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

2015 Schloss Elmau G7 Summit Interim Compliance Report

9 June 2015 to 20 February 2016

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

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, June 8, 2015

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3. Climate Change: Growth Agenda

“The G7 commits to putting [protection of our climate] at the centre of our growth agenda.”

G7 Schloss Elmau Summit Declaration

Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Canada		0	
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.63	

Background

Climate change is evolving to become a focal point of G7 governance. At the Deauville Summit in 2011, the G8 committed to undertake robust aggregate and individual mid-term reductions in carbon emissions.¹⁰⁰ At the 2012 Camp David Summit, G7 leaders continued this trend by recognizing the need to mitigate worldwide emissions of carbon and other pollutants. In particular leaders committed to implement comprehensive actions to reduce carbon dioxide, greenhouse gas, and other short-lived climate pollutants.¹⁰¹ Emissions reductions efforts have been complemented by commitments to climate financing, as at the 2013 Lough Erne Summit when G7 members committed to “mobilizing jointly USD100 billion” of climate finance by 2020.¹⁰²

In 2015, world leaders renewed their emphasis on the need to mitigate climate change. A special paragraph of the G7 Leaders’ Elmau Declaration contains a “future of the planet” preamble, which explicitly characterizes the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) at Paris, the United Nations General Assembly and Addis Ababa conference on financing development as key to the post-2015 development agenda and G7 efforts to reach those targets.¹⁰³

Commitment Features

As the commitment calls for “urgent and concrete action,” on climate change including transparency and accountability measures as well as drastic cuts to greenhouse gas emissions, full compliance requires that the centrality of climate change to a member’s growth agenda be evidenced by concrete action along these lines.

The 2015 G7 declaration contains specific language as to what may constitute action on climate change. Goals include a) the adoption of the COP21 protocol that is ambitious, robust, inclusive and reflects evolving national circumstances; b) the announcement or proposal of 2020 emissions targets; c) the implementation of

¹⁰⁰ 2011 Deauville G8 Summit Compliance Report, G8 Research Group, 18 May 2012. Date of Access: 9 January 2016.

<http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2011compliance-final/03-11-final-emissions.pdf>

¹⁰¹ 2012 Camp David G8 Summit Compliance Report, G8 Research Group. Date of Access: 9 January 2016.

<http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2012compliance/11-12-final-climate.pdf>

¹⁰² 2013 Lough Erne G8 Summit Compliance Report, G8 Research Group. Date of Access: 9 January 2016.

<http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/2013compliance-interim/12-2013-g8-compliance-interim-ccac.pdf>

¹⁰³ Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Elmau Summit, 8 June 2015. Access Date: 9 January 2016.

<http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

carbon market-based and regulatory instruments; and d) the mobilization of private sector capital to unlock investment in low-carbon technologies.¹⁰⁴

Full compliance should therefore comprise action on a majority of these goals.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The member country does not adopt the COP21 protocol or announce 2020 emissions targets AND does not implement carbon market-based regulatory instruments or mobilize significant private and public capital for investment in climate finance projects.
0	The member country adopts the COP21 protocol or announces 2020 emissions targets OR implements carbon market-based regulatory instruments or mobilizes significant private and public capital for investment in climate finance projects.
1	The member country adopts the COP21 protocol or announces 2020 emissions targets AND implements carbon market-based regulatory instruments or mobilizes significant private and public capital for investment in climate finance projects.

Lead Analyst: Hayden Rodenkirchen

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to take urgent and concrete action on climate change through employing transparency and accountability measures as well as drastically cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

On 8 December 2015, Canadian Environmental and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna endorsed a 1.5 degree global temperature increase goal, stating that on “the question for framing the temperature goal, [Canada] support[s] reference to striving for 1.5 [degrees].¹⁰⁵ McKenna assured the government’s commitment to the official 2 degree goal, as established by 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21).¹⁰⁶

Canada has failed to announce an emissions reduction target specific to the COP21 forum.¹⁰⁷ The Canadian government remains bound to the pre-existing 2020 target of “[17 per cent] below 2005 levels.”¹⁰⁸

On 22 November 2015, Alberta Premier Rachel Notley announced Alberta’s Climate Leadership Plan, which includes the government’s plans to “shut down its [18] coal plants by 2030” and to implement a carbon tax to be “phased in at \$20 per tonne at 2017 and \$30 per tonne a year later.”¹⁰⁹ While this is a prime example of governmental action being taken to combat greenhouse-gas emissions, the federal government is limited in its efforts to universalize a single carbon price, as it has vested responsibility to do so in individual provinces.¹¹⁰

On 21 April 2015, the Canadian government announced the Economic Action Plan (EAP) 2015, which includes within it the announcement of its “\$600.8 million over five years [investment] in the Clean Air

¹⁰⁴ Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Elmau Summit, 8 June 2015. Access Date: 9 January 2016.

