

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

2019 G7 Biarritz Summit Second Interim Compliance Report

27 August 2019 — 3 June 2020

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21 June 2020

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

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme,
in G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit



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4. Gender: Gender Equality

“Aside from our domestic commitments, we stand ready to support interested countries through our different expertise and development mechanisms to adopt, implement and monitor laws that remedy this and advance gender equality.”

G7 Biarritz Leaders’ Communiqué

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average	+0.88 (94%)		

Background

G7/G8 members initially recognized gender equality in 2000 as an issue in context of schooling and education. At the 2002 Kananaskis Summit, members committed to supporting African efforts to promote gender equality and empowerment of women.⁴⁷² At the 2006 St. Petersburg Summit, members expressed regret toward not meeting interim targets to eliminate disparities in gender equality in primary and secondary education, and reaffirmed commitment to achieve gender equality in schooling by 2015.⁴⁷³

Gender equality was acknowledged as an aspect of promoting good governance for the first time at the 2007 Heiligendamm Summit. Furthermore, members also committed to working together to stop sexual exploitation and gender-based violence at the 2007 summit.⁴⁷⁴ The 2008 Hokkaido Toyako Summit was the first time when gender equality and women’s empowerment were considered an important principle of development.⁴⁷⁵ At the 2014 Brussels Summit, members recognized the necessity to promote gender equality and to end all forms of violence and discrimination against girls and women, specifically by ending child, early and forced marriage and promoting empowerment of all women and girls.⁴⁷⁶ At the 2015 Elmau Summit, members once again reaffirmed their commitment to promote gender equality and empowerment of women.⁴⁷⁷ At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, members agreed to integrate gender equality within all policy areas of the United Nations

⁴⁷² All G7/8 Commitments, 1975-2012, G7/8 (Toronto). Access date: 13 October 2019.

http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/G8_commitments-to-2012.pdf

⁴⁷³ All G7/8 Commitments, 1975-2012, G7/8 (Toronto). Access date: 13 October 2019.

http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/G8_commitments-to-2012.pdf

⁴⁷⁴ All G7/8 Commitments, 1975-2012, G7/8 (Toronto). Access date: 13 October 2019.

http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/G8_commitments-to-2012.pdf

⁴⁷⁵ G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Declaration: Hokkaido Toyako Summit, G7 (Hokkaido Toyako) 8 July 2008. Access date:

13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>

⁴⁷⁶ G7 Brussels Summit Declaration: Brussels Summit, G7 (Brussels) 5 June 2014. Access date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>

⁴⁷⁷ G7 Leaders’ Declaration: Elmau, G7 (Elmau) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Members at this summit also acknowledged the need to continue promoting gender equality and empowerment of women.⁴⁷⁸

The 2017 Taormina Summit was monumental for the G7's recognition of mainstreaming gender equality into all policies. Focus was directed toward ensuring economic gender equality, including – but not limited to – reducing the gender wage gap. Members not only recognized gender equality as fundamental for fulfilling human rights, but also adopted the first “G7 Roadmap for a Gender-Responsive Economic Environment.” The Roadmap outlines structural policies falling within central governments' jurisdiction that will “have the greatest impact in delivering gender equality.” This roadmap was developed with outcomes of previous G7 presidencies and other relevant international frameworks including 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and Women's 7 Forum – Starting from Girls.⁴⁷⁹

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, G7 members renewed their recognition of gender equality as fundamental for fulfillment of human rights and reaffirmed their commitment to advance gender equality and end gender-based violence. These objectives were endorsed in the “Charlevoix Commitment to End Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Abuse and Harassment in Digital Contexts.”⁴⁸⁰

Commitment Features

The G7 commitment is to “stand ready to support interested countries through our different expertise and development mechanisms to adopt, implement and monitor laws that remedy this and advance gender equality” aside from domestic commitments. In this commitment, the targets are to support interested countries to – 1. develop mechanisms to implement laws toward gender equality, and 2. develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

“Adopt” is understood to mean to accept formally and put into effect.

“Implement” is understood to mean taking steps forward. While the commitment may be a part of a longer-term initiative and actions on it may continue into the prolonged future, for steps to be considered implementation, they need to be taken in the near future. This should not, therefore, be interpreted to mean only prolonged or delayed action.

“Laws” are understood to be binding customs or practices of community, rules of conduct or actions prescribed or formally recognized as binding or enforced by a controlling authority.

To “stand ready” is understood to be prepared mentally or physically for some experience or action.

“Expertise” is understood to mean the skills of an expert.

“Develop mechanisms” should be understood as establishment of new initiatives and projects within an area.

“Gender equality” as defined by European Institute of Gender Equality refers to equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of men and women and girls and boys. Equality does not mean that they will be the same; rather, rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on the gender one identifies as. The term implies that interests, needs and priorities of all genders are taken

⁴⁷⁸ G7 Leaders' Declaration: Ise-Shima Summit, G7 (Ise-Shima) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 13 October 2019.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>

⁴⁷⁹ G7 Roadmap for a gender-response economic environment, G7 (Taormina) 27 May 2017. Access date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/gender.html>

⁴⁸⁰ G7 Charlevoix Summit Declaration: Charlevoix Summit, G7 (Charlevoix) 5 June 2018. Access date: 13 October 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>

into consideration and diversity should be recognized. Gender equality should be viewed as a human rights issue and a “precondition for and indicator of sustainable people-centred development.”⁴⁸¹

Part One: Develop Mechanisms to Implement Laws toward Gender Equality

“Remedy” is understood to mean a measure that corrects or counteracts an action or circumstance.

“Discriminatory laws” refer to legal and legislative frameworks that may disproportionately disadvantage citizens belonging to a specific gender group and/or enable violence against them.

“Legal protection” is understood to be the benefit or safety which the government affords to its citizens.

Compliance is achieved by creating new laws surrounding gender equality in any policy sector. Examples include, but are not limited to, reducing wage gap, creating equal opportunity workplaces, improving access to equal education and reducing gender-based violence. It is important to note that domestic actions to advance gender equality will not count toward compliance.

Full compliance within part one is achieved through supporting interested countries in correcting discriminatory laws and/or implementing laws that provide legal protection to populations discriminated against and/or implementing laws that advance gender equality, using domestic expertise and development mechanisms.

Part Two: Develop Mechanisms to Monitor Laws toward Gender Equality

“Monitor” is understood to mean to watch, to keep track of or check usually for a special purpose.

An example of compliance within part two includes establishment of various relevant indicators that will be monitored over a pre-established time period to measure progress toward achieving gender equality; such examples of relevant indicators include cases of sexual harassment, enrolment in gender equality schemes, and gender wage gap. Another example of compliance within part two includes establishment of dedicated personnel to monitor progress. It is important to note that domestic actions to advance gender equality will not count toward compliance.

Full compliance within part two is achieved through supporting interested countries in developing mechanisms to monitor and measure progress of laws toward improving gender equality.

