/ICPD%20PoA%20English.pdf>.

<sup>753</sup> Sexual Health, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2015. Date of Access: 16 May 2015. [http://www.who.int/topics/sexual\\_health/en/](http://www.who.int/topics/sexual_health/en/).

<sup>754</sup> Baird Promotes Canada’s Stance Against Sexual Violence at Global Summit in London, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (Ottawa) 11 June 2014. Date of Access: 19 May 2015. <http://www.international.gc.ca/media/aff/news-communicues/2014/06/11a.aspx?lang=eng>.

<sup>755</sup> Chair’s Summary – Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London) 13 June 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict>.

sexual violence does not go unpunished in times of war, and the need to support victims of sexual violence.<sup>756</sup> Following the conference, Baird declared, “We all agree that commitments must be turned into action to end sexual violence in conflict. It is time to act.”<sup>757</sup>

Thus, on 6 October 2014, Baird announced a contribution of CAD5 million to aid the victims of sexual violence in Iraq. He noted that Canada would also provide the funding needed for the UN Human Rights Council in Iraq to employ an expert on sexual violence.<sup>758</sup> Moreover, Baird declared that Canada would donate another CAD5 million “to partners, including Justice Rapid Response, a Canadian-created initiative, to investigate and prosecute crimes of sexual violence in ISIL-held territory.”<sup>759</sup> In his speech, Baird further committed Canada to keeping the issue of sexual violence at the top of the agendas at the UN and G7 conferences.<sup>760</sup>

Given that the World Health Organization’s definition of sexual health requires that individuals not be faced with sexual violence, the aforementioned initiatives illustrate Canada’s commitment to ensuring sexual health internationally.

Canada is also a strong supporter of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. On 2 December 2013, Canada declared that it would donate CAD650 million to the Global Fund between 2014 and 2016.<sup>761</sup> However, since this pledge was made prior to the compliance period, this contribution cannot be counted towards the scoring in this report.

However, Canada has also taken steps to combat HIV/AIDS nationally. On 1 December 2014, the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), in partnership with the Canadian Foundation for Aids Research (CANFAR), and the Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN), announced three new research projects that have the objectives of investigating issues specific to men and boys with HIV/AIDS, and finding better treatments for the disease.<sup>762</sup>

Canada has also taken steps to ensure reproductive health and to protect reproductive rights.

In September 2014, the Government of Canada, along with Norway, the United States, and the World Bank, announced the creation of The Global Financing Facility in Support of Every Woman Every Child (GFF).<sup>763</sup> This new funding mechanism is meant to increase support for reproductive,

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<sup>756</sup> Chair’s Summary – Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London) 13 June 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict>.

<sup>757</sup> Baird Calls on International Community to Bring Perpetrators of Sexual Violence in Conflict to Justice, Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development Canada (Ottawa) 13 June 2014. Date of Access: 19 May 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=856879>.

<sup>758</sup> Address By John Baird on Military Contribution Against ISIL in the House of Commons, Openparliament.ca (Ottawa) 6 October 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2014/10/6/john-baird-1/only/>.

<sup>759</sup> Address By John Baird on Military Contribution Against ISIL in the House of Commons, Openparliament.ca (Ottawa) 6 October 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2014/10/6/john-baird-1/only/>.

<sup>760</sup> Address By John Baird on Military Contribution Against ISIL in the House of Commons, Openparliament.ca (Ottawa) 6 October 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <https://openparliament.ca/debates/2014/10/6/john-baird-1/only/>.

<sup>761</sup> Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (Ottawa) 20 August 2014. Date of Access: 14 May 2015. [http://www.international.gc.ca/development-developpement/partners-partenaires/key\\_partners-partenaires\\_cles/gfatm-fmstsp.aspx?lang=eng](http://www.international.gc.ca/development-developpement/partners-partenaires/key_partners-partenaires_cles/gfatm-fmstsp.aspx?lang=eng).

<sup>762</sup> Government of Canada and Partners Support New Research on HIV and AIDS, Canadian Institute of Health Research (Toronto) 1 December 2014. Date of Access: 13 May 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=910509>.

<sup>763</sup> Development Partners Support the Creation of Global Financing Facility to Advance Women’s and Children’s Health, The World Bank (Washington DC) 25 September 2014. Date of Access: 19 May 2015. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2014/09/25/development-partners-support-creation-global-financing-facility-women-children-health>.

maternal, newborn child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH) between 2015 and 2030.<sup>764</sup> According to an executive summary about the program, “the GFF has a particular focus on issues (e.g. family planning...) and target populations (e.g., adolescents) that have historically been under-funded.”<sup>765</sup> Canada announced that it would contribute US200 million to the GFF.<sup>766</sup>

On 25 February 2015, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, announced support for initiatives to end the preventable deaths of mothers, newborns, and children under the age of 5.<sup>767</sup> In line with this goal, Stephen Harper announced a CAD20 million initiative to aid the WHO eradicate polio internationally.<sup>768</sup> He also announced a CAD2.5 million plan to eliminate Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus.<sup>769</sup> Finally, he announced a CAD20 million initiative to support research teams in sub-Saharan African countries resolve healthcare needs of mothers, newborns, and children.<sup>770</sup>

On 10 April 2015, Nova Scotia, a province of Canada, announced that it would begin providing free vaccinations to all boys to combat the human papillomavirus (HPV).<sup>771</sup> Their decision follows similar ones in Alberta and Prince Edward Island in 2013.<sup>772</sup> While all Canadian provinces already vaccinate girls to protect them against cervical cancer, this step aims to prevent boys from developing other types of cancers of the reproductive system.<sup>773</sup>

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<sup>764</sup> Global Financing Facility in Support of Every Women Every Child, The World Bank (Washington DC). Date of Access: 19 May 2015.

[http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/HDN/Health/GFF\\_Executive%20Summary.pdf](http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/HDN/Health/GFF_Executive%20Summary.pdf).

<sup>765</sup> Global Financing Facility in Support of Every Women Every Child, The World Bank (Washington DC). Date of Access: 19 May 2015.

[http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/HDN/Health/GFF\\_Executive%20Summary.pdf](http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/HDN/Health/GFF_Executive%20Summary.pdf).

<sup>766</sup> Development Partners Support the Creation of Global Financing Facility to Advance Women’s and Children’s Health, The World Bank (Washington DC) 25 September 2014. Date of Access: 19 May 2015.

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2014/09/25/development-partners-support-creation-global-financing-facility-women-children-health>.

<sup>767</sup> PM Meets with Bill Gates to Advance Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Priority, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 25 February 2015. Date of Access: 13 May 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=advSrch&crtr.mnthndVI=&crtr.mnthStrtVI=&crtr.page=1&nid=941889&crtr.yrndVI=&crtr.kw=reproductiv e&crtr.yrStrtVI=&crtr.dyStrtVI=&crtr.dyndVI=>.

<sup>768</sup> PM Meets with Bill Gates to Advance Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Priority, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 25 February 2015. Date of Access: 13 May 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=advSrch&crtr.mnthndVI=&crtr.mnthStrtVI=&crtr.page=1&nid=941889&crtr.yrndVI=&crtr.kw=reproductiv e&crtr.yrStrtVI=&crtr.dyStrtVI=&crtr.dyndVI=>.

<sup>769</sup> PM Meets with Bill Gates to Advance Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Priority, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 25 February 2015. Date of Access: 13 May 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=advSrch&crtr.mnthndVI=&crtr.mnthStrtVI=&crtr.page=1&nid=941889&crtr.yrndVI=&crtr.kw=reproductiv e&crtr.yrStrtVI=&crtr.dyStrtVI=&crtr.dyndVI=>.

<sup>770</sup> PM Meets with Bill Gates to Advance Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Priority, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 25 February 2015. Date of Access: 13 May 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=advSrch&crtr.mnthndVI=&crtr.mnthStrtVI=&crtr.page=1&nid=941889&crtr.yrndVI=&crtr.kw=reproductiv e&crtr.yrStrtVI=&crtr.dyStrtVI=&crtr.dyndVI=>.

<sup>771</sup> Nova Scotia to Include Boys in HPV Vaccination Schedule, The Globe and Mail (Toronto) 10 April 2015. Date of Access: 19 May 2015. <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health-and-fitness/health/nova-scotia-to-include-boys-in-hpv-vaccination-schedule/article23886885/>.

<sup>772</sup> Nova Scotia to Include Boys in HPV Vaccination Schedule, The Globe and Mail (Toronto) 10 April 2015. Date of Access: 19 May 2015. <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health-and-fitness/health/nova-scotia-to-include-boys-in-hpv-vaccination-schedule/article23886885/>.

<sup>773</sup> Nova Scotia to Include Boys in HPV Vaccination Schedule, The Globe and Mail (Toronto) 10 April 2015. Date of Access: 19 May 2015. <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health-and-fitness/health/nova-scotia-to-include-boys-in-hpv-vaccination-schedule/article23886885/>.

These efforts followed Canada's announcement of the renewal of support for maternal, newborn, and child health in order to continue the work of the 2010 Muskoka Initiative in May 2014. While hosting the Saving Every Woman, Every Child Summit, Canada committed CAD3.5 billion to this goal for the 2015-2020 period.<sup>774</sup> However, since this pledge was made prior to the compliance period, only the aforementioned efforts can count towards the maintenance of reproductive health and rights.

As of December 2014, only four per cent of Canada's assistance went to sexual and reproductive health programming.<sup>775</sup> This is less than the ten per cent target set by donor countries.<sup>776</sup> Moreover, Canada does not offer universal coverage for birth control, unlike Britain, and other states within the European Union.<sup>777</sup>

In conclusion, Canada receives a score of +1 for its contributions to ensure sexual health and reproductive health and rights. It has taken steps to ensure sexual health by combating sexual violence and HIV/AIDS. It has also moved to protect reproductive health and rights by supporting maternal health and expanding its efforts to protect against cancers of the reproductive system.