<http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

¹⁰⁵ COP21: Catherine McKenna endorses goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees, CBC News (Ottawa) 8 December 2015. Date of Access: 29 January 2016. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/mckenna-cop21-paris-goal-1.3355409>

¹⁰⁶ COP21: Canada’s new goal for limiting global warming ‘perhaps a dream’, CBC News (Ottawa) 10 December 2015. Date of Access: 29 January 2016. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/climate-change-talks-canada-emissions-goal-1.3357770>

¹⁰⁷ Canada slapped with failing grade on climate ahead of G20, National Observer (Vancouver) 10 November 2015. Date of Access: 29 January 2016. <http://www.nationalobserver.com/2015/11/10/news/canada-slapped-failing-grade-climate-ahead-g20>

¹⁰⁸ 2020 Country Emissions Targets, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (Arlington) 12 December 2015. Date of Access: 29 January 2016. <http://www.c2es.org/international/history-international-negotiations/2020-targets>

¹⁰⁹ Carbon tax announced in Alberta’s Climate Leadership Plan, Edmonton Sun (Edmonton) 22 November 2015. Date of Access: 29 January 2016. <http://www.edmontonsun.com/2015/11/22/carbon-tax-announced-in-albertas-climate-leadership-plan>

¹¹⁰ Canada’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projects, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 9 December 2014. Date of Access: 29 January 2016. <https://www.ec.gc.ca/ges-ghg/default.asp?lang=En&n=985F05FB-1>

Regulatory Agenda.”¹¹¹ The Agenda was established in 2006 in order to support governmental efforts to reduce “greenhouse gas (GHG) and air pollutant emissions in order to improve the environment and health of Canadians.”¹¹² The Canadian government also employed a “sector-by-sector regulatory approach.”¹¹³ This approach involves implementing and developing regulatory measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in emissions-intensive trade exposed (EITE), electricity, and oil and gas sectors.¹¹⁴

On 27 November 2015, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that “Canada will contribute ... \$2.65 billion over the next five years” in contribution to the Green Climate Fund.¹¹⁵ The Green Climate Fund was established by the UN “with a goal of raising [US]\$100 billion from both the public and private sector by 2015.”¹¹⁶

Thus, being that the Canadian government has both yet to announce a new 2020 emissions reduction target and has yet to implement definite carbon pricing in every province, it is given a score of 0.

Analyst: Neel Aery

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to put climate protection at the centre of its growth agenda. It has adopted the COP21 protocol, announcing 2020 emission targets, and implemented significant private and public capital for investment in climate finance projects.

The Agence Française de Développement (AFD) has committed EUR7.4 billion to the energy sector since 2007, of which EUR5.8 billion has been directed towards energy efficiency projects and renewable energy.¹¹⁷

By 2018 France will have given EUR1 billion to the Board of the Green Climate Fund. France will also have participated in the work of the Global Environment Facility and the Clean Technology Fund.¹¹⁸

France is one of the lowest contributors towards greenhouse gas emissions among industrialized countries, producing just 1.2 per cent of the global emissions while accounting for 4.2 per cent of the gross domestic product.¹¹⁹

By 2030 France has pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent compared to 1990 numbers, reduce fossil fuels consumption by 30 per cent compared to 2012 numbers, to increase the share renewable

¹¹¹ Clean Air Regulatory Agenda, Canada’s Economic Action Plan (Ottawa) 21 April 2015. Date of Access: 29 January 2016. <http://actionplan.gc.ca/en/initiative/clean-air-regulatory-agenda>

¹¹² Clean Air Regulatory Agenda, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 2 August 2013. Date of Access: 29 January 2016. <http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=56D4043B-1&news=295B1964-9737-4F80-B064-B3088D9910BE>