Note: Actions taken between 13 April and 3 June 2020 have been included in this report but were not included in the version sent out for stakeholder feedback.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G7 member does NOT stand ready to help interested countries implement laws toward equality OR stand ready to help interested countries develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.
0	G7 member stands ready to help interested countries implement laws toward equality OR stands ready to help interested countries develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.
+1	G7 member stands ready to help interested countries implement laws toward equality AND stands ready to help interested countries develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

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Lead Analyst: Kaylin Dave*

⁴⁸¹ Gender Mainstreaming Concepts and Definitions, European Institute of Gender Equality. Access date: 13 October 2019. <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/concepts-and-definitions>

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to stand ready to help interested countries implement laws toward equality and develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

On 29 October 2019, Canada represented a group of 56 countries at a meeting of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), which adopted Resolution 2492 to promote women, peace and security agenda.⁴⁸² The UNSC urges members to facilitate full and equal participation of women at every stage of peacebuilding processes, to address threats and violence against women and to increase number of civilian and uniformed women in peacekeeping operations.⁴⁸³

On 3 December 2019, Jamaica's Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport Olivia Grange announced that the High Commission of Canada in Jamaica will offer five grants to local organisations to advance gender equality, peace and security in the communities they serve across the island.⁴⁸⁴ Organizations include the Boxing Board of Jamaica, National Youth Orchestra of Jamaica, Peace Management Initiative, Institute of Law and Economics, and Advocates for Change.⁴⁸⁵ The money will be used by each organization in order to further their mandates, specifically those that relate to gender equality.⁴⁸⁶

On 9 December 2019, Minister of International Development Karina Gould declared that Canada will provide CAD21 million over five years to “support a gender-sensitive approach to women’s reproductive health services in Pakistan” as part of the United Nations-led “Healthy Families Pakistan” initiative.⁴⁸⁷ It will also aim to tackle underlying factors that prevent women and girls from accessing health services.⁴⁸⁸

On 6 February 2020, Minister Gould gave a speech with the Canadian Partnership for Women and Children’s Health and Canadian Council for International Cooperation in celebration of International

⁴⁸² Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>.

⁴⁸³ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>.

⁴⁸⁴ Canada Gives Grants to Local Organizations to Advance Gender Equality, Jamaican Information Service (Jamaica) 3 December 2019. Accessed Date: 6 December 2019. <https://jis.gov.jm/canada-gives-grants-to-local-organisations-to-advance-gender-equality/>.

⁴⁸⁵ Canada Gives Grants to Local Organizations to Advance Gender Equality, Jamaican Information Service (Jamaica) 3 December 2019. Accessed Date: 6 December 2019. <https://jis.gov.jm/canada-gives-grants-to-local-organisations-to-advance-gender-equality/>.

⁴⁸⁶ Canada Gives Grants to Local Organizations to Advance Gender Equality, Jamaican Information Service (Jamaica) 3 December 2019. Accessed Date: 6 December 2019. <https://jis.gov.jm/canada-gives-grants-to-local-organisations-to-advance-gender-equality/>.

⁴⁸⁷ Minister Gould announces new support for women’s reproductive health services in Pakistan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/12/minister-gould-announces-new-support-for-womens-reproductive-health-services-in-pakistan.html>.

⁴⁸⁸ Minister Gould announces new support for women’s reproductive health services in Pakistan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/12/minister-gould-announces-new-support-for-womens-reproductive-health-services-in-pakistan.html>.

Development Week.⁴⁸⁹ The minister stated that Canada will continue to deliver its Feminist International Policy and work with other countries to advance gender equality on a global level.⁴⁹⁰

On 29 February 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs François-Philippe Champagne issued a statement in support of the agreement between the United States and the Taliban.⁴⁹¹ Minister Champagne declared that Canada continues to support stabilization efforts in Afghanistan and that it will continue to engage in meaningful peace negotiations with the Afghan people, particularly women and other minority populations.⁴⁹²

On 6 March 2020, Minister Champagne concluded his visit to Latvia, Ukraine and Poland.⁴⁹³ During his visit to Ukraine, Minister Champagne stated Canada's efforts to engage women in peace building efforts throughout the region.⁴⁹⁴ As such, CAD2 million will be invested in a three year period in order to "strengthen the capacity of the National Police of Ukraine in planning, implementing, monitoring and reviewing reform processes."⁴⁹⁵

On 8 March 2020, International Women's Day, Minister Champagne, Minister Gould, and Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and Trade Mary Ng issued a statement in which they reiterated Canada's support for gender equality initiatives.⁴⁹⁶ The three ministers highlighted Canada's work with women's organizations and civil society groups both at home and abroad and pledged to actively promote the rights of women and girls across the globe.⁴⁹⁷

⁴⁸⁹ Address by Minister Gould at Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health (CanWaCH) and Canadian Council for International Co-Operation (CCIC) Celebration for International Development Week (IDW) 2020, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/02/address-by-minister-gould-at-canadian-partnership-for-women-and-childrens-health-canwach-and-canadian-council-for-international-co-operation-ccic-c.html>.

⁴⁹⁰ Address by Minister Gould at Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health (CanWaCH) and Canadian Council for International Co-Operation (CCIC) Celebration for International Development Week (IDW) 2020, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/02/address-by-minister-gould-at-canadian-partnership-for-women-and-childrens-health-canwach-and-canadian-council-for-international-co-operation-ccic-c.html>.

⁴⁹¹ Canada Welcomes U.S.-Taliban Agreement in Afghanistan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 February 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. Canada Welcomes U.S.-Taliban Agreement in Afghanistan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 February 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/02/canada-welcomes-us-taliban-agreement-in-afghanistan.html>.

⁴⁹² Canada Welcomes U.S.-Taliban Agreement in Afghanistan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 February 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. Canada Welcomes U.S.-Taliban Agreement in Afghanistan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 February 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/02/canada-welcomes-us-taliban-agreement-in-afghanistan.html>.

⁴⁹³ Minister Champagne Concludes Successful Visit to Latvia, Ukraine and Poland, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 March 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/minister-champagne-concludes-successful-visit-to-latvia-ukraine-and-poland.html>.

⁴⁹⁴ Minister Champagne Concludes Successful Visit to Latvia, Ukraine and Poland, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 March 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/minister-champagne-concludes-successful-visit-to-latvia-ukraine-and-poland.html>.

⁴⁹⁵ Minister Champagne Concludes Successful Visit to Latvia, Ukraine and Poland, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 March 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/minister-champagne-concludes-successful-visit-to-latvia-ukraine-and-poland.html>.

⁴⁹⁶ Statement on International Women's Day, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/statement-on-international-womens-day.html>.

⁴⁹⁷ Statement on International Women's Day, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 March 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/statement-on-international-womens-day.html>.

On 20 March 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced CAD50 million in funding to help vulnerable countries respond to the COVID-19 crisis.⁴⁹⁸ This funding will, in part, be used to ensure that these countries respond to the crisis in a way that meets the needs of women and girls who are disproportionately affected by the crisis.⁴⁹⁹

On 10 April 2020, Minister Champagne and Minister Gould announced their support of the UN Secretary-General's call for an immediate global ceasefire.⁵⁰⁰ Both ministers cited their concerns for the plight of women, children and other vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 crisis as a reason for their support.⁵⁰¹ The ministers also reiterated their support for a multilateral response to the COVID-19 crisis and a rules-based international order in which civilians and vulnerable populations, including women, are prioritized.⁵⁰²

On 13 April 2020, Canada's Ambassador to France Isabelle Hudon issued a joint statement with a number of other nations in which together they called upon international governments to ensure that all measures taken in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic are legitimate and lawful.⁵⁰³ The statement further called for all governments to address the COVID-19 pandemic in a gender-responsive manner, taking into account gender-related consequences of the pandemic, of which include a rise in domestic violence.⁵⁰⁴

On 17 April 2020, the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 issued a declaration in which they urged other countries to take into consideration the populations which are disproportionately affected by COVID-19, particularly women.⁵⁰⁵ In doing so, Canada called upon these other countries to take into account gender-differentiated concerns and respond accordingly to meet the needs of these groups.⁵⁰⁶

⁴⁹⁸ Canada's Humanitarian Assistance to Help Developing Countries Prepare and Respond to COVID-19. Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/canadas-humanitarian-assistance-to-help-developing-countries-prepare-and-respond-to-covid-19.html>.

⁴⁹⁹ Canada's Humanitarian Assistance to Help Developing Countries Prepare and Respond to COVID-19. Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/canadas-humanitarian-assistance-to-help-developing-countries-prepare-and-respond-to-covid-19.html>.