*Analyst: Julia Martshenko*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to improve sexual health, as well as reproductive health and rights.

In June 2014, during the G7 Summit in Brussels, France issued a communiqué underlining its commitment towards sexual and reproductive health and rights. In the communiqué, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development stated that it welcomed the call for accelerating progress on this issue, made at the Saving Every Woman, Every Child Summit in Toronto, Canada.<sup>778</sup> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also reaffirmed its commitment to improving the health of women and children by promoting universal access to affordable, and high-quality health services that are necessary for general, sexual, and reproductive health.<sup>779</sup> This includes strengthening health, education, and child protection systems, in addition to improving access to immunization through the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) efforts.<sup>780</sup>

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<sup>774</sup> Nova Scotia to Include Boys in HPV Vaccination Schedule, The Globe and Mail (Toronto) 10 April 2015. Date of Access: 19 May 2015. <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health-and-fitness/health/nova-scotia-to-include-boys-in-hpv-vaccination-schedule/article23886885/>.

<sup>775</sup> Renewed Initiative Shines Spotlight on Canada's Deeply Divisive MNCH Approach, Action Canada for Sexual Health & Rights (Ottawa) 1 December 2014. Date of Access: 19 May 2015. <http://www.sexualhealthandrights.ca/renewed-initiative-shines-spotlight-on-canadas-deeply-divisive-mnch-approach/>.

<sup>776</sup> Renewed Initiative Shines Spotlight on Canada's Deeply Divisive MNCH Approach, Action Canada for Sexual Health & Rights (Ottawa) 1 December 2014. Date of Access: 19 May 2015. <http://www.sexualhealthandrights.ca/renewed-initiative-shines-spotlight-on-canadas-deeply-divisive-mnch-approach/>.

<sup>777</sup> It's Time to Give Canadian Women More Options When It Comes to Birth Control, Experts Say, The Globe and Mail (Toronto) 12 April 2015. Date of Access: 13 May 2015. <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health-and-fitness/health/canadians-feel-the-cost-of-health-policies-limiting-access-to-birth-control/article23883108/>.

<sup>778</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

<sup>779</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

<sup>780</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

Since that time, France has taken steps to protect sexual health. The World Health Organization (WHO) notes that sexual violence adversely affects an individuals' sexual health.<sup>781</sup> Thus, actions to prevent sexual violence can be viewed as actions to ensure sexual health.

On 13 June 2014, the French Minister of State for Development and the Francophonie, Annick Girardin, attended the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict.<sup>782</sup> The Global Summit was hosted by the United Kingdom with the objectives of increasing efforts to prevent sexual violence, and to respond to sexual violence with greater support for victims and greater accountability for perpetrators.<sup>783</sup>

On 8 October 2014, France presented a decision concerning the issue of school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) to the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).<sup>784</sup> The summary of the Learning Without Fear initiative notes that "The draft decision invites UNESCO and its Member States to reaffirm their mobilization against SRGBV and all forms of violence in schools; to design and implement national policies and action plans; to promote, drawing on target 4.a of the final report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the creation of safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all boys and girls."<sup>785</sup> According to UNESCO and the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative, SRGBV includes instances of sexual violence and harassment.<sup>786</sup> On 16 April 2015, France, along with fifty-eight other states, adopted the text.<sup>787</sup>

France has also pledged to contribute to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria between 2014 and 2016.<sup>788</sup> On 15 July 2013, President François Hollande announced that France would donate EUR1.08 billion over this time period.<sup>789</sup> However, since this pledge was made prior to the compliance period, it cannot be counted towards the scoring of this report.

France has also supported initiatives to ensure reproductive health and rights.

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<sup>781</sup> Sexual Health, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015.

[http://www.who.int/topics/sexual\\_health/en/](http://www.who.int/topics/sexual_health/en/).

<sup>782</sup> France Attends London Summit on Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict, France in the United Kingdom (London) 13 June 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.ambafrance-uk.org/France-attends-London-summit-on->

<sup>783</sup> Chair's Summary – Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London) 13 June 2014. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict>.

<sup>784</sup> Learning Without Fear: Preventing and Combating School-Related Gender-Based Violence, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (Paris) 23 March 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002323/232369e.pdf>.

<sup>785</sup> Learning Without Fear: Preventing and Combating School-Related Gender-Based Violence, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (Paris) 23 March 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002323/232369e.pdf>.

<sup>786</sup> School-Related Gender-Based Violence, United Nations Girls' Education Initiative-United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization Discussion Paper, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (Paris) November 2013. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. [http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/HIV-AIDS/pdf/UNGEI\\_UNESCO\\_SRGBV\\_DiscussionPaperFinal.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/HIV-AIDS/pdf/UNGEI_UNESCO_SRGBV_DiscussionPaperFinal.pdf).

<sup>787</sup> United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization – Adoption of a Resolution on Combating School-Related, Gender-Based Violence, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (Paris) 16 April 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy-1/human-rights/events-6494/article/unesco-adoption-of-a-resolution-on->

<sup>788</sup> Global Fund Welcomes Contribution by France, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Geneva) 16 July 2013. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. [http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/2013-07-16\\_Global\\_Fund\\_Welcomes\\_Contribution\\_by\\_France/](http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/2013-07-16_Global_Fund_Welcomes_Contribution_by_France/).

<sup>789</sup> Global Fund Welcomes Contribution by France, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Geneva) 16 July 2013. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. [http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/2013-07-16\\_Global\\_Fund\\_Welcomes\\_Contribution\\_by\\_France/](http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/2013-07-16_Global_Fund_Welcomes_Contribution_by_France/).

France is one of the top 25 member state financial contributors to UN Women.<sup>790</sup> This is an entity created by the United Nations (UN) that aims to empower women and eliminate issues acutely affecting women, including sexual and reproductive health and rights.<sup>791</sup> In 2014 overall, France donated over USD0.54 million in core donations, and USD2.14 million in non-core donations.<sup>792</sup> This was a significant increase from the country's donations in 2013.<sup>793</sup>

In July 2014, the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations, along with the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, hosted an event about why a sexual and reproductive health and rights target matters in the health goal.<sup>794</sup> The event was created to bring about a discussion to include sexual and reproductive health in the post-2015 development agenda.<sup>795</sup> During this event, the Counsellor to the Permanent Mission of France, Fabienne Bartoli, emphasised France's commitment to making quality sexual and reproductive information, education, and services universally accessible.<sup>796</sup>

Between 18 December 2014 and 19 December 2014, France also hosted the annual meeting of the Ouagadougou Partnership.<sup>797</sup> The Ouagadougou Partnership was created in 2011 with the goal of providing one million women in West Africa with access to modern contraceptives by 2015.<sup>798</sup>

At the Summit on Family Planning in 2012, France pledged to contribute EUR100 million to the Ouagadougou Partnership between 2011 and 2015.<sup>799</sup> One of the main objectives of the conference was to take stock of progress.<sup>800</sup> However, the Ouagadougou Partnership meeting also focused on

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<sup>790</sup> Top Contributions, United Nations Women (New York). Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/partnerships/donor-countries/top-contributions>.

<sup>791</sup> Statement by United Nations Women Deputy Executive Director Lakshmi Puri at the 2013 EuroNGOs Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Post-2105 Agenda, UN Women (New York) 24 October 2013. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/10/lakshmi-puri-speech-on-sexual-and-reproductive-health-rights>.

<sup>792</sup> Top Contributions, United Nations Women (New York). Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/partnerships/donor-countries/top-contributions>.

<sup>793</sup> Top Contributions, United Nations Women (New York). Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/partnerships/donor-countries/top-contributions>.

<sup>794</sup> Why Does a Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Target Matter in the Health Goal? World Health Organization Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (Geneva) 14 July 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.who.int/pmnch/media/events/2014/srhr/en/>.

<sup>795</sup> Why Does a Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Target Matter in the Health Goal? World Health Organization Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (Geneva) 14 July 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.who.int/pmnch/media/events/2014/srhr/en/>.

<sup>796</sup> Why Does a Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Target Matter in the Health Goal? World Health Organization Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (Geneva) 14 July 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.who.int/pmnch/media/events/2014/srhr/en/>.

<sup>797</sup> Third Annual Ouagadougou Partnership Meeting, IntraHealth International (Dakar) March 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. [http://ec2-54-210-230-186.compute-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Report\\_OPCU-Paris-Meeting\\_ENG\\_final.pdf](http://ec2-54-210-230-186.compute-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Report_OPCU-Paris-Meeting_ENG_final.pdf).

<sup>798</sup> Third Annual Ouagadougou Partnership Meeting, IntraHealth International (Dakar) March 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. [http://ec2-54-210-230-186.compute-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Report\\_OPCU-Paris-Meeting\\_ENG\\_final.pdf](http://ec2-54-210-230-186.compute-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Report_OPCU-Paris-Meeting_ENG_final.pdf).

<sup>799</sup> Statement by Ambassador of France in the United Kingdom Bernard Ernie at the London Summit on Family Planning, France in the UK (London) 13 July 2012. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://www.ambafrance-uk.org/Sommet-de-Londres-sur-la,21348>.