¹¹³ Planning for a Sustainable Future: A Federal Sustainable Development Strategy for Canada 2013-2016, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) November 2013. Date of Access: 29 January 2016. <https://www.ec.gc.ca/dd-sd/default.asp?lang=en&n=37A4B580-1/#t1.1>

¹¹⁴ Planning for a Sustainable Future: A Federal Sustainable Development Strategy for Canada 2013-2016, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) November 2013. Date of Access: 29 January 2016. <https://www.ec.gc.ca/dd-sd/default.asp?lang=en&n=37A4B580-1/#t1.1>

¹¹⁵ Prime Minister Announces Investment in Global Climate Change Action, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 27 November 2015. Date of Access: 29 January 2016. <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2015/11/27/prime-minister-announces-investment-global-climate-change-action>

¹¹⁶ A Primer on Trudeau’s \$2.65 Billion Green Climate Fund Announcement, DeSmog Canada (Victoria) 27 November 2015. Date of Access: 29 January 2016. <http://www.desmog.ca/2015/11/27/primer-trudeau-s-2-65-billion-green-climate-fund-announcement>

¹¹⁷ France is actively addressing the climate challenge, France Diplomatie (Paris) April 12th, 2014 Date of Access: January 26th, 2016 <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/climate/france-is-actively-addressing-the/>

¹¹⁸ France’s Climate Policy, United Nations conference on climate change (Paris) December 11th, 2015 Date of Access: January 26th, 2016 <http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/en/learn/what-is-cop21/frances-climate-policy/>

¹¹⁹ France’s Climate Policy, United Nations conference on climate change (Paris) December 11th, 2015 Date of Access: January 26th, 2016 <http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/en/learn/what-is-cop21/frances-climate-policy/>

resources have in final energy consumption by 32 per cent and energy production by 40 per cent, and to reduce its use of energy by 20 per cent compared to 2012 numbers.¹²⁰

Furthermore, France has committed to implement climate change as a priority at all levels: nationally, regionally, and internationally. France has committed nationally to low-carbon energy mix. Regionally France has encouraged their European Union allies to adopt ambitious environmental goals. On the international stage France has committed funds towards developing countries to ensure that even countries lacking the resources can tackle climate change.¹²¹

Thus France has been awarded a score of +1 for contributing capital towards climate friendly finance projects, and announcing emission targets for 2020.

Analyst: Thomas Robson

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to put climate protection at the centre of its growth agenda.

Germany adopted the protocol from the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) after hosting negotiations for the climate accord from 19–23 October 2015 in Bonn.¹²² When the COP21 measures were officially adopted, German Minister of the Environment Barbara Hendricks commented on the significance of the global alliance, and the need for decarbonization and strategies to cope with damage caused by climate change.¹²³

German emission targets for 2020 have been set, striving for a 40 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions since 1990, but despite steady reductions in emissions overall the transport sector is continuing to increase emissions and there is doubt as to whether Germany will meet these targets.¹²⁴ The German Ministry of the Environment has taken concrete action to further reduce carbon dioxide emissions, including joining the initiative United Nations Secretary Ban Ki-moon and the World Bank created to phase out routine flaring of gas at oil production sites by 2020.¹²⁵

Germany has taken a leadership role in establishing the Carbon Market Platform to facilitate the creation of market-based policies and regulations that limit carbon usage.¹²⁶ The Ministry of the Environment took concrete steps to launch this platform in order to fulfill the goals of the Schloss Elmau Leaders' Declaration.¹²⁷

¹²⁰ France's Climate Policy, United Nations conference on climate change (Paris) December 11th, 2015 Date of Access: January 26th, 2016 <http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/en/learn/what-is-cop21/frances-climate-policy/>

¹²¹ France is actively addressing the climate challenge, France Diplomatie (Paris) April 12th, 2014 Date of Access: January 26th, 2016 <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/climate/france-is-actively-addressing-the/>

¹²² EU agrees position for Paris climate change conference, European Commission (Brussels) 18 September 2015. Date of Access: 28 January 2016. http://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/articles/news_2015091801_en.htm

¹²³ Climate summit makes history, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 12 December 2015. Date of Access: 28 January 2016. <http://www.bmub.bund.de/en/press/press-releases/detailansicht-en/artikel/climate-summit-makes-history-1/>