⁵⁰⁰ Statement in Support of Global Ceasefire, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/statement-in-support-of-global-ceasefire.html>.

⁵⁰¹ Statement in Support of Global Ceasefire, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/statement-in-support-of-global-ceasefire.html>.

⁵⁰² Statement in Support of Global Ceasefire, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/statement-in-support-of-global-ceasefire.html>.

⁵⁰³ G7 Must Put a Gender Lens on COVID-19 Efforts, Women Deliver (New York) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2020. <https://womensdeliver.org/2020/step-it-up-g7/>.

⁵⁰⁴ G7 Must Put a Gender Lens on COVID-19 Efforts, Women Deliver (New York) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2020. <https://womensdeliver.org/2020/step-it-up-g7/>.

⁵⁰⁵ Foreign Ministers From 15 Countries Agree on Key Principles to Keep Transportation Links and Supply Chains Open, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/foreign-ministers-from-13-countries-agree-on-key-principles-to-keep-transportation-links-and-supply-chains-open.html>.

⁵⁰⁶ Foreign Ministers From 15 Countries Agree on Key Principles to Keep Transportation Links and Supply Chains Open, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/foreign-ministers-from-13-countries-agree-on-key-principles-to-keep-transportation-links-and-supply-chains-open.html>.

On 21 April 2020, Minister Gould issued a joint statement with Brazil, Italy, and Egypt regarding the effects of COVID-19 on food security and supply.⁵⁰⁷ In the statement, the countries called upon other nations to ensure the sustainability of the food supply chain and recognize the effects of changes in demand and supply on agri-food producers.⁵⁰⁸ In doing so, the minister encouraged countries to invest in women in particular in order to ensure they have access to land, credit and information regarding COVID-19.⁵⁰⁹

On 28 April 2020, Minister Champagne hosted a call with his colleagues from several other countries including France, Germany, Australia, Brazil, Indonesia and Peru to discuss their responses to COVID-19.⁵¹⁰ A number of ministers reiterated their desire to coordinate a multilateral response to the crisis in order to address the particular needs of vulnerable communities, including women.⁵¹¹

On 12 May 2020, Minister Gould announced support for Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's strategy to ensure immunizations for millions of children internationally.⁵¹² The funding will allow for increased access to vaccinations and opportunities for advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights programming.⁵¹³

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to help interested countries implement gender equality laws through providing grants to various organizations, supporting Pakistan monetarily in developing a gender-sensitive reproductive health system and advocating for gender-differentiated responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Aliya Hemani

⁵⁰⁷ Joint Statement by Brazil, Canada, Italy and Egypt Following the Extraordinary High-Level Meeting of the Group of Friends of Food Security and Nutrition on the Impact of COVID-19 on Food Availability and Supply, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-by-brazil-canada-italy-and-egypt-following-the-extraordinary-high-level-meeting-of-the-group-of-friends-of-food-security-and-nutrit.html>.

⁵⁰⁸ Joint Statement by Brazil, Canada, Italy and Egypt Following the Extraordinary High-Level Meeting of the Group of Friends of Food Security and Nutrition on the Impact of COVID-19 on Food Availability and Supply, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-by-brazil-canada-italy-and-egypt-following-the-extraordinary-high-level-meeting-of-the-group-of-friends-of-food-security-and-nutrit.html>.

⁵⁰⁹ Joint Statement by Brazil, Canada, Italy and Egypt Following the Extraordinary High-Level Meeting of the Group of Friends of Food Security and Nutrition on the Impact of COVID-19 on Food Availability and Supply, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-by-brazil-canada-italy-and-egypt-following-the-extraordinary-high-level-meeting-of-the-group-of-friends-of-food-security-and-nutrit.html>.

⁵¹⁰ Readout: Minister of Foreign Affairs Continues to Coordinate With International Counterparts on COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/readout-minister-of-foreign-affairs-continues-to-coordinate-with-international-counterparts-on-covid-190.html>.

⁵¹¹ Readout: Minister of Foreign Affairs Continues to Coordinate With International Counterparts on COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/readout-minister-of-foreign-affairs-continues-to-coordinate-with-international-counterparts-on-covid-190.html>.

⁵¹² Minister Gould announces funding for global vaccinations, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/minister-gould-announces-funding-for-global-vaccinations.html>

⁵¹³ Minister Gould announces funding for global vaccinations, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 3 June 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/minister-gould-announces-funding-for-global-vaccinations.html>

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to stand ready to help interested countries implement laws toward equality and develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

On 29 October 2019, all states of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), of which France is a member, adopted Resolution 2492 which promotes a women, peace and security agenda.⁵¹⁴ The UNSC urges members to facilitate full and equal participation of women at every stage of peacebuilding processes, to address threats and violence against women and to increase number of civilian and uniformed women in peacekeeping operations.⁵¹⁵

On 25 November 2019, the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs announced its support in the fight to end violence against women internationally.⁵¹⁶ It reaffirmed its commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and called neighboring countries to ratify Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.⁵¹⁷ As a member of the UNSC, France has also adopted and implemented its resolution on women, peace and security, which urges members to increase participation of women in conflict resolution and peacekeeping activities.⁵¹⁸

On 19 December 2019, French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian and Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the United Mexican States Marcelo Luis Ebrard Casaubo agreed upon a declaration for effective multilateralism.⁵¹⁹ Both countries emphasized the importance of promoting and protecting human rights while acknowledging gender equality and empowerment of women.⁵²⁰ Both countries also reiterated their commitment to Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and will jointly host Generation Equality Forum to promote the commitments within the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.⁵²¹ Furthermore, both countries agreed to work together to improve access to female education, increase women participation in the labour market, promote the United Nations Women, Peace and Security Agenda, combat violence against women through

⁵¹⁴ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>.

⁵¹⁵ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>.

⁵¹⁶ France committed to fighting violence against women internationally (Paris) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/france-committed-to-fighting-violence-against-women-internationally-25-nov-2019>.

⁵¹⁷ France committed to fighting violence against women internationally (Paris) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/france-committed-to-fighting-violence-against-women-internationally-25-nov-2019>.

⁵¹⁸ France committed to fighting violence against women internationally (Paris) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/france-committed-to-fighting-violence-against-women-internationally-25-nov-2019>.

⁵¹⁹ French-Mexican Declaration for Effective Multilateralism (19 December 2019), France Diplomatie (Paris) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/mexico/news/article/french-mexican-declaration-for-effective-multilateralism-19-dec-2019>.

⁵²⁰ French-Mexican Declaration for Effective Multilateralism (19 December 2019), France Diplomatie (Paris) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/mexico/news/article/french-mexican-declaration-for-effective-multilateralism-19-dec-2019>.

⁵²¹ French-Mexican Declaration for Effective Multilateralism (19 December 2019), France Diplomatie (Paris) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/mexico/news/article/french-mexican-declaration-for-effective-multilateralism-19-dec-2019>.

the European Union and United Nations Spotlight Initiative and provide more comprehensive sexual education to women.⁵²²

On 15 January 2020, the French Government announced the Action Coalition themes for the Generation Equality Forum to be held in 2021, which is a global and multi-stakeholder coalition organized by UN women and co-hosted by Mexico and France.^{523,524} The forum will launch coalitions on gender-based violence, economic justice and rights, bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights, feminist action for climate justice, technology and innovation for gender equality, and investing in feminist movements and leadership.⁵²⁵ Each coalition will develop and implement targeted solutions to advance gender equality with adolescent girls and young women in mind specifically to fulfill United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.⁵²⁶

On 16 to 17 January 2020, Minister Le Drian visited Saudi Arabia to meet with his counterparts, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah al-Saud and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Abdel al-Jubeir.⁵²⁷ They discussed areas of common interest and reaffirm France's priorities as they relate to the Saudi presidency of the G20, of which include gender equality.⁵²⁸

On 6 February 2020, International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, France encouraged the international community to increase initiatives dedicated toward ending the practice of female genital mutilation.⁵²⁹ France argues these mutilations violate the safety and dignity of women and girls and thus impede a country's ability to achieve substantive equality between men and

⁵²² French-Mexican Declaration for Effective Multilateralism (19 December 2019), France Diplomatie (Paris) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 3 January 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/mexico/news/article/french-mexican-declaration-for-effective-multilateralism-19-dec-2019>.