<sup>800</sup> Family Planning – Annual Meeting of the Ouagadougou Partnership, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (Paris) 18 December 2014. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy-1/development-assistance/events-7834/events-2014-7840/article/family-planning-annual-meeting-of>.

the creation of new goals.<sup>801</sup> France noted that it “would like universal access to contraception and, more broadly, sexual and reproductive healthcare to be a priority in the post-2015 agenda.”<sup>802</sup>

France has also called upon other member states at the UN to commit to the principles of the International Conference on Population and Development of Cairo and the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.<sup>803</sup> This included speeches made at special General Assembly sessions, and taking an active role in activities by the Commission on the Status of Women, an entity under the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).<sup>804</sup>

Thus, France is awarded a score of +1 for being actively involved in initiatives surrounding advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights. It has taken steps to ensure sexual health by addressing the issue of sexual violence in conflict and in schools. It has also supported reproductive health and rights by hosting events calling for these topics to be included in the post-2015 framework, and by continuing its support for the Ouagadougou Partnership.

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### **Germany: +1**

Germany has taken concrete action to ensure sexual health, along with reproductive health and rights.

On 31 July 2014, the German parliament announced its decision to increase Germany’s contribution to The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria from EUR200 million to EUR245 million for the 2014 period.<sup>805</sup>

On 22 September 2014, German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Gerd Müller attended the Follow-Up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) at the United Nations (UN).<sup>806</sup> While there, he declared, “Germany

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<sup>801</sup> Family Planning – Annual Meeting of the Ouagadougou Partnership, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (Paris) 18 December 2014. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy-1/development-assistance/events-7834/events-2014-7840/article/family-planning-annual-meeting-of>.

<sup>802</sup> Family Planning – Annual Meeting of the Ouagadougou Partnership, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (Paris) 18 December 2014. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy-1/development-assistance/events-7834/events-2014-7840/article/family-planning-annual-meeting-of>.

<sup>803</sup> France’s Actions for Women’s Rights and Equality, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (Paris) March 2015. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy-1/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/france-and-women-s-rights>.

<sup>804</sup> France’s Actions for Women’s Rights and Equality, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (Paris) March 2015. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy-1/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/france-and-women-s-rights>.

<sup>805</sup> Global Fund Welcomes Germany’s Increased Contribution, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Geneva) 31 July 2014. Date of Access: 14 May 2015. [http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/2014-07-31\\_Global\\_Fund\\_Welcomes\\_Germany\\_s\\_Increased\\_Contribution/](http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/2014-07-31_Global_Fund_Welcomes_Germany_s_Increased_Contribution/).

<sup>806</sup> Statement by German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Gerd Müller at the United Nations, International Conference on Population and Development (New York) 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/pdf/other/4/country/germany.pdf>.

supports the Cairo Programme of Action.”<sup>807</sup> This renewed the state’s support of a project that has the objective of providing “access to sexual and reproductive health, including family planning.”<sup>808</sup>

Germany also hosted a side-event at the conference entitled “Education Matters: Empowering Young People to Make Healthier Choices.”<sup>809</sup> Here, Minister Müller announced that Germany would make a contribution of EUR3 million to the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) Initiative.<sup>810</sup> In 2013, twenty states in the ESA region committed to providing the youth of their states with greater access to sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services, amongst other things.<sup>811</sup> The Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN, Heiko Thoms, recognized that “Comprehensive sexuality education is essential to enable young people to protect themselves from unwanted pregnancy, HIV, and sexually transmitted infections.”<sup>812</sup>

On 15 April 2015, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN, Heiko Thoms, made a statement at the 48<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development.<sup>813</sup> At this time, he announced that Germany had decided to take steps to extend its Initiative on Rights-Based Family Planning and Maternal Health. This program was created in 2011 for the purposes of providing women with information and access to family planning and maternal health services.<sup>814</sup> Ambassador Thoms noted that maintaining this program illustrates that Germany is “committed to

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<sup>807</sup> Statement by German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Gerd Müller at the United Nations, International Conference on Population and Development (New York) 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/events/pdf/other/4/country/germany.pdf>.

<sup>808</sup> Comprehensive Sexuality Education is Important for Young People to Lead Fulfilling and Healthy Lives and Make Informed Decisions, Healthy Developments () 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. [http://health.bmz.de/events/Events\\_2014/Side\\_Event\\_at\\_the\\_Special\\_Session\\_of\\_the\\_UN\\_General\\_Assembly\\_ICPD\\_Beyond\\_2014/index.html](http://health.bmz.de/events/Events_2014/Side_Event_at_the_Special_Session_of_the_UN_General_Assembly_ICPD_Beyond_2014/index.html).

<sup>809</sup> Comprehensive Sexuality Education is Important for Young People to Lead Fulfilling and Healthy Lives and Make Informed Decisions, Healthy Developments () 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. [http://health.bmz.de/events/Events\\_2014/Side\\_Event\\_at\\_the\\_Special\\_Session\\_of\\_the\\_UN\\_General\\_Assembly\\_ICPD\\_Beyond\\_2014/index.html](http://health.bmz.de/events/Events_2014/Side_Event_at_the_Special_Session_of_the_UN_General_Assembly_ICPD_Beyond_2014/index.html).

<sup>810</sup> Comprehensive Sexuality Education is Important for Young People to Lead Fulfilling and Healthy Lives and Make Informed Decisions, Healthy Developments () 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. [http://health.bmz.de/events/Events\\_2014/Side\\_Event\\_at\\_the\\_Special\\_Session\\_of\\_the\\_UN\\_General\\_Assembly\\_ICPD\\_Beyond\\_2014/index.html](http://health.bmz.de/events/Events_2014/Side_Event_at_the_Special_Session_of_the_UN_General_Assembly_ICPD_Beyond_2014/index.html).

<sup>811</sup> Ministerial Commitment on Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for Adolescents and Young People in Eastern and Southern Africa, Young People Today (Paris) 7 December 2013. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. <http://youngpeopletoday.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/ESA-Commitment-FINAL-Affirmed-on-7th-December.pdf>.

<sup>812</sup> Statement by Ambassador Heiko Thoms to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations New York (New York) 15 April 2015. Date of Access: 14 May 2015. [http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/pdf/commission/2015/country/Agenda%20item%204/Germany\\_Item4.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/pdf/commission/2015/country/Agenda%20item%204/Germany_Item4.pdf).

<sup>813</sup> Statement by Ambassador Heiko Thoms to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations New York (New York) 15 April 2015. Date of Access: 14 May 2015. [http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/pdf/commission/2015/country/Agenda%20item%204/Germany\\_Item4.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/pdf/commission/2015/country/Agenda%20item%204/Germany_Item4.pdf).

<sup>814</sup> BMZ Initiative on Rights-Based Family Planning and Maternal Health, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) May 2011. Date of Access: 16 May 2015. [http://www.bmz.de/en/zentrales\\_downloadarchiv/themen\\_und\\_schwerpunkte/gesundheit/bmz\\_initiative\\_familienplanung\\_en\\_1107.pdf](http://www.bmz.de/en/zentrales_downloadarchiv/themen_und_schwerpunkte/gesundheit/bmz_initiative_familienplanung_en_1107.pdf).

ensuring that more women can exercise their human right to decide when, with whom and how many children they wish to have.”<sup>815</sup>

Germany has also taken steps to ensure that women’s reproductive rights are upheld within the country. On 6 March 2015, the German Bundesrat approved legislation that allows women over the age of 14 to buy emergency contraceptives without the need for a prescription.<sup>816</sup>

The German government has also hosted several conferences and made numerous statements in regards to the need to keep sexual and reproductive health and rights high on the global agenda following the conclusion of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015.

In November 2014, Germany held the 12th International Dialogue on Population and Sustainable Development.<sup>817</sup> The theme of this year’s conference was the “ICPD and Beyond: Investing in Health and Rights,” and it resulted in the Berlin Call to Action. This document outlines the need for the post-2015 framework to include sexual and reproductive health and rights. In particular, the participants noted the need for a focus on attaining universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, providing youth with comprehensive sexuality education, and preventing gender-based violence.<sup>818</sup>

In a speech on 13 April 2015 at the 48th session of the Commission on Population and Development, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN, Heiko Thoms, advocated for sexual and reproductive health and rights to be adequately reflected in the post-2015 Development Agenda.<sup>819</sup> He also called for “comprehensive sexuality education as well as linking of HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health strategies. Women and girls, like men and boys, must have full and affordable access to sexual and reproductive health information, services and supplies, information and education and be able to freely and responsibly decide on matters related to their sexuality.”<sup>820</sup>

Furthermore, on 16 April 2015, the Government of Germany hosted the 2015 International G7/G20 Parliamentarians conference in preparation for the 2015 G7 Summit. Entitled, “She Matters, Empowering Women and Girls to Lead Self-Determined, Healthy and Productive Lives,” the conference had the objective of getting parliamentarians “to advocate for increased G7 commitment

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<sup>815</sup> Statement by Ambassador Heiko Thoms to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations New York (New York) 15 April 2015. Date of Access: 14 May 2015. [http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/pdf/commission/2015/country/Agenda%20item%204/Germany\\_Item4.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/pdf/commission/2015/country/Agenda%20item%204/Germany_Item4.pdf).

<sup>816</sup> Bundesrat Stimmt Rezeptfreier "Pille Danach" Zu, Süddeutsche Zeitung (Munich) 6 March 2015. Date of Access 14 May 2015. <http://www.sueddeutsche.de/gesundheit/verhuetung-bundesrat-stimmt-rezeptfreier-pille-danach-zu-1.2381202>.

<sup>817</sup> Statement by Ambassador Heiko Thoms to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations New York (New York) 13 April 2015. Date of Access: 14 May 2015. [http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/pdf/commission/2015/country/Agenda%20item%203/Germany\\_Item3.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/pdf/commission/2015/country/Agenda%20item%203/Germany_Item3.pdf).