¹²⁴ German CO2 emissions targets at risk, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 19 November 2015. Date of Access: 28 January 2016. <http://www.dw.com/en/german-co2-emissions-targets-at-risk/a-18862708>

¹²⁵ Germany: No more flaring of gas, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 16 November 2015. Date of Access: 28 January 2016. <http://www.bmub.bund.de/en/press/press-releases/detailansicht-en/artikel/germany-no-more-flaring-of-gas/>

¹²⁶ Carbon Market Platform, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 9 December 2015. Date of Access: 28 January 2016.

http://www.bmub.bund.de/fileadmin/Daten_BMU/Download_PDF/Klimaschutz/kohlenstoffmarkt_handout_en_bf.pdf

¹²⁷ Carbon Market Platform, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 9 December 2015. Date of Access: 28 January 2016.

http://www.bmub.bund.de/fileadmin/Daten_BMU/Download_PDF/Klimaschutz/kohlenstoffmarkt_handout_en_bf.pdf

Germany has also mobilized significant public capital to invest in climate projects. The COP21 agreement on 12 December 2015 highlighted the need of countries to cooperate to achieve its goals, and Germany proactively supplied funding to a partnership with Brazil, committing EUR550 to finance environmental and clean energy programs for the country.¹²⁸

Germany has fully complied with the commitment to put protection of the climate at the centre of its growth agenda. As a result, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Sarah Millman

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with the commitment to place climate protection at the centre of its growth agenda.

In June 2015 in Milan, Italy hosted the Secretary General of the United Nation's High Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport.¹²⁹ This advisory group recommends improvements for sustainable transportation.¹³⁰

On 30 November 2015, Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi called for a binding deal at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21).¹³¹ He also expressed Italy's hopes that the United States, China and India would carry their fair share of emission reductions.¹³²

During COP21 Italy announced an increase in international climate change finance of USD4 billion from 2015 to 2020.¹³³ This increase in funds will be allocated to Italian firms to spur investment in low carbon technology.¹³⁴

In December 2015, Minister for Agriculture, Food, and Forestry Policies Maurizio Martina signed the Slow Food's appeal, "Let's Not Eat Up the Planet! Fight Climate Change."¹³⁵ The minister said that it is important to understand how agricultural and food policies impact climate change.¹³⁶

Italy has voiced support for the COP21 principles but has taken no legislative steps to formalize the 2020 emission targets. It has provided financial incentives for private-sector capital to invest in low carbon technologies though it has failed to implement new market regulations to limit carbon emissions. Italy therefore receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Graydon Kelch

¹²⁸ Germany and Brazil join forces on climate change action, EurActiv with Reuters, 21 August 2015. Date of Access: 28 January 2016. <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/climate-environment/germany-and-brazil-join-forces-climate-change-action-316969>

¹²⁹ UN Secretary-General's High-Level Group to issue recommendations for sustainable transport, The United Nations and Climate Change (New York) 11 June 2015. Date of Access: 28 January 2016.

¹³⁰ UN Secretary-General's High-Level Group to issue recommendations for sustainable transport, The United Nations and Climate Change (New York) 11 June 2015. Date of Access: 28 January 2016.

¹³¹ Italy combating climate selfishness at COP21 says Renzi, Ansa (Rome) 30 November 2015. Date of Access: 28 January 2016. http://www.ansa.it/english/news/2015/11/30/italy-combating-climate-selfishness-at-cop21-says-renzi_99836eaa-a933-4bef-a914-c1defc8b7c3e.html

¹³² Italy combating climate selfishness at COP21 says Renzi, Ansa (Rome) 30 November 2015. Date of Access: 28 January 2016. http://www.ansa.it/english/news/2015/11/30/italy-combating-climate-selfishness-at-cop21-says-renzi_99836eaa-a933-4bef-a914-c1defc8b7c3e.html

¹³³ List of Recent Climate Funding Announcements, United nations conference on climate change (Paris) 11 December 2015. Date of Access: 28 January 2016. <http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/en/list-of-recent-climate-funding-announcements/>

¹³⁴ Italy combating climate selfishness at COP21 says Renzi, Ansa (Rome) 30 November 2015. Date of Access: 28 January 2016. http://www.ansa.it/english/news/2015/11/30/italy-combating-climate-selfishness-at-cop21-says-renzi_99836eaa-a933-4bef-a914-c1defc8b7c3e.html