⁵²³ In lead up to Generation Equality Forum, Action Coalition Themes Announced (2020) Relief Web (New York) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/lead-generation-equality-forum-action-coalition-themes-announced>.

⁵²⁴ Generation Equality Forum Postponed (2020) UN Women (New York) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/4/announcer-generation-equality-forum-postponed>.

⁵²⁵ In lead up to Generation Equality Forum, Action Coalition Themes Announced (2020) Relief Web (New York) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/lead-generation-equality-forum-action-coalition-themes-announced>.

⁵²⁶ In lead up to Generation Equality Forum, Action Coalition Themes Announced (2020) Relief Web (New York) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/lead-generation-equality-forum-action-coalition-themes-announced>.

⁵²⁷ Visit by Jean-Yves Le Drian to Saudi Arabia (16-17 January 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/saudi-arabia/news/article/visit-by-jean-yves-le-drian-to-saudi-arabia-16-17-jan-2020>.

⁵²⁸ Visit by Jean-Yves Le Drian to Saudi Arabia (16-17 January 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/saudi-arabia/news/article/visit-by-jean-yves-le-drian-to-saudi-arabia-16-17-jan-2020>.

⁵²⁹ United Nations International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (6 February 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/events-6401/article/united-nations-international-day-of-zero-tolerance-for-female-genital>.

women.⁵³⁰ This issue and related ones will be addressed by the Gender Equality Forum, which will be held by in July by UN Women and co-chaired by France and Mexico.⁵³¹

On 19 January 2020, France reaffirmed its commitment to bring peace to Libya at the Berlin Conference on Libya.⁵³² The involved countries called on all parties in Libya to hold individuals accountable for violations of international law, including those who commit sexual and gender-based violence.⁵³³ These areas include “the indiscriminate use of force against civilians, attacks on densely populated residential areas, extrajudicial killings, kidnappings, enforced disappearances, sexual and gender-based violence, torture and ill-treatment, human trafficking, and violence against or the abuse of migrants and refugees.”⁵³⁴ Involved countries also called on Libya to encourage effective and meaningful participation of women in activities relating to Libya’s democratic transition, conflict resolution and peacebuilding and to support efforts of Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General Ghassan Salamé to improve female participation in the political process and public institutions.

On 11 March 2020, Swedish Minister For Foreign Affairs Ann Linde and Minister Le Drian issued a joint statement from Paris.⁵³⁵ The two ministers confirmed they will continue to collaborate on gender equality initiatives, including the reproductive rights of women and girls as well as equal economic and social conditions.⁵³⁶ France and Sweden will jointly increase their efforts to support the participation of women in conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction.⁵³⁷ They will also advance gender equality through the European Union and continue to advocate against sex trafficking and sexual exploitation.⁵³⁸

⁵³⁰ United Nations International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (6 February 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/events-6401/article/united-nations-international-day-of-zero-tolerance-for-female-genital>.

⁵³¹ United Nations International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (6 February 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/events-6401/article/united-nations-international-day-of-zero-tolerance-for-female-genital>.

⁵³² The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁵³³ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁵³⁴ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁵³⁵ Joint Press Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Sweden and France (11 March 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/sweden/events/article/joint-press-statement-by-the-ministers-for-foreign-affairs-of-sweden-and-france>.

⁵³⁶ Joint Press Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Sweden and France (11 March 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/sweden/events/article/joint-press-statement-by-the-ministers-for-foreign-affairs-of-sweden-and-france>.

⁵³⁷ Joint Press Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Sweden and France (11 March 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/sweden/events/article/joint-press-statement-by-the-ministers-for-foreign-affairs-of-sweden-and-france>.

⁵³⁸ Joint Press Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Sweden and France (11 March 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/sweden/events/article/joint-press-statement-by-the-ministers-for-foreign-affairs-of-sweden-and-france>.

On 15 April 2020, France issued a joint statement on the safety of journalists and access to information during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵³⁹ In this statement, France called upon all countries to ensure the internet access of all citizens in order to ensure that those affected by the virus have access to information.⁵⁴⁰ By extension, France calls upon countries to stop internet shutdowns, provide the most effective access to internet services, and mend any digital divides, including the gender gap.⁵⁴¹

On 16 April 2020, Minister Le Drian issued a joint statement with a number of other nations and Group of Friends on the Safety of Journalists in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Paris in which they called upon international governments to ensure that all measures taken in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic are legitimate and lawful.⁵⁴² The statement further called for all governments to address the COVID-19 pandemic in gender-responsive manner, taking into account gender-related consequences of the pandemic, of which include a rise in domestic violence.⁵⁴³

On 28 April 2020, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs François-Phillipe Champagne hosted a call with his colleagues from several other countries including France, Germany, Australia, Brazil, Indonesia and Peru to discuss their responses to COVID-19.⁵⁴⁴ A number of ministers reiterated their desire to coordinate a multilateral response to the crisis in order to address the particular needs of vulnerable communities, including women.⁵⁴⁵

France has fully complied with its commitment to help interested countries implement laws promoting gender equality by calling to other countries to ratify Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and collaborating with United Mexican States to host the Generation Equality Forum promoting commitment to Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. France has also called upon other countries to ensure that their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic take into consideration the promotion of gender-equality.

Thus, France receives a score of +1 .

⁵³⁹ Joint Statement on Safety of Journalists and Access to Information During the Covid-19 Crisis (15 April 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/coronavirus-statements/article/joint-statement-on-safety-of-journalists-and-access-to-information-during-the/>.

⁵⁴⁰ Joint Statement on Safety of Journalists and Access to Information During the Covid-19 Crisis (15 April 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/coronavirus-statements/article/joint-statement-on-safety-of-journalists-and-access-to-information-during-the/>.

⁵⁴¹ Joint Statement on Safety of Journalists and Access to Information During the Covid-19 Crisis (15 April 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/coronavirus-statements/article/joint-statement-on-safety-of-journalists-and-access-to-information-during-the/>.

⁵⁴² COVID-19 – Joint Declaration of the Alliance for Multilateralism (16 April 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/alliance-for-multilateralism-63158/article/covid-19-joint-declaration-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism-16-apr-2020>.

⁵⁴³ COVID-19 – Joint Declaration of the Alliance for Multilateralism (16 April 2020), France Diplomatie (Paris) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/alliance-for-multilateralism-63158/article/covid-19-joint-declaration-of-the-alliance-for-multilateralism-16-apr-2020>.

⁵⁴⁴ Readout: Minister of Foreign Affairs Continues to Coordinate With International Counterparts on COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/readout-minister-of-foreign-affairs-continues-to-coordinate-with-international-counterparts-on-covid-190.html>.

⁵⁴⁵ Readout: Minister of Foreign Affairs Continues to Coordinate With International Counterparts on COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/readout-minister-of-foreign-affairs-continues-to-coordinate-with-international-counterparts-on-covid-190.html>.