<sup>818</sup> Berlin Call to Action, Conference Magazine, International Dialogue on Population and Sustainable Development (Berlin) 5-6 November 2014. Date of Access: 18 May 2015. [http://12th.dialogue-population-development.info/topics/berlin\\_call\\_to\\_action/](http://12th.dialogue-population-development.info/topics/berlin_call_to_action/).

<sup>819</sup> Statement by Ambassador Heiko Thoms to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations New York (New York) 13 April 2015. Date of Access: 14 May 2015. [http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/pdf/commission/2015/country/Agenda%20item%203/Germany\\_Item3.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/pdf/commission/2015/country/Agenda%20item%203/Germany_Item3.pdf).

<sup>820</sup> Statement by Ambassador Heiko Thoms to the United Nations, Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations New York (New York) 13 April 2015. Date of Access: 14 May 2015. [http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/pdf/commission/2015/country/Agenda%20item%203/Germany\\_Item3.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/pdf/commission/2015/country/Agenda%20item%203/Germany_Item3.pdf).

to international development cooperation and global health, namely in the area of...sexual and reproductive health and rights.”<sup>821</sup> During the meeting, the Director of World Health Organization Department of Reproductive Health and Research, Marleen Temmerman, called “for parliamentarians to play an active role in the process of development of the renewed Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health.”<sup>822</sup> Parliamentarians responded by calling for the 2015 G7 Summit to take these topics into account.<sup>823</sup>

In conclusion, Germany receives a score of +1 for its actions to secure sexual health and reproductive health and rights during the compliance period. Germany has taken steps to ensure sexual health through its support for programs like the ESA Initiative, and Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. It has also aided the achievement of reproductive health and rights by extending its Initiative on Rights-Based Family Planning and Maternal Health, and by altering its national legislation surrounding contraceptives. Finally, Germany has organized events and made statements emphasizing the importance of keeping sexual and reproductive health and rights on the global agenda.

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### **Italy: +1**

Italy has made a concerted effort to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights.

On 19 September 2014, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Italian Chamber of Deputies, and the Council of Europe co-hosted the event “Safe from Fear, Safe from Violence,” both to applaud the entry into force of the Istanbul Convention, and to call on other states to sign the treaty.<sup>824</sup> This Istanbul Convention commits states to taking steps to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against women, including sexual violence.<sup>825</sup> While many articles of the convention are not specific to sexual violence, article 36 notes that states must enact legislation to outlaw sexual violence if they have not already done so.<sup>826</sup> Moreover, article 25 notes that “Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to provide for the setting up of appropriate, easily accessible rape crisis or sexual violence referral centres for victims in sufficient numbers to provide for medical and forensic examination, trauma support and counseling for victims.”<sup>827</sup> During the conference, Italy, along with other parties to the treaty, issued a joint declaration. They noted that they: (1) “Welcome

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<sup>821</sup> “She Matters”- WHO Engages with G7/20 Parliamentarians to Advocate for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, World Health Organization (Geneva) 16 April 2015. Date of Access: 14 May 2015. [http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/sexual\\_health/g7/en/](http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/sexual_health/g7/en/).

<sup>822</sup> “She Matters”- WHO Engages with G7/20 Parliamentarians to Advocate for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, World Health Organization (Geneva) 16 April 2015. Date of Access: 14 May 2015. [http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/sexual\\_health/g7/en/](http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/sexual_health/g7/en/).

<sup>823</sup> “She Matters”- WHO Engages with G7/20 Parliamentarians to Advocate for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, World Health Organization (Geneva) 16 April 2015. Date of Access: 14 May 2015. [http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/sexual\\_health/g7/en/](http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/sexual_health/g7/en/).

<sup>824</sup> Safe from Fear, Safe from Violence: Celebrating the Entry into Force of the Istanbul Convention International Conference, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 19 September 2014. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. [http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/Seminars/Rome2014/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/Seminars/Rome2014/default_en.asp).

<sup>825</sup> Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 7 April 2011. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/EN/Treaties/Html/210.htm>.

<sup>826</sup> Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 7 April 2011. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/EN/Treaties/Html/210.htm>.

<sup>827</sup> Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 7 April 2011. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/EN/Treaties/Html/210.htm>.

the entry into force of the Istanbul Convention, the first legally binding treaty in Europe to offer a comprehensive framework to end violence against women and domestic violence;” (2) commit to the implementation of the treaty; (3) “Urge other Council of Europe member states, non-members states, as well as the European Union, to become Parties to the Convention.”<sup>828</sup>

The World Health Organization (WHO) notes that sexual health cannot exist where there is sexual violence.<sup>829</sup> By taking action to support the Istanbul Convention, Italy has illustrated a commitment to ensuring sexual health. Italy has also taken steps to ensure sexual health by combating HIV/AIDS.

Between 1 July 2014 and 31 December 2014, Italy held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU). When laying out its goals for the presidency, Italy noted that it would “invite its European partners to consider the outcomes and perspective of the fight against HIV/AIDS.”<sup>830</sup> Accordingly, Italy chaired a ministerial conference on “The Fight to End HIV/AIDS: Ten Years After the Dublin Conference” during 27 November 2014 and 28 November 2014.<sup>831</sup>

On 4 December 2013, Italy pledged EUR100 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for the 2014-2016 period.<sup>832</sup> However, this contribution cannot be counted towards the scoring of the report because it was pledged prior to the beginning of the commitment period.

Italy has also taken steps to ensure reproductive health and rights.

At the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) Pledging Conference in January 2015, Italy pledged an additional USD120 million for the 2016 to 2020 period.<sup>833</sup> This brought the Italy’s total contribution for these years up to USD437 million.<sup>834</sup> While GAVI supports many different types of vaccines, it has been providing the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine since 2013.<sup>835</sup> The HPV vaccine helps strengthen reproductive health by preventing women from losing their fertility as a result of cervical cancer.<sup>836</sup>

Between 2 October 2014 and 3 October 2014, the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union held a conference on women’s health that sought “to discuss ... sexual health (sexually

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<sup>828</sup> Joint Declaration on the Occasion of the Conference Safe from Fear, Safe from Violence, Celebrating the Entry into Force of the Istanbul Convention By Its Contracting States, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 19 September 2014. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/Seminars/Rome2014/IC-Declaration-Rome-Final-EN.pdf>.

<sup>829</sup> Sexual Health, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2015. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. [http://www.who.int/topics/sexual\\_health/en/](http://www.who.int/topics/sexual_health/en/).

<sup>830</sup> Europe: A Fresh Start, Program of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, 2014 Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (Brussels). Date of Access: 21 May 2015. [http://italia2014.eu/media/1349/programma\\_en1\\_def.pdf](http://italia2014.eu/media/1349/programma_en1_def.pdf).

<sup>831</sup> Italian Presidency of the European Union, Italian Ministry of Health (Rome). Date of Access: 21 May 2015. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_2\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=english&menu=eventi&p=daeventi&id=191](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_2_1_1.jsp?lingua=english&menu=eventi&p=daeventi&id=191).

<sup>832</sup> Italy Donates 100 Million Euros to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Farnesina (Rome) 4 December 2013. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. [http://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2013/12/20131204\\_global\\_fund.html](http://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2013/12/20131204_global_fund.html).

<sup>833</sup> Global Vaccine Alliance GAVI: Increasing Immunization Coverage, Strengthening Healthcare Systems, G7 German 2015 (Berlin) 27 January 2015. <http://www.bmz.de/g7/en/Gavi/>.

<sup>834</sup> Global Vaccine Alliance GAVI: Increasing Immunization Coverage, Strengthening Healthcare Systems, G7 German 2015 (Berlin) 27 January 2015. <http://www.bmz.de/g7/en/Gavi/>.

<sup>835</sup> Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Support, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (Geneva) 2015. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. <http://www.gavi.org/support/nvs/human-papillomavirus-vaccine-support/>.

<sup>836</sup> Fertility and Cervical Cancer, Cancer Research UK (London) 10 June 2014. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/type/cervical-cancer/living/fertility-and-cervical-cancer>.

transmitted disease, endometriosis), reproductive health (preconceptional health, pregnancy, delivery and puerperium), female cancers (screening and health promotion, prevention of infertility).<sup>837</sup>

Italy has also made a statement in support of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which “recognized the centrality of sexual and reproductive health and rights to health and development.”<sup>838</sup> On 22 September 2014, Italy participated in the special follow-up session to the Programme of Action of the ICPD. Director General for Development Cooperation at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Giampaolo Cantini made a speech at the conference.<sup>839</sup> While mainly focused on population development challenges, Cantini noted Italy’s support for the ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Review.<sup>840</sup> He also declared, “Italy reaffirms the relevance of the principles of the 1994 Cairo Conference for the Development Agenda and its support for an acceleration of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action beyond 2014.” In particular, Cantini emphasized the need for mothers and youth to remain on the international agenda.<sup>841</sup>

Thus, Italy receives a +1 for its support for sexual and reproductive health and rights. Italy has taken action to ensure sexual health by combating sexual violence and HIV/AIDS. It has helped ensure reproductive health and rights by supporting GAVI and hosting a conference on reproductive health.

*Analyst: Kate Motluk*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with the commitment to ensure sexual and reproductive health, and to protect reproductive rights.

Between 10 June 2014 and 13 June 2014, representatives from the Government of Japan attended the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict.<sup>842</sup> During the ministerial working day of the Summit, Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nobuo Kishi, addressed the conference and

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<sup>837</sup> Public Health Priorities of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, European Public Health Alliance (Brussels). Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://www.epha.org/spip.php?article6125>.