¹³⁵ COP21: Italy's Agriculture Minister Signs Slow Food's Climate Change Appeal, Slow Food (Bra) 2 December 2015. Date of Access: 28 January 2016. <http://www.slowfood.com/cop21-italys-agriculture-minister-signs-slow-foods-climate-change-appeal/>

¹³⁶ COP21: Italy's Agriculture Minister Signs Slow Food's Climate Change Appeal, Slow Food (Bra) 2 December 2015. Date of Access: 28 January 2016. <http://www.slowfood.com/cop21-italys-agriculture-minister-signs-slow-foods-climate-change-appeal/>

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to place climate protection at the centre of its growth agenda.

On 30 November 2015, at the Leaders' Event of the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21), Prime Minister Shinzo Abe revealed Japan's new contributing policy called "Actions for Cool Earth 2.0," and stated its two pillars as: "(1) strengthening innovative technologies, which is key to acting against climate change without sacrificing economic growth; and (2) providing support worth [JPY]1.3 trillion to developing countries in 2020."¹³⁷ These pillars complement the goals set out at the G7 Schloss Elmau Summit.

In keeping with this policy, on 28 January 2016, Japan, along with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Caribbean Community, will launch the Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership (J-CCCP) — worth USD15 million — to foster policy changes for climate technology promulgation.¹³⁸ UNDP stated that this step is in "tandem with the recent agreement by world leaders at the Paris Climate Conference to keep global warming below twenty degrees celsius, and further to pursue below 1.5 degrees celsius in order to avoid negative impacts to the Caribbean."¹³⁹

The J-CCCP will guide national plans to deal with the negative effects of climate change and diminish the dependency on fossil fuel imports with the goal of bringing in a low-carbon era across a greater portion of the world.¹⁴⁰ This is a concrete step towards one of the commitment goals: the mobilization of significant capital for investment in climate finance projects.

After the G7 Schloss Elmau Summit in June 2015, Japan submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), which saw an emissions reduction target of the equivalent of 18 per cent below 1990 levels by 2030 and demonstrates an active consideration and plan for the post-2020 period.¹⁴¹ However, the target was not as aggressive as that of the European Union, for instance, which made a 40 per cent pledge below 1990 levels.¹⁴²

In December 2015, Japan also agreed on the Paris agreement with nearly 200 other countries. Prime Minister Abe said that, in regards to combating climate change, Japan will "achieve (the goal) without sacrificing economic growth."¹⁴³ Complying with the COP21 proposal is a direct step towards active global action, although the World Resources Institute stated that Japan could provide more information on the use of international market mechanisms in reaching emissions targets, for example defining a limit in applying emissions reductions achieved internationally towards its national target.¹⁴⁴

¹³⁷ Report by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on His Recent Overseas Visits to the Plenary Session of the House of Representatives, Prime Minister of Japan and his Cabinet (Tokyo) 4 January 2016. Date of Access: 23 January 2016.

http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97_abe/diplomatic/201601/1215568_11026.html

¹³⁸ Multimillion-dollar Regional Climate Change Initiative to be Launched in Barbados, Jamaica Observer (Kingston) 23 January 2016. Date of Access: 23 January 2016. http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/environment/Multimillion-dollar-regional-climate-change-initiative-to-be-launched-in-Barbados_49468

¹³⁹ Multimillion-dollar Regional Climate Change Initiative to be Launched in Barbados, Jamaica Observer (Kingston) 23 January 2016. Date of Access: 23 January 2016. http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/environment/Multimillion-dollar-regional-climate-change-initiative-to-be-launched-in-Barbados_49468

¹⁴⁰ Multimillion-dollar Regional Climate Change Initiative to be Launched in Barbados, Jamaica Observer (Kingston) 23 January 2016. Date of Access: 23 January 2016. http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/environment/Multimillion-dollar-regional-climate-change-initiative-to-be-launched-in-Barbados_49468

¹⁴¹ Japan Releases Underwhelming Climate Action Commitment, World Resources Institute (Washington) 23 July 2015. Date of Access: 23 January 2016. <http://www.wri.org/blog/2015/07/japan-releases-underwhelming-climate-action-commitment>