Analysts: Roba Hena and Aliya Hemani

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to stand ready to help interested countries implement laws toward equality and develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

On 29 October 2019, Germany, a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), voted in favour of adopting Resolution 2493 to promote a women, peace and security agenda.⁵⁴⁶ The UNSC urges members to facilitate full and equal participation of women at every stage of peacebuilding processes, to address threats and violence against women and to increase number of civilian and uniformed women in peacekeeping operations.⁵⁴⁷ German Minister of State Michelle Müntefering noted that implementation is key, and Germany is implementing 10 out of 12 commitments on the women, peace and security agenda.⁵⁴⁸

On 31 October 2019, Germany pledged at the Nairobi Summit on the International Conference on Population and Development to work with partners at home and abroad to ensure that pregnancies are wanted and that births are safe.⁵⁴⁹ This involves creating policies that address sexual and reproductive rights and combat violence against women to ensure that women are empowered to make decisions about their health.⁵⁵⁰

On 19 January 2020, Germany reaffirmed its commitment to bring peace to Libya at the Berlin Conference on Libya.⁵⁵¹ The involved countries called on all parties in Libya to hold individuals accountable for violations of international law, including those who commit sexual and gender-based violence.⁵⁵² These areas include “the indiscriminate use of force against civilians, attacks on densely populated residential areas, extrajudicial killings, kidnappings, enforced disappearances, sexual and gender-based violence, torture and ill-treatment, human trafficking, and violence against or the abuse of migrants and refugees.”⁵⁵³ Involved countries also called on Libya to encourage effective and meaningful participation of women in activities relating to Libya’s democratic transition, conflict resolution and peacebuilding and to support efforts of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General Ghassan Salamé to improve female participation in the political process and public institutions.

On 24 January 2020, Germany launched a delegated cooperation agreement with the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Malawi to co-finance the project “Promoting Agricultural Technical

⁵⁴⁶ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>.

⁵⁴⁷ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>.

⁵⁴⁸ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>.

⁵⁴⁹ Investing in Health, Rights and Choices for All, Nairobi Summit ICPD (Nairobi) 31 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.nairobisummiticpd.org/commitment/investing-health-rights-and-choices-all>.

⁵⁵⁰ Investing in Health, Rights and Choices for All, Nairobi Summit ICPD (Nairobi) 31 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.nairobisummiticpd.org/commitment/investing-health-rights-and-choices-all>.

⁵⁵¹ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁵⁵² The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁵⁵³ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

Vocational Education and Training for Women.”⁵⁵⁴ The program has been in place in Malawi since 2017, with the objective to bring women into employment.⁵⁵⁵ This phase of the cooperation will focus on hearing feedback from the project’s beneficiaries and stakeholders and will be financed with approximately EUR 1 million per year until August 2022.⁵⁵⁶

On 28 April 2020, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs François-Phillipe Champagne hosted a call with his colleagues from several other countries including France, Germany, Australia, Brazil, Indonesia and Peru to discuss their responses to COVID-19.⁵⁵⁷ A number of ministers reiterated their desire to coordinate a multilateral response to the crisis in order to address the particular needs of vulnerable communities, including women.⁵⁵⁸

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to help interested countries implement laws promoting gender equality through adopting Resolution 2493 and collaborating with Nairobi and other partners to create policies addressing sexual and reproductive rights of women.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Daniella Marciano

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to stand ready to help interested countries implement laws toward equality and develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

On 9 September 2019, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation announced a partnership with UN Women to strengthen institutional capacity in Jordan in order to support gender equality and women’s empowerment over two years.⁵⁵⁹ The partnership will provide technical assistance to the Jordanian Ministry of Social Development to enhance the quality of services provided to vulnerable girls and women.⁵⁶⁰ UN Women will also support Jordanian Ministry of Social Development to consolidate

⁵⁵⁴ African Union Project on Malawian Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture: Cooperation with Norway and Germany (Malawi) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/news/african-union-project-malawian-women%E2%80%99s-empowerment-agriculture-cooperation-norway-and-germany>.

⁵⁵⁵ African Union Project on Malawian Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture: Cooperation with Norway and Germany (Malawi) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/news/african-union-project-malawian-women%E2%80%99s-empowerment-agriculture-cooperation-norway-and-germany>.

⁵⁵⁶ African Union Project on Malawian Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture: Cooperation with Norway and Germany (Malawi) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/news/african-union-project-malawian-women%E2%80%99s-empowerment-agriculture-cooperation-norway-and-germany>.

⁵⁵⁷ Readout: Minister of Foreign Affairs Continues to Coordinate With International Counterparts on COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/readout-minister-of-foreign-affairs-continues-to-coordinate-with-international-counterparts-on-covid-190.html>.

⁵⁵⁸ Readout: Minister of Foreign Affairs Continues to Coordinate With International Counterparts on COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/readout-minister-of-foreign-affairs-continues-to-coordinate-with-international-counterparts-on-covid-190.html>.

⁵⁵⁹ Government of Italy, UN Women announce partnership to strengthen institutional capacity on women’s empowerment, UN Women (Amman) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://jordan.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/september/italy-and-un-women-partnership>

⁵⁶⁰ Government of Italy, UN Women announce partnership to strengthen institutional capacity on women’s empowerment, UN Women (Amman) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://jordan.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/september/italy-and-un-women-partnership>

the experience of model of support for gender mainstreaming and the benefits of it in a report that can be presented to other ministries and at a regional level through a conference.⁵⁶¹

On 19 January 2020, Italy reaffirmed its commitment to bring peace to Libya at the Berlin Conference on Libya.⁵⁶² The involved countries called on all parties in Libya to hold individuals accountable for violations of international law, including those who commit sexual and gender-based violence.⁵⁶³ These areas include “the indiscriminate use of force against civilians, attacks on densely populated residential areas, extrajudicial killings, kidnappings, enforced disappearances, sexual and gender-based violence, torture and ill-treatment, human trafficking, and violence against or the abuse of migrants and refugees.”⁵⁶⁴ Involved countries also called on Libya to encourage effective and meaningful participation of women in activities relating to Libya’s democratic transition, conflict resolution and peacebuilding and to support efforts of Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General Ghassan Salamé to improve female participation in the political process and public institutions.

On 11 March 2020, the United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children Fund Global Program to End Child Marriage, of which Italy is a member, was renewed for an additional four years.⁵⁶⁵ The program will aim to increase girls’ access to education, health services, skills development, community education, promotion of gender equality, economic support, and enforcement of laws that set 18 years of age as the minimum for marriage. The program is part of the global effort to end child marriages by 2030.

On 21 April 2020, Emanuela Claudia Del Re, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy, issued a joint statement with Brazil, Canada and Egypt regarding the effects of COVID-19 on food security and supply.⁵⁶⁶ In the statement, the countries called upon other countries to ensure the sustainability of the food supply chain and recognize the effects of changes in demand and supply on agri-food

⁵⁶¹ Government of Italy, UN Women announce partnership to strengthen institutional capacity on women’s empowerment, UN Women (Amman) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://jordan.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/september/italy-and-un-women-partnership>

⁵⁶² The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁵⁶³ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁵⁶⁴ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁵⁶⁵ UNICEF and UNFPA Renew Multi-Country Initiative to Protect Millions of Girls from Child Marriage (New York) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/unicef-and-unfpa-renew-multi-country-initiative-protect-millions-girls-child>.

