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The G7 Research Group presents the  
**2022 G7 Elmau Summit Final Compliance Report**

28 June 2022 to 17 April 2023

Prepared by  
Keah Sharma and Malhaar Moharir  
and the G7 Research Group

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[www.g7.utoronto.ca](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca) • [g7@utoronto.ca](mailto:g7@utoronto.ca) • [@g7\\_rg](https://twitter.com/g7_rg)

“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*



G7 Research Group  
University of Toronto  
6 Hoskin Avenue, Toronto Ontario M5S 1H6 Canada  
[g7@utoronto.ca](mailto:g7@utoronto.ca) +1-416-946-8953  
[www.g7.utoronto.ca](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca) [www.g7g20.utoronto.ca](http://www.g7g20.utoronto.ca)

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## 16. Crime and Corruption: Transnational Crime

“To further ensure the security of our citizens, we will intensify our fight against transnational organised crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, in close cooperation with civil society and international actors such as Interpol and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.”

*Elmau G7 Summit Communiqué*

### Assessment

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

### Background

Criminal groups are not always limited to one country; they often form transnational groups that require international cooperation to stop them. One treaty that focuses on how this cooperation can be achieved is the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.<sup>3622</sup> This Convention has been discussed at past G7 Summits, but the specific type of transnational organized crime that is considered at a specific summit, including human trafficking, drug crime, environmental crime, and cybercrime, varies from year to year. Cybercrime was a focus of the 2000, 2001, 2008 and 2010 G8 summits. At the 2021 Cornwall and 2022 Elmau Summits, environmental crimes received attention. Not only do criminal organizations often transcend national boundaries, but so do the impacts of their crimes. For example, environmental crime harms the finances of developing countries and the environment.<sup>3623</sup>

At the 1998 Birmingham Summit, G8 leaders announced that they “fully support efforts to negotiate within the next two years an effective United Nations convention against transnational organised crime.”<sup>3624</sup> By ratifying this Convention, law enforcement would gain more of the tools that are required to combat transnational organised crime.

At the 2000 Okinawa Summit, G8 leaders raised the issue of drug trafficking and illegal drug use.<sup>3625</sup> To combat both problems, the leaders committed to working with “other countries, the UN system and other groups.” They also pledged to improve international cooperation in the fight against precursor chemicals being used to make illegal drugs, as well as amphetamine and synthetic drug use. The topic of cybercrime also gained prominence. G8 leaders decided to study the “global economy of illegal drugs” and acknowledged that “a concerted approach to high-tech crime, such as cyber-crime” is needed.

<sup>3622</sup> United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto, United Nations (Vienna) 2004. Access Date: 24 September 2022. [https://www.unodc.org/documents/middleeastandnorthafrica/organised-crime/UNITED\\_NATIONS\\_CONVENTION\\_AGAINST\\_TRANSNATIONAL\\_ORGANIZED\\_CRIME\\_AND\\_THE\\_PROTOCOLS\\_THERETO.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/middleeastandnorthafrica/organised-crime/UNITED_NATIONS_CONVENTION_AGAINST_TRANSNATIONAL_ORGANIZED_CRIME_AND_THE_PROTOCOLS_THERETO.pdf)

<sup>3623</sup> Frequently Asked Questions on Illegal Logging, European Commission (Brussels) 21 October 2010. Access Date: 24 September 2022. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/es/MEMO\\_10\\_511](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/es/MEMO_10_511)

<sup>3624</sup> Drugs and International Crime, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 May 1998. Access Date: 24 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1998birmingham/drugs.htm>

<sup>3625</sup> G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 July 2000. Access Date: 25 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>

At the 2001 Genoa Summit, G8 leaders reiterated their “commitment to combat transnational organised crime” and to tackle cybercrime.<sup>3626</sup> Leaders also agreed to intensify their efforts against drug trafficking and illegal drug use.

At the 2002 Kananaskis Summit, G8 leaders urged other countries to ratify the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime to combat corruption, bribery and embezzlement.<sup>3627</sup> Leaders also planned to establish a UN Convention on Corruption.

At the 2003 Évian-les-Bains Summit, G8 leaders urged “wider accession to and ratification of the UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime.”<sup>3628</sup> Leaders emphasized that the Convention would ensure that criminal assets can be identified and frozen. G8 leaders also said that ratifying the Convention would make “money laundering, corruption and other relevant crimes” universally criminalized.

At the 2005 Gleneagles Summit, G8 leaders focused on transnational crimes as they relate to pirated and counterfeited goods.<sup>3629</sup> Leaders discussed how to better coordinate actions against these two crimes and agreed to examine online counterfeiting and theft to detect and deter the distribution of counterfeit goods.

At the 2006 St. Petersburg Summit, G8 leaders agreed to work with several international organizations on creating “technical assistance pilot plans” for any interested developing country that would like to have the necessary capacity to fight counterfeiting and piracy.<sup>3630</sup> Some of the international organizations mentioned include INTERPOL, the World Trade Organization, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

At the 2007 Heiligendamm Summit, G8 leaders pledged to assist the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, INTERPOL and the OECD in their efforts to “coordinate the implementation” of the UN Convention against Corruption to combat corruption worldwide.<sup>3631</sup>

At the 2008 Hokkaido Summit, G8 leaders reiterated their commitment to stopping transnational organized crime through all possible means.<sup>3632</sup> Leaders agreed to strengthen their partnership against transnational organized crime, including through “experience-sharing.” Specific crimes targeted through this partnership include cybercrime and trafficking. Leaders also focused on combatting problems posed by the “abuse of information and communication technology.”

At the 2009 L’Aquila Summit, G8 leaders reiterated their pledge to form “capacity-building initiatives” in any country that needs help in combating transnational organized crime.<sup>3633</sup> G8 leaders also pledged to work with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, other UN organizations, and INTERPOL to fight against transnational organized crime.

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<sup>3626</sup> Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 24 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommuniqué.html>

<sup>3627</sup> G8 Africa Action Plan, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2002. Access Date: 24 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2002kananaskis/afraction-e.pdf>

<sup>3628</sup> Fighting Corruption and Improving Transparency: A G8 Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 June 2003. Access Date: 24 September 2022. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2003evian/corruption\\_en.html](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2003evian/corruption_en.html)

<sup>3629</sup> Reducing IPR Piracy and Counterfeiting Through More Effective Enforcement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2005. Access Date: 24 September 2022. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/ipr\\_piracy.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/ipr_piracy.pdf)

<sup>3630</sup> Combating IPR Piracy and Counterfeiting, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 July 2006. Access Date: 25 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2006stpetersburg/ipr.html>

<sup>3631</sup> Growth and Responsibility in the World Economy, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 June 2007. Access Date: 5 October 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2007heiligendamm/g8-2007-economy.html>

<sup>3632</sup> G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 5 October 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>

<sup>3633</sup> Political Issues, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 July 2009. Access Date: 5 October 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-political.html>

At the 2010 Muskoka Summit, G8 leaders focused on “security vulnerabilities,” including the threat posed by transnational organized crime.<sup>3634</sup> One of the planned strategies to reduce these vulnerabilities was increasing the number of civilian experts available internationally. Leaders also recognized cybercrime as a “growing threat” and committed to collaboratively working to weaken criminal networks.

At the 2012 Camp David Summit, G8 leaders agreed to strengthen their cooperation against transnational organized crime and other threats.<sup>3635</sup> Leaders also reiterated the importance of enhancing the “integrity and implementation of the UN conventions on drug control and transnational organised crime” to eliminate support for criminal networks.