<sup>838</sup> Population and Development: The Five Pillar Breakdown, International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014. 2012. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. <http://icpdbeyond2014.org/rights-development>.

<sup>839</sup> Statement by Director General for Development Cooperation at the Italy Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Giampaolo Cantini at the 29th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on “Follow-Up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,” International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014 (New York) 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. [http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/italy\\_statement\\_english.pdf](http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/italy_statement_english.pdf).

<sup>840</sup> Statement by Director General for Development Cooperation at the Italy Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Giampaolo Cantini at the 29th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on “Follow-Up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,” International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014 (New York) 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. [http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/italy\\_statement\\_english.pdf](http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/italy_statement_english.pdf).

<sup>841</sup> Statement by Director General for Development Cooperation at the Italy Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Giampaolo Cantini at the 29th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on “Follow-Up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,” International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014 (New York) 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. [http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/italy\\_statement\\_english.pdf](http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/italy_statement_english.pdf).

<sup>842</sup> Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nobuo Kishi’s Visit to the Republic of Iran and the United Kingdom, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 5 June 2014. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. [http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_000292.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_000292.html).

informed delegates about actions that the state had been taking to respond to sexual violence.<sup>843</sup> Kishi noted that Japan was focusing on strengthening the judicial systems of states involved in conflict.<sup>844</sup> He also made note of Japan's recent contribution to the Trust Fund for Victims at the International Criminal Court (ICC).<sup>845</sup> On 8 May 2014, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced that Japan would make a donation of EUR600,000 to this program.<sup>846</sup> He also stated that EUR400,000 of this would be targeted at victims of sexual and gender-based violence.<sup>847</sup> While this pledge cannot be counted towards Japan's compliance because it was made just prior to the beginning of the compliance period, Japan's participation in the summit illustrates that is committed to ensuring the sexual health of individuals living in conflict zones by responding to the problem of sexual violence.

On 10 April 2015, Japan contributed USD848,000 to implement a project to respond to gender-based and sexual violence against women in Palestine.<sup>848</sup> Japan focused its aid in this area because incidents of sexual and gender-based violence tend to increase in areas that experience conflict.<sup>849</sup> The project will therefore provide victims of gender-based violence with "legal aid, psychosocial services, and supporting shelters."<sup>850</sup> This program provides another illustration of Japan's actions to maintain sexual health in conflict zones.

On 3 December 2013, Japan pledged USD800 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria for the 2014-2016 period.<sup>851</sup> While this contribution cannot be counted towards the scoring of this report because the pledge was made prior to the beginning of the compliance period, it is important to note that Japan maintains a strong commitment to combatting HIV/AIDS.

Japan has also taken steps to protect reproductive rights and health.

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<sup>843</sup> Address by Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nobuo Kishi at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 12 June 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015.

[http://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr\\_ha/page18e\\_000089.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page18e_000089.html).

<sup>844</sup> Address by Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nobuo Kishi at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 12 June 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015.

[http://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr\\_ha/page18e\\_000089.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page18e_000089.html).

<sup>845</sup> Address by Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Nobuo Kishi at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 12 June 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015.

[http://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr\\_ha/page18e\\_000089.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page18e_000089.html).

<sup>846</sup> Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe Announces First Contribution to the Trust Fund for Victims, The Trust Fund for Victims (The Hague) 8 May 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015. <http://www.trustfundforvictims.org/news/japan-prime-minister-shinzo-abe-announces-first-contribution-trust-fund-victims>.

<sup>847</sup> Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe Announces First Contribution to the Trust Fund for Victims, The Trust Fund for Victims (The Hague) 8 May 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015. <http://www.trustfundforvictims.org/news/japan-prime-minister-shinzo-abe-announces-first-contribution-trust-fund-victims>.

<sup>848</sup> Japan and UN Women Partner to Assist Female Victims of Gender-Based Violence in Gaza, Representative Office of Japan to the Palestinian Authority (Ramallah) 10 April 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. [http://www.ps.emb-japan.go.jp/PressRelease/PressRelease2015/n10April\\_Eng.pdf](http://www.ps.emb-japan.go.jp/PressRelease/PressRelease2015/n10April_Eng.pdf).

<sup>849</sup> Japan and UN Women Partner to Assist Female Victims of Gender-Based Violence in Gaza, Representative Office of Japan to the Palestinian Authority (Ramallah) 10 April 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. [http://www.ps.emb-japan.go.jp/PressRelease/PressRelease2015/n10April\\_Eng.pdf](http://www.ps.emb-japan.go.jp/PressRelease/PressRelease2015/n10April_Eng.pdf).

<sup>850</sup> Japan and UN Women Partner to Assist Female Victims of Gender-Based Violence in Gaza, Representative Office of Japan to the Palestinian Authority (Ramallah) 10 April 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. [http://www.ps.emb-japan.go.jp/PressRelease/PressRelease2015/n10April\\_Eng.pdf](http://www.ps.emb-japan.go.jp/PressRelease/PressRelease2015/n10April_Eng.pdf).

<sup>851</sup> Global Fund Welcomes Japan's Strong Contribution, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Geneva) 3 December 2013. Date of Access: 20 May 2015.

[http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/2013-12-03\\_Global\\_Fund\\_Welcomes\\_Japan\\_Strong\\_Contribution/](http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/2013-12-03_Global_Fund_Welcomes_Japan_Strong_Contribution/).

On 1 April 2015, the Government of Japan contributed USD756,000 to support the United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) efforts to provide women and children in Palestine with access to reproductive healthcare.<sup>852</sup> In particular, the UNFPA will use the money to “ensure access to family planning, safe births, antenatal and post-natal care for pregnant women and women in the reproductive age.”<sup>853</sup>

Moreover, Japan pledged USD3.22 million to the UNFPA to allow it to commence a project to provide women and children in South Sudan with access to reproductive healthcare and protection from gender-based violence.<sup>854</sup> The ambassador of Japan to South Sudan, Takeshi Akamatsu, noted, “There are many unfortunate cases in which pregnant women do not have access to proper health treatment facilities and follow-up care following referral to tertiary health facilities. This is due to limited supply of equipment as well as lack of knowledge and skills of health workers.”<sup>855</sup> This project will respond to these problems by providing training and equipment to health workers in the area.<sup>856</sup>

On 20 July 2014, the Government of Japan co-hosted a meeting with the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) on the post-2015 framework for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).<sup>857</sup> Japan supports IPPF's belief that universal health coverage (UHC) ought to include access to sexual and reproductive health, and has therefore been lobbying for UHC to be a central part of the post-2015 framework.<sup>858</sup> Consul-General of Japan in Melbourne, Keiko Haneda, participated in the meeting and declared “We should accelerate our efforts towards UHC to attain SRHR (sexual and reproductive health and rights) through addressing health inequity, creating sustainable health systems, ensuring financial risk protection and realizing human security.”<sup>859</sup>

Japan again lobbied for UHC at the 29th Special Session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly.<sup>860</sup> The Deputy Permanent Representatives of Japan to the United Nations, Hiroshi

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<sup>852</sup> Japan Grants USD756 Thousand to Reproductive Health Services in Gaza, Representative Office of Japan to the Palestinian Authority (Ramallah) 31 March 2015. Date of Access: 17 May 2015. [http://www.ps.emb-japan.go.jp/PressRelease/PressRelease2015/n1April\\_Eng.pdf](http://www.ps.emb-japan.go.jp/PressRelease/PressRelease2015/n1April_Eng.pdf).

<sup>853</sup> Japan Grants USD756 Thousand to Reproductive Health Services in Gaza, Representative Office of Japan to the Palestinian Authority (Ramallah) 31 March 2015. Date of Access: 17 May 2015. [http://www.ps.emb-japan.go.jp/PressRelease/PressRelease2015/n1April\\_Eng.pdf](http://www.ps.emb-japan.go.jp/PressRelease/PressRelease2015/n1April_Eng.pdf).

<sup>854</sup> Japan Donates \$3.2 million for South Sudan, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 30 March 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://esaro.unfpa.org/news/japan-donates-32-million-south-sudan>.

<sup>855</sup> Japan Donates \$3.2 million for South Sudan, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 30 March 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://esaro.unfpa.org/news/japan-donates-32-million-south-sudan>.

<sup>856</sup> Japan Donates \$3.2 million for South Sudan, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 30 March 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://esaro.unfpa.org/news/japan-donates-32-million-south-sudan>.

<sup>857</sup> No One Can Be Left Behind If We Are to Achieve an AIDS Free Generation, International Planned Parenthood Federation (London) 20 July 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015. <http://www.ippf.org/east-and-south-east-asia-and-oceania/news/No-one-can-be-left-behind-if-we-are-achieve-AIDS-free-generation>.

<sup>858</sup> No One Can Be Left Behind If We Are to Achieve an AIDS Free Generation, International Planned Parenthood Federation (London) 20 July 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015. <http://www.ippf.org/east-and-south-east-asia-and-oceania/news/No-one-can-be-left-behind-if-we-are-achieve-AIDS-free-generation>.

<sup>859</sup> No One Can Be Left Behind If We Are to Achieve an AIDS Free Generation, International Planned Parenthood Federation (London) 20 July 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015. <http://www.ippf.org/east-and-south-east-asia-and-oceania/news/No-one-can-be-left-behind-if-we-are-achieve-AIDS-free-generation>.

<sup>860</sup> Address by Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations Hiroshi Minami at the 29th Special Session of the General Assembly, 22 September 2014.

[http://icpdbeeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/ambassador\\_minami\\_japan\\_statement.pdf](http://icpdbeeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/ambassador_minami_japan_statement.pdf).