⁵⁶⁶ Joint Statement by Brazil, Canada, Italy and Egypt Following the Extraordinary High-Level Meeting of the Group of Friends of Food Security and Nutrition on the Impact of COVID-19 on Food Availability and Supply, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-by-brazil-canada-italy-and-egypt-following-the-extraordinary-high-level-meeting-of-the-group-of-friends-of-food-security-and-nutrit.html>.

producers.⁵⁶⁷ In doing so, the minister encouraged countries to invest in women in particular in order to ensure they have access to land, credit and information regarding COVID-19.⁵⁶⁸

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to implement laws that promote gender equality by committing to support the Jordanian Ministry of Social Development in improving their institutional capacity to support women empowerment and supporting Libya in transitioning toward a more gender-equal democratic system. Italy has fully complied with its commitment to help interested countries develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Daniella Marciano

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to stand ready to help interested countries implement laws toward equality and develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

On 30 August 2019, Japanese and African Union Member States' delegations participated in the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development, where Japan committed to working with the African Union to reduce the gender gap, combat gender-based violence, and empower women and youth.⁵⁶⁹

On 18 September 2019, Government of Japan provided JPY218 million of grant aid through United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for the project of "Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Sri Lanka."⁵⁷⁰ The project aims to improve economic empowerment of women, awareness of women's rights and political participation while paying attention to vulnerable groups.⁵⁷¹

On 4 November 2019, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan released "The Mekong-Japan Initiative for SDGs [Sustainable Development Goals] toward 2030," which highlighted areas of co-operation between Japan and countries in the Mekong region (e.g. Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia).⁵⁷² It included a commitment to promoting gender equality.⁵⁷³ Japan offered to

⁵⁶⁷ Joint Statement by Brazil, Canada, Italy and Egypt Following the Extraordinary High-Level Meeting of the Group of Friends of Food Security and Nutrition on the Impact of COVID-19 on Food Availability and Supply, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-by-brazil-canada-italy-and-egypt-following-the-extraordinary-high-level-meeting-of-the-group-of-friends-of-food-security-and-nutrit.html>.

⁵⁶⁸ Joint Statement by Brazil, Canada, Italy and Egypt Following the Extraordinary High-Level Meeting of the Group of Friends of Food Security and Nutrition on the Impact of COVID-19 on Food Availability and Supply, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 28 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/04/joint-statement-by-brazil-canada-italy-and-egypt-following-the-extraordinary-high-level-meeting-of-the-group-of-friends-of-food-security-and-nutrit.html>.

⁵⁶⁹ Yokohama Declaration 2019 Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Yokohama) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/ticad7/pdf/yokohama_declaration_en.pdf

⁵⁷⁰ Japan provides USD 2 million grant aid for Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Sri Lanka, Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka (Colombo), 18 September 2019. Access date: 3 January 2020. https://www.lk.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/00_000930.html

⁵⁷¹ Japan provides USD 2 million grant aid for Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Sri Lanka, Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka (Colombo), 18 September 2019. Access date: 3 January 2020. https://www.lk.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/00_000930.html

⁵⁷² The Mekong-Japan Initiative for SDGs toward 2030, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 4 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000535957.pdf>

⁵⁷³ The Mekong-Japan Initiative for SDGs toward 2030, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo), 4 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000535957.pdf>

microfinance women's enterprises in Asia, and to collaborate with Mekong countries to eradicate human trafficking.⁵⁷⁴

On 21 February 2020, Japan announced that they will provide a grant of USD83,708 to support women empowerment in Egypt.⁵⁷⁵ This grant will enable training of women in the old Cairo region for self-employment so they have skills to be compatible with the needs of the labour market, including marketing skills.⁵⁷⁶

On 3 March 2020, Japan donated USD2.3 million to the UN Women's and Sasakawa Africa Association's Grant Aid project to the Lake Chad Region. The Grand Aid aims to support women and girls withstand crises, recover and develop resilience to crises, prepare women to participate in decision making, provide protection from gender-based violence.⁵⁷⁷

On 10 March 2020, Japan donated USD13 million of Emergency Grant Aid to Brazil, Columbia, Ecuador and Peru.⁵⁷⁸ USD3.4 million of Emergency Grant Aid was allocated to Ecuador for the provision of protection services, including sexual and gender-based violence prevention, to people displaced from Venezuela.⁵⁷⁹ USD3.5 million of grant aid was allocated to Peru to develop a protection response for vulnerable people, focusing on sexual and gender-based violence survivors.⁵⁸⁰

On 10 March 2020, Japan donated a total of USD23.7 million to refugees and internally displaced people in the Sahel region. Of this amount, USD 7.3 million was given to the Republic of Niger for the provision of protection activities for people suffering from gender-based violence, along with the improvement of both living and nutritional conditions. Additionally, USD4.7 million was given to the Republic of Mali for the provision of protection activities and legal assistance for people suffering from gender-based violence, along with the provision of educational opportunities, and food assistance, to improvement people's nutritional conditions.⁵⁸¹

On 21 April 2020, Japan signed a grant agreement with UNICEF of USD2 million to research the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on women and children, along with providing essential services to those in the Pacific region.⁵⁸²

⁵⁷⁴ The Mekong-Japan Initiative for SDGs toward 2030, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo), 4 November 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000535957.pdf>

⁵⁷⁵ Japan gives Egypt \$US 83,708 grant to support women's empowerment, Egypt Independent (Cairo), 21 February 2019. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://egyptindependent.com/japan-gives-egypt-us-83708-grant-to-support-womens-empowerment/>.

⁵⁷⁶ Japan gives Egypt \$US 83,708 grant to support women's empowerment, Egypt Independent (Cairo), 21 February 2019. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://egyptindependent.com/japan-gives-egypt-us-83708-grant-to-support-womens-empowerment/>.

⁵⁷⁷ Japan Extends Grand Aid of USD 2.3 Million for Supporting Women and Girls Withstand Crises, Recovery from the Impact of Crises and Increase their Resilience in Nigeria and Cameroon, UN Women (New York City) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.ng.emb-japan.go.jp/files/100018832.pdf>.

⁵⁷⁸ Emergency grant aid to displaced people in neighbouring countries of Venezuela, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002764.html.

⁵⁷⁹ Emergency grant aid to displaced people in neighbouring countries of Venezuela, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002764.html.

⁵⁸⁰ Emergency grant aid to displaced people in neighbouring countries of Venezuela, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002764.html.

⁵⁸¹ Emergency grant aid in response to the humanitarian crisis in the Sahel region, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 26 April 2020. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002744.html.

⁵⁸² Japan supports UNICEF to reach more than one million children in COVID-19 response, UNICEF (Suva) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/japan-supports-unicef-reach-more-one-million-children-covid-19-response>.

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to support interested countries in implementing laws that promote gender equality by committing to collaborate with African Union to reduce gender gap and combat gender-based violence, by providing grant aid to a United Nations project aiming to improve economic empowerment of women in Sri Lanka and microfinancing women enterprises in Asia to collaborate with Mekong countries to eradicate human trafficking. It has also demonstrated its dedication through grant donations to Nigeria and Cameroon to support women and girls in crisis situations, to countries in the Sahel region to help combat gender-based violence amongst refugees and internally displaced peoples, and to countries in the Pacific region, to provide essential services and research the impact of COVID-19 on women and children.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1 .

Analyst: Sanjna Ullal

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to stand ready to help interested countries implement laws toward equality and develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

On 22 September 2019, the United Kingdom announced an additional aid of GBP 87 million to sustain its operations in Cox Bazar for Rohingya refugees. Part of this amount will fund reproductive services, protection for victims, and basic living and healthcare needs for Rohingya women and girls.⁵⁸³

On 24 September 2019, the UK announced an education commitment of GBP 515 million for women and girls at the United Nations. The aim is to increase education in areas of warzones and conflict areas to further social and economic empowerment of women.⁵⁸⁴ The UK also announced additional GBP 5 billion that will be used move toward education investment in Africa and Asia.⁵⁸⁵

On 8 October 2019, the British ambassador to Turkmenistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage and abet gender equality, sensitivity and empowerment in the Turkmen security sector as a part of an Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe project.⁵⁸⁶ The aim is to promote gender main-streaming, particularly in male-dominated sectors, and provide gender sensitivity training to security officials.⁵⁸⁷

On 12 December 2019, the UK embassy in Cairo announced its moral and financial support of the first Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security in Egypt to prevent the effects of conflict and

⁵⁸³ UK announces extra £87 million funding for Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh, British High Commission (Dhaka) 22 September 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-extra-87-million-funding-for-rohingya-crisis-in-bangladesh>

⁵⁸⁴ PM steps up UK effort to get every girl in the world into school, Prime Minister Office (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 26 December, 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-effort-to-get-every-girl-in-the-world-into-school>

⁵⁸⁵ PM steps up UK effort to get every girl in the world into school, Prime Minister Office (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 26 December, 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-effort-to-get-every-girl-in-the-world-into-school>.