At the 2013 Lough Erne Summit, G8 leaders pledged to provide “political and practical support to those regional and international organisations” that are helping other countries better oversee their borders by targeting the contributing factors, including transnational organized crime.<sup>3636</sup> Leaders pointed to the major contributions of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and committed to fighting against the trafficking of protected or endangered wildlife.

At the 2014 Brussels Summit, G7 leaders agreed to “prevent the misuse of companies and other legal arrangements such as trusts to hide financial flows stemming from corruption, tax evasion, money laundering, and other crimes.”<sup>3637</sup> Additionally, the Brussels Summit Declaration confirmed leaders’ aim to ensure that “beneficial ownership information is available in a timely fashion to financial intelligence units, tax collection and law enforcement agencies” to prevent crimes stemming from the misuse of legal arrangements.

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, G7 leaders focused on human trafficking and exploitation.<sup>3638</sup> Leaders agreed to find ways of improving their efforts to prosecute those who act violently against women and decided to improve domestic and international cooperation around combatting human trafficking. Leaders also pledged to examine the financing of human trafficking.

At the 2021 Cornwall Summit, G7 leaders recognized the “illegal wildlife trade (IWT) as serious organised crimes” and committed to combatting money laundering of the proceeds stemming from IWT.<sup>3639</sup> Leaders also agreed to cooperate with civil society and the private sector to address IWT, among other threats to nature.

### **Commitment Features**

At the 2022 Elmau Summit, leaders committed to “further ensure the security of our citizens, we will intensify our fight against transnational organised crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, in close cooperation with civil society and international actors such as Interpol and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.”<sup>3640</sup> This commitment can be interpreted as having one main welfare target, which is to ensure the security of citizens. This target includes two dimensions: to fight against transnational organized crime and to cooperate with civil society and international actors in the process. The

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<sup>3634</sup> Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 June 2010. Access Date: 5 October 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html>

<sup>3635</sup> Camp David Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 May 2012. Access Date: 5 October 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2012campdavid/g8-declaration.html>

<sup>3636</sup> G8 Lough Erne Leaders Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 18 June 2013. Access Date: 5 October 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2013lougherne/lough-erne-communique.html>

<sup>3637</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 24 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>

<sup>3638</sup> G7 Roadmap for a Gender-Responsive Economic Environment, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 24 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/gender.html>

<sup>3639</sup> G7 2030 Nature Compact, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-nature-compact.html>

<sup>3640</sup> G7 Leaders’ Communiqué – Executive Summary, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 June 2022. Access Date: 25 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2022elmau/220628-communique-summary.html>

first dimension of fighting transnational organized crime includes three subsequent dimensions: fighting “cybercrime” and “environmental crime” and focusing efforts particularly in “fragile contexts.”

“To ensure” is understood to mean to make something certain to happen.<sup>3641</sup>

“Security” is understood to mean the quality of being secure, such as freedom from danger, fear, or anxiety.<sup>3642</sup>

“To intensify” is understood to mean to increase existing actors.<sup>3643</sup> In the context of this commitment, members can “intensify” their fight against transnational organized crime through escalating current efforts.

“Transnational organised crime” is understood to be profit-motivated, serious criminal activities with international implications.<sup>3644</sup>

“Cybercrime” is understood to be criminal activity committed using a computer especially to illegally access, transmit or manipulate data.<sup>3645</sup>

“Environmental crime” is understood to mean activities that breach environmental legislation and cause significant harm or risk to the environment, human health or both.<sup>3646</sup> It can include, but is not limited to: improper collection, transport recovery or disposal of waste, illegal operation of a plant in which a dangerous activity is carried out or in which dangerous substances or preparations are stored, killing, destruction, possession or trade of protected wild animal or plant species or the production, importation, exportation, marketing or use of ozone-depleting substances.

“Fragile contexts” refers to situations which are particularly susceptible to or weak against transnational organized crime.<sup>3647</sup> In the context of this commitment, this can include but is not limited to: countries in conflict zones, significant social, political and economic upheaval or severely suffering from natural disasters.

“Cooperation” is understood to mean the action or process of working together to the same end.<sup>3648</sup> In the context of the commitment, members look to cooperate with civil society and international actors, specifically INTERPOL and UNODC.

“Civil society” is understood to mean any non-profit, voluntary citizen’s group which is organized on a local, national or international level.<sup>3649</sup>

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<sup>3641</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 1 December 2022. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

<sup>3642</sup> Security, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 2 October 2022. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/security>

<sup>3643</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 1 December 2022. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

<sup>3644</sup> Organized Crime, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Vienna) n.d. Access Date: 25 September 2022. <https://www.unodc.org/ropan/en/organized-crime.html>

<sup>3645</sup> Cybercrime, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 25 September 2022. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/cybercrime>

<sup>3646</sup> Environmental Crime, Europol (The Hague), n.d. Access Date: 25 September 2022. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-statistics/crime-areas/environmental-crime>

<sup>3647</sup> Fragile, Merriam-Webster (Springfield), n.d. Access Date: 25 September 2022. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/fragile>

<sup>3648</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

<sup>3649</sup> Civil Society, United Nations (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 25 September 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/get-involved/un-and-civil-society>

“International actors” are understood to mean those who act upon or take part in any international affair.<sup>3650</sup> In the context of this commitment, “international actors” are international stakeholders including, but not limited to INTERPOL and UNODC.

Full compliance, or a score of +1, will be assigned to G7 members who take strong action to ensure citizens’ security through both dimensions of the commitment. The first dimension is to fight against transnational organized crime by taking strong action against cybercrime and environmental crime. The second dimension consists of four additional criteria of equal weight, but lesser weight than the core two objectives. In fighting the two types of transnational crime, G7 members must focus on fragile contexts, cooperate with civil society, cooperate with INTERPOL and cooperate with UNODC in order to reach the aforementioned ends. Full compliance requires strong action against cybercrime and environmental crime, as well as strong action in three of the four criteria in the second dimension of the commitment. This includes both domestic and international actions that work towards fighting transnational organized crime and cooperation with civil society and international actors. Strong domestic actions include enforcement against transnational organized crime through policy action, expanding current or creating new programs which further cooperation with civil society and international actors, or allocating money to support the fight against transnational organized crime. Strong international actions include providing financial support for civil societies or international actors who will contribute to the fight against transnational organized crime or joining, participating or financing international organizations pertaining to the commitment features.

Partial compliance, or a score of 0, will be assigned to G7 members who take strong action in at least three of the six mentioned criteria across the two dimensions of the commitment. Alternatively, a score of 0 will be assigned to those members who take a combination of strong and less than strong actions in four to five of the six criteria across the two dimensions of the commitment. Weak domestic actions include verbal reaffirmation of their commitment or attending meetings pertaining to the commitment. Weak international actions include information sharing with civil society and international actors or sponsoring, signing or ratifying relevant international treaties.

Non-compliance, or a score of –1, will be assigned if one of the following scenarios occurs: the G7 member demonstrates weak actions in both dimensions of the commitment and no strong actions, the G7 member takes action in less than three of the six mentioned criteria across the two dimensions, or the G7 member actively threatens citizens’ security as related to transnational organized crime.

