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The G7 Research Group presents the

2020 G7 USA Virtual Summit Interim Compliance Report

17 March 2020 to 25 February 2021

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

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

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

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



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Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Summary

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

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

The Interim Compliance Score

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

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

Compliance by Member

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

Compliance by Commitment

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

The Compliance Gap Between Members

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

Future Research and Reports

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

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

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

*For the full list of commitments, please contact the G7 Research Group at g7@utoronto.ca.

Table B: 2020 G7 USA Virtual Summit Interim Compliance Scores

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

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

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

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

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