⁵⁸⁶ British Embassy Ashgabat supports women's empowerment and gender sensitivity, British Embassy (Ashgabat) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/british-embassy-ashgabat-supports-womens-empowerment-and-gender-sensitivity>.

⁵⁸⁷ British Embassy Ashgabat supports women's empowerment and gender sensitivity, British Embassy (Ashgabat) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 25 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/british-embassy-ashgabat-supports-womens-empowerment-and-gender-sensitivity>

injustice on women and girls.⁵⁸⁸ It also aims to support the involvement of women in peace processes to ensure peace and security in the region.⁵⁸⁹

On 19 January 2020, UK reaffirmed its commitment to bring peace to Libya at the Berlin Conference on Libya.⁵⁹⁰ The involved countries called on all parties in Libya to hold individuals accountable for violations of international law, including those who commit sexual and gender-based violence.⁵⁹¹ These areas include “the indiscriminate use of force against civilians, attacks on densely populated residential areas, extrajudicial killings, kidnappings, enforced disappearances, sexual and gender-based violence, torture and ill-treatment, human trafficking, and violence against or the abuse of migrants and refugees.”⁵⁹² Involved countries also called on Libya to encourage effective and meaningful participation of women in activities relating to Libya’s democratic transition, conflict resolution and peacebuilding and to support efforts of Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General Ghassam Salamé to improve female participation in the political process and public institutions.

On 16 January 2020, UK announced an aid package of GBP3.5 million aiming to empower women entrepreneurs and business leaders in Africa.⁵⁹³ This aid package will aim to assist female entrepreneurs in acquiring investments through specialist business training, creating up to 3,000 jobs and reducing workplace inequality; create investment and development partnerships; and enable working alongside the governments of Ghana, Nigeria and Kenya to create gender-inclusive trade policies.⁵⁹⁴

On 4 March 2020, the UK ambassador to Egypt Sir Geoffrey Adams announced a roundtable meeting with the Arab Women’s Enterprise Fund, aiming to decrease barriers for women empowerment, education and employment in the Arab world and North Africa.⁵⁹⁵ The enterprise funded by the UK government and aims to boost financial independence in the home and workplace.⁵⁹⁶

United Kingdom has demonstrated its dedication to support interested countries in implementing laws that promote gender equality by funding reproductive and protective services for female

⁵⁸⁸ UK supports Egypt in developing 1st action plan on women, peace, security, Ahram (Cairo) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/357664/Egypt/Politics-/UK-supports-Egypt-in-developing-st-action-plan-on-.aspx>

⁵⁸⁹ UK supports Egypt in developing 1st action plan on women, peace, security, Ahram (Cairo) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/357664/Egypt/Politics-/UK-supports-Egypt-in-developing-st-action-plan-on-.aspx>

⁵⁹⁰ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁵⁹¹ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁵⁹² The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁵⁹³ UK aid boosts support for African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets, Department of International Development (London), January 16, 2020. Access Date: April 26, 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-boosts-support-for-african-women-entrepreneurs-to-expand-businesses-into-global-markets>.

⁵⁹⁴ UK aid boosts support for African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets, Department of International Development (London), January 16, 2020. Access Date: April 26, 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-boosts-support-for-african-women-entrepreneurs-to-expand-businesses-into-global-markets>.

⁵⁹⁵ British embassy launches its annual campaign to support gender equality. British Embassy (Cairo) 4 March 2020. Access Date: April 26, 2020. <https://www.dailynewssegypt.com/2020/03/04/british-embassy-launches-its-annual-campaign-to-support-gender-equality/>.

⁵⁹⁶ British embassy launches its annual campaign to support gender equality. British Embassy (Cairo) 4 March 2020. Access Date: April 26, 2020. <https://www.dailynewssegypt.com/2020/03/04/british-embassy-launches-its-annual-campaign-to-support-gender-equality/>.

Rohingya refugees, signing a memorandum of understanding with Turkmenistan to encourage gender equality by providing gender sensitivity training to security officials and by announcing moral and financial support for the first Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security in Egypt.

Thus, United Kingdom receives a score of +1 .

Analyst: Jaiivika Kataria

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to stand ready to help interested countries implement laws toward equality and develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

On 29 October 2019, all states of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), of which the United States is a member, adopted Resolution 2492 which promotes a women, peace and security agenda.⁵⁹⁷ The UNSC urges members to facilitate full and equal participation of women at every stage of peacebuilding processes, to address threats and violence against women and to increase number of civilian and uniformed women in peacekeeping operations.⁵⁹⁸

On 18 November 2019, USAID Administrator Mark Green and Advisor to Ivanka Trump announced that additional USD50 million funding will be directed toward Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (W-GDP).⁵⁹⁹ W-GDP aims to advance women's economic empowerment in developing countries with the goal of reaching 50 million women by 2025 through collaboration with local organizations.⁶⁰⁰

On 2 December 2019, USAID and Aga Khan Foundation announced USD37.5 million in funding for project known as "Local Impact."⁶⁰¹ Funds from this project will help Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan "expand opportunity and overall quality of life" for women and girls specifically.⁶⁰²

On 19 January 2020, United States reaffirmed its commitment to bring peace to Libya at the Berlin Conference on Libya.⁶⁰³ The involved countries called on all parties in Libya to hold individuals accountable for violations of international law, including those who commit sexual and gender-based

⁵⁹⁷ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>

⁵⁹⁸ Security Council Urges Recommitment to Women, Peace, Security Agenda, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2492 (2019), Relief Web (New York) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/security-council-urges-recommitment-women-peace-security-agenda-unanimously-adopting>

⁵⁹⁹ USAID Administrator Mark Green and Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump announce Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative Fund's increase to \$100 million in first year and launch of new partnerships, USAID (Washington D.C.) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 4 January 2020. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/nov-18-2019-administrator-green-advisor-trump-w-gdp-funding-increase>

⁶⁰⁰ USAID Administrator Mark Green and Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump announce Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative Fund's increase to \$100 million in first year and launch of new partnerships, USAID (Washington D.C.) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 4 January 2020. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/nov-18-2019-administrator-green-advisor-trump-w-gdp-funding-increase>.

⁶⁰¹ USAID and The Aga Khan Foundation work to increase the impact of local organizations in Central Asia, USAID (Washington D.C.) 2 December 2019. Access Date: 4 January 2020. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/dec-2-2019-usaid-and-aga-khan-foundation-work-increase-impact-local-organizations>.

⁶⁰² USAID and The Aga Khan Foundation work to increase the impact of local organizations in Central Asia, USAID (Washington D.C.) 2 December 2019. Access Date: 4 January 2020. <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/dec-2-2019-usaid-and-aga-khan-foundation-work-increase-impact-local-organizations>.

⁶⁰³ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

violence.⁶⁰⁴ These areas include “the indiscriminate use of force against civilians, attacks on densely populated residential areas, extrajudicial killings, kidnappings, enforced disappearances, sexual and gender-based violence, torture and ill-treatment, human trafficking, and violence against or the abuse of migrants and refugees.”⁶⁰⁵ Involved countries also called on Libya to encourage effective and meaningful participation of women in activities relating to Libya’s democratic transition, conflict resolution and peacebuilding and to support efforts of United Nations Secretary General Salamé to improve female participation in the political process and public institutions.

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to support interested countries in implementing laws that promote gender equality by collaborating with UNSC members, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan to encourage gender equality by supporting women economic empowerment in developing countries and women participation in civil services. The United States has not complied with its commitment to help interested countries develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Shaina Sharma

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to stand ready to help interested countries implement laws toward equality and develop legal monitoring mechanisms on gender equality.