¹⁴² Japan Releases Underwhelming Climate Action Commitment, World Resources Institute (Washington) 23 July 2015. Date of Access: 23 January 2016. <http://www.wri.org/blog/2015/07/japan-releases-underwhelming-climate-action-commitment>

¹⁴³ Japan Will Not Sacrifice Growth in Combating Climate Change: Abe, Nikkei Asian Review (Tokyo) 13 December 2015. Date of Access: 23 January 2016. <http://asia.nikkei.com/Features/COP21-talks/Japan-will-not-sacrifice-growth-in-combating-climate-change-Abe>

¹⁴⁴ Japan Releases Underwhelming Climate Action Commitment, World Resources Institute (Washington) 23 July 2015. Date of Access: 23 January 2016. <http://www.wri.org/blog/2015/07/japan-releases-underwhelming-climate-action-commitment>

Japan has adopted the COP21 protocol, announced emissions targets, and will mobilize significant capital for investment in climate finance projects, thus earning a score of +1.

Analyst: Tina Vulevic

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has committed to putting climate protection at the centre of its growth agenda.

On 12 December 2015, the United Kingdom adopted the protocol at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21), with Prime Minister David Cameron recognizing the significance of the agreement and emphasizing the UK's continued commitment to cutting emissions.¹⁴⁵ The UK has also set an emissions targets of 35 per cent reduction by 2020, resulting in a carbon budget level of 2,544 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.¹⁴⁶

While the UK has not implemented new carbon market-based regulatory instruments since the Schloss Elmau Summit, the country has stood by its 2008 Climate Change Act, taking concrete steps to meet annual goals and carbon budgets.¹⁴⁷ New renewable energy subsidies and a feed-in tariff scheme were introduced in 2015 to continue working towards targets.¹⁴⁸

Prime Minister Cameron committed GBP5.8 billion of the UK's foreign aid budget to dealing with climate change in developing countries, a move that aligns with the COP21 focus on global assistance and concrete financial policies to mitigate the effects of climate change.¹⁴⁹ The mobilization of significant public capital for investment in international climate finance projects satisfies the second feature of the commitment.

Therefore, the UK has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Sarah Millman

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to place climate protection at the centre of its growth agenda.

The United States has agreed to comply with the protocol of the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) in December 2015.¹⁵⁰ Secretary of State John Kerry confirmed the US approval of the plan, saying that each of the countries present had "reached an agreement that, fully implemented, will help us transition to a global clean energy economy and ultimately prevent the worst, most devastating consequences of climate change from ever happening."¹⁵¹ The recognition and acceptance of the COP21 proposals indicate a step in the right direction towards mitigating climate change.

¹⁴⁵ World agrees historic climate deal, Department of Energy and Climate Change (London) 12 December 2015. Date of Access: 28 January 2016. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-agrees-historic-global-climate-deal>

¹⁴⁶ Carbon budgets and targets, Committee on Climate Change (London). Date of Access: 28 January 2016. <https://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/reducing-carbon-emissions/carbon-budgets-and-targets/>

¹⁴⁷ Global action on climate change, Committee on Climate Change (London). Date of Access: 28 January 2016. <https://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/the-legal-landscape/global-action-on-climate-change/>

¹⁴⁸ Changes to renewables subsidies, Department of Energy and Climate Change (London) 17 December 2015. Date of Access: 28 January 2016. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/changes-to-renewables-subsidies>

¹⁴⁹ UK to spend 58bn on tackling climate change in poor countries, The Guardian (London) 27 September 2015. Date of Access: 28 January 2016. <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/sep/27/uk-to-spend-58bn-on-tackling-climate-change-in-poor-countries>

¹⁵⁰ Remarks at COP21 by John Kerry, U.S Department of State (Washington) 12 December 2015. Date of Access: 24 January 2015. <http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2015/12/250584.htm>

¹⁵¹ Remarks at COP21 by John Kerry, U.S Department of State (Washington) 12 December 2015. Date of Access: 24 January 2015. <http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2015/12/250584.htm>

In January 2016, President Barack Obama's administration likewise received the go-ahead from the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to initiate the Clean Power Plan.¹⁵² By 2030, the federal plan intends to reduce carbon dioxide emissions at existing power plants country-wide by approximately one third. By reducing the legal amount of emissions from new coal-based plants, the plan also seeks to encourage investors and developers to start turning to cleaner sources of energy, such as wind.¹⁵³

Although the successful implementation of the plan cannot yet be determined due to its being only recently adopted in August 2015, its approval on a federal level demonstrates a clear commencement of energy reform.¹⁵⁴ The extension of the production tax credit, which further emphasizes the need to shift to wind and solar energy through 2019, is also a conscious step made by the Obama administration towards complying with its climate change commitment.¹⁵⁵

However, there have been no significant investments made by the United States in promoting the development of climate technologies in developing countries. Thus, the United States earns a score of 0 for partial compliance.