### Scoring Guidelines

–1	The G7 member only took weak action to fight against transnational organized crime, focus on fragile contexts, cooperate with civil society, INTERPOL and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) OR took strong action in less than three of the six objectives OR actively threatened citizens’ security across the six objectives.
0	The G7 member took strong action in at least three of the six objectives OR has taken a mix of strong and less than strong actions in four to five of the six objectives.
+1	The G7 member took strong action to fight against transnational organized crime through fighting “cybercrime” and “environmental crime” AND has taken strong action in at least three of the following: focusing on “fragile contexts,” cooperating with “civil society,” INTERPOL and UNODC.

*Compliance Director: Arad Farhadi-Niaki*

*Lead Analyst: Mark Edwards*

### Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with

<sup>3650</sup> Actor, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 25 September 2022. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/actor>

civil society and international actors such as INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

On 14 October 2022, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault reaffirmed Canada's cooperation with the Pacific Alliance under the "Americas for the Protection of the Ocean" coalition.<sup>3651</sup> The coalition, which was formed in June 2022, acknowledges the threat of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and pledges to promote the cooperation and exchange of best practices in the management of protected marine areas. The coalition also agrees to work with civil society and non-governmental actors to promote the preservation of the oceans.<sup>3652</sup>

On 1 November 2022, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission hosted a meeting with regulators from Canada, Ireland, Hong Kong, Australia, and the United States.<sup>3653</sup> The participants discussed ways to disrupt cross-border online scams and shared ideas to address the challenges of cross-border enforcement.

On 2 November 2022, Canadian fishery and air crew officers completed Operation North Pacific Guard, an international law enforcement operation based in the North Pacific.<sup>3654</sup> The operation was conducted in cooperation with the United States, South Korea, and Japan and focused on detecting and deterring IUU fishing activity. Fishery officers launched patrols in northern Japan, a region which suffers from high fishing activity.

On 9 November 2022, Canadian authorities arrested Mikhail Vasiliev on the grounds of participating in the LockBit global ransomware campaign.<sup>3655</sup> Canada has cooperated with the United States Department of Justice in fighting the ransomware campaign, which has cost victims upwards of USD100 million.

On 14 November 2022, Canadian representatives began their participation in the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).<sup>3656</sup> The delegation included representatives from Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Global Affairs Canada, as well as domestic stakeholders and Indigenous partners. At the Commission, Canada co-sponsored a successful proposal by the European Union to strengthen the existing rules and regulations against IUU fishing.

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<sup>3651</sup> Joint public declaration on the Council of the Canada-Chile Commission for Environmental Cooperation, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Santiago) 14 October 2022. Access Date: 27 October 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2022/10/joint-public-declaration-on-the-council-of-the-canada-chile-commission-for-environmental-cooperation.html>

<sup>3652</sup> Joint declaration on the "Americas for the Protection of the Ocean" during the ninth Summit of the Americas, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 9 June 2022. Access Date: 27 October 2022. <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/collaboration/declaration-eng.html>

<sup>3653</sup> CRTC hosts first meeting between five countries to combat scam communications, Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (Ottawa) 1 November 2022. Access Date: 9 January 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/radio-television-telecommunications/news/2022/11/crtc-hosts-first-meeting-between-five-countries-to-combat-scam-communications.html>

<sup>3654</sup> Canada fights illegal fishing with *Operation North Pacific Guard*, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 2 November 2022. Access Date: 2 November 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2022/11/canada-fights-illegal-fishing-with-operation-north-pacific-guard.html>

<sup>3655</sup> Man Charged for Participation in LockBit Global Ransomware Campaign, Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 10 November 2022. Access Date: 8 January 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/man-charged-participation-lockbit-global-ransomware-campaign>

<sup>3656</sup> Government of Canada celebrates successful outcomes at the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas meeting, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 16 December 2022. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2022/12/government-of-canada-celebrates-successful-outcomes-at-the-international-commission-for-the-conservation-of-atlantic-tunas-meeting.html>



On 27 November 2022, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mélanie Joly launched Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy.<sup>3657</sup> Part of the strategy will allocate CAD84.3 million to support measures against IUU fishing in the Indo-Pacific region.

On 12 December 2022, Minister of Natural Resources Jonathan Wilkinson announced that Canada, alongside Australia, France, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States, would be launching the Sustainable Critical Minerals Alliance.<sup>3658</sup> Each member of the Alliance has pledged to hold responsible any group that causes environmental damage.

On 31 January 2023, the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada announced a new Operational Alert, Laundering the Proceeds of Crime from Illegal Wildlife Trade.<sup>3659</sup> The alert will aid in identifying transactions related to laundering and was developed in support of Project Anton, a public-private partnership that targets the laundering of proceeds from the illegal wildlife trade.

On 8 February 2023, during the Fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress, the Government of Canada publicized its 2023 Marine Protected Area (MPA) Protection Standard.<sup>3660</sup> The new standard supplements the original 2019 policy and adds clarifications based on recommendations from the National Advisory Panel on MPA Standards. The MPA standard prohibits the disposal or dumping of waste, fill, drugs, pesticides, and other matter.

On 5 April 2023, Canada was one of 14 countries to take part in an operation that took down the online black market site Genesis Market.<sup>3661</sup> Genesis Market was known to authorities for selling account access credentials stolen from hacked computers, which were then sold to cybercriminals to commit cyber-enabled fraud.

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society, the UNODC and INTERPOL. Canada has taken strong action to combat environmental crime by completing Operation North Atlantic Guard, dedicating CAD84.3 million towards fighting IUU fishing under the Indo-Pacific Strategy and publicizing its 2023 MPA Protection Standard. Canada has also taken strong action to fight cybercrime by arresting individuals spreading ransomware and continuing to cooperate with international partners in the fight against the LockBit ransomware campaign. Canada also cooperated with civil society by including domestic stakeholders and Indigenous peoples in the Canadian delegation to the ICCAT.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Claire Birch*

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<sup>3657</sup> Canada launches Indo-Pacific Strategy to support long-term growth, prosperity, and security for Canadians, Global Affairs Canada (Vancouver) 27 November 2022. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/11/canada-launches-indo-pacific-strategy-to-support-long-term-growth-prosperity-and-security-for-canadians.html>

<sup>3658</sup> Countries Commit to the Sustainable Development and Sourcing of Critical Minerals, Natural Resources Canada (Montreal) 12 December 2022. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2022/12/countries-commit-to-the-sustainable-development-and-sourcing-of-critical-minerals.html>

<sup>3659</sup> FINTRAC publishes money laundering indicators related to illegal wildlife trade in support of Project Anton, Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (Ottawa) 31 January 2023. Access Date: 22 February 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/financial-transactions-reports-analysis/news/2023/01/fintrac-publishes-money-laundering-indicators-related-to-illegal-wildlife-trade-in-support-of-project-anton.html>

<sup>3660</sup> Government of Canada on track to meet its 2025 and 2030 Marine Conservation Targets, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Vancouver) 8 February 2023. Access Date: 22 February 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2023/02/government-of-canada-on-track-to-meet-its-2025-and-2030-marine-conservation-targets.html>

<sup>3661</sup> Online market selling stolen account credentials to criminals worldwide taken down in multi-country effort dubbed Operation Cookie Monster, European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (The Hague) 5 April 2023. Access Date: 7 April 2023. <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/takedown-online-market-sold-stolen-account-credentials-Operation-Cookie-Monster>

## France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society and international actors such as INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

On 21 August 2022, Minister of the Interior Gérald Darmanin announced the planned launch of 3,000 “green police stations.”<sup>3662</sup> Each ‘green brigade’ will be tasked with assisting in the judicial investigation process against ecological attacks and bioterrorism.