On 2 September 2019, EU Programmes Officer Mathe Tau signed a financing agreement called “EU Support to Civil Society,” which provided a grant to the Lesotho chapter of Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA).⁶⁰⁶ WLSA will use this grant toward a project called ‘Socio-Economic Empowerment through Gender-Responsive Policies, Legislations and Action’ to contribute to the development of gender-sensitive policies and laws, increased knowledge about gender-based violence, and toward women’s economic empowerment.⁶⁰⁷ WLSA will collaborate with Lesotho National Council of Women, the Women’s Law Clinic, the Migrants Workers Association of Lesotho and the Lesotho Youth Federation for this 48-month project.⁶⁰⁸

On 8 October 2019, the EU released an action plan for supporting gender equality in Libya. The action plan reflected the ways in which the EU is working in Libya to prevent and combat violence

⁶⁰⁴ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁶⁰⁵ The Berlin Conference on Libya: Conference Conclusions (Germany) 19 January 2020. Access Date: 25 April 2020. <https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/bkin-de/suche/the-berlin-conference-on-libya-1713868>.

⁶⁰⁶ The EU supports the fight for gender justice in Lesotho European External Action Service (Brussels) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67216/eu-supports-fight-gender-justice-lesotho_en.

⁶⁰⁷ The EU supports the fight for gender justice in Lesotho European External Action Service (Brussels) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67216/eu-supports-fight-gender-justice-lesotho_en.

⁶⁰⁸ The EU supports the fight for gender justice in Lesotho European External Action Service (Brussels) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/67216/eu-supports-fight-gender-justice-lesotho_en

against women and girls, promote women's economic and social rights, and strengthen their ability to participate in society.⁶⁰⁹

On 14 October 2019, the EU Delegation to Egypt and the Embassy of Sweden in Cairo launched the Gender Champion initiative to support Egypt in empowering its women to participate more in public life and support female leadership.⁶¹⁰ The EU also stated its intent to help combat female genital mutilation in collaboration with the National Council for Women and United Nations.

On 9 and 10 December 2019, the European Union and Zambia launched the 'Natwampane' Programme. The European Development Fund allocated a budget of EUR25 million to prevent sexual and gender-based violence, while simultaneously improving access to services for survivors within the Zambian's Northern Province and Luapula Province.⁶¹¹ This will be achieved through sexual education for 235,000 children; sensitization of 335,000 children; engagement of 1,600 faith leaders, 1,800 civic leaders, 1,530 marriage counsellors; and 392 radio programs to reach 200,000 youth.⁶¹²

On 12 February 2020, the EU called for a vote on a resolution that called on United Nations members to implement an EU strategy to end female genital mutilations across the world.⁶¹³

On 5 March 2020, the European Union released its Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, within which it reaffirmed its commitment to ending violence against women and girls, promoting women's empowerment, and ensuring the fulfillment of their rights – human, political, or civil.⁶¹⁴ As part of this plan, it has pledged to promote gender equality through its trade policy by gathering gender-disaggregated data to ensure that the gender impact of trade agreements is considered.⁶¹⁵ It plans on using its External Investment Plan to promote women's entrepreneurship and labour market participation, both through the 2020 EU Strategy with Africa, and the Women's Financial Inclusion Facility.⁶¹⁶

⁶⁰⁹ European Union support to gender equality in Libya European External Action Service (Brussels) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/eu_support_for_gender_equality_final_-_web.pdf

⁶¹⁰ EU Gender Champions working with Egypt to support women empowerment (Brussels) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/68873/eu-gender-champions-working-egypt-support-women-empowerment_en

⁶¹¹ Launch of the Natwampane Programme "together to STOP sexual and gender-based violence" European External Action Service (Brussels) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/72468/launch-natwampane-programme-%E2%80%9Ctogether-stop-sexual-and-gender-based-violence%E2%80%9D_en.

⁶¹² Launch of the Natwampane Programme "together to STOP sexual and gender-based violence" European External Action Service (Brussels) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/72468/launch-natwampane-programme-%E2%80%9Ctogether-stop-sexual-and-gender-based-violence%E2%80%9D_en.

⁶¹³ Coming up: EU-Vietnam trade deal, artificial intelligence and EU-UK cooperation, European Parliament (Brussels) 7 February 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/eu-affairs/20200131STO71520/coming-up-eu-vietnam-trade-deal-artificial-intelligence-and-eu-uk-cooperation>.

⁶¹⁴ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2020%3A152%3AFIN>.

⁶¹⁵ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2020%3A152%3AFIN>.

⁶¹⁶ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2020%3A152%3AFIN>.

On 5 March 2020, the European Union initiated the Spotlight Initiative, in partnership with the United Nations, to end violence against women and girls.⁶¹⁷ To this end, the European Union has invested USD550 million to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in 26 countries⁶¹⁸ by 2030.⁶¹⁹ It focuses on reforming the procedural laws that govern legal proceedings, enhancing victim rights policy frameworks, improving the capacity for nations to plan, fund and deliver programmes that prevent, and responding to violence against women and girls, while expanding existing programs that work toward the same ends.⁶²⁰

On 6 March 2020, the European Union's executive announced that the European Commission will introduce laws that combat gender equality that include "binding measures on pay transparency," which aim to encourage member states to implement these laws to bridge the gender wage gap.⁶²¹

On 15 March 2020, Delegation of EU to Nigeria and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) advocated for equal opportunity for all genders to bridge the gender inequality gap in Nigeria.⁶²² Ambassador of EU to Nigeria and ECOWAS noted that EU is working with Nigerian institutions to improve gender equality and will continue to support opening of a national register against sexual offenders and sexual assault referral centres throughout the country on a call.⁶²³

European Union has demonstrated its dedication to implement laws that promote gender equality by providing grants to WLSA working to develop gender-sensitive policies, developing an action plan to collaborate with Libya to prevent and combat violence against women and promote women's economic and social rights, launching the Gender Champion Initiative and funding Natwampane' Programme in collaboration with Zambia to improve access to services for survivors of violence in Zambia's Norther Province and Luapula Province. It has also demonstrated its interest through its renewal of its Gender Equality strategy, which reaffirms its commitment to helping women realize their rights, and its joint creation of the Spotlight Initiative, which aims to end violence against women and girls in 26 countries globally.

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

Analyst: Sanjna Ullal

⁶¹⁷ European Union, the Government of Timor-Leste and UN launch Spotlight Initiative to end violence against women and girls (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/75540/european-union-government-timor-leste-and-un-launch-spotlight-initiative-end-violence-against_fi

⁶¹⁸ Empowering women and girls (Brussels) Access Date: 27 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/topics/empowering-women-and-girls_en.

⁶¹⁹ European Union, the Government of Timor-Leste and UN launch Spotlight Initiative to end violence against women and girls (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/75540/european-union-government-timor-leste-and-un-launch-spotlight-initiative-end-violence-against_fi.

⁶²⁰ Spotlight Initiative to End Violence Against Women and Girls Launched in Grenada. 6 March 2020. Access Date: 27 April 2020. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/75690/spotlight-initiative-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-launched-grenada_fi.

⁶²¹ EU Executive seeks to crack down on gender pay gap, Premium Times (Brussels) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://nypost.com/2020/03/06/eu-executive-seeks-to-crack-down-on-gender-pay-gap/>.

⁶²² EU advocates gender equality in Nigeria, Premium Times (Brussels) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/more-news/382030-eu-advocates-gender-equality-in-nigeria.html>.

⁶²³ EU advocates gender equality in Nigeria, Premium Times (Brussels) 15 March 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/more-news/382030-eu-advocates-gender-equality-in-nigeria.html>.