Analyst: Tina Vulevic

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to climate change by announcing 2020 emission targets, and by implementing private and public capital for investment in climate finance projects.

The European Union has striven to keep the global temperature from rising 2°C above pre-industrialized temperatures. The European Union is working to cut its members emissions, encouraging major polluters to take action against climate change, and bringing climate change forward as an issue.¹⁵⁶

In October 2014 European Union Leaders agreed to update emission and climate targets by 2030. Cuts in greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent compared to 1990 levels, as well as minimum 27 per cent shares in renewable energy and a 27 per cent minimum improvement in energy efficiency were promised.¹⁵⁷

The EU has promised to cut at least 20 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, increase the share of renewable energy to 20 percent and improve in energy efficiency by 20 per cent by 2020.¹⁵⁸

The European Union has made action on climate change a priority, and as such has committed to spend 20 per cent of its budget from 2014 to 2020 on actions related to climate change. The commitment of up to EUR180 billion represents the European Unions commitment to climate change.¹⁵⁹

¹⁵² Clean Power Plan Proceeding, The Norman Transcript (Norman) 24 January 2016. Date of Access: 24 January 2016. http://www.normantranscript.com/news/business/clean-power-plan-proceeding/article_39fa2ecf-b2a6-5a3c-bf9a-777203ea85ee.html

¹⁵³ Clean Power Plan Proceeding, The Norman Transcript (Norman) 24 January 2016. Date of Access: 24 January 2016. http://www.normantranscript.com/news/business/clean-power-plan-proceeding/article_39fa2ecf-b2a6-5a3c-bf9a-777203ea85ee.html

¹⁵⁴ Wind, Solar Power Soaring in Spite of Bargain Prices for Fossil Fuels, The Washington Post (Washington) 1 January 2016. Date of Access: 24 January 2016. https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/wind-solar-power-soar-in-spite-of-bargain-prices-for-fossil-fuels/2015/12/30/754758b8-af19-11e5-9ab0-884d1cc4b33e_story.html

¹⁵⁵ Wind, Solar Power Soaring in Spite of Bargain Prices for Fossil Fuels, The Washington Post (Washington) 1 January 2016. Date of Access: 24 January 2016. https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/wind-solar-power-soar-in-spite-of-bargain-prices-for-fossil-fuels/2015/12/30/754758b8-af19-11e5-9ab0-884d1cc4b33e_story.html

¹⁵⁶ Climate Change, European Union (Brussels), January 15th, 2016 Date of Access: January 26th, 2016 http://europa.eu/pol/clim/index_en.htm

¹⁵⁷ Climate Change, European Union (Brussels), January 15th, 2016 Date of Access: January 26th, 2016 http://europa.eu/pol/clim/index_en.htm

¹⁵⁸ Climate Change, European Union (Brussels), January 15th, 2016 Date of Access: January 26th, 2016 http://europa.eu/pol/clim/index_en.htm

Furthermore, the European Unions LIFE program has committed EUR864 million towards a specific sub-programme dedicated to climate action for 2014 to 2020. The LIFE program is the European Unions environment and climate action funding instrument. This amount is triple the budget that LIFE had from 2007 to 2013.¹⁶⁰

Thus the European Union has been awarded a +1 for not only contributing public capital investment in climate change projects, but also for announcing positive 2020 emission targets.

Analyst: Thomas Robson

¹⁵⁹ Supporting climate action through the EU budget, European Commission (Brussels) January 20th, 2016 Date Accessed: January 26th, 2016 http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/budget/index_en.htm

¹⁶⁰ Supporting climate action through the EU budget, European Commission (Brussels) January 20th, 2016 Date Accessed: January 26th, 2016 http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/budget/index_en.htm