On 18 October 2022, the Senate adopted a bill granting a EUR15 billion increase to the Ministry of Interior budget, which is intended for digital technology and the prevention of cybercrime and crises.<sup>3663</sup> The bill acknowledges the need for a digital security force to address the potential for cyber-delinquency and threats. The bill also directs the allocation of funds to domestic organizations for crisis management and fighting cyber-attacks.

On 14 November 2022, France, as a member state of Europol and alongside INTERPOL, completed the 13th edition of Operation In Our Sites, which investigates and seizes websites deemed to have hosted “illicit content.”<sup>3664</sup> Seized content primarily included intellectual property and trademark infringements.

On 23 November 2022, INTERPOL fraud investigators, in cooperation with France and other partner states, completed Operation HAECHI III – a five-month operation to combat a variety of financial cyber crimes.<sup>3665</sup> The operation saw the arrest of almost 1000 suspects and the seizure of nearly USD130 million.

On 12 December 2022, France, Canada, Australia, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States joined together to launch the Sustainable Critical Minerals Alliance.<sup>3666</sup> Each member of the Alliance has pledged to hold responsible any group that causes environmental damage.

On 19 January 2023, France’s Constitutional Council largely affirmed the legality of the Ministry of the Interior’s orientation and programming law.<sup>3667</sup> This law will ensure the online safety of French citizens by strengthening and creating new penalties for cyber offenses. The law will also allow law enforcement to investigate and intervene against online crime offenders on prohibited platforms.

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<sup>3662</sup> Environmental damage: Gérald Darmanin Promises “3000 green police stations,” Le Parisien (Paris) 21 August 2022.

Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 18 November 2022. <https://www.leparisien.fr/environnement/atteintes-a-lenvironnement-darmanin-promet-3000-postes-de-gendarmes-verts-21-08-2022-QISYJRPTZRDJDB3MV66FK2EWOU.php>

<sup>3663</sup> Orientation and programming bill of the Ministry of the Interior, Department of Legal and Administrative Information (Paris) n.d. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 October 2022. <https://www.vie-publique.fr/loi/284424-projet-loi-securite-lopmi-2023-27-programmation-ministere-interieur>

<sup>3664</sup> International operation shuts down websites offering counterfeit goods and pirated content, Europol (The Hague) 28 November 2022. Access Date: 7 January 2023. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/international-operation-shuts-down-websites-offering-counterfeit-goods-and-pirated-content>

<sup>3665</sup> Cyber-enabled financial crime: USD 130 million intercepted in global INTERPOL police operation, International Criminal Police Organization (Lyon) 24 November 2022. Access Date: 7 January 2023. <https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2022/Cyber-enabled-financial-crime-USD-130-million-intercepted-in-global-INTERPOL-police-operation>

<sup>3666</sup> Countries Commit to the Sustainable Development and Sourcing of Critical Minerals, Natural Resources Canada (Montreal) 12 December 2022. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2022/12/countries-commit-to-the-sustainable-development-and-sourcing-of-critical-minerals.html>

<sup>3667</sup> Gérard Darmanin, Minister of the Interior and Overseas, welcomes the decision of the Constitutional Council validating the orientation and programming law of the ministry, Ministry of the Interior and Overseas (Paris) 20 January 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 January 2023. <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/actualites/communiqués/gerard-darmanin-ministre-de-linterieur-et-des-outr-mer-salue-decision-du>

On 25 January 2023, the Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion announced new measures to protect marine ecosystems from industrial plastic pellet pollution.<sup>3668</sup> France ordered plastic granule sites to improve their equipment and implement mechanisms to ensure that granules cannot enter the environment.

On 5 April 2023, France was one of 14 countries to take part in an operation that took down the online black market site Genesis Market.<sup>3669</sup> Genesis Market was known to authorities for selling account access credentials stolen from hacked computers, which were then sold to cybercriminals to commit cyber-enabled fraud.

France has partially complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society, UNODC and INTERPOL. France has cooperated with INTERPOL to combat financial cyber crimes through Operation HAECHI III. France has also agreed to hold accountable any group that harms the environment and has fought against environmental crime by creating green police stations and announcing new measures against industrial plastic pellets. However, France has not taken strong action against cyber and environmental crime in cooperation with civil society and UNODC, nor has it focused on fragile contexts.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Olivia Xu*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society and international actors such as INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

On 10 August 2022, the Federal Cabinet announced that a 2021 report regarding measures taken to delete telemedia with child pornographic content fell within the meaning of Section 184(b) of the country's Criminal Code.<sup>3670</sup> The report also contains other measures and initiatives prioritising the protection of children and young people on the internet. Federal Minister of the Interior and Homeland Nancy Faeser also welcomed the European Commission's proposal for Europe-wide regulations regarding sexual violence against children.

On 1 November 2022, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection stated that Germany would not support deep-sea mining until further notice.<sup>3671</sup> The Ministry believes that the current level of knowledge and research on deep-sea mining is insufficient to rule out the possibility of serious environmental damage. This is a significant step in fighting wildlife destruction, with Federal Environment Minister Steffi Lemke stating that "deep-sea mining would further pollute the oceans and irretrievably destroy ecosystems."

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<sup>3668</sup> The Government is stepping up its fight against industrial plastic pellets, Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion and Ministry of Energy Transition (Paris) 25 January 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 January 2023. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/gouvernement-renforce-lutte-contre-granules-plastiques-industriels>

<sup>3669</sup> Online market selling stolen account credentials to criminals worldwide taken down in multi-country effort dubbed Operation Cookie Monster, European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (The Hague) 5 April 2023. Access Date: 7 April 2023. <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/takedown-online-market-sold-stolen-account-credentials-Operation-Cookie-Monster>

<sup>3670</sup> Report 2021 on measures to delete telemedia offerings with child pornographic content within the meaning of Section 184b of the Criminal Code, Federal Ministry of Justice (Berlin) 10 August 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 October 2022. [https://www.bmj.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/2022/0810\\_Loeschbericht\\_2022.html](https://www.bmj.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/2022/0810_Loeschbericht_2022.html)

<sup>3671</sup> Protection of the seas: Germany will not support deep-sea mining until further notice, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action and Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Berlin) 1 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 25 December 2022. <https://www.bmwk.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2022/11/20221101-schutz-der-meere-deutschland-unterstuetzt-bis-auf-weiteres-keinen-tiefseebergbau.html>

On 14 November 2022, Germany expressed support for an ambitious species protection plan and strict sustainability checks when dealing with endangered animals and plants.<sup>3672</sup> The plan prioritizes placing numerous tree species used in wood supply and medicinal plants under protection, as well as woods that are heavily traded. The species protection plan and sustainability checks are also important because Germany is a key target and transit market for trade in exotic pets.

On 14 November 2022, Germany, in partnership with the United States, the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe and the UNODC, organized a workshop for Ukrainian experts on countering criminal usage of the virtual assets market, including cryptocurrency.<sup>3673</sup> This workshop looked to provide participants with knowledge on cryptocurrencies and how to investigate them, as well as the tools used to investigate it.

On 16 November 2022, Minister Faeser appeared at the Federal Criminal Police Office's autumn conference and presented her strategy for combating organized crime.<sup>3674</sup> She supported the introduction of a general upper cash limit of well under EUR10,000, saying it would reduce the risk of criminal assets being concealed. Minister Faeser also plans to form an alliance against clan crime using the combined forces of federal and state investigative authorities.