Minami, recognized that “The tasks of ensuring maternal and child health ... [and] providing sexual and reproductive health services ... lay upon our shoulders.”<sup>861</sup>

Thus, Japan has been awarded a score of +1 for its full compliance with the commitment. It has ensured sexual health by taking steps to prevent sexual violence. It has also ensured reproductive health and rights by contributing to reproductive healthcare and family planning programs in Palestine and South Sudan.

*Analysts: Tannishtha Pramanick and Sarah Beard*

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

The United Kingdom has fully committed to the G7 initiative of improving sexual and reproductive health and rights.

On 13 June 2014, the UK hosted the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict. The event was held in London. It involved “government representatives from over 120 countries, over 1000 experts, faith leaders, youth organisations, and representatives of civil society and international organisations.”<sup>862</sup> The UK, along with other governments, committed to tackling the problem of sexual violence in conflict, and to transforming world attitudes towards this issue.<sup>863</sup> The Summit also launched the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict, which established standards on how to collect the strongest possible information and evidence in order to convict past perpetrators, while still protecting and better supporting the victims.<sup>864</sup> By hosting this event, the UK illustrated a commitment to protecting sexual health, which the World Health Organization (WHO) defines as “a state of physical, mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality.”<sup>865</sup> In order for this state to exist, the WHO notes that individuals must not face sexual violence.<sup>866</sup>

In addition, William Hague, the foreign secretary at the time, issued a statement to the British Parliament on 14 July 2014 that outlined the UK’s action plan to advocate for the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI).<sup>867</sup> First, he noted that the UK would seek to implement globally the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in

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<sup>861</sup> Address by Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations Hiroshi Minami at the 29th Special Session of the General Assembly, 22 September 2014.

[http://icpdbeeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/ambassador\\_minami\\_japan\\_statement.pdf](http://icpdbeeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/ambassador_minami_japan_statement.pdf).

<sup>862</sup> Chair’s Summary – Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 13 June 2014. Date of Access: 16 May 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict>.

<sup>863</sup> Chair’s Summary – Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 13 June 2014. Date of Access: 16 May 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict>.

<sup>864</sup> Chair’s Summary – Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 13 June 2014. Date of Access: 16 May 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict>.

<sup>865</sup> Sexual Health, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2015. Date of Access: 16 May 2015. [http://www.who.int/topics/sexual\\_health/en/](http://www.who.int/topics/sexual_health/en/).

<sup>866</sup> Sexual Health, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2015. Date of Access: 16 May 2015. [http://www.who.int/topics/sexual\\_health/en/](http://www.who.int/topics/sexual_health/en/).

<sup>867</sup> Address by Foreign Secretary William Hague at the British Parliament, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London) 14 July 2014. Date of Access: 16 May 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/preventing-sexual-violence-in-conflict-next-steps>.

Conflict.<sup>868</sup> He also stated that the UK would train national authorities around the world in order to improve investigations and mount successful prosecutions.<sup>869</sup> Moreover, he committed the UK to ensuring that international multilateral institutions adopt measures to address sexual violence in conflict.<sup>870</sup>

While each of the aforementioned initiatives illustrate the UK's commitment to ensuring sexual health, it is also important to note that the UK committed USD1.6 billion to The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria for the 2014-2016 period.<sup>871</sup> While this pledge was made prior to the compliance period, and therefore cannot count towards the scoring, this contribution does amount to USD533 million per year in 2014 and 2015.<sup>872</sup>

The UK has also taken steps to ensure reproductive rights and health.

On 6 March 2015, Justine Greening, the secretary of state for international development, announced that the UK had decided to invest GBP8 million in a project entitled AmplifyChange.<sup>873</sup> This fund is meant to provide grants to aid grassroots activists who are focusing on sexual and reproductive health and rights.<sup>874</sup> The themes of the organization include “access to comprehensive reproductive health services for socially and economically marginalized and vulnerable” and “addressing the causes of unsafe abortion including decriminalisation of abortion and supporting women's rights to safe and legal abortion.”<sup>875</sup>

Furthermore, the UK is a supporter of United Nations (UN) Women. In 2014, it contributed USD20.74 million to the organization.<sup>876</sup>

Moreover, the Government of the UK has been funding the Sahil Girls' club in Somalia to help young women learn about sexual reproductive health, gender-based violence, the risks of early

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<sup>868</sup> Address by Foreign Secretary William Hague at the British Parliament, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London) 14 July 2014. Date of Access: 16 May 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/preventing-sexual-violence-in-conflict-next-steps>.

<sup>869</sup> Address by Foreign Secretary William Hague at the British Parliament, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London) 14 July 2014. Date of Access: 16 May 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/preventing-sexual-violence-in-conflict-next-steps>.

<sup>870</sup> Address by Foreign Secretary William Hague at the British Parliament, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London) 14 July 2014. Date of Access: 16 May 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/preventing-sexual-violence-in-conflict-next-steps>.

<sup>871</sup> UK Commits 1 Billion to the Global Fund, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Geneva) 23 September 2013. Date of Access: 19 May 2015. [http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/2013-09-23\\_UK\\_Commits\\_GBP\\_1\\_Billion\\_to\\_the\\_Global\\_Fund/](http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/2013-09-23_UK_Commits_GBP_1_Billion_to_the_Global_Fund/).

<sup>872</sup> UK Commits 1 Billion to the Global Fund, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Geneva) 23 September 2013. Date of Access: 19 May 2015. [http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/2013-09-23\\_UK\\_Commits\\_GBP\\_1\\_Billion\\_to\\_the\\_Global\\_Fund/](http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/2013-09-23_UK_Commits_GBP_1_Billion_to_the_Global_Fund/).

<sup>873</sup> Statement by International Development Secretary Justine Greening at the Women of the World Festival, Department for International Development (London) 6 March 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/justine-greening-international-activism-for-girls-and-women>.

<sup>874</sup> Statement by International Development Secretary Justine Greening at the Women of the World Festival, Department for International Development (London) 6 March 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/justine-greening-international-activism-for-girls-and-women>.

<sup>875</sup> What is AmplifyChange? AmplifyChange (Bath) 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <https://amplifychange.org/about-us/>.

<sup>876</sup> Top Contributions, United Nations Women (New York) 2014. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/partnerships/donor-countries/top-contributions>.

marriage, and the major issue of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).<sup>877</sup> This club has educated young women on these topics, and provided a safe space in which young Somali women feel comfortable speaking about such issues.<sup>878</sup> However, it is not clear when funding for this program began, and therefore it cannot be counted towards the scoring of the report.

The UK has also participated in conferences regarding the issue of reproductive health and rights.

On 22 September 2014, the UK participated in a special assembly at the United Nations on International Conference on Population and Development's (ICPD) future.<sup>879</sup> Entitled ICPD Beyond 2014, the meeting reviewed global progress on the implementation of the Cairo Consensus, which "was remarkable in its recognition that reproductive health and rights...are cornerstones of population and development programmes."<sup>880</sup> The Director-General for Policy and Programmes in the Department for International Development, Nick Dyer, made a statement at the conference.<sup>881</sup> He noted that issues still remain, and that "Many millions of women and girls are still unable to decide whether or not they have children and how many they have, and are denied the experience of safe and healthy pregnancy and childbirth."<sup>882</sup> He also announced that "the UK fully supports an approach for post-2015 which recognises that universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights are essential...."<sup>883</sup>

In April 2015, Ambassador Martin Shearman of the UK Mission to the United Nations delivered a speech at the Commission on Population and Development 48<sup>th</sup> session concerning the role of women in society. Ambassador Shearman stated that promoting, investing in, and protecting the sexual and reproductive health and rights of girls and women is fundamental to their empowerment.<sup>884</sup> He also mentioned the strong link between sexual and reproductive health and

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<sup>877</sup> Breaking the Silence: Somali women Speak Out on Issues Surrounding Female Genital Mutilation, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 16 December 2014. Date of Access: 20 May 2015.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/breaking-the-silence-somali-women-speak-out-on-issues-surrounding-female-genital-mutilation>.

<sup>878</sup> Breaking the Silence: Somali women Speak Out on Issues Surrounding Female Genital Mutilation, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 16 December 2014. Date of Access: 20 May 2015.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/breaking-the-silence-somali-women-speak-out-on-issues-surrounding-female-genital-mutilation>.

<sup>879</sup> Statement by Director-General for Policy and Programmes Nick Dyer at the United Nations, United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations (New York) 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 19 May 2015.  
[http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/united\\_kingdom\\_statement\\_icpd\\_ungass\\_22\\_september.pdf](http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/united_kingdom_statement_icpd_ungass_22_september.pdf).

<sup>880</sup> Framework of Actions for the Follow-Up to the Programme of Action of the ICPD Beyond 2014, International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014 (New York) Date of Access: 19 May 2015.  
<http://icpdbeyond2014.org/about/view/29-global-review-report>.

<sup>881</sup> Statement by Director-General for Policy and Programmes Nick Dyer at the United Nations, United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations (New York) 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 19 May 2015.  
[http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/united\\_kingdom\\_statement\\_icpd\\_ungass\\_22\\_september.pdf](http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/united_kingdom_statement_icpd_ungass_22_september.pdf).

<sup>882</sup> Statement by Director-General for Policy and Programmes Nick Dyer at the United Nations, United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations (New York) 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 19 May 2015.  
[http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/united\\_kingdom\\_statement\\_icpd\\_ungass\\_22\\_september.pdf](http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/united_kingdom_statement_icpd_ungass_22_september.pdf).