On 7 December 2022, Germany, in partnership with other countries and UNODC, funded a project that brought Ukrainian legislators and experts together to discuss virtual assets legislation.<sup>3675</sup> Participants discussed challenges and solutions pertaining to money laundering risks of cryptocurrencies and legal frameworks to combat laundering.

On 12 December 2022, Germany, alongside the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, France, Japan and the United States, launched the Sustainable Critical Minerals Alliance.<sup>3676</sup> Each member of the Alliance has pledged to hold responsible any group that causes environmental damage.

On 6 January 2023, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection reaffirmed the its alliance with Brazil regarding environmental and climate protection.<sup>3677</sup> While in Brazil, Minister Steffi Lemke visited protected areas and forest and marine protection projects, which encouraged the new Brazilian government to further prioritize such policies.

On 24 January 2023, the German Federal Criminal Police Office was visited by prosecutors and a judge from the Serbian Prosecutor's Office working on cases of organized crime.<sup>3678</sup> The visit was meant to strengthen

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<sup>3672</sup> World Wildlife Conference in Panama adopts improved protection for sharks, reptiles and tropical timber, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Berlin) 25 November 2022. Access Date: 25 December 2022. <https://www.bmuv.de/en/pressrelease/world-wildlife-conference-in-panama-adopts-improved-protection-for-sharks-reptiles-and-tropical-timber>

<sup>3673</sup> OSCE and UNODC organize workshop for Ukrainian experts on countering criminal use of virtual assets and cryptocurrencies, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (Vienna) 14 November 2022. Access Date: 8 March 2023. <https://www.osce.org/oceea/531098>

<sup>3674</sup> Breaking up criminal structures, consistently withdrawing income, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 16 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 January 2023. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/DE/2022/11/ok-strategie.html>

<sup>3675</sup> Experts from Ukraine discuss virtual assets regulation at OSCE-UNODC joint workshop, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (Vienna) 7 December 2022. Access Date: 7 January 2023. <https://www.osce.org/oceea/533732>

<sup>3676</sup> Countries Commit to the Sustainable Development and Sourcing of Critical Minerals, Natural Resources Canada (Montreal) 12 December 2022. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2022/12/countries-commit-to-the-sustainable-development-and-sourcing-of-critical-minerals.html>

<sup>3677</sup> Alliance for environmental and climate protection, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Berlin) 6 January 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 22 February 2023. <https://www.bmuv.de/pressemitteilung/allianz-fuer-umwelt-und-klimaschutz>

<sup>3678</sup> OSCE facilitates exchanges on asset recovery between German Federal Criminal Police Office and Serbian Prosecutor's Office for Organized Crime, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (Vienna) 25 January 2023. Access Date: 8 March 2023. <https://www.osce.org/secretariat/536482>

cooperation at the borders in response to transnational organized crime, as well as to discuss practices of tracing illegal financial flows and seizing cryptocurrency.

On 15 February 2023, German law enforcement authorities, in cooperation with Italian counterparts, Europol and Eurojust, dismantled a transnational organized crime group committing environmental crime.<sup>3679</sup> 14 suspects were arrested in connection to the redistribution of 165,000 tonnes of non-recycled scrap iron and manipulation of significant amounts of hazardous waste such as tar.

On 25 February 2023, Germany attended a New York conference where negotiations surrounding a global marine protection agreement, one that Germany had advocated for, were finalized.<sup>3680</sup> This agreement will allow for binding first-time rules for the high seas, including protecting marine areas, assessing impacts to the environment, and protecting endangered species and habitats.

On 5 April 2023, Germany was one of 14 countries to take part in an operation that took down the online black market site Genesis Market.<sup>3681</sup> Genesis Market was known to authorities for selling account access credentials stolen from hacked computers, which were then sold to cybercriminals to commit cyber-enabled fraud.

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society and international actors. Germany has worked alongside UNODC to develop legal frameworks against cyber crime, and rescinded support for deep sea mining in light of the potential fragile context which has emerged as a result of a lack of knowledge on the matter and potential associated consequences. Germany has also shown support for education on cyber crime protection by funding projects dedicated to learning about money laundering through the virtual assets market, and Germany has made significant contributions to marine protection. Finally, Germany has reduced the resources available for cybercrime by taking part in plans to prevent criminals from accessing sensitive account information.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Nejat Ahmed*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society and international actors such as INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

On 30 September 2022, Italian law enforcement, working in collaboration with INTERPOL, arrested members linked to the Black Axe transnational cybercrime syndicate as part of a week-long operation codenamed “Jackal.”<sup>3682</sup> Italian police allege that three of those arrested acted as criminal operators and money mules.

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<sup>3679</sup> Crackdown on a criminal network dealing with waste trafficking and money laundering, Eurojust (The Hague) 16 February 2023. Access Date: 24 March 2023. <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/crackdown-criminal-network-dealing-waste-trafficking-and-money-laundering>

<sup>3680</sup> Historic breakthrough for ocean protection, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Berlin) 5 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 March 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/historischer-durchbruch-fuer-den-schutz-der-weltmeere>

<sup>3681</sup> Online market selling stolen account credentials to criminals worldwide taken down in multi-country effort dubbed Operation Cookie Monster, European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (The Hague) 5 April 2023. Access Date: 7 April 2023. <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/takedown-online-market-sold-stolen-account-credentials-Operation-Cookie-Monster>

<sup>3682</sup> International crackdown on West-African financial crime rings, International Criminal Police Organization (Lyon) 14 October 2022. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2022/International-crackdown-on-West-African-financial-crime-rings>

On 14 November 2022, Italy, as a member state of Europol, completed the 13th edition of Operation In Our Sites alongside INTERPOL.<sup>3683</sup> The operation investigates and seizes websites deemed to have hosted “illicit content,” with seized content primarily included intellectual property and trademark infringement.

On 29 November 2022, Italian law enforcement authorities participated in an exchange visit with Mozambican officials, which was organized by UNODC.<sup>3684</sup> During the visit, Mozambican authorities worked with their Italian counterparts to foster “formal and informal cooperation on tackling transnational crime among States.” The exchange looked to further assist Mozambique in countering its vulnerability to transnational organized crime.

On 15 February 2023, Italian law enforcement authorities, in cooperation with German counterparts, Europol and Eurojust, dismantled a transnational organized crime group committing environmental crime.<sup>3685</sup> There were 14 suspects arrested in connection to the redistribution of 165,000 tonnes of non-recycled scrap iron and manipulation of significant amounts of hazardous waste such as tar.

On 5 April 2023, Italy was one of 14 countries to take part in an operation that took down the online black market site Genesis Market.<sup>3686</sup> Genesis Market was known to authorities for selling account access credentials stolen from hacked computers, which were then sold to cybercriminals to commit cyber-enabled fraud.

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society, UNODC and INTERPOL. Italy has taken strong action to fight transnational organized cybercrime through collaboration with INTERPOL in the arrest of Black Axe members. Through cooperation with UNODC, Italy also sought to assist Mozambique in improving its preparedness for future combat against transnational organized crime, given the susceptibility of that country to such activities. Further, Italy has taken action against environmental crime through the dismantlement and arrest of organizations and individuals participating in the manipulation and distribution of bio-hazardous materials.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Donell Rodrigues*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society and international actors such as INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

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<sup>3683</sup> International operation shuts down websites offering counterfeit goods and pirated content, Europol (The Hague) 28 November 2022. Access Date: 7 January 2023. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/international-operation-shuts-down-websites-offering-counterfeit-goods-and-pirated-content>

<sup>3684</sup> Officers Of Mozambique’s National Criminal Investigation Service (SERNIC) Participate In Exchange Visit With Italian Counterparts, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Southern Africa (Rome) 9 December 2022. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.unodc.org/southernafrica/en/aml/italy.html>

<sup>3685</sup> Crackdown on a criminal network dealing with waste trafficking and money laundering, Eurojust (The Hague) 16 February 2023. Access Date: 24 March 2023. <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/crackdown-criminal-network-dealing-waste-trafficking-and-money-laundering>

<sup>3686</sup> Online market selling stolen account credentials to criminals worldwide taken down in multi-country effort dubbed Operation Cookie Monster, European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (The Hague) 5 April 2023. Access Date: 7 April 2023. <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/takedown-online-market-sold-stolen-account-credentials-Operation-Cookie-Monster>

On 25 July 2022, Minister of Foreign Affairs Yoshimasa Hayashi met with UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly.<sup>3687</sup> Minister Hayashi reaffirmed Japan's commitment to support UNODC in strengthening measures against international human trafficking in Ukraine and drug trafficking in Afghanistan.

On 5 August 2022, Minister Hayashi attended the 12th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' meeting and committed to attending upcoming conferences on combating wildlife trafficking.<sup>3688</sup> He also pledged to develop meaningful policies and actions to stop international trafficking.

On 23 September 2022, Minister Hayashi attended the Quadrilateral Foreign Ministers meeting, which included Japan, Australia, India, and the United States.<sup>3689</sup> The Ministers discussed their ongoing commitment to ensuring the security of cyberspace and renewed their collective intention to fight ransomware threats as a part of the United States-led counter ransomware initiative.

On 29 October 2022, the Ministry of Defence announced its plan to increase the number of cybersecurity personnel to 5,000 by 2027, as well as revise its defence guidelines by the end of 2022.<sup>3690</sup> The announcement is aimed at combating growing cyber threats to Japanese infrastructure.

On 2 November 2022, Japan, in cooperation with the United States, Korea and Canada, completed Operation North Pacific Guard.<sup>3691</sup> The operation focused on detecting and deterring illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activity.

On 23 November 2022, INTERPOL fraud investigators, in cooperation with Japan and other partner states, completed Operation HAECHI III – a five-month operation to combat a variety of financial cyber crimes.<sup>3692</sup> The operation saw the arrest of almost 1000 suspects and the seizure of nearly USD130 million.

On 12 December 2022, Japan, alongside the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, France, Germany and the United States, launched the Sustainable Critical Minerals Alliance.<sup>3693</sup> Each member of the Alliance has pledged to hold responsible any group that causes environmental damage.

On 23 December 2022, Minister of the Environment Nishimura Akihiro and Uzbekistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Vladimir Norov signed a memorandum announcing their cooperation for environmental and ecological protection.<sup>3694</sup> The two countries will work together on areas including air and waste pollution.

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<sup>3687</sup> Courtesy Call on Foreign Minister HAYASHI Yoshimasa by Ms. Ghada Waly, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 25 July 2022. Access Date: 28 October 2022.

[https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e\\_000426.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000426.html)

<sup>3688</sup> Chairman's Statement of the 12th East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Southeast Asian Nations Cambodia 2022 (Phnom Penh) 5 August 2022. Access Date: 28 October 2022. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100380513.pdf>

<sup>3689</sup> Quad Foreign Ministers' Statement on Ransomware, Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting (New York City) 23 September 2022. Access Date: 28 October 2022. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100396822.pdf>

<sup>3690</sup> Japan plans to boost cyberdefense personnel to 5,000 by fiscal 2027, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 30 October 2022. Access Date: 18 November 2022. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2022/10/30/national/japan-cyber-defense/>

<sup>3691</sup> Canada fights illegal fishing with Operation North Pacific Guard, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 2 November 2022. Access Date: 2 November 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2022/11/canada-fights-illegal-fishing-with-operation-north-pacific-guard.html>

<sup>3692</sup> Cyber-enabled financial crime: USD 130 million intercepted in global INTERPOL police operation, International Criminal Police Organization (Lyon) 24 November 2022. Access Date: 7 January 2023. <https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2022/Cyber-enabled-financial-crime-USD-130-million-intercepted-in-global-INTERPOL-police-operation>

<sup>3693</sup> Countries Commit to the Sustainable Development and Sourcing of Critical Minerals, Natural Resources Canada (Montreal) 12 December 2022. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2022/12/countries-commit-to-the-sustainable-development-and-sourcing-of-critical-minerals.html>

<sup>3694</sup> Ministry of the Environment, Japan, and the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Ecology and Environmental Protection Sign the Memorandum of Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 27 December 2022. Access Date: 29 January 2023. [https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press\\_00940.html](https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press_00940.html)

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society and international actors. Japan has committed resources and participated in operations to combat cyber and environmental crime. Japan has also done so in cooperation with INTERPOL and UNODC while focusing on fragile contexts such as over-fished northern Japanese fisheries.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Olivia Xu*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society and international actors such as INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

On 25 July 2022, Home Secretary Priti Patel reaffirmed the UK's commitment alongside Ghana to address Ghana's national cyber security and organized crime concerns.<sup>3695</sup> To promote regional and international stability, the UK promised to enhance its defence cooperation with Ghana. Regional and international stability refers to international security relations with Ghana's neighbouring states.

On 3 October 2022, Environment Secretary Ranil Jayawardena announced a proposal to raise the civil penalty for water companies polluting the environment from GBP25,000 to GBP250 million.<sup>3696</sup> The 1000-fold civil penalty increase will speed up the process of enforcing laws against environmental harm by sanctioning companies faster than lengthy criminal prosecutions.

On 23 November 2022, INTERPOL fraud investigators, in cooperation with the UK and other partner states, completed Operation HAECCHI III – a five-month operation to combat a variety of financial cyber crimes.<sup>3697</sup> The operation saw the arrest of almost 1000 suspects and the seizure of nearly USD130 million.

On 7 December 2022, the UK, in partnership with other countries and UNODC, funded a project that brought Ukrainian legislators and experts together to discuss virtual assets legislation.<sup>3698</sup> Participants discussed challenges and solutions pertaining to money laundering risks of cryptocurrencies and legal frameworks to combat laundering.

On 12 December 2022, the UK, alongside Germany, Canada, Australia, France, Japan and the United States, launched the Sustainable Critical Minerals Alliance.<sup>3699</sup> Each member of the Alliance has pledged to hold responsible any group that causes environmental damage.

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<sup>3695</sup> UK and Ghana reaffirm commitment to tackle global threats, Home Office (London) 28 July 2022. Access Date: 28 October 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-ghana-reaffirm-commitment-to-tackle-global-threats>

<sup>3696</sup> Water companies face new penalties up to £250million, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 3 October 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/water-companies-face-new-penalties-up-to-250million>

<sup>3697</sup> Cyber-enabled financial crime: USD 130 million intercepted in global INTERPOL police operation, International Criminal Police Organization (Lyon) 24 November 2022. Access Date: 7 January 2023. <https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2022/Cyber-enabled-financial-crime-USD-130-million-intercepted-in-global-INTERPOL-police-operation>

<sup>3698</sup> Experts from Ukraine discuss virtual assets regulation at OSCE-UNODC joint workshop, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (Vienna) 7 December 2022. Access Date: 7 January 2023. <https://www.osce.org/ocea/533732>

<sup>3699</sup> Countries Commit to the Sustainable Development and Sourcing of Critical Minerals, Natural Resources Canada (Montreal) 12 December 2022. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2022/12/countries-commit-to-the-sustainable-development-and-sourcing-of-critical-minerals.html>



On 9 February 2023, the UK, together with the US, sanctioned seven members of Trickbot, a cybercrime gang based in Russia.<sup>3700</sup> The organized cybercrime group has previously targeted critical infrastructures and participated in money laundering through use of virtual currency.

On 5 April 2023, the UK was one of 14 countries to take part in an operation that took down the online black market site Genesis Market.<sup>3701</sup> Genesis Market was known to authorities for selling account access credentials stolen from hacked computers, which were then sold to cybercriminals to commit cyber-enabled fraud.

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society, UNODC and INTERPOL. The UK has focused on fighting cybercrime in fragile contexts within Ghana and Ukraine with cooperation from the UNODC. The UK has also worked alongside INTERPOL to combat financial cybercrime and has pledged to hold accountable groups causing environmental damage.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Sammy Kogan*

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

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society and international actors such as INTERPOL and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

On 30 June 2022, US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced the launch of the Green Trade Strategy, which aims to combat climate change by enhancing current enforcement actions against environmental trade crimes including wildlife trafficking and illegal logging, mining and fishing.<sup>3702</sup> The CBP will work to combat environmental trade crimes through collaboration with stakeholders in the international trade environment.

On 14 September 2022, officials from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), US Border Patrol, and Homeland Security Investigations participated in a conference on border security hosted by INTERPOL.<sup>3703</sup> The parties discussed their ongoing collaborations, including a “campaign to crack down on transnational criminal organizations.” The DHS has also committed over USD50 million to strengthen efforts to combat transnational organized crime.

On 21 October 2022, the US Embassy in the Philippines’ Office of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs hosted a meeting between Filipino and American security and justice representatives to share practices and knowledge on addressing cybercrime issues.<sup>3704</sup> American officials “committed to closer

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<sup>3700</sup> United States and United Kingdom Sanction Members of Russia-Based Trickbot Cybercrime Gang, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 9 February 2023. Access Date: 24 March 2023. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy1256>

<sup>3701</sup> Online market selling stolen account credentials to criminals worldwide taken down in multi-country effort dubbed Operation Cookie Monster, European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (The Hague) 5 April 2023. Access Date: 7 April 2023. <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/takedown-online-market-sold-stolen-account-credentials-Operation-Cookie-Monster>

<sup>3702</sup> CBP Announces Launch of Green Trade Strategy, United States Customs and Border Protection (Washington D.C.) 30 June 2022. Access Date: 23 October 2022. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-announces-launch-green-trade-strategy>

<sup>3703</sup> Readout of DHS Participation at Interpol Conference on Border Security in the Americas, United States Department of Homeland Security (Washington D.C.) 14 September 2022. Access Date: 19 December 2022. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/09/14/readout-dhs-participation-interpol-conference-border-security-americas>

<sup>3704</sup> U.S., Philippine Law Enforcement Personnel Meet to Address Cybersecurity Threats, United States Embassy in the Philippines (Manila) 21 October 2022. Access Date: 4 April 2023. <https://ph.usembassy.gov/u-s-philippine-law-enforcement-personnel-meet-to-address-cybersecurity-threats/>

interagency collaboration to enhance the capacity of law enforcement personnel amid the increasingly advanced tools and technology used by cyber criminals.”<sup>3705</sup>

On 14 November 2022, the US, alongside Europol and INTERPOL, completed the 13th edition of Operation In Our Sites, which investigates and seizes websites deemed to have hosted “illicit content.”<sup>3706</sup> Seized content primarily included intellectual property and trademark infringements.

On 23 November 2022, INTERPOL fraud investigators, in cooperation with the US and other partner states, completed Operation HAECHI III – a five-month operation to combat a variety of financial cyber crimes.<sup>3707</sup> The operation saw the arrest of almost 1000 suspects and the seizure of nearly USD130 million.

On 30 November 2022, the US Attorney’s Office East District of Texas announced a multi-year investigation into transnational cryptocurrency money laundering networks.<sup>3708</sup> The US Attorney’s Office has charged 21 individuals with allegedly laundering millions from American fraud victims.

On 7 December 2022, the US, in partnership with other countries and UNODC, funded a project that brought Ukrainian legislators and experts together to discuss virtual assets legislation.<sup>3709</sup> Participants discussed challenges and solutions pertaining to money laundering risks of cryptocurrencies and legal frameworks to combat laundering.

On 9 February 2023, the US, together with the UK, sanctioned seven members of Trickbot, a cybercrime gang based in Russia.<sup>3710</sup> The organized cybercrime group has previously targeted critical infrastructures and participated in money laundering through use of virtual currency.

On 5 April 2023, the US was one of 14 countries to take part in an operation that took down the online black market site Genesis Market.<sup>3711</sup> Genesis Market was known to authorities for selling account access credentials stolen from hacked computers, which were then sold to cybercriminals to commit cyber-enabled fraud.

The US has fully complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society, UNODC and INTERPOL. The US has taken strong action to fight cybercrime through collaboration with INTERPOL and UNODC and has taken strong action against environmental crime to prevent groups from committing acts in fragile contexts.

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<sup>3705</sup> U.S., Philippine Law Enforcement Personnel Meet to Address Cybersecurity Threats, United States Embassy in the Philippines (Manila) 21 October 2022. Access Date: 4 April 2023. <https://ph.usembassy.gov/u-s-philippine-law-enforcement-personnel-meet-to-address-cybersecurity-threats/>

<sup>3706</sup> International operation shuts down websites offering counterfeit goods and pirated content, Europol (The Hague) 28 November 2022. Access Date: 7 January 2023. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/international-operation-shuts-down-websites-offering-counterfeit-goods-and-pirated-content>

<sup>3707</sup> Cyber-enabled financial crime: USD 130 million intercepted in global INTERPOL police operation, International Criminal Police Organization (Lyon) 24 November 2022. Access Date: 7 January 2023. <https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2022/Cyber-enabled-financial-crime-USD-130-million-intercepted-in-global-INTERPOL-police-operation>

<sup>3708</sup> Eastern District of Texas Announces Multi-Year Investigation into Transnational Cryptocurrency Money Laundering Networks, United States Attorney’s Office East District of Texas (Tyler) 30 November 2022. Access Date: 20 December 2022. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edtx/pr/eastern-district-texas-announces-multi-year-investigation-transnational-cryptocurrency>

<sup>3709</sup> Experts from Ukraine discuss virtual assets regulation at OSCE-UNODC joint workshop, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (Vienna) 7 December 2022. Access Date: 7 January 2023. <https://www.osce.org/oceea/533732>

<sup>3710</sup> United States and United Kingdom Sanction Members of Russia-Based Trickbot Cybercrime Gang, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 9 February 2023. Access Date: 24 March 2023. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy1256>

<sup>3711</sup> Online market selling stolen account credentials to criminals worldwide taken down in multi-country effort dubbed Operation Cookie Monster, European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (The Hague) 5 April 2023. Access Date: 7 April 2023. <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/takedown-online-market-sold-stolen-account-credentials-Operation-Cookie-Monster>

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Donell Rodrigues*

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

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society and international actors such as INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

On 28 June 2022, the Council of the EU reached a political agreement to strengthen the resilience of critical entities, such as the drinking water and energy sectors.<sup>3712</sup> The agreement will fortify each member state's ability to provide essential functions for citizens, including resisting and protecting these entities from terrorist threats or hybrid attacks. The Council also reached an agreement to address terrorist threats or hybrid attacks as they relate to cybersecurity and cybercrime.