<sup>883</sup> Statement by Director-General for Policy and Programmes Nick Dyer at the United Nations, United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations (New York) 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 19 May 2015.  
[http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/united\\_kingdom\\_statement\\_icpd\\_ungass\\_22\\_september.pdf](http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/united_kingdom_statement_icpd_ungass_22_september.pdf).

<sup>884</sup> Statement by Ambassador Martin Shearman of the UK Mission at the Commission on Population and Development 48<sup>th</sup> Session, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 15 April 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-uks-vision-is-a-world-where-girls-and-women-participate-actively-in-their-societies-and-economies>.

rights and the economy, stating that universal access to these health and rights will create economic benefits.<sup>885</sup>

Thus, the United Kingdom is awarded with +1 for its efforts in improving sexual and reproductive health and rights. The UK has ensured sexual health through its strong efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence. It has also ensured reproductive health and rights through its contributions to AmplifyChange, and through its statements of support.

*Analyst: Elizabeth Tudor-Bezijs*

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

The United States is in full compliance to the commitment of ensuring reproductive rights and reproductive and sexual health.

Between 10 and 13 June 2014, US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, Catherine M. Russell, attended the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict.<sup>886</sup> US Secretary of State John Kerry joined her on 13 June 2014 to conclude the conference.<sup>887</sup> At this time, he declared that the US would be undertaking new initiatives to prevent and respond to sexual violence. Kerry announced that the US would be "launching an accountability initiative to help survivors secure justice — to build the capacity of partner governments to prosecute the sexual violence crimes in countries that are ravaged by war and violence and insecurity."<sup>888</sup>

On 22 September 2014, Secretary of State John Kerry stated that the US would contribute USD12 million to the Safe from the Start initiative. This program was created in reaction to the 2013 Call to Action on Protecting Girls and Women in Emergencies, which focuses on the issue of gender-based violence (GBV) in emergencies.<sup>889</sup> When the project was launched in 2013, Shelly Pitterman, the United Nations Refugee Agency's (UNHCR) regional representative in the US, noted that the Safe from the Start Initiative would allow the UNHCR "to add expert staff in emergency operations, create innovative programs to help prevent and respond more effectively to sexual violence, and refocus attention on the prevalence of sexual violence against forcibly displaced women and girls."<sup>890</sup> Since the World Health Organization (WHO) states that sexual violence undermines sexual health, the aforementioned actions illustrate that the US has taken strong steps to address the problem of sexual violence, and protect sexual health.

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<sup>885</sup> Statement by Ambassador Martin Shearman of the UK Mission at the Commission on Population and Development 48th Session, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 15 April 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-uks-vision-is-a-world-where-girls-and-women-participate-actively-in-their-societies-and-economies>.

<sup>886</sup> Address by Secretary of State John Kerry at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, US Department of State (Washington DC) 13 June 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2014/06/227553.htm>.

<sup>887</sup> Address by Secretary of State John Kerry at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, US Department of State (Washington DC) 13 June 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2014/06/227553.htm>.

<sup>888</sup> Address by Secretary of State John Kerry at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, US Department of State (Washington DC) 13 June 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2014/06/227553.htm>.

<sup>889</sup> US Funding for Safe from the Start Announced at the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies, US Department of State (Washington DC) 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2014/09/231948.htm>.

<sup>890</sup> UN Refugee Agency Welcomes the United States' Safe from the Start Initiative Addressing Sexual Violence in Humanitarian Emergencies, United National Refugee Agency (Washington) 26 September 2013. Date of Access: 17 May 2015. <http://www.unhcrwashington.org/media-news/press-releases/un-refugee-agency-welcomes-united-states%E2%80%99-safe-start-initiative-addressing>.

Moreover, on 31 July 2014, the US pledged a further USD30 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.<sup>891</sup> The US donated this amount in response to an additional commitment by the Government of Germany because it had “devised its pledge in a way that partially matches addition contributions by other donors.”<sup>892</sup>

The US has also taken action to protect reproductive rights and health. On 11 May 2015, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and the Treasury jointly released a fact sheet warning insurance companies that women must have access to at least one of each of the eighteen distinct types of contraception as recognized by the Food and Drug Administration.<sup>893</sup> This statement came in reaction to reports from the National Women’s Law Center and the Kaiser Family Foundation, which noted that insurance companies had often failed to provide women with a means of accessing free birth control despite the fact that this is required under the Affordable Care Act.<sup>894</sup> The covered methods of contraception must be available to women with no insurer enforced cost-sharing measures beyond the original costs of the health insurance plans.<sup>895</sup> Vice-President of the National Women’s Law Center, Gretchen Borchelt, noted that this statement “underscored that it [the government] will not tolerate these violations ... It is now absolutely clear that ... all unique birth control methods for women must be covered.”<sup>896</sup>

Thus, the United States has been awarded a score of +1 for its efforts to ensure reproductive and sexual health and reproductive rights. It has taken steps to prevent and respond to sexual violence through a number of initiatives, while also ensuring that American women are able to decide if, and when, to reproduce, by ensuring access to free contraceptives.

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

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to ensure sexual and reproductive health, and to protect reproductive rights.

The EU has taken actions to ensure sexual health by combating sexual violence.

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<sup>891</sup> Global Fund Welcomes Germany’s Increased Contribution, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Geneva) 31 July 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015.

[http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/2014-07-31\\_Global\\_Fund\\_Welcomes\\_Germany\\_s\\_Increased\\_Contribution/](http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/2014-07-31_Global_Fund_Welcomes_Germany_s_Increased_Contribution/).

<sup>892</sup> Global Fund Welcomes Germany’s Increased Contribution, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Geneva) 31 July 2014. Date of Access: 17 May 2015.

[http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/2014-07-31\\_Global\\_Fund\\_Welcomes\\_Germany\\_s\\_Increased\\_Contribution/](http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/mediacenter/newsreleases/2014-07-31_Global_Fund_Welcomes_Germany_s_Increased_Contribution/).

<sup>893</sup> FAQs About Affordable Care Act Implementation (Part XXVI), United States Department of Labor (Washington DC) 11 May 2015. Access Date: 12 May 2015. <http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/faqs/faq-aca26.html>.

<sup>894</sup> White House Warns Insurers About Surcharges and Gaps for Contraception, The New York Times (New York) 11 May 2015. Date of Access: 17 May 2015. [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/12/us/health-insurers-ordered-to-heed-law-on-free-contraception-coverage.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/12/us/health-insurers-ordered-to-heed-law-on-free-contraception-coverage.html?_r=0).

<sup>895</sup> White House Warns Insurers About Surcharges and Gaps for Contraception, The New York Times (New York) 11 May 2015. Date of Access: 17 May 2015. [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/12/us/health-insurers-ordered-to-heed-law-on-free-contraception-coverage.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/12/us/health-insurers-ordered-to-heed-law-on-free-contraception-coverage.html?_r=0).

<sup>896</sup> White House Warns Insurers About Surcharges and Gaps for Contraception, The New York Times (New York) 11 May 2015. Date of Access: 17 May 2015. [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/12/us/health-insurers-ordered-to-heed-law-on-free-contraception-coverage.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/12/us/health-insurers-ordered-to-heed-law-on-free-contraception-coverage.html?_r=0).

On 12 June 2014, Catherine Ashton, the high representative of the EU for foreign affairs and security policy at the time, attended the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict.<sup>897</sup> The Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict was hosted by the United Kingdom for the purpose of bringing people to together to discuss methods of preventing and responding to sexual violence. Discussions centered on issues including ways to both improve support for victims of sexual violence, and to “improve accountability at the national and international level, including through better documentation, investigations and prosecutions at the national and international level, and better legislation implementing international obligations and standards.”<sup>898</sup> In a statement, Baroness Ashton noted that the EU takes action against sexual violence by: (1) working to change attitudes; (2) strengthening legislation against sexual violence, as well as enacting justice sector reforms in countries where sexual violence currently goes unpunished; (3) empowering women to participate “in mediation, in conflict prevention, and in peace building.”<sup>899</sup>

On 15 April 2015, Thomas Mayr-Harting, the head of the delegation of the EU to the United States, attended the United Nations Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security: Sexual Violence in Conflict.<sup>900</sup> In a speech to the participants, Mayr-Harting announced that the EU had adopted a “Guide to Practical Actions at EU Level for Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict” in late 2014.<sup>901</sup> He noted that this guide “includes thirty-six concrete initiatives ranging from human rights to conflict prevention and humanitarian aid.”<sup>902</sup> Moreover, Mayr-Harting also publicized the EU’s decision to provide support to victims of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) through a new initiative commencing in 2015.<sup>903</sup>

On 26 June 2014, the EU signed an agreement with the DRC to provide EUR620 million in aid.<sup>904</sup> Marta Latek, a member of the European parliamentary research service, noted, “health system

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<sup>897</sup> Calendrier du 9 au 15 Juin 2014, European Commission (Brussels) 6 June 2014. Date of Access: 23 May 2015.

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_CLDR-14-20\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_CLDR-14-20_en.htm).

<sup>898</sup> Chair’s Summary – Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London) 13 June 2014. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict/chairs-summary-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict>.

<sup>899</sup> Remarks by European Union High Representative Catherine Ashton at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, European Union @ United Nations (New York) 12 June 2014. Date of Access: 23 May 2015.

<sup>900</sup> Statement by Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Thomas Mayr-Harting at the Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace, and Security: Sexual Violence in Conflict, European Union @ United Nations (New York) 15 April 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. [http://eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article\\_16313\\_en.htm](http://eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article_16313_en.htm).

<sup>901</sup> Statement by Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Thomas Mayr-Harting at the Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace, and Security: Sexual Violence in Conflict, European Union @ United Nations (New York) 15 April 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. [http://eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article\\_16313\\_en.htm](http://eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article_16313_en.htm).