On 29 June 2022, the Council of the EU reached a provisional agreement to enhance financial transparency by requiring specific information whenever there is a domestic or international transfer of cryptocurrency assets.<sup>3713</sup> This agreement is meant to make the use of cryptocurrency for money laundering and terrorist financing harder while fortifying the EU's ability to manage the risks of cryptocurrency.

On 6 October 2022, the European Commission Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs co-organized the first-ever EU-UNODC Anti-Corruption Dialogue with UNODC to discuss future cooperation between the two organizations to address corruption and money laundering.<sup>3714</sup> Participants also discussed asset recovery and effects on civil society.

On 14 November 2022, Europol, alongside INTERPOL, completed the 13th edition of Operation In Our Sites, which investigates and seizes websites deemed to have hosted "illicit content."<sup>3715</sup> Seized content primarily included intellectual property and trademark infringements.

On 9 December 2022, the Council of the EU proposed negotiating mandates for improving the EU's ability to fight environmental crime.<sup>3716</sup> The mandates include expanding encompassed crimes, defining set penalties, sentences and fines and recommending training for those investigating and prosecuting environmental crimes.

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<sup>3712</sup> EU resilience: Council presidency and European Parliament reach political agreement to strengthen the resilience of critical entities, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 28 June 2022. Access Date: 28 October 2022.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/06/28/eu-resilience-council-presidency-and-european-parliament-reach-political-agreement-to-strengthen-the-resilience-of-critical-entities/>

<sup>3713</sup> Anti-money laundering: Provisional agreement reached on transparency of crypto asset transfers, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 29 June 2022. Access Date: 28 October 2022. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/06/29/anti-money-laundering-provisional-agreement-reached-on-transparency-of-crypto-asset-transfers/>

<sup>3714</sup> UNODC and European Union hold first-ever anti-corruption dialogue, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Brussels) 7 October 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2022/October/unodc-and-european-union-hold-first-ever-anti-corruption-dialogue.html>

<sup>3715</sup> International operation shuts down websites offering counterfeit goods and pirated content, Europol (The Hague) 28 November 2022. Access Date: 7 January 2023. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/international-operation-shuts-down-websites-offering-counterfeit-goods-and-pirated-content>

<sup>3716</sup> Council agrees its negotiating mandate on the environmental crime directive, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 9 December 2022. Access Date: 27 December 2022. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/12/09/council-agrees-its-negotiating-mandate-on-the-environmental-crime-directive/>

On 10 January 2023, the European Council reaffirmed the joint declaration on co-operation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).<sup>3717</sup> The EU and NATO will improve their strategic partnership to better address evolving security threats and challenges, including countering hybrid and cybercrimes.

On 14 February 2023, the Council of the EU authorized member states to ratify the Second Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention).<sup>3718</sup> Ratification of the Protocol will allow for greater cross-border access to data and evidence used in the fight against cybercrime, particularly in fragile contexts such as prosecutions that require cooperation between member and third-party states.

On 16 February 2023, the EU established new protective measures for porpoises and seabirds at the suggestion of Germany.<sup>3719</sup> Actions taken include several measures in fisheries management and limiting or banning certain fishing techniques.

On 3 March 2023, the EU joined the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing Action Alliance.<sup>3720</sup> Through this partnership, the EU will combat IUU fishing by working with multiple partners, including non-governmental organizations.

On 20 March 2023, the EU Foreign Affairs Council adopted a new set of contributions to the Global Digital Compact.<sup>3721</sup> Among other contributions is a commitment to fund civil society initiatives targeting digital security training.<sup>3722</sup>

On 21 March 2023, EU lawmakers made amendments to a pre-existing draft law pertaining to illegal timber trade and environmental crime at large.<sup>3723</sup> Lawmakers agreed that any conduct which may cause serious harm to health, quality of air, soil, water animals or plants should constitute a criminal offence punishable by at least 10 years of imprisonment.

On 5 April 2023, the EU, through Eurojust and Europol, took part in an operation that took down the online black market site Genesis Market.<sup>3724</sup> Genesis Market was known to authorities for selling account access credentials stolen from hacked computers, which were then sold to cybercriminals to commit cyber-enabled fraud.

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<sup>3717</sup> Joint Declaration on EU-NATO Cooperation, European Council (Brussels) 10 January 2023. Access Date: 22 February 2023. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/01/10/eu-nato-joint-declaration-10-january-2023/>

<sup>3718</sup> Access to e-evidence: Council authorises member states to ratify international agreement, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 14 February 2023. Access Date: 22 February 2023. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/02/14/access-to-e-evidence-council-authorises-member-states-to-ratify-international-agreement/>

<sup>3719</sup> Better protection for harbor porpoises and seabirds in the North Sea marine protected areas, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Berlin) 16 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 March 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/besserer-schutz-fuer-schweinswale-und-seevoegel-in-den-meeresschutzgebieten-der-nordsee-1>

<sup>3720</sup> Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing Action Alliance Welcomes New Members and Outlines Joint Pledge to Combat IUU Fishing at Our Ocean Panama, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Panama City) 3 March 2023. Access Date: 8 March 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2023/03/illegal-unreported-and-unregulated-iuu-fishing-action-alliance-welcomes-new-members-and-outlines-joint-pledge-to-combat-iuu-fishing-at-our-ocean-pa.html>

<sup>3721</sup> The Global Digital Compact: a bold step towards digital transformation, Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations in New York (New York) 23 March 2023. Access Date: 24 March 2023. [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/global-digital-compact-bold-step-towards-digital-transformation\\_en#:~:text=On%2020%20March%202023%2C%20the,%2Dcentric%2C%20global%20digital%20transformation](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/global-digital-compact-bold-step-towards-digital-transformation_en#:~:text=On%2020%20March%202023%2C%20the,%2Dcentric%2C%20global%20digital%20transformation)

<sup>3722</sup> European Union Contribution to the Global Digital Compact, European Union (Brussels) 23 March 2023. Access Date: 24 March 2023. [https://www.un.org/techenvoy/sites/www.un.org.techenvoy/files/GDC-submission\\_European-Union.pdf](https://www.un.org/techenvoy/sites/www.un.org.techenvoy/files/GDC-submission_European-Union.pdf)

<sup>3723</sup> EU lawmakers toughen up draft law on environmental crimes, Reuters (London) 21 March 2023. Access Date: 25 March 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/eu-lawmakers-toughen-up-draft-law-environmental-crimes-2023-03-21/>

<sup>3724</sup> Online market selling stolen account credentials to criminals worldwide taken down in multi-country effort dubbed Operation Cookie Monster, European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (The Hague) 5 April 2023. Access Date: 7 April 2023. <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/takedown-online-market-sold-stolen-account-credentials-Operation-Cookie-Monster>

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society and international actors. The EU expanded and reaffirmed its commitment to fighting international cybercrime through the monitoring of criminal transfers of cryptocurrency funds and fortifying entities crucial to preventing cyber crime. Further, the EU will improve EU-NATO cooperation relating to cybercrime and has authorized member states to ratify an agreement on cybercrime. The EU has also cooperated with INTERPOL through Europol to combat cybercrime by taking down websites publishing “illicit content.” As well, the EU has worked to expand encompassed crimes and penalties pertaining to environmental crime. Finally, the EU has committed to fund civil society digital security training projects.

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

*Analyst: Sammy Kogan*