<sup>902</sup> Statement by Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Thomas Mayr-Harting at the Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace, and Security: Sexual Violence in Conflict, European Union @ United Nations (New York) 15 April 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. [http://eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article\\_16313\\_en.htm](http://eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article_16313_en.htm).

<sup>903</sup> Statement by Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Thomas Mayr-Harting at the Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace, and Security: Sexual Violence in Conflict, European Union @ United Nations (New York) 15 April 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. [http://eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article\\_16313\\_en.htm](http://eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article_16313_en.htm)

<sup>904</sup> Commissioner Piebalgs and Prime Minister Matata Ponyo Sign EUR620 Million New EU Programme for the Democratic Republic of Congo, European Commission (Brussels) 26 June 2014. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/drc-web-release-20140626\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/drc-web-release-20140626_en.pdf).

support (EUR150 million) and strengthening the rule of law (EUR160 million)...are of key importance in the fight against sexual violence and its consequences.”<sup>905</sup>

The European Parliament (EP) awarded the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought to Dr. Denis Mukwege on 22 October 2014.<sup>906</sup> Mukwege founded the Panzi hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and has dedicated himself to protecting victims of sexual violence.<sup>907</sup> The EP noted that “The Panzi hospital offers psychological and physical care and the women are then helped to develop new skills to live and the girls to go back to school. Legal aid is also offered to take their assailants to court.”<sup>908</sup> The Sakharov Prize includes a financial donation of EUR50,000 to the prizewinner.<sup>909</sup>

In reply to the EU’s annual report on human rights and democracy 2013, the EP adopted a resolution that includes a call for further action by the EU on the issues of sexual violence against women and reproductive rights. The EP condemned sexual violence and requested that the EU and all parties to the Council of Europe sign and ratify the Istanbul Convention.<sup>910</sup> This treaty, which came into force on 1 August 2014, centres on preventing and responding to violence against women.<sup>911</sup> Several clauses focus specifically on sexual violence. They include article 25, which calls for parties to provide support to victims of sexual violence through the creation of sexual violence referral centers.<sup>912</sup> Article 36 requires that states create the legislation necessary to criminalize sexual violence, if they have not already done so.<sup>913</sup>

In the same resolution, the EP reaffirmed its commitment to reproductive health and rights. Clause 136 states that the EP “calls for the EU and its Member States to recognise the inalienable rights of women and girls to bodily integrity and autonomous decision-making as regards, inter alia, the right to access voluntary family planning.”<sup>914</sup>

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<sup>905</sup> Sexual Violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, European Parliamentary Research Service (Brussels) 20 November 2014. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://epthinktank.eu/2014/11/20/sexual-violence-in-the-democratic-republic-of-congo/>.

<sup>906</sup> Sakharov Prize 2014 Laureate is Dr Denis Mukwege of Democratic Republic of Congo Panzi Hospital, European Commission (Brussels) 22 October 2014. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/news/sakharov-prize-2014-laureate-dr-denis-mukwege-drc-panzi-hospital\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/news/sakharov-prize-2014-laureate-dr-denis-mukwege-drc-panzi-hospital_en).

<sup>907</sup> Denis Mukwege, Sakharov Prize Network (Brussels). Date of Access: 23 May 2015. [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/sakharov/laureates/mukwege\\_en.html](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/sakharov/laureates/mukwege_en.html).

<sup>908</sup> Denis Mukwege, Sakharov Prize Network (Brussels). Date of Access: 23 May 2015. [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/sakharov/laureates/mukwege\\_en.html](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/sakharov/laureates/mukwege_en.html).

<sup>909</sup> Sakharov Prize, Sakharov Prize Network (Brussels). Date of Access: 23 May 2015. [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/sakharov/prize\\_en.html](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/sakharov/prize_en.html).

<sup>910</sup> Report on the Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World 2013 and the European Union’s Policy on the Matter, European Parliament (Strasbourg/Brussels) 20 February 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A8-2015-0023&language=EN>.

<sup>911</sup> European Convention on Violence Against Women Enters into Force, Codifying Advances in the Protection of Women’s Human Rights, European Justice Resource Center (San Francisco) 7 August 2014. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://www.ijrcenter.org/2014/08/07/european-convention-on-violence-against-women-enters-into-force-codifying-advances-in-the-protection-of-womens-human-rights/>.

<sup>912</sup> Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 12 April 2011. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/convention/Convention%20210%20English.pdf>.

<sup>913</sup> Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 12 April 2011. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/convention/Convention%20210%20English.pdf>.

<sup>914</sup> Report on the Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World 2013 and the European Union’s Policy on the Matter, European Parliament (Brussels) 20 February 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A8-2015-0023&language=EN>.

The EU has taken other steps to protect reproductive rights and ensure reproductive health.

The EU pledged to donate an additional EUR25 million to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, during a replenishment conference on 26 January 2015 and 27 January 2015.<sup>915</sup> The EU had already committed to providing EUR175 million in support for the years 2016-2020 in May 2014.<sup>916</sup> Gavi currently operates a program to provide developing countries with access to the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine for free or at low cost.<sup>917</sup> Since the definition of reproductive health requires that people have “the capability to reproduce,”<sup>918</sup> the EU’s contribution to Gavi constitutes a commitment to ensuring reproductive health and rights. The treatment for cervical cancer leads to infertility in many cases,<sup>919</sup> and HPV is the cause of 70 per cent of cervical cancer cases.<sup>920</sup>

On 8 January 2015, HRA Pharma announced that the European Commission had decided that all pharmacies across the EU must provide women with access to the emergency contraceptive ellaOne without the need for a prescription.<sup>921</sup> A representative from HRA Pharma noted that “This is the first ever decision of its type regarding any oral contraceptive product applicable to all EU member states ... This new ruling will empower over 120 million women across the whole EU to gain direct access to emergency contraception.”<sup>922</sup> This action contributes to ensuring reproductive health and rights by allowing women to decide if they will have children.

On 22 September 2014, the EU participated in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Beyond 2014. The conference was meant to review global progress towards the implementation of commitments made at the ICPD in 1994,<sup>923</sup> which included sexual and reproductive health and rights.<sup>924</sup> At the meeting, a representative from the EU declared, “universal access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health ... is one of the highest priorities for the global agenda beyond 2014 and is essential to sustainable development and poverty eradication. Moreover, promoting and ensuring universal, affordable, and gender-sensitive access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health, as well as to comprehensive evidence-based education on human sexuality, consistent with the needs and evolving capacities of the individual, is crucial to improving maternal, new-born and child health, to improving family planning and access to

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<sup>915</sup> European Union, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 31 March 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://www.gavi.org/funding/donor-profiles/ec/>.

<sup>916</sup> European Union, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 31 March 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://www.gavi.org/funding/donor-profiles/ec/>.

<sup>917</sup> Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Support, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://www.gavi.org/support/nvs/human-papillomavirus-vaccine-support/>.

<sup>918</sup> Program of Action of the International Conference on Population Development: 20th Anniversary Edition, United Nations Population Fund (New York) 2014. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/ICPD%20PoA%20English.pdf>.

<sup>919</sup> Cervical Cancer and Pregnancy, Cancer Research United Kingdom (London) 2 June 2014. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/type/cervical-cancer/treatment/cervical-cancer-and-pregnancy>.

<sup>920</sup> Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Support, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Geneva) 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://www.gavi.org/support/nvs/human-papillomavirus-vaccine-support/>.

<sup>921</sup> Historic Decision from the European Commission Grants 120 Million Women Direct Access to ellaOne Emergency Contraceptive Across the European Union, HRA Pharma (Paris) 8 January 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. [http://www.hra-pharma.com/userfiles/file/CP/European\\_commission\\_release\\_08012015.pdf](http://www.hra-pharma.com/userfiles/file/CP/European_commission_release_08012015.pdf).

<sup>922</sup> Historic Decision from the European Commission Grants 120 Million Women Direct Access to ellaOne Emergency Contraceptive Across the European Union, HRA Pharma (Paris) 8 January 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. [http://www.hra-pharma.com/userfiles/file/CP/European\\_commission\\_release\\_08012015.pdf](http://www.hra-pharma.com/userfiles/file/CP/European_commission_release_08012015.pdf).

<sup>923</sup> About International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014, International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014 (New York) 2012. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://icpdbeyond2014.org/about>.

<sup>924</sup> Population and Development: The Five Pillar Breakdown, International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014 (New York) 2012. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://icpdbeyond2014.org/rights-development>.

quality modern methods of contraception ... and to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.”<sup>925</sup>

Finally, it should also be noted that the EU has also worked to ensure sexual health through its contribution to the fight against HIV/AIDS. On 2 December 2013, the EU pledged to donate EUR370 million between 2014 and 2016 to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.<sup>926</sup> While this illustrates the EU’s previous commitment to ensuring sexual health, it cannot contribute towards the scoring of this report because the pledge was made prior to the beginning of the compliance period.

In conclusion, the EU receives a score of +1 for its full compliance with this commitment. The EU has taken steps to ensure sexual health by participating in the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, and by contributing to programs combating sexual violence. It has also taken action to ensure reproductive health and rights through its legislation on the emergency contraceptive ellaOne, and through its contributions to Gavi.

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<sup>925</sup> Statement by the European Union and Its Member States, International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014 (New York) 22 September 2014. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://icpdbeyond2014.org/uploads/browser/files/european-union.pdf>.

<sup>926</sup> EU Announced EUR370 Million of new Support to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, European Commission (Brussels) 2 December 2013. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-13-1189\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-1189_en